

NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR



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Thursday, February 11, 2016

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Setting priorities

District 219 interim superintendent talks transition, staff. **Page 4**



ABEL URIBE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

In January, the Niles Township High School District 219 Board of Education announced that it had appointed former Libertyville School District 70 Superintendent Mark Friedman as interim superintendent while it searches for a new leader.

SPECIAL SECTION



CAMP GUIDE

It's not too early to start thinking about summer camps. Check out this week's **Camp Guide** for exclusive details on picking the perfect summer camp. **Inside**



BRETT BEINER

GO

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SHOUT OUT

Ed McManus, Ethical Humanist Society president

Ed McManus is president of Skokie's Ethical Humanist Society of Greater Chicago, which is located near Howard Street and Lincoln Avenue. He lives in nearby Wilmette but regularly comes to Skokie. Pioneer Press recently asked him a series of questions.

Q: What do you or did you do for a living?

A: I was a reporter and editor for the Chicago Tribune, then an assistant Cook County state's attorney, then a manager at the Illinois Department of Human Services until retiring in 2011. I now do consulting work for disability agencies.

Q: When did you join the Ethical Humanist Society?

A: My wife, Ellen, and I joined the society in 2009, and I have been president for three years.

Q: What inspired you to join?

A: We had left the religion of our births and were searching for an alternative, and we found it in the society — a community of caring people with a rational philosophy

of life that emphasizes the worth of every human being.

Q: Where did you grow up?

A: Wilmette.

Q: Do you have any pets?

A: I have two cats, Puff and Magic.

Q: What book are you currently reading and what book would you like to read next?

A: "Go Set a Watchman" by Harper Lee. Also on my list is "The Last of the President's Men" by Bob Woodward.

Q: What was your first job?

A: I was a reporter for the Salt Lake Tribune.

Q: As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?

A: A newspaperman.

Q: What is a movie you'd recommend?

A: "The Good Wife" on TV. I can identify with so much of the show, having worked for both county and state government and the media. It is very skillfully done, and Julianna Margulies is an amazing actress.

Q: Do you have children?



PIONEER PRESS STAFF/PIONEER PRESS
 Ed McManus

A: We have one son and two daughters.

Q: What is your favorite charity?

A: ACLU.

Q: Do you have any words of wisdom?

A: Never say can't.

Q: What is your favorite local restaurant?

A: McCormick & Schmick's at Old Orchard.

Q: What is an interesting factoid about yourself?

A: I married a nun.

— Pioneer Press Staff Report

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ABEL URIBE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Last month the Niles Township High School District 219 announced that it had appointed former Libertyville School District 70 superintendent, Mark Friedman, as interim superintendent while it searches for a new superintendent.

D219 interim superintendent: North principal, smooth transition priorities

BY BRIAN L. COX
Pioneer Press

The interim superintendent at Niles Township High School District 219 has only been on the job for about two weeks but he said he is already working with staff to try and make the transition for a new superintendent easier while also handling the everyday tasks of the district.

Last month the Niles Township High School District 219 Board of Education announced that it had appointed former Libertyville School District 70 superintendent, Mark Friedman, as interim superintendent while it searches for a full-time candidate.

"I didn't bring too many boxes because I'm not here for the long run," Friedman said. "I'm spending a lot of

my time talking and getting to know people."

Friedman will serve as District 219 interim superintendent through June of this year, district officials said.

Friedman replaces the previous superintendent, Nanciann Gatta, who left the district under a cloud of controversy, including a district-lead internal investigation, late last year.

Assistant Superintendent for Operations John Heintz, who had been placed on paid leave along with Gatta last August, also stepped down during the course of the investigation.

Both Gatta and Heintz signed mutual separation agreements with the district that said they had done nothing wrong.

Friedman said he has served as interim superintendent in two other school

districts in the past and said coming in to temporarily take the reins of District 219 was not made more difficult by Gatta's sudden departure.

"There really isn't any difference other than the time lapse between when those actions were taken, which was August, and restarting in January," he said. "Things are getting done in this district. They have good support, good administrators, but they have all the jobs. They're juggling multiple responsibilities."

"That's a tough thing to do," he added. "I'm going to devote my energies to the superintendent role and then hopefully line things up ... to hopefully ensure the success for the new person who comes in. So it will be a transition or handoff kind of thing."

Friedman is a partner

with BWP and Associates, an educational leadership search firm in Libertyville, but he said his position there did not lead him to the interim superintendent position at District 219.

He said he was contacted about the position by a representative with the Illinois Association of School Boards and personnel within District 219.

"Basically they asked if I would just even talk to the School Board and if I was interested," he said. "I wasn't looking for a position ... but I met with the School Board and they outlined their needs. They really needed someone with experience in the interim kind of role because it is unique."

He said other priorities include helping to find a replacement for Niles North High School's principal,

Ryan McTague, who is leaving at the end of the school year to become the superintendent of McHenry School District 156, and helping make the transition for a new superintendent easier.

"The new person can come in and have a lot of the things we're dealing with right now be taken care of so her or she can get a fresh start when they begin in July," said Friedman. "The thing you don't want to do as an interim is you don't want to put to many things in place when you don't know what the new superintendent is going to think about that."

He also said like many school districts, District 219 is being forced to deal with various governmental mandates.

"I think the challenges are monumental when it



NILES TOWNSHIP HS D219

Mark Friedman

comes to outside interference from state mandates, to federal mandates, to local politics, to all that stuff," Friedman said. "That's a tough thing for sometimes the public to see, these outside pressures and how much they weigh on a day-to-day basis."

"I've always been out there saying if a district reaches a certain level of success they should be left alone," he added.

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



CHICAGO TRIBUNE/CHUCK BERMAN

A sign sits on the desk of a 3rd-grade teacher at a school in Naperville in this file photo. Officials in District 68 are wrestling with the problem of children from lower-income families lagging in achievement in school.

D68 takes closer look at closing achievement gap

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

When Skokie School District 68 educators recently took a deeper look at state student PARCC scores and compared results with other nearby districts, they said they were not surprised.

The results were similar to how their students performed on other state tests before PARCC came along, according to current and past results. Superintendent James Garwood said the results continue to indicate that socio-economic background plays a major factor in the achievement gap, which he said follows the conclusions of national and larger studies.

Socio-economic disparity has shown to be the most important factor contributing to the achievement gap, he said.

Garwood said he does not believe comparing scores among school districts is as useful as an internal analysis and measuring growth from year to year.

"For me, what's most important is that we compare ourselves to ourselves

so we are improving over our past," he said. But he presented comparisons with nearby districts at a recent meeting, he said, because the results offer some value in weighing factors that contribute to the achievement gap.

According to District 68 statistics, the district's overall PARCC scores — along with Skokie-Morton Grove School District 69 — remain on the low end of scores in Niles Township.

These two districts are also shown in PARCC results to have more student demographic "risk factors," such as low-income students. District 68's most recent state-mandated report card shows 52 percent of students in the district come from low-income families.

"Having means does make a difference," Garwood said. But the superintendent also insisted demographics cannot be an excuse to remain "satisfied with the status quo."

One conundrum, he said, is that a district's mission is to show achievement growth every year. If scores go up for everyone, he posited, how can the

achievement gap close?

"In order to close the achievement gap," he said, "we're expecting our least-resourced children to learn at a faster rate than children with more advantages and resources."

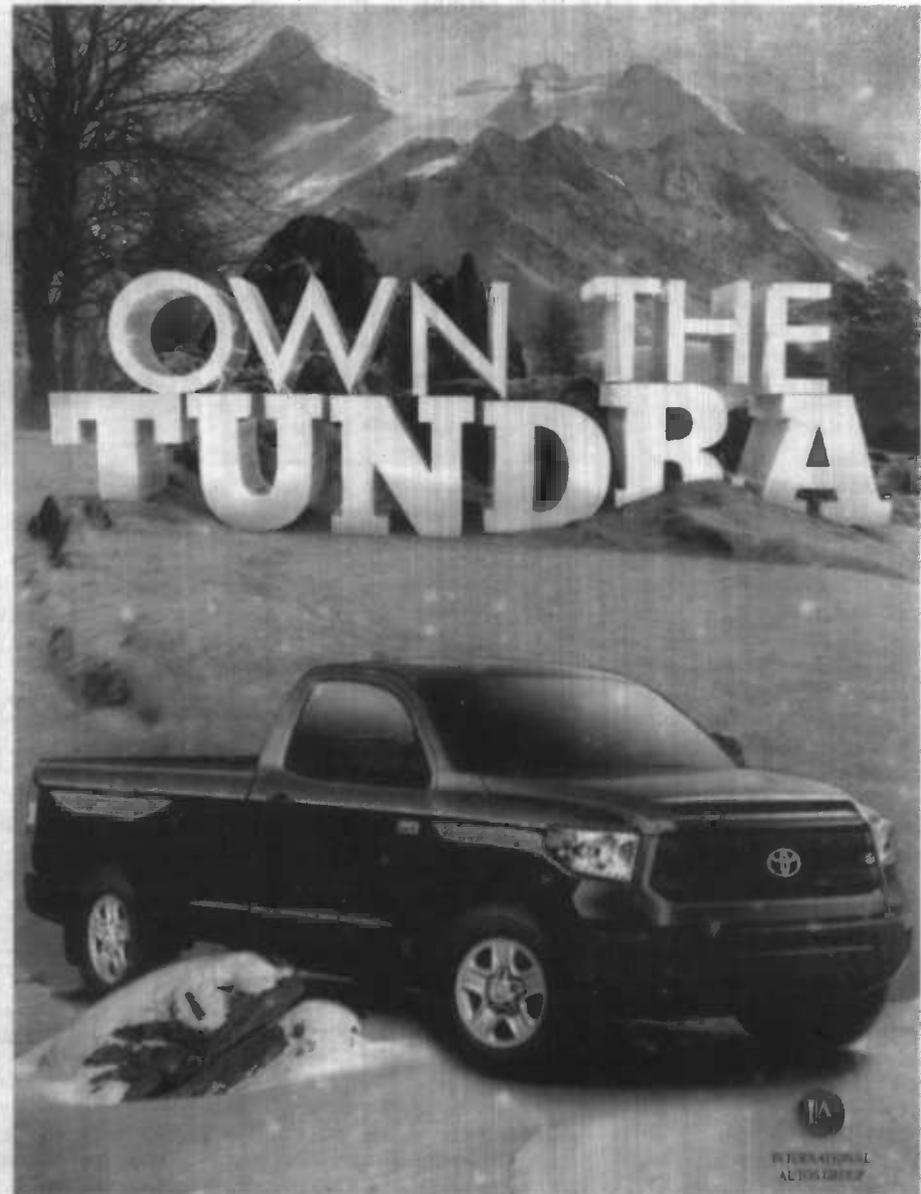
Garwood cited studies showing that children who live in poverty are not exposed to nearly as many words or reading materials as other students.

"What are we doing to help them?" he said. "That's really the big question."

District 68 no longer has reading specialists — only reading aides — unlike any other district where Garwood has worked, he said. The district might examine whether restoring reading specialists would be beneficial among taking a look at other ideas, he said.

Following a discussion, the school board agreed that the district's educational leadership team should look at this challenge more closely and consider ways to close the gap. The school board is expected to hear a report soon.

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Niles approves tax incentive for developer

BY LEE V. GAINES
Pioneer Press

Niles village officials on Jan. 26 approved a resolution in support of a Cook County tax incentive for a developer that plans to demolish the current facility at 7720 Lehigh Avenue and construct a modern industrial building in excess of 135,000 square feet.

Village trustees also approved a 6b agreement with the developer of the property, Molto Properties LLC, as a means to ensure the developer delivers what it's promised. Economic and Development Coordinator Ross Klicker said this is the first time such an agreement as been a component of a resolution in support of a 6b and such contracts will continue to be used in the future in the absence of a 6b



LEE V. GAINES/PIONEER PRESS

During their Jan. 26 meeting, village trustees approved an agreement with the developer of 7720 Lehigh Avenue.

clawback process at the county level.

In response to concerns from Trustee Joe LoVerde, Klicker said the village and Des Plaines staff have continued to advocate for and are working with county officials to allow communities with 6b properties to petition the county to revoke their status if developers or property owners do not

make improvements or meet employment quotas they promised in their applications for the program.

A 6b classification is designed to promote industrial development in Cook County by offering a property-tax incentive for "the development of new industrial structures, the rehabilitation of existing industrial structures and the industrial re-

utilization of abandoned buildings," according to a document from Cook County Assessor Joseph Berrios' office.

If the county approves the developer's 6b classification, the property will be assessed at 10 percent of its market value for 10 years, 15 percent in the 11th year and 20 percent in the 12th year. Without the classification, industrial properties are assessed at 25 percent of market value, according to the assessor's website.

In a memo to the village's Finance Committee, Klicker wrote that the tax revenue received from the Lehigh Avenue property during the life span of the 6b "would be maintained at a level that is similar to the property taxes collected on the property today." The total investment into the project by the devel-

oper is estimated to top out at \$11 million, he wrote.

Without the 6b incentive, Molto Properties has indicated it will not go forward with the redevelopment project and the property probably would remain vacant following the imminent departure of its three current tenants, Klicker wrote.

Following the meeting, Klicker said a breach of the contract by the developer would "give more support, if you will, to the village to ask the county to rescind the 6b if there were a reason to." He added that the county had never before revoked 6b status from a property. Klicker also said the agreement means the village could "seek legal remedies through the courts."

He said he does not expect the village to run into any trouble with Molto

Properties.

Mayor Andrew Przybylo, who urged trustees to approve the resolution and agreement, said that although the tax incentive program has its weaknesses, he doubted the village would have any problems with the redevelopment project proposed by Molto Properties.

Vice President of Molto Properties Michael Powers said in an interview following the meeting that his company plans to break ground at the site in late spring after the current tenants have vacated the building. He said he expects the new building to be completed by either the end of this year or sometime during the first quarter of next.

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

Police warn of ComEd scam

BY ALICIA RAMIREZ
Pioneer Press

Last month, a Niles resident was the victim of a scam that is a regular occurrence in Chicagoland, according to Niles police Sgt. Robert Tornabene.

Tornabene said the victim was contacted by an unknown person pretending to be from ComEd and demanding that the victim create an online credit card account to pay the overdue amount before power was shut off. The victim, while in line at a grocery store, created the online account via cellphone and was in the process of giving the credit card information to the scammer, Tornabene said, when a store clerk stepped in.

"The grocery store clerk said it sounded like some kind of scheme, and they ended up hanging up and the store was able to put them in touch with the online credit card company to put a hold on the card,"

Tornabene said.

Local police departments throughout the region have posted a warning about the scam on social media accounts such as Facebook pages maintained by the departments.

In Morton Grove, Cmdr. Paul Yaras said there had not been any reports of victims of the scam, but he is aware it is going on.

"We posted the warning on our Facebook page to try and warn people this is going on," he said. "Luckily, we haven't had any reports of anyone being a victim."

The scam begins with a phone call from a number identified as that of the utility or cable company via Caller ID. The caller then tells the person that they are behind on their bills and they could be arrested or their power, gas, water or cable could be shut off. To stop this from happening, the victims are then asked to purchase a Vanilla card, Green Dot card, MoneyGrams or even send wire

transfers through Western Union.

"As a result of the threat, some of these people just get so frazzled that they go and try to make these purchases so they can reduce the risk that they're going to be arrested in their mind," Tornabene said.

To avoid being caught by this scam, Tornabene recommends hanging up the phone and calling the utility company in question using the phone number listed on the resident's monthly invoice. The company will then verify the account and any questions the resident has can be answered.

"We average two to three calls per week saying that this happened, but because we're so active in getting that information out to residents, they'll say that they just hung up on the caller," Tornabene said. "This is something that goes on and is something that people need to be aware of."

Alicia Ramirez is a freelancer.

Niles HEROES sign up to shovel snow for elderly

BY ALICIA RAMIREZ
Pioneer Press

In November of last year, the Niles Senior Center launched its Neighborhood HEROES program that pairs people in need with able-bodied neighbors who volunteer to shovel their driveways after snow falls.

"Other municipalities have snow-shoveling programs and the mayor is really looking to build that community involvement and community networking initiatives in the village," Milcah Baraona, program coordinator, said.

As of February, the program has dispatched the volunteers only twice this year.

"We're not really concerned with a light dusting, but we've had two snow events over three

inches," Baraona said. "It's not like it's been horrible just yet, but we're trying to be proactive instead of reactive and getting the word out."

To sign up for the program, volunteers can either go online to the village website or stop by the senior center to sign up and fill out a waiver. For those requesting help, they can either stop by the senior center or call 847-588-8420 to have a waiver mailed to them.

"Right now we have more people in need than we do volunteers," Baraona said. "We have about 12 people who have requested services; about eight people who have completed the waiver process and from those eight, we need four more volunteers, but it's all contingent on getting that waiver back."

Once all of the paperwork has been filed, the senior center then pairs the volunteers with those in need, trying to keep the two homes within comfortable walking distance.

"We pair a volunteer up with that person for the duration of the snow season and I'm trying to do it where the people are within walking distance so if we do truly have a blizzard, nobody will have to worry about getting in the car and driving across town," Baraona said. "For the most part, the volunteers and neighbors are paired up within about two to four blocks of each other."

For more information about the program, see www.vniles.com.

Alicia Ramirez is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Man, 18, accused of Des Plaines area burglaries

CHICAGO TRIBUNE
Staff report

An 18-year-old man was expected to appear in court Feb. 7 accused of two home burglaries near Des Plaines over the weekend, police said.

Humberto Moran, of an unincorporated area near Des Plaines, was charged with two counts of residential burglary, according to the Cook



Moran

County Sheriff's Office.

At about 3:30 a.m. Feb. 6, sheriff's police responded to a report of a burglary in progress in the 9600 block of North Greenwood Avenue and learned a description of a suspect who was fleeing the scene.

After checking into a report of a suspicious person in an apartment complex in the 8600 block of Golf Road, they found

someone matching the burglar's description and he was identified as Moran, the sheriff's office said.

A wallet and other items were found near him that did not belong to him.

Officers learned there was a second burglary victim, and Moran was charged in connection with both, according to the sheriff's office.

Moran was scheduled to appear for a bond hearing the afternoon of Feb. 7 at the Leighton Criminal Court Building.

Cops: Morton Grove burglary leads to high-speed car chase

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

A Chicago man who police say burglarized a sleeping family's Morton Grove home, and took their BMW on a high-speed chase with police through Iowa the next day, was charged with residential burglary and possession of a stolen motor vehicle.

Jonathan A. Cortes-Rodriguez, 28, of the 5800 block of North Jersey Avenue, Chicago, was extradited to Cook County jail Feb. 1 from Polk County, Iowa, where he had been held since July 29. Police said a day earlier, he entered a home on the 7500 block of Arcadia Street and stole the keys to the family's car, along with electronics, and \$500 in cash.

An Iowa State Patrol officer spotted the stolen silver 2005 BMW X3 after it was identified as matching the description of a stolen vehicle mentioned in an alert sent out by Morton Grove police the day before. A high-speed chase ensued near Des

Moines, police said, and Cortes-Rodriguez eventually crashed the SUV and was taken to a nearby hospital.

The family whose home was burglarized identified two laptop computers that were recovered in the vehicle, police said. Police also said they found a check belonging to one of the victims.

The night of the burglary, police said the homeowner told them he had fallen asleep on a couch in the basement at about 11 p.m. and woke up at 4 a.m. to find both the front and back doors of his home open.

His wife and two grandchildren were sleeping upstairs, according to police, when Cortes-Rodriguez allegedly entered the home through a first floor window sometime after midnight.

Police said they found an overturned garbage can under the window. The resident said he was unsure if it had been left unlocked, but fingerprints found on the exterior window frame

indicated the window had been slid open, according to police.

Cortes-Rodriguez pleaded guilty to charges related to the car chase that had been filed against him in Iowa. He was extradited to Illinois after he served a six-month sentence in Iowa, according to a police report.

Cortes-Rodriguez had been released from the Dixon Correctional Center in downstate Illinois three days before the burglary in Morton Grove, police said.

Niles police had interviewed him regarding a stolen vehicle investigation on July 27, the day before the burglary, but he was released without being arrested. Police said they later found out he had given a false name to the officer who interviewed him.

Cortes-Rodriguez is being held in Cook County jail and is scheduled to appear before a Cook County Circuit Court judge on Feb. 29.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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POLICE REPORT

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

BATTERY

■ Peter Hoffer, 25, of the 1300 block of Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge, was charged with domestic battery, criminal damage to property and possession of drug paraphernalia on Feb. 1. According to police, Hoffer was accused of denting a woman's car when he pushed her into it. When Hoffer was placed in a squad car after being arrested on battery charges, police said he hit his head against the car window multiple times. While at the Police Station, officers said, Hoffer threatened several officers and threw feces around the cell in which he was placed. He was also allegedly found to have pipes used for smoking marijuana. Hoffer remained in Cook County Jail with bond set at \$20,000. He has a Feb. 16 court date.

THEFT

■ Catalytic converters were re-

ported stolen from cars Jan. 28 in the 8500 block of Milwaukee Avenue; Jan. 29 in the 8100 and 8700 blocks of Osceola Avenue and the 8200 block of Oleander Avenue; Feb. 1 in the 8600 block of Milwaukee Avenue.

■ Fifteen wooden pallets were stolen Feb. 2 between 3 and 5 a.m. from behind a business in the 5700 block of Touhy Avenue, police said.

■ A man's wallet was stolen Feb. 3 from a fitness center in the 6300 block of Touhy Avenue, police said. A credit card was reportedly used to make a purchase of \$131.88 from a store in the same block.

OVERDOSE

■ Officers responded to the 8500 block of Golf Road to assist paramedics on a call of a heroin overdose in the parking lot, police said. A 24-year-old woman from Hawthorn Woods was reportedly transported to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. The woman, who was not identified by police, was ticketed under a village ordinance for the cost of emergency services.

Semi overturns, closes Edens ramp

BY NATALIE HAYES

Pioneer Press

A semitruck overturned late in the morning of Feb. 3 on the eastbound Touhy Avenue ramp near Lincolnwood as the driver attempted to exit from the Edens Expressway, closing the ramp for three hours before Illinois State Police reopened the roadway at 2:30 p.m., authorities said.

No one was injured in the single-vehicle crash, which involved a semitruck carrying 43,000 pounds of laminate floor tiles, according to Master Sgt. Jason Bradley of the Illinois State Police.

When the driver attempted to take the exit, the trailer flipped on its side, according to Battalion Chief James Barnett of the Lincolnwood Fire Department.

"He was going way too fast for the turn," Barnett said. "The materials the trailer was carrying were very heavy, so when the load shifted as he made the turn,



KEVIN TANAKA/PIONEER PRESS

It caused it to turn over on its side." The trailer was "completely demolished" following the crash, Barnett said.

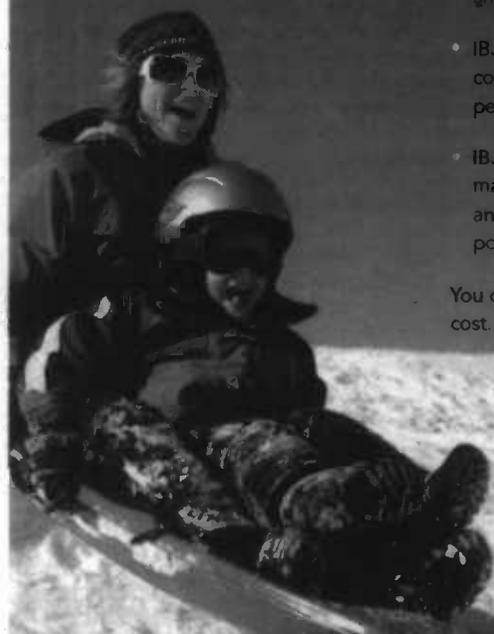
The 23-year-old driver of the truck had not been cited for the accident as of the afternoon of the incident. A passenger who was inside the cab with the

driver refused medical treatment at the scene and was released, according to Barnett.

Vehicles traveling near the eastbound Touhy ramp were temporarily rerouted westbound on Touhy.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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**WRITERS
THEATRE**

Park Ridge fire prompts smoke detector reminder

By JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

An apparent lack of working smoke detectors inside a Park Ridge apartment that caught fire Feb. 3 has the city's fire chief concerned about other residences in the city.

The fire was reported around 2:20 a.m. on the second floor of the three-unit building at 1635 W. Ballard Road, according to fire Chief Jeff Sorensen.

"It's just so apparent that this was a near fatality for the residents," Sorensen said. "This is a clear indication that people need to check their smoke detectors and make sure that at the time of day they are vulnerable, they have some type of protection."

Sorensen said one of the two residents of the second-floor apartment called 911 after waking up to the sound of glass breaking and discovering the fire. The resident, a woman, initially had difficulty getting out of the apartment, Sorensen said, and was aided by a downstairs neighbor who stood on top of a barbecue grill and helped her climb out of a rear window.

The male resident is also believed to have escaped the apartment through a window, Sorensen said.

Smoking is suspected as the cause of the fire, which produced more heavy smoke than flames and was contained to the living room, Sorensen said. The fire appears to have started on a couch, he said.

No injuries were reported. Damage was estimated by the Fire Department at about \$70,000. The resident of the first-floor unit was allowed to return to his home and the unit on the third floor is currently vacant, Sorensen said.

Because the apartment didn't have working smoke detectors, Sorensen said, the Fire Department is reaching out to other residents in the neighborhood. Firefighters are providing free smoke alarms and offering to check if existing alarms are working properly, Sorensen said.

