

NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR



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nilesheraldspectator.com

Pizza Wars 6 ends in tie

Lincolnwood, Niles mayors share title at annual fundraiser. Page 4.



KARIE ANGELL LUC/PIIONEER PRESS

Pizza Wars 6 had two mayoral eating challenge winners Jan. 20, at Niles North High School in Skokie. Niles Mayor Andrew Przybylo, left, and Lincolnwood Mayor Jerry Turry share this year's title.

GO



JENNIFER GIRARD

The dish on Eli's Cheesecake

The late Eli Schulman's daughter-in-law discusses "The Eli's Cheesecake Cookbook" she co-authored. Page 20

SPORTS



STEVE JOHNSTON/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Putting pen to paper

Pioneer Press reporters talk to the area's top football recruits, such as Hinsdale South's Josh King, prior to next week's National Signing Day. Inside

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SHOUT OUT

Bruce Goldstick, ophthalmologist

Bruce Goldstick is a 22-year Glencoe resident who practices ophthalmology in Skokie. He says Glencoe has an unusually high number of ophthalmologists per capita.

Q: Why do so many ophthalmologists live in Glencoe?

A: It is a great place to live. Its lovely housing, good schools and good family values.

Q: How did you get interested in ophthalmology?

A: It's a great area of medicine where you get to change people's lives. You can have a relationship with people for a long period of time and you can take of a variety of different age groups. You can take care of kids, you can take care of adults and you don't necessarily have to deal with the seriousness of death and dying.

Q: Does the stuff you have to do ever make you feel squeamish?

A: You disassociate yourself from the anatomy of it. When you do surgery, it is like becoming a technician and you remove yourself from the physicality of it.

Q: What do you like to for a



DANIEL I. DORFMAN / PIONEER PRESS

Bruce Goldstick

vacation?

A: At this time of year, sun and heat are great things. I just had a great week with my family in Mexico.

Q: What was your favorite part of the trip?

A: The best part of Mexico was sitting out in the sun and having lots of great, homegrown Mexican food.

Q: Do you have to take precautions in Mexico that you do not necessarily have to do in the United States?

A: You always have to take precautions. You have to be careful about eating street food. You have to be careful about what restaurants you go to. You have to be careful about making sure the food is cooked, and I prepared myself by taking a couple of Pepto Bismol every day.

Q: What is your No. 1 aspiration for 2016?

A: Health, more time with my family and friends and being able to travel.

—Daniel I. Dorfman, For Pioneer Press

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KARIE ANGELL LUC/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

From left, Morton Grove's Mayor Dan DiMaria, Skokie's Mayor George Van Dusen, Lincolnwood's Mayor Jerry Turry and Niles' Mayor Andrew Przybylo are about to compete in a three-minute pizza-eating challenge at Niles North High School.

Pizza Wars event raises \$14K, officials say

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

A set of purple double doors leading to the main gym at Niles North High School has a sign over it with a warning in all caps, "NO FOOD OR DRINK."

And yet on Jan. 20 an estimated 1,100 people — including four local mayors — entered the Skokie school in defiance of that sign to nosh for a cause: Pizza Wars 6.

The pizza-eating event raised \$14,000 for students in need, District 219 Education Foundation board member Alyse Burman said in an email Jan. 22.

"Although we did not reach our intended \$20,000 goal, the board is extremely pleased," Burman said in the email. Donations are

still being accepted on the foundation's website, she said.

The annual Pizza Wars event raises funds for the foundation, a nonprofit started by Burman to help support low-income kids in Niles Township, including the eight elementary and middle school districts that feed into the high schools.

"Skokie is a pizza mecca and the foundation's Pizza Wars highlights that excellence," said Mark Collins, a foundation board member and Niles Township trustee.

Nine area restaurants provided pizza to patrons, who paid \$12 in advance or \$15 at the door, and could vote for their favorite pie. This year's winner was Lou Malnati's Pizzeria of Wilmette.

Last year the event raised



From left, Kelly Rigglo of Chicago, Jim Sadi of Orland Park and Tony Rigglo of Skokie represent the Niles-based Rigglos Ristorante at Pizza Wars 6 at Niles North High School in Skokie.

\$18,000 to fund student necessities from calculators to adequate housing, officials said.

"They are very diverse

communities and the financial need within the community is growing every day," Burman said. "We have 50 homeless kids with-

in the district."

According to the 2015 Illinois District Report Card, 32.4 percent of students are identified as low income in Niles Township High Schools District 219.

"Everything the foundation does is done anonymously so that nobody is ever embarrassed to ask for help," said Jeff Burman, chairman of the District 219 Education Foundation's board.

All proceeds from the event this year will go toward helping the Niles Township High School District communities, officials said.

A special topping the annual event boasts involves four mayors competing in a three-minute pizza-eating challenge.

The eating challenge in-

cluded, as in years past, Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen, Lincolnwood Mayor Jerry Turry, Niles Mayor Andrew Przybylo and Morton Grove Mayor Dan DiMaria.

"If you can help kids, it's a great cause," said DiMaria. "But if you can help 50 kids, it's even greater and I'm happy to do it."

Last year, Przybylo was the Pizza Wars champion. This year, however, Przybylo shared the title in a tie with Turry.

Participating restaurants also included Bar Louie, Gulliver's, Jet's Pizza, Lou Malnati's Pizzeria, Organic Life, Wa-Pa-Ghetti's Pizza and Village Inn Pizzeria Sports Bar & Grill.

Karie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter.

Dumpsters must now be rented from 1 company

BY LEE V. GAINES
Pioneer Press

Niles residents no longer need to purchase a permit from the village when renting a dumpster for a temporary period of time and are now required to rent the container from an Elk Grove Village-based residential and commercial waste hauling company.

The change, which went into effect Jan. 1, is part of a new commercial, industrial and institutional solid waste services agreement with Groot Industries Inc. The Village Board approved the ten-year agreement in early December.

Trustee George Alpogianis said during the December meeting that the village was able to negotiate substantial cost savings for local businesses in the new contract, specifically an 8.5 percent reduction in recycling and refuse service fees, which amounts to a combined roughly \$100,000 in savings for the first year.

"I think (the agreement) is a win-win for everybody, for our businesses, for the village of Niles and everyone in general," Alpogianis said during the meeting.

The village first approved a contract for commercial waste services with Groot in 2008, and the company has been hauling residential garbage for Niles for the past 40 years, said Frank Hillemonds, municipal affairs manager for the company.

The new contract won't directly affect non-commercial entities except for those residents who wish to rent a dumpster for a remodeling or similar construction project, said Hayley Garard, communications coordinator for Niles. In the past, Garard said, residents would have to purchase a permit from the village for \$50 or \$100 depending on how long they planned to keep the dump-



JENNIFER JOHNSON/PIONEER PRESS

Niles residents will no longer need a permit when renting a dumpster for a temporary period of time.

ster outside their home.

The permit price paid for the costs to ensure waste haulers abided by the village's rules regarding dumpster locations, according to a release from the village.

Those rules, Garard said, ensure the flow of traffic isn't blocked by dumpsters and motorists' views remain clear.

Under the new agreement, Groot is responsible for ensuring village regulations regarding dumpsters are followed, she said. She added that the new system, which requires temporary dumpsters be rented directly from Groot, will save residents time because permits are no longer required.

Additionally, she said, a portion of the cost of each dumpster rental — \$1.50 per cubic container yard, dubbed a franchise fee — will be returned to the village's garbage fund. Garard said the estimated \$20,000 in additional annual revenue from the franchise fee will help cover the costs of garbage services in

the village.

Hillemonds said the cost of the temporary dumpster rentals are "below market rates."

Garard said the village has embarked on a campaign to inform businesses about the new agreement with Groot and what it entails.

"The (businesses) we have heard from have been really excited about it, but we haven't gotten a lot of feedback," she said.

Hillemonds added that Groot plans to meet with Niles businesses in an effort to increase the volume of recycling they generate.

Per both the 2008 agreement and the updated decade-long contract with the company, Groot is required to provide all village businesses with a free 95-gallon recycling cart.

"We'll be going out and working with Niles merchants to see how they throw away their solid waste," he said.

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

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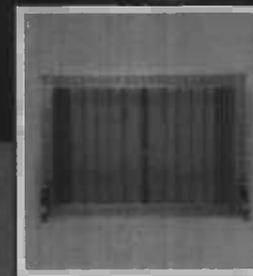
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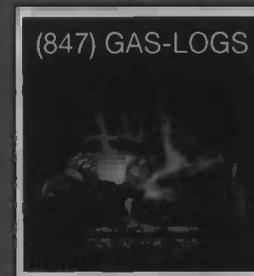
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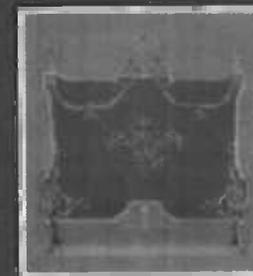


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Night of Heroes

Hockey games support kids

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

The anticipation was high surrounding two back-to-back hockey matches that drew a few hundred hockey fans to the Skokie Skatium on Jan. 23.

For a group of veterans and physically disadvantaged kids, the first "A Night of Heroes" benefit was about the chance to play the game they love while raising needed funding to support their teams.

The benefit was expected to raise up to \$10,000 — part of which will help support the Hornets, a sled hockey team of about 20 kids with a range of disabilities like cerebral palsy, organizers said. A newly formed team of veterans called the Chicago Blackhawks Warriors also received support from the night's fundraising totals.

"For the disabled kids, it's about giving them a chance to play a game they never would have been able to, given their circumstances," said Jim Smith, president of USA Hockey and one of the founders of the Hornets and the Blackhawks Warriors. "For our Warriors, it's a way to say thank you for their sacrifices by giving our veterans the ability to get together and play hockey."

Both teams began with the efforts of Smith and his longtime friend, JJ O'Connor, who suffered severe injuries during a hockey game at Skokie Skatium at the age of 17 that left him paralyzed from the neck down.

Hornets manager Tim Meyers said O'Connor, who was unable to attend the event, started the Hornets 11 years ago as a way to see that his passion for hockey and helping others lived on past his days on the ice.

Donations and fundraising on behalf of the professional and amateur hockey communities throughout Chicagoland help pay for



KEVIN TANAKA/PIONEER PRESS

Chicago Blackhawks Warriors' Matthew Gran sees the puck bounce off the post during the game against the Nighthawks at the Hornets Sled Hockey fundraiser Jan. 23.

equipment needed for each child to play sled hockey, Meyers said.

The sleds, which are outfitted with hockey sticks that also serve as ice picks to propel players across the ice, cost about \$750 each. That's in addition to the gear and other equipment for each child renting time on the ice. The Hornets pay an hourly rate of about \$400 to rent ice for weekly practices at a rink in Addison, Meyers said.

"Being part of a team is important for any child, but a lot of our kids can't do anything else, so this is the only chance they get to feel like they're part of the team," Meyers said.

Palatine resident Tim Halloran helped strap his son Sean, 13, into his sled before the game.

"The kids don't realize, that while they're playing hockey, that this is also physical therapy for them," Halloran said.

The military-themed evening began with former Chicago Blackhawks player Troy Murray introducing

the teams before a display from the Marine Corps League of Lake County Color Guard.

The first match pitted alumni from the varsity high school-level Nighthawks team against the Blackhawk Warriors, a team of about 20 veterans.

The Blackhawks Warriors have only been together as a team since last fall when O'Connor and Smith reached out to the Wounded Warrior Project to see if there was interest.

They started out with only about four or five players, but word about the team spread quickly among local vets, and it's grown to nearly 25 players, according to Kevin Sharwarko, captain of the Blackhawks Warriors.

For Sharwarko, who said he has spinal injuries from his time in the military, the team has been an invaluable part of his recovery and social life.

He said he gets up early every Saturday to make the nearly-three-hour drive from his home in downstate

Peoria to the Addison Ice Rink, where the team holds its weekly practices.

"None of us served together in the Army, so this gives us a chance to meet each other and do something we all enjoy as a team," Sharwarko said after the game, before the team headed to Skokie's Village Inn for pizza.

Next up, the Nighthawks and Hornets took to the ice on sleds, where a few wobbly Nighthawks players had trouble getting used to skating in a seated position.

For Niles West juniors George Panoutsos, of Lincolnwood, and Michael Sorenson, of Morton Grove, it was only their second time playing sled hockey.

"We're a school team, but we're not recognized as a school sport, so we don't always get to play in front of big crowds like this," Panoutsos said. "These kids are going to kill us (in the game), so our team will get a dose of reality."

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Coming Together opening event set

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

The Jan. 31 opening of this year's Coming Together in Skokie and Niles Township perfectly reflects the adage that "a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step."

By the time the 2016 installment — ¡Viva! Coming Together — is over well into spring, dozens of programs focusing on the Hispanic and Latino cultures will have been played out in around 20 venues across the township.

In their colorful booklet about the 2016 program, Coming Together organizers say that it was "a challenge" to bring forward an overview of the Latino community this year considering it includes Mexico, Central America, South America, the Latin American and Caribbean Islands and Spain.

"Members of the Coming Together committee, many of whom are Latinos (and Latinas) who work in Niles Township, have been working very hard to give you a taste of the many riches Latino culture offers," they said.

That taste begins Sunday afternoon at Niles West High School, 5701 W. Oakton St., Skokie. At 1 p.m., refreshments and an art display will be available. At 2 p.m., the opening ceremony will take place including a

colorful variety show.

Organizers are reluctant to say more — they promise some surprises along the way. WGN-TV's Lourdes Duarte will host, artist Alfonso "Piloto" Nieves Ruiz will have work on display and music by AfriCaribe will be heard.

A first-ever book exchange arranged by Open Books will also be on hand. Participants are encouraged to bring a book for exchange.

The Coming Together program over the next several months will center around four books and include author visits, book discussions, movie showings, hands-on activities such as cooking and drumming, educational seminars, field trips including one to the National Museum of Mexican Arts in Pilsen and more.

Since 2010, the Coming Together program has focused on the cultures of India, the Philippines, Assyria, Greece and Korea. Last year, it took a break from its usual one-culture-spotlight to look at race in general before selecting the Latino and Hispanic cultures as its subject this year.

Information about the entire 2016 program including Sunday's opening ceremony is available at www.comingtogether.in.

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MIKE ISAACS/PIONEER PRESS

A special section of the Skokie Public Library is designated for materials that can be checked out for this year's ¡Viva! Coming Together in Skokie and Niles Township.

Cops warn of opening doors to strangers after ruse burglaries reported

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

Morton Grove police are warning residents against opening their doors to strangers, following a recent rise in ruse burglaries reported in the community.

In a ruse burglary, an organized group of thieves will send someone to the door to lure a resident outside of their home while an accomplice enters the residence unbeknownst to the resident and grabs valuables, according to Morton Grove Police Cmdr. Paul Yaras.

Four such burglaries have been reported in Morton Grove since December, police said. The crimes were reported on the 9200 block of Ozark Street, the 5700 block of Reba Court, the 7900 block of Foster Street and on the 6700 block of Hazel Street.

"We've put out information in all sorts of ways begging people not to let strangers into their homes, and not to let themselves be lured outside their homes by strangers," Yaras said. "These crimes still occur, even after our efforts to educate."

Yaras said ruse burglars tend to target seniors. In the recent cases reported in December and January, suspects used a variety of methods to lure victims outside, including an offer to repair a broken fence, and an inquiry about a vehicle a resident had listed for sale.

In one incident reported to police on Jan. 11, a black SUV being driven by a blond woman pulled into a residential driveway and two men got out and walked into the victim's home after he opened the door, according to a police report. While one of the

men tried to convince the resident he had hired him in the past to do home repair work, the other man began walking around the house.

The resident noticed cash was missing after the men left the home, police said.

"Generally, force is not used and the (victims) are not injured or threatened, but these types of incidents can and do become violent depending on the burglar and the victim."

— Paul Yaras, Morton Grove police commander

In another incident reported on Dec. 26, \$14,000 worth of jewelry was stolen from a home. In that case, a woman came upstairs from the basement and saw a man standing in her living room. After telling him to leave, she walked outside to find her husband in the backyard having a conversation with another man who police said was working with the first suspect.

The victims discovered the missing jewelry after the men were gone, according to police.

"Basically, you have an organized group of thieves targeting senior citizens and entering their homes without permission," Yaras said. "Generally, force is not used and the (victims) are not injured or threatened,

but these types of incidents can and do become violent depending on the burglar and the victim."

Ruse burglaries aren't isolated to Morton Grove, of course. In Niles, jewelry and cash were reportedly stolen from a home on the 8500 block of North Terrace on Jan. 9, and a similar incident was reported the same day on the 8500 block of Ottawa Avenue, police said.

Police ask all residents to be vigilant to any suspicious activity in their neighborhoods, and offer the following tips to residents:

- Don't open the door to strangers. Municipal employees such as public works staff will not enter a house for any reason.
- Don't leave the house at the urging of a stranger. This is their way of getting the victim out of view and out of the way so their partner can enter the home.

- Municipal vehicles are visibly marked, have Illinois license plates, and employees carry identification cards issued by their municipality.

- If someone claiming to work for the village shows up at the door, don't let them into the house and call the village to confirm their presence. Residents can also call 911 and ask the police to check that the person at the door is legitimately employed by the village.

- Workers from utility companies such as ComEd do not show up unannounced.

The non-emergency phone number for the Morton Grove Police Department is 847-470-5200.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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The following items were taken from the Niles Police Department reports. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt; only a court of law can make that determination.

Niles

BATTERY

■ Michael Fuller, 50, of the 6500 block of North Natoma Avenue, Chicago, was charged with battery on Jan. 16 following an alleged fight at a bar at Milwaukee and Albion Avenues. He has a March 14 court date.

RETAIL THEFT

■ Adilene Guzman, 22, of the 3000 block of North Gresham, Chicago, and Jeanette Beltran, 24, of the 2600 block of North Kostner, Chicago, were each charged with retail theft on Jan. 16 after they allegedly stole merchandise valued at \$220 from a store on the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue. They have a March 10 court date.

■ Monica John, 23, of the 200 block of North Willie Street, Mount Prospect, was charged with felony retail theft on Jan. 19 after she allegedly stole several cosmetics from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. She has a Feb. 9 court date.

SPEEDING

■ Mario H. Perez, 28, of the 1700 block of Forest Cove Drive, Mount Prospect, was charged with speeding more than 35 mph over the speed limit and driving without a valid license on Jan. 18. According to police, Perez's vehicle was clocked on radar at 75 mph in a 35 mph speed zone on the 9100 block of Milwaukee Avenue. A traffic stop was conducted at Oakton Street and Oketo Avenue, police said. He has a March 14 court date.

DUI

■ David Gripp, 55, of the 2300 block of Birchwood Avenue, Wilmette, was charged with driving under the influence on Jan. 17. Police said Gripp had rear-ended a vehicle that was stopped at a red light on the 8500 block of Golf Road. He has a Feb. 26 court date.

■ Stephanie Goggin, 28, of the 4700 block of Chester, Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence and driving with a suspended license on Jan. 19. Police said Goggin was found slumped over the wheel of her car, which was stopped in the left turn lane on northbound Lehigh Avenue at Howard Street. When an officer awoke Goggin, she reportedly waved her hand and closed her eyes to go back to sleep, police said. She has a Feb. 26 court

date.

RUSE ENTRY

■ A 95-year-old woman told police that necklaces were taken from her home on Jan. 19 after a man walked inside when she answered the door. According to police, the man made statements about being at the house to check if the power was out, but ignored the woman when she asked him for identification. She reportedly followed the man to the family room, where he asked her to turn on and off various electric items. The woman told police that when she reached for a phone to call 911, the man grabbed the phone and hid it in a compartment under her walker. Police said the woman reported the man was in her house for about 20 minutes before he left and got into the passenger side of a car parked outside. A second man is believed to have entered the house while the first man attempted to distract the woman, police said. An investigation was pending.

DISPUTE

■ A woman called police on Jan. 15 to complain that her husband has not contributed any money toward household bills and ignores her when he is at home. According to police, the woman called

authorities to find out how she could get her husband to move out of the house.

■ Police were called to a home on Jan. 17 after a 40-year-old woman reportedly threw a 68-year-old man's clothes in the trash and an argument ensued.

BURGLARY

■ An attempt was made to burglarize a business on the 6200 block of Howard Street on Jan. 15. Police said a pane of glass was shattered.

■ An apartment on the 7700 block of Nordica Avenue was burglarized Jan. 19 between 10:30 a.m. and 2 p.m., police said.

THEFT

■ Various electronics were stolen Jan. 8 from a car parked on the 8800 block of Milwaukee Avenue.

■ A suitcase, bag and laptop computer were stolen Jan. 16 from a car parked on the 8900 block of Milwaukee Avenue.

■ A 2006 Toyota was stolen between Jan. 16 and Jan. 18 from a parking lot on the 8800 block of Golf Road. A spare key had reportedly been left in the center console.

■ A man reportedly attempted to pay for food with a counterfeit \$20 bill on Jan. 20 at a restaurant on the 9600 block of Milwaukee Avenue.


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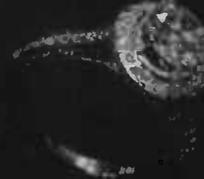
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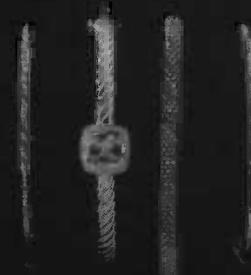
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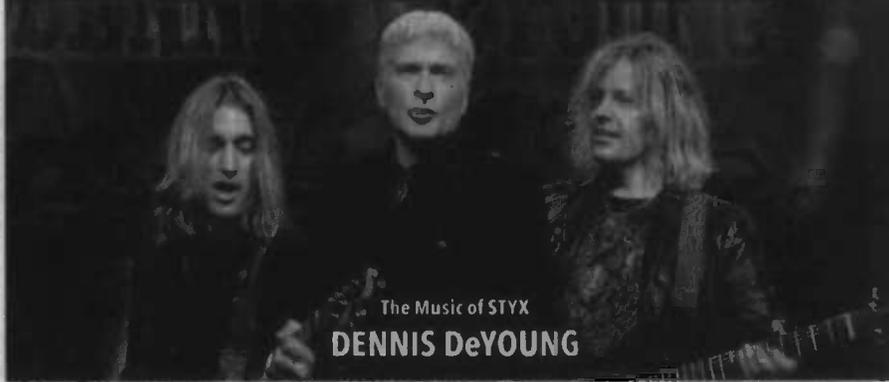
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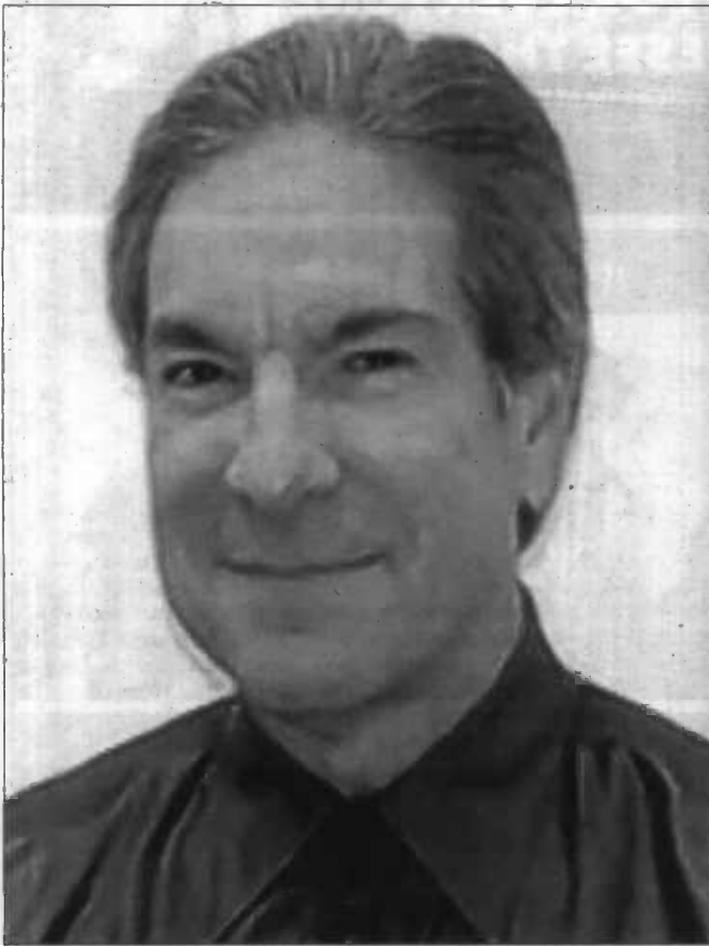
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EDUCATION



NILES TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL D 219

Former Libertyville School District 70 superintendent Mark Friedman has been named interim superintendent of District 219.

District 219 appoints interim superintendent

BY BRIAN L. COX
Pioneer Press

The Niles Township High School District 219 School Board on Jan. 21 announced the appointment of an interim superintendent who will be paid \$1,400 a day to replace former superintendent Nanciann Gatta who left the district under a cloud of controversy late last year.

Former Libertyville School District 70 superintendent, Mark Friedman, will serve as District 219 interim superintendent through June, 2016, District 219 said in a release Jan. 21.

Friedman is a partner with BWP and Associates, an educational leadership search firm in Libertyville, according to the release. It said he served as superintendent of the Libertyville schools for 17 years, was assistant superintendent in Lincolnwood and a principal/director of instruction in Itasca. He was named 2009 "Superintendent of the Year" for the state in Illinois, and was twice named

"Superintendent of the Year for Lake County," the release said.

"We are very fortunate to be able to rely on Dr. Friedman's expertise and leadership to ensure that we maintain our focus on quality education and operational excellence throughout this transition," Mark Sproat, president of the District 219 Board of Education, said in the release.

"We have great confidence that Dr. Friedman will work together with the Board and Administration to ensure minimal disruption to district and school operations through this transition," he said.

He also said District 219 is evaluating what steps it will take in its search to hire a new permanent superintendent.

"We are committed to developing and implementing a superintendent search process that is inclusive, transparent, and well planned," said Sproat in the release.

Gatta and the district's chief legal officer, assistant superintendent of operations John Heintz, were placed on leave last August

and the district started an internal investigation. Gatta filed suit against the district but later the district signed "mutual separation agreements" with Gatta and Heintz, whose contracts with the school district expired at the end of the year. Gatta was paid a small amount of vacation pay and all lawsuits were dropped, the district said.

As interim superintendent, the release says Friedman will assist the District 219 Board of Education in developing a leadership transition plan, and will lead the administration and staff in the transition to a new, permanent leader for the school district.

As a retired superintendent, Friedman is limited to a maximum of 100 days of work per year, the release said.

Friedman could not be reached for comment and the district on Jan. 21 declined to have anyone do interviews on the appointment.

Brian L. Cox is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Niles North principal to resign at end of school year

BY BRIAN L. COX
Pioneer Press

The outgoing principal of Niles North High School on Jan. 21 said that as he reflects back on his time at the school he is most proud of that fact that the high school has a strong sense of community and is excelling academically.

Niles North High School's principal, Ryan McTague sent an email to teachers, students and parents on Jan. 20 announcing that he is leaving the school at the end of the school year to become the superintendent of McHenry School District 156.

"While I'm excited to begin my new role as a superintendent, it will be difficult leaving behind my incredible Niles North family," the email said. "I am deeply grateful and appreciative to the

students, parents, teachers, support staff, administrators, and community members for their unwavering support and friendship. No matter where my journey in life takes me, you will always have a special place in my heart."