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The Fire Department is also using the Ballard Road fire to remind all Park Ridge residents to make sure they have both smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors and that they test them regularly and replace them when expiration dates have been reached.

Sorensen said he hopes to obtain grant funding in order to establish "a more comprehensive smoke detector program" in Park Ridge and provide even more citizens with smoke detectors.

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PARK RIDGE FIRE DEPARTMENT

Second-floor residents of this apartment building at 1635 W. Ballard Road escaped a fire on Feb. 3 by climbing out a rear window, Park Ridge fire Chief Jeff Sorensen said.

Plaza approved for former Jack's Corner site in Skokie

By MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

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"We're going to call this Jack's Corner," said Mitch Goltz, of developer GW Properties, pointing to a drawing of the new sign. "A lot of people including my parents have grown up going here, and it's the right thing to do."

Although Jack's, which lasted some 50 years on the west end of Touhy in Skokie, is well known, the plaza will also occupy two adjoining properties the developer purchased. One was home to a realty office building and the other an auto parts shop.

"It just turned out that all three owners had owned the properties on average for 40 years," said Goltz. "In all of my experience in real estate, it's the first time I've seen three adjacent owners own (properties) for that long of a time."

When the project went before the Skokie Plan Commission late last year, only the Starbucks was identified as a tenant for the plaza. Since then, Goltz said, European Wax Center, Aspen Dental and a pet supplies store have joined the lineup.

During the Plan Commission hearing, representatives of both nearby Fairview South Elementary School and Hillel Torah North Suburban Day School, respectively located on the 7000 and 7100 blocks of Laramie, raised concerns about a potential increase in traffic — especially heading south on Laramie.

Since Laramie dead-ends, Goltz said Feb. 1, he doesn't anticipate a major increase in traffic heading south. To address any potential of traffic backup, he

said, he and the neighbors support eliminating four parking spaces on Laramie to provide an additional lane. Goltz said he met with Laramie neighbors in January.

Development plans call for the plaza to be constructed in two buildings of 10,000 square feet and 6,900 square feet. The drive-thru entrance to the Starbucks will be located between the buildings, and most of the traffic queue will be hidden from view, the developer said.

A 6-foot-tall wooden fence will screen the property line to the south, offering separation between the restaurant and the schools on Laramie, according to developer plans.

Village Trustee Ralph Klein still raised a concern about the

Starbucks location.

"The concern I had is that there is a small curve there right now with a steep incline down to the parking lot of the school," Klein said. "Right now, there's a 4- or 5-inch curb, and when snow comes, it's easy to jump the curb."

But Community Development Director Peter Peyer said the properties would be sufficiently separated by the new fence and landscaping.

The Village Board approved three measures in addition to the site plan associated with the project — a zoning change to consolidate the three purchased properties and two special use permits for the drive-thru lane and outdoor dining at Starbucks.

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Police: Skokie traffic stop leads to felony charges

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

Felony charges have been filed against two men who were pulled over Jan. 26 in Skokie for driving with an expired license plate on a vehicle that turned out to be stolen, Skokie police said.

Patrick M. Allen, 32, of the 1300 block of Pine Valley Drive, Schaumburg, was charged in connection with a burglary that occurred Dec. 29 on the 4700 block of Howard Street in Skokie. Allen was also charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle, possession of a controlled substance, and resisting or obstructing a peace officer. Police said he also had an arrest warrant against him for possession of a stolen motor vehicle.

Eduars A. Jacquin, 27, of the 7300 block of North Damen Avenue, Chicago, was charged with forgery, possession of a stolen

motor vehicle, criminal trespass to a motor vehicle and possession of drug paraphernalia.

The men were stopped on the 4800 block of Oakton Street, according to police.

Skokie police said in a news release they conducted an "in-depth investigation" with assistance from police departments in Chicago, Elk Grove Village, Arlington Heights, Aurora, Des Plaines, Mount Prospect, Schaumburg, Palatine, Itasca, Villa Park, Glenview and Westchester that led to the charges.

Police said the U.S. Postal Inspection Service also provided assistance.

Bond for Allen was set at \$2,500, and for Jacquin at \$10,000, police said.

The suspects are scheduled to appear in court Feb. 17, according to police.

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SNAPSHOT

Blackhawks Night in Glencoe

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

Approximately 100 people attended the third annual Blackhawks Night on Feb. 5 at the Watts Ice Center in Glencoe, where the festivities included skating, broom ball and an appearance by Watson, the Glencoe Park District's polar bear mascot.

"Every year we get more people," said David Johnson, facility manager with the park district.

"Anybody who has a chance to put on Blackhawks gear, they're more than willing to come out."

Karie Angell Luc is a freelancer for Pioneer Press.



KARIE ANGELL LUC/PIONEER PRESS

Two friends had Watson, the Glencoe Park District's mascot, to themselves before a crowd formed to welcome him during Blackhawks Night at the Watts Ice Center on Feb. 5. On left is Page Durkin, 10, of Glencoe, and on right is Kylie Domaleski, 9, also of Glencoe.

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Photo credit: St. John Lutheran Church & Early Learning Center

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NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR

Village considers changes to 'vicious' list

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

Lincolnwood officials recently recommended that pit bulls no longer be labeled in village code as "vicious" based solely on their breed.

After consulting with four veterinarians, who officials said all agreed that the breed-specific language found in some village codes is an ineffective way to determine a dog's propensity for aggression, Lincolnwood will likely remove its language defining the dogs as vicious.

The consensus among village trustees, during the Feb. 2 Committee of the Whole meeting who weighed in on the issue, was to revise the town's existing local dog ordinance so that it no longer singles out pit

bulls. As the current code stands, other types of dogs must have bitten a person or another animal to be classified as vicious.

"The recommendation is to remove the breed-specific language to not declare any specific breeds as vicious," Village Manager Tim Wiberg explained. "That dog only becomes vicious as a result of its actions."

Another provision recommended by the board exercises the village's home rule authority to remove judicial responsibility in dog bite cases from the county and put them into local control, so that a hearing officer appointed by the village would have the authority to rule in such cases instead of a county judge.

The village still has laws

in place help authorities designate dogs as dangerous or vicious based on their behavior, and officials said the village's new stance on pit pulls doesn't threaten the safety of the community.

The review of Lincolnwood's local dog regulations was prompted by a pair of separate pit bull attacks that occurred in the village last year, the first of which left a dog injured. In the second incident, a small dog last July was killed by an unleashed pit bull as a group of kids looked on.

After the attack, the police department asked the village to adopt a clearer set of guidelines for dog enforcement, officials said.

Aside from changes to the process for ruling on dog bite cases, the new laws add specificity to the defini-

tions of which types of behavior are considered dangerous or vicious.

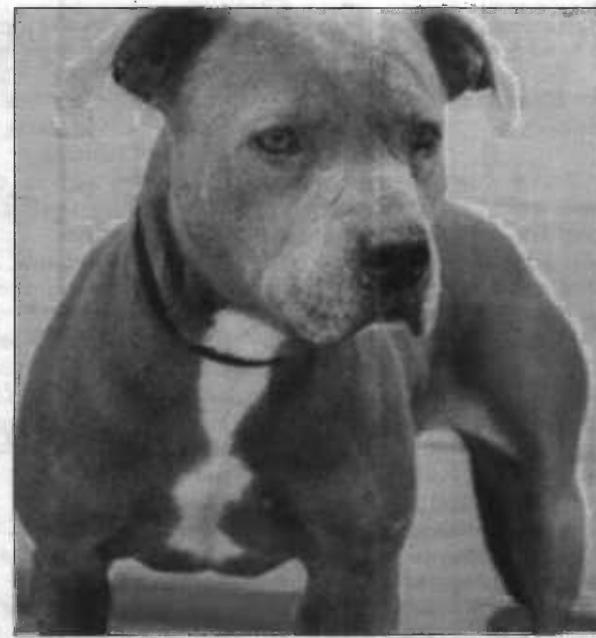
Animal law attorney Marcia Kramer said she was "delighted" to see new provisions and hopes the city of Chicago will eventually follow suit.

"We hope Chicago will follow your progressive language," Kramer said. "I think this is an excellent ordinance and it's something I feel very proud and comfortable about having in the village of Lincolnwood."

No one has spoken out publicly against the proposed changes.

The Village Board will take a formal vote on the ordinance during an upcoming meeting in February or March.

Natalie Hayes is a freelancer.



SOUTH SUBURBAN HUMANE SOCIETY

Anastasia is a 5-year-old pit bull mix who is extremely affectionate and friendly, according to the South Suburban Humane Society.

Citing Airbnb, Lincolnwood passes restrictive regulations on short-term rentals

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

Lincolnwood recently passed new regulations restricting property owners from renting out homes for short periods of time, citing complaints linked to rental apps like Airbnb.

A raucous Super Bowl party hosted in a Lincolnwood home last year rented through the popular short-term rental service set off a discussion among village officials on how to regulate such services.

"People rented the house out for a party one night — it was a big house and it was a blowout party, and that was what the neighbors were complaining about," Village Manager Tim Wiberg said during the Feb. 2 Village Board meeting. "The people at the party wanted to party at a house they didn't have to worry about owning."

Several similar complaints trickled into Village Hall last year, prompting a



JUSTIN SULLIVAN/GETTY IMAGES

The Airbnb app displayed on a smartphone.

realization among village officials that the town lacks a proper set of ordinances to address short-term rentals.

"It's my opinion that if the village does nothing,

that we're in uncharted territory, perhaps gray territory, about whether or not we can regulate that," said Steven Elrod, attorney for the village of Lincolnwood. "We don't have forceful

ways to deal with it."

The new ordinance does not regulate which and how many homes in Lincolnwood are advertised on Airbnb. The village also doesn't plan on keeping

track of compliance, officials said.

It does, however, provide an explicit definition of short-term rentals—language that never came into play before Airbnb took off. By adding a definition for short-term rentals, the village will be able to better address problems associated with homeowners who repeatedly rent out their homes, officials said.

The new ordinance defines a short-term rental as a building that is rented for less than 30 days. Because the village doesn't have a proactive enforcement policy, officials said, it will be up to residents to notify the village of unwanted activity.

"Our enforcement is primarily complaint-based, so there's no active department that goes out and searches for any active code violations," Elrod said. "We do respond on a complaint basis, though, so when there's a complaint, this gives us the ability to con-

duct better enforcement."

Airbnb and other similar services, like Vacation Rentals by Owner, first got their footing in urban areas when they were launched a few years ago, but the trend is now moving into the suburbs.

Lincolnwood is the latest town to adopt a zoning ordinance in an attempt to gain some level of control over transient renters entering its neighborhoods.

Other municipalities in Chicagoland, including the villages of Lincolnshire and Wilmette and the city of Evanston, have either passed or have begun to consider similar measures to place local regulations on short-term rentals.

In Evanston, people renting out their living spaces for a period of less than a month are required to get a license, according to the city's planning department.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

ARCADIA

WRITTEN BY **TOM STOPPARD**

DIRECTED BY ARTISTIC DIRECTOR **MICHAEL HALBERSTAM**



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Skokie firm hit with foreclosure suit over Purple Hotel

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

The Skokie real estate investment company that had planned to redevelop the former site of the Purple Hotel in Lincolnwood has been hit with an \$11.5 million foreclosure lawsuit, court records show.

A Toronto-based mortgage lender is suing the developer, North Capital Group, for defaulting on a \$10.2 million loan against the property that was taken out in May 2014.

In the foreclosure complaint, filed Jan. 19 with the Circuit Court Clerk of Cook County, Romspen Investment Corp. asks a judge to order foreclosure on the former Purple Hotel property at Touhy and Lincoln avenues. The suit also asks a judge to order North Capital Group to pay \$11.5 mil-



PHIL VELASQUEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Bricks from the Purple Hotel in 2013 during its demolition.

lion plus \$4,792 in interest per day starting Dec. 15, 2015 through the day of the final court ruling.

Romspen Investment Corp. alleges North Capital Group defaulted on its loan agreement when the maturity date passed last June without it being paid off. In the suit, the lender also claims North Capital Group failed to pay property taxes on the parcel of land in 2014.

Neil Stein, principal of

North Capital Group, declined to comment on the lawsuit.

North Capital paid \$8.3 million for the Purple Hotel in a bankruptcy auction in 2012. The village last year had offered a financial boost to help the development get underway. Stein and his team of joint venture partners would have received \$33.5 million in subsidies from the village toward their plan to rebuild the

now-vacant former Purple Hotel site into a \$135 million mixed-use retail development anchored by a Springhill Suites hotel.

The financial incentive package offered by the village was less than Stein's original request, however, and the offer was contingent upon the Village Board's approval of a final planned unit development agreement. The development never made it that far, however, and it was never finalized before Stein formally pulled out of the deal in late 2015.

There could be some hope left for the Purple Hotel property, however.

A shopping mall developer from Cleveland, Stark Enterprises, approached the village last November with plans for a \$174 million mixed retail/residential development with 133,000

square feet of retail space and nearly 400 residential units.

Ezra Stark, chief operating officer for Stark Enterprises, said the foreclosure suit didn't come as a surprise to him, and said he didn't think it would affect his plans to redevelop the property.

"We knew this was going to happen — it's why we became involved — because North Capital Group was distressed," Stark said. "We want to get all the sides to work together and benefit from the outcome."

It would likely delay its sale, however. In the suit, Romspen asks the court for possession of the mortgage or to appoint a receiver for the property, which could be Stark Enterprises depending on whether the three parties are able to reach a deal.

Stark estimated it could take nine months to a year before a potential deal is worked out.

Stein is scheduled to appear at the next Village Board meeting on Feb. 16, when he is expected to ask for an extension of a Feb. 20 deadline requiring North Capital Group to meet certain restoration requirements on the property, Village Manager Tim Wiberg said.

As deadlines imposed by the village have come and gone, local officials have already granted several extensions to allow the company to avoid penalties.

"We allowed them to delay restoring the site because we thought development was imminent," Wiberg said in an email.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

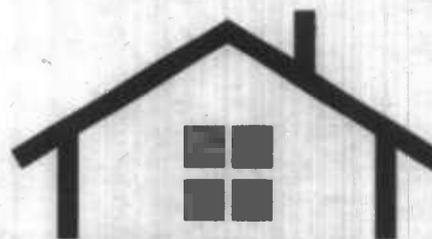
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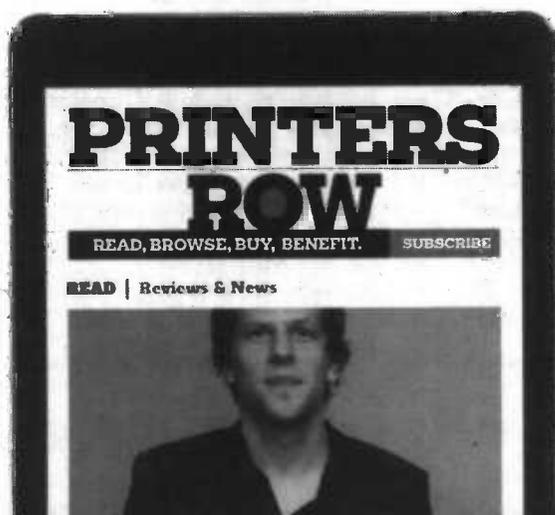
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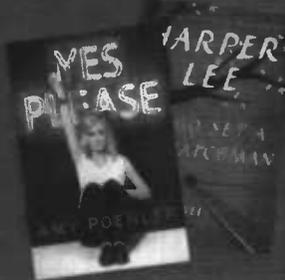
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NEWS

Skokie allots grants with less estimated funding

By MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

A funding plan calling for federal grants for eight social service programs and eight construction projects was approved last week by the Skokie Village Board — despite having an estimated 7 percent less to work with this year, officials say.

Each year, the village takes on the difficult task of divvying up federal funding under the U.S. Housing and Urban Development's Community Development Block Grant program. Village officials say the task gets harder every year because of estimated diminishing funds being available.

"CDBG proposals from both village staff and outside agencies totaled \$675,091, so reductions are necessary to meet the estimated budget," CDBG Administrator Carrie Haberstich said.

That estimated budget stands at \$495,315, which means village staff had to create a plan eliminating more than a quarter of the in-house and outside agency funding requests.

"Every year it seems to be a challenge, and this year I think it was especially a challenge," Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen said.

In deciding on CDBG funding, Skokie also is restricted by a 20 percent cap for administrative costs against the new entitlement and a 15 percent cap for social service programming against the entitlement and any program income.

The latter cap exists because CDBG funding was designed primarily as a bricks and mortar program, officials say. Nevertheless, in recent years, the village has received more funding applications for program services because state aid has been slashed, they said.

As part of the process in prioritizing social service



MIKE ISAACS/PIONEER PRESS

Turning Point Behavioral Health Care Center held its 14th annual town hall meeting last year at the Skokie Public Library, exploring the impact of the political and economic climate on mental health services.

applications this year, Skokie incorporated a new four-tier system recommended by HUD.

Tier one programs are for agencies the village depends on daily, tier two for agencies recommended as needed, tier three for agencies important but not critical and tier four for agencies to which other resources are available, according to HUD.

Skokie awarded funds for services only to tier one- or tier two-designated agencies, according to the approved plan. Maine-Niles Association of Special Recreation and Center for Enriched Living, both designated as tier three agencies, and Access to Care, a designated tier four agency, were denied funds this year although they have received CDBG funding in the past.

Grants awarded to agencies for services ranged from \$10,000 for North Shore Senior Center, a designated tier one agency, to \$3,000 for Children's Advocacy Center, a designated tier two agency.

A grant for services of \$25,000 was also awarded to help pay for the partial salary of a Skokie social worker. The village also earmarked \$90,000 for administrative costs associ-

ated with the CDBG program.

In total, grants for services and programming totaled \$69,047 compared with \$336,268 for construction projects.

The village's largest grant went to its own street resurfacing program at \$175,000. Its home improvement program was awarded \$64,268.

Outside agencies that were awarded CDBG grants for construction projects included CJE SeniorLife, Turning Point Behavioral Health Care Center, Search Inc., Orchard Village and Asian Human Services — Skokie Clinic.

SHORE Community Services was shut out in its application for a parking lot improvement.

Haberstich said the exact federal entitlement is still not known so changes might have to be made. Should the village receive more funds than are expected to be allocated, it has plans in place as to how the money should be further divvied, Haberstich said.

"All funding is intended to assist low- and moderate-income Skokie residents," she said about the grant program.

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Winnetka's Thomas Bassett house slated for demolition

Former farmhouse was built in the 1860s

BY BRIDGET O'SHEA
Pioneer Press

The house at 461 Maple St. has been standing for almost as long as Winnetka has been a village. One of the oldest houses in Winnetka, the house, also known as the Thomas Bassett house, has reached the end of its long life.

Built in the 1860s as a small farmhouse, the home was originally owned by Thomas Bassett, one of the first village council members in Winnetka. The house is now slated for demolition.

"This is probably one of the oldest structures in the village," said Louise Holland, former village president and chair of the landmark preservation commission. "It's very sad, but



BRIDGET O'SHEA/PIONEER PRESS

Winnetka's Thomas Bassett house at 461 Maple St.

there's not much more we can do. The village won't extend the wait period on a historical home that we don't want to be seen torn down."

But Sean Freeman, founder and president of Highland Park-based Twenty9 Inc. Construction, sees it differently.

"It's a rich history and a

long history and I know that people get emotional when things get torn down," he said. "We understand some people are upset, but because something has a date on it doesn't make it significant. It didn't line up with any of the other homes and that's unappealing. From a neighbor and city perspective, the way the house sits

is awkward."

Freeman said the new, mostly stone structure that will replace the Thomas Bassett house would be roughly the same square footage (38,000 square feet) but will sit further back on the lot.

"It's going to fit in more as a new home than it did as an old home," he said.

Freeman said it wasn't just the exterior of the existing home that made it unappealing.

"It was not well maintained," he said. "There's no bathroom on the first floor. It just wasn't prudent to take that home and try to remodel it."

The home's most recent owners were Mary and Richard Larkin, according to a village house file. In the file, Richard Larkin said the house was in "embarrassingly bad shape" before he left Winnetka for Florida

last year. As for the home's history, Freeman said an exhaustive study of the home did not say if one of Winnetka's founding fathers resided there.

"Did one of the founding fathers of Winnetka live there? I don't recall that," he said.

But Holland said the study did find that 461 Maple St. was the home of Thomas Bassett. The village file also stated the original owner as Thomas Bassett.

"In the body of the study is the whole story of Thomas Bassett living in that house," Holland said. "He [Freeman] should just look at the report that he commissioned and paid for."

Freeman, however, said he wants to look more toward the future of a property and its prolific location, en route to parks and beaches.

"Cherry and Maple is an

important corner," he said. "Our goal is that when you go by Maple and Cherry, people won't know it's a new home. It's not going to be one of those vanilla box homes. It will fit in with the rest. Whether you've lived there for two years or two generations, I think people will agree that the aesthetics of the home are very pleasant."

Patti Van Cleave, executive director of the Winnetka Historical Society, said while she recognizes that the Thomas Bassett house has history, she agrees that it makes more sense to build a new structure in its place rather than remodel.

"It's an old house, but I didn't see anything about it that would be significant," she said.

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Lincolnwood mulls video gambling risks, rewards

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

A corporate-owned chain of video gambling cafes that have been sprouting up in the Chicago area ever since the state legalized gaming more than six years ago has asked the village of Lincolnwood to consider allowing local video gambling.

The village of Lincolnwood never technically banned video gambling — it just hadn't been considered until now because none of the village's liquor-license holders had asked for it, according to Village Manager Tim Wiberg. The way the state law works, municipalities have to take the initiative and adopt their own local ordinances, he said.

Des Plaines-based Laredo Hospitality, a company that owns and operates a string of gambling cafes called Stella's, has its eye on a small strip mall on Devon and Crawford avenues for its next location, officials said. If it eventually passes the hurdles to open, Stella's would be the newest tenant of the shopping center occupied by CVS, Baskin Robin's, and H&R Block.

During a Feb. 2 Committee of the Whole meeting, Laredo Hospitality's chief operating officer, Charity Johns, gave her sales pitch for Stella's. Johns said the



CHRIS WALKER/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The gaming room at Bringer Inn in Morton Grove in 2012.

"cafe-style" concept attracts customers in the 40- to 70-year-old range who enjoy gambling.

"Our customers aren't typically big drinkers," Johns said. "They're careful about their money so they like to be in control while they're gaming."

Under state law, only establishments that hold liquor licenses are able to apply for a set number of gaming licenses determined by local officials. The owner of the venue can apply for up to five gaming machines for one location. As long as the bar

operator passes the Illinois Gaming Board's criminal background check and pays the necessary fees, they'll be issued a gaming license.

As of December of last year, there were just over 22,000 gaming terminals scattered across the state in 5,200 liquor-serving establishments, according to the Illinois Gaming Board.

While some municipalities have rejected video gaming because of the negative stigma associated with it, the towns that have embraced it have seen big payouts thousands in additional revenue per year. In Schiller Park, gaming raked in an extra \$57,845 in extra revenue for the town in 2015. Oak Forest took in \$233,043 last year, while Oakbrook Terrace made \$128,800, according to a revenue report from the Illinois Gaming Board.

The state's share of the video gambling payout in 2015 was \$228.4 million, according to the board.

Under the state's gaming laws, the municipality gets 5 percent of the cut from the total losses from the machines, while the bar owner and the gaming terminal operator each get 35 percent. The state takes 25 percent.

Village officials who attended the meeting — which only excluded Mayor Jerry Turry and

Trustee Barry Bass — agreed Lincolnwood could use the additional revenue gaming brings in, but some cautioned against the potential impact it could have on the town's family-focused image.

"It would be pretty safe to assume that all the establishments with liquor licenses in the village would be interested in a gaming license," Trustee Jesal Patel said. "We don't want to have this sort of gambling fatigue — we don't want to see it everywhere."

With 28 locations registered with the Illinois Gaming Board, Stella's has a heavy presence in the state's video gambling scene.

The gaming machines—only five would be allowed under the state's gaming act—are kept in a back room. The gambling area would have individual gaming stations with movable ottomans designed for "social gaming with friends," according to marketing materials from Laredo Hospitality.

Johns said Stella's planned to apply for a liquor license only if the village approves an ordinance to allow video gaming.

The Village Board is expected to continue the video gaming discussion at the March 1 regular board meeting.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Property owner plans to sell or lease short-lived Jaffa Bakery space

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

The opening of Jaffa Bakery in Lincolnwood last spring was a milestone for owners Abdul Eweida and Amanda Correa, who said last March that they spent six years struggling with the village over signage and building codes, before the Chicago couple was finally ready to open the deli and bakery on the corner of McCormick Boulevard and Devon Avenue.

The large group of public officials, residents and local business owners who packed into the restaurant to celebrate its grand opening on April 28 likely never would've guessed the new deli would make it less than a year.

An eviction notice issued by the Cook County sheriff's office in November now hangs on the glass doors facing Devon. All the signage is gone, and the inside of the 6,000-square-foot space is dark and quiet.

"Jaffa Bakery unfortunately closed in early November as a result of eviction action taken by the property owner when monthly payments were not made," said Aaron Cook, development manager for the village of Lincolnwood.

Correa and Eweida could not be reached for comment.

The couple had entered into a contract with property owner Mike Levine to acquire the building, but failed to fulfill the terms of

their lease agreement, according to the village.

Levine has since informed the village of his plans to sell or lease the space at 3300 W. Devon Ave. to a new developer, but nothing has materialized yet.

Lincolnwood Mayor Jerry Turry opined last year that the opening of Jaffa Bakery had made local history.

"This was the longest single-running [development] project in the village's history," Turry said last April. "But he stuck with it without losing his cool, and he deserves a very long and prosperous run in this village."

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.



NATALIE HAYES/PIONEER PRESS

An eviction notice is plastered across the front door of Jaffa Bakery, 3300 W. Devon Ave. The owners were evicted after failing to meet the terms of a contract with the property owner, records show.

9-year-old chef a culinary Mozart



PAUL SASSONE

There are a few tricks to every trade. My trade was newspaper editor. And one of my tricks to lighten the workload during holidays was to stockpile copy that could be plugged in to save time.

For instance, as Thanksgiving approached, I'd collect recipes for how to cook a turkey from grade school kids. It was cute and put local names in the paper.

The recipes were, of course, pretty awful. A recipe for a turkey salad sandwich, I remember, consisted of putting a slice of turkey on bread with lettuce (salad) on top.

But, after all, these were just kids.

Addison Osta Smith is a kid. But there need be no allowances made for the food this 9-year-old creates. Addison is the winner of this year's MasterChef Junior competition.

The series brings together pint-sized prodigies from across the country to compete for a title, a trophy and \$100,000.

Since Addison is from River Forest, I developed a rooting interest and followed the series to her ultimate triumph.

What did she make that won her the contest? Her three-course meal consisted of:

Appetizer: Sake-marinated shrimp with a seaweed, sea bean, sour plum and puffed rice salad.

Entree: Lobster and crawfish etouffee and a miso-glazed black cod dish.

Dessert: Green tea panna cotta, crumbled cookie and bruleed plums.

What have all these

dished and ingredients in common?

That I haven't eaten any of them.

In fact, I don't know what any of them are.

Wait, wait, I think cod is what they make fish sandwiches out of at Culver's.

Addison's accomplishment is dazzling. How does a 9-year-old know about coconut ginger broth?

The answer, of course, is that there is no way of knowing what brilliant people know.

Addison is a culinary Mozart.

The mind boggles at what she will create in her future career.

I am not a culinary — or any other kind of — Mozart. But I know Addison will create a lot more than a turkey salad sandwich.

Congratulations, young lady.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for *Pioneer Press*.



GREG GAYNE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

River Forest native Addison Osta Smith was declared the winner of season four of the "MasterChef Junior" reality competition in the show's finale that aired Jan. 29 on Fox.

When did politicians get so angry?



RANDY BLASER

This presidential election year is quickly becoming the year of the angry voter.

All the pundits, including me, are wondering: Where is this anger coming from?

I think I found out where. It struck me last week as I watched the results of the Iowa caucuses.

It's the candidates, I thought. They all sound like Howard Beale, the madman of the airwaves satirized in the movie "Network," who urges viewers

to shout: "I'm as mad as hell and I'm not going to take this anymore."

Donald Trump is all bombast, even saying he could kill someone on the street and he wouldn't lose any support.

Sen. Ted Cruz celebrates his win in Iowa by giving glory to God before going into a boring lecture about taking the country back.

Sen. Bernie Sanders, no matter the context, devolves quickly into fed-up uncle who rants about the social inequalities today.

And former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton wound herself up into a frenzy before spewing a litany of campaign slogans, as if saying them louder and louder in an angry tone would keep her from

sounding incoherent.

Maybe, as a people, we're just tired of being shouted at and lectured about how to live as if we're too stupid to know any better.

I don't know anyone who wants to wreck the environment, or treat others unequally, or pay women less for the same thing a man does, or wants to give away the country to our enemies or deny health care to anyone.

And most of us know the difference between good people whose religion happens to be Islam, and a fanatic who wants to cut your head off.

Yet, the candidates talk to us as if we are children, as if yelling is the only way to get through our thick skulls.

When did this angry politician stuff start?

To get a better idea, I looked up some famous speeches of the past to see how politicians used to talk to us.

In the most tumultuous political years ever, Sen. Robert Kennedy spoke softly, and laughed at himself and his campaign, before reminding us that "in the last analysis," we can come together as a country.

What about President Richard Nixon and his bitter almost swan song in 1962 when he told the press they "won't have Nixon to kick around, anymore?" He was angry and bitter, but he didn't shout or treat the press as if they were idiots or less than human.



MATT ROURKE/AP

Republican presidential candidate Donald Trump

Same with President Ronald Reagan's "I am paying for this microphone ..." lecture in 1980, where he raised his voice for emphasis, but he wasn't rebuking voters.

Sen. George McGovern, who could be considered the political godfather of

today's Bernie Sanders, pleaded "Come home, America!" in 1972, but he didn't berate us.

The difference, I think, is the advent of the television sound-bite, coupled with social media's demand for the quick and pithy comment on Facebook or Twitter.

In today's world, clever counts, not introspection or serious thought.

Bobby Kennedy ended a speech on the night Martin Luther King died by quoting his favorite poet, Aeschylus. I can't imagine Trump pronouncing Aeschylus, or even having a favorite poet or being acquainted with any poet.

Come to think of it, I don't think he's alone on that one.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for *Pioneer Press*.

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OPINION

HEART OF THE HOME

No property taxes for some injured veterans this year



FELICIA DECHTER

A new law taking effect this year gives severely wounded U.S. military veterans who live in Illinois an impressive property tax break, with some vets even being completely exempt from taxes in 2016.

Although a property tax exemption for disabled vets. has been in effect since 2007, the new law applies to more disabled vets and provides greater tax savings than was the case in prior years.

Under the new law, passed last year, the most severely wounded veterans will not pay any property taxes at all.

It's one of those proposals that was hard to turn down, said Oak Park Township assessor Ali ElSaffar.

"Someone who is severely wounded and served their country — you want to help those people out," ElSaffar said.

Veterans with a disability of greater than 70 percent are now completely exempt from paying any taxes. In addition, disabled veterans with a level of disability of 30 to 50 percent are now eligible for a smaller exemption for the first time this year (Before the change, the cut off was 50 percent). There is no tax saving for those under 30 percent disabled, ElSaffar said.

About 2,500 veterans in all of Cook County received the exemption in prior years, he said. Out of the millions in Cook County, legislators felt the tax break wouldn't unduly burden other folks, ElSaffar said.



PATRICK RAYCRAFT/TRIBUNE NEWSPAPERS

U.S. Sen. Richard Blumenthal, D-Conn., greets veteran Greg Caron. Caron's legs were amputated below the knee in 2011.

"It's not huge numbers, but for those in that situation, it's a good deal," ElSaffar said.

Homes with a market value last year of \$917,000 or more are not eligible for the exemption. If a disabled veteran dies and is survived by a spouse, the spouse can retain the exemption until he or she remarries. ElSaffar urges all disabled veterans to check the eligibility requirements under the new law.

"I think it's a good program," ElSaffar said.

To qualify for the disabled veterans exemption, a property has to be owned and occupied by a vet with a disability connected to military service. The service-connected disability also needs to be certified with a letter from 2015 or 2016 from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, which determines the extent of a veteran's disability.

Because the property tax bills are automatically generated, disabled vets who are completely exempt from paying taxes this year will nonetheless receive a first installment tax bill that is 55 percent of their total property tax bill from last year.

Once second installment bills come out in July, how-

ever, the veterans will be eligible for a refund of the amount paid for the first installment. Veterans with questions about first installment bills should call their township's assessor's office, ElSaffar said.

Vets who received the exemption last year will receive renewal forms in late January that have to be returned by March 2. Renewal applications also must include the letter verifying the disability extent. Those who did not apply for the exemption last year will not get an application in the mail.

Most suburbs have property tax caps, ElSaffar said, and most suburban areas this year will see a 1 to 2 percent increase.

However, "That's not true of Oak Park and River Forest," ElSaffar said. "It'll be more like 6 percent. That's after you get your second installment bill."

Applications can be found online at the Cook County Assessors Office. Anyone in Oak Park with questions can feel free to call ElSaffar at 708-383-8005.

Felicia Dechter is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press. Got a real estate-related story idea? Email write12@comcast.net.

MAMA'S GOTTA MOVE

A Valentine's Day love letter



**NICOLE
RADZISZEWSKI**

Last February, I wrote myself — or rather, my body — a love letter. I was nine months postpartum after baby No. 2, celebrating my 31st birthday and truthfully, not in love with my body. I'm terrible at positive self-talk, so I figured I'd put up a more convincing argument on paper.

When I started writing, I wasn't sure where it would take me. I didn't know if I'd ever embrace my postpartum self, but I knew I needed to try — not to try and "get my body back," but to try and love mine as-is.

The crazy thing is, writing this letter and making it public on my blog held me accountable. I knew I needed to walk the walk. I was not going to preach body positivity and self-love and then secretly wage war with my scale.

So I didn't. I put the scale in the back of my closet and hid my skinny jeans in a box with my maternity clothes. I refused to equate movement with calories, and instead of stressing about workouts, just started moving with my kids. I filled my social media feeds with the most body-positive people I could find, and stopped following anyone who posted #fitspo pictures of their abs. I practiced mod-

eration, even when I wanted to take things to extremes. I trusted my body, listened to it, moved it, cared for it and made it stronger. This past year, I've loved my body not for how it looks or what it can do, but for being a part of me. And for all of this, it loves me right back.

I'm sharing an excerpt from my letter to inspire you to write your own. Tell your body what you adore about it, be thankful, be sensitive, be encouraging, be whatever you need to be. It just might be the love letter you need to receive this Valentine's Day.

*Dear Body,
What an incredible year it's been! Last year at this time, you were growing a tiny person inside. I hope you'll never forget the feeling of little feet pressing up against your belly, the sensation of never being alone — even at your quietest moments ...*

... I struggled with my expectations of returning you to your pre-pregnancy shape. I was annoyed that you couldn't move the way I wanted to move, but also that you needed to eat SO much. But every time I considered cutting calories, you reminded me that you still have a HUGE job. I'd look at my happy, healthy, squishy baby and we'd be back on good terms.

We're still kind of going through this, aren't we? I'll push a little too hard, and you'll come back and teach me a lesson. Lately I'm listening to you sooner and it

seems to be working out.

I'm learning to accept and embrace a new version of you, rather than comparing you to the body you were two years ago or any time before that. So much has changed about both of us over the years. You've been with me since I was a chubby baby; a skinny and uncoordinated pre-teen; a pudgy product of the college bar scene; an injury-ridden runner; a woman on a mission to get strong; and of course, now a mom of two beautiful boys.

Someday, I might spoil you with daily strength-training sessions or weekly long runs — and you might respond with a half-marathon personal record or rock-solid abs. And someday, we'll be doing Silver Sneakers workouts at a community center, and I'll just be grateful you can still squat.

Dear body, you've brought me this far, here's to the long haul!

*Love,
Nicole*

Support from other mamas is priceless — let's do this together! Share your love letter with me and I'll share it on my blog and Facebook page, and perhaps in a future column. You can email it to me at nicole@mamasgottamove.com.

Nicole Radziszewski is a freelance columnist. She lives in River Forest and is a certified personal trainer and mother of two. Check Nicole out on Facebook at www.facebook.com/mamasgottamove.

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Theatre Week offers chance to see shows for less

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Theater lovers can pick up real bargains during Chicago Theatre Week. More than 100 theaters will sell tickets for performances from Feb. 11-21 for \$15, \$30 or less.

Turns out the week is a wonderful deal for theaters, too.

"It's a great way to participate in the wider Chicago theater community — and the community's so vibrant," said Jennifer Green, artistic director of Piven Theatre Workshop. "Last year, we highlighted the improv festival and it was really successful for us."

The Evanston-based theatre company is showcasing its improv festival again, offering \$10 tickets to "Anytime/Anywhere: The 2nd Annual Piven Improv Series," which opens Feb. 13. For more information, see www.piventheatre.org.

"Chicago, in my opinion, is the greatest theater city in America, with a strong community," declared Jackie Kranenberg, director of marketing for Drury Lane Oakbrook. She



ZACHERA WOLLENBERG/ZW PHOTOGRAPHY CHICAGO

Piven Theatre Workshop in Evanston is participating in Chicago Theatre Week again this year with the improv festival, "Anytime/Anywhere."

praised the event as an opportunity for people to visit favorite theaters and discover new ones.

This is the first year that Drury Lane Oakbrook is participating in Chicago Theatre Week. "We're so excited," Kranenberg said. "We feel like we're joining together with dozens of other theaters in the Chicago area to showcase the talent and passion of the artists in our city."

Drury Lane Oakbrook is

offering \$30 tickets to "Bye Bye Birdie." For ticket information, see www.drurylaneoakbrook.com.

Jim Jarvis, vice president of marketing and sales for Paramount Theatre in Aurora said they are participating in the event because, "We want to support all the great theaters of Chicago and support the League. I think it's important for every theater, no matter what size you are or

what you do, to be a part of this stuff."

Response to Chicago Theatre Week has been so great that only a limited number of tickets are available for Paramount Theatre's production of "Hair-spray" at \$30. See www.paramountaurora.com.

Below is a list of other suburban theater companies participating in Chicago Theatre Week, which is presented by the League of Chicago Theatres in

partnership with Choose Chicago. For a full list of participating groups — including Goodman Theatre, Chicago Shakespeare Theater, Broadway in Chicago and the Lyric Opera — visit www.chicagotheatrewk.com.

Chicago Theatre Week suburban theaters

■ 16th Street Theater, Berwyn, "Yasmina's Neck-lace," \$15, www.16thstreettheatre.org

■ The Actors Gymnasium, Evanston, "Marnie & Phil: A Circus Love Letter," \$15, www.actorsgymnasium.com

■ Citadel Theatre, Lake Forest, "Educating Rita," \$15, www.citadeltheatre.org

■ First Folio Theatre, Oak Brook, "Jeeves at Sea," \$30, www.firstfolio.org

■ James Lumber Center for the Performing Arts at the College of Lake County, Grayslake, "The Peking Acrobats," \$30, www.clcilinois.edu/aboutclc/depts/jlc

■ MadKap Productions at

Skokie Theatre, Skokie, "Beau Jest," \$15,

www.madkapproductions.com

■ Metropolis Performing Arts Centre, Arlington Heights, "The 39 Steps," \$30, www.metropolisarts.com

■ Northlight Theatre, Skokie, "Mothers and Sons," \$30, www.northlight.org

■ Rembrandt Chamber Players at Nichols Concert Hall at the Music Institute of Chicago, Evanston, "Romantic Sonatas," \$30, www.rembrandtchamberplayers.org

■ Thodos Dance Chicago at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, Skokie, "Chicago Revealed," \$15 or \$30, www.thodosdancechicago.org

■ Williams Street Repertory at Raue Center for the Arts, Crystal Lake, "Tenderly: The Rosemary Clooney Musical," \$15, www.wsrp.org

■ Wirtz Center at Northwestern University, Evanston, "A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum," \$15, www.wirtz-center.northwestern.edu

■ Writers Theatre, Glen-coe, "Marjorie Prime," \$30, www.writers theatre.org

Directing 'Treasure Island' a natural for tall ship captain

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Devonshire Playhouse is taking to the high seas with an original adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's "Treasure Island" by director Orion Couling. It's a natural fit for Couling, who is a licensed tall ship captain.

Couling first fell in love with the book when he was a child. His interest was sparked again during an early tall ship trip.

"When I was sailing with the captain I was trained

beneath, I said, 'What's the single book that you feel really captures why you do what you do?'" Couling recalled. The captain's answer was, "'Treasure Island' all the way."

Couling reread the book during a tall ship journey and discovered he loved it as much as he had when he was a child. He was drawn to the honesty of the lead character, Jim Hawkins, a 14-year-old boy who sets sail in search of a treasure and finds himself involved with pirates, mutiny and mayhem. Eight years ago,

Couling created this stage adaptation, using as much of the language from the book as possible.

The adapter did make a couple of major changes. "I knew that I wanted to have strong female characters in a play that has almost none," said Couling, who has three sisters he describes as "incredible people."

One way in which he solved this was to create a character named Kate to share experiences with Jim. Teens Connor McWard and Evanston res-

ident Ezra Steinberg rotate the role of Jim; teens Alexis Reis and Esther Segal share Kate's part.

Couling also changed Ben Gunn, a former pirate marooned on Treasure Island, into a female character.

Long John Silver, the cook who leads a band of pirates, is still a man, though.

Jason Clark is enjoying playing the infamous, complex character.

"The way he goes about things is very under-handed," Clark reported.

"He seems like a great guy who's going to be your best friend — is going to help you as much as he can — until you realize he's the one who's been causing the discord the entire time."

When Jim becomes the cabin boy, Long John Silver "takes Jim under his wing and tries to teach him the ropes," Clark said.

Since director Couling is also a nationally recognized stage combat instructor you can expect some exciting swashbuckling scenes. And there's sea shanties, too!



DEVONSHIRE PLAYHOUSE

Devonshire Playhouse is performing "Treasure Island" in Skokie Feb. 13-28.

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DANCE

Thodos Dance presents new works in 'Chicago Revealed'

BY SAMANTHA NELSON
Pioneer Press

People from around the world have made their homes in Chicago, and Thodos Dance Chicago is paying tribute to that diversity and its impact on the arts with their production "Chicago Revealed," which runs at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie on Feb. 20.

"I think it's a very rich place creatively and to live," said Evanston native Melissa Thodos, who founded the dance company in Chicago 24 years ago. "Revealing Chicago through dance seemed like a very logical thing based on my background and the company's history in Chicago."

Looking to provide diverse perspectives on the city, Thodos handpicked guest choreographers who wrote pieces that will make their world premieres in the show's second act. Kevin Iega Jeff, artistic director of the African American dance focused Deeply Rooted Dance Theater developed "Red Lines/Blue Horizon" based on the idea of Chicagoans discussing their home after he spent time with his company traveling to four different neighborhoods. Robyn Mineko Williams, who has been a member of Hubbard Street Dance Chicago for 12 seasons, explores music in Chicago with her piece "At the Apex."

"They have really spent an immense amount of time here in Chicago as professionals and have really invested much of their career and development here, as have I," Thodos said.

The show's first act is "Sono's Journey," a piece written by Thodos about the life and career of Japanese-American dancer



CHLOE HAMILTON

Ensemble member Shelby Moran opens Thodos Dance Chicago's "Sono's Journey," which celebrates the life of legendary Japanese-American dance artist, Sono Osato.

Thodos Dance presents, 'Chicago Revealed'

When: 7:30 p.m. Feb. 20
Where: North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie
Tickets: \$28-\$50
Contact: 847-673-6300; thodosdancechicago.org

Sono Osato that was first performed in January at Chicago's Auditorium Theatre.

"Sono's journey, combined with these contemporary perspectives, is meant to bring an enriched view of our city and reveal parts of our city that folks may not know much about," Thodos said.

Thodos also explores her own background with the piece "Thio Kosmos," which draws upon the choreography and music from her 2007 work, "Anasa." The original piece was inspired by a fire in Greece that year and dedicated to its victims, using the disaster as a lens for a historical look at the country and the rise and fall of civilizations.

"You grow up in a Greek household, but you go out into the world and it's a completely different world, but you're informed by this deep cultural past," she said. "(Thio Kosmos) addresses the nuances of what it means to be culturally Greek and living in America."

Along with exploring her own culture, Thodos' also found inspiration in discussions with other members of Chicago's Greek community.

"I interviewed many Greek Americans to get their perspective on what it means to be a Greek American, what it means to be American, how life in Greece currently has affected them," she said.

Thodos hopes that "Chicago Revealed" will give audiences a newfound respect for the city.

"Having grown up here and lived in different places in the country and the world I think it's one of the richest cities in terms of culture, in terms of art," she said. "I'm so excited about the guest artists that we have who are sharing their perspectives of Chicago and revealing their creative work."

MUSIC

Father, son musicians hold court at Skokie Starbucks

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

You wouldn't expect to find a crowd of people happily spending Saturday night at a Starbucks in Skokie. But that's what happens whenever the featured performer is either Miles Zabin or his dad Jerry Zabin.

Guitarist and singer Miles, 27, known professionally as Tiny Miles (because he's 6'5"), has been performing solo music periodically at the Starbucks in Skokie on Dempster and Karlov for about six years. Trumpet player Jerry has brought groups there for a dozen years.

Music is Miles' full-time career; for Jerry, it's a serious avocation.

Miles began playing music when he was about 8, taking a few saxophone lessons at Skokie's Devonshire School. At 11 or 12, he switched to guitar.

"As soon as I could play a few chords, I started a band," he said. "The first show was in my folks' back yard but after that we had some nice acclaim in Evanston playing at a place called The Vineyard." They also played at Tommy Nevin's Pub in Evanston. He currently heads the Tiny Miles trio.

"I started with rock and roll and then broke it down and got to the root of all of it which is rhythm and blues, American music," Miles said. "That's what I've been singing since I was about 19."

Miles studied communications at DePaul University but quit to focus on his music career.

He performs weekly at the Rhythm Room in downtown Evanston and has also performed at Honky Tonk BBQ in Pilsen, Paramount Theatre in Aurora, Martyrs, Skokie's



/MILES ZABIN

Music runs in the blood of father and son Jerry and Miles Zabin. The two are performing on separate February dates in Skokie.

Upcoming performances

When: 7-9 p.m. Feb. 13 (Tiny Miles); 7-9 p.m. Feb. 20 (Jerry Zabin)

Where: Starbucks, 4116 Dempster St., Skokie

Cost: Free; tips appreciated
Contact: 847-674-5834;
www.tinymilestrio.com

Backlot Bash and festivals. Last year, he filled in as Johnny Cash in "Ring of Fire" at the Mercury Theater.

Jerry fell in love with jazz when he was sick at home junior year of high school. "I had a radio in my bedroom and there used to be a jazz station called WSDM," he recalled. "They played this tune by Quincy Jones called 'Killer Joe.' I went out and bought that album when I got well. I looked at the artists who were on the album and I started buying those artists. Today, I have over 3,000 jazz recordings."

While attending the University of Wisconsin at

Madison, Jerry rented a trumpet and began studying with Bob McCurdy. He now plays every week with a jazz ensemble at the Old Town School of Folk Music, as well as at coffeehouses, bars and nursing homes.

"A highlight for me was when our band opened for Miles at a place called Lilly's in the city," Jerry said. "Miles called me up onstage and I got to play with him, which was a treat."

Jerry hopes to perform more frequently when he retires from his 20-year career as a social worker at Glenbrook South High School in June. Prior to that he worked at New Trier High School.

Jerry enjoys playing at Starbucks because, "It's a welcoming place. The people are attentive and they've been very good hosts."

"This is the most intimate venue," Miles added. "I don't need any kind of amplification. I appreciate the organic sound you get from just a person and a guitar."