McTague joined Niles Township High School District 219 in 2003 as a dean of students, became director of deans in 2005 and then was appointed assistant principal of operations in 2007. He was appointed Niles North principal in 2010.

In an interview on Jan. 2, McTague said he is proud of many things the school achieved when he was principal, but said he is most proud of the fact that school has a real sense of community.

"That is what I will take with me," he said.

"I've always told the kids, I've always hammered it home, we are one," he added. "We are one school. We are one community. It really inspires the values of what every diverse community needs to have."

He also said he is very pleased that the Niles North and the school district are excelling academically.

"Our (advanced placement) enrollment has increased 50 percent in the last three years," he said. "We've just really done well. For me leaving with that idea that our community is 'strong' is something very special."

"There's so many things we have done that have really put us on a course to where our kids really have every option and opportunity when they graduate," he added. "It really has been an

incredible experience for me. I'm so proud of our accomplishments. I'm so proud of our kids and our staff members and really how far we've come."

He also said he hopes to take much of what he learned as principal of Niles North to his new job in McHenry School District 156.

"What I'm bring to McHenry is a wealth of experience of really working in a highly competitive and resourceful accomplished high school district, as well as someone who really wants to build a collaborative community, someone who really wants to listen to our parents and our students and our teachers," he said.

Brian L. Cox is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.



NILES TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL D219

Niles North High School Principal Ryan McTague is leaving at the end of the school year.

Oakton Community College receives \$100K from anonymous donor

BY LEE V. GAINES
Pioneer Press

The Oakton Community College Educational Foundation recently received one of the largest single monetary contributions in its history from an anonymous donor who gifted the foundation \$100,000 with the specification the money support programs and scholarships in the college's science, technology, engineering and math departments.

The college's executive director of development, Mary Knight, said the donation came from a Winnetka area donor who has given to the community college in the past.

"It is seldom that we are asked to keep it anonymous, but if we get that request we certainly respect and honor it," she said.

She added that for donations of that magnitude, "there's often a lot of thought behind the gift, so the donor often has a passion toward a

certain area and in this case it's for the STEM fields."

STEM offerings at OCC include chemistry, biology, computer science, engineering, physics and mathematics courses.

"We have a variety of technical programs that train students for careers without necessarily getting a university degree," said Robert Sompolski, dean of mathematics and technologies at OCC.

Sompolski said his department focuses on manufacturing, networking, computer science studies, engineering, and a nanotechnology training program, which is a joint venture with the college's sciences division.

The program includes a 31-credit hour nanotechnology certificate, college-level nanotechnology courses, opportunities for hands-on experience with lab equipment and access to internships.

In addition to helping Oakton

students land careers in the field, Sompolski said the program also provides equipment training to area high school students and faculty.

Demand for students with STEM related training is high, he said.

"For example, our nanotechnology training program is barely three years old, but we're getting requests for interns and everybody who has gone through is getting a full-time job at the end of it," Sompolski said.

Other STEM fields, including manufacturing, are in desperate need of skilled labor, he said. Part of encouraging students to train in those areas requires breaking down stereotypes of what these jobs entail, Sompolski said.

While the donation is specifically earmarked for STEM scholarships and programming at the college, Knight said the gift will help students across the board by



JON DAVIS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Oakton Community College's new Margaret Burke Lee Science and Health Careers Center stands out on the Des Plaines campus.

freeing up funding for scholarships and programming in other college departments.

This year, she said, such a gift is especially needed due in part to the financial impact of the state's budget impasse on the college's funding. According to a news release published on the college's website last fall, the budget crisis in Springfield has cost the college \$6.1 million.

OCC, however, is dedicated to supporting students despite the budget issue, Knight said.

"If an EMT is called to your door, or your furnace needs to be repaired, it's likely an OCC student will serve those needs because they've been trained and are in the community working," she said.

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

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NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR

Walter Reed, Holocaust speaker and author, dies

BY DANIEL I. DORFMAN
Pioneer Press

The family and colleagues of a Wilmette man who escaped Nazi Germany and later became a speaker and writer about the Holocaust remembered him recently as a thoughtful man devoted to educating others.

Walter Reed, who left Germany as a teenager, died Jan. 13, according to his wife, Jeanne Reed. He was 91.

Reed wrote about his experiences, and those of other Jewish children who fled Germany and Austria during World War II, last year in his book, "The Children of La Hille: Eluding Nazi Capture During World War II." He also spoke at local organizations about the Holocaust, and was scheduled to give a talk about his book at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie on Jan. 17.

Instead, his wife of 46 years said she spoke in his place.

Jeanne Reed said she wanted to continue her husband's mission, as "the whole purpose of the book was to honor these people that saved the children and to educate people on what happened to children in the war."

She said he considered the museum an important part of his life, and she chose to speak on his behalf.

"That was his home base and they have a nice auditorium," she said. "So I thought all of these people

have signed up and they are going to come there and there won't be a program. So I thought maybe I could do it for him."

She said she will also continue speaking in her husband's stead at previously scheduled engagements through May.

Reed, who died of heart failure at his home, was a member of the museum's speakers' bureau.

"Walter was a highly intelligent, extremely perceptive person who chose to share his wartime experiences to educate students of all ages," said Lillian Gerstner, the Holocaust Museum's director of public programs.

Born Werner Rindsberg in a German village, Reed was arrested at age 14 along with his father in 1938 on Kristallnacht — also called "The Night of Broken Glass" — when Germans vandalized synagogues and Jewish-owned stores, according to his wife.

Reed was released and sent with other children to Belgium through the efforts of a rescue committee, eventually moving on to southern France after the Nazis invaded Belgium in 1940, she said.

He was the only member of his family to survive the Holocaust, Jeanne Reed said, and both of his parents and his two younger brothers were sent to Poland and killed.

In 1941, Reed moved to the United States, where he had relatives. After arriving in New York City, he was drafted into the Army and



DANIEL I. DORFMAN/PIONEER PRESS

Jeanne Reed displays photos that belonged to her husband, Walter Reed, who escaped Germany and went on to serve in the U.S. Army during World War II. The Wilmette resident, who wrote a book about Jewish children escaping the Nazi occupation, died earlier this month.

"He was a very civic-minded person devoted to his family and passionate about teaching the history of this period."

— Jeanne Reed, wife of Walter Reed

traveled back to France, where he served in a military intelligence unit.

His wife said that after Reed returned to the U.S. at the war's end, he kept quiet about growing up in Nazi Germany because he feared further anti-Semitism and wanted to put his past behind him. He told people he was born in Brooklyn and his parents had died in

a car crash, she said, and he also changed his German name to one that sounded more American.

"He didn't look back on the war or the loss of his family," Jeanne Reed said. "The only thing he wanted was his family back, but that was impossible, so he was going to go forward and to be an American."

Reed studied journalism

at the University of Missouri, and moved to Chicago in 1958, where he spent 30 years as director of public relations for the National Automatic Merchandising Association, the national trade association for the vending machine industry, according to his wife. He later opened his own consulting business after retiring.

In the 1990s, Reed returned to France and visited the refugee camp where he had stayed as a teen, and learned that others who had been there were still alive, Jeanne Reed said.

Meeting with them, and joining the local Rotary

Club, encouraged him to share his story publicly, his wife said.

"He was a very civic-minded person devoted to his family and passionate about teaching the history of this period," she said.

In addition to his wife, Reed is also survived by three adult children: Brian Reed of Northfield; Andrew Reed of Geneva, Switzerland; McRae Reed of Chicago, and one grandchild. A celebration of his life will be held at a later date, according to his wife.

Daniel I. Dorfman is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Police call for bottled water donations for Flint officers

BY RONNIE WACHTER
Pioneer Press

Even in the dead of winter, cop work is thirsty work.

"We all deal with dehydration," said deputy chief Roy Bethge of the Buffalo Grove Police Department. "Whether it's spending a long time at an accident scene or a major crime scene, we all go without water. Dehydration is not good for you."

And with the municipal water supply in the city of Flint, Mich., containing too much lead, the officers of Buffalo Grove are planning to help their counterparts there stay hydrated.

The BGPD is calling for donations of full cases of bottled water, which officers will drive on Friday to Flint's police station.

"The officers are dressed for extreme weather, so you

do get sweaty inside," Bethge said. "Not as bad as the summer, but it's an issue."

The city of Flint, located about 70 miles northwest of Detroit, has been in the national spotlight in recent weeks. When the city switched its municipal water supply in 2014 from the city of Detroit to the nearby Flint River, the water wasn't properly treated, and it corroded the pipes, causing unsafe amounts of lead in the drinking water.

A statement released last year from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention warns that "because lead exposure often occurs with no obvious symptoms, it frequently goes unrecognized." Thus, it's possible that Flint's residents may have drunk toxic water for more than a year.

That includes its police and firefighters. Bethge said no one in Buffalo Grove's

department has a direct relationship to anyone in Flint, but that Chief Steve Casstevens wanted to send their counterparts assistance.

Bethge said his office spoke with Flint Police Chief James Tolbert, who told them that his staff and the city's firefighters needed a healthy water supply, and had room to safely store it.

So, Buffalo Grove will accept donations of full cases of water bottles at its station, 46 Raupp Blvd., until 6 p.m. Jan. 29. Bethge said bottles are preferable to large gallons.

"Easier to distribute to everybody," he said.

Buffalo Grove will haul as much as they receive to Flint in the department's trailer.

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SARAH RICE/GETTY

Army National Guard Specialist David Brown loads water into cars at a fire station Jan. 21 in Flint, Mich. The Buffalo Grove police are bringing bottled water to Flint's first responders.

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NEWS

Paramedics, parents save newborn baby

By JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

In training to become a nurse, Rusi Karabaliev had recently assisted in the delivery of two babies.

But the Park Ridge father never expected he would be delivering his own daughter — or that, for a few moments, his child's survival would be on the line.

Antonia Ivanova Karabalieva was born Jan. 21 inside her parents' Park Ridge home, not breathing and with her umbilical cord wrapped around her neck.

The girl's birth came suddenly, mom Ivelina Ivanova said, leaving no time to get to the hospital.

"My father was putting the car out and I said, 'No, we won't last that long,'" Ivanova recalled. "Probably five minutes afterward, she was already crowning."

Earlier that morning, Ivanova, a nurse practitioner herself, began having contractions. But they were seven and eight minutes apart, she said, before they stopped — allowing her to even fall asleep for a little while.

But around noon, as Ivanova got up to take a shower, she said the contractions started again — only this time, they were coming too quickly and accompanied by terrible pain.

Karabaliev called 911 and, with the parents relying on their medical training and instructions from the emergency dispatcher, delivered Antonia in the family's living room, the parents said.

"What I didn't expect was to have the umbilical cord wrapped around her neck," Ivanova said. "Thank God we had a knowledgeable person (on the phone). They asked (my husband) to unwrap the umbilical cord and he did. And then she came out."

Antonia was not breath-



JENNIFER JOHNSON/PIONEER PRESS

Ivelina Ivanova and Rusi Karabaliev with daughter Antonia at Lutheran General Hospital Jan. 22.

ing, Karabaliev said, but paramedics were already at the door and ready.

"When we got in, mom and dad essentially handed us a listless baby — not breathing, no pulse," said Park Ridge paramedic Chris Cleary, who was joined by paramedics Aaron Kuester and Bill Smaha.

The three immediately began using an air suction device in an attempt to get the baby breathing, while her parents helped stimulate her body by rubbing her tiny feet and hands. Within minutes, she began to breathe, Cleary said.

"We got a little soft cry out of the baby, she regained her color, started breathing and her heart rate came back," he said. "Soon after that, we were on our way to Lutheran General."

Holding a healthy Antonia inside a hospital room about 24 hours after the harrowing birth, her parents reflected on the experience — seemingly unruffled by it all.

"The baby, I think, maybe had a little bit of shock from the delivery, but I knew she was going to be fine," Karabaliev said after describing how he had carefully unwrapped the umbilical cord from her neck, hoping it would not rupture. "I just

had a feeling."

"After carrying her for almost 10 months, she is more precious than my own life is for me," Ivanova said. "So we fought for her. And she fought for herself."

The fact that the couple's home is just down the street from Park Ridge's north side fire station reduced the amount of time it took paramedics to get to the house, Cleary said. It's that quick response, in addition to their own efforts, that Karabaliev and Ivanova say attributed to the positive outcome.

"We couldn't have hoped for a better timing for (the paramedics) coming out," Ivanova said. "In this situation there are so many little things that can put her life in danger, so we're so grateful."

"Collectively we all worked together, and it was a great day to be a paramedic," Cleary said. "Most importantly, it was a great outcome for this family who got a beautiful baby girl."

Antonia is the third child for Karabaliev and Ivanova. She joins sister Catherina, who turns 4 in March, and brother Eric, who will be 2 in February.

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Young River Forest chef heads to contest finale

Gordon Ramsay compliments her soda-braised ribs

BY TRACY SWARTZ
Chicago Tribune

Addison Osta Smith, 9, said she has been cooking ribs her "whole life" and she loves to eat them when she's at barbecues.

Those memories inspired the River Forest chef to serve the "MasterChef Junior" judges soda-braised ribs with a strawberry salad and potato salad in the Jan. 22 episode to earn a spot in the Jan. 29 season finale.

"Those ribs, young lady, were extraordinary. The meat was delicious. They fell

off the bone. You gave it your all. Well done," judge Gordon Ramsay said.

Addison covered her mouth with her hand in excitement when she heard the news that she is facing Louisiana's Avery Kyle in the Season 4 finale, scheduled to air 7 p.m. Jan. 29 on Fox. New Jersey's Amaya Baez and Florida's Zac Kara were sent home for undercooking their pork.

This was Addison's episode. Before the pork challenge, the young chefs were tasked with baking a souffle with either milk chocolate, dark chocolate, strawberries or blackberries.

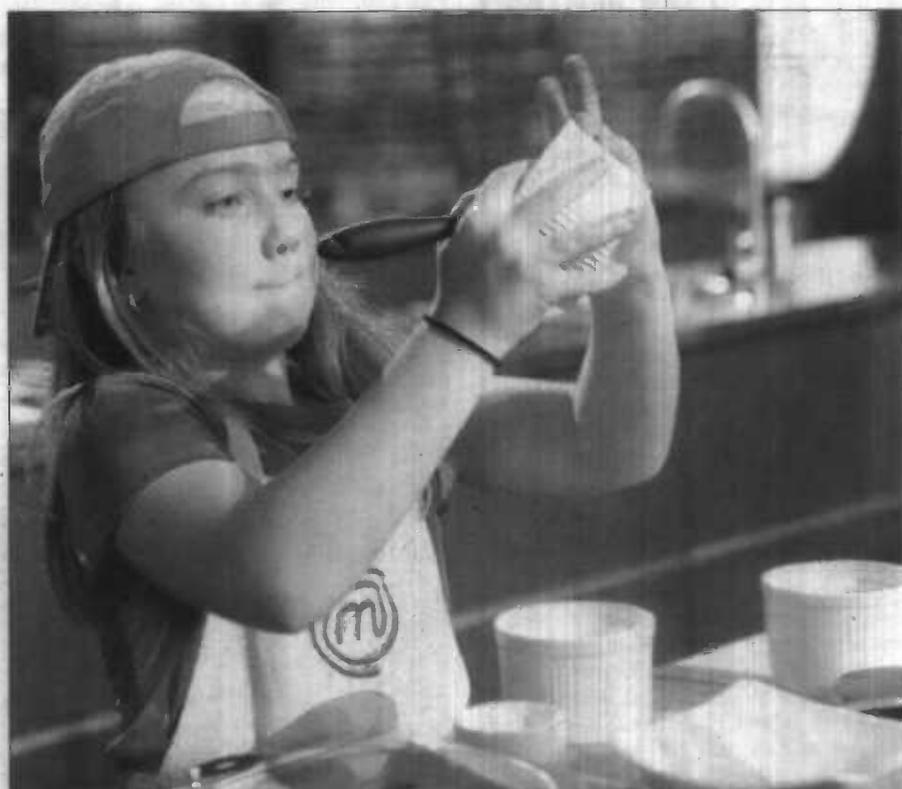
The judges raved about Addison's blackberry souffle, which gave her confidence because she said she

"This is just the biggest thing I've ever done in my whole life."

— Addison Osta Smith, 9, of River Forest

wants to own a bakery one day. She was awarded with an advantage that allowed her to pick the pork cuts her competitors would cook in the elimination challenge.

"It is so important for me to get into the finale because I worked so hard to get to this point," Addison said. "This is just the biggest thing I've ever done in my whole life, and I want to make my whole family proud."



GREG GAYNE/FOX

River Forest chef Addison Osta Smith, 9, prepares blackberry souffle in the Jan. 22 episode of "MasterChef Junior."

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Message from forum: Be aware, have hope

Parents encouraged to maintain dialogue with children about heroin

By KATHY ROUTLIFFE
Pioneer Press

Cheap and readily available heroin has made what was once considered a drug for hardcore addicts a recreational drug of choice for suburban teens, officials told Wilmette parents at a recent forum.

But police and substance abuse workers said casual use can rapidly escalate to addiction, though there are resources to help families dealing with teen drug abuse.

"I really want to emphasize that we're seeing good kids from great families who've done all the right things," Kate Mahoney, a clinical social worker with Evanston-based Peer Services. "We don't think it can happen to the kids whose piano recitals and track meets we've gone to."

More than 60 people attended the Jan. 19 forum at the Wilmette Public Library, the third such meeting since 2013.

Wilmette Police Chief Brian King told parents to talk to their children about heroin and prescription drug abuse, and not to feel helpless or to blame if heroin is affecting their sons or daughters.

"My hope personally is that you use this forum to start a dialogue," he said, telling parents whose families are affected by heroin use that "you don't walk alone. There are people here to help you."

Speakers, including Wilmette Police Sgt. Michael Robinson, who heads the department's heroin investigations, said heroin is present at New Trier Township High School, though most hard users don't attend school regularly and buy heroin in Chicago.

King said the night was aimed at helping parents talk to their teens and young adult children about a drug their children knew little about.

He said his department has dealt with roughly a dozen heroin-related incidents in each of the last five years, including six fatal overdoses by village residents, non-fatal overdoses, and crimes likely connected to heroin addicts seeking money.

Part of the problem is that high-purity heroin is now cheaply available — \$10 for a small bag that might have cost \$50 in 1983, according to Mahoney — to young suburban users who don't know how addictive the drug is.

Worse, Mahoney said, beginning users aren't put off by the stigma of injecting heroin because they have easy access to powdered heroin that can be snorted and which, at least at first, seems relatively benign. By the time they do realize the danger, users have already moved on to injecting the drug, King said.



KATHY ROUTLIFFE/PIONEER PRESS

More than 60 people attended a Jan. 19 forum in Wilmette about suburban heroin use among teens and young adults. Listening to Wilmette Police Department Sgt. Michael Robinson speak at the podium were, from left, Kate Mahoney, Peer Services, Evanston; Wilmette resident Marsha Pesavento; Sue Frazier, Holy Family Medical Center, Des Plaines; Wilmette Police Chief Brian King.

"What we used to think of as an end of the line drug is now sometimes the third or fourth drug some of these kids try," Mahoney said.

Wilmette resident Marsha Pesavento said she had no idea that her youngest child, Joey, was using heroin until well after he had become addicted to the drug, which he first tried as a New Trier Township High School senior after years of alcohol and prescription drug abuse that he hid from his parents.

"I was talking to an old friend I hadn't talked to in a long time, and I learned her son had died of a heroin overdose," Pesavento said. "And I said, 'If we'd had a crystal ball, we'd never believe we'd be talking about what we're talking about now.'"

Pesavento, her voice breaking, recounted how her family tried to help Joey through unsuccessful drug rehab programs, and even thought he was on the

road to recovery until she found him unconscious from an overdose in February. He eventually awoke from the coma, but suffered a brain injury that has changed his life permanently with issues like short term memory loss and difficulty speaking, she said.

Sue Frazier, a rehabilitation program manager with Holy Family Medical Center in Des Plaines, said families and recovering addicts have many resources to fight heroin addiction. She cautioned that addicts may try and fail many times to get off the drug permanently, but pleaded with listeners not to give up.

"Treatment may have to happen again and again and again," Frazier said. "When parents ask 'What do I do?' my answer is, 'Don't give up. Keep trying.'"

Frazier said total abstinence, a strong support network of fellow addicts in successful recovery, preferably through some sort of 12-step program, is the best hope for

former users. She also said family members need to find their own support networks, because of the toll their loved ones' addiction can take on them.

King said it is possible for heroin users to overcome their addictions, adding he knew of one user who had been free of the drug for 30 years. King also told parents to be aware of depression or anxiety in their children, since some teens may try to self-medicate those problems.

"We can't arrest ourselves out of this problem," he said. King also said that families can come to the department and get help and resources from the department's full time social worker.

For resources on dealing with teen drug use, King said parents can go to www.wilmette.com/departments/police/default.aspx.

Top candidates tapping into anger among voters



RANDY BLASER

The latest theory about the current crop of presidential candidates who are making the biggest splash with the electorate is this: The voters are angry.

And the top candidates are tapping into that anger.

That's easy to see on the Republican side of the ledger. Donald Trump took hold of the campaign and has never given up his lead. Despite all the predictions he would implode or self-destruct, Trump has put himself in a position to run the table on the first two campaign events – the Iowa Caucuses on Feb. 1 and then the New Hampshire Primary on Feb. 9.

Even I thought his support would evaporate once people realized he is a buffoon. And there certainly is a long history of political buffoonery in this country.

Instead, it seems Trump is attracting people to his

It really didn't matter if he was a Democrat or Republican. I was angry. And so are plenty of other voters.

campaign who have never really participated before. And they are angry folks.

On the other side, it seems the Democrats are mad, too. Crazy socialist uncle Bernie Sanders is making a race out of what was supposed to be the coronation of Hillary Clinton as the Democratic candidate for president. She may very well be.

But if you examine the support Sanders and Trump have gathered, it is quite clear – people are angry. And those two candidates are pushing the right buttons.

I happened to live that out the other day. I was home in the cold and the dog started barking. Someone was at the door. It turned out to be a candidate, giving his spiel starting with how our town is under-represented in Congress. I was in no mood for that. I want job opportunities for me and my kids. He

tried to hand me a flier. I looked and it didn't even say the name of his party on the handbill. Really. You want my vote but can't say upfront your party affiliation? I found that infuriating.

It really didn't matter if he was a Democrat or Republican. I was angry. And so are plenty of other voters.

Why?

Our leaders are not doing what the people want. There is a real sense that we are spinning out of control. I've heard friend after friend tell me they don't recognize their own country anymore.

How so?

Let's look at the campaign themes of Trump and Sanders that are inspiring voters.

For Trump, it is immigration. Everyone in America has known that immigration is an issue we need to tackle at least since



BRANDI SIMONS/AP

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump speaks Jan. 20 at a rally in Tulsa, Okla.

the Reagan years. Congress can't reach agreement on stemming the flow of undocumented workers into the country and Obama acts in extralegal fashion to allow anyone and everyone in.

The people want a real solution and find both parties wanting.

And for Sanders it is

income inequality.

Despite the rosy glow the president puts on the economy, most on the front lines know deep down they will remain unemployed or underemployed. And either way, those in the middle know they are losing ground.

Congress does nothing and the executive branch

cooks the books.

So the people are angry. I think the electorate will remain angry.

And with such a volatile electorate, who knows what might happen?

It all starts next month. Hang on to your hats.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Don't forget about squirrels during the winter



PAUL SASSONE

It took a while, but winter has finally bullied its way in like a handful of razor blades flung in our face.

While winter gives us lots to worry about, I'd ask you to spare a little consideration for squirrels.

I know some of you think squirrels are a nuisance, a pest, bird food burglars, rats with furry

tails.

I don't wish to be rude, but, well, you are wrong.

Squirrels are a wonder of nature. One of the few we can still see. We humans are doing a heck of a job eliminating natural space, which is why coyotes now want to be our next-door neighbor.

There are some birds in our neighborhoods, occasionally even a cardinal, if we are in the right place at the right time.

But, squirrels abide, even seem to thrive among us humans. They just go about their business, living as natural animals.

The benefit to us is that we can watch them.

Through squirrels, we can watch nature naturally lived. That's pretty rare. Watching squirrels in action lets us, for a brief time, cease to be employees, taxpayers, spouses, parents. We can remember we are part of nature.

My favorite close encounter of a squirrel kind was on a warm spring day as I sat on the front porch. Two squirrels were chasing each other while I happily watched. One squirrel ran up my left leg, up my arm, across my chest and down the right arm and leg. The

second squirrel followed right after. To them I was just something to run on. There's something about those squirrels running across me that is – I don't know how else to say it – enchanting.

The reason I'm talking to you about squirrels is because winter is hard on them, too. They need food and we should help them.

I sometimes carry peanuts in the shell and toss some to squirrels I happen to meet.

There are also squirrel foods you can buy. There is squirrel trail mix, pumpkin seeds, squash seeds.



ERIN HOOLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A squirrel looks up expectantly at Warren Park in Chicago Sept. 24, 2015.

There is even peanut butter for squirrels, though how they are supposed to spread it I can't figure out. Anyway, winter is here.

Please help our pals the squirrels.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

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OPINION

Suburban taxpayers forgotten in CPS bailout talk

The political news is of Gov. Bruce Rauner taking his verbal hickory stick to Democratic bosses — and his former little buddy Mayor Rahm Emanuel — who refuse to reform Chicago Public Schools finances.

He smacks them. They tell him to go jump. Insiders are amused by it all, considering it a political blame game or a battle between Rauner and public unions.

Other people involved, mentioned, but as a prop: the kids. Far too few CPS students are ready for college when they graduate. Most of those students are minorities, and they're used by a corrupt system that has failed them as it has generations before. Those who count are the unions, patronage bureaucrats and vendors. The students are an excuse to funnel the cash to special interests. Who does not know this?

But there are others who've also been forgotten in the story of the CPS meltdown: suburban taxpayers with kids in suburban public schools.

If you're in that group, you don't need me to tell you how much they've sacrificed. You know what you've given up, or delayed — from that car you didn't buy to the vacation you never took — to put that down payment together. You know how hard you looked to find the right schools, the research you did on test scores.

In today's angry class war politics, if you're a suburban taxpayer in a blue state like Illinois, you might get the feeling you've done something wrong. But all you've really done is work your tail off and go without to take care of your family.

You might miss the city and ache for it, or you might be indifferent, but either way, you know you're out there.

Suburban taxpayers



JOHN KASS

know something else too. They know who pays and pays: Suburban taxpayers pay. But the Democratic bosses of Illinois just told you that you're going to pay some more, to bail them out of the fiscal mess they made of CPS.

You know who they are. Boss Madigan is the speaker of the Illinois House. His mini-me is John Cullerton, D-DeLeo, the state Senate president. The newest member of the Three Amigos is Emanuel.

They don't want any structural changes of what they and allies have wrought for decades in the Chicago schools. They don't want to discuss a Republican plan that opens the possibility of CPS filing for bankruptcy to restructure union and other contracts.

The Three Amigos don't want restructuring. They want a bailout. And since Madigan controls the General Assembly, they say the Republican plan won't pass, and it's all brushed off as non-news.

CPS has been a playground for Democratic bosses for decades. State revenue, in part from suburban and downstate taxpayers, has gone into the pipeline. The bosses have fed off CPS, sucked all the political nutrients out of it, and now they want you to pay more.

Rauner and other business leaders helped put Emanuel in office. And finances were explained to the Rahmfather. Not the finances that politicians talk about when they play class war, not finances of snarky baby talk, but real numbers without emotions,

like the ones you look at when paying your bills.