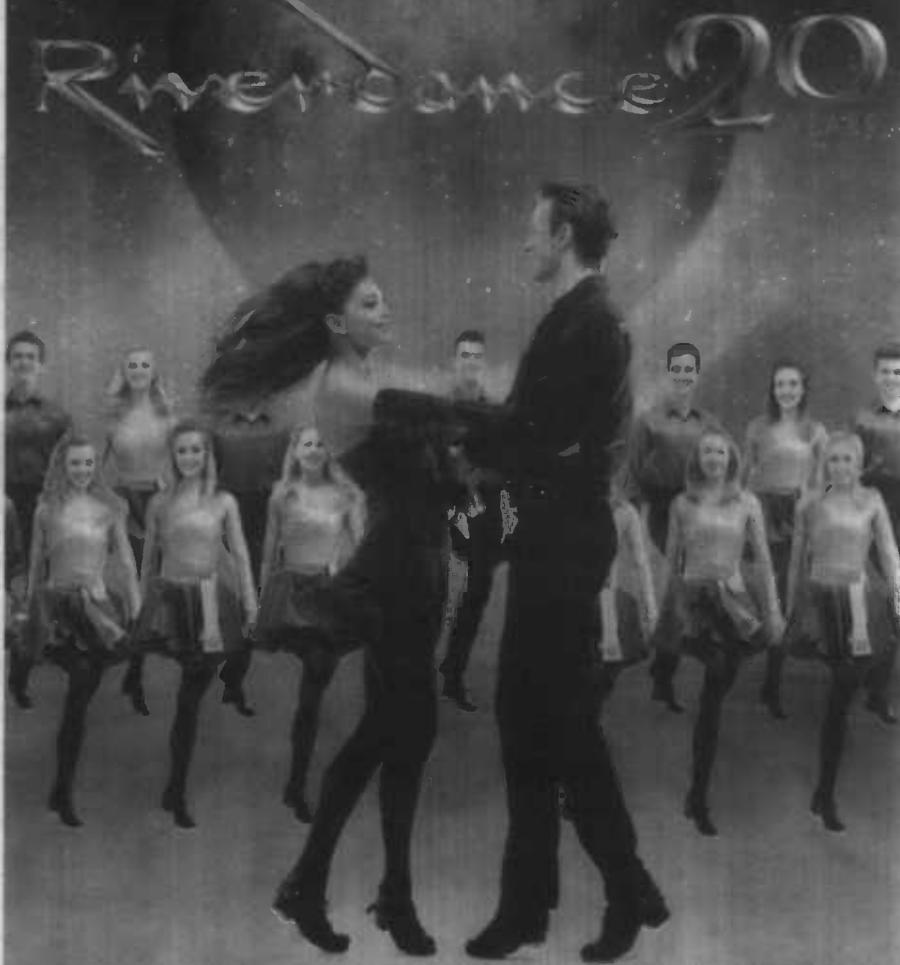
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The Edinburgh Evening News

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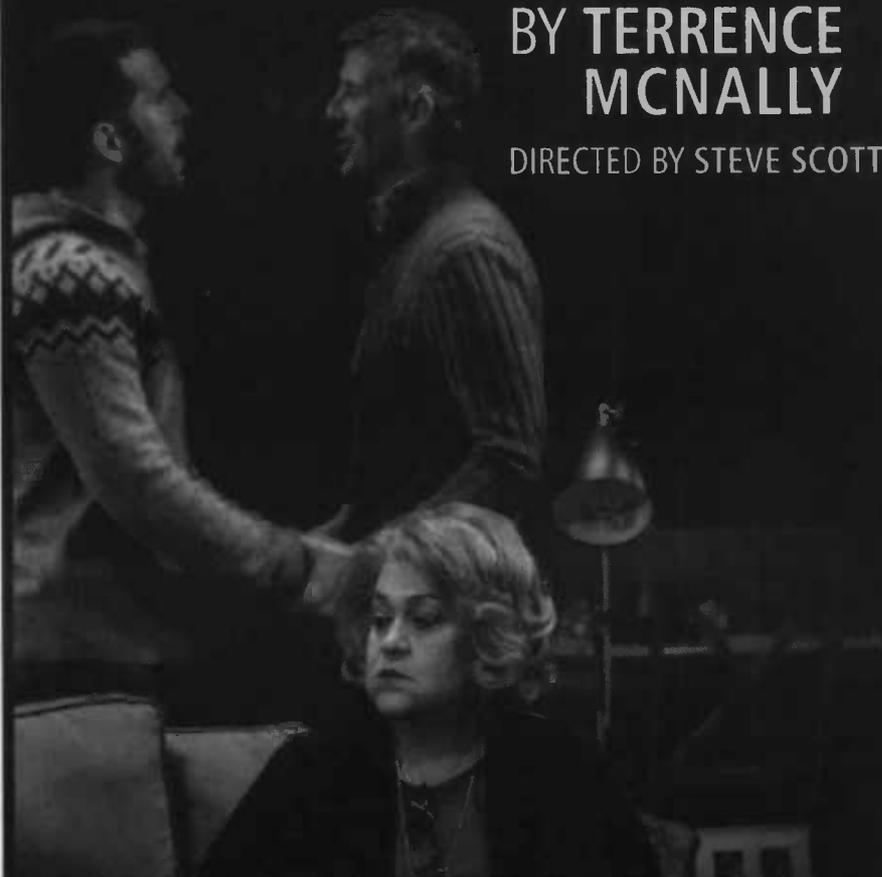
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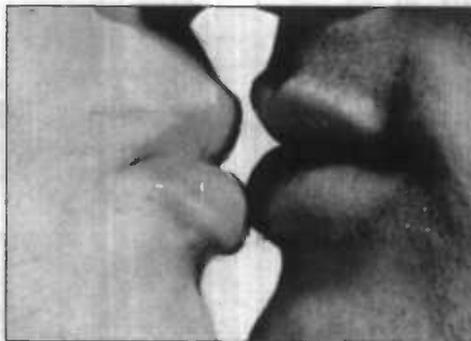
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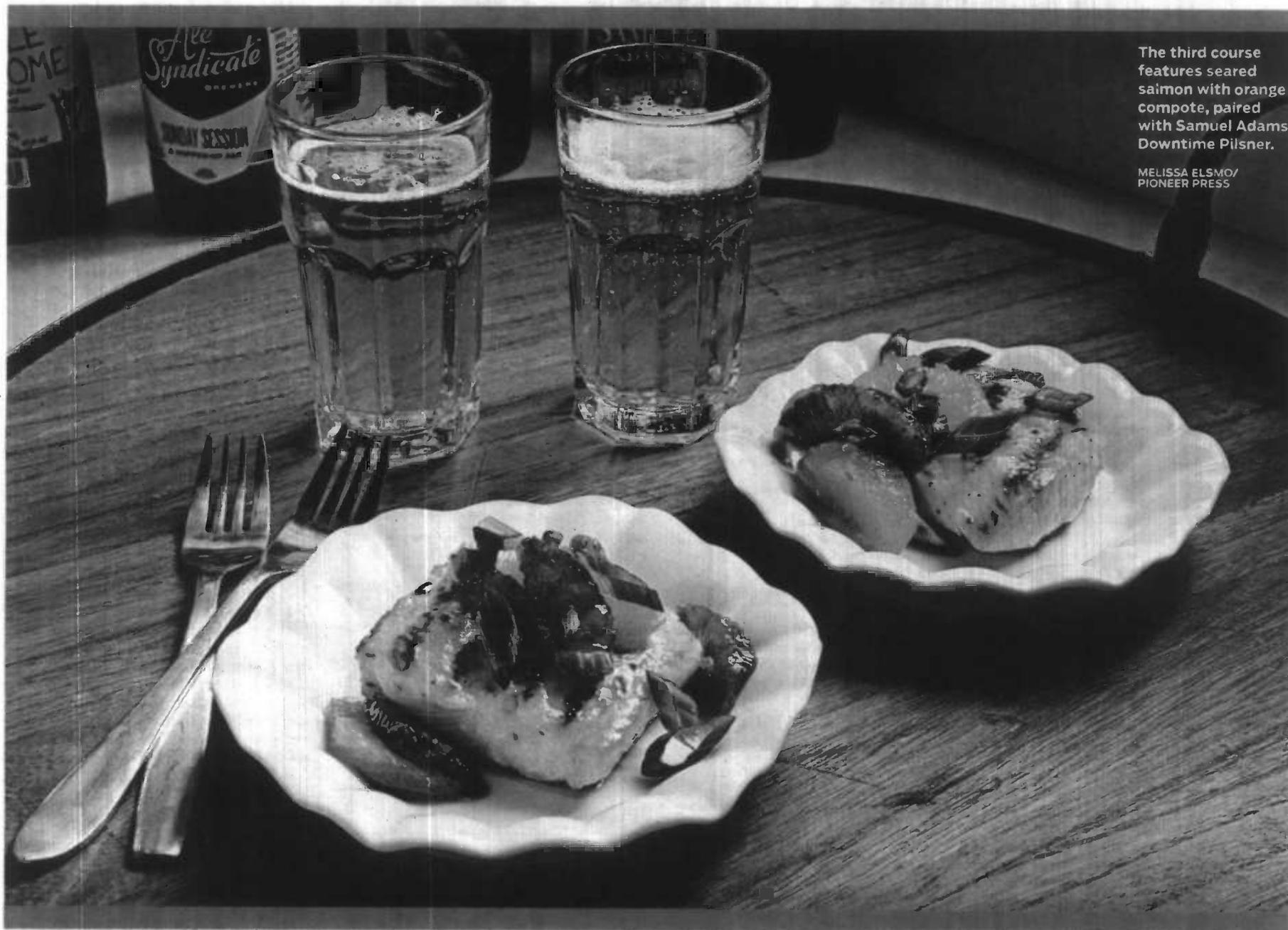
Living

Thursday, February 11, 2016



Love essentially: Six kinds of kisses and what they mean Page 11

CN



The third course features seared salmon with orange compote, paired with Samuel Adams Downtime Pilsner.

MELISSA ELSMO/
PIONEER PRESS

Road map to romance

Out of Mel's Kitchen: A four-course meal and beer pairings for Valentine's Day Page 3

SUBURBAN COOKS

Chocolatier couple lives the sweet life

By Judy Buchenot
Naperville Sun

Melanie Ware and Alexander Gray are truly sweethearts in every sense of the word.

The co-owners of the downtown Naperville Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory met while attending college at Missouri Western State University. The university offered a program where students could compete to own their own business. Business students study a specific business and complete other course work before presenting a business plan.

"I spent two years working for the company before I even entered the competition," said Ware, who learned confectionery art on the job. When she won the competition, she moved to the downtown Naperville location in 2014. Gray decided to join her in the venture. They now spend their days together, dipping caramel apples, decorating chocolates and tempting area residents with their heavenly creations. "It's a sweet job," said Ware, drizzling chocolate over a pretzel stick. The couple plan to tie the knot later this year.

Ware's sugar-coated career path has expanded her understanding of chocolate beyond knowing that it is made from cacao beans. She notes that many people are unaware that "the cacao tree only grows in places that are 20 degrees above or below the equator. It can only grow in those moist tropical climates."

She strictly uses Guittard chocolate in her store because "Guittard is a single origin company, which means they get their cacao beans from one region. This helps keep the chocolate consistent." She noted that many gourmet chocolates are single sourced.

When trying to determine the quality of chocolate, Ware said to "break the bar of chocolate. If it snaps, then it is good quality." She said chocolates that bend instead of snap have too much milk, sugar and other products in them. "Chocolate should melt on your tongue," she added. The chocolate should feel smooth, not gritty or waxy.

Some people mistakenly claim that there are high levels of caffeine in chocolate. "There is only about 10 milligrams of caffeine in an ounce of chocolate, which is about one-tenth the amount that is in the average cup of coffee," said Ware.

One of the best sellers at the store are gourmet caramel apples. "We always use Granny Smith apples because they withstand the heat of the hot caramel," she said. "Some other apples varieties start to cook in the hot caramel since it is usually above 200 degrees." The apples are dipped in caramel and then are left to cool completely. Then they are dipped in chocolate, drizzled with other chocolates and sprinkled with nuts



JUDY BUCHENOT/NAPERVILLE SUN

Melanie Ware and her fiance, Alexander Gray, are sweethearts in a sweet business in downtown Naperville.

Melanie's Culinary Cue

When dipping things in chocolate, place them on wax paper or parchment paper to cool at room temperature. Do not move them until they are completely set or the chocolate may bloom, which means that there will be white dust over the chocolate. When chocolate loses its glossiness, it is set.

360 Youth Services Chocolate Walk

When: Noon-5 p.m. Feb. 13

Where: Downtown Naperville shops

Tickets: \$25

Information: www.360youthservices.org

and candies to create different combinations.

Valentine's Day brings in many requests for chocolate-dipped strawberries and cherries. The store often dips three cherries together so they don't look too small next to the strawberries when arranged in a gift box. "We decorate the chocolate-dipped strawberries for weddings, showers and parties," said Ware as she watched Gray patiently stripe chocolate-covered berries so they look like footballs as a promotion for Super Bowl Sunday.

Dipping things in chocolate has become a passion for home cooks, noted Ware. Since her store frequently has a vat of quality chocolate, tempered and ready for dipping, Ware often creates her own dipped creations.

One of her favorite off-the-menu items is a frozen cheesecake wedge, dipped in a mix of white confection coating and peanut butter, then rolled in almonds and drizzled with milk chocolate. The store offers a service where they will dip bottles of wine or other spirits in chocolate for customers

English Toffee Thistles

- 1 cup semi-sweet chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup peanut butter
- 1/3 cup toffee baking bits
- 1/3 cup chopped almonds
- 2 cups chow mein noodles

1. Place chocolate and peanut butter in a microwave-safe bowl and cook on high for 30 seconds. Stir and repeat as many times as needed until mixture is melted and smooth. Stir in toffee bits, almonds, and chow mein noodles. Stir gently until coated.

2. Line a baking sheet with parchment or waxed paper. Drop rounded tablespoons of the mixture onto lined sheets. Allow to set and then refrigerate. Variations include using butterscotch chips instead of chocolate chips and mini pretzels in place of chow mein noodles.

Red Velvet Oreo Pops

- 1 9-ounce box of red velvet cake mix
- Ingredients required for cake mix (eggs, oil, water)
- 18 chocolate sandwich cookies
- 8 ounces cream cheese, softened
- 12 ounces white baking chocolate
- 48 lollipop sticks

1. Prepare cake mix according to package directions. Bake and cool. Crumble cake and cookies into large bowl. The cake and cookies can also be chopped in a food processor, but don't let the mixture become too fine. Add cream cheese and stir until well combined. Shape mixture into 48 balls about one inch in diameter. Place balls on a baking sheet. Put a lollipop stick in each ball. Cover with foil and freeze for 30 minutes.

2. Melt white chocolate. Dip frozen balls in white chocolate. Allow to harden until firm.

to give as a unique gift. "Lots of things can be dipped in chocolate," said Ware.

Rocky Mountain Chocolate Factory is one of the many shops participating in the 360 Youth Services First Annual Chocolate Walk on February 13. Ware encourages everyone to have a sweet shopping experience by joining in this event. She also offers two simple recipes for homemade confections to make for your Valentine.

Judy Buchenot is a freelance writer.

Road map to romance



MELISSA ELSMO
Out of Mel's Kitchen

Thoughts of Valentine's Day evoke visions of cupids, red roses and cheap Champagne. Rather than risk a cheap Champagne-induced headache, why not treat your beloved to a romantic meal with beer pairings instead?

Inspired by an Feb. 27 fundraiser for the Oak Park Regional Housing Center and the School of Rock Scholarship Fund (see www.oprhc.org/rockthehouse2016 for details) for which I'll be one of the chefs, I allowed a lager, a wheat beer, a Pilsner and a porter to influence my Valentine's Day menu. Like wines, the lightest beers should give way to more robust offerings as the meal progresses. In this case you'd do well to offer a bold oatmeal stout with some traditional chocolates at the end of this grand meal. Use my road map of super simple recipes to create a memorable surf and turf meal sure to sweep your sweetheart off his or her feet!

First Course: Grilled Peel & Eat Shrimp with Old Bay Garlic Butter

Beer Pairing: Lager (I used Two Brothers Dog Days Dortmund Style Lager)

- 6 raw jumbo shrimp, shell-on and deveined
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 2 teaspoons Old Bay seasoning, divided
- 1 stick unsalted butter
- 1 garlic clove, minced
- 1 lemon halved

1. Toss the shrimp, olive oil and 1 teaspoon Old Bay in a small bowl. Heat a grill pan over high heat until just smoking. Sear the shrimp for three minutes per side until just cooked through. Place the lemon halves, cut side down, in the grill pan with the shrimp during the second half of cooking time.

2. While the shrimp cooks, melt the butter, remaining Old Bay and minced garlic in a small sauce pan. Skim the milk solids from the butter and pour into a serving cup. Serve the shrimp with the butter for dipping.



MELISSA ELSMO/PIONEER PRESS

Seared New York strip steak with potatoes and mushrooms paired with Great Lakes Brewing Company's Edmund Fitzgerald Porter.

Second Course: Warm Goat Cheese Salad with Pear and Apple

Beer Pairing: Wheat Beer (I used Off Color Brewing Troublesome Wheat Beer)

- 4 ounces fresh goat cheese, cut and shaped into two equal rounds and chilled
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1/2 cup panko seasoned with salt, pepper and a dash of dried thyme
- 2 tablespoons olive oil
- 2 cups fresh mixed spring greens tossed with 1 Tablespoon of your favorite vinaigrette
- Thinly sliced pear, apple and red onion

1. Press both sides of the goat cheese rounds into the seasoned panko. Coat the cheese with the beaten egg and return to the panko to coat again. Heat the olive oil in a small skillet over medium heat. Fry the cheese in the oil until just golden brown and crispy (about 1 1/2 minutes per side). Drain on paper towels.

2. Toss the apple, pear and onion with the dressed greens and distribute equally between two salad plates. Top each salad with a warm goat cheese round, sprinkle with salt and serve.

Third Course: Seared Salmon with Orange Compote

Beer Pairing: Pilsner (I used Samuel Adams Downtime Pilsner)

- 1 6-ounce center cut salmon portion, skinned
- 2 teaspoons honey
- 1/2 teaspoon red pepper flakes
- 1 blood orange, cut between the membranes into segments
- 1 navel orange, cut between the membranes into segments
- 1 scallion, snipped
- 1/4 teaspoon coriander

1. Cut the salmon into two equal square-shaped portions and drizzle with the honey and red pepper. Heat a grill pan over medium heat. Brush the pan with olive oil before placing the salmon honey side down in the pan. Cook without disturbing for 3 minutes. Gently flip the salmon (it should be golden brown) and continue cooking 3-4 minutes until just cooked through.

2. Meanwhile, toss the oranges, scallions and coriander along with any accumulated juice in a small bowl. Place each salmon portion on a small plate and top with the orange compote. Enjoy at once.

Four-course food and beer pairings

Fourth Course: Seared New York Strip Steak with Potatoes and Mushrooms

Beer Pairing: Porter (I used Great Lakes Brewing Company's Edmund Fitzgerald Porter)

- 6 fingerling potatoes, halved lengthwise
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 1 boneless New York strip steak (about 2 inches thick)
- 1 tablespoon steak seasoning mix
- 8 cremini mushrooms
- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon balsamic vinegar
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh parsley

1. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Toss the potatoes with the olive oil and season with salt and pepper. Spread out on a parchment lined sheet pan and roast for 25-30 minutes tossing occasionally until tender.

2. Meanwhile season the steak on all sides with the steak seasoning. Place the fatty narrow side of the steak down a high-sided skillet and place it over medium high heat. Allow the steak to cook undisturbed for 5 minutes on the first narrow side before flipping to the second narrow side. Allow to sear for 4 minutes before searing the remaining two sides for 4-5 minutes each (16-18 minutes total cooking time). Allow the steak to rest for 10 minutes while you prepare the mushrooms.

3. Heat the butter in a small skillet. Add the mushrooms, season with salt and pepper and saute until deeply golden brown and tender. Add the garlic and stir well. Add the vinegar and the parsley and mix well.

4. Slice the steak against the grain into 1/4-inch thick slices. Surround the steak with the potatoes and top with the mushrooms.

Protect pups from winter dangers

Safety tips for you and your dog in cold weather

By Susie Moskop
Chicago Tribune

We may have made it through a good chunk of winter, but the next two months will be no walk in the park — especially for your dog.

Anyone familiar with Chicago winters knows that February holds more cold, snowy weather: Weathertab.com predicts lows of 14 and highs of 38 degrees Fahrenheit with several possibilities of more snow throughout the month for the Chicago area.

The ASPCA has yet to lift its extreme weather watch for pet owners and has listed a number of winter safety tips that conclude with a single piece of advice: "If it's too cold for you, it's probably too cold for your pet."

And although you may feel toasty under five layers, how do you know your dog isn't cold?

Dr. Megan Kaplan, a veterinarian at BluePearl Emergency Hospital in north suburban Northfield, says dogs should be kept outside "no longer than five to 10 minutes" on days



SUSIE MOSKOP/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Evanston's dog beach is one of many pet-friendly spaces that can provide safe, chemical-free environments for canines in the winter.

the temperature drops below freezing, or 32 degrees Fahrenheit, and advises owners to look for red flags such as shivering.

But cold temperatures are not the only concern. Chemicals used for ice control and prevention can also be harmful.

Some Chicago property owners may try to prevent and/or melt ice with anti-freeze solutions, which contain a dangerous chemical called ethylene glycol. Because it has a sweet taste that appeals to dogs, many may lick the anti-freeze off the sidewalk

or off their paws — but it's toxic to animals if ingested. And plain old salt, vigorously used on pavement to melt snow and ice, can cause both contact irritation such as chapped paws and stomach upset if ingested.

For utmost protection

against chemical agents, the ASPCA suggests applying a dollop of petroleum jelly to your pup's paws before going outside, or using booties if your dog will tolerate them.

Additionally, a trip to the groomer is even more important in winter. Kap-

lan says that getting the hair between your pet's paws trimmed helps clear away any harsh salts or ethylene glycol that may get trapped. "We don't recommend extra-short cuts because the hair helps insulate them, but some (owners) keep it trimmed so it's easier to clean off and it gives them a little bit of traction," she says.

Avoiding the street and sidewalk is easier said than done.

But owners who live near Lake Michigan should consider the beach, especially for dogs that need a lot of space for rigorous exercise.

Kaplan also suggests "walking (dogs) in more public areas" such as city parks, where peoples are less likely to have used chemicals.

If the temperature allows, the Chicago Park District offers a number of pet-friendly beaches and parks that can provide a potentially chemical-free environment.

Beach or backyard, Kaplan says the No. 1 rule for dog owners is to err on the safe side: "Treat them like a baby or a small child," she says. "You wouldn't leave those guys outside unattended."

smoskop@tribpub.com
Twitter @SusieMoskop

PET OF THE WEEK



Cody

I landed at a rural animal control facility and when no one came looking for me, they started networking for no-kill rescues to take me in. I am a big boy, and very handsome I am told, that loves attention. Pet me, scratch me around my face, behind my ears or under my chin—I take it all in. I get along with other cats, and be honest with me, who can resist my big round face?

For additional information, please visit www.saveapetil.org.

chicagotribune.com/pets

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Woman's new car incompatible with Illinois biodiesel

Dear Help Squad,
 In April 2013, I purchased a Volkswagen TDI Jetta Wagon from Autobarn City Volkswagen in Chicago with no notice that the car ... was not designed for Illinois fuel. I received a copy of (the VW letter alerting owners to this) in July 2014, more than a year after I purchased my car and one year, five months after VW released the notice to Illinois owners. (I received the letter) only upon my inquiry with VW's corporate office — after I had to replace my fuel system. I've requested additional information from VW, but they won't respond to me. My car is about to fail again.

My TDI was designed for use with ultra low sulfur diesel fuel, the national standard, which may have up to 5 percent bio-fuel (B5) included in the blend. Illinois allows the addition of up to 20 percent biofuel (B20). Volkswagen maintains warranties will be honored, but when my fuel system failed in 2014, Autobarn called it "bad fuel" and I was required to pay \$500 out-of-pocket for its replacement. At that point, I was unaware of the Illinois fuel incompatibility issue. Under no circum-

stances would I have purchased a car that I could not fill up in Illinois.

Autobarn consistently passes this issue along to customers by labeling the problem "bad fuel." At \$500 a repair on cars still under warranty, VW passes the cost of this design incompatibility on to owners.

My neighbor twice had to replace her TDI's fuel system due to "bad fuel." I wonder how many others in Illinois are being told they are the cause of their (TDI's) problems? I suppose it speaks to VW's culture of corruption and greed.

Sarah, Chicago

I called and emailed seven individuals at Autobarn and Volkswagen Group of America — for two weeks! Other than a conversation with an unidentified Autobarn employee that felt like an Abbott and Costello "Who's on First" skit, my communications appeared to vanish into the Volkswagen void.



CATHY CUNNINGHAM
 Help Squad

Cathy Cunningham: Can you explain why Sarah was not made aware of this fuel issue when she was purchasing her car from Autobarn?

Autobarn: Volkswagen had a letter they sent out to customers at that time.

CC: But she wasn't a customer at that time.
 Autobarn: They sent it out to all customers before and after.

CC: Before and after what?

Autobarn: You need to call the Volkswagen customer service number.

I contacted the National Automobile Dealers Association, the Illinois Automobile Dealers Association and the Chicago Automobile Trade Association. Finally Mark Gillies, VW manager of product and technology, emailed me to say, "Our Customer Care team has been alerted and will be in contact with (Sarah) directly. Regarding B20, Volkswagen has said that it will stand by the warranty if B20 fuel is used in the state of Illinois."

Sarah received a call from VW executive office liaison Katie Fox that same day. She was assured of follow-up within a few days. As of press time, Sarah did not yet have her answers. However, IADA spokesperson Meghan Sander offered this:

"The engine problems associated with biodiesel and ethanol blends are an unintended consequence of an environmental program to reduce oil consumption. We encourage dealers to stay up to date with manufacturer announcements, but in this case, there may have been a ... missed communication.

"We have been informed (of a) Lucas Oil (additive called Upper Cylinder Lubricant) that can be put into fuel tanks to neutralize the bio effect ... for vehicles that are not compatible with higher bio blends. We encourage (Sarah) to look into this.

Stay tuned for Volkswagen's response ...

Send your questions to HelpSquad@pioneerlocal.com.

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

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ROUNDUP | SCIENCE FICTION



Medusa's Web

By Tim Powers, William Morrow, 360 pages, \$26.99

Tim Powers is among the most beloved of American fantasy writers, and much of his appeal derives from his ingenious and evocative "secret histories," combining mythic or supernatural events with historical periods or figures, such as the English Romantic poets in "The Stress of Her Regard" or the Rossetti family in "Hide Me Among the Graves." The American settings most amenable to his brand of speculative mythography, not surprisingly, are Las Vegas ("Last Call") and Hollywood, which provides the background of "Medusa's Web."

Following the violent suicide of the aunt who raised them after their parents' disappearance, Madeline and Scott Madden are summoned back to the crumbling Hollywood mansion where they grew up, and where their creepy cousins Claimayne and Ariel are still living, amid artifacts from old movie sets and long-dead hotels. Although Madeline seems in danger of falling under the influence of Aunt Amity's ghostly presence in the house, the real supernatural threat derives from magical eight-legged figures called spiders, which might appear anywhere — in a scrawled drawing, a painting, even random graffiti — and which, for those susceptible (including the Maddens), trigger episodes of time travel, mostly into the past.

This permits Powers to introduce tantalizing bits of Hollywood history, including real-life mysteries surrounding the deaths of early producers and directors, and even to briefly feature Rudolph Valentino. One particular artifact from Hollywood history, a lost reel of film that may provide a clue to banishing the spiders, is sought not only by Scott and Madeline but by a rather shadowy group with their own plans. While we don't get as thorough a picture of old haunted Hollywood as we do of the richly detailed Victorian London in Powers' earlier novels, it's a tantalizing mystery, and one which reminds us that all iconic places are quite literally palimpsests of the past.