Rahm was told that the city had spent itself into oblivion and should look at bankruptcy to reorganize its liabilities. And that CPS was so fiscally dysfunctional that bankruptcy was the only viable option.

Emanuel promised he'd make the hard choices to repair what the moron from Bridgeport had done to Chicago. But then his frightened little inner Rahm took over, and he caved in his first go-round with the Chicago Teachers Union.

"The mayor has failed on this," Rauner said. "He's failed on public safety, he's failed on schools, he's failed on jobs in the neighborhoods, he's failed on taxes, he's failed on reforms. And I'm tired of it. We have to take action."

If the state can take over CPS, Rauner said, "we can take on the teachers union in Chicago. The mayor is afraid of them."

Boss Democrats used CPS to build their power. They kept property taxes low and they cut deals with the school unions for good wages and very good pensions. The unions paid them back with loyalty and votes. And the bosses became wealthy. Now they want you to pay.

I think there are many in the suburbs who would pay a little more in state taxes to help the children of CPS.

We're parents. We know the kids are the victims. But we don't feel like bailing out a corrupt Chicago system that won't change the way it does business.

And we don't feel like playing the sucker so bosses like Madigan maintain their power even in the suburbs.

Suburban taxpayers might be forgotten. But I hope they won't forget on Election Day.

jskass@tribpub.com

Broken dishwasher, broken spirits



SALLY HIGGINSON

Here's what someone said, somewhere, to someone else: You're only as happy as your least happy child. I don't care how motivated and crazed a parent might be, or how loving and smothering; sometimes it's impossible to extract light and joy from our beloved offspring. Not to flaunt my depth of knowledge about adolescent behavior, but I happen to know that sometime between middle school and college, the cheerful part of a teenager's DNA shrivels and sulks. It takes time for the happy genie to grow up, apologize, and come sit at the table like an adult.

Rather than admit defeat, I say change the battle. At least, that's what I determined after experiencing the following epiphany: You're only as happy as your least functional appliance. Put another way, I thought everything was fine until my

dishwasher died. Unloading still-dirty dishes, however, underscored how powerless I was in the face of appliance adversity. I was distraught, and that's an understatement.

Let us pause for a moment to consider a brief history of home appliances. Someone invented them. Others improved them. And now everyone relies on them. Also, they are available in a range of colors from white to avocado. Don't get them in avocado. I think that sums it up except for one more detail. They all come from Abt.

For the three people on earth who haven't been there, Abt's 100,000-plus square-foot showroom in Glenview is the mothership of electronics and appliance stores. It's the Taj for TVs, the Mount Olympus for washing machines and dryers, and the Valhalla for every device you plug into a wall to keep your household running. Even if you don't know you need it, they have it, in several makes and models. Abt will deliver and install it within days of your in-store or online purchase, and they'll service it for the rest of either your life or the

appliance's life, whichever lasts longer. They've been doing this for 80 years, and if customer satisfaction is any indication of the future, they'll continue doing it for the next 800 years.

In my 53 years, I've owned several appliances. Please do not flaunt the health and longevity of a beloved appliance to me. No one tends to the maintenance of a machine with more tenderness and promptness than I do. Despite my efforts, drain hoses still kink, filter systems still clog, and spray arms seem determined to quit spraying.

What was I saying? Oh yes. I can only be as happy as my least functional appliance. Following a quick swipe of my credit card, Abt delivered my new dishwasher. A ray of sunshine filled my kitchen as I appreciated the joy of again having a household of functioning appliances. If only securing the happiness of our collective children were this easy. Note to Abt: I see an area ripe for business development. Please let it come with a service agreement.

Sally Higginson is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

SCOTT STANTIS



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Chicago Tribune

Author dishes on 'Eli's Cheesecake Cookbook'

BY SAMANTHA NELSON
Pioneer Press

In 1940, Eli Schulman saw a foreclosure sign in front of a coffee shop he liked on Chicago's West Side, so he decided to buy the place. A few days later, he opened the Ogden Huddle and found the restaurant's chef passed out drunk on the floor. He had to call his mother for advice so he could prepare food for the customers himself.

The food was well received and he went on to open Eli's Stage Deli on the Near North Side in 1958 and Eli's The Place for Steak in 1966.

"What's interesting to me was how different times were then compared to now," said his daughter-in-law Maureen Schulman. "This would never happen today. He never went to culinary school; he never went to pastry school. He just wanted cheesecake to be his signature dessert and started making them between lunch and dinner."

Eli died in 1988 and Eli's The Place for Steak closed a decade ago, but his unique style of cheesecake, made with cookie crust instead of graham crackers and cooked hot and fast instead of in the low temperature water bath used to make the New York version of the dessert, remains a Chicago favorite. Maureen Schulman collaborated with a trio of chefs to write "The Eli's Cheesecake Cookbook," which they published in December to celebrate Eli's Cheesecake's 35th anniversary. She'll be discussing the book and doling out samples on Jan. 30 at The Book Stall in Winnetka.

"It's not like your normal cookbook," Schulman said. "There's a lot of historical information. It really traces my father-in-law's career from the Depression, to World War II straight until now. Even if you're not a big baker you might want

'The Eli's Cheesecake Cookbook' author appearance

When: 2 p.m. Jan. 30
Where: The Book Stall, 811 Elm St., Winnetka
Admission: Free
Contact: 847-446-8880; www.thebookstall.com

the book because there's so much Chicago history."

Maureen wrote her sections by combining 12 years of knowing Eli personally with research involving pouring over pictures, newspaper clippings and her mother-in-law's scrapbooks and interviewing her husband, Marc, and other people that knew Eli well including co-author Jolene Worthington, who was the first person Eli hired. Worthington, who now serves as vice president of operations for Eli's Cheesecake World and Café, 6701 W. Forest Preserve Drive, Chicago, said she was shocked that Eli stumbled upon such a great cheesecake recipe given his lack of cooking experience. Before opening his first restaurant, Eli worked odd jobs including selling shoes out of the back of a car on Maxwell Street during the Great Depression and serving as a deputy city coroner and a commissioner of the North Shore mosquito abatement district.

The book is packed with pictures showing celebrities that visited Eli's restaurants including Barbra Streisand and Frank Sinatra. Eli's Stage Deli was located in an area with many nightclubs, and its late hours made it an after-show destination for performers that got their start on Chicago's stages. The place was regularly so crowded that Eli became a master at turning over



JENNIFER GIRARD PHOTOS

Maureen Schulman, daughter-in-law of Eli's Cheesecake founder Eli Schulman, will discuss her new cookbook Jan. 30 at the Book Stall in Winnetka.

tables.

"He had a real energetic welcoming personality and he could do things that no one else would do," Maureen said. "If you were staying too long at a table he would put a Styrofoam cup down next to your coffee and say 'take it to go' or he'd come over with a parking meter head and say 'your time is up.'"

Eli's businesses were also a favorite of politicians and newspaper columnists would talk to him in hopes of getting scoops. "Everyone told him everything," Maureen said.

The first 10 recipes in the cookbook are savory favorites from Eli's The Place for Steak including chopped liver and shrimp de jonghe. The rest of the book fo-

cuses on dessert, with chapters devoted to different batters, crusts, finishing touches and suggestions on how to combine all three from celebrities including former Chicago Bears coach Mike Ditka, who prefers baked apple cheesecake with toasted oat and pecan streusel, and Wilco frontman Jeff Tweedy, who likes plain cheesecake atop stropwafel. Maureen Schulman said it's hard to go wrong with the combinations.

"I hope the book inspires a little creativity," she said. "People can mix and match. I'm not a great cook. I did a nut crust, espresso batter and chocolate ganache top. I took something out of each chapter and it turned out great."



Authors of "The Eli Cheesecake Cookbook" Diana Moles, from left, Jolene Worthington, Maureen Schulman and Tara Lane.

MUSIC

Concert to feature songs blacklisted in McCarthy era

BY JENNIFER THOMAS
Pioneer Press

Cabaret artist and songwriter Carla Gordon hates bullies.

"Joe McCarthy was a bully," Gordon said. "People would be called before the House Un-American Activities Committee and not be allowed to say their say. The Constitution of the United States says you can speak what you want, you can vote as you want, you can pray as you want. When did we lose that in the 1950s? I can argue there's some bullying in the political spectrum now."

McCarthy's bullying led to the blacklisting of hundreds of singers and songwriters. Gordon has recruited several of Chicago's top cabaret artists to share the stories and songs of some of those artists who weren't allowed to pursue their craft. "Blacklisted: A Concert of Songs Made Famous by Blacklisted Artists" will be performed on Jan. 31 at the Illinois Holocaust Museum in Skokie and on Feb. 28 at the Skokie Theatre.

To decide which artists to honor, Gordon said, she spoke with her cast asking them, "What artists did they relate to and personally want to sing for and about?"

"I did a show at the Holocaust Museum with Carla two years ago, which was one of the highlights of my performing experience," said Joan Curto, praising "the aura of the museum and what it represents."

Curto joined the "Blacklisted" cast because, "The subject of this concert is so interesting to me because so many of the artists that I love were blacklisted during the McCarthy Era. You think about how much art was silenced because of



CARLA GORDON PHOTO

Singer Carla Gordon gathered some of Chicago's top cabaret talent to perform once blacklisted songs.

'Blacklisted — A Concert of Songs Made Famous by Blacklisted Artists'

When: 2 p.m. Jan. 31

Where: Illinois Holocaust Museum, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie

Tickets: \$15; \$10 for members

Contact: 847-967-4800; www.ilholocaustmuseum.org/events

When: 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 28

Where: Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie

Tickets: \$20

Contact: (847) 677-7761; www.skokie theatre.com

that."

Curto will sing Lena Horne's "Stormy Weather" and Judy Holliday's "Just in Time."

Paul Motondo wanted to be in the show because "I just thought — fascinating topic and fascinating material. The art of cabaret is being able to tell a story. Being able to tell a story about a specific time and events really attracted me to the project."

Motondo is going to talk about lyricist Yip Harburg's 12-year ban and sing his "Old Devil Moon" from "Finian's Rainbow" and "Somewhere Over the Rainbow" from "The Wizard of Oz."

"Yip was known for his

social commentary," Motondo noted. "He took on things in the '40s that were not necessarily being taken on." That included women's rights and racial issues.

The cast also includes music director Beckie Menzie, Wayne Richards, Rabbi Barry Schechter, Robert Sims and Three for the Road & Friends.

"Prayer for America" by Gordon and composer Wayne Richards will be premiered at the show.

"I will be happy if our audience feels connected with the history," Gordon said. "I will feel happy if the audience comes to an understanding that when you perceive a bully, don't empower the bully."

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THEATER

Review: 'Bye Bye Birdie' a sweet return to '50s rock

By **KERRY REID**
Chicago Tribune

There's a whole lotta shaking going on this month in the Chicago suburbs with two musicals about teen culture, late 1950s-to-early 1960s style. Aurora's Paramount Theatre is opening a new production of "Hairspray" and Drury Lane Theatre presents a revival of "Bye Bye Birdie." The difference, of course, is that the former is a smart nostalgic satirical twist on the era, while the latter is an actual relic best known now for the film version, starring Dick Van Dyke and Ann-Margret.

Fortunately, Tammy Mader's Drury Lane staging of "Bye Bye Birdie," which she also choreographs, makes up for the creaky joints in Michael Stewart's book with plenty of kicky dance numbers and some standout performances. So while a joke built around confusion between Roberto Rossellini and Mussolini probably doesn't land the same way it did 56 years ago, Mader keeps the stage pictures popping with visual wit and sharp physical comedy. The handful of memorable songs in Charles Strouse and Lee Adams' score (notably "Put On a Happy Face" and "Kids") land with pleasant recognition.

True, "Birdie" lacks the edges of "Hairspray" or even "Grease." Its underlying real-life inspiration — the induction of Elvis Presley into the Army at the height of his teen-bopper fame — has subsequently been subsumed into endless Elvis mythologies and pathologies. And this isn't a show that celebrates the birth of rock culture as much as it makes the case for small-town values, even as it gently sends them up.

Instead of longing for the



BRETT BEINER PHOTO

Michelle Aravena, center, plays Rose in Drury Lane Theatre's production of "Bye Bye Birdie."

'Bye Bye Birdie'

When: Through March 13
Where: Drury Lane Theatre,
100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook
Terrace
Tickets: \$45-\$60
Contact: 630-530-0111;
www.drurylanetheatre.com

bright lights of the Big Apple, Rose Alvarez (Michelle Aravena) longs for a quiet married life. But her boss/boyfriend, Albert Peterson (Matt Crowle) holds the contract on rock star/Army inductee Conrad Birdie (Jason Michael Evans), and wants to get another hit single out before his protege goes in for basic training.

Rose helps Albert come up with a gimmick sure to appeal to "The Ed Sullivan Show" — they'll find a teenage girl from one of the many Conrad Birdie fan clubs, and she will give him, as the song says, "One Last Kiss." Unfortunately, the lucky winner, Kim MacAfee (Leryn Turlington) of Sweet Apple, Ohio, is already pinned to square

beau Hugo Peabody (Ryan Stajmiger). And her father Harry (George Andrew Wolff) isn't too pleased about the rock star who has taken over his house for the publicity stunt.

Mader's production attempts to bring in a critique of the growing influence of television through shifting multimedia images on Christopher Ash's set, which gives the Sullivan ode "Hymn for a Sunday Evening" a bit of sardonic heft (especially with Wolff's comically assured performance — a highlight throughout). But this isn't a show that lends itself well to hindsight social critiques.

Which isn't to say that Mader's approach lacks smarts or sophistication — far from it. The performances mostly manage to find the sweet spot between playing it straight and winking just enough at the material to remind us that this show is as much a fantasy about conformity and material comfort as anything sold by the "Mad Men" crew.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Friends from 'Frozen' join the fun at 'Frostival'

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

The list of special guests keeps growing for the third annual "Frostival," 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Feb. 6 at Oakton Sports Complex, 2800 W. Oakton, Park Ridge.

"We have Anna and Elsa, like we normally have, but we also have Olaf and Kristoff this year," Mary Bart, recreation supervisor for the Park Ridge Park District, said. The four "Frozen" characters will greet guests, sign autographs and put on a show. For a small fee, fans of the film can stuff a Sven.

"Hopefully, we'll get some more snow so that we can do our snow golf and our cardboard box sledding and our family snowman building contest," Bart said. "If there isn't any snow, we will come up with similar activities."

Everything is free except refreshments and the Sven craft project.

"We are asking the community to bring a canned good for a donation to our local food pantry," Bart said.

For more details about the event, call 847-692-5127 or see www.prparks.org.

Rock around the clock

Girls, ages 4-11, are encouraged to wear poodle skirts and dads to grease back their hair for a Daddy/Daughter Rockin' '50s Dance, 6:30-9 p.m. Feb. 12 at the Prairie View Community Center, 6834 Dempster St., Morton Grove. You'll have dinner, play games, dance and pose for a souvenir photo. The cost per resident is \$30; \$41 for nonresidents; discounts for 2-4 participants is \$22.

For more details about this event, call 847-965-1200 or see www.mortongroveparks.com.



PARK RIDGE PARKS

Celebrate winter at Frostival with friends from "Frozen," Feb. 6 at the Oakton Sports Complex in Park Ridge.

Another chance to dance

A DJ will provide music and there will be games, prizes and refreshments at a Little Ladies Winter Dance, 7-9 p.m. Feb. 12 at Howard Leisure Center, 6676 W. Howard, Niles. The event is for girls ages 3-12 with a favorite adult. Tickets are \$32 per couple for residents; \$42 for nonresidents; \$12 per additional child.

For more details, call 847-967-6633 or see www.niles-parks.org.

Beat this!

Kids ages 4-7, with their families, will hear Margarita Engle's book, "Drum, Dream Girl," and then make

their own drum at Viva! Dream and Drum, 10-11 a.m. Feb. 6 at Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. Mexican hot chocolate will be served.

For more details, call 847-663-1234 or see www.nileslibrary.org.

A moving performance

Evanston Dance Ensemble students will show they have "Reasons to Move," 4-4:45 p.m. Jan. 30 at Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave. The students will perform a sample of their current show in the Community Meeting Room.

For details, call 847-448-8600 or see www.epl.org.



January Specials!

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-NY Observer

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NEW CITY HOSTS 1000 AT OPENING PARTY



SHERI WHITKO PHOTOGRAPHY/NEW CITY

Jackie Koglin, from left, and Andy Kogling of Park Ridge and Paul Bryant and Amy Bryant of Chicago attended the VIP party of more than 1000 guests that kicked off the grand opening of NewCity, a mixed-use development for retail, dining, entertainment and residential living spaces located in the Lincoln Park neighborhood. Festivities included musical performances, a balloon release and words from Mayor Rahm Emanuel, NEWCITY developers John Bucksbaum and J. Michael Drew, and 27th Ward Alderman Walter Burnett, Jr.

LUCKY SEVEN 'SONGS OF THE HEART' WITH BELLA VOCE



JAMES WARDEN/BELLA VOCE

The Bella Voce chamber choir presents "Songs of the Heart," a musical entertainment for Valentine's Day featuring seven songs, seven wine and food pairings starting at 5 p.m. Feb. 14 at the Lidgus Residence, 222 S. Courtland, Park Ridge. Tickets and reservations for the event, which is part of Bella Voce's Andrew Lidgus Salon Series, are \$150 per person and available at bellavoce.org, email to mail@bellavoce.org or call (877) 755-6277.

E. FAYE BUTLER
IN CONCERT AT
NORTHLIGHT

E. Faye Butler In Concert comes for one-night-only, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 8, to Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. From jazz to pop, showtunes to blues, E. Faye Butler and her musicians present the music made famous by America's favorite women of song, including Ella Fitzgerald, Billie Holiday, Dinah Washington and more. Concert tickets are \$70, and available at northlight.org or call 847-673-6300.

NORTHLIGHT THEATRE

PARK RIDGE ARTS COUNCIL AWARDS GRANTS



PARK RIDGE CULTURAL ARTS COUNCIL

Jerry Kenney of the Park Ridge Cultural Arts Council, from left, Rhett O'Neill of the Park Ridge Chorale, Diddy Blythe of the Park Ridge Cultural Arts Council and Adrienne Dimopoulos of the Park Ridge Chorale, were on hand on Jan. 19 when the Council presented the Chorale with a \$1,500 grant as part of the Council's mission to support performing, visual, and literary arts in Park Ridge. The Council also presented a \$1,000 grant to the Park Ridge-Niles School Dist. 64 Band and Orchestra. Council president Diddy Blyth reported that the PRCAC has awarded \$120,000 in grants and scholarships to date.

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

Section 2

Living

Thursday, January 28, 2016



**Mel's Kitchen:
Mashed potato
tacos a Super Bowl
Sunday-worthy
snack** Page 3

CN



PORTRA IMAGES

Should married couples play hard to get?

Feelings of insecurity can motivate someone to play hard to get. In a marriage, the results can backfire Page 14

SUBURBAN COOKS

Naperville woman cooks with global flair

By Judy Buchenot | Naperville Sun

Florentine Hilty-Vancura has a long list of accomplishments for being only 36 years old.

She moved to Naperville in June from Switzerland and holds a doctorate with studies in food science, nutrition and nano-technology. She has completed post-doctorate research in Africa, taught in universities, been a senior researcher for a technology company, received the Nestle Nutrition Award for Switzerland, speaks four languages and knows her way around the kitchen.

When asked about her favorite cuisine, Hilty-Vancura said, "When I get homesick, I cook food from home (Switzerland), but I really cook everything." She pointed out her extensive cookbook collection in multiple languages.

Hilty-Vancura has been exploring grocery stores around her Naperville home and has found that "the variety of ingredients available here is overwhelming. I can get cauliflower that is white but also green, yellow and purple." She notes that meat is less expensive than in Switzerland where beef tenderloin can be \$40 a pound.

"Cheese becomes almost a substitute for meat," said Hilty-Vancura. "There are many dishes made with cheese. Switzerland is known for cheese and dairy. The cheese here is more expensive — about twice as much as it is in Switzerland."

Hilty-Vancura admits that she is a "cheese snob" and holds her cheese choices to a higher standard. "I have found that American artisan cheese is very good. I have gotten some very good cheese in Wisconsin and from Vermont."

When she was home visiting in Switzerland in November, "it was the beginning of fondue season. I only eat fondue in the winter. I would never have it in summer," she said referring to the traditional meal featuring a pot of warm melted cheese for dipping bread or other foods.

There are a few items that she has been unable to find in her new hometown, including land jager, a semi-dry sausage often made with caraway. She was pleased to find the Caputo's Fresh Market sold speck, a cured pork product that imparts a bacon flavor but with less fat than bacon.

Hilty-Vancura has been very happy to find the large selection of Mexican ingredients in local stores and has been exploring new Mexican recipes with a passion.

"I can get tomatillos here," she said with excitement. "I have been trying so many Mexican dishes. I love Mexican food. But I also love Asian food. And Middle Eastern Cuisine ... and Italian. I have a pasta maker and make pasta now."

While she was in South Africa, Hilty-Vancura learned how to use a potjie, a round cast iron pot on three legs. "Meat and onion go on the bottom and the potjie goes on the fire. As time goes by, other ingredients are added like potatoes, corn, squash. It takes several hours to cook." The ingredients are not stirred or mixed until serving time.

When preparing these unique meals, Hilty-Vancura says there was always conversation. "I have found that food brings people together. You talk with people that you may never have talked to before. Food and cooking provide unique experiences wherever you go." She and her husband were sure to take home a potjie so they could continue this traditional food preparation method.

Hilty-Vancura has been able to make many new friends through Naperville Newcomers and Neighbors activities, many of which involve shared meals. While searching for a



JUDY BUCHENOT/NAPERVILLE SUN

Florentine Hilty-Vancura firms up knodel, which are balls of bread cubes, meat and vegetables. She steams them after they are firmly packed.

Florentine's Culinary Cue

Because chocolate will melt easily, it is tempting to keep it in the refrigerator. However, when you are ready to eat chocolate, it is best to have it at a moderate room temperature so that it quickly melts in your mouth and releases the flavors.

new job, Hilty-Vancura has been volunteering at Loaves and Fishes.

When trying to decide which recipe to share, Hilty-Vancura chose knodel. "It is made from leftover bread and can be changed in many ways," she said.

A mixture is made using cubed bread that is stale but still soft. Onion, seasonings and a little meat are also added. An egg is mixed in to moisten the mixture so that it can be formed into round balls.

"The original version has the balls simmered in broth, but there is an art to keeping them from falling apart. It is easier just to steam them."

Hilty-Vancura likes to have knodel with a side dish of red cabbage. "I mix the cabbage with onion, vinegar and apple cider. Then I add a little salt and pepper and some broth. Sometimes some allspice or cloves or bay leaves. Then cook for an hour, and it is ready," she said.

The second recipe is for chocolate cake with prunes, a cake which actually improves in flavor over a few days as the moisture from the prunes spreads throughout the cake. She also is selective with the chocolate.

"It is important to use chocolate with cocoa butter instead of vegetable fats," she said. "People say the best chocolate is from Belgium but not me. I like chocolate from Switzerland, but I think that what you grow up eating is

Knodel

- 5-6 cups stale bread
- 4 ounces speck
- 1 onion
- 1/2 cup parsley
- small amount of vegetable oil
- 1-2 eggs
- 1-2 tablespoons flour
- salt and pepper to taste

1. Cut bread into small cubes. Cut speck into small cubes. Peel onion and cut into small cubes. Finely chop parsley. Pour a thin coating of oil into a frying pan. Fry onion until soft. Add parsley and cook just until wilted. Combine bread, onion, parsley, speck, 1 egg and 1 tablespoon flour. Toss to combine. Mixture should be moist so that it can hold a shape. If it is too dry, add an egg. If it is too moist, add flour. Season mixture with salt and pepper. Using about 3/4 cup of mixture, firmly form into tight balls.

2. Place in a steamer basket over hot water and steam until heated through, about 10 minutes. Knodel are ready to serve. The ingredients used in the mixture can be varied. Cheese, seasonings or lean meats can be added for different variations.

Chocolate cake with prunes

- 4.4 ounces dried prunes
- 3 tablespoons rum
- 7 ounces dark chocolate
- 3.5 ounces butter
- 5.4 ounces sugar, divided
- 4 eggs, separated
- 1/4 cup strong coffee or espresso
- 7 ounces finely ground almonds
- 4 tablespoons cornstarch
- pinch of salt

1. Cut prunes into small cubes. Soak in rum overnight. Break chocolate into small pieces. Melt in a bowl over simmering water until melted. Remove from heat. Stir butter into chocolate until melted. Set aside.

2. In a separate bowl, mix together 4.4 ounces sugar and egg yolks until well combined. Add coffee and combine. Stir in chocolate and butter mixture to egg yolk mixture. Stir in plums soaked in rum. Set aside.

3. In a separate bowl, mix together ground almonds and cornstarch. Blend into the chocolate mixture. In a separate bowl, beat egg whites and salt until light. Add baking powder and remaining sugar and beat until stiff. Fold egg whites into chocolate mixture, being careful not to over mix. Line a 4-inch by 12-inch loaf pan or two 4-inch by 6-inch loaf pans with parchment paper. Bake at 350 degrees for 60 minutes. Cool and store wrapped in foil or in an airtight container.

what you like the best?"

She offers both recipes so others may try a taste of Switzerland.

Judy Buchenot is a freelance writer.

Touchdown tacos a game-day hit

Mashed potato tacos snack worth of Super Bowl Sunday



MELISSA ELSMO
Out of Mel's Kitchen

Even if your favorite team isn't playing in the big game, Super Bowl Sunday is second only to Thanksgiving Day in terms of food consumption nationally. And folks tend to be as loyal to their favorite game-day foods as they are to their Turkey Day side dishes. Foods like chicken wings, nachos, guacamole and pizza are game-day staples, and Super Bowl 50 food trends are bound to follow suit.

I love a good chicken wing as much as the next person, but predictability is overrated when it comes to entertaining in my book. With a little time left to plan a proper game-day binge, why play it safe with pizza delivery when you can score a taco touchdown?

Whipping up a batch of decadent homemade mashed potato tacos will have the football fans in your life begging for more. These pillowy morsels are a tiny bit tater tot, a little bit nacho and a whole bunch of fun. Crunchy, greasy and cheesy these tortilla wrapped bundles are a perfectly indulgent Super Bowl snack.

So ditch the veggie tray for a day and break out the frying oil. Gently passing the fragile corn tortillas through the hot oil before filling them with the mashed potatoes helps to soften them for easy folding. Rather than risk a bunch of ragged edges, take the time to complete this simple step. The cheese and scallion-studded mashed potato mixture can be made a day in advance and stored in the refrigerator until you are ready to assemble and serve the tacos.

Lets face it, dabbling on the culinary dark side is practically a prerequisite on Super Bowl Sunday, and these tacos are sure to be a big winner on your Feb. 7 game-day buffet.



MELISSA ELSMO/PIONEER PRESS

Mashed potato-stuffed tacos with pickled onions, garnished with shredded lettuce, pico de gallo, cilantro, sour cream and cheese.