The Assimilated Cuban's Guide to Quantum Santeria

By Carlos Hernandez, Rosarium, 268 pages, \$15.95

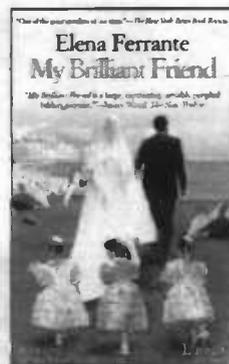
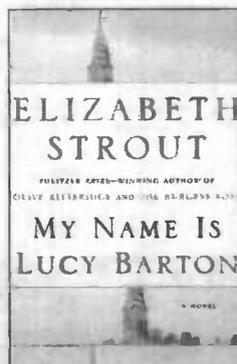
At first, a title like "The Assimilated Cuban's Guide to Quantum Santeria" sounds like someone's idea of a postmodern ethnic joke, but the title story of Carlos Hernandez's bizarre and often playful story collection makes perfect sense of that title: It consists of an assimilated Cuban boy, fascinated by magic at an early age, who undertakes a study of magic derived from the Afro-Caribbean belief system Santeria and later grows up to be a brilliant quantum physicist. Ideas drawn from quantum physics, such as indeterminacy, entanglement, and parallel worlds, inform many of these stories: a wounded war veteran

whose rehabilitation is aided by alternate-universe versions of himself, or unicorns that wander into our world from another universe and become the targets of poachers seeking their magical horns.

A few of the stories, including that unicorn tale, feature a reporter named Gabrielle Reál, which lend them a bit of a tall-tale feel, such as when Reál gets involved in a program to preserve the panda population by remote-controlling real pandas in order to encourage sex. For the most part, Hernandez's science isn't very serious, but his satirical targets are often dead-on, as when a group of redneck vigilantes set out to shoot Mexicans crossing the border, only to encounter real aliens, who demonstrate their power by turning the group's pickup truck into Margaret Thatcher. Hernandez couldn't possibly have known how timely that one would become.

CHICAGOLAND BEST-SELLERS

1. "My Name Is Lucy Barton: A Novel" by Elizabeth Strout (Penguin Random House, \$26).
2. "My Brilliant Friend" by Elena Ferrante (Europa Editions, \$17).
3. "When Breath Becomes Air" by Paul Kalanithi (Penguin Random House, \$25).
4. "Brooklyn" by Colm Toibin (Scribner, \$15).
5. "A Little Life" by Hanya Yanagihara (Anchor, \$17).



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

NEW IN PAPERBACK



Bettyville: A Memoir

By George Hodgman, Penguin, 279 pages, \$17
Hodgman returns to his hometown of Paris, Mo., to become his mother's caretaker. In doing so, Hodgman reflects on his upbringing, family life, loving memories and the unresolved conflict that exists between him and his mother: the fact that she has never fully accepted that he is gay.



Funny Girl: A Novel

By Nick Hornby, Riverhead, 454 pages, \$16
Barbara Parker may have been crowned Miss Blackpool, but she dreams of more, wishing to become the British equivalent of Lucille Ball. Barbara transforms herself into Sophie Straw, moves to 1960s London — where she encounters a colorful cast of characters — and lands the lead role in a sitcom.



Find Me: A Novel

By Laura van den Berg, FSG Originals, 280 pages, \$15

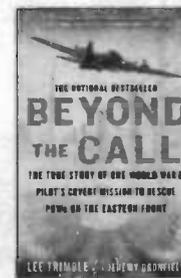
Joy, depressed and addicted to cough syrup, is immune to a widespread illness that begins with memory loss. Her immunity gains her admittance to a hospital in rural Kansas, where she bonds with other patients before traveling to Florida in the hopes of finding her birth mother and confronting her troubled past.



Mislaid: A Novel

By Nell Zink, Ecco, 244 pages, \$14.99

Peggy falls under the spell of her poetry professor, resulting in an unplanned pregnancy, marriage and second child. When their daughter Karen is 3, Peggy runs off with her daughter, adopts an African-American persona and moves into a housing project. When Karen and her brother Byrdie encounter each other years later, they must navigate their difficult past.



Beyond the Call

By Lee Trimble with Jeremy Dronfield, Berkley Caliber, 323 pages, \$17

Trimble details a covert rescue mission undertaken at the end of World War II to rescue Allied POWs from camps in Poland as the Red Army advanced toward Germany. Trimble looks at how his father, Capt. Robert Trimble, was tasked with the mission and the steps he took to ensure the safety of his passengers.

— Jeremy Mikula



puzzle island

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

Hearing Things: Requiring sound thinking

BY GAIL GRABOWSKI | EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN
(stanxwords.com)

Across

- 1 Stock up on
- 6 Karenina or Christie
- 10 Price for a ride
- 14 Walk with attitude
- 19 Scoundrel
- 20 Cooperative group
- 21 Quite a while
- 22 Nonsense
- 23 Pressure-packed period
- 25 Mouth-shaped flower
- 27 Baloney
- 28 Did a critic's job
- 30 Take back, as a statement
- 31 Busy mo. for UPS
- 32 Traditional observances
- 33 Pugilist's weapon
- 34 Office-chair wheels
- 38 Supply-and-demand sci.
- 39 Turns bronze
- 40 Keyboardist's stat.
- 43 Wrestling maneuvers
- 44 Silent-film genre
- 46 Offhand greeting
- 47 Timeline sections
- 48 Palm tree fruit
- 50 Average mark
- 51 Small musical groups
- 52 24-hr. bank device
- 53 Katy Perry performance
- 57 Swiftness
- 58 Cry of triumph
- 60 Party DJ's inventories
- 61 Does business
- 62 Contributing element

- 63 Cattle breed
- 65 Courteous
- 66 Bit of decoration
- 67 City near Nice
- 69 UCLA athlete
- 70 Anger
- 71 Elongated swimmers
- 74 Crop up
- 75 Attachments for closeups
- 77 Briny expanse
- 78 As long as
- 79 Narcissistic preoccupation
- 80 Inauguration feature
- 81 Mail-routing abbr.
- 82 Very long time
- 83 Underling's assignment
- 87 Weeper of myth
- 88 Pursue closely
- 89 New Mexico art center
- 90 Deeply engaged
- 91 Go quickly
- 93 Tach readings
- 94 You are here
- 95 Some remote batteries
- 96 Alpine climber's tool
- 99 "Lemon Tree" singer Lopez
- 100 Fall slightly short
- 105 Apollo 11 astronaut
- 107 Start studying, say
- 109 ___ the side of caution (play safe)
- 110 Go quickly
- 111 High point
- 112 Yellowish red
- 113 Goes quickly
- 114 Trade jobs
- 115 Young lady

Down

- 1 Paths of orbits
- 2 Poetic dawn
- 3 Water, to Juan.
- 4 Submerged
- 5 Withdraws officially
- 6 Places to stash stuff
- 7 Playwright Simon
- 8 '60s war zone
- 9 Grade school anthem
- 10 Attaches securely
- 11 Choreographer de Mille
- 12 Enjoy King or Queen
- 13 Mentalist's claim
- 14 Accentuate
- 15 Land parcel
- 16 Latvia's capital
- 17 Conversant with
- 18 Something pitched outdoors
- 24 Gardener, at times
- 26 Sangria or sarsaparilla
- 29 Straddling
- 32 Piece of antiquity
- 33 Diamond surface
- 34 Flout the rules
- 35 Arterial trunk
- 36 Punk-rock club activity
- 37 NFL scores
- 39 Sections of seats
- 40 Small town on a campaign trail
- 41 ID card feature
- 42 Tight-fisted one
- 44 Drains of energy
- 45 Immune system agent
- 116 Emerson work

1	2	3	4	5		6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13		14	15	16	17	18			
19						20					21					22							
23						24					25				26								
27									28	29					30								
						31			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								
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78								79					80						81				
82								83			84	85	86						87				
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105										106					107	108							
109										110					111						112		
113										114					115							116	

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

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- | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 46 Prophet | 67 Intimidated | 85 Put on alert | 98 Poet Pound |
| 48 Mark of excellence | 68 Allergy season sound | 86 Of vision | 99 Ensnare |
| 49 Squad-car drivers | 69 Counterfeit | 87 Romanian tennis great | 100 Printer problems |
| 51 Asian cuisine | 70 Author Dinesen | 89 People from Plano | 101 Some CEOs' credentials |
| 54 Deep dislike | 72 Don't disturb | 91 Pasta toppings | 102 Atomic particles. |
| 55 Novelist Shute | 73 More reasonable | 92 Wine barrel | 103 Bar mixer |
| 56 Portrayer of Austin Powers' father | 75 Goose eggs | 93 Chin smoother | 104 Grey Goose competitor |
| 59 Invalidates | 76 Toward the Arctic | 94 Author Jong | 106 AMA members |
| 62 Right off the vine | 81 Ultimate goal | 96 Skeptical comment | 108 HDTV alternative to JVC |
| 64 Chicago star | 83 Auctioneer's accessory | 97 Medical breakthrough | |
| 65 Sing soothingly | 84 Gym employee | | |
| 66 Be anxious | | | |

Quote-Acrossic

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

Clues

Words

- A. Close friend:
2 wds. 68 109 4 59 105 66 28 46 154 131
- B. Very bad 8 136 151 112 146 55 122 83 25
- C. Great, in the
Twenties:
hyph. 117 104 72 107 51 79 62 152 20 39
- D. Pleasingly
new 16 106 56 43 5 76 87 30 145 158
- E. Descriptive
title 3 97 118 140 37 14 89
- F. Irritate 115 160 12 125 29 67
- G. Wheel
mechanism 95 129 86 23 73 47 63
- H. Kind of
drug? 101 132 2 144 116 34 161
- I. Complete 114 53 100 127 22 9
- J. Fruit relish 6 153 69 128 61 98 19

K. Caviar
source 58 77 21 70 96 135

L. Verbatim:
3 wds. 137 155 81 120 27 65 7

60 108 49 102

M. Fraternal
order member:
2 wds. 143 91 124 110 24 54 50 10 78

N. Regular
course 139 82 17 103 38

O. Sum 15 138 36 48 119

P. Braided
sabbath
bread: var. 141 42 18 162 92 126

Q. Open shelves 149 85 90 64 130 123 35

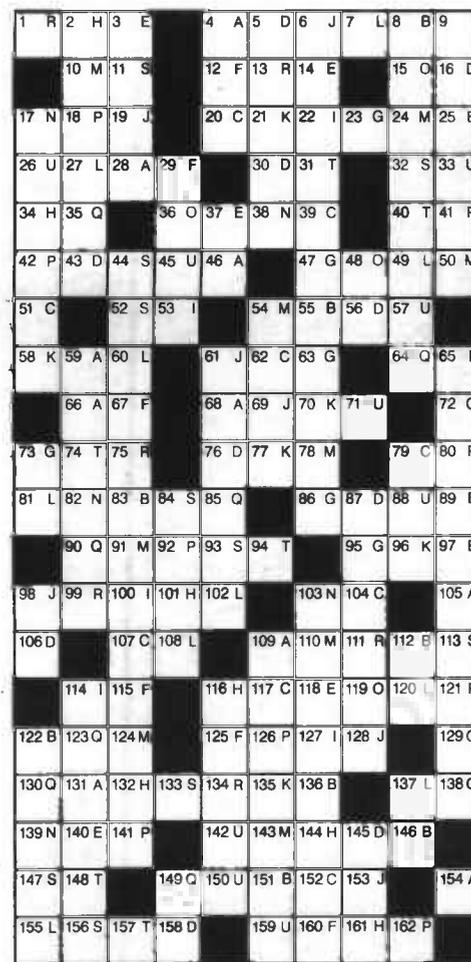
R. Get some
zzz's: 3 wds. 80 134 1 111 13 41 121 99 75

S. Conflict
within a
group 52 113 11 147 93 133 32

156 44 84

T. Decrease 40 74 31 148 94 157

U. Lid
enhancer:
2 wds. 45 71 57 26 33 88 142 150 159



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

By Max Engle.
Edited by
Linda and
Charles
Preston.
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No Dough

BY CHARLES PRESTON

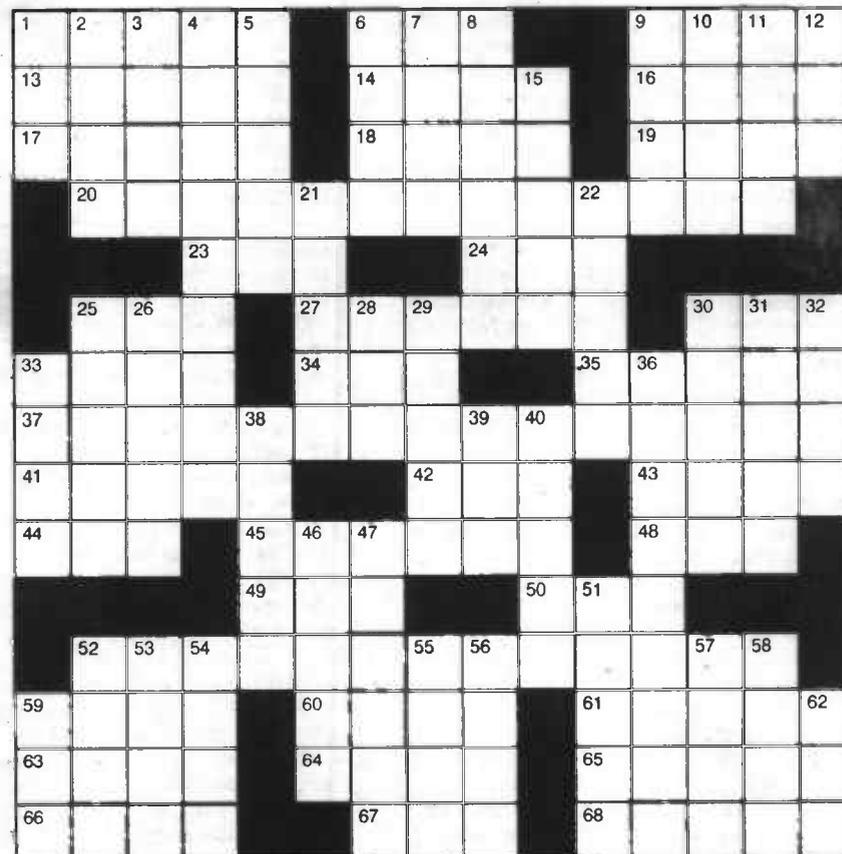
Across

- 1 Injures
6 ___ up to: amount to
9 Land surrounded by
water
13 Take ___: borrow money
14 In ___ of
16 Person everyone blames
17 Fire from a job
18 Boesky or Lendl
19 Gamble badly
20 Cash substitute at stores
23 Letter after wye
24 Word before Glory or
Testament
25 J. Edgar Hoover's crew
27 ___ a living: made money
30 Upcoming graduates:
abbr.
33 Mortgage
34 ___ Na Na
35 Citrus fruits
37 Extra cost for buying on
time
41 Cowboy's rope
42 Snake-shaped fish
43 Sajak and Summerall
44 Sylvester Stallone's
nickname
45 Kind of hound

- 48 Erie, Lehigh Valley, etc.
49 Baseball great Mel
50 Had dinner
52 Old-time jail for
deadbeats
59 Piece of window glass
60 *Three Blind* ___
61 I feel ___ as a snake!
63 Thanks ___!
64 Minor argument
65 Dodger shortstop in
Hall of Fame
66 More or ___:
approximately
67 City thoroughfares: abbr.
68 Donkeys

Down

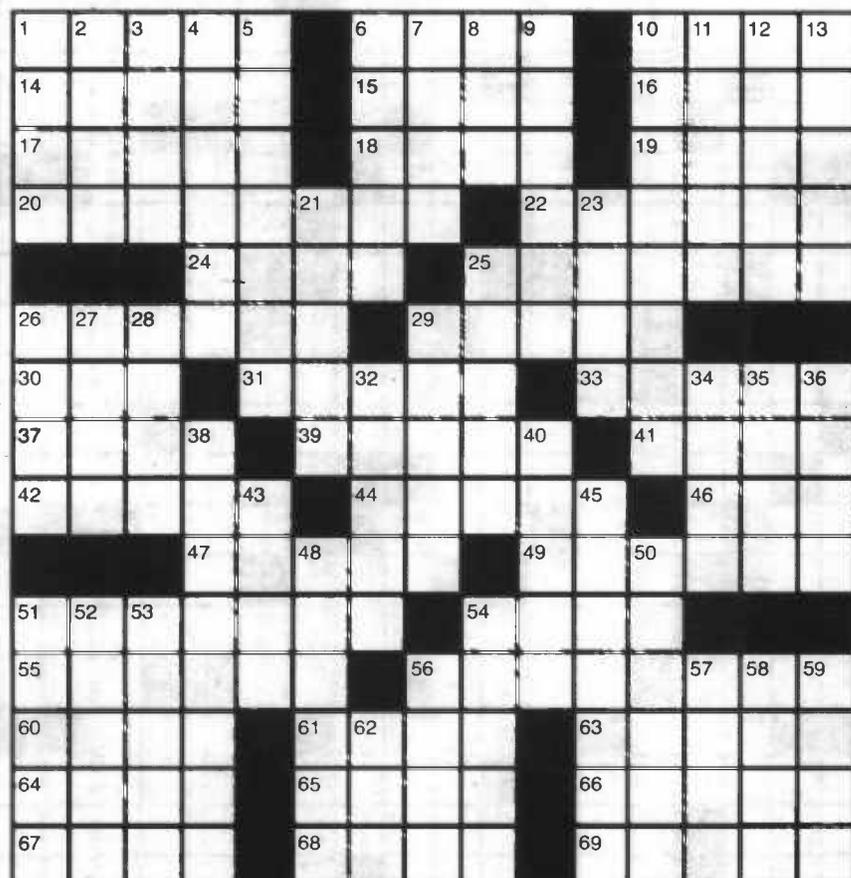
- 1 Prince or Holbrook
2 Actor Guinness
3 Lillian, Philip, or David
Lee
4 *People, Time, and Money*
5 Sleeper's sound
6 "I cannot tell ___"
7 Female opera singer
8 Church official
9 Eskimo's home: var.
10 Before long
11 Worst place in a race
12 Summer, in Paris
15 ___ Sam
21 Web-footed honkers
22 In a strange way
25 After everything else
26 American flag-maker
Ross
28 Sounds of satisfaction
29 Fixed prices
30 Stain or smudge
31 Leases
32 Supersonic planes
33 Diamond and Abner
36 Has a great effect on
38 Mechanical man
39 Letter between oh and
cue
40 Marriage-vows location
46 Tiny particles
47 Undresses
51 Princess's crown
52 Roy Rogers and ___ Evans
53 Baseball great Slaughter
54 Wagers
55 Beat it!
56 Dogs, cats, etc.
57 Bullfight shouts
58 Win by a ___
59 Buddy
62 Unsel'd, of basketball fame



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

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Crossword



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2/10/16

ACROSS

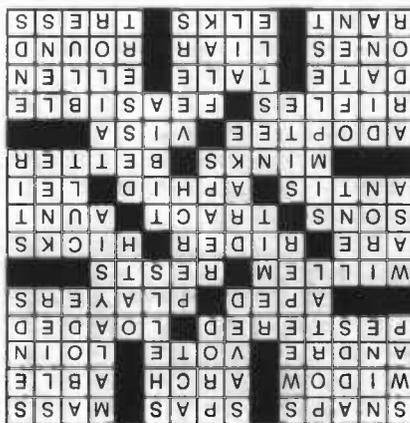
- 1 Metal clothing fasteners
6 Mineral springs
10 Church service
14 Bereaved wife
15 Part of the foot
16 Qualified
17 Agassi of tennis
18 Cast a ballot
19 Cut of pork
20 Badgered
22 Rich
24 Imitated
25 Athletes
26 Actor Dafoe
29 Takes a nap
30 "___ you kidding-me?"
31 Passenger
33 2006 American Idol
37 Will and Harry, to Charles
39 Stretch of land
41 Mom's sister
42 Those opposed
44 Plant pest
46 Maui garland
47 Soft-furred weasel cousins
49 Not so sick anymore
51 One embraced by a new family
54 Credit card

- 55 Winchesters & Springfields
56 Doable
60 Bit of info on an invitation
61 Yarn
63 Actress Burstyn
64 On ___ own; independent
65 Fib teller
66 Circular
67 Carry on
68 BPOE members
69 Lock of hair

DOWN

- 1 Exchange
2 Reasonable bedtime
3 Also says
4 Door; entrance
5 Broom user
6 Rescued
7 Nudge
8 ___ up; misbehave.
9 Beach sand souvenirs
10 Kuala Lumpur's location
11 Dwelling
12 Craftier
13 Transmits
21 Send in payment
23 Sworn statement
25 Freshwater fish

Solutions



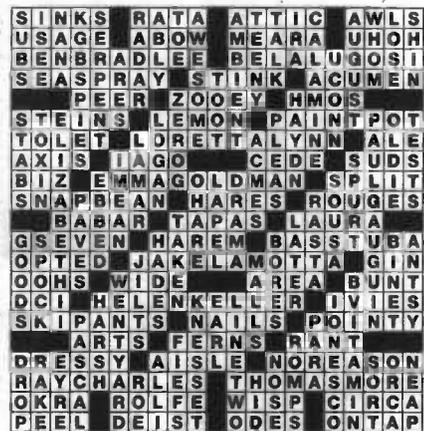
- 26 "Jeremiah ___ bullfrog..."
27 Clothes presser's need
28 Loaned
29 Gathers crops
32 Male duck
34 Kind of film
35 Patella's place
36 Mix in a bowl
38 Easiest
40 Leg bone
43 Web surfer's stop
45 Dinner course
48 ___ Crunch; chocolate bar
50 Clothes maker
51 Zeal
52 Leader of the Supremes
53 Frequently
54 Swerves
56 ___ jacket; bulletproof vest
57 Sapphire color
58 Camera's eye
59 Concludes
62 Have a bug



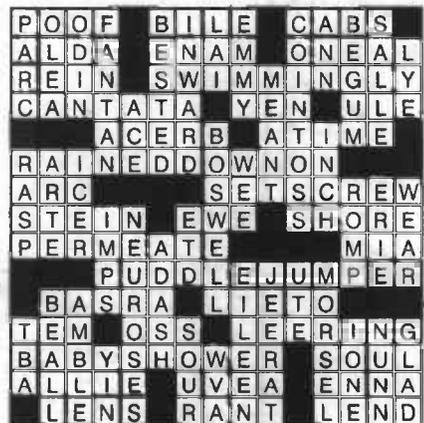
puzzle island solutions

Last week's crosswords

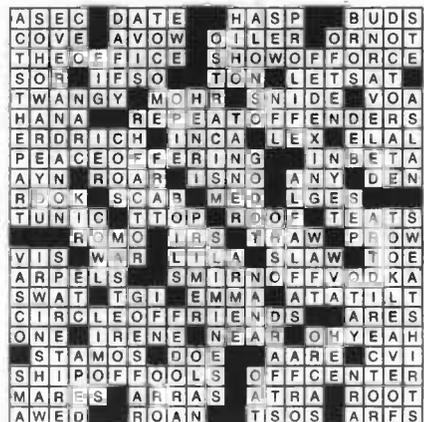
"Reenactments"



"Spilsh Splash"



"Misaligned"



Last week's Quote-Acrossic

A(ndrew) TISCH: LET'S BAN TRILLION:
Let's ban trillion, a gigantic number neither understood nor appreciated and trivialized by the one word. Instead use one thousand billion, making our national debt more ominously sixteen thousand billion.

Last week's Sudoku

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

This week's Jumble

ABOUND ENTITY HICCUP
CAMERA SUDDEN ENROLL

After their team won the Super Bowl, some of the fans were —

IN "ATTEND-DANCE"

chicago
tribune.com
/games

Interactive puzzles and games

Six kinds of kisses and what they mean

There's a reason the 1963 hit song "Then He Kissed Me" by The Crystals was included in Rolling Stone magazine's list of "The 500 Greatest Songs of All Time." It's because that song is every woman's fairy tale. It's about the cute guy, the dance, the walk home, the engagement and what might be the most breathtaking moment in a woman's life: a perfect kiss.

You know what I'm talking about. We've all been there. A great kiss can be a powerful and life-changing event. It can have you on a high for weeks, even months. It can inspire you. It can give you clarity like never before, or hope you never thought you'd feel. And it can turn any dream you have into a realistic possibility.

In honor of Valentine's Day, I thought I would address the subject of lip-locking, specifically that memorable first kiss, the different kinds of kisses we've all experienced, and the elements that make up the ultimate and utterly unforgettable smooch.

The idea for this column stems from Noam Osband, a New York-based anthropologist and filmmaker, who has produced over 40 short films in which he interviews men and women on the street about their first kiss.

"My first kiss was in high school and it was a big deal for me," said the 35-year-old Osband, who plans to shoot one film about kissing per day throughout 2016 as part of his kissing series, "First Kiss Confessions." "It's such a lovely kiss and so many people have good memories of it. It's unforgettable."

Osband and I came up with a list of six different kinds of kisses.

1. The peck

My least favorite type of kiss, the peck is usually given on not-so-hot first dates, or as a courteous, quick or friendly hello or goodbye. To me, the peck means, "We are platonic." I believe that even married couples or those in long-term relationships should stay away from the peck as much as possible. In other words, kiss your wife (or husband) like you mean it!

2. The sloppy

This kiss is a "combination of lust and alcohol and a spring break staple," according to Osband. There are also men



JACKIE PILOSSOPH
Love Essentially

and women who are just sloppy kissers, in general. The spouse has to accept that going in to the relationship or it will never work.