Super Bowl Sunday Mashed Potato Tacos

(Yields 15 tacos)

FOR THE TACOS

- 3 medium russet potatoes, peeled and diced
- 4 garlic cloves
- 2 tablespoons kosher salt
- 4 scallions, chopped
- 1 cup shredded sharp cheddar cheese
- 1/4 cup milk
- 1/4 cup sour cream
- 1/2 teaspoon black pepper
- 15 yellow corn tortillas
- Canola oil for frying

FOR THE PICKLED ONIONS

- 1 red onion, thinly sliced
- 1 orange, juiced
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- A pinch each of salt and sugar

FOR THE GARNISHES

- Shredded Iceberg lettuce
- Fresh pico de gallo
- Cilantro leaves
- Sour cream
- Shredded cheddar cheese

1. Place the diced potatoes, garlic cloves and 2 tablespoons of kosher salt in a stock pot with cold water to cover by 2 inches. Bring the water to a boil, reduce heat to a simmer, and cook the potatoes for 30 minutes or until very tender.
2. While the potatoes are cooking make the pickled onions. Combine the sliced onion, orange juice, oregano, salt and sugar in a small, non-reactive bowl. Cover and set aside, stirring occasionally, until tacos are cooked and ready to serve.
3. Return to the potatoes. Drain the potatoes and place in a large mixing bowl. Mash the potatoes by hand or with an electric mixer before mashing in the cheese, milk, sour cream and black pepper. Taste and add additional salt to taste.
4. Pour canola oil to a depth of 2 inches into a large high-sided skillet. Heat the oil to 350 degrees or until a bread cube sizzles gently on contact. To assemble the tacos, place a corn tortilla into the hot oil and allow to cook until just softened (about 20 seconds). Remove the tortilla from the oil and drain on a paper towel. Place 1-2 tablespoons of the mashed potatoes onto the center of the tortilla and gently fold in half to encapsulate the filling. Repeat until all 15 tacos are filled.
5. Return the filled tacos to the oil in batches and fry until golden brown and crispy — about 1 1/2 minutes per side. Drain the tacos on paper towels and transfer to a serving vessel. Garnish the tacos with shredded lettuce, pico de gallo, cilantro leaves, sour cream and shredded cheddar cheese. Serve at once.

Estate planning: Providing for a pet after you're gone

By Corbie Hill

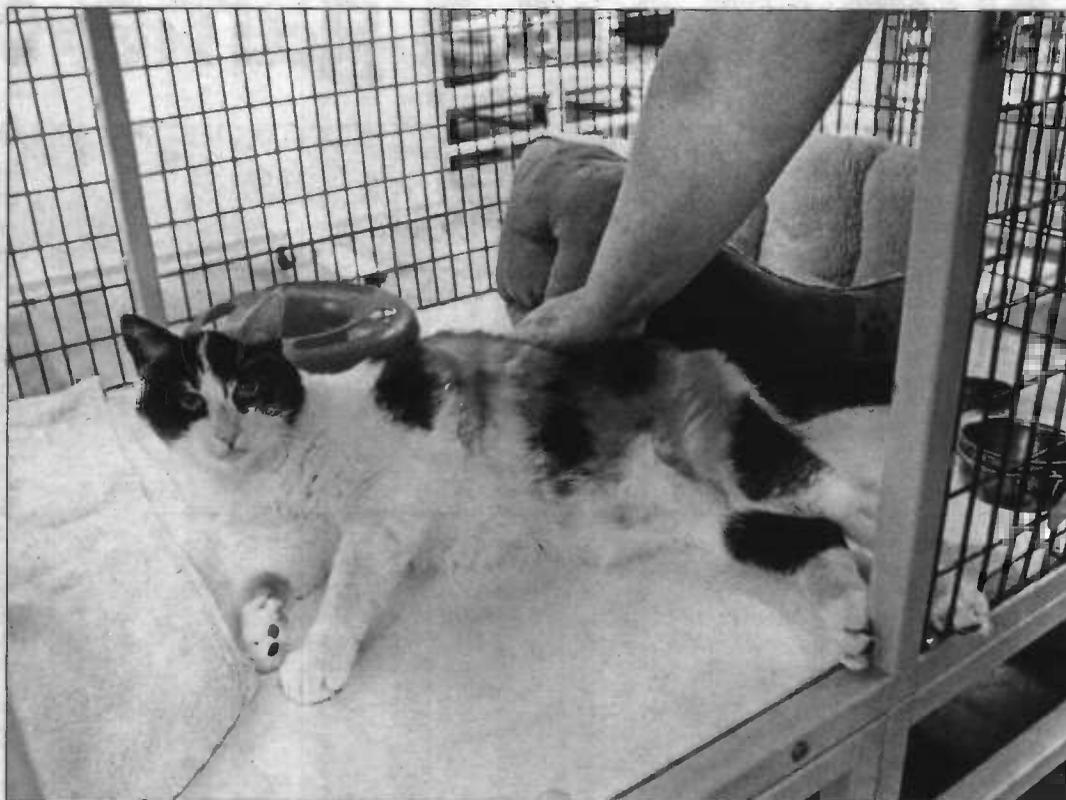
The Raleigh News & Observer

Four years ago, Pam Miller went to the home of a woman who was dying of cancer. The woman had lived a full life and was in home hospice care. She was no longer aware of her surroundings, which meant it was time for Miller to come for her cats.

The cats were nervously hiding under couches, and Miller admits she felt sad taking them from the house before their owner passed. (Two days later, the woman died.) Miller took the cats to Safe Haven For Cats, a Raleigh, N.C., nonprofit, non-euthanasia cat shelter and adoption agency she founded 23 years ago. Eight weeks after removing the cats, Miller reports, they were in new homes.

Those cats' first owner helped ensure her cats' well-being by including them in her estate planning. Taking in and finding new homes for the pets of the recently departed is something Safe Haven does relatively often, providing there's a plan and funds set aside.

In the fallout from a loved one's death, there are so many things to take care of — the funeral arrangements, the house — that it's easy to forget about the pets. To that end, Miller says, put a card in your wallet. It should say how many pets you have and where they are, and it should include the numbers of a vet, a pet sitter and a trusted friend to whom you've spoken about caring for your pets in case the worst happens.



HARRY LYNCH/RALEIGH NEWS & OBSERVER

In the fallout from a loved one's death, there are so many things to take care of that it's easy to forget about pets.

If you have the means to leave a trust for your pets, talk to a lawyer with experience in pet trusts.

Animals can't legally inherit money as a child could. With a pet trust, the money goes to the care and feeding of the pet. After the animal dies, the remainder can go to a person or to a nonprofit.

Finding an attorney who knows how to include pets in an

estate plan isn't the hardest part, says Claudia Mangel of Chapel Hill, N.C., though finding the right lawyer can take a little effort. Mangel wants to be sure her two dogs, older mixed breeds with chronic medical needs, are provided for and kept together. It's essential, then, that she work with a lawyer who understands and is responsive to this need.

In Mangel's trust, it's her veter-

inary hospital that's the trustee. There's enough money in the trust to provide for boarding and medication until the two can be adopted together. If anything remains in the trust after her dogs pass, that amount goes to help homeless dogs get adopted.

But this isn't just an end-of-life decision. Couples of all ages, Miller says, ask about providing for their pets. James Smith and

Getting started

The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals offers some advice for setting up a trust:

- Consult an attorney who specializes in estate planning to make sure pet trusts are allowed where you live.
- Be detailed about the type of care required for your pet.
- Determine the amount of money needed to cover your pet's needs and the amount of money needed to administer the trust.
- Choose a beneficiary for funds not used by the pet trust.
- On choosing a custodian: Talk to friends or relatives to make sure they're willing to take on this role.

For more advice, go to www.asPCA.org (type "pet trust primer" in the search field).

his wife, Irena, are in their early 50s, and they travel often. What would happen to their five cats, the Durham couple wondered, if they happened to die together? They have no children and no relatives live nearby.

The Smiths are Safe Haven volunteers, so Miller helped them work out a plan. If anything happens, their animals go to Safe Haven.

"I like to say that when they come here, all their troubles are over," Miller says. "It's good things from here on out."

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

PET OF THE WEEK



Ratner

Ratner is an energetic, friendly fellow. He follows his fosterer around, or makes his own fun nearby. He enjoys toys he can pounce on and running up and down the length of the apartment. Ratner also loves sitting at open windows and, oddly enough, in the bathtub! He will curl up right next to his fosterer if she is sitting and solicit pets and pats. If he wants her attention he meows adorably.

For additional information, please contact Hyde Park Cats at hydeparkcatsadoption@gmail.com.

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



Owner takes car in for recall but issue persists

Dear Help Squad,

I purchased a 2005 Chevy Malibu Maxx in October 2014. Shortly after I began driving it, the electric power steering assist began acting up. Under medium to hard acceleration, the power steering would cut out and the steering tries to go back to center. This causes numerous dangerous situations. I received the recall "#14116 Electric Power Steering Assist," and brought the vehicle to Betten Chevrolet in Muskegon, Mich.

They performed the recall, but the steering problem persists. When I returned the vehicle, they checked it out and said there was no problem. As the summer went on, it got worse. Last month, I thought I would try one last time. I asked the dealer if a service tech could go for a ride so I could show him what the car was doing, but that was not well received. Today, I give up. I called the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration. They took some notes and gave me a case number, then suggested I call GM, which I did and got the same run-around as the dealer.

GM told me that recall on my car closed

and, due to its age, doesn't qualify for them to cover repairs. This issue makes the vehicle so unsafe it could easily cause a major accident. If you research 2005 Malibu electric steering, it is a huge problem that GM knows about and should take care of. If you could help, I'd appreciate it.

Tom, Muskegon, Mich.

When I contacted Tom, he said several online posts suggested that replacing the Malibu's coil pack would fix the problem. The coil pack is part of the ignition that transfers a charge from the battery to the spark plugs to ignite the fuel. Tom purchased a coil pack while I reached out to GM and the NHTSA to learn more.

I asked GM's director of communications, Patrick Morrisey, what consumers could do if they were told, like Tom, that a recall on their car had expired. He replied: "Safety and non-compliance recalls — when something is in violation of a federal



CATHY CUNNINGHAM
Help Squad

safety standard — remain open until all vehicles in the recall are repaired ... The average completion rate for a GM safety recall is 70–80 percent." Tom's bulletin was labeled a Product Safety Recall, so there was no expiration on his Malibu's repair.

Morrisey added: "I've also reached out to [GM's] customer care team to have them connect with [Tom] to better understand his circumstances and what we might be able to do to help."

That same day, a liaison by the name of Tramell B. from General Motors' executive office, followed up with Tom. Tramell also contacted a different GM dealer on Tom's behalf and an appointment was made to diagnose his Malibu.

On the day of his appointment, I received a call from Tom: "My power steering cut out on me again yesterday. As I was making a turn, the wheel pulled hard back to center. I had the new coil pack and wanted to know if it would fix the problem,

so I replaced it myself. It seems to have worked." As a result, the appointment with the dealer was canceled.

I asked Tom if, in his conversations with Tramell, he had been informed of a coil pack recall on the 2005 Malibu Maxx. Tom said he hadn't. I reached out to Tramell twice to inquire about this but never heard back. So I asked the same of Derell Lyles, an NHTSA public affairs representative.

He emailed me the following: "You can check NHTSA's Safercar.gov website to see if there are recalls, defect investigations or technical report bulletins for the 2005 Chevy Malibu Maxx." On the site, I found no recalls specific to the Malibu coil pack, though there were 10 service bulletins directly related to Malibu steering.

Tom was assured by Tramell that if his issue returns, he can call GM's executive office and investigation of his power steering problem will continue.

Need help?

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

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist.

Need a Car Now?

Bad Credit? No Credit? No Problem.



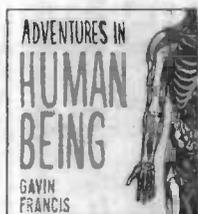
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ROUNDUP | AUDIOBOOKS

**Adventures in Human Being**

By Gavin Francis, narrated by Thomas Judd, Audible Studios, 5:46, download only \$14.95.

Thomas Judd, the British actor who narrates Gavin Francis' "Adventures in Human Being: A Grand Tour From the Cranium to the Calcaneum," deftly matches the prose of the physician-author of this beautiful exposition of internal geography. Judd is a narrator of wide range, voicing more than a dozen books. It's fun to contrast him here to the characters he animated in David Mitchell's "Slade House": the opportunistic detective, the alluring widow, the boy without friends. The content and the feel of the two books couldn't be more different, yet Judd's performances are imaginative and effective in both. In this thoughtful journey from the head to foot — the calcaneum of the title is Latin for heel — Francis blends his experience as a physician with a poet's gift for observation. When a surgeon cuts through the skull of a man with epilepsy to reveal the leathery covering encasing the brain, the dura, Francis describes it as "shiny and opalescent, like the inside of a mussel shell," which, when removed, uncovers "the disc of creamy pink matter, ribbed like sand at low tide." He's insightful, too, about his surroundings, describing a local hospital with "its sleek retail forecourt ... reminiscent of a shopping mall, airport or exhibition center ... dedicated to the efficient processing of thousands of people." Francis braids patient stories, history and literature with anatomy in surprising ways. To discuss the hip, he begins with a snippet from a novel by Italo Svevo about a man so conscious of the 54 muscles in motion when he walks, he nearly pitches over whenever he thinks of it. From there he moves to a discussion of the hip position of a fetus in the womb, and then adds an exegesis of the Genesis story of Jacob wrestling an angel. Altogether, the book is a rare gift, a redefinition of what popular medical writing can be.

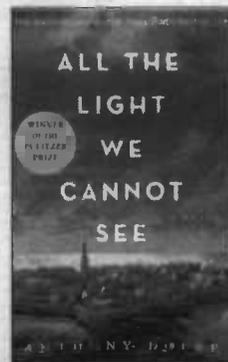
**The Verdict**

By Nick Stone, narrated by David Thorpe, Blackstone Audio, 21:25, download \$24.95, CD \$44.95

With subtlety and skill, narrator David Thorpe creates the world of London court clerk Terry Flynt in Nick Stone's fourth novel, "The Verdict." Flynt is plunged into the defense of Vernon James, a man with an alibi not even his barrister believes. What no one on the defense team knows is that Flynt has ample reason to despise the wealthy and creepy James. Thorpe, the narrator of more than 100 audiobooks, including Max Brooks' "World War Z," makes this entertaining narration sound so easy, moving smoothly from the Manchester accent of Flynt's wife, to the upper-class diction of the lead barrister, Christine Devereaux, and through a dozen more accents and voices in between. This legal thriller serves up plenty of hairpin turns as the story sweeps through nearly every part of Flynt's life. He's part of a defense team that seems doomed to failure. Lead barrister Devereaux is dying, in the final stages of lupus. The investigator, Andy Swayne, is a haunted man and a byword for screw-up. Abrasive and taunting, he wavers between efforts to scuttle Flynt's hopes and puzzling hints to save him from something far larger. The assistant barrister, who must step in if Devereaux collapses, is a cipher, incapable of the smallest initiative. Even Flynt's selection as clerk seems designed to ensure the client will be found guilty — which doesn't always seem like a bad thing. Devereaux begins her opening argument by saying, "I don't like Vernon James. I don't like him one bit."

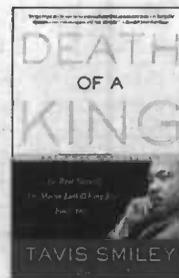
CHICAGOLAND BEST-SELLERS

1. "My Name Is Lucy Barton" by Elizabeth Strout (Random House, \$26).
2. "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr (Scribner, \$27).
3. "A Man Called Ove: A Novel" by Fredrik Backman (Washington Square, \$16).
4. "My Brilliant Friend" by Elena Ferrante (Europa Editions, \$17).
5. "The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing" by Marie Kondo (Ten Speed, \$16.99).



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), Lake Forest Book Store (Lake Forest).

NEW IN PAPERBACK

**Death of a King**

By Tavis Smiley with David Ritz, Back Bay, 276 pages, \$16.99

"Death of a King" follows Martin Luther King Jr. during the last year of his life. Drawing on interviews with King's family, Smiley unveils some of the challenges endured by the leader of the civil rights movement, including depression, incessant attacks by the press, rejection by President Johnson and ostracism by other civil rights advocates.

**God Help the Child: A Novel**

By Toni Morrison, Vintage, 178 pages, \$14.95

Lula Ann, a young black woman who calls herself Bride, struggles with the emotional trauma caused by her parents: a light-skinned mother who couldn't bring herself to love her daughter and an absent father who saw her as a bastard. As the narrative progresses, it becomes clear that Bride's troubled childhood is taking a toll on her romantic relationship.

**The Interstellar Age**

By Jim Bell, Dutton, 324 pages, \$17

Bell details the masterminds behind NASA's 1977 Voyager mission — the twin satellites that offer key insights into space beyond the Solar System. Bell reveals some fun-facts about the mission, and what messages, images, natural sounds and songs, including "Johnny B. Goode" by Chuck Berry, scientists chose to send into space.

**The Life I Left Behind: A Novel**

By Colette McBeth, Minotaur, 343 pages, \$15.99

An attack six years ago drove Melody Pierson to cut ties with the outside world. As soon as the aggressor — whom Melody used to be close friends with — is set free from prison, a woman named Eve is murdered in a similar assault. Melody and Eve's ghost team up to track down the killer, but clues point to an unforeseen conclusion.

**Love in Lowercase: A Novel**

By Francesc Miralles, translated by Julie Wark, Penguin, 224 pages, \$16

At 37, Samuel, a single linguistic lecturer who lives in Barcelona and doesn't have much of a social life, thinks his future holds nothing exciting. When Mishima, a stray cat, ventures into his apartment, a whole new world of possibilities opens up for him and he is reunited with the enigmatic Gabriela, a long-lost childhood love.

— Andreea Ciulac



puzzle island

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

Be Silent: Completely different from last week's puzzle

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

Across

- 1 Buzzing bunch
- 5 Bit of parsley
- 10 Milne marsupial
- 15 Things to wear
- 19 Play starter
- 20 Crockett outpost
- 21 Freeze over
- 22 *Garfield* canine
- 23 Words of rebuke?
- 25 Barbering result?
- 27 Seeks formally
- 28 Modern pointer
- 30 Bugs' pursuer
- 31 RN workplaces
- 32 Some undercover cops
- 33 Cerebral spark
- 35 Trig ratio
- 39 48-country continent
- 40 Sophisticated crowd
- 44 Sound of a sneeze
- 45 Marked card?
- 47 Cut with an axe
- 48 Very vivid, as a crayon
- 49 Build-it-yourself chain
- 52 Trails the pack
- 53 At this point
- 54 Middle X or O
- 55 Fracking-cost component?
- 59 Lara-Croft portrayer
- 60 Contents of printer cartridges
- 62 GPS number
- 63 Primed for action
- 64 Bummed out
- 65 Gross fraction
- 67 Want badly
- 68 Faux pas
- 69 Inhospitable attic

- 71 Singled out
- 72 Excessively
- 73 Sale stipulation
- 76 Shooting marble
- 77 Beach volleyball
- 79 Endeavor (to)
- 80 Enactments
- 81 Trade punches
- 82 Prefix for scope
- 83 Noggin
- 84 Tell whoppers
- 85 Boycott the prom?
- 89 Because of
- 90 Unfavorably written up
- 92 English horn insert
- 93 Lit less
- 94 Dilemma metaphor
- 95 Briquettes
- 96 Crosstown conveyance
- 97 Earth tone
- 100 Earth tone
- 101 Accepts gladly
- 106 *Tobacco Road* ensemble?
- 109 Artillery missing the mark?
- 111 Spirited tune
- 112 Taper off
- 113 Conference room fixture
- 114 Prefix for cross
- 115 Participates, with "in"
- 116 Karaoke equipment
- 117 The color of honey
- 118 Predicament, so to speak

Down

- 3 List shortener
- 4 — Valley, CA
- 5 Literary spoof
- 6 Home sites
- 7 Starfish arms
- 8 "I think," to texters
- 9 Hodgepodge
- 10 It captures
- 11 Longs (for)
- 12 Within reach
- 13 Informal British address
- 14 Big lug
- 15 Lose fizz
- 16 Noah ancestor
- 17 Paella ingredient
- 18 Ballgame beverage
- 24 Money-saving, in brand names
- 26 Steel-plow pioneer
- 29 Operatic piece
- 32 Twangy, as a voice
- 33 Publicist's concern
- 34 Some PTA members
- 35 "Over the Rainbow" ender
- 36 Vast amount
- 37 Chas. Addams?
- 38 Atomic emission
- 40 Eccentric
- 41 Pride in one's book collection?
- 42 Ghostly
- 43 Sherlock's cape fabric
- 46 Fall gradually
- 49 Atlas speck
- 50 Ruler in Polo's time
- 51 Grab a bite
- 53 Teamsters head since '99

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106								107	108					109	110			
111								112						113				114
115								116						117				118

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- 56 Faux pas
- 57 "— porridge hot ..."
- 58 Get tangled up
- 59 Sister brand of Smucker's jam
- 61 Mailroom operations
- 64 New Zealand language
- 66 Scrabble 10-pointer
- 67 Guitar music notation
- 68 Attendee
- 69 Mondavi rival
- 70 From the top
- 71 Protestor's chorus
- 72 *Cats* inspirer's monogram
- 74 Furious
- 75 Church council
- 77 Encourages
- 78 Newspaper essays
- 81 Become visible
- 83 Ne'er-do-well
- 85 Fire starter
- 86 Stirs up
- 87 Type of tide
- 88 Keyboard instrument
- 89 Pucks, for instance
- 91 Casts off
- 93 Not as polished
- 95 Social standing
- 96 *Beauty and the Beast* girl
- 97 Site of many Nobel Symposia
- 98 Salsa support
- 99 Shut down
- 100 Tropical hardwood
- 101 Golf pro Karrie
- 102 Resistance measures
- 103 Of no consequence
- 104 Designer of 1980s cognac bottles
- 105 Pack away
- 107 Flowage stopper
- 108 Batter's stat
- 110 Noah descendant

Quote-Acrostic

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

Clues

Words

- A. Used to pound the pavement: 2 wds. 132 117 87 154 4 102 27 139 63
44 19
- B. Judgment, usually accurate: 2 wds. 164 15 34 153 130 115 47 143 11 100
- C. Unfair 82 40 107 144 118 172
- D. Male sweetheart 65 31 38 55 110 96 125 85 165
- E. Staying awhile 147 124 72 89 28 7 57 42
- F. Smoothness 51 145 127 133 14 29 93 77 156 9
- G. Obstinate nonconformist 10 136 83 166 21 152 106 120
- H. Bad guys 80 119 94 142 30 68 56

- I. Occasional 134 90 3 113 33 167 22 46
- J. Light's partner 36 137 76 95 52 66 157 116 168
- K. Nestling pigeon 160 23 129 45 98
- L. Jitters 86 16 108 24 131 67 8 170 50 159
- M. Missouri's fault: 2 wds. 158 149 5 37 103 78 70 61 123
- N. Conformity 128 54 74 109 91 26 151 162 12 135
- O. Trunk 111 169 92 155 13
- P. Nag 141 114 171 73 53 1 39
- Q. Class 121 99 71 17 84 41 150 58
- R. Uncle Scrooge 32 62 104 20 140 75
- S. Gold medalist at four Olympics 97 64 146 79 48 163 112 6
- T. Cathedral feature: 2 wds. 101 2 49 18 59 148 88 122 25 161
- U. The Gods Must be Crazy setting 35 138 126 81 60 69 43 105

1	P	2	T	3	I	A		5	M	6	S	7	E	8	L	9	F	
10	G	11	B		12	N	13	O		14	F	15	B	16	L	17	Q	
18	T	19	A		20	R	21	G	22	I		23	K	24	L	25	T	
26	N	27	A	28	E	29	F	30	H	31	D		32	R	33	I	34	B
35	U	36	J		37	M	38	D	39	P	40	C	41	Q	42	E		
43	U	44	A	45	K	46	I	47	B	48	S	49	T		50	L	51	F
52	J	53	P	54	N	55	D	56	H	57	E	58	Q		59	T	60	U
61	M	62	R	63	A		64	S	65	D	66	J	67	L	68	H		
69	U	70	M	71	Q		72	E	73	P	74	N	75	R	76	J	77	F
	78	M	79	S	80	H	81	U	82	C	83	G	84	Q	85	D	86	L
87	A	88	T		89	E	90	I		91	N	92	O	93	F	94	H	
95	J	96	D	97	S	98	K	99	Q	100	B		101	T	102	A	103	M
104	R	105	U	106	G	107	C		108	L	109	N	110	D	111	O	112	S
113	I	114	P	115	B	116	J		117	A	118	C	119	H	120	G	121	Q
122	T		123	M	124	E	125	D	126	U	127	F	128	N	129	K	130	B
		131	L	132	A		133	F	134	I	135	N	136	G		137	J	
138	U	139	A	140	R	141	P	142	H	143	B	144	C		145	F	146	S
147	E	148	T	149	M		150	Q	151	N	152	G	153	B	154	A		
155	O	156	F	157	J	158	M	159	L	160	K		161	T	162	N	163	S
164	B	165	D	166	G	167	I		168	J	169	O	170	L	171	P	172	C

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

By Robert O'Neill.
 Edited by Linda and Charles Preston.
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Anatomical

BY CHARLES PRESTON

Across

- Elevator cages
- Broadway flop
- ___ mess!
- In the ship's hold
- '30s migrant worker
- Spiral
- Fruit
- Woody fiber
- Muslim decree
- Reduces to submission
- Temper
- Flavor of a wine: Fr.
- Egyptian deity of pleasure
- Deviant
- Former VP
- Trite joke
- Potpourri
- Run away
- Employs
- Trumpeter, for one
- Mountain roads
- Fresh-water algae
- Social event
- Headgear
- Reception locale

Down

- Lily
- Immigrant
- ___ Holiday
- Hammarskjold, e.g.
- Fielder's mistake
- All right
- Drizzles
- US physicist
- Crybaby
- Sandwich
- Ah, me!
- Crucial period
- Bad ___, Michigan
- Clog
- Smooths

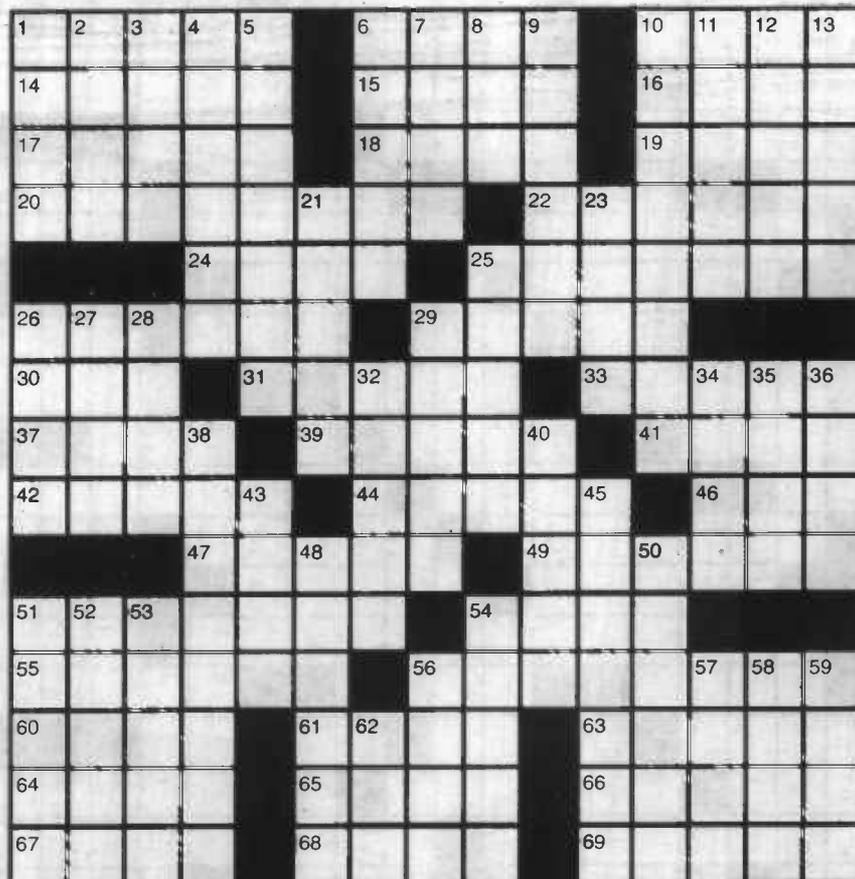
- Tub
- Deer
- Beverages
- African river
- Pitch
- Amaze
- ___ Robles, CA
- Eisenhower, et al.
- Be quiet
- "___ clear day ..."
- Slit
- Ancient Italian language
- British political figure
- Wisconsin town
- Comforters
- Bear type
- Chaos
- Speed
- Soup for 56 Down
- French Ms.: var.
- Kefauver
- Transfer of property
- "___ the blues when it rains"
- Diplomacy
- Japanese outcasts
- Wooden pin