3. The lip bite

"A cousin to the sloppy, this kiss has grown in popularity, thanks to 'Fifty Shades of Grey,'" Osband said. Aside from the fact that the lip bite can actually be painful, I think it can be sexy in the right situation and with the right person, of course.

4. The passionate

Typically found at airports and train stations, the passionate kiss combines urgency and intense joy or sadness (depending on departure or arrival). Additionally, the passionate kiss is the prelude to sex. It's breathtaking and sort of makes you feel like you're in a movie.

5. The soft and sensual

This is the kind of kiss where you can actually feel the intensity of the other person's lips. The kiss is slow and gentle, deep and meaningful, and is responsible for chapped lips the next day.

6. The true love

You're lucky if you've experienced the true love kiss. It is the ultimate perfect kiss, as it combines all of these other kisses. The best way I can describe the true love kiss is it feels like you are sitting by your fireplace sipping hot chocolate with your best friend, feeling safe and secure and deeply loved. It's warm. It's home. Both people are their authentic selves with no fear or vulnerability. And, at the same time, you feel like Ingrid Bergman and Humphrey Bogart in "Casablanca," because your heart is pounding furiously and you never want the moment to end.

"There's nothing better than a good make-out session. It's sweet and sexy, and it makes you feel connected," Osband said. "If you think about it, kissing is kind of unhygienic. Sharing your toothbrush with someone ironically has a lot less germs. That said, most people really love to kiss."

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

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HEALTH



TNS

To help improve a child's eating habits, offer fruit and vegetables for snacks.

Set a good example for your overweight child



DR. ANTHONY KOMAROFF
Ask Doctor K

Dear Doctor K: My 12-year-old is overweight. How can I help him achieve a healthy weight without making him feel deprived?

Dear Reader: Being overweight makes it hard for a child to keep up with friends on the playground. And the teasing can be merciless. What's more, kids who are overweight are at greater risk for lots of health problems as teens and later in life. Children who are overweight or obese are more likely to develop high blood pressure, high cholesterol and heart disease as adults. Long-term obesity also increases the risk of arthritis, diabetes and certain kinds of cancer.

The best way to help your son get back to a healthy weight is to get your entire family to exercise regularly and eat a sensible diet. Your son is less likely to feel deprived if his food and activities are

the same as the rest of the family.

Here are some specific tips:

- Encourage at least one hour of exercise every day.
- Plan family activities that involve exercise. Try bicycling, walking, hiking and swimming.
- Limit television, computer and video-game time to no more than one to two hours per day.
- Switch to low-fat or nonfat milk (except for children younger than 2 years old and women trying to become pregnant), and reduced-fat cheeses and yogurts.
- Drink water instead of soda or juice.
- Limit fried and high-fat foods.
- Use low-fat cooking methods such as baking, steaming, boiling, grilling and broiling.
- Try to eat at least five servings each day of fruits and vegetables.
- Keep a variety of fruits and vegetables on hand. Serve them as snacks instead of cookies, chips, ice cream or other high-fat foods.
- Trim visible fat from meat and remove skin from poultry before cooking.
- When eating out, en-

courage the family to choose lower-fat items, such as a grilled chicken sandwich instead of a fried burger, or pasta with tomato sauce instead of pepperoni pizza.

Never severely restrict your child's calories. Children who are overweight still need three well-balanced meals and one or two nutritious snacks each day, in order to have enough energy to learn, play and grow to their full potential. In addition, children should not follow fad diets, which may not have important nutrients that children require. If you need more guidance, your pediatrician can refer you to a nutritionist or registered dietitian.

There are two main messages here. First, overweight kids are at increased risk of several diseases later in life. Second, kids are much more likely to behave in a certain way if they see you behaving that way.

(Dr. Komaroff is a physician and professor at Harvard Medical School. To send questions, go to AskDoctorK.com, or write: Ask Doctor K, 10 Shattuck St., Second Floor, Boston, MA 02115.)

PEOPLE'S PHARMACY PRESCRIPTIONS AND HOME REMEDIES

Overmedication may be problem for some seniors

By Joe Graedon
and Teresa Graedon
King Features Syndicate

Q: I work in dementia care. My co-workers and I are all alarmed about the medications given to elders. In care homes, we all know that when someone gets a new medication, a fall may not be far behind.

We are used to elders arriving on 10 or even 20 different medications, none of which has been reviewed before. We've even seen someone arriving with three different depression meds, started at three different time periods, with none of them being discontinued.

In the world of elder care, alas, we see disgraceful neglect in the world of medications. It would be a really good idea for a pharmacist to be required by law to review an elder's meds.

A: We have long suspected that too many older people are overmedicated. Nursing home residents and patients with Alzheimer's disease are especially vulnerable. Thank you for sharing an insider's perspective. The more drugs senior citizens take, the more likely they will experience fatigue, forgetfulness, confusion, dizziness and falls. Family should be vigilant and request a review of all medications on a regular basis.

To make this easier, we offer our "Guide to Drugs and Older People," which lists a number of drugs that are inappropriate for people over 65, along with our Drug Safety Questionnaire, to be filled out by the prescriber or pharmacist. Anyone who would like a copy, please send \$3 in check or money order with a long (No. 10), stamped (70 cents), self-addressed



VSTOCK

The more drugs that senior citizens take, the more likely it is that they will experience fatigue, confusion and falls.

envelope to: Graedons' People's Pharmacy, No. OQH-883, P.O. Box 52027, Durham, NC 27717-2027. It also can be downloaded for \$2 from our website: www.peoplespharmacy.com.

Q: I have had foot odor all my life. I have tried sprays, foot powder, soaps and Odor-Eaters. I've rotated my shoes every day and sprayed them with Lysol and Febreze.

The only thing that helped at all was Dr. Oz's suggestion to soak your feet in vinegar water every day, which was difficult to do faithfully. I usually have to throw shoes out after three months.

Last year I tried hand sanitizer on my feet. I rubbed a small amount on them each day after bathing or showering, and the odor was gone. I guess that it kills the bacteria that cause the odor. I hope this helps others facing the same problem.

A: Perspiration feeds the bacteria that produce foot odor. Feet sweat a lot, and shoes often trap it and intensify the problem. In winter, when people wear waterproof boots that don't breathe, the problem may become worse.

Thank you for an inter-

esting suggestion. Using hand sanitizers probably discourages bacterial overgrowth. Many such products contain alcohol that kills germs that cause foot odor.

Q: You wrote about medications being delivered to homes by various companies (UPS, FedEx, USPS) and made it sound as though if you don't purchase it from your local pharmacy and bring it right home, there might be problems.

How do you think the majority of medications are delivered to the pharmacy? It's by UPS, FedEx and USPS! I doubt many pharmacies have their stock delivered by "temperature- or humidity-controlled vehicles" on a continual basis.

A: You are right that delivery vehicles pose a problem, whether to individuals or to pharmacies. The difference is that, once delivered to the pharmacy, the drug doesn't sit in a frigid mailbox for hours. Instead, it goes onto shelves that are room temperature.

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

YOU DON'T
NEED TO DATE
A MECHANIC TO
GET A FAIR PRICE
ON A WHEEL
ALIGNMENT

Introducing Service & Repair.

Know the cost for labor and parts in your area
so you don't pay more than you should.

Research. Price. Find. Get the right service,
without all the drama.



FAMILY

Pressure for 'likes' prompts some to quit social media

By Elahe Izadi

The Washington Post

In making her very public break with social media, Instagram model Essena O'Neill wrote that the drive for followers, likes and views "suffocated" her.

"I would just spend hours looking at everyone else's perfect lives," she wrote, "and I strived to make mine look just as good."

The 19-year-old's admission that she felt trapped by the need to share and receive instant approval resonated, and for good reason.

MIT psychologist Sherry Turkle said she often hears variants of this tale from people of all ages.

"More and more we live in a psychological culture of 'I share therefore I am,'" said Turkle, author of "Alone Together: Why We Expect More From Technology and Less From Each Other." "We measure our worth by how many likes we have, by how many views we can garner. We take a selfie to capture the moment, but also to share it with others. We have our eye on how we look to others and in the archive."

O'Neill admitted to spending countless hours perfecting her look and retaking photos, trying to capture the perfect one that portrayed an effortless ease.

Some people go under the knife due to such pressure; plastic surgeons reported an increase in facial procedures among those under 30 in part because of popularity selfies, according to the 2014 American Academy of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery survey.

Image-based platforms "force patients to hold a microscope up to their own image and often look



MOMENT OPEN

at it with a more self-critical eye than ever before," said academy president Edward Farnior.

Turkle has interviewed plenty of people who have reported that their social media use is unsustainable, and people say they temporarily sign off for many reasons. It can be as simple as seeing Facebook or Instagram as a time suck; the pressure to keep up can also take a toll.

But what Turkle said will be "the big driver" of signing off in the future is the anxiety people feel as their social media personas become increasingly distant from the reality of their inner lives.

"You become very good at doing something that, in one way, its whole existence is predicated on that it represents you, but actually if you do it well, it starts to represent you less and less," Turkle said.

How social media platforms make us feel also has a lot to do with how we use them.

One study published earlier this year in the journal *Computers in Human Behavior* found that using social media doesn't necessarily leave people feeling more depressed.

University of Missouri researchers surveyed more than 700 college students on Facebook and found that using the site for "surveillance" — lurking

around to check on how others are doing and comparing it to your own life — can cause feelings of envy, which leaves people more susceptible to depression. But once the researchers controlled for envy, Facebook use didn't leave people more depressed; it actually had the opposite effect.

"Facebook can be a very positive resource for many people, but if it is used as a way to size up one's own accomplishments against others, it can have a negative effect," said the study's lead author, Margaret Duffy. "It is important for Facebook users to be aware of these risks so they can avoid this kind of behavior."

Part of the risk is the drive for likes, hearts and other forms of social media approval. So what would social media be without them? Developer Benjamin Grosser created a tool that essentially removed the gratification numbers from Facebook, and those who installed the browser plug-in reported feeling less stressed about sharing content. One man told him, "I finally feel at ease."

It's no wonder that in the search for peace, some sign off altogether.

But Turkle said it's helpful to remember that all of these tools are relatively new, and our relationships with them are still quite immature.

"We're struggling to find our psychological way because I think we've triggered things," she said. "We're made to communicate."

And as time passes and we get more experience, humans will better be able to figure out how to virtually interact with the world in a way that fulfills, rather than drains, us.

Or, as Turkle puts it: "We'll find a way to not have to quit it but use it with greater intention."

Are you ready to volunteer?

By Karl Richardson

Tribune Newspapers

From the neighborhood Boy Scout troop, to the elementary school soccer team, your kids' activities need leadership. Could you be the right person to help?

"There's a small window of time to make a positive impact on children and to shape who they may become as adults," said Stephen Medlicott, marketing director for the Boys Scouts of America.

Lifelong memories are cemented on overnight campouts while camping overnight, by selling cookies together or while cheering on a play at the big game. But before you let the fun times roll as an adult volunteer in organized activities that your child participates in, figure out if this kind of leadership is a good fit for you and your child by asking yourself these questions:

What can I offer? Chief to consider is your experience with the sport or activity in question, as well as your rapport with the age group you'll be leading.

A parent who's never played a sport isn't a likely coach for a team of elite athletes. But such parents might make wonderful leaders for youngsters trying the game for the first time, when qualities such as patience and a fun-loving attitude are more important than expert skills. Likewise, a former elite basketball player might struggle to translate advanced skills to a gym full of second-graders learning to dribble the ball for the first time.

How much time do I have to devote? Parents who get involved with the Boys Scouts of America, for example, can choose a level of involvement that fits their schedule — from den leader to camping-trip chaperon, Medlicott said.



ISTOCK

When volunteering for a child's activities or sports teams, parents need to make sure their kids are OK with it.

Examine your work and family schedule, and be honest with yourself.

What are my motivations for volunteering? The hours spent coaching a sport or leading an activity can be quality time with your child, but you'll also have a responsibility to the rest of the team.

"You are going to have to do your best to treat all of the kids the same," said John Engh, chief operating officer of the National Alliance for Youth Sports, an advocate for positive and safe sports for children that provides resources and training for coaches and parents.

Parents who volunteer because they believe their child is a superstar and want to guarantee extra playing time are likely to end up disappointed, Engh said.

If you have the goal of making sure every child has a great experience, strengthens social skills and learns something new, you are on the right track.

What does my child want? You might ask your child if he or she wants you to get involved.

Larry Lauer, a mental skills specialist for the United States Tennis Association, coaches his young son and daughter in baseball and soccer. Lauer, who has a doctoral degree in exercise and sports science and has done research on the effects of

parent relationships and coaching, makes a point of checking in with his kids — both during the season and in between seasons — to see how things are going and to assess whether they'd like to sign up again.

Is training offered?

Before getting involved with an organization, determine what sort of support it provides for leaders. Scouting organizations and church groups often sponsor training sessions, retreats and resource guides.

Look for sporting organizations, Engh suggests, that provide basic training to coaches, including rudimentary information about the sport and tips for working with the age group at hand. Information about concussion awareness and background checks are also good signs, he said.

Can I follow these best practices? Children often have trouble distinguishing the role of coach or leader from that of parent.

If you decide to go for it, Engh suggests choosing a symbol — such as a team hat, shirt or whistle — that signals to children you are now in your coaching role. When the game, practice or meeting ends, remove the symbol, making it clear you are now just a parent and no longer coach.

Karl Richardson is a freelance reporter.



RENAE LILLIE/VHT STUDIOS PHOTOS



Georgian-style home with coach house: \$4.995M

ADDRESS: 140 Kenilworth Ave. in Kenilworth

ASKING PRICE: \$4,995,000

Listed on Feb. 1, 2016

Updates to this 9,000-square-foot Georgian include a new kitchen, flooring, lighting and landscaping. The main floor includes a spacious French-inspired La Cornue kitchen and family room with a butler's pantry, a separate dining room, living room, sunroom, library, office, two powder rooms and three fireplaces. Four en-suite bedrooms on the second level, including the master with a spa bath, walk-in closet, fireplace and two large balconies, a recreation room with entertainment kitchen/bar, billiard area, wine cellar, workout room and laundry center all found on the lower level. Other highlights include 2-plus garage and coach house. Short walk to lake, schools and Metra.

Agent: Hunter Andre of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage's Gold Coast office, 773-474-2753.

At press time, this home was still for sale.



chicagotribune.com/homes

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NORTH SHORE CENTER

Music by Bob Marley features in "Three Little Birds," a play at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., on Feb. 13.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

'Three Little Birds' tell a musical tale of Jamaica

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

The culture of Jamaica will come alive for families when the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, presents "Three Little Birds," 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Feb. 13.

Michael J. Bobbitt adapted the musical from Cedella Marley's book of the same name. It's the story of an eleven-year-old Jamaican boy who is terrified of hurricanes, monsoons and other natural things, as well as a bogeyman known for stealing people's hair.

The show features the music of the late legendary reggae musician Bob Marley, who was the author's father.

Bobbitt said he took on this project because, "I like to do shows that celebrate culture. Here's a great show about the culture of Jamaica and how wonderful it is."

In working on this project, Bobbitt discovered that Bob Marley wrote, "So many great songs that are very, very kid-friendly. The

tunes are great and the rhythms are great."

Tickets are \$10-\$18. For details, call 847-673-6300 or go to www.northshorecenter.org.

They'll rope you in

The traditional national sport of Mexico will be showcased during Second Sunday: Los Hermanos Escamilla Trick Rope Show, 2-3 p.m. Feb. 14 at Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. Pick up free tickets in KidSpace 30 minutes before the program.

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

Full STEAM ahead

Take your kids on a self-guided exploration of science, technology, engineering, art, math and reading at STEAM Starts, 10-11 a.m. Feb. 19 at Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave. The drop-in program is for ages 2-6 with an adult.

For details, call 847-825-3123 or go to [\[ridgelibrary.org\]\(http://ridgelibrary.org\).](http://www.park</p>
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Share sweets?

That's the question facing Monster who finds a box of chocolates on his doorstep in Rachel Bright's "Love Monster and the Last Chocolate." Kids will hear that tale at a storytime, 11 a.m. Feb. 13 at Barnes and Noble, 55 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. There will also be activities.

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

You scream, I scream

...for Homemade Ice Cream, 9:30-11 a.m. or 1-2:30 p.m. Feb. 20; Feb. 28 or March 5 at Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. Kids, accompanied by an adult, will make ice cream and pot a plant that can flavor ice cream. The cost is \$24 per nonmember child; 20 percent less for Garden Plus members.

For details, call 847-835-6801 or go to www.chicagobotanic.org/familyprograms.

February 25 - March 6

Hedda Gabler is the prototypical "desperate housewife." Married to a man beneath her station who she doesn't really love, she longs for her personal freedom. When she becomes entangled in her husband's academic rivalry, she finds that she can pull the strings that hold together careers as well as life and death.

Hedda Gabler



March 31 - April 10

Abbee won his second Pulitzer Prize for this provocative, absurdist look at marriage and culture. A late middle-aged American couple entering retirement takes a vacation by the sea to explore their relationship and discuss their future. However, they find themselves drawn into an intriguing relationship with another couple who are remarkably different from themselves.



Six Piano Ensemble

Saturday, April 30, 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 1, 3 p.m.

The Oakton Six Piano Ensemble, founded by Glenna Sprague, Oakton professor and coordinator of music, has amazed and delighted sold-out audiences near and far for more than 25 years. Showcasing classical, ragtime, and popular music as well as symphonic repertoire transcribed for the pianos by Sprague, the group's rich, layered sound is comparable to an orchestra, with each pianist playing a different part of a composition. Critics from Honolulu to Vienna hail the group as "unique," "impeccable," and "technically superb." Get your tickets early for this Oakton Performing Arts favorite!

A reception will follow the concerts.



Staged Reading

Saturday, May 7, 8 p.m.

Sunday, May 8, 3 p.m.

The core values of a well-established professor at a prestigious liberal arts college are challenged when she accuses a student of plagiarism. The event and its aftermath cause her to reflect on whether or not she is living the values she teaches. The play grapples with issues of stereotyping and identity politics, as well as generational and family issues.

 **Oakton**
Community College

1600 East Golf Rd., Des Plaines

The season concludes with Oakton music performances. For details, visit www.oakton.edu/showtime.

FACES & PLACES

ACTORS STAGE 'YOU'RE A GOOD MAN, CHARLIE BROWN'



/SPOTLIGHT YOUTH THEATER

Lyle Leland of Chicago, from left, Adam Dittmer of Mundelein, Kaylee Hayden of Park Ridge, Joe Gattuso of Mount Prospect, Kelly Postlethwait of Barrington, and Joe Moerschel of Elk Grove Village star when Spotlight Youth Theater presents "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown," at Prairie Lakes Community Center, 515 E. Thacker St., Des Plaines, through Feb. 21. Performances at 2 and 6 p.m. Feb. 14; 11:45 a.m. Feb. 17; 7 p.m. Feb. 19; 2 and 6 p.m. Feb. 20 and 3 p.m. Feb. 21. A "Special Night for Special Friends" performance will be Feb. 10 for families of special needs children. Call for details. Tickets are \$9-\$12 in advance, and \$2 more at the door. Tickets at (847) 516-2298, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Monday-Friday or see www.spotlight.org.

SOLAS PERFORMS AT NEIU



NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Solas performs at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 19 at the Northeastern Illinois University Auditorium, 3701 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago. The Irish-American band plays new tunes and old favorites. Complimentary parking in Lot F and on levels 4 and 5 of the parking facility. Tickets are \$25; \$17.50; \$5 Call (773) 442-4636 or neu.edu/tickets.

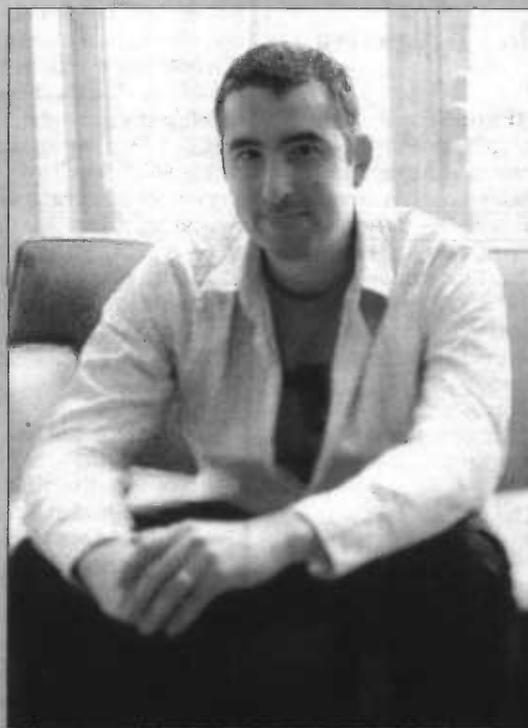
ART EXHIBIT EXPLORES INFLUENCE OF BAUHAUS



/ OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Michael Reid, curator for the exhibition "Convergence/Divergence," with one of the works in the art show at Oakton Community College, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. Oakton's Koehnline art museum exhibit, which explores the influence on the arts of the work of Josef Albers and Laszlo Moholy-Nagy and others of the Bauhaus. The free show runs 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, through March 25. Call (847) 635-2633 or visit www.oakton.edu/museum.

JOE MENO TO READ FROM NEW NOVEL AT OAKTON



Award-winning Chicago writer Joe Meno reads from his latest novel "Marvel and a Wonder" at 6 p.m., Feb. 17, at Oakton's Footlik Theater, 1600 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines. The free event is part of the college's Chicago Writers Series. Meno's new novel details themes of family, redemption, sacrifice and faith. More information from Lynn Woodbury at (847) 635-1953 or woodbury@oakton.edu.

OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

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A Chicago Tribune Publication | Thursday, February 11, 2016 | NHTS

ADDRESS	BUYER	SELLER	DATE	PRICE
338 W Miner St, # 3A, Arlington Heights	Michael Sims & Adrianna Sims	Ray R Kaiser	01-04-16	\$89,500
1107 S Old Wilke Rd, # 4 108, Arlington Heights	Angela S Letona	Linda S Ney	01-05-16	\$110,000
1870 W Surrey Park Ln, # 2D, Arlington Heights	Joseph M Ceca & Ellis I Ceca	Michael McClure	01-04-16	\$140,000
2732 N Greenwood Ave, Arlington Heights	Denis V Tarabrin & Alena S Tarabrina	Jung Ran Chang	01-04-16	\$256,000
10 S Dunton Ave, # 408, Arlington Heights	Hamza Al Saffar	Dunton Campbell Condos Llc	01-06-16	\$256,000
515 W Berkley Dr, Arlington Heights	Adam Szewc & Lucy Morales Szewc	Juan Garcia Perez Estate	01-06-16	\$261,000
2010 N Kennicott Dr, Arlington Heights	Wojciech K Parczynski	Patrick L Borman	01-06-16	\$271,000
2820 S Briarwood Dr E, Arlington Heights	Bohdan Watral & Petrusia Watral	Sedjo Trust	01-07-16	\$320,000
1529 E Arbor Ln, Arlington Heights	Samir Bateriwala & Rajeshriben Bateriwala	Rsd Arbor Lane Llc	12-31-15	\$325,000
4005 N Mitchell Dr, Arlington Heights	Christine Camel & Paul Camel	Mitchell A Levinson	01-04-16	\$415,500
914 N Highland Ave, Arlington Heights	Donna V Robertson	Daniel A Hargesheimer	01-06-16	\$453,500
700 Weldner Rd, # 200, Buffalo Grove	Matthew P Park	Zachery Creer	01-05-16	\$122,000
96 Bernard Dr, Buffalo Grove	Randal Pruett & Brooke Bowser	Santander Bank Na	01-06-16	\$155,500
176 Morningside Ln W, Buffalo Grove	Patricia Marcy	Parkway Bank & Trust Co Ttee	12-28-15	\$164,000
175 Lake Blvd, # 302, Buffalo Grove	Ruth Field & Alan Gebel	Rdp Homes Llc	01-04-16	\$175,000
133 W Fabish Dr, # 133, Buffalo Grove	Kevin Meyer & Lina Ye	Eugene Babinsky	12-29-15	\$190,000
601 Checker Dr, Buffalo Grove	James Rosberg & Elizabeth Rosberg	Dorine Levine	01-04-16	\$271,000
1399 Larchmont Dr, # 1, Buffalo Grove	Jordan Hollander & Ashley Hollander	Wayne E Brucar	12-28-15	\$325,000
883 Saxon Pl, Buffalo Grove	Stephen Patton	Julia Jackson	01-04-16	\$332,000
34 Timber Hill Rd, Buffalo Grove	Brian M Dolwick & Erin J Dolwick	Donald A Jennings	12-31-15	\$370,000
406 Chateau Dr, Buffalo Grove	David A Rabinowitz & Arley R Rabinowitz	Biju S Damodaran	12-31-15	\$420,000
2760 Sandalwood Rd, Buffalo Grove	Rajanikanth Somu & Sandhya Vemuri	Khawaja S Fakhruddin	12-28-15	\$468,000
1990 Wright Blvd, Buffalo Grove	Steve Peck & Nikki Peck	Pulte Home Corp	12-29-15	\$799,000
9629 Brandy Ct, # 7, Des Plaines	Zaid Alqabbani	Marcia L Dubsky	01-06-16	\$75,000
9364 Golf Rd, # 1A, Des Plaines	Russell Wentz & Constance Wentz	Elizabeth Boduch	01-06-16	\$82,000
1525 E Thacker St, # 2 B, Des Plaines	Kiril Ivanov & Daniela Ivanov	Kristin A Brown	01-06-16	\$90,500
9473 Bay Colony Dr, # 1W, Des Plaines	Alyssa Gonzalez	Christian Tangarorang	12-31-15	\$95,000
8812 Dee Rd, # B, Des Plaines	Chaitanya Moull	Tcf National Bank	01-05-16	\$104,000
1480 Jefferson St, # 308, Des Plaines	Ariel S Karluk	Mary A Mcdonagh	01-05-16	\$135,000
160 E Northwest Hwy, # H, Des Plaines	Shanna Gillespie	Mlnh Ly	01-04-16	\$150,000
1883 Orchard St, Des Plaines	Malgorzata Bronkowski	Adam Zawitkowski	01-07-16	\$162,000
9345 Twin Oaks Ln, Des Plaines	Ninous Eshoo	Pnc Bank Na	01-07-16	\$190,000
392 S Cumberland Pkwy, Des Plaines	Mary E Vondrasek	Krystina Shaver	01-04-16	\$193,000
31 E Fremont Ave, Des Plaines	Julia D Agostino & Rudy Albsmeyer	Orlick Trust	01-06-16	\$209,000
8925 Lyons St, Des Plaines	Agron Begu & Besarta Begu	Heta Alza Durrani	01-07-16	\$217,000
31 Westfield Ln, Des Plaines	Joel Detloff & Amy Detloff	Detloff Trust	01-05-16	\$218,000
2035 Fargo Ave, Des Plaines	Ramiro A Sanchez & Susana Gonzalez	David Jeff Harris	01-07-16	\$220,000
371 Lance Dr, Des Plaines	Semir Ramic & Ermina Ramic	Sarah Panganiban Tlczon	01-06-16	\$225,000
761 Hanbury Dr, Des Plaines	Ingrid N Barrios	Alan Mattox Beckman	01-05-16	\$233,000
2420 Birch St, Des Plaines	Jayapal P Parameswaran & Narendranathan M Nair	Ajit K Pillai	01-04-16	\$250,000
525 N 6th Ave, Des Plaines	Rajesh Prajapati & Joh O Crawford	Revel Trust	01-06-16	\$340,000
226 Asbury Ave, # 3, Evanston	Coranea Del Valle	Pickford Homes Llc	01-05-16	\$77,000
930 Washington St, # 2C, Evanston	Cynthia Gatllao	Pnc Bank Na	01-07-16	\$136,000
710 Oakton St, # 403, Evanston	Barry Bonner	Charles A Collett	01-05-16	\$149,000
2300 Nathaniel Pl, Evanston	Pamela Young	Robert A Henry	01-07-16	\$184,000
618 Judson Ave, # 1, Evanston	Daniel G Cuttelle & Nicolette J Cuttelle	Lynn M Erickson	01-04-16	\$220,000
814 Michigan Ave, # 2E, Evanston	Joseph J Ferguson & Catherine M Head	Julia A Kirchner	01-05-16	\$230,000
1580 Sherman Ave, # 705, Evanston	Yohann Mehboob & Sajna Abdurahman	Rootberg Trust	01-06-16	\$286,000
1325 Greenleaf St, Evanston	Margaret M Welch	Michael O Lunda	01-04-16	\$289,000

ADDRESS	BUYER	SELLER	DATE	PRICE
1415 Sherman Ave, # 506, Evanston	Patrick McMahon	Chad A Pahnke	01-04-16	\$293,000
725 Brummel St, Evanston	Durodola Adewolu	Exquisite Properties Llc	01-07-16	\$300,000
2715 Ewing Ave, Evanston	Peter J Conrad & Erlinda Hernandez Conrad	Katherine C Cubitt	01-05-16	\$415,000
800 Elgin Rd, # 1021, Evanston	Frances R Schnadig	Laura Min Proctor	01-05-16	\$445,000
814 Hinman Ave, # 1, Evanston	Givi Peradze	William R Mathias	01-04-16	\$447,500
2418 Harrison St, Evanston	Samuel Barron & Sarah Weitz	Timothy J Smith	01-07-16	\$575,000
3300 Hayes St, Evanston	Eric Furman & Kellie Hasselbeck Furman	3300 Hayes Llc	01-06-16	\$578,000
2609 Ridge Ave, Evanston	Prithvi Prabhu & Aparna Thakur	Douglas R Hasegawa	12-31-15	\$750,000
4164 Cove Ln, # E, Glenview	Rafiq Basaria	Wells Fargo Bank Trustee	01-05-16	\$106,000
3801 Applan Way, # 601, Glenview	Negovan Veljkovic	Epstein Trust	01-05-16	\$150,000
251 Washington Rd, Glenview	Cristina Ilyes	Harmon Trust	01-05-16	\$296,000
1625 Glenview Rd, # 108, Glenview	Donna Greco	Halpern Trust	01-07-16	\$335,000
100 Dartmouth Ct, Glenview	David Ziegler & Faye Ziegler	Cut N Rodin	01-04-16	\$405,000
432 Washington St, Glenview	John Condon & Emily Condon	John Pasquesi	01-06-16	\$413,000
721 Harms Rd, Glenview	Susan A Kondrat	Christopher A McCarthy	01-05-16	\$460,000
644 Echo Ln, Glenview	Pablo Torresarpi & Renata Buenostro	Roger E Tyk	01-05-16	\$490,000
2033 Saipan Dr, Glenview	Yu Sun	Development Solutions Gln Llc	01-06-16	\$495,000
2001 Saipan Dr, Glenview	Dariusz Godlewski	Development Solutions Gln Llc	01-04-16	\$561,000
2028 Valor Ct, Glenview	Alan Sherbin & Kathleen Sherbin	Drew K Spitzer	01-05-16	\$755,000
1905 Dauntless Dr, Glenview	Fengfei Xiao & Junxin Chen	Development Solutions Gln Llc	12-31-15	\$873,000
2918 Wilson Ln, Glenview	Kimberly A Isham & Randolph Isham	Development Solutions Gln Llc	01-06-16	\$880,000
30 Seneca Ave W, Hawthorn Woods	David Luebbe & Kristy Luebbe	Manfred Krebs	12-30-15	\$430,000
25688 N Somerset Ct, Hawthorn Woods	Eric W Leopold & Megan K Leopold	Michael P Sullivan	01-07-16	\$520,000
1 Palisades Blvd, Hawthorn Woods	Leonardo Figueiredo Matos & Tatiana Sonohara Furugen	Pulte Home Corp	12-28-15	\$564,500
30 Beverly Ln, Hawthorn Woods	Madhavi Pola Kadkhodaian & Pedjman Kadkhodaian	Pulte Home Corp	01-05-16	\$587,260
3 Bradbury Ln, Hawthorn Woods	Kristen R Bielema & Michael D Bielema	Pulte Home Corp	12-28-15	\$750,000
706 Milton Rd, Inverness	Robert Blajda	Elzbieta Teodorczuk Jasko	12-31-15	\$425,000
21700 W Hillendale Ct, Kildeer	Arumugam M Sivashanmugam & Deepa Arumugam	Brian T Mccoy	12-31-15	\$410,000
21205 W Creekside Dr, Kildeer	Justin T Wrage & Angela M Wrage	Khalil Khameneh	01-04-16	\$510,500
21348 W York Ct, Kildeer	Geoffrey D Lambert & Tina L Lambert	Simon Ball	12-29-15	\$583,000
28835 N Herky Dr, # 111, Lake Bluff	Michael A Miller	Rockland Group Inc	01-04-16	\$163,000
8620 Waukegan Rd, # 502, Morton Grove	Nahid Ojand	Mark Khinkis	12-31-15	\$85,500
9122 Marion Ave, Morton Grove	Omer S Malik & Amen S Malik	Valantina Moshi	01-05-16	\$365,000
9323 Cameron Ln, Morton Grove	George J Strack & Kathleen Fay	Patricia Ann Swanson	01-06-16	\$380,000
8340 Concord Dr, Morton Grove	Mary B Luk	Lexington Station Llc	12-31-15	\$411,500
8887 N Grand St, Niles	Rajendra Shah	Us Bank Na Trustee	01-06-16	\$124,000
8815 W Golf Rd, # 61, Niles	John J Lee & Sang J Lee	Anna Horuk	01-05-16	\$140,000
8915 N Washington St, Niles	Rameshchandra Mody & Hansaben Mody	Khalid Sharif	01-04-16	\$157,000
7045 W Carol Ave, Niles	Nehababen S Gandhi	Alexander Pechenik	12-31-15	\$220,000
7889 N Nordica Ave, Niles	Chandyl Belandres	Jp Investments & Management	01-04-16	\$235,000
418 N Northwest Hwy, Park Ridge	Stephen J Judge & Amanda S Judge	Eric Meinert	01-07-16	\$100,000
401 Ascot Dr, # 1B, Park Ridge	Wilman Jones & Eileen Jones	Jacqueline Tambellini	01-06-16	\$112,500
2600 Windsor Mall, # 1A, Park Ridge	Gabriel Garcia	Steven J Warnimont	01-05-16	\$174,000
2200 Bouterse St, # 208, Park Ridge	Linda M Braun	Nicholas C Jannotta	12-31-15	\$255,000
725 Austin Ave, Park Ridge	Noreen O Connor	Norman P Schaetslein	01-07-16	\$257,000
1219 Hoffman Ave, Park Ridge	Steven C Kwong & Theresa M Kwong	Sunway Realty Llc	01-06-16	\$338,500
1309 S Fairview Ave, Park Ridge	Curtis Owen & Linda Salvato	Meredith A Kinneel	01-06-16	\$378,000
105 S Delphia Ave, Park Ridge	Abel Guardiola & Antonella Guardiola	Scott A Levine	01-04-16	\$465,000
202 N Northwest Hwy, Park Ridge	Kathy A Hedley & Craig Hedley	Hinkley Park Development Llc	01-05-16	\$577,500
215 N Grace Ave, Park Ridge	Giuseppe Insera	2 Upski Llc	01-07-16	\$1,025,000
206 Elmore St, Park Ridge	Charles Clark & Kathleen Clark	Moloney Custom Homes Inc	01-07-16	\$1,089,000

This list is not intended to be a complete record of all real estate transactions.

Data compiled by Record Information Services ■ 630-557-1000 ■ public-record.com

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HOUSE BEAUTIFUL!

Morton Grove... Impeccable, updated & expanded 8 rm Raised Ranch in great location! Sensational updated kitchen with hardwood flrs, island, Corian counters & recessed lites opens to family rm with 2 skylights leads to sliding doors that open to deck with fenced yard & Paver brick patio. Huge living rm with WBFP. Lower level rec area with brick fireplace wall, recessed lights & room for another br and/or 2nd kitchen. Paver brick driveway. New C/A & furnace. 2 ½ car att'd garage. A 10+ Home.....**\$449,900**



ONE OF OUR FINEST OFFERINGS!

Morton Grove... Absolutely beautifully maintained 7 room Bi-level in great location! Living rm with newer bay window. Crown moldings & hardwood floors under carpet. Eat-in kitchen with green house window + Corian counters. Fabulous lower level family room with wood laminate floors with custom built-ins & wall of closets. 3 brs & 1 ½ updated baths. Side drive to 2 ½ car heated garage. Fenced yard with large wood deck & landscaped yard. Walk to pool, park, shopping & transportation!.....**\$269,900**



BRAND NEW LISTING!

Des Plaines... New on the Market! Beautiful solid built 6 room brick Ranch in super convenient location! 3 large bedrooms & 2 full bathrooms. Living room and bedrooms with hardwood floors. Separate dining room, Large eat in kitchen with stainless steel appliances. Huge 20' x 14' master bedroom. Main floor laundry. Massive 65' x 165' lot with 18' above ground pool, fenced in back yard. 2 car detached garage. Located near I-294, Restaurants, Shopping, Entertainment and much more!.....**\$189,000**



GLENVIEW

Three-bedroom, 3.5-bath corner brick townhome is move-in ready. Open floor plan. Maple floors and walnut staircases. Private entrance, foyer, 2-car attached garage, second-floor eat-in kitchen. Custom stone & bronze medallion fireplace. Balcony & backyard patio have gas hook-up. Master suite includes walk-in closet, whirlpool tub & walk-in shower. Second-floor laundry. Plasma TV included.

Address: 1805 Grove St.
Price: \$529,000
Schools: Glenbrook South High School
Taxes: \$9,663
Agent: James Luxem/Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices KoenigRubloff Realty Group



PALATINE

Updated townhome is move-in ready. Wood laminate flooring in entry, kitchen and dining area. New carpeting throughout unit. Freshly painted interior. Two brick fireplaces. All-new kitchen with maple cabinets and stainless appliances. First-floor office. Master bedroom features sliding glass doors to exterior deck. Updated bath with double vanity, soaking tub & shower. Full finished basement with fireplace. Storage closets in garage. Three bedrooms, 2.5 baths.

Address: 590 W. Parkside Drive
Price: \$290,000
Schools: Fremd High School
Taxes: \$6,089
Agent: Sharron Kelley/Coldwell Banker - The Groves



EVANSTON

Spacious end unit, updated townhouse has treetop views and overlooks quiet residential location. Updates include new windows, rear stairs and newer kitchen and baths. Three bedrooms, 1.5 baths. Family room on the lower level overlooks paver patio. Two parking spaces. Steps to Lovelace Park with playground, basketball and tennis courts, soccer fields, fishing pond and walking/running path.

Address: 2727 Gross Point Road
Price: \$305,000
Schools: Niles North High School
Taxes: \$4,945
Agent: Meredith Schreiber/@Properties



VERNON HILLS

Townhome in Gregg's Landing has open layout, high ceilings & pond/fountain view from patio. Basement has second fireplace & movie theater setup. Second level offers scenic views. Home is decorated with crystal chandeliers. Master suite with walk-in closet & vaulted ceilings with bay window. Movie theater system and smart TVs on wall stay.

Address: 384 Pine Lake Circle
Price: \$349,000
Schools: Vernon Hills High School
Taxes: \$7,187
Agent: Jane Lee/RE/MAX Top Performers

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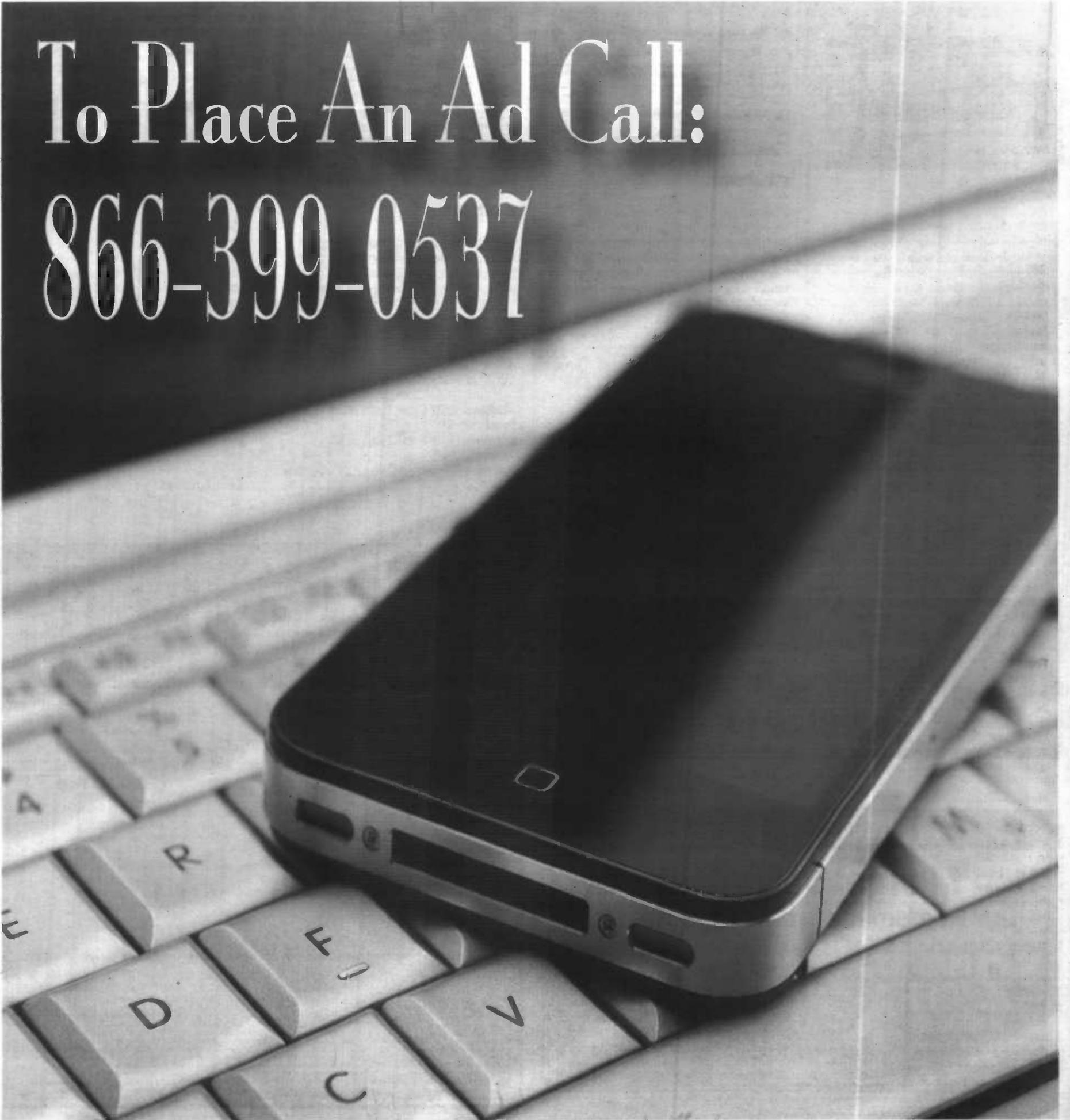
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Sebonic Financial	3.689%		5/1 ARM	2.875	0.000	\$1295	20%	2.999	866-723-1989	
			30 yr Jumbo Conforming	4.000	0.000	\$0	20%	4.001		
			30 yr FHA	3.250	0.000	\$0	3.5%	3.303	http://bankrate.sebonic.com	
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Listings are subject to change.
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Thursday, Feb. 11

Diabetes month by month: Learn how to prevent, manage and take care of your diabetes in order to prevent complications. Every month we will have a different topic; from weight management, stress management to how to read food labels. Class is bilingual (English and Spanish). 5 p.m. Thursday, Erie Family Health Center Evanston/Skokie, 1285 Hartrey Ave., Evanston, free, 847-666-2346

Arabian Nights at ETHS: Evanston Township High School will stage "Arabian Nights." 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, \$8, \$6, 847-424-7130

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

The Things We Keep: The Arc presents a family drama about an artist in the process of cleaning out her attic at the end of her life and her family's return home to settle the estate. 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday; 6 p.m. Sunday, Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, \$10-\$25, 847-448-8260

Discussing Books Together: This is a wonderful opportunity for high school teens and adults to discuss an award-winning book. The 2013 Alex Award winner, "Tell the Wolves I'm Home: A Novel," by Carol Rifka Brunt, is the selected title. Just drop in to be a part of this group, share ideas, be inspired and enjoy a slice of pizza. 7 p.m. Thursday, Middy Mags Pizzeria, 1127 Depot St., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Meditation Healing Circle: The Wellness Source hosts a Guided Meditation Healing Circle with Katherine Trinity, a life-long student of mystical arts and sciences. Call for reservations. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, The Wellness Source, 1245 Milwaukee Ave., Glenview, \$20, 224-413-3500

Opera lecture series: Enjoy a discussion of Romeo and Juliet by Charles Gounod. Lectures moderated by former Lyric Opera of Chicago docents. 7 p.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

French Alliance of North Shore Film Club: Presenting "La Cage aux folles II," (1980, comedy), with English subtitles, followed by a moderated discussion in French. RSVP to reserve your seat via an email entitled "Cine Club" to alliancefn@yahoo.com. 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-328-9516

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. 9 a.m. Daily, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

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

Report Card Promotion for High School Students: Bring in your report card to College Nannies and Tutors to show your A's and B's for a free pizza meal coupon. At the Glenview office only. Thursday-Friday, College Nannies and Tutors, 958 N. Harlem Ave., Glenview, free, 847-998-5657

Books and bites: This book discussion is held offsite and features "Ghosts of Tupelo Landing" by Sheila Turnage. 4 p.m. Thursday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Niles Songwriters: Local songwriters meet to discuss their craft and play their music. Acoustic instruments are welcome. 7 p.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 STEAM playground for kids in grades K-4. Activities are repeated each week from Tuesday to Thursday. 4 p.m. Thursday and Tuesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Neighbor Time: Join us as we visit everyone's favorite neighbor. 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Movies in the Underground: Paper Towns: Enjoy a comedy/mystery about high school buddies searching for a missing girl. 4 p.m. Thursday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Wee play: Enjoy music, rhymes, giggles and books for caregiver and baby. 10 a.m. Thursday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Investment resources: Sharpen your investing skills by learning to use the brand new e-resource, S&P Capital IQ NetAdvantage. 7 p.m. Thursday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

TEDxNorthbrookLibrary: How We Think About Food: Video presenters include: food writer Mark Bittman, "What's Wrong with What We Eat," chef/activist Jamie Oliver, "Teach Every Child About Food" and author/activist Tristram Stuart, "The Global Food Waste Scandal." 7 p.m. Thursday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

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

Park Ridge Garden Club meeting: Learn to make a mosaic flower pot out of broken plates. 7 p.m. Thursday, Park Ridge Park District- Centennial Activity Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free

The Jewish Course of Why: The top 50 questions about Jews and Judaism were selected for this Jewish Learning Institute course. 9 a.m. Thursday and Sunday, Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie, 4059 Dempster St., Skokie, \$100; discount available

Mothers and Sons: Northlight presents a 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; 8 p.m. Friday; 2:30 and 8 p.m. Saturday; 2:30 and 7 p.m. Sunday; 1 and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd, Skokie, \$15-\$68, 847-673-6300

Friday, Feb. 12

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

First Laugh One Act Festival: Celebrate women playwrights with two weekends of comedy. The first weekend premieres a semi-staged reading of "Pygmalion and Galatea: A Comedy of Eros," by Jessica Puller. The festival's second weekend showcases Yolanda Carney, grand prizewinner of First Laugh 2015 by presenting her full-length play "Thinking Sacks of Meat." 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Piccolo Theatre, 600 Main St., Evanston, Week 1 \$10; Week 2 \$15-\$20, 847-424-0089

Game Nights for ages 13-18: Play on big screens with the library's game systems and collections. Pizza is generously donated by D'Agostino's Pizza. 5 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

iPhone Photography: Do you know all the capabilities of your device's camera? Learn how to take, edit and share photos with your iPhone or iPad. Registration is limited to six participants and Morton Grove residents have priority. 2 p.m. Friday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Anti-Valentine's Day Party: If you are not so sick of love, you can stop by anyway. Come eat plenty of breath-destroying foods, craft apathetic conversation hearts, and share playlists of our favorite anti-Valentine's songs and movies. You can even win free romanceless books and other door prize giveaways. 3:30 p.m. Friday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Sweet Valentine sachets: Learn to use a sewing machine and sew scented sachets for Valentine's Day. 5 p.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 a.m. Friday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

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Basic Excel 2013: This class covers the fundamentals of using Microsoft's spreadsheet program. 10 a.m. Friday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Ellie Carlson Presents a Rich and Romantic History: Adults can join Ellie Carlson, an award-winning costume curator, for a look at St. Valentine, the custom of sending paper valentines and the oldest valentine still around. 1 p.m. Friday, Northbrook Park District Leisure Center, 3323 Walters Ave., Northbrook, \$5 for Northbrook Senior Center members, \$8 for nonmembers, 847-291-2988

Share The Warmth: Join a group of warm, friendly, supportive women (men welcome) to prepare one-of-a-kind fleece blankets for chemo patients. 9 a.m. Friday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, free, 847-293-6755

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

Beau Jest: This warmhearted comedy tells the story of Sarah Goldman, who doesn't think her traditional Jewish parents will respond favorably to her boyfriend, a gentile guy named Chris. 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 2 p.m. Sunday, Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, \$24-\$34, 847-677-7761

Saturday, Feb. 13

Live music: Right in time for Valentine's Day, CRISIS returns to one of their favorite local venues. Come on out to join in for a rockin' good time! There is no cover. 9 p.m. Saturday, Countryside Saloon, 2501 E. Ballard Road, Des Plaines, free, 847-827-5577

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

Ecology Center Winter Market: 9 a.m. Saturday, Ladd Arboretum, 2024 McCormick Blvd., Evanston, free, 847-448-8045

Overeaters Anonymous: Newcomer meeting on the last Saturday of the month. No dues, fees or weigh-ins. 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-Sunday, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, \$3 kids, \$5 adults, 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

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

Marnie & Phil: A Circus Love Letter: Through the spectacular circus wizardry of The Actors Gymnasium, Marnie & Phil: A Circus Love Letter tells a time-spanning, multi-generational story that explores how our friendships stay with us over time, recede, and can come back to save us just when we need them to. 7:30 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Actors Gymnasium, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, \$25; \$15 for students, 847-328-2795

Heart-Shaped Cookie Decorating for ages 13-18: Valentine's Day is just a day away. A perfect last-minute (and tasty) way to remember that special someone or simply treat yourself. 2 p.m. Saturday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