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11	12	13		
14					15					16						
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32	33	34	35			36	37	38				39				
40						41						42				
43						44						45				
46					47					48	49					
						50		51	52		53		54	55	56	57
					58	59	60				61					
62								63					64			
65								66					67			
68								69							70	

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Crossword



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1/27/16

ACROSS

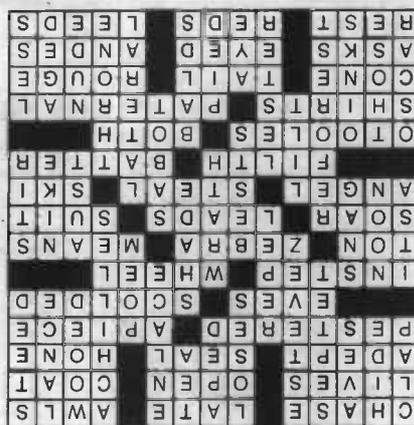
- 1 Run after
6 Tardy
10 Hole-making tools
14 ___ it up; makes merry
15 Candid; frank
16 Outer garment
17 Skillful
18 Make airtight
19 Sharpen
20 Bothered
22 Per person
24 Arden & Plumb
25 Berated
26 Part of the foot
29 TV's "___ of Fortune"
30 Heavy weight
31 Striped animal
33 Ways and ___ Committee
37 Fly high
39 ___ the way; goes first
41 Clubs or hearts
42 ___ food cake; spongy dessert
44 Embezzle
46 ___ boots; Jean-Claude Killy's footwear
47 Dirtiness
49 Man at the plate
51 Peter and Annette

- 54 The one and the other
55 Tops
60 Scoop holder
61 Part of a kite
63 Baton __, LA
64 Invites
65 Black-__ peas
66 Mountains of South America
67 Nap
68 NL team
69 City in England

DOWN

- 1 Applaud
2 Conceal
3 Abbrs. in some addresses
4 Group of seven
5 Actor Emilio
6 Suffers defeat
7 Ridiculed
8 Soothing drink
9 Intertwine
10 ___ heel; one's vulnerable spot
11 Wined & dined
12 Steel-tipped spear
13 Spirited horse
21 Fight off
23 "Evangeline" or "Trees"
25 Window covering

Solutions

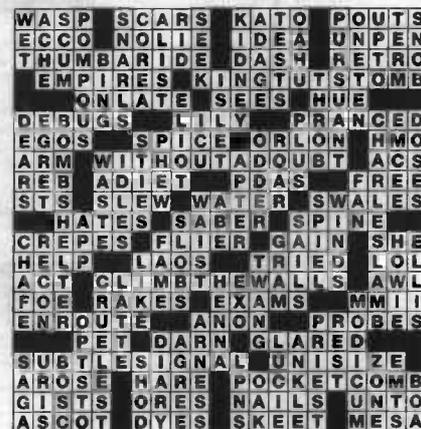


- 26 "___ deal!"; cry of agreement
27 Midday
28 Obstacle
29 Anger
32 Outperforms
34 Smallest continent: abbr.
35 Athletic shoe brand
36 ___-crazy; tired of confinement
38 Plant new trees in the woods
40 Wooden shoe
43 Uplifting tune
45 Football pass
48 TV anchor Holt
50 King's seat
51 Actor's award
52 "___ Were the Days"
53 Sty cries
54 Loses hair
56 "The ___ Piper of Hamelin"
57 Unclothed
58 Elderly
59 Not as much
62 Certain vote



Last week's crosswords

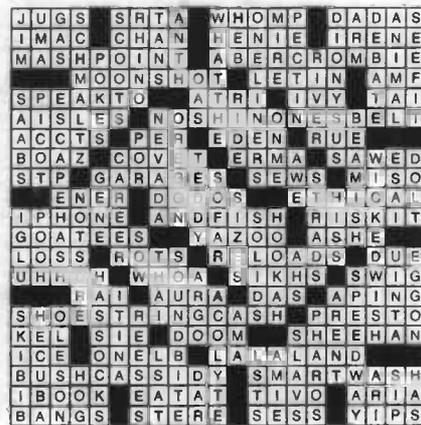
"Be Silent: Sometimes ..."



"Fruity"



"Shi"



Last week's Quote-Acrossic

CLAIRE MESSUD: WORDCRAFT:

Naming is a magical act, from Adam anointing Eden's animals to christening lipstick shades today. Name selection matters. Would Judy Garland still have wowed Hollywood using her given name of Frances Gumm?

Last week's Sudoku

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

This week's Jumble

TURNIP TEMPER WICKET
SHOULD MEADOW HEALTH

The meteorologist was taking some heat for not predicting the blizzard, but he'd —

WEATHER
THE STORM



How to stay safe when online dating

A friend of mine who is recently single just began online dating. After chatting via text and email with several men – none with whom she felt a love connection, she met “Jim.” Finally, a spark!



JACKIE PILOSSOPH
Love Essentially

She and Jim met for dinner a few days later, and she said the date was wonderful. They ended up talking at the restaurant for four hours.

Thrilled to hear of her success, I said to her, “So, tell me more about him.” Then I asked, “What’s his last name?”

She replied, “I don’t know. We haven’t exchanged last names yet.”

Huh? Two people spent four hours face-to-face, talking, laughing and having a meal together, and they still didn’t trust each other enough to disclose last names?

Apparently, online daters are being really careful these days when it comes to sharing personal information, which according to dating expert Stef Safran is smart.

“All of these new dating apps use your Facebook picture, which helps people figure out your last name and other information,” said Safran, a 14-year veteran in the dating industry and founder of her Chicago-based matchmaking service, Stef and the City.

Safran said online daters should be aware not only of potential physical danger, but of the potential for emotional hurt as well.

“Many people are serial daters who enjoy the attention but don’t intend to meet you or don’t intend to take meeting you to becoming a significant other,” she said.

Here are Safran’s nine tips on how to stay safe when online dating:

1. Be mindful when posting pictures; Online dating means exposing your photos to thousands of men and women you know nothing about. So, while people always want to show off their children and express how much they love being a parent, it’s not worth strangers seeing the photos. Once you have met the person a few times and trust him or her, that’s when showing photos of your kids is great.

2. Talk to the person on the phone before meeting. Also, meet in a public place where you feel comfortable, and take your own car.

3. Do a Google search and Google image search. These days, it’s so easy to check someone out yourself. Once you know the person’s last name, start with a Google Image search. You can learn a lot, most notably, if the person is assuming someone else’s

identity or is pretending to be someone else (also known as “catfishing”).

4. Don’t put your last name, your address or where you work on dating apps.

5. Use Facebook referrals. In other words, if you see that the two of you have mutual friends on Facebook, reach out to those people and ask about him or her.

6. Don’t use your regular cellphone or home phone. Instead, you can use a Google Voice account, which is a free service that you can easily sign up for at no charge. If you want to go a step further, there is a new app called Burner, which is a phone number that disappears if you choose to no longer allow this person to contact you.

7. Don’t share and check in where you are going on Facebook. Instead, you can post pictures when you get home. There is no need for anyone to know that you aren’t at home, especially someone you might have dated where the relationship ended badly.

8. Don’t spend too much time in a texting/phone relationship. After a few conversations or a couple weeks at the most, move it offline or move on to someone else.

9. Expect that you will meet people who disappear for no reason. It’s hard not to take things personally when dating, so if someone stops responding or is suddenly not on the app anymore, assume he or she either got back together with someone else or met someone special and decided to be exclusive. We would all like to hope that someone would give us an explanation, but that usually doesn’t happen. Try to move on and realize it was most likely nothing you said or did.

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist for Chicago Tribune Media Group.

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HEALTH

Direct current stimulation benefits to brain unproven



DR. ANTHONY KOMAROFF
Ask Doctor K

Dear Doctor K: I saw an ad for something called a “tDCS brain-stimulating device.” It supposedly helps improve memory and thinking. Is it worth a try?

Dear Reader: Transcranial direct current stimulation (tDCS) transmits a current into the brain through electrodes (little metal plates) on the forehead or scalp. The current is weak; it comes from a 9-volt battery (the size used in a smoke detector).

People who undergo tDCS may feel their scalp tingle and hear a humming noise.

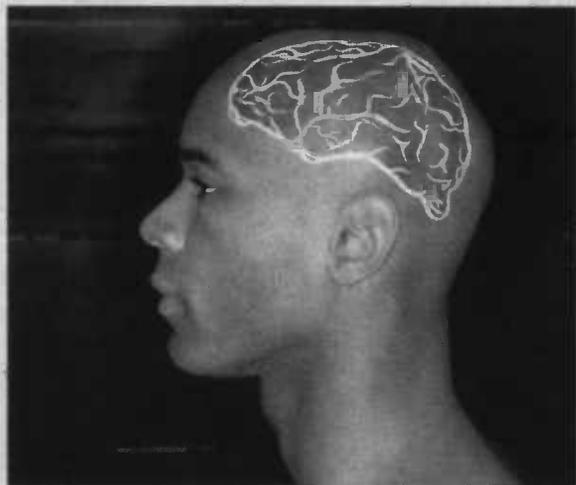
Doctors can control whether the current activates — or suppresses — the neurons in your brain that lie beneath the electrodes.

The technique of tDCS has been tried on and off for more than 100 years. The technique is different from another increasingly used technique called transcranial magnetic stimulation.

I spoke to Dr. Daniel Press, a neurologist with the Berenson-Allen Center for Noninvasive Brain Stimulation at Harvard-affiliated Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center. He says that brain stimulation, if used carefully, looks promising.

That’s especially true if combined with other therapies.

Several studies are underway to see if, and how, tDCS can be used to sharpen mental skills and treat symptoms of mind-



THE IMAGE BANK

body disorders.

For now, tDCS is only FDA-approved to speed the absorption of certain medications through the skin. But it is being used “off label” to treat many other conditions. These include:

■ **Chronic pain.** tDCS may be effective for treating nerve pain. This includes back and leg pain, pain and numbness in hands and feet caused by diabetes, and fibromyalgia.

■ **Damage from stroke.** Early research suggests that tDCS may improve a person’s ability to move and speak and to overcome spatial neglect. That is the inability to notice or recognize objects on one side of the body.

■ **Eating disorders.** In early studies, tDCS has reduced episodes of binge eating and bulimia in women with those eating disorders.

■ **Memory and learning.** Many recent studies have evaluated the effect of tDCS on people’s ability to perform mental tasks. Studies have focused on tasks that involve recognizing visual patterns, recalling lists of unrelated words or doing math problems. Overall, the results indicate the technique is most likely to improve

mental function when used together with other types of training, such as learning new systems for remembering names.

Some manufacturers are selling tDCS devices directly to consumers. But these devices aren’t regulated by the FDA, and there is no guarantee they are safe or effective. I would avoid them.

I also would avoid going to a doctor who uses tDCS without studying its effects.

It is an unproven treatment, though adverse effects seem to be few (temporary nausea, headache, irritation of the skin under the electrode).

More important, tDCS is of unproven value.

For that reason, the thing to do, if you’re interested in trying tDCS, is to enroll in one of the many clinical trials seeking volunteers. To find one in your area, go to the study database maintained by the National Institutes of Health at www.clinicaltrials.gov.

Dr. Komaroff is a physician and professor at Harvard Medical School. Send questions to AskDoctorK.com or Ask Doctor K, 10 Shattuck St., Second Floor, Boston, MA 02115.

PEOPLE’S PHARMACY PRESCRIPTIONS AND HOME REMÉDIES

Reader boasts of boost from beets in bedroom

By Joe Graedon and Teresa Graedon
King Features Syndicate

Q: Using beets to increase nitric oxide in the blood for 24 hours before using Viagra will make the little blue pill work better. Eating beets or drinking beet juice a couple of times the day before the event makes a huge difference.

We went from giving up because even a pump didn’t help to “oh, my word!” — if you get my drift. My husband also takes L-citrulline and L-arginine that same day for an extra boost, but the key is the beet juice. We are in our late 70s.

You can buy beet juice at any natural-food store. Even if the erectile dysfunction pills don’t seem to work for you, this could make a big difference. It takes a couple of months to build up the nitric oxide in the bloodstream to the point of having really good results, but it is worth the effort.

A: Thank you for your intriguing suggestion. Sildenafil (Viagra) and tadalafil (Cialis) work by blocking an enzyme (PDE5) that breaks down a compound called cGMP. Nitric oxide also leads to higher levels of cGMP. This dilates blood vessels in the penis and facilitates increased blood flow.

Foods like beets or dark chocolate also enhance nitric-oxide formation. Studies have found beet juice improves flexibility of the lining of blood vessels and lowers blood pressure (Nutrients, April 2015).

Although there are no studies to suggest that beets or juice can improve the effectiveness of sildenafil, your personal experiments are fascinating. One small



HABOVKA/ISTOCK

There are no studies to suggest that beets or beet juice can improve the effectiveness of Viagra.

study evaluated a formulation containing Pycnogenol, L-arginine and L-citrulline and found it seemed to work better than a placebo for erectile dysfunction (Minerva Urologica e Nefrologica, March 2015).

Q: Could you please comment about the news report a few months ago pertaining to calcium supplements? The study showed that calcium did not help older people’s bones and that it could actually be harmful, with side effects like heart attacks.

Now I am afraid to take my 1,500 mg of calcium with vitamin D per day and have cut the dose down to 500 mg of calcium a day. Am I doing the right thing? I am female, age 73.

A. You have mentioned a source of great confusion for many people. For years, doctors have been urging older people (especially women) to take high doses of calcium (1,200 mg/day) to prevent bone loss and avoid fractures.

The only problem with that recommendation is that it was based on theory. When scientists reviewed studies of calcium intake and the risk of bone fracture, they found no associa-

tion between the two. They concluded that “there is no clinical trial evidence that increasing calcium intake from dietary sources prevents fractures” (BMJ online, Sept. 29, 2015).

Calcium supplements have some downsides. Too much calcium can increase the chance of kidney stones (New England Journal of Medicine, Feb. 16, 2006). In addition, people who take calcium supplements are at a greater risk of heart attack (BMJ online, July 29, 2010).

If you would like to learn more about the pros and cons of calcium supplements and other ways to reduce the possibility of osteoporosis, you may wish to listen to our interview with Dr. Walter Willett of Harvard School of Public Health and Michael Castleman, co-author of “Building Bone Vitality.” To order a CD, please send \$11.99 to Graedons’ People’s Pharmacy, Dept. CD-752, P.O. Box 52027, Durham, NC 27717-2027. An mp3 of show No. 752 can be downloaded from www.peoplespharmacy.com for \$2.99.

In their column, Joe and Teresa Graedon answer letters from readers. Send questions to them via www.peoplespharmacy.com.

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COVER STORY

Should married partners play hard to get?

By Alison Bowen
Tribune Newspapers

Playing hard to get — delivering, then withholding, affection and attention — has plenty of advocates and critics. But it's usually discussed in terms of couples during the courtship stage, not after they're married. The experts we talked to say playing hard to get can at times lead to growth or spice in a relationship. But they also caution to use this tactic carefully, if at all, because it can easily backfire.

In any relationship, manipulation is not advised. But, sometimes, the urge to play hard to get might signal something lacking or needed in a relationship. And, sometimes, it might even be helpful to pull back.

Couples therapist Becky Whetstone, based in Little Rock, Ark., bristled at the idea of someone playing hard to get. Often, she said, she sees struggling relationships where people act childish, and playing hard to get qualifies.

"The No. 1 cause of divorce is immaturity," Whetstone said. "Most people that I see are conducting themselves at an emotional maturity level of between 4 years old and 15."

This attitude can manifest in a variety of unhealthy ways, she said: "You sit there and say to yourself, 'How can I get my husband to come in and be close to me? Well, I'm going to have a tantrum.' Or, 'I'm going to have a pity party for myself.' Or, 'I'm going to go have drinks with someone from work.'"

Psychotherapist Ken Page, author of "Deeper Dating: How to Drop the Games of Seduction and Discover the Power of Intimacy," agrees. Playing hard to get, he said, can be a "pretty primitive response. ... You're saying, 'I'm feeling insecure, so let me spark some insecurity in my partner.'"

Plus, it can often come off as needy, which is the opposite of what people intend.

Impetus for reflection

However, Page said, the fact that you are considering playing hard to get is worth exploring.

"If you're thinking, 'Should I be playing hard to get?' you need to



ISTOCK

Feelings of insecurity can motivate someone to play hard to get. In a marriage, the results can backfire. However, experts say, exploring why you have these desires can help you identify where a relationship needs work.

ask yourself why are you asking that question," Page said. Perhaps you're feeling insecure, or the relationship has lost some passion. Maybe distance has grown.

"You want to generate some excitement and insecurity on the part of your partner," he said, and understanding the reason for that is important.

Sometimes it may come from a sense that something needs to change. For example, maybe you're feeling like you're pulling more weight in the relationship or giving up too much sense of self to get your partner's attention. In that case, Page said, it might be the right time "to pull back and do a reset. Ask yourself

what you need to do to reclaim your personal sense of balance, your own sense of happiness."

The result, he said, can create a positive sense of space in the relationship.

"And that space can be like oxygen for intimacy," he said. "It allows the other person a sense of breathing room and can rejuvenate their sense of appreciation."

That said, be sure you aren't be acting out of bitterness or anger, Page said. Playing hard to get can often have the reverse effect on a partner: decreasing trust and increasing distance, hardly the stuff of building a stronger relationship.

A better approach

If you sense that you and your partner are distancing yourselves from each other, Page suggested a different tack.

"A much, much smarter thing to do is try to understand what (is creating) that distance," he said, and communicating that to your partner. In this way, the urge to play hard to get, handled appropriately, might signal things that can improve.

"The solution," he explained, "is to ... create healing."

abowen@tribpub.com
Twitter @byalisonbowen

When it works to be elusive

There is one instance when playing hard to get might benefit a relationship: the bedroom. Jessica O'Reilly, author of "The New Sex Bible: The New Guide to Sexual Love," said it can spice up a sex life.

"I think it's a great idea," she said, "if it becomes a component of your role play and your sexual routine."

What this means, she explained, is that both parties consent to roles played, of pursuer and pursued.

Key to this approach is that a relationship would, ideally, be a secure one for both partners. So some of the things that tarnish playing hard to get — for example, preying on the other's insecurity — become less of an issue.

"You're already supporting one another and helping each other with insecurities, so this isn't about creating real insecurity," she said.

This approach offers a balance between the known and the unknown — for example, you love and commit to each other. But it also offers a bit of fantasy in a secure couple's sexual relationship.

"Fabrication, challenge and uncertainty makes it fun and erotic," O'Reilly said. "It makes things less predictable."

If you'd like to introduce this approach into your sex life, she suggests verbalizing in some way. In other words, pulling away without explaining what you're doing is not the best route.

"I don't think you have to have a conversation about logistics," she said. "That conversation would be, 'How would you feel if you had to ...?'"

And gauge how your partner feels. Timing is important.

For example, O'Reilly said, "If I had a rough day at work, or we've recently had a fight that was related to jealousy or insecurity or fears around infidelity, this might not be the best time."

— A.B.



BRAD SCHADE/VHT PHOTOS

English-style home in Highland Park with pool, private balcony: \$2.2M

ADDRESS: 865 Kimball Road in Highland Park

ASKING PRICE: \$2,200,000

Listed on Sept. 1, 2015

English-style home updated with today's amenities and located on the original Kimball estate. The eat-in kitchen features granite counter tops, stainless steel appliances, three ovens, an oversized Russell range with six burners, indoor grill and custom hood. The master suite includes a generously-sized bedroom with sitting area and a Juliette balcony with French doors overlooking the resort-like pool and property. Master bath has extra-large double vanities, a private lavatory room with bidet, a soaking tub and steam shower. The living room boasts of an ornamental plaster ceiling, hardwood floors, a wood-burning fireplace and leaded glass windows.

Agents: Jami Brenner and Laura Hara of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage's Highland Park office, 847-338-7555

At press time, this home was still for sale.



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REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

ADDRESS	BUYER	SELLER	DATE	PRICE
1111 E Algonquin Rd, # 19, Arlington Heights	Ketan J Patel	Ashok S Patel	12-21-15	\$62,000
3300 N Carriageway Dr, # 314, Arlington Heights	Yousif J Bahi	John Grega	12-24-15	\$110,000
1210 N Dale Ave, # 1K, Arlington Heights	John Dolniak & Pamela Dolniak	Marilyn J Warner	12-21-15	\$118,000
1126 S New Wilke Rd, # 401, Arlington Heights	Nikolay Stoychev	Lalita P Williams	12-21-15	\$120,000
1404 W Crane St, # 1, Arlington Heights	Gregory Weigand	Fannie Mae	12-21-15	\$132,500
803 N Pine Ave, Arlington Heights	Ronald E Baillitz & Susan M Baillitz	Kathleen G Selgrad	12-17-15	\$180,000
440 S Arlington Heights Rd, Arlington Heights	Mohammad M Rashid	Bayview Loan Servicing Llc	12-21-15	\$186,000
1903 N Burke Dr, Arlington Heights	Craig Post & Donna Marie Post	Mary Ann Devilla	12-22-15	\$242,000
407 N Gibbons Ave, Arlington Heights	Dominic Grimaudo & Jennifer Grimaudo	Homes By Pinnacle Inc	12-17-15	\$257,500
77 S Evergreen Ave, # 406, Arlington Heights	Andre Arrington	Robert Schwartz	12-17-15	\$260,000
2519 S Cedar Glen Dr, Arlington Heights	Zbigniew Bednarz & Renata Bednarz	Filippo Citrano	12-21-15	\$269,500
1 S Highland Ave, # 403, Arlington Heights	Julie A Murray	Jay L Knyal	12-21-15	\$282,000
519 S Chestnut Ave, Arlington Heights	Brian Klemm & Meghan Klemm	Steven Nagy	12-16-15	\$295,000
1818 E Kensington Rd, Arlington Heights	Eileen Gross	Clayton R Bennett	12-22-15	\$312,000
814 E Redwood Ln, Arlington Heights	Arthur Kania & Mary E Sikorski	Phillip W Gore	12-17-15	\$331,500
1203 W Noyes St, Arlington Heights	Joel Dalsky & Catherine Dalsky	Joyce A Andersen	12-17-15	\$340,000
1306 S Ridge Ave, Arlington Heights	Ian Oser & Carrie Oser	Grace M Sullivan	12-18-15	\$362,000
315 W Braeside Dr, Arlington Heights	Mark Ross Parilla & Kathleen Elizabeth Parilla	Jeremy Alan Ellis	12-18-15	\$390,000
212 E Knob Hill Dr, Arlington Heights	Reuben Rosczyk & Karl Rosczyk	James B Sparks	12-22-15	\$428,000
20 N Lincoln Ln, Arlington Heights	Eric L Marsh & Markelsha Marshall	M I Homes Of Chicago Llc	12-24-15	\$465,000
840 N Haddow Ave, Arlington Heights	Marc G Gallant & Colleen F Gallant	Brookfield Relocation Inc	12-22-15	\$525,000
671 Hapsfield Ln, # 104, Buffalo Grove	Adam Padlo & Krystyna A Padlo	Karin R Williams	12-22-15	\$113,500
175 Lake Blvd, # 341, Buffalo Grove	Michael Roseman & Deborah Roseman	Jorie Alana Kass Drucker	12-16-15	\$127,000
400 E Dundee Rd, # 311, Buffalo Grove	Robert Schelble	Susan Levin	12-17-15	\$145,000
616 Hapsfield Ln, # 2 A1, Buffalo Grove	Sheri L South	Fannie Mae	12-17-15	\$175,000
200 Cherrywood Rd, Buffalo Grove	Holl J Kohl & Sheryl A Kohl	Edward Ku	12-17-15	\$215,500
822 Stonebridge Ln, Buffalo Grove	Yu Xin Zhang	David Hammer	12-21-15	\$258,000
512 Beechwood Rd, Buffalo Grove	Douglas M Africano & Sherry A Africano	Cld Consulting Llc	12-24-15	\$270,000
781 Lehigh Ln, Buffalo Grove	Agostino A Dolcimascolo	Ana M Guzman Lascola	12-17-15	\$300,000
925 Bedford Ct, Buffalo Grove	Rajan Shanker & Nidhi Ojha	Cartus Financial Corp	12-18-15	\$396,500
2761 Acacia Ter, Buffalo Grove	Linghui Li & Qing Yu	Scott Schmaren	12-16-15	\$605,000
650 Murray Ln, # 207, Des Plaines	Tereza Cristina Fernandez	Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp	12-24-15	\$94,000
828 Graceland Ave, # 406, Des Plaines	David Woo & Grace Woo	Rand Baird	12-24-15	\$116,000
9375 Landings Ln, # 507, Des Plaines	Samer M Haddad	Amatore Trust	12-22-15	\$120,000
9464 Bay Colony Dr, # 3N, Des Plaines	Reimon Tomas	Semir Ramic	12-21-15	\$123,500
306 Country Ln, Des Plaines	Rita P Linoski	Shirley J Tidwell	12-16-15	\$145,000
8662 Gregory Ln, # B, Des Plaines	Clara Chamoun & Flora Mikhail	Saibusimon T Alakkatt	12-17-15	\$155,000
905 Center St, # 104, Des Plaines	Plamena Georgieva	Marvyl W Wolski Estate	12-18-15	\$155,000
1600 E Thacker St, # 603, Des Plaines	Thomas Japczyk	Raymond C Lang	12-22-15	\$165,000
137 Ashland Ave, Des Plaines	Marcin Roztocki	Fannie Mae	12-24-15	\$170,000
1669 S Cora St, Des Plaines	Walter R Podlipni & Victoria M Podlipni	Bonifapil Silviu Hoza	12-21-15	\$175,000
501 Alles St, # 606, Des Plaines	Theodora Litsogiannis	William K Lotheridge	12-22-15	\$180,000
555 S River Rd, # 604, Des Plaines	Pravin R Pithadia & Devyani P Pithadia	Angelo Surmaj	12-16-15	\$194,000
108 S Cumberland Pkwy, Des Plaines	David B Ngague & Elisabeth M Ngague	Bmo Harris Bank Na	12-17-15	\$195,000
9417 Greenwood Dr, Des Plaines	Margrett Witkowski & Jozef Witkowski	Angelo Guccione	12-17-15	\$215,000

ADDRESS	BUYER	SELLER	DATE	PRICE
906 W Villa Dr, Des Plaines	Virgil Tiran	Scott L Johnson	12-21-15	\$240,000
1490 Webster Ln, Des Plaines	John E Temple	Christman Trust	12-16-15	\$265,000
562 Debra Dr, Des Plaines	Akm Mohiuddin & Akm Ibrahim	Mircea Stanesco	12-21-15	\$290,000
1028 Jeannette St, Des Plaines	Michael Richardson & Shannon M Joyce	Daniela G Urdova	12-21-15	\$417,000
1121 Wexford Ct, Des Plaines	James Johnson & Mathew Thushara	Jane S C Ning	12-24-15	\$445,000
1032 Dodge Ave, # A, Evanston	Diego Martinez	Leo V Ramos	12-17-15	\$113,000
2226 Central St, # 2, Evanston	Robert M Fish	John Shilling Elverum	12-17-15	\$152,500
1101 Dodge Ave, Evanston	John Nydam	1101 Dodge Llc	12-16-15	\$249,500
849 Ridge Ave, # 1, Evanston	Michele L Self	Lawrence Cull	12-16-15	\$306,000
900 Chicago Ave, # 504, Evanston	Prnuv Sharma	Florian R Prokocimer	12-17-15	\$319,000
700 Wesley Ave, Evanston	Steven F Yasukawa & Clair F Durkes	Richard So	12-16-15	\$327,000
2024 Ewing Ave, Evanston	Kevin P Davitt & Jacquelyn A Mcgure	Rachel Mcconkey	12-18-15	\$410,000
1935 Sherman Ave, # 3S, Evanston	Rita S Fang	Jeremy Freese	12-21-15	\$420,000
722 Seward St, Evanston	Kerry A Corcoran	Beth Nachtsheim	12-18-15	\$435,500
1530 Madison St, Evanston	Julie E Mayne	Nancy Hiestand	12-17-15	\$472,000
9257 Drake Ave, Evanston	Phillip Bahar & Keri Bahar	Matthew S Pogodzinski	12-22-15	\$590,000
2733 Hurd Ave, Evanston	Desmond Thomas & Tomeka Hill	Daniel Domenjoud Estate	12-16-15	\$600,000
2115 Central Park Ave, Evanston	Timothy Smith & Natalie Smith	John N Balch	12-22-15	\$800,000
1570 Elmwood Ave, # 1402, Evanston	Gerald Gabrielse & Ellen Gabrielse	Brian Burke	12-24-15	\$831,500
1033 Hinman Ave, Evanston	George A Young & Maria E De La Rosa	Todd B Parrish	12-21-15	\$863,000
404 Lake St, Evanston	William C Means Jr & Meade R Means	Roger Covey Estate	12-21-15	\$1,000,000
1220 Depot St, # 416, Glenview	Susan Park	Patricia Van Wert	12-21-15	\$125,000
600 Naples Ct, # 610, Glenview	Noah P Phelps	Sallinger Trust	12-21-15	\$165,000
1525 Maple St, Glenview	Mays T Dawood	Salwa Shaya	12-17-15	\$210,000
2020 Chestnut Ave, # 405, Glenview	Kenneth Faig & Carol Faig	Alan Wyckoff	12-24-15	\$260,000
29 Glenview Rd, Glenview	Chaithanya Krishna Kosuru	Vamsi Krishna Kosuru	12-22-15	\$340,000
340 Taft Ct, Glenview	Melissa Coll	Victoria Ynkovski	12-21-15	\$425,000
2300 Carrington Way, Glenview	Edward Ng & Lena Gong	Kumar Trust	12-17-15	\$710,000
4111 W Lake Ave, Glenview	Coleman Mcdonagh & Geraldine Mcdonagh	Hamal Trust	12-16-15	\$730,000
1409 Tuscany Ct, Glenview	Thomas Patrianakos & Leah Patrianakos	Us Bank Na Trustee	12-17-15	\$1,031,500
4 Old Barn Rd, Hawthorn Woods	Lyubov Kuchaidze	Frank J Rychlik Jr	12-18-15	\$230,000
12 Carlisle Rd, Hawthorn Woods	Lukasz L Matulia	Joseph Michael Scott	12-17-15	\$310,000
10 Melrose Pl, Hawthorn Woods	Neftali Torres Jr & Vivian Torres	Pulte Home Corporation	12-17-15	\$434,000
7220 Foster St, Morton Grove	Marek Nowakowski & Jolanta Nowakowski	Judicial Sales Corp	12-21-15	\$143,500
7044 Wilson Ter, Morton Grove	Wallace Hong	Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp	12-21-15	\$145,000
8407 Austin Ave, Morton Grove	Muhammad Ityat	Wells Fargo Bank Trustee	12-21-15	\$193,000
9331 National Ave, Morton Grove	Maria Remedios Solis	Mekong Investment Inc	12-22-15	\$220,500
6805 Church St, Morton Grove	Chay Chung & Henry Chung	Fannie Mae	12-18-15	\$224,000
9503 Shermer Rd, Morton Grove	Guy D Battista & Shannon Battista	Guy Battista	12-16-15	\$250,000
6267 Lincoln Ave, Morton Grove	William Haben	Keng Wong Fong	12-18-15	\$265,000
9227 Nagle Ave, # 69, Morton Grove	James Chen & Ambareen Allmohammed	Alina Loy	12-24-15	\$312,000
9411 Oliphant Ave, Morton Grove	Mary Joyce Ocenar	Jp Investments & Management	12-21-15	\$345,000
9229 Oketo Ave, Morton Grove	Rame E Marcus & Snonita K Marcus	Ourania Grapsas	12-22-15	\$355,000
8005 N New England Ave, Niles	Florin Nedelut & Camelia Odorhean	Halina Nowicki Estate	12-21-15	\$215,000
8001 W Courte Dr, # 309, Niles	Rosa Toman	Natasa Ristic	12-21-15	\$222,000
8223 N Osceola Ave, Niles	Luay M Ishak	Robert E Turk	12-22-15	\$260,000
7337 W Conrad Ave, Niles	Andrewis Matti & Janet Esho	Kevin Matynia	12-17-15	\$270,000
8653 N Merrill St, Niles	Eleazar Alvarez & Melissa Alvarez	Paluch Construction Inc	12-17-15	\$320,000
8926 N Elmore St, Niles	Thomas Cipriani & Jennifer Cipriani	William Chamopoulos	12-16-15	\$342,000
8728 N Wisner St, Niles	Melic Bookstein & Joseph Marauto	George Zivulovic	12-17-15	\$504,500
7643 N Olcott Ave, Niles	Michael P Duffy & Jacqueline Duffy	Vilma Papaleka	12-21-15	\$520,000
310 S Rose Ave, Park Ridge	Terry Cameron	Basyli Waniuk	12-18-15	\$340,000
241 Devon Ave, Park Ridge	Kevin Lange & Laura Lange	Edyta Budzioch	12-18-15	\$497,500

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



LAKE FOREST

Updated vintage home steps to town & park. Three bedrooms, 2.5 baths. Hardwood floors throughout. Spacious living room with fireplace. Expanded 3rd-floor space is now an office. Finished basement with bath. Detached 2-car garage. Yard with new patio, deck & landscape. Newer roof, windows, and HVAC. Stainless kitchen, Bosch washer/dryer, Kohler fixtures. Renovated garage with new doors. Expansion possibilities.

Address: 113 Atteridge Road

Price: \$665,000

Schools: Lake Forest High School

Taxes: \$6,694

Agent: Keri Cook Falls/@Properties



ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

Six bedrooms, 4 baths. Kitchen is fully remodeled. All new in 2009: New tear-off roof; electrical panel; water heater; electronic air cleaner, house humidifier; insulation. All new windows & patio doors. Master suite with renovated jacuzzi bath/shower. Second-floor laundry room. 2.5-car garage leads into office/mudroom, with custom-built cubbies, cabinets and counter space. Fenced-in backyard includes two garden areas, a large patio, and plumbing for a hot tub/spa. The front has full underground sprinkler system and a home alarm system.

Address: 304 Brampton Lane

Price: \$627,000

Schools: Buffalo Grove High School

Taxes: \$13,620

Agent: David Jaffe/Coldwell Banker



LAKE ZURICH

Home has been completely updated throughout with high-end finishes. New roof and siding. Inside features include: Vaulted ceilings, recessed lighting, hardwood floors, kitchen with cherry cabinets, granite counters and stainless appliances, family room with stone fireplace and sliders to outside deck. Both upstairs baths redone with natural stone, new vanities & granite counters, neutral paint colors & decor, finished basement. Large private fenced yard with gorgeous professional landscaping tiered cedar deck & storage shed. Three bedrooms, 2.5 baths.

Address: 325 Marble Hill Drive

Price: \$364,900

Schools: Lake Zurich High School

Taxes: \$8,397

Agent: Susan Coveny/RE/MAX Prestige



WILMETTE

Updated vintage home with inviting features and architectural details. Kitchen with stainless steel appliances and island. Formal dining room with built-ins. Private master retreat with whirlpool tub. Newly remodeled lower level with rec room, full bath, bedroom, laundry room and office. Second-floor sitting room could be additional bedroom or office. Five bedrooms, 3.5 baths.

Address: 14 Garrison Ave.

Price: \$799,000

Schools: New Trier Township High School Winnetka

Taxes: \$14,402

Agent: Laurie Gross/Coldwell Banker

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Sebonic Financial	30yr Fixed APR	% Down: 20%	5/1 ARM	2.750	0.000	\$1395	20%	3.033		
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Listings are subject to change. Please call the venue in advance.

Thursday, Jan. 28

Coffee Talk to focus on Potawatomi culture: Potawatomi photographer Sharon Hoogstraten presents the Coffee Talk, "Potawatomi: Dancing With My Tribe." She talks about Potawatomi life and culture and walks the audience through a slide show that features stunning photos of Native American men, women and children dressed in their colorful regalia. 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Des Plaines History Center, 781 Pearson St., Des Plaines, \$3 suggested donation, 847-391-5399

Martin Sexton: 8 p.m. Thursday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$32-\$68, 847-492-8860

Evanston Art Center's Faculty Exhibition: This exhibition of works is produced by the center's faculty, which consists of 65 practicing artists with MFA degrees from some of the most prestigious art schools in the United States. A wide variety of mediums are represented in the exhibition. 9 a.m. Daily, Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-5300

Evanston Art Center student show: Students exhibit their work. 10 a.m. Daily, Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-5300

Marjorie Prime: Kimberly Senior directs this Pulitzer Prize finalist about an aging woman in the age of artificial intelligence who meets a young visitor programmed to help her hold on to her fading memories. 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday and Tuesday-Wednesday, Writers Theatre, 664 Vernon Ave., Glen-coe, \$20-\$70, 847-242-6000

Art in the Library Exhibit Opens: The Call of the Shore: Artist Cherie Piatt creates water colors of the seascapes and landscapes she finds so inspirational. Close your eyes, leave winter behind and imagine the soothing sound of the waves on a sultry summer day. There is a Gallery Talk planned for Jan. 31 at 1:15 p.m. in the library lobby. 9 a.m. Daily, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Business and Finance Databases: Learn how to access this information in the library or at home. A Glenview Library card is required. Please register by calling. 2 p.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Cut the Cable Cord: Learn how you can slash your cable bill by streaming TV and movies. Services such as Netflix and Hulu and devices such as Roku and Chromecast are covered. Also features how to use Hoopla to stream music, movies and more for free with MGPL library cards. 7 p.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

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 start-ups with planning, marketing or financial solutions. Making an appointment is required and can be done online, by visiting the counseling page at www.scorechicago.org. 9 a.m. Thursday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

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. A drop-in visit is meant to last about 15 minutes. Activities are repeated each week from Tuesday to Thursday. 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

20 Minute Tote Bag: Learn sewing basics to create a tote bag. 3 p.m. Thursday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Oakton English as a Second Language Class: 6 p.m. Thursday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Neighbor Time: It's a beautiful day in the neighborhood to visit everyone's favorite neighbor. Watch, play, talk and sing in the style of this classic children's television show. 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Wee play: 10 a.m. Thursday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Amsterdam: The World's Most Liberal City: Jim Kenney explores Amsterdam's transformation from a backward agrarian region into a global hub of wealth and power, followed by its long descent to its current status as a charming capital city. 10 a.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, \$40 NSSC members; \$52 non-members, 847-784-6030

Park Ridge Fly Tying Club Meetings: 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

Mothers and Sons: Northlight presents Terrence McNally's play about a mother who visits her deceased son's partner 20 years after his death and is confronted with a changing definition of family. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 2:30 and 8 p.m. Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, 1 and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 4, Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, \$15-\$68, 847-673-6300

Friday, Jan. 29

Big Noise Theatre presents Love, Loss, and What I Wore: Based on the best-seller by Ilene Beckerman, the show uses clothing and the memories they trigger to tell funny and often poignant stories, creating an enduring and memorable experience. 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 3 and 8 p.m. Sunday, Prairie Lakes Theatre, 515 E. Thacker St., Des Plaines, \$25-30, 773-463-4180

Guild Theatre produces Bus Stop by William Inge: Classic American playwright William Inge's romantic comedy 'Bus Stop' to be produced by the Guild Theatre at the Des Plaines historic Leela Arts Center. 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 3 p.m. Sunday, Leela Arts Center, 620 Lee St., Des Plaines, \$15-25, 800-838-3006

Nicholas Tremulis Orchestra: With special guest Jay O'Rourke. 8 p.m. Friday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$15-\$27, 847-492-8860

Remembrance: Join for a performance of ArLynn Leiber Presser's dramatic play "Remembrance," which looks at how we remember those we have loved and lost. Can love survive even death? 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday; 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, \$20, 847-571-0235

Winter Bash 2016: Laugh out loud to four of Chicago's top stand-up comedians, then groove to the hottest dance band, Euphony, for one night only. There is a live and silent auction and a Big Bash Cash raffle, with benefits going to OLPH Church charities. 7 p.m. Friday, OLPH Playdium, 1776 Glenview Road, Glenview, \$50 per person, 847-729-1525

Friendship Club: let's make some music (grades 3-8): For children who want to make friends in a supportive environment. Trained Friendship Ambassadors (grades 4-12) host fun and engaging events where everyone feels welcome. 4:30 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Rise and shine storytime: 10 a.m. Friday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Gentle Yoga: Yoga instructor Olga Rudiak leads a series of yoga sessions for improved physical strength, relaxation and mental clarity. Exercises are done in a chair or standing not on the floor. 9:30 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. 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

Park Ridge Chamber Trivia: Come enjoy a night of trivia fun and socializing. Teams are composed of 6 people. Appetizers, beer, wine and soda included. 7 p.m. Friday, The Summit of Uptown, 10 N. Summit Ave., Park Ridge, \$25 (per person), 847-825-3121

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

Saturday, Jan. 30

Strike Out Hunger: Heartland Health Outreach is hosting its 19th annual bowling fundraiser. The event raises funds for HHO's Vital Bridges Center on Chronic Care program, providing food, nutrition counseling, housing, case management and more for low-income Chicagoans impacted by HIV/AIDS. 6 p.m. Saturday, River Rand Bowl, 191 S. Des Plaines River Road, Des Plaines, \$40-200, 847-299-1001

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

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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

Animal Arts and Seasonal Stories:

"Animal Arts & Seasonal Stories," are recommended for children ages 5 and up, but there is no minimum age requirement. Activities are offered at varying levels of difficulty and interest to engage the entire family. An adult must accompany participants. 10:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, \$3 kids, \$5 adults, 847-475-1030

Restoring the Birch Bark Canoe:

Join for a behind-the-scenes experience as Christine Red Cloud (White Earth Ojibwe) and Eli Suzukovich III (Little Shell Band of Chippewa-Cree) restore the birch bark lodge located on the second floor of the museum. Special presentations take place on the hour between noon and 2 p.m. 11 a.m. Saturday, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, \$5 adults; \$3 kids, 847-475-1030

Immanuel Lutheran Church Winter Market:

Learn about the benefits of eating fresh and locally grown foods. Shop for a variety of seasonal and artisan products. 8 a.m. Saturday, Immanuel Lutheran Church, 616 Lake St., Evanston, free, 847-864-4464

The Bluegrass Advocates: 9:30 p.m. Saturday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679

The Great Scott: comedy and illusion show: See The Great Scott perform his most popular and entertaining magical feats. All ages. 11 a.m. Saturday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Family Film: Pan: The movie, "Pan" is about a 12-year-old orphan Peter, who is spirited away to the magical world of Neverland, where he finds both fun and danger, and ultimately discovers his destiny. He becomes the hero who forever is known as Peter Pan. Bring the whole family to enjoy a great movie and popcorn at MGPL. 2 p.m. Saturday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Green screen photo booth for teens: Take photos of yourself with our DSLR camera in front of the green screen and combine your image with a background in Photoshop. Come in costume if you prefer. Some props will be provided. 2 p.m. Saturday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Lego Day: Enjoy some huge fantastic Lego displays and spend a little time building your own creations. 10 a.m. Saturday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Film showing: The Peanuts Movie: 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Junie B. Jones: The musical takes a hilarious look at growing up, presented by the professional Northbrook Theatre for Young Audiences. 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, Northbrook Theatre, 3323 Walters Ave., Northbrook, \$10-\$12, 847-291-2995

Snowflake Festival Open House: For children ages two to six and their parents to enjoy story-telling, games, Kindermusik, refreshments and lots of indoor wintry fun. 9 a.m. Saturday, Christian Heritage Academy, 315 Waukegan Road, Northfield, free, 847-446-5252

Chinese New Year Kickoff Celebration at Fashion Outlets: Entertainment starts with the Huaxing Art Troupe, accompanied by the acclaimed "Crazy Violinist" Shaobo Zhang. 2 p.m. Saturday, Fashion Outlets of Chicago, 5220 Fashion Outlets Way, Rosemont, free, 847-928-7500

Andrew Blendermann Performance: Andrew's repertoire spans over 2,000 songs. As a vocalist, Andrew has also directed several a cappella groups and is currently singing with Chicago Voice Exchange, three time winners of the Chicago Harmony Sweepstakes. 6 p.m. Saturday, Gene & Georgetti Rosemont, 9421 West Higgins Road, Rosemont, free, 847-653-3300

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

Gap Year College Fair: C2 Education is hosting academic events in your area. All events are open to the public. noon Saturday, New Trier High School, 385 Winnetka Ave., Winnetka, free, 847-784-2340

Sunday, Jan. 31

Darlingside: 7 p.m. Sunday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$15-\$28, 847-492-8860

Carmina Burana: Love, Luck and Fate: The winter Northshore Concert Band concert titled "Carmina Burana: Love, Luck and Fate," features Carl Orff's dramatic masterwork. 3 p.m. Sunday, Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, \$18 adults; \$13 seniors; \$7 students and children, 847-432-2263

John Williams' Sunday music session: 3 p.m. Sunday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679

Surf's Up: The Coastal Beat: Grammy-nominated performer Dave Rudolf delights audiences with a breezy repertoire of all-time beach party favorites by Jimmy Buffet, Bob Marley, Harry Belafonte and, of course, the Beach Boys. Dave has even opened for the Beach Boys. 2 p.m. Sunday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

5th annual 90-Second Newbery Screening: Field Trip to the Chicago screening of the 90-Second Newbery Festival at the Vittum Theater, 1012 N Noble St, Chicago. 3 p.m. Sunday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Globe Trotters: Have fun exploring the world through stories, games, crafts and maps. 2 p.m. Sunday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Craft Swap: The Craft Swap is back. Find free materials for your next craft project. The swap opens to the general public at 2 p.m. If you have an early entry ticket from donating materials, you can come at 1:30 p.m. 2 p.m. Sunday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

YMCA Summer Camp Open House: Children will enjoy games and activities while parents meet camp leaders and staff. 2 p.m. Sunday, North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techny Road, Northbrook, free, 847-272-7250

Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois: Walter Reed, an experienced lecturer about the Holocaust, explains how he researched and discovered private diaries and numerous valuable archives. 2 p.m. Sunday, Temple Beth-El, 3610 Dundee Road, Northbrook, free, 312-666-0100

Blacklisted: Songs McCarthy Didn't Want You to Hear: Award-winning cabaret performers led by Carla Gordon and including Joan Curto, Beckie Menzie, Paul Motondo, Wayne Richards, Robert Sims and special guests, perform songs written or made famous by blacklisted artists such as Zero Mostel, Leonard Bernstein, Lena Horne, Pete Seeger, Burl Ives, Harry Belafonte and more. 2 p.m. Sunday, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, \$15; \$10 Museum members, 847-967-4800

Garfield Goose and Chicago's Golden Age of Kids TV: Pop culture historian Jim Engel of Chicago's Museum of Broadcast Communications, lectures on the highlights of Chicago's golden age of children's television and the popular "Garfield Goose and Friends," show hosted by Wilmette resident Frazier Thomas. The lecture is preceded by a brief annual meeting of the Wilmette Historical Society. 2 p.m. Sunday, Wilmette Historical Museum, 609 Ridge Road, Wilmette, free, 847-853-7666

SFX School Open House: Learn more about St. Francis Xavier School at one of their upcoming Open House events. Learn more at the school website. 10:30 a.m. Sunday, St. Francis Xavier School, 808 Linden Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-256-0644

Monday, Feb. 1

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

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

hoopla, MyMediaMail 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

Winter reading program: love your library: The more you read, the greater your chances to win weekly prizes or the grand prize gift basket. 9 a.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

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

Page Turners: Discuss "Everything I Never Told You," by Celeste Ng. 1 p.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

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

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

Homework Help: The library hosts area high school students to offer a little homework help Monday nights. Enthusiastic teens are available to help kindergarten through fifth grade students work on their weekly homework assignments. 6:30 p.m. Monday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Valentine's Day cards: Get crafty and create a handmade Valentine's Day card. 7 p.m. Monday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Ballroom Dance Classes: Monday evening dance classes: Basic Class at 6:45 p.m., Intermediate class at 7:45 p.m. 6:45 p.m. Monday, Bernard Weinger JCC, 300 Revere Drive, Northbrook, \$10 per class, 847-757-2227

Cardio Rhythm Plus: Get your heart rate up with this fun aerobic exercise class. Move your body with basic aerobic movement. A variety of exercises are used to increase muscular strength, range of motion, balance and coordination. Upper body strengthening exercises use hand held weights and elastic tubing. 2:15 a.m. Monday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, \$69 NSSC member, \$79 non-member, 847-784-6000

Free Screening of Patterns of Evidence: The Exodus: Join in at the Keshet Forum for a screening of the award-winning documentary, "Patterns of Evidence: The Exodus," the most in-depth archaeological investigation into the Exodus from Egypt ever captured on film. The film features leading archeologists and religious leaders from both the Jewish and Christian communities, as well as appearances by Israel's Benjamin Netanyahu and Shimon Peres. For more info about the film, go to www.patternsofevidence.com. 7 p.m. Monday, Christian Heritage Academy, 315 Waukegan Road, Northfield, free, 646-383-7972

Money Matters Discussion: The group meets on the first Monday of each month. 10 a.m. Monday, Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-692-3597

STAR Art Workshop: Instructor Rae Penzin, teaches all ability levels in acrylics. 1:30 p.m. Monday, Park Ridge Park District- Centennial Activity Center, 100 S. Western Avenue, Park Ridge, \$64 member, \$74 guest, 847-692-3597

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

Tuesday, Feb. 2

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

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

Let's Talk @ Lunch: 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

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

Adult Literacy classes: Spring session: Native and non-native English speakers can improve their reading and writing skills. 9:15 a.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Word 2010: Formatting and Images: Format your document and learn how to work with pictures and clip art. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Northern Lights Homework Help Center (grades 1-8): Just drop in for this Homework Help Center which meets weekly through March. High School volunteers to the "homework" rescue. Thirty-minute sessions for homework, reading, and math skills provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Children may be grouped by subject and grade level. 6 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

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

Social Media 101: Basics of Social Media for Small Biz: Have you been thinking about marketing your business with social media? This class is presented by a SCORE Chicago volunteer and they look at the five most popular social media networks - Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Google + and Pinterest. They help you decide what is right for your business. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Movies, Munchies, and More: Film: Groundhog Day: Groundhog Day is about a weatherman who finds himself living the same day over and over again. The cast includes: Bill Murray and Andie MacDowell. 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Preschool Storytime: Stories, songs and action rhymes for children ages 3 to 5 years old. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Evening Family Storytime: Families with children ages 2-6 enjoy stories, songs and activities. Come in pj's or not, as you wish. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Coming Together Film: The Motorcycle Diaries: The Motorcycle Diaries: Rated R, 126 min. Based on the true story of two young men who embark on a thrilling and dangerous road trip across Latin America that becomes a life-changing journey of self-discovery. 2 p.m. Tuesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Mozart's Requiem: Niles Metro Chorus performs Mozart's Requiem this spring. 7 p.m. Tuesday, St. John Brebeuf Parish Church, 8307 North Harlem Ave., Niles, free, 702-806-8421

Poetry discussion: Join in for poetry discussions with literary critic Isabel Soffer. No advance reading is required. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Loom weaving: Interested in learning the art of loom weaving? Join the Fiber Arts workshop on weaving. Each month we features a different form of Fiber Arts such as knitting, crochet or hand sewing. Participants must register for all four dates. 4 p.m. Tuesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Preschool storytime: For ages 3-5. 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

The Brothers: Allen and John Foster Dulles: Drawing on the work of Stephen Kinzer, author of "Overthrow," Jim Kenney presents a compelling study in American hubris as it was embodied in John Foster Dulles, Secretary of State and his brother Allen, Director of the CIA. Tuesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, \$40 member; \$52 non-member, 847-784-6030

Dancing for Weddings and Special Occasions: This class is taught by a professionally-trained, working dancer and dance instructor to help participants brush up on all of the most important dances for that special event. Please register in advance by contacting the Centennial Activity Center. 10:15 a.m. Tuesday, Park Ridge Park District- Centennial Activity Center, 100 S. Western Avenue, Park Ridge, \$72 member; \$80 guest, 847-692-3597

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The Breakfast Club at Lola's Diner: Start your day right at The Breakfast Club, hosted by Chamber Ambassador, Dave Donovan. 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, Lola's Diner, 920 Busse Highway, Park Ridge, \$10 members, \$15 prospective members, 847-825-3121

Wednesday, Feb. 3

Live Music Wednesdays with the Josh Rzepka Trio: Hear the music of Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, The Ionious Monk and other classics of the era played by the Josh Rzepka Bebop trio. Reservations can be made online or by calling. 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Found Kitchen & Social House, 1631 Chicago Ave., Evanston, free, 847-868-8945

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. Sign-up begins at 8 p.m. 9 p.m. Wednesday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, no cover, 847-864-1679

Civic Center Book Talk: Spotlight on Latino Writers: To celebrate "Viva! Coming Together in Skokie and Niles Township: Latino Cultures," this book talk features the top contemporary Latino writers who explore their identity and heritage through novels and nonfiction writing. 1 p.m. Wednesday, Morton Grove American Legion Civic Center, 6140 Dempster St., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

MGPL Writers Workshop: This is for writers who want to share their works in progress and support other writers in drafting, revising and finishing manuscripts, essays, poems, or any other types of writing. Readings can be in any genre or format. Writers of any level or professional aspiration are welcome. The workshop meets on the first Wednesday evening of every month. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Big Kid Storytime: Kids age 4 through kindergarten, are invited to a series of one-hour storytimes that include songs, creative dramatics, stories, as well as other fun activities. 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Toddler Time: Stories, songs and rhymes for children 20 months to 3 years old, with an adult caregiver. Thirty-minutes storytime followed by 30-minutes of free-play. 10 a.m. Wednesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Basic needlepoint: Learn the basics from-needlework artist Marilyn Salimi and complete a small project of your own in this three-session class. 10 a.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Chess Club: Whether you're a skilled player looking for an opponent or a beginner interested in learning new skills, join our new weekly chess club. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Knitting Studio and Workshop: Certified instructor Mary Staackmann provides personalized instruction, answers any questions about knitting, and perhaps gets you started on a new project. Brush up on your skills, learn new techniques, or just spend an afternoon knitting. 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, free, 847-784-6060

Park Ridge Community Emergency Response Team Class: The City of Park Ridge hosts this class for the Winter/Spring 2016. Interested persons should contact Phil Falson, Director Park Ridge CERT, who can be reached at parkridgecert@gmail.com or by calling. 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Park Ridge Public Works Center, 400 Busse Highway, Park Ridge, free, 847-774-4231

Demystifying hospice care: Temple Beth Israel presents Demystifying hospice care, sponsored by Sisterhood TBI. Representatives from North Shore University Health Care's Hospice Program will answer questions about hospice care. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie, free, 847-675-0951

Senior High Youth Group: For all youth grades 9 to 12 to enjoy fun and friendship while engaging in meaningful discussions and service learning opportunities. The evening starts with a tasty dinner: sometimes chicken, sometimes pasta or pizza. 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, First Congregational Church of Wilmette, 1125 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-251-6660

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MOVIES

Now playing



"Daddy's Home"

PG-13, 1:36, comedy

It's OK if you're skeptical about this Will Ferrell vs. Mark Wahlberg vehicle. The trailers have showcased obvious, lowest common denominator humor that doesn't look too promising. But the reality is that the film, directed by comedy vet Sean Anders, is much funnier than it appears. Ferrell is at his best when he's playing a buffoonish naïf. That's exactly what "Daddy's Home" delivers. The story is essentially a masculinity face-off between

stepdad Brad (Ferrell) and biological dad Dusty (Wahlberg). The film's resolution comes when the two men finally get over themselves and come together for the sake of the kids. It's a joyful and heart-swelling moment where everyone lets their guard down and gets a little silly. — *Katie Walsh*



"Ride Along 2"

PG-13, 1:42, comedy

When a real-life police officer punches suspects at random and violates civil liberties right and left, it's a sign of trouble. When it happens in the movies, it's a sign of a sequel to "Ride Along," titled "Ride Along 2," the pro forma follow-up to the 2014 action comedy starring Ice Cube as the snarling Atlanta detective and Kevin Hart as his frenetic brother-in-law-to-be, now a cop himself. The script by Phil Hay and Matt Manfredi gives you next to

nothing for narrative complication and surprise, and a meager amount of verbal jokes. The fun's mostly in the throwaway stuff and Hart's motormouth act, which already feels like medium-level desperation. — *Michael Phillips*



"The Revenant" ★★ 1/2

R, 2:36, drama

The gorgeously brutal first hour of "The Revenant" marks the peak of director Alejandro G. Iñárritu's glittering if not quite golden career. For a while his new movie's really something. Then, as Leonardo DiCaprio crawls across miles of mighty pretty scenery filmed in Canada, Montana and Argentina, gradually it turns into not much of anything. "The Revenant" recounts Glass' tortures of the damned, which include a plunge down a waterfall; near-hypothermia (at one point he uses a gutted horse carcass as a sleeping bag); and a digitally rendered leap, on horseback, straight off a cliff. DiCaprio's very good. You believe his character's suffering. — *M.P.*



"13 Hours: The Secret Soldiers of Benghazi" ★★ 1/2

R, 2:24, drama

Everything in director Michael Bay's cinematic vocabulary — the glamorizing slo-mo, the falling bomb point-of-view shots, the low-angle framing of his heroes with blue sky, fireballs or an American flag in the background — suggests not real life, or the way things might have happened, but a Michael Bay movie. SS Bay's latest is a mixed-up blend of truth and distortion. Parts of it deliver a punch, and a jolt, and ripples of earnest (and even

complicated) emotion. Then the characters, some of them composites or fabrications, start talking again. The clichés tumble out. And Bay gets preoccupied with delivering audience-baiting "kill shots," engineered to appease bloodlust and avenge enemies. — *M.P.*



"Star Wars: The Force Awakens" ★★★

PG-13, 2:16, fantasy

So: Where were we? Let's skip past the prequel trilogy "The Phantom Menace," "Attack of the Clones" and "Revenge of the Sith," apparently written and directed by droids. In chronological story terms 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 better than "not bad." Confidently good. Good is the most accurate adjective for this Disney-owned product launch. — *M.P.*

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Plugged in, tuned up

What's the buzz? BMW boosts electric vehicle market with 2016 models

BY CASEY WILLIAMS
Tribune Newspapers

BMW's are not fuel-efficient. Yet with corporate average fuel-economy standards ratcheting up to 54.5 unadjusted mpg by 2025, BMW — and other luxury and performance brands like it — must find a solution to meet emissions standards while still delivering the ultimate driving machine. For BMW, the solution is a plug. In the next few years, every BMW model will have a plug-in eDrive version.

All plugged in

In October, BMW rolled out the X5 40e, a plug-in variant of its popular mid-size SUV. In the first quarter of 2016, BMW will release the 330e, a plug-in hybrid twin-turbo variant of its best-selling 3-Series compact sedan. By this summer, the 7-Series flagship luxury sedan gets electrified.

"Our cadence will be about one (plug-in variant) per quarter," said Richard Steinberg, spokesman for BMW's electrification program in North America. "Proud i3 owners can go full electric in all vehicle classes."

Those i3 owners were early adopters, testing an oddly styled carbon-fiber city car with an available range-extending gas generator. It was efficient but could also whoosh through traffic with silent torque.

The electric experience was amplified with the visually stunning i8 supercar. Now the technology migrates into segments that haven't had many plug-in options.

"BMW, as a performance brand, had to increase fuel efficiency in the U.S. and other places," said Jessica Caldwell, a senior analyst



BMW

When it's fully charged, the BMW X5 xDrive 40e plug-in hybrid crossover travels 13 miles before the gas engine starts.

with Edmunds. "There are not many large vehicles like the X5 that are plug-ins. BMW is consistent with how they will have plug-ins — a clear strategy that is not confusing to consumers."

Automakers such as Nissan, General Motors and Hyundai have a more sporadic approach to electrification, offering one or two plug-in models. A more direct competitor is Mercedes, which will offer up to 10 plug-in hybrids in the US by 2017 and should be eyeing BMW carefully.

BMW's plan has risks in terms of investment and customer acceptance but also has advantages.

"Part of a large-scale project like BMW's is having economies of scale with not much price premium," Caldwell said. "They must figure out how to differentiate with good attributes and value."

The 330e will retail for \$44,000, or \$4,000 more than a base model. At \$62,100, the X5 40e has a \$7,000 premium. But these vehicles come well-equipped to enhance value.

State and federal tax incentives of up to a \$7,500 federal tax credit also apply, making the cost more competitive with gas models.

Steinberg suggests pricing will not be as stiff for leases, which are common in the luxury segment.

Electric machine

The BMW X5 xDrive 40e crossover employs a 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine, 8-speed automatic transmission, and lithium-ion batteries that deliver a combined 308 horsepower and 0-60 mph in 6.5 seconds. Fully charged, it travels 13 miles before the gas engine starts. Expect the equivalent of about 56 mpg. The 330e, due next spring, also uses a 2.0-liter four-cylinder engine and lithium-ion batteries, but it delivers 248 horsepower and 0-60 mph in 5.9s. Expect improved all-electric range.

"At this point, we're going with relatively small gasoline engines and hybrid systems that provide 13-20 miles all-electric range," Steinberg said. "It's appro-

priate for current customers, but there's understanding this needs to grow."

While the new models are engineered ground-up as plug-ins, they're not as exotic as the i3 and i8. The i3 travels 80-100 miles all-electric and up to 150 miles with a gasoline range-extender.

The i8 travels 15 miles all-electric but packs a midmounted gasoline engine. Both employ carbon-fiber bodies.

Electric vehicles deliver zippy, near-silent acceleration. The cars leap into city traffic with an ease that encourages you to slap the throttle at every opening. Regenerative brakes seem grabby but maximize battery replenishment during deceleration.

There are other benefits you may not have considered.

"With a plug-in, you can heat and cool the vehicle without burning hydrocarbons," Steinberg said. "Our cars offer preconditioning that allows you to set what time you want to leave and the temperature you want

the cabin. Get in and go."

BMW developed a remote app for smartphones so owners can check battery levels and utilize intelligent route planning that optimizes electric driving modes.

Finding a place

Plug-in competitors are also making moves. Chevrolet just launched its second-generation Volt with a 53-mile all-electric range, 420 miles with the gasoline engine. Chevrolet will launch the all-electric Bolt next year. Ford fortifies its strategy with a \$4.5 billion investment by 2020 that includes 13 new electrified vehicles, affecting 40 percent of its nameplates.

After a limited launch in California, the Mercedes-Benz S550 plug-in hybrid gets nationwide rollout in 2016. The C350e plug-in compact sedan and GLE crossover are following to compete against the 330e and X5 40e, respectively.

Sales of current plug-ins are not good. According to Automotive News, Chev-



TRIBUNE NEWSPAPERS

Charge ports are becoming common on BMWs as the roster of plug-ins expands.

rolet sold only 13,279 Volts (\$33,170) through November. Nissan moved 15,922 Leafs (\$29,010); Cadillac delivered 889 ELRs (\$57,500). Tesla sold 18,724 cars but just added the Model X crossover. BMW sold 9602 i3s and 1609 i8s.

BMW will occupy the higher end of the market. Teslas range from \$70,000 to \$120,000 but with up to a 280-mile range. BMW's i3 lists for \$42,400 to \$46,250; i8 rises from \$136,500.

"Looking at all electrified vehicles, sales are pretty low," Caldwell said. "In 2015, it was 2.8 percent of total new cars, down from a peak of 3.7 percent in 2013. The climate isn't necessarily good for these vehicles with gas prices and interest rates low."

Low fuel prices diminished demand for pricey electric vehicles, but they're an insurance policy should oil prices spike. Besides, efficiency and smooth performance are dreamy no matter who's pumping what.

"Long term, BMW has a good strategy, but it will be a struggle in the short term," Caldwell said. "You can't build cars people don't want to buy. If gas prices go up, it will seem genius. If they remain the same, it will be a challenge for them."

Casey Williams is a freelance reporter.



KAZUHIRO NOGI/GETTY-AFF

The 2016 Prius sports a redesigned look, though it still has that split window hatch.

MPG with a bit more style

BY ROBERT DUFFER
Chicago Tribune

The Toyota Prius is easy to mock. It's shaped like a clog, has an eye-crossing split window hatch, is as fun to drive as a hot dog cart and it is the vehicle of choice for Chicago cabbies, who are unequivocally the worst drivers on the road.

The main reason the Prius gets mocked, however, is because it is the very best at what it was made to do: get people to their destination using the least amount of gas possible.

The fourth-generation Prius, fully redesigned for 2016, does it even better.

The world's best-selling hybrid gets 54 mpg city, up from 51 mpg in the 2015 model, largely through reducing weight and improving the hybrid motor components.

The most notable design change of the 2016 Prius is the cockpit. With its vehicle information display in the center of the dash above the center stack, instead of directly in front of the steering wheel, the Prius has always been oddball or distinctive, depending on how you feel about the driver being more removed from the gauges.

The 2016 display is clearer, wider, and more recessed in the dash, nearer the windshield than the center stack. It's split into two 4.2-inch displays,

2016 TOYOTA PRIUS TWO Hybrid compact

Price as tested:

\$24,200
(excluding \$835 delivery)

Base price: \$24,200
MPG: 54 city, 50 highway
Engine: 1.8-liter 4-cylinder with nickel-metal hydride battery-powered motor (lithium-ion is available)
Transmission: 2-speed CVT
Parting shot: The fuel economy champ gets a bit more style and flash for 2016.

with the speedometer and energy use info on the right side, and customizable features such as radio stations, trip meters and other info on the left. The dash looks sleeker, less boxy and more stretched out. The glove box is lower, the center stack is less cluttered and the gear stick gets its own panel.

The 6.1-inch touch screen is on the smaller side, but it is flanked with source buttons and strong voice command recognition to limit how much you have to touch it.

Our tester had a charcoal-on-white interior, with chrome trim. Rear

seats still get a 60/40 split, and Toyota says the more compact battery fits beneath the rear seat instead of the cargo floor, increasing cargo room by 3 cubic feet, to 24.6, and enabling the Prius to haul more bikes, dogs and backpacks.

Overall the wide plain of the dashboard and the neat composition of the controls felt more relaxed than the old Prius, whose more in-your-face layout seemed to insist you pay attention to fuel consumption.

Toyota set out to prove the famed fuel sipper could have some driving dynamics, too, by utilizing its new global architecture for a stiffer chassis, and a double wishbone rear suspension. The Prius won't be mistaken for fast even in power mode but there's a little more feedback dipping in and out of corners. The car stays a little lower to the ground so that for a moment, until you hit the gas pedal, it handles better than previous iterations.

Unfortunately, that split window is still there, and every time I glanced in the rearview mirror I had to do a double take, not at what was behind us but at what was riding in back with us.

But the Prius excels at what it was meant to do — stretch a gallon of gas over as many miles as possible.

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Readers blow up on spare tire issue



BOB WEBER
Motormouth

Q: I have to strongly disagree with your conclusion that spare tires are no longer needed on modern cars. Within the past month, I've been stranded once with a flat tire and my neighbor has been stranded twice. In my case, it was due to the fact that modern low-profile wheel/tire combos are almost incapable of dealing with the potholes that occur on Midwestern roads in the winter without suffering major damage. In my neighbor's two cases, it was due to debris from nearby tollway construction. We both tried using our sealant-inflators but the leaks were too fast — mine went flat within two minutes. The rim was slightly bent because the low-profile tire does not have enough sidewall to absorb the impact. I had not had flat tire issues for many, many years until these low-profile tires came into vogue. If I had a spare, I wouldn't have had to cough up \$100 for a tow. Spare tire opinions aside, I enjoy your column and look forward to reading it every week.

— G.S., Chicago

Q: I disagree strongly. I've had to haul my 2013 Ford Fusion on a tow truck to a dealer two times for road hazard blowouts. A real pain, and expensive. As a re-



CHICAGO TRIBUNE NEWSPAPERS 1979

Readers set the record straight about the spare tire not ready to go the way of the dodo. But we believe the spare tire is on the endangered species list.

sult, I've purchased a spare tire, a jack and a lug wrench. It may limit my choices, but I won't buy another car without five tires, and I certainly would never drive across country in the middle of the night without a spare tire! That would be just plain stupid!

— P.B., Houston

A: Above is a sampling of the mail we got following the column about the lack of spare tires in new cars. If this had been a reader survey, we would have hit a home run. Never before have we gotten such a reaction to a column. OK. You win. The spare tire is not ready to go the way of the dodo, but it is on the endangered species list. (We did not realize that there were so many motorists still driving fat-fender Fords from the '50s.)

Q: I drive a 2013 Lexus ES350 about 4,000 city miles a year. I've had the car for three years and its due for servicing. My question is, should I get the service based on time or mileage?

— G.Z., River Forest

A: In the warranty and maintenance manual supplied with the vehicle, it

states: "Scheduled Maintenance: Your vehicle requires maintenance every six months or 5,000 miles, whichever comes first. See page 44 for details." It is not at all like the chicken-or-egg conundrum.

Q: I have a 2004 Infiniti I35 and recently went on the Infiniti website to check my VIN to see if my car was on recall for the air bags. So far, no recall. I am wondering if other manufacturers are providing websites so owners can check for this.

— H.B., Chicago

A: Although one can go to the carmakers' websites for recall information, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration offers one-stop recall information for all vehicles. Go to www-odi.nhtsa.dot.gov/owners/SearchSafetyIssues and then enter your vehicle identification number to check for any recalls.

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*.

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COLLEGE NOTES

Cotiguala given Fred Mitchell Award

BY NICK BULLOCK
Pioneer Press

Lyons graduate **Matt Cotiguala**, a senior placekicker for the St. Ambrose football team, was recently presented the 2015 Fred Mitchell Award. The honor goes to the top placekicker among FCS, Division II, Division III, NAIA and NJCAA football teams for excellence on the field and in the community.

Cotiguala finished his senior season having made 23 of 25 (92 percent) of his field goals, including 5-for-5 from 40-49 yards and a season-long 50-yarder. He also made all 28 of his point-after attempts.

Additionally, Cotiguala does volunteer work for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Special Olympics and for a local congressman.

Senior wideout **Chris Klotz**, a fellow Lyons alumnus, is also on St. Ambrose. He finished the season second on the team in receiving with 438 yards and three touchdowns.

Morton impresses at Williams

Freshman **Ben Morton**, from Evanston, has had an impressive first year for the Williams wrestling team. The Evanston native recorded two victories on the first day of the Budd Whitehill National Duals Jan. 8-9 in Williamsport, Penn. Morton logged a pin against a Millikin opponent and a 6-0 decision against a Lycoming wrestler. His performance helped the Ephs finish third in the event.

Earlier in the season at the Citrus Open Tournament, Dec. 29-30 in Fort Lauderdale, Fla.,

Morton pinned his Waynesburg opponent and registered a 7-4 decision against a Cornell wrestler to help the Ephs to a second-place finish.

Smoliga earns SEC honor

Glenbrook South's **Olivia Smoliga** was named on Dec. 9 the Southeastern Conference's Female Swimmer of the Week. The Georgia junior clocked three NCAA automatic qualifying standards during her performance at the UGA Fall Invitational. Her times in the 50-yard freestyle (21.82 seconds) and the 100 freestyle (47.69) were both tops in the nation. She also posted a second-place finish in the 100 backstroke (51.50), good for the third-best in the nation.

Dolins wins 3,000, ranks nationally

Brandeis junior **Maddie Dolins** took home a first-place finish in the women's track and field team's Reggie Poyau Memorial Invitational on Jan. 16 in Waltham, Mass. The Highland Park graduate's 3,000-meter time of 10 minutes, 32.88 seconds ranks 19th in the nation. Her performance helped the Judges top the field of six teams.

Evanston's **Lydia McCaleb**, a junior middle distance runner, is also on the team.

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

Nick Bullock is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.



ST. AMBROSE UNIVERSITY

St. Ambrose kicker Matt Cotiguala beat out 750 other collegiate kickers for the Fred Mitchell Award.



Athlete of the Month is back!

Starting next week, Athlete of the Month is back for 2016! Stay tuned for the February nominees, and visit chicagotribune.com/athletes to cast your vote, beginning Feb. 4 at 9 a.m.

CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM/ATHLETES

Good luck to the teams in this weekend's IHSA Boys Bowling & Girls Competitive Dance state finals

COUNTRY FINANCIAL

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Niles West shows progress in loss to Maine South

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Pioneer Press

The Niles West girls basketball team is both young and inexperienced, but it's grown this season. That development is evident when the Wolves' first and second games against Maine South are compared.

Niles West lost to the Hawks — a senior-laden team with size and varsity experience — by 28 points in Skokie on Dec. 8. The Wolves were shut out in the first quarter. Coach Tony Konsewicz said he wasn't happy with the way his team, which starts two sophomores and a freshman, battled that night.

Konsewicz felt differently following a 52-45 loss to the Hawks on Jan. 22 in Park Ridge.

"I thought we really did compete," Konsewicz said. "We played hard. ... We had a couple turnovers late in the game, which cost us. I thought all the way up to the end of the game, we competed against a much bigger team."

Maine South (13-11 entering the week) extended its lead to double digits in the second and third quarters on Jan. 22. The Hawks seemed on the verge of putting the game out of reach in both instances, but the Wolves kept fighting.

With Niles West down 22-10 near the midway point of the second quarter, senior guard Jalynn Estrada hit a 3-pointer. Freshman guard Sam Galanopoulos then stole the ball and drained a pull-up jumper.

The Wolves scored 13 points in the final four minutes of the second quarter. They trailed 30-23 at halftime.

"They're very well coached. They're aggressive. They play hard," Maine South coach Mark Smith said. "Certainly they improved."

Maine South quickly pushed its lead back to 12 points in the

opening minutes of the third quarter, but Niles West sophomore center Nicole Zelazko helped turn the momentum with a three-point play. Then Estrada converted an old-fashioned 3-point play of her own to cut the deficit to 35-29.

The game stayed very close after that — it was 44-42 with 4:22 left in the fourth quarter — and Estrada was Niles West's leader throughout the night. She finished with 21 points and five steals in a performance that showed the value she's had on the court during her senior season.

"She's really embraced [being the team's leader]," Konsewicz said. "She doesn't get down. ... As a lone senior with experience, sometimes it's hard when you're the last cowboy standing. You wouldn't be able to tell anything is different. She just wants to go out and compete and play."

Estrada will likely play in college next year, according to Konsewicz, leaving Niles West's core of underclassmen — Galanopoulos, Zelazko and sophomore guard Tricia Pabst — with much more responsibility.

The Wolves might be in for another building season in 2016-17 as those three players and other current underclassmen grow acclimated to bigger roles. But Konsewicz is confident that the future is bright for Niles West.

"I really do [like the long-term prospects]. I think they're going to be special," he said. "We're going to be young for a couple years, but by the time the freshman [Galanopoulos] is a junior and senior — and our sophomores are seniors — we can make a little bit of noise, and really turn the tables and win some more games."

Eric Van Dril is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @VanDrilSports.



TIM BOYLE/PIONEER PRESS

Niles West's Jalynn Estrada dribbles the ball up the court on Jan. 22 at Maine South in Park Ridge. Estrada finished with 21 points.

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY PREVIEW

Changing the rules

When a college coach leaves, recruits are often left trying to figure out what's next

BY BOB NARANG
Pioneer Press

Connie Klett's intentions were good, but her timing was bad.

Her son, Lake Zurich senior running back/linebacker Ben Klett, had verbally committed to play football for Western Illinois. While searching for the ideal Christmas present on Dec. 14, Connie Klett settled on some Western Illinois clothing. She thought she was done with Christmas shopping.

A few hours later, Western Illinois coach Bob Nielson resigned to become the coach at South Dakota, and Ben Klett's college plans were in doubt.

"My mom bought me some Western Illinois clothing, around \$200 worth, for Christmas," Ben Klett said. "I'm pretty sure we still have it, but it's in the closet."

Ben Klett isn't the only Chicago-area recruit to learn that a sudden coaching change at the college level can restart the recruiting process. Sometimes, a recruit will reconsider his options before committing

to the new coaching staff or choosing a different school. Other times, the new staff won't share the previous staff's opinion of a recruit and will pull a scholarship offer.

From a recruit's perspective, the timing of a coaching change is rarely good.

Ben Klett was surprised by changes at Western Illinois. He made an official visit to Macomb just 10 days before Nielson resigned.

Ben Klett endured a six-week process before finally deciding to follow Nielson to South Dakota. Ben Klett verbally committed to South Dakota during an official visit last weekend. He can sign with the Coyotes on National Signing Day on Feb. 3. Though his drive to school was extended by four hours, Ben Klett called his decision a simple choice.

"One of the main reasons I committed to Western was the coaching staff, and they all left to South Dakota," said Ben Klett, who rushed for 2,261 yards with 42 touchdowns during his Lake Zurich career. "Once I checked out South Dakota, I already knew I liked the coaching staff, so I decided



TIM CARROLL/PIONEER PRESS

Lake Zurich's Ben Klett outruns Zion-Benton's Daniel Armstead and scores a touchdown on Sept. 19 in Lake Zurich. After Klett committed to Western Illinois, the coach resigned, so he has now committed to South Dakota.

to commit there after my visit. I was forced to be put back in the process, but I guess in the end, going to South Dakota was the better choice."

Like Ben Klett, Notre Dame senior quarterback

Tyler Tsagalis considers himself lucky. The former Western Illinois recruit verbally committed to join Nielson at South Dakota on Jan. 22.

"It was a pretty stressful process," Tsagalis said.

"When coach Nielson left, I was wondering what would happen to me. For two weeks, there was a lot of stress. Then the rest of the coaching staff was announced at South Dakota, and it was pretty much all of the Western coaches. That was a relief. They had been recruiting me for pretty much about 10 months."

In some cases, a coaching change can even affect recruits who don't have scholarship offers. Barrington senior long snapper Ethan Tabel said Syracuse was interested in him, but things changed when Syracuse coach Scott Shafer was fired in November.

"I had connections with Syracuse before, but then the coaching staff got rearranged," said Tabel, who is still waiting for a school to give him an offer. "That was the goal, maybe, to go there."

Carmel senior left tackle Sean Foster committed to Minnesota in April, but Minnesota coach Jerry Kill resigned midway through the season because of health concerns. Foster loved everything about the Minnesota program, in-

cluding the coaching staff, the city of Minneapolis and the chance to play in the Big Ten.

Still, after Minnesota changed up its coaching staff, Foster returned to the recruiting scene.

The 6-foot-8, 295-pound Foster, a consensus four-star recruit, differed from most players because he had 33 scholarship offers. He verbally committed to Iowa State on Jan. 19, and said he gave his Minnesota clothing to his younger brother.

"It was stressful at times, but then you are grateful because not everyone can have choices," Foster said. "It was a pretty cool experience to have, and I had it twice happen to me. It was pretty different the second time around. I knew what I was going into and how coaches would react."

"It was one of those things I had a better feeling for recruiting after being through it before already. As cliché as it sounds, I learned that patience is a virtue."

Bob Narang is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.



CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE
Tyler Tsagalis

Tsagalis switches commitment, picks South Dakota

BY RYAN NILSSON
Pioneer Press

Notre Dame senior quarterback Tyler Tsagalis announced via Twitter on Jan. 22 that he is no longer committed to Western Illinois and instead has verbally committed to South Dakota. Tsagalis' move reunites him with Coyotes coach Bob Nielson.

After resigning from Western Illinois on Dec. 14,

Nielson was introduced as South Dakota's coach the following day. Nielson posted a 16-21 record in three seasons at Western Illinois. In his final season, the Leathernecks went 7-6 and reached the FCS playoffs. Western Illinois beat Dayton in the first round and then lost to second-seeded Illinois State. Prior to coaching Western Illinois, Nielson guided Minnesota-Duluth to NCAA Di-

vision II national championships in 2008 and 2010.

The Leathernecks announced the hiring of Charlie Fisher on Jan. 2.

Like the Leathernecks, the Coyotes are a member of the Missouri Valley Football Conference. South Dakota went 3-5 in league play in 2015, finishing tied for sixth with Indiana State and Youngstown State in the 10-team league. The Coyotes finished 5-6 overall.

South Dakota has three quarterbacks on its tentative spring roster, including Ryan Saeger. As a junior in 2015, Saeger started all 11 games, completed 55.2 percent of his passes (165-for-299), threw 12 touchdowns and was intercepted seven times. He also ran for 350 yards on 115 attempts and scored 3 touchdowns.

Tsagalis is coming off one of the best seasons for a quarterback in Notre Dame

history. He set program records for passing yards (1,970) and touchdown passes (18) in a season. In addition, he ran for 667 yards and nine touchdowns. Tsagalis helped Notre Dame, which finished 8-2, earn a share of the East Suburban Catholic championship. It was the Dons' first conference title since 1981.

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NATIONAL SIGNING DAY PREVIEW

Clark, Gasienica weighing college options

BY MATT HARNES
Pioneer Press

Some of John Clark's first memories are of going to Purdue football games with his family.

Clark's father, Eddie Clark, was a running back for the Boilermakers from 1983-85, and his mother also went to the university. John Clark said he pictured himself wearing the old gold and black uniform someday.

"I've been brainwashed from a young age to be a Purdue fan," John Clark joked. "I have Purdue jerseys, sweat-shirts, shorts, pants, posters. I am wearing a Purdue hat right now. I painted my wall Purdue gold. I painted my closet black."

But even after being a three-year starting running back at Glenbrook North and earning Class 7A all-state honors from the Illinois High School Football Coaches Association as a senior, John Clark is not likely to receive an offer from Purdue by Feb. 3, the first day football players can sign a National Letters of Intent.

"Division I definitely was a dream for me, and I imagined myself playing at Purdue," said John Clark, who rushed for 1,578 yards and 25 touchdowns during his senior season for the Spartans. "But I've realized how competitive it is, especially for running backs, to play at that level."

As of Jan. 22, John Clark, a 5-foot-9, 195-pounder, had no scholarship offers from FBS or FCS programs. He said he has been offered a roster spot as a preferred walk-on at Texas A&M.

"We are doing the best

we can," Glenbrook North coach Bob Pieper said about finding a place for John Clark to play this fall. "He's fine. He understands the process. He hasn't expressed any frustration about it. Recruiting is tough, but it's never too late."

While John Clark said he isn't giving up on playing for an FBS program, he's realistic about where he might end up. He said Carthage College, a Division III program in Kenosha, Wis., could be a good fit for him.

"Right now, I am undecided, but I am leaning toward Carthage," John Clark said. "I have visited there to see what it had to offer, and I really liked what I saw."

"Right now, I am undecided, but I am leaning toward Carthage," John Clark said. "I have visited there to see what it had to offer, and I really liked what I saw."

The campus is beautiful, the academics are spot on and the football team had a good year. They told me if I do come, I most likely would have a spot on the team. I appreciate their interest in me."

Carthage won three of its last four games to finish 5-5 overall and tied for third in the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin at 4-3.

Ridgewood senior kicker Wojciech Gasienica is another local prospect who hasn't received a Division I scholarship offer and is weighing his options to play football in college.

Gasienica started kicking for the Rebels as a junior, but he quickly turned himself into one top area players at the position. Ridgewood coach Chris Zack said his one scholarship offer is from Saint Joseph's College, a Division II program in Rensselaer, Ind.

"[He's] very interested in kicking in college," Zack



VINCENT D. JOHNSON/PIONEER PRESS

Ridgewood kicker Wojciech Gasienica (9) and holder Vince Santore (23) celebrate as Gasienica's field goal sails through the uprights on Oct. 9 in Norridge.

said. "He has been on a few visits recently and has a few more scheduled."

According to Zack, Eastern Illinois, an FCS team, has extended a preferred walk-on spot to Gasienica. Roster spots at Division III programs Wisconsin-Whitewater and North Central College in Naperville also are options. An invitation could come from Northern Illinois, which Zack said is interested in Gasienica as a preferred walk-on.

But, like John Clark, it's doubtful Gasienica will make up his mind before Feb. 3.

For John Clark, starting out somewhere small such as Carthage College, where he said he believes he could earn playing time as a freshman, could lead to something bigger down the road.

"I have to be realistic right now," he said. "I want to get into the action early, tear it up and then maybe there's an offer from a D-I school."

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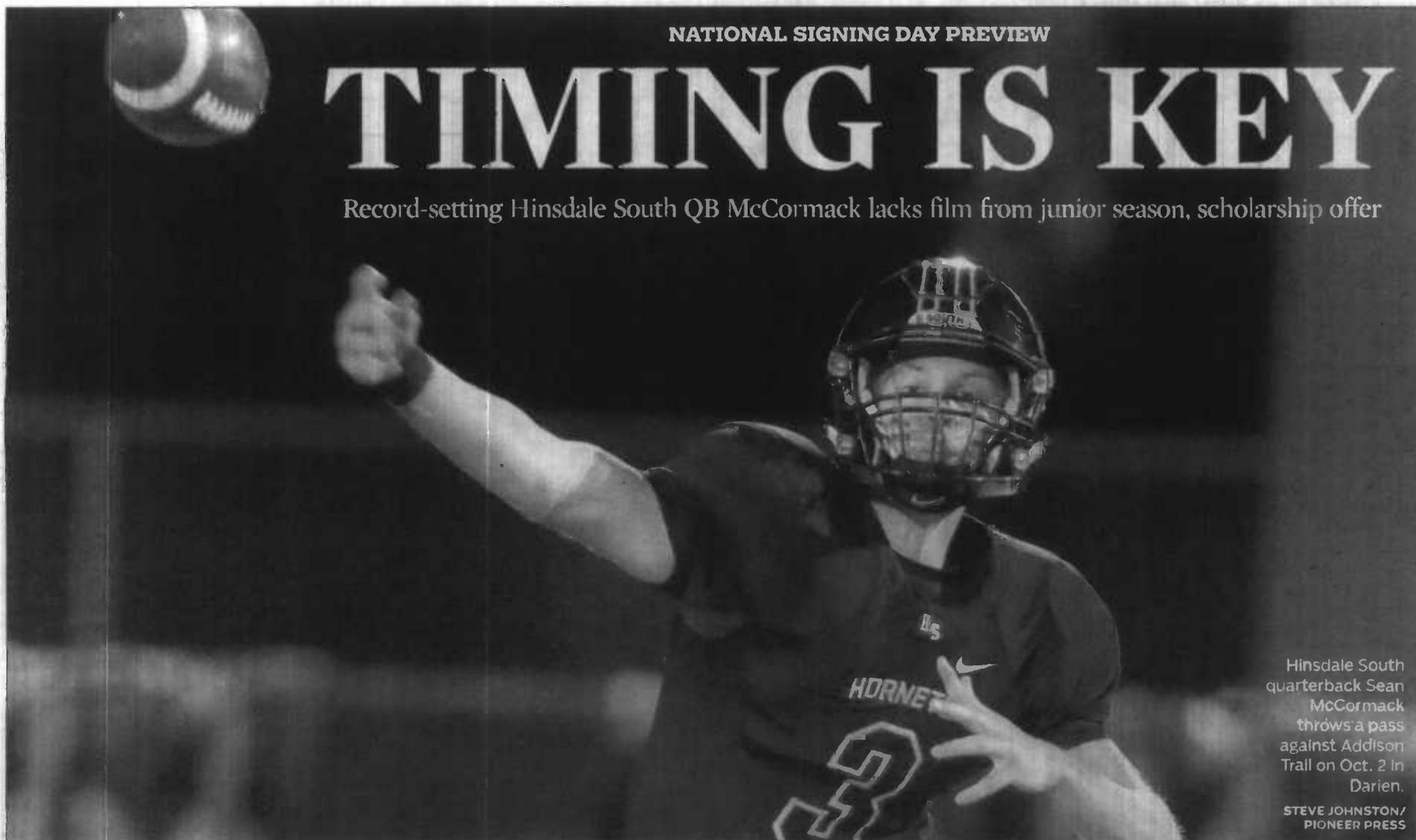
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Glenbrook North's John Clark runs for a touchdown on Oct. 9 in Deerfield.

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY PREVIEW

TIMING IS KEY

Record-setting Hinsdale South QB McCormack lacks film from junior season, scholarship offer



Hinsdale South quarterback Sean McCormack throws a pass against Addison Trail on Oct. 2 in Darien.

STEVE JOHNSTON/
PIONEER PRESS

BY GEORGE M. WILCOX
Pioneer Press

Sean McCormack broke career and single-season passing records for the Hinsdale South football team last fall, but even a great senior season might not be enough for a quarterback to get noticed by Division I college coaches given the realities of recruiting.

When the regular signing period for football begins on Feb. 3, McCormack does not expect to sign a National Letter of Intent with a Division I program. At 6-foot-5 and 195 pounds, McCormack might have the size to play at the highest level. And with over 3,000 yards passing in one season, he might have the passing ability. But recruiters are looking for more than one season of work when evaluating future talent.

Rivals.com recruiting analyst "Edgy" Tim O'Halloran said coaches often recruit quarterbacks based upon video of their junior seasons and, perhaps, after seeing them in on-campus summer camps before their senior years. While McCormack attended summer camps at Penn State, Iowa, Northwestern and Louisville, he rarely played for the Hornets as a junior

when he was the backup to Rob Regan.

"This position is evaluated earlier and earlier," O'Halloran said.

For high school seniors across the area who have long harbored dreams of playing Division I college football, signing day is a demarcation line that divides recruits. It's a day when dreams are celebrated and close to realized, but also a day that can highlight the need to change goals and shift focus.

McCormack is considering attending North Central College, a Division III program in Naperville. His triplet brother, Connor, who was a wide receiver for the Hornets last season and one of his brother's favorite targets, verbally committed to the school on Jan. 23. Sean McCormack visited Saint Xavier, an NAIA program on Chicago's Far Southwest Side, on the same day and was offered a roster spot.

But without any Division I scholarship offer from an FBS or FCS school, Sean McCormack said he will be waiting to hear from Michigan State and Penn State in the next few weeks to learn if he will be given a preferred walk-on opportunity. Both schools have reached out to Sean McCormack.

"It's trying to find that spot on where you

can play and get a good college and good education," Sean McCormack said. "It's stressful. You are waiting to hear from those big schools you are trying to attract. It's a process. It's something you have to go through and hopefully it will end up in my favor at the end."

According to Rivals.com, Michigan State has 20 members in its 2016 recruiting class and only one of them, Messiah deWeaver, is a quarterback. Jake Zembiec is the only quarterback in Penn State's 16-member recruiting class, according to Rivals.com.

"The quarterback position has limited opportunities and scholarships," O'Halloran said.

Sean McCormack led Hinsdale South to a West Suburban Gold championship and an appearance in the Class 6A state semifinals. He completed 62 percent of his passes for 3,041 yards with 35 touchdowns and 11 interceptions. He set Hinsdale South single-season and career records for his passing yards and touchdown passes.

"It's a fact that he came from out of nowhere this year," said John McCormack, Sean's father. "... Until the season unfolded, [recruiters] didn't know about him. It's no fault on anyone. It's a fact that he was under

the radar screen."

Sean McCormack is currently a starting forward for Hinsdale South's boys basketball team, so practices and games have prevented him from spending long hours in the weight room training for football. Every Sunday, he works out with quarterback trainer Jeff Christensen, usually throwing passes to his brother Connor McCormack at gyms or fieldhouses at Riverside-Brookfield or Hinsdale South. It is a Sunday routine Sean McCormack has followed since last summer. He uses Hinsdale South's artificial turf practice field when the weather is warmer.

John McCormack is aware of the realities of the college football recruiting scene, but he knows his son has dreamed about playing college football since he was a young child growing up in Burr Ridge.

"It's a little frustrating," John McCormack said. "I know Sean sees other quarterbacks he was certainly a lot better than in high school getting offers and making commitments while he's still on the outside looking in."

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NATIONAL SIGNING DAY PREVIEW

REGIONAL ROUNDTABLE

Seven of the area's top football recruits discuss their decision to play college football close to home

BY MATT HARNESS AND
GEORGE M. WILCOX
Pioneer Press

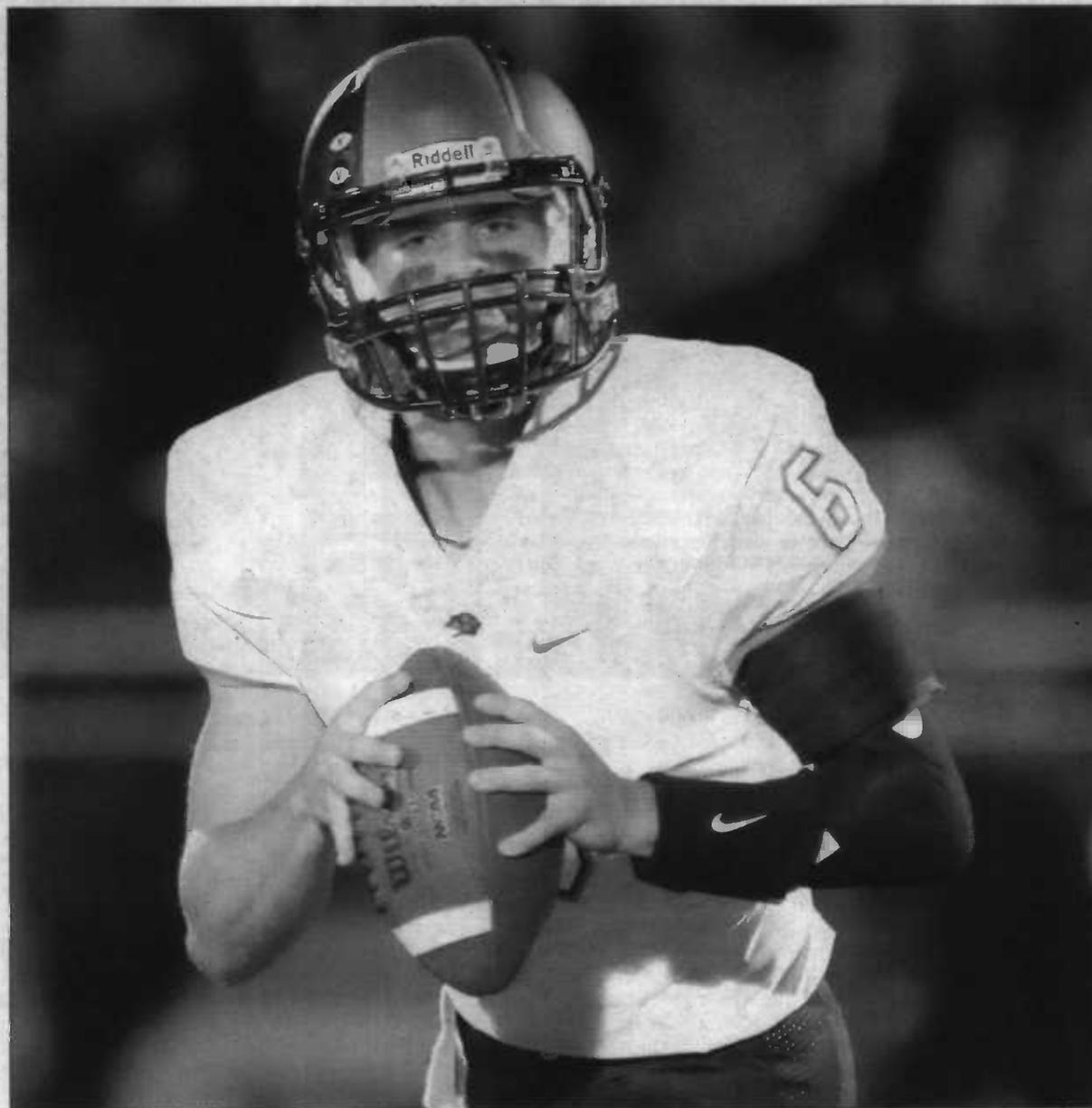
The 247sports.com list of top Illinois high school football recruits in the Class of 2016 is filled with names familiar to Pioneer Press readers: Hinsdale South defensive end Josh King, Evanston defensive tackle Nquan Jones, Carmel offensive tackle Sean Foster, Nazareth cornerback Julian Love and more. Many, many more. Of the state's top 50 players, 16 attend schools covered by Pioneer Press.

The list of recruits, complete with position, size, rating and college commitment, reveals a link: Many of the area's top players are staying close to home. Of the 16 Pioneer Press players on the list, 12 are attending college in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan or Ohio.

Ahead of National Signing Day on Wednesday, Feb. 3, Pioneer Press reporters interviewed King (a Michigan State recruit), Love (Notre Dame), Libertyville athlete Riley Lees (Northwestern), Niles North running back/linebacker Barrington Wade (Iowa), Evanston quarterback Matt Little (Western Michigan), Hinsdale Central center Matt Allen (Michigan State) and the 59th-ranked recruit, Loyola defensive tackle Ben LeRoy (Northern Illinois), to learn about the reasons behind their decision to stay close to home.

Q: Were you ever close to accepting an offer outside the Midwest?

Lees: I never received an offer from a school outside of the Midwest. The farthest school [that reached out] was Army, and it's in New York. It was all Midwest. I never thought about



MARK KODIAK UKENA/PIONEER PRESS

Libertyville quarterback Riley Lees, a Northwestern commit, looks downfield during a game against Zion-Benton on Sept.

location all that much. It wasn't that big a deal to me. I never thought about location specifically, never set out to look at a certain region.

Love: I wouldn't say close, but Boston College was in my top three.

Allen: No, not really. As

soon as Michigan State offered, I realized I always wanted to go there.

King: Not really. Going through the entire recruiting process, it was very difficult. When I made the decision, I feel I made the right one. Nothing has shown me different, other-

wise.

LeRoy: No, not really. I always wanted to go somewhere that was easy for my family to come and watch me play in person.

Little: Yeah, I was. There were a lot of schools outside of the Midwest I was interested in. There was one

from the South, one out West. My brother [Chris Little] plays in South Dakota [at South Dakota State].

Wade: I don't think so. I was talking to Arkansas once, but that was about it.

Q: How much of a factor did proximity to home play in your decision?

Lees: When I first looked at colleges, it wasn't on my priority list. During the season I didn't think about it, not focused on it. It kind of hit me during bowl practice in December (recruits could attend Northwestern practices before the Outback Bowl on Jan. 1). ... I drove down on a Saturday, drove home, then drove back again the next day. I was like, "Wow, that's a short drive." It didn't take anything out of my day. It hit me how this is such an advantage.

Love: Proximity played a crucial role in my decision because I wanted it to make it as easy as possible for my parents to travel to my games.

Allen: It wasn't that big of a decision considering that both my brothers are out there. Michigan State was already kind of a second home. It was easy thinking about being able to go there.

King: It played a great factor, really great. I'm going to a great university that is not that far from where you live. You can always travel back home to see your family. My family can always drive up to see my games.

LeRoy: It was big. It was extremely unlikely I would have gone to play somewhere far away, like past Michigan. I always wanted to stay near where I grew up. Just being able to see my family before games, in the stands, after games is something I want to experience. I loved having them there at Loyola games. I loved seeing them after games on the field. I want to replicate that at Northern Illinois.

Little: It was a plus. It's always nice to have a short

Turn to Recruits, Next Page

NATIONAL SIGNING DAY PREVIEW



STEVE JOHNSTON/TRIBUNE

Josh King



MATT MARTON/AP

Julian Love



BRIAN O'MAHONEY/PIONEER PRESS

Barrington Wade



JON CUNNINGHAM /PIONEER PRESS

Matt Allen



TAYLOR GLASCOCK /TRIBUNE

Matt Little



BRIAN O'MAHONEY/PIONEER PRESS

Ben LeRoy

Recruits, from Previous Page

distance to home and your family and friends. I would say the majority of my decision was finding the right fit, but it definitely would have been a little harder to be farther away.

Wade: I definitely wanted to be close to home to be near my family. They've already talked about wanting to come see some of my games, and it will be easier for me because Iowa is close.

Q: Are friends and family already making plans for tailgates and visits?

Lees: They kid and joke around about it. They'll say, "It's basically like we are playing in Libertyville." One of my brothers lives in Milwaukee. One lives in Grayslake. Another one will be going to DePaul next year. It's easy access for everyone. It's not like they have to drive a long way.

Love: Haha, most definitely. My whole support system has talked to me about tailgating for every game. It'll be a very fun and special experience.

Allen: (Laughs) Yeah, with Brian and Jack already being there, my parents already have their own little plan. My friends said they would come up and visit all the time, so it's really nice. Hopefully they will see a couple of games. The really big one is the Michigan game. That's probably everyone's big game too. I

believe it's in East Lansing [this year on Oct. 29].

King: Yes, sir. Yes, sir. Every day.

Little: Definitely. I know my mom already has been talking about coming out [to Kalamazoo]. A unique part about our schedule this year is that we play Northwestern in Evanston. I found out long after I committed, but that's going to be great. Really kind of awesome. It works out perfectly for people that know me.

Q: What do you see as advantages of playing close to home and in the Midwest?

Allen: What's kind of nice is that being close to home is a good thing, but at the same time getting away [from home] is a big thing also. My mother [Leslie] has a pretty tight grasp on me and my brothers when we're home — what time we should be home and stuff like that. This way it's a different experience. I know what I have to do first before I do fun things.

King: I'm used to it — I'm in the cold. I've been playing in it my entire life. The temperature and everything is the same. I don't really see anything great about picking a school that is near my home, but I don't see anything that will make me weaker about picking a school near home.

Little: I think the Midwest is a competitive region for football. It's always been tough on me, but I have

enjoyed the challenge. It's made me better. I think the weather is a factor. Being from here, I am comfortable with any kind of weather. But it's going to be a big change for someone from the South when it's freezing cold and snowing.

Q: With the recent success of Ohio State, Michigan State and Iowa, how close do you think schools in this part of the country are to matching up with schools in the South?

Love: I think that it differs every year. I think the Midwest is getting more recognition each year and the strength of schedule for Big Ten teams will just increase do to the rise in competition.

Allen: I think it's pretty close. The Big Ten has some pretty nice programs all around. I used to go on visits with Jack and Brian to see [other] schools and see all the progress they are making. A lot of the schools are pretty nice and I think they are doing pretty well.

King: I think really good. I think the Big Ten did extremely good this year. Conference wise, you have some really great teams, not only Michigan State, but Michigan had a great year; Ohio State, obviously they are always good. Iowa has been up. The Big Ten is a good conference. It's a great conference. It's not going anywhere.

Wade: I definitely think teams from the Midwest

have shown they are getting better and better and can play with those teams from the South. It was very exciting to watch Iowa play this year, but what they did didn't surprise me at all. I had a good feeling they were going to have a good season. I can't wait to get there and play for [the Hawkeyes].

Q: Is there anything that concerns you about playing close to home?

Lees: No. It's not like my parents are going to be hanging out in the dorm. College is college, and it can be 10 hours away or 10 minutes away. It's kind of nice being close to home and if I need to come home, I don't have to hop on a plane. It's more of a benefit.

Love: The only thing that concerns me is that my mom might visit my dorm unexpectedly... But then again, that won't always be a bad thing.

Little: Other than my mom coming up too much and being an overprotective mom? No, it's going to be great.

Wade: I don't think there are. One might be the distractions of having friends coming a lot and stuff like that, but I don't think that's going to be a big deal.

Q: What's the one thing you would've missed most if you went far away to school?

Lees: Probably not being close to my friends and family. I leave [for North-

Top area recruits

Listed in order of 247sports.com rankings

1. Josh King, Hinsdale South, Michigan State
2. Naquan Jones, Evanston, Michigan State
3. Daniel Joseph, Lake Forest Academy, Penn State
7. Sean Foster, Carmel, Iowa State
13. Julian Love, Nazareth, Notre Dame
14. Thomas Schaffer, Lake Forest Acad., Stanford
19. Noah Turner, Carmel, North Carolina
22. Riley Lees, Libertyville, Northwestern
24. Barrington Wade, Niles North, Iowa
27. Eric Eshoo, Loyola, Northwestern
28. Matt Little, Evanston, Western Michigan
32. Matt Allen, Hinsdale Central, Michigan State
39. Liam O'Sullivan, Maine South, Syracuse
44. John Shannon, Loyola, Notre Dame
48. Ben Kimpler, Libertyville, Miami (Ohio)
50. Tray Banks, Evanston, Miami (Ohio)

western on] June 19. A lot of kids don't leave until August. We can hang out and they can come down. It's a very accessible thing. If I was far away, they couldn't do that.

Love: I would've missed my family and the weather. I love my cold Midwest.

Allen: Probably my mom and dad. I know they would still come and visit me all the time. At the same time, it would be weird not being around them all the time. I'm usually pretty close with them at home. I'm with them almost every day my whole life. It would be a different experience. I don't know what to think of it yet.

King: I think my family. That would be really, really difficult for them to come

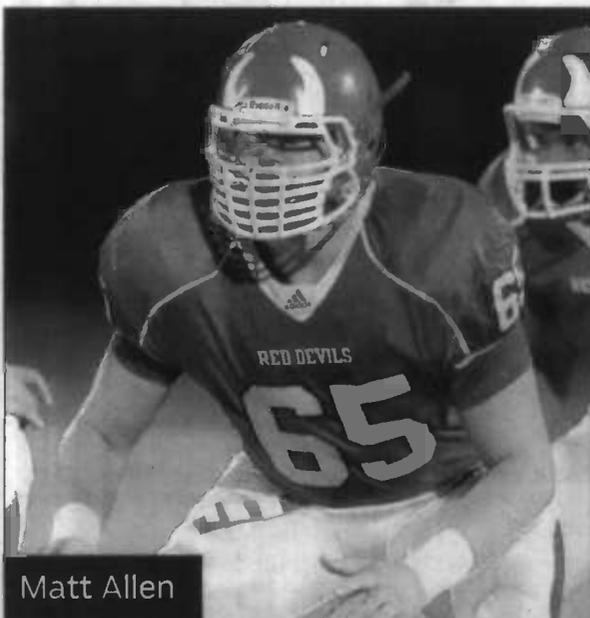
far. I would just miss them since I've been around them every day.

LeRoy: Probably finding places to eat that I like, small Midwestern restaurants that I am familiar with like Hub's. I also would miss home cooking. Northern Illinois isn't too far from my home.

Little: I don't think there's a better downtown area anywhere than Chicago. I would have missed having more chances to drive on Lake Shore Drive. You can't do that anywhere. It's a one-of-a-kind place.

Freelance reporter Jon J. Kerr contributed.

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Matt Allen



Barrington Wade

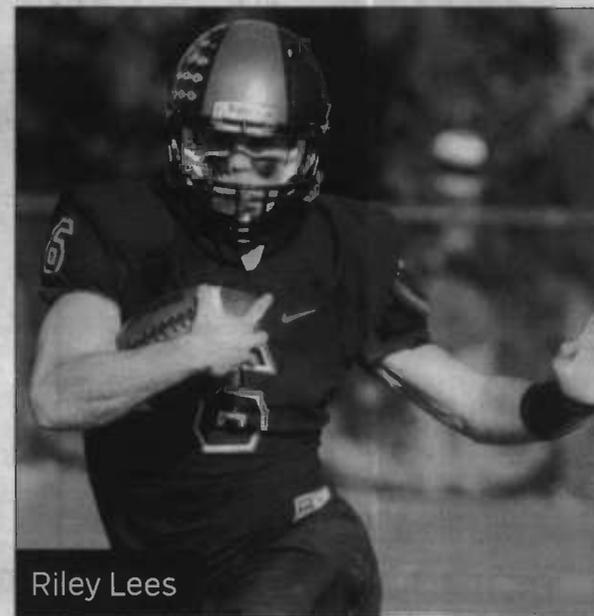


Matt Little



Josh King

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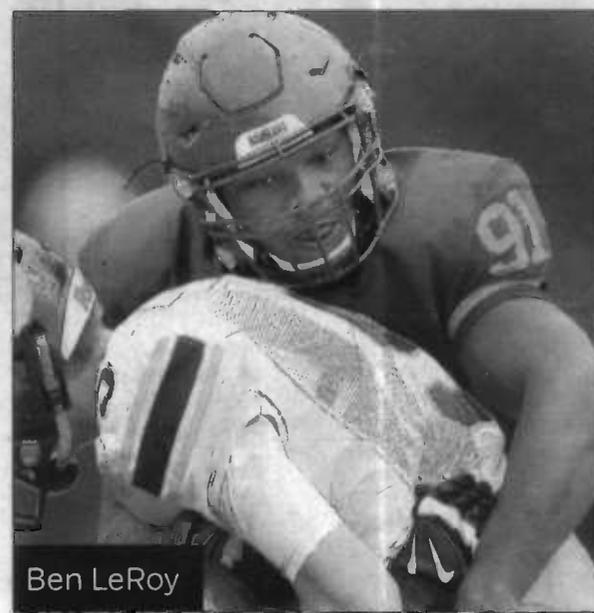


Riley Lees



Julian Love

The Pioneer Press coverage area has a number of top football recruits who are getting ready to make career-altering decisions on National Signing Day. *Inside*



Ben LeRoy

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