The Bard of Avon: Just in time for Valentine's Day, William Shakespeare stops by to share his story. Enjoy a morning of Renaissance fun for the whole family. 11 a.m. Saturday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Crafting for Charity: Looking for knitters and crocheters who are willing to make scarves and/or hats for charity. Completed items made are to be donated to the Niles and Maine Township Food Pantries. If you want to help, but can not make it, email at info@mgpl.org, and get an answer back with details. 10 a.m. Saturday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Second Saturday Breakfast Bingo: Kids and families are welcome to enjoy some breakfast treats as everyone plays Bingo. 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Inside The Winter's Tale: John Nygro speaks about the timeless and lasting impact of Shakespeare, specifically on the play "The Winter's Tale." 2 p.m. Saturday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Art-Ability: Especially for Kids with Special Needs: Children of all ages and abilities are welcome in this special class taught by NSYMCA Art Academy Staff. 10 a.m. Saturday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Saturday First Run Feature: Grandma: Lily Tomlin plays Elle Reid in this rated R film. Temporarily broke, Grandma Elle and Sage spend the day trying to get their hands on the cash as their unannounced visits end up rattling skeletons and digging up secrets. 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Essential tremor support group: 10 a.m. Saturday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Junie B. Jones: Adapted from a series of popular books, "Junie B. Jones, The Musical," brings a precocious first-grader to life. 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, Northbrook Theatre, 3323 Walters Ave., Northbrook, \$10-\$12, 847-291-2995

Tefila Tot Shabbat: Stories, songs, prayers and games will be part of a special prayer service for children ages two to five. 11:15 a.m. Saturday, Ezra Habonim/the Niles Township, 4500 W. Dempster St., Skokie, free, 847-675-4141

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

Urban Wildlife: Researchers from the Lincoln Park Zoo's Urban Wildlife Institute highlight findings from their research. 11 a.m. Saturday, Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 846-256-6935

Mommy and Me Playdate with Author Sherri Duskey Rinker: Celebrate Valentine's Day (just a tad early) as Sherri Duskey Rinker is welcomed along with her new book, "Silly Wonderful You." Enjoy a reading, refreshments and Valentine's Day fun for parents, grandparents, and their treasured kids. 1:30 p.m. Saturday, The Book Stall at Chestnut Court, 811 Elm St., Winnetka, free, 847-446-8880

Sunday, Feb. 14

Andrew Ripp: With Swear and Shake & Act As If. 7:30 p.m. Sunday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$15-\$25, 847-492-8860

Romantic Sonatas at Nichols Hall: Rembrandt Chamber Players performs works by Schubert, Widerkehr, and Rachmaninoff for an intimate Valentine's Day concert. 3 p.m. Sunday, Nichols Concert Hall, Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$38 general admission, \$10 student, 312-360-3145

Do Not Submit: A Storytelling Open Mic: Second Sundays of the Month. Sign-Up 6 p.m. Local event that is pressure free night for storytellers from zero to decades of experience to connect, share stories, and hone their craft. 5:30 p.m. Sunday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679

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

Ballads of the Bard: Celebrate Valentine's Day by exploring the use of music in Shakespeare's plays and how those plays influenced centuries of later composers. 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Those Were the Days - Radio Players: The Radio Players West troupe takes us back in time to 1930's and 1940's radio. Their performances include selections from favorite love stories of yore. 2 p.m. Sunday, Morton Grove Historical Museum, 6148 Dempster St., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-0203

Second Sunday: Los Hermanos Escamilla Trick Rope Show: Enjoy amazing feats on rope work called "Floreo de Soga" traditionally known as the national sport of Mexico. Watch "Floreadores" defy gravity and re-think what you know about physics. Pick up free tickets in KidSpace 30 minutes ahead of time, but seating is limited. 2 p.m. Sunday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Concerts on 3: Elaris Duo: The library's annual winter concert series returns. Enjoy the concert with a view from the third floor. The Elaris Duo (violin and cello) performs works by Mozart, Ravel, Kodaly. 2 p.m. Sunday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

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Monday, Feb. 15

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

hoopla, MyMediaMall and Zinio Individual appointments: Meet with trained library staff for a 45-minute one-on-one session. 10 a.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Chicago North Suburban Myasthenia Gravis Breakfast Chats: Share the ups and downs of the rare auto-immune disease myasthenia gravis with other "MGers" in Glenbrook Hospital's casual Atrium Cafe. Use the West (Green) parking lot and Ambulatory Care Center entrance. 9:30 a.m. Monday, Glenbrook Hospital, 2100 Pfingsten Road, Glenview, free, 800-888-6208

Free Practice ACT Test for High School Students: College Nannies and Tutors offers free Practice ACT tests. noon Monday, College Nannies and Tutors, 958 N. Harlem Ave., Glenview, free, 847-998-5657

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

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

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

Pokemon Tournament and Free Play with Pastimes: For free play, just drop in to practice for fun or learn the basics of Pokemon play. For the tournament, registration is required, which is for advanced players only. Pastimes of Niles provides the onsite loaner cards and officiates the tournament. 12:30 p.m. Monday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Yoga for Kids: Stretch, Bend, Breathe: Kids ages four through eight can learn yoga poses and breathing techniques and feel relaxed and energized afterward. 4:30 p.m. Monday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

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

Maker Lab for Teens: Open Lab: Learn and practice the basics of design by making cool stuff for yourself, friends and family. Bring a design to make or create one using a software with a 3D printer, vinyl cutter and laser cutter. 2 p.m. Monday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Bubble and Squawk Cookbook Discussion: Every other month, the group has a discussion on a cookbook and chooses a recipe from a book selected. Attendees must bring a dish to participate. Cookbook copies are available at the third floor Adult Services desk. This month is "Sheet Pan Suppers," by Molly Gilbert. 7 p.m. Monday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

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

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

Family Presidents' Day Program: Through vivid storytelling and performance, Betty Kay brings to life three women from Illinois during the Civil War era: a soldier, a battlefield nurse and Julia Dent Grant, wife of the Union general and future president. Bring the kids to experience history coming alive on Presidents Day. 2 p.m. Monday, Wilmette Historical Museum, 609 Ridge Road, Wilmette, Free museum members; \$5 per family non-members. 847-853-7666

Great Decisions Foreign Policy Discussion Group: Join in watching a short video and then discussing the corresponding articles from the Foreign Policy Association Great Decisions booklet. (This is available at the library, or for sale at the meetings.) Participants need not attend all sessions. Please register online. 1 p.m. Monday, Winnetka Public Library, 768 Oak St., Winnetka, free, 847-446-7220

Tuesday, Feb. 16

Palliative care: Dr. Martha Twaddle of JourneyCare discusses how palliative medicine differs from hospice. noon Tuesday, The Merion, 1611 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$15, 847-721-1413

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

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 is focused towards an older crowd. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, free, 847-835-5440

LEGO Club: Calling all master builders in first and second grades to partake in a free-build. 4 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Power Employment Workshop Secret Strategies to Land a Job in 90 Days: Discover proven strategies to land a job, as Illinois WorkNet Center speakers share what's working and what's not in today's job market. This comprehensive workshop discusses setting SMART goals to keep you on track, using social media to connect with active hiring managers, getting your resume through today's Applicant Tracking Systems, and sharpening two critical interview skills. 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Financial planning appointments: Need a financial tune-up? Schedule a free one-hour consultation with a certified financial planner. 9 a.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Veteran Center services: An informational table about readjustment services available to eligible veterans and their families in the form of counseling, benefits info, job referral and employment assistance. noon Tuesday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

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

Converting Your VHS Home Movies: Bring your old home movies on VHS to convert to a DVD or digital format in the library's new Digital Media Lab. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Movies, Munchies, and More: Film: The Walk: This movie is about high-wire artist Philippe Petit who recruits a team of people to help him realize his dream: to walk between the tops of the World Trade Center towers. 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Preschool Storytime: 10 a.m. Tuesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Come Together Film: The Sea Inside: "The Sea Inside," which is rated PG-13, is about Ramon Samperdo. He wants to end his life due to a diving accident 28 years before, which turned him into a quadriplegic. Spain's Best Foreign Language Film 2004 winner is also a poignant, emotional film to highlight the themes of ¡Viva! Coming Together in Skokie and Niles Township. 2 p.m. Tuesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Mozart's Requiem: New singers are welcome. Rehearsals are weekly. 7 p.m. Tuesday, St. John Brebeuf Parish Church, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., Niles, free, 702-806-8421

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

Presidential Campaigns: Continuity and Change: Arthur Cyr discusses recent changes in the presidential election process, such as the rise of presidential primaries and the growth of pervasive mass media. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Two-year-old storytime: Listen to stories with your little one. 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

20th Century Club Reciprocity Day: The 20th Century Club of Park Ridge holds Reciprocity Day, "Park Ridge, A Wonderful Place," at its general meeting. Representatives of local organizations are present to share an understanding of their organizations. 1 p.m. Tuesday, Park Ridge Presbyterian Church, 1300 W. Crescent Ave., Park Ridge, free, 312-391-6788

Turn to Calendar, Next Page

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Wednesday, Feb. 17

Des Plaines architecture exhibit at History Center: The public is invited to attend the opening of the new exhibit, "Des Plaines Architecture: An Exhibit about Our Homes and City." 4 p.m. Wednesday, Des Plaines History Center, 781 Pearson St., Des Plaines, free, 847-391-5399

ETHS Booster Board Meeting: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, free, 847-424-7000

Live Music Wednesdays with the Josh Rzepka Trio: Hear the music of Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Thelonious 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

All things Spanish: Both native and non-native Spanish speakers can practice their language skills and expand their love for Spanish/Latino culture. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

The Other Side of the Will: A Primer for Estate Executors: CPA Jay Greenstein of Weiss & Company explains the financial, tax and practical responsibilities of the executor's role. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Chef demo: Enjoy a chef demo that revolves around Latino foods featuring live Latin American music by Gabriel Medina from the Old Town School of Folk Music. 11:15 a.m. Wednesday, Lincolnwood Place, 7000 N. McCormick Blvd., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Introduction to GarageBand: Get an up-close tutorial in the Digital Media Lab on how to use Apple's GarageBand program to record, edit, and share one's own musical and audio creations. 2 p.m. Wednesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Scrabble for Adults: Exercise your brain and enjoy friendly games of Scrabble with other word lovers. 2 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 one-hour storytimes. 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Kindle Book Club and Pizza: Eat and chat about the newest books on the Battle of the Books list. 5:30 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. 10 a.m. Wednesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

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. Chess sets and clocks provided. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Film: Niagara: A vacationing couple, George and Rose Loomis rent a quaint bungalow at romantic Niagara Falls, but Rose and her lover plan to murder her husband. 1 and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Film: Black Widow: A married Broadway producer decides to take an innocent young woman under his wing. He begins his own investigation when the young lady is found dead in his apartment. 1 and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Knitting Studio and Workshop: Bring your supplies or project in progress. Brush up on skills, learn techniques or spend an afternoon knitting with others. 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, free, 847-784-6060

Senior High Youth Group: For all youth grades 9 to 12 to enjoy fun and friendship. 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, First Congregational Church of Wilmette, 1125 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-251-6660

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**"Kung Fu Panda 3" ★★½**

PG, 1:35, animated

A third installment in a franchise isn't always great. But sometimes, it can be a comforting guarantee of a good time at the movies, as is the case with "Kung Fu Panda 3." The first two installments have been met with rapturous reception and box-office success, and this one will no doubt follow in their footsteps — with good reason. Roly-poly goofy panda and Dragon Warrior, Po (Jack Black) is being promoted to kung fu teacher by

his master, Shifu (Dustin Hoffman). With a star-studded voice cast, there's no shortage of humor, but the animation is the real standout in this film. The engaging and heartfelt story, coupled with eye-popping animation, makes this film a total knockout. — *Katie Walsh*

**"The Revenant" ★★½**

R, 2:36, drama

The gorgeously brutal first hour of "The Revenant" marks the peak of director Alejandro G. Inarritu's glittering if not quite golden career. For a while his new movie's really something. Then, as Leonardo DiCaprio crawls across miles and miles of mighty pretty scenery filmed in Canada, Montana and Argentina, gradually it turns into not much of anything. "The Revenant" is a small, gripping story stretched to two hours and 36

minutes. That first hour is big, and imposing. The rest grows smaller, with the script's self-conscious deeper meanings either layered on top, like pelts, or — more successfully — left to Luzbeki's meticulous images of a sun-dappled 19th century Eden. — *Michael Phillips*

**"Star Wars: The Force Awakens" ★★★**

PG-13, 2:16, fantasy

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, it is good. Not great. — *M.P.*

**"The Finest Hours" ★★★**

PG-13, 1:54, drama

The new Disney-produced adventure drama "The Finest Hours" amounts to more than just a working illustration of weather-driven effects work in contemporary movies. It's no stranger to cliché, yet it's a consistently tense and forcefully acted. In February 1952 not one but two oil tankers off the coast of Cape Cod were creamed by the same winter storm. You may be surprised at how well the thing works, despite a comically protracted

wrap-up, full of wordless close-ups and watery eyes. For all I know it may still be going on. — *M.P.*

**"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. — *M.P.*

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DEATH NOTICES

We extend our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.

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Death Notices

Drozda, Richard J.

Born June 4, 1940 entered eternal life January 20, 2016. Richard was born in Wicker Park and attended St. Aloysius School, Holy Trinity High School and Triton College. He proudly served his country in the U. S. Air Force. His entire working life was spent in the graphics industry, but his curiosity and intellect led him to pursue many avocations: Egyptology,



language, cooking, computers and travel. His lifelong passion for photography began in high school, where he was staff photographer for CISCA. He was preceded in death by his parents John and Daisy. He is survived by his sister Marcia (Michael) Shall. He will be missed, but fondly remembered, by his many friends. Services will be held at a later date.

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9 reasons your car won't start

BY BOB WEBER
Tribune Newspapers

You skipped that second cup of coffee. You are running late. To make matters worse, your car won't start. Why? What can you do?

No-starts fall into two basic categories: 1. The engine will not crank or cranks slowly, 2. The engine cranks but does not run.

No or low cranks

Battery: A dead battery is the No. 1 cause of a no-start. If the battery is weak but not dead, the starter may turn slowly. You will hear that slow, groaning RRR-RRR-RRR sound. As the voltage drops further, the sound may become a staccato K-K-K-K. When the battery voltage drops even further, there will be no sound. Even the telltale lights on the instrument panel may dim when you turn the key.

Usually, jump-starting the car will get you on the road, but be sure to find the cause of the dead battery or you will repeat this drill soon.

Make sure the clamps can't easily slip off the battery terminals. Tightening loose clamps may get you on your way.

If the clamps are secure, the battery likely needs a jump. Know the proper way to jump-start a vehicle. Making the wrong connections can cause sparks. Improper polarity may also damage either the donor or recipient vehicle. Learn the proper sequence of connecting and disconnecting the cables as well as where the clamps should be attached.

Some high-end jumper cables (also called booster cables) are designed to prevent inadvertently connecting them wrong.

Choose heavy gauge cables. The lower the gauge number, the heavier the cable. Cheap cables may not be able to carry the electrical current to start the stranded car. The insulation on them may even melt.

Just because you had to jump the battery, it may not be shot. Sometimes it is as simple as charging the battery and cleaning the battery terminals and cable clamps. Corrosion causes resist-



TRIBUNE NEWSPAPERS

Use care when jump-starting a car. You should know the proper sequence of connecting and disconnecting the cables and where the clamps should be attached

ance, not only to starting but also to proper charging as the car is running.

Bad positive battery-cable connections at the power distribution center (usually that fuse block under the hood) or negative connections (usually to a bolt on the engine or body) mimic dirty cables and terminals. The cables should be removed and their connectors cleaned.

If you have doubts about the battery's condition, have it tested. With today's hand-held testers, the job only takes a couple of minutes. Many auto-parts stores and some repair shops offer free testing. They will not only check the battery condition, they will test the charging and starting systems all at the same time.

Replace the battery if it is marginal.

Be sure to buy the right one for your vehicle. Some cars, such as BMWs, require pairing the replacement battery with the car's computer so it can recognize the new one. Many cars can lose electronic memories, ranging from radio presets to power win-

dow operation, if the system is not kept alive during a battery swap.

Alternator: If the alternator is not up to snuff, the battery may not get charged. Although the alternator could be the culprit, don't overlook a worn or slipping accessory drive belt.

If the alternator fails or the belt breaks, a warning light will illuminate.

If the charging system output is only poor, there may be no warning light. If you have a gauge on your instrument panel, it should show about 14 volts.

Even a perfectly functioning alternator may not recharge the battery during short trips, especially if the headlights, wipers, heater, radio, rear window defroster and heated seats are turned on.

Starter: A bad starter may give the illusion of a weak battery if it draws more current than the battery is able to supply.

It will spin slowly and draw excessive power. It will make that

GRR ... GRR ... GRR sound, similar to a weak battery.

If you hear a nasty grinding, clashing sound like trying to shift with a bad clutch, the starter drive gear or the engine's fly-wheel (ring gear) may have damaged teeth.

If the starter does not even turn, its relay or solenoid may be shot or the ignition switch could be the culprit.

Wheel lock: Occasionally, the key will not turn in the ignition switch. As an anti-theft feature, the steering wheel locks when the key is removed.

Sometimes, the wheel moves back against the locking pawl, preventing you from turning the key. Try nudging the steering wheel left or right as you turn the key.

Cranks, doesn't run

If the starter cranks the engine normally, but the engine refuses to run, the battery, starter and alternator are probably fine. The cause lies elsewhere.

Gas: Is the car out of gas? Yeah, it sounds dumb, but it happens. Check that needle.

Fuel pump: Even if there is plenty of fuel in the tank, a weak fuel pump or failed fuel pump relay may prevent the fuel from reaching the engine. If you listen closely, you should be able to hear the in-tank pump running for a few seconds when you first turn the key to the "on" position — before cranking the starter.

Frozen fuel line: Frozen fuel lines still occur, but not as frequently where ethanol is blended into the fuel. A can of Iso-Heet added to the tank may be like a tonic to prevent problems. To avoid water in the tank, which could turn to ice in the lines, keep your tank at least half-full during very cold weather.

Moisture in the air may condense in the fuel tank as the temperature changes and the liquid water then settles to the bottom of the tank.

Spark plugs: Secondary ignition system problems, although rare nowadays, can cause a no-start. It is easy to forget about the spark plugs when their replacement schedule is 100,000 miles.

Security system: Finally, the electronics of the security system can bedevil drivers. Trying to start the car with the wrong ignition key can lead up to a 20-minute delay.

Similarly, remote keyless entry and remote starting devices have been known to create havoc. Proximity keys have a way of going missing, such as leaving them in another jacket or purse, which may turn your morning into something like a scavenger hunt.

Ultimately, you may have to resort to your telephone. First, to call your boss. Second, to call for road service. Keep in mind, however, that you may be in for a long wait on some foul, freezing morning. Take comfort in knowing that you are not alone, then enjoy the comfort of another cup of coffee.

Bob Weber is an ASE-certified master mechanic and Motormouth columnist.

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TOM SNITZER/FOR TRIBUNE NEWSPAPERS

The 2016 Honda Pilot Elite utilizes a fuel-saving nine-speed transmission.

Honda's pesky 9-speed

BY ROBERT DUFFER
Tribune Newspapers

Nine-speed transmissions are here to stay. They're being touted as a fuel-efficient selling point in vehicles such as the 2016 Honda Pilot, in top-of-the-line Touring and Elite trim levels. But these transmissions might take getting used to. One aspect of these "teething" pains can be seen in the behavior of our Pilot Elite tester, which demonstrated a trait best described as "funky."

While coasting into a stoplight, the transmission downshifts and the engine revs higher in the lower gear, as it should, but the 4,317-pound SUV momentarily lurches forward. It shouldn't, nor do the peculiarities end there.

First gear is a mere starting point or creeper gear, as the nine-speed flicks out of first between 5 to 7 mph, quicker than you can say something like "shift!" That's not unusual for a nine-speed, but shifting up to the next gear while gently accelerating results in the transmission hunting for the next gear for a long second. Under moderate or aggressive acceleration, the tendency isn't as noticeable.

But if you were to try to soothe the baby by driving slowly around the block, for example, there

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3-row SUV

Price as tested:

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Base price: \$30,145

MPG: 19 city, 26 highway

Engine: 3.5-liter direct Injection V-6

Transmission: Nine-speed automatic with paddle shifters in all-wheel drive

Parting shot: Test drive the transmission with hard and soft driving to get a good feel.

would be a pronounced jerk that would result in one fussy baby and one angry car shopper who just dropped \$50,000 on an otherwise great AWD-alternative to the minivan.

The driver just may need to adjust expectations to new technology. A visit to piloteers.org, one of the leading Honda Pilot consumer message boards, shows fewer complaints about the transmission in a December thread than in a July thread about the same trim line.

Nine-speed transmissions provide better fuel economy with more pre-

cise performance. The nine-speed transmission manufactured by ZF Friedrichshafen AG for Honda and Acura uses 16 percent less fuel than a six-speed at constant speeds, although it takes getting used to.

ZF also designed the troublesome nine-speed transmission in the Jeep Cherokee when it launched for model year 2014, and for other vehicles made by Fiat Chrysler Automobiles. The hundreds of complaints on safercar.gov included remarks about lunging, rough shift changes and even disengagement.

Different automakers using the same transmission does not make the same results.

"We didn't put the Pilot out as quickly as Chrysler did with the Jeep," Adams said. "This is the most modern version of the software, so we have better expectations."

Since nine-speed transmissions such as the one used by FCA and Honda are adaptive, they read the driver's inputs and driving conditions to recognize patterns and optimize shift points. That might explain why consumer message boards are more forgiving and dismissive of transmission complaints.

rduffer@tribpub.com
Twitter @DufferRober

Short, 1-stop trips are worse for engine wear



BOB WEBER
Motormouth

Q: I have a 2013 Chrysler 200 with about 24,000 miles. I just make short trips, usually less than 2 to 3 miles. I don't let my car warm up, and in the winter, temperatures can sometimes be in the 20s to 30s. Am I doing damage to my car?

— G.D., Harleysville, Pa.

A: Yes. Most engine wear occurs during the first 10 minutes before it reaches operating temperature, whether the car is driven or not. It takes a bit of time for cold, thicker oil to reach all parts. Cylinder walls, for instance, have little or no oil during initial start. So combine trips. Even if you start and stop repeatedly, the engine is in hot soak. No damage during the next run.

Q: I assume electric cars have electric heaters that produce heat as soon as they are turned on. Why are they not used in gas cars? I hate freezing waiting for heat to get warm.

— S.K., Norridge, Ill.

A: There is much intense work being done on HVAC (heating, ventilation, air conditioning) systems for electric and hybrid vehicles. Electricity used to make heat robs the car of range. Conventional cars get the heat from the engine's coolant but use energy for the air conditioner, which also affects miles per gallon. Compact, energy-efficient, all-in-one HVAC units may emerge sooner than you think. Keep your eye on thermo-electric technology.



FIAT CHRYSLER AUTOMOBILES

A reader with a Chrysler 200 wonders if short trips without warming up the car are causing damage.

Q: There has been a lot of hype about driving-assist software and driverless cars. Both my computer at home and automobile entertainment systems unexpectedly crash from time to time. How can we trust the new systems that are under development to operate flawlessly?

— S.D., Glenview, Ill.

A: I dunno.

Q: I own a 2010 Volkswagen CC. For the past three weeks my check-engine symbol has been flashing periodically and is now constantly on. I felt hesitation when I accelerated and took the car to AutoZone for reading. The trouble codes indicate several possible emissions, spark plug or misfiring issues. I took it to the dealer, and they said those issues can't be determined until I pay for inspection. I'm self-employed and need to be economical. Does this sound like an issue I can trust with an independent mechanic?

— H.A., Chicago

A: First, any time you see the check-engine light, it relates to an emissions problem. It could be one of the emission-control devices or a bad spark plug, which allows unburned fuel to leave the engine. Second, a steady check-

engine light means there is a problem that needs attention. A flashing light means you should seek immediate attention. Now, to answer your question, there are indeed independent mechanics that can take care of your car. We suggest finding a VW specialist. Log onto Yelp to see if there is a popular one in your neighborhood.

Q: Here is a different perspective about a spare tire: I had a full-size spare, but it was useless to me as the lugs were so tight that my tire iron could not budge them. I called a garage that sent over a truck, and that person with a better-leverage, X-shaped lug-removing tool could not budge them. I had to have the car towed to the garage where only power tools could remove the lugs. So having a regular-size spare, a temporary spare or no spare made no difference.

— W.S., Wadsworth, Ill.

Q: Thanks. And with that, we officially declare this topic flat-lined.

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.

COLLEGE NOTES

Carmichael clears 14 feet at Memphis

BY NICK BULLOCK
Pioneer Press.

Memphis star pole vaulter **Carolina Carmichael** is making headlines once again.

The Lake Forest graduate was recently named American Athletic Conference Female Field Athlete of the Week for the second time this season and the fourth time in her career.

Her latest award comes after Carmichael broke her own school record at the Vanderbilt Invitational Jan. 29-30 in Nashville, Tenn. The senior cleared 14-feet- $\frac{3}{4}$ to win the event and break her previous school record of 13-11 $\frac{3}{4}$. Her winning mark is tied for ninth in the nation.

Carmichael, who won the AAC indoor pole vault

title last season, started this indoor season with three first-place finishes in three competitions.

Ofelia Carmichael, Carolina's sister and a fellow Lake Forest graduate, is also a senior pole vaulter for the Tigers.

Downey delivers at Yale

The Yale men's basketball team is humming this season, getting off to a 13-5 start. An important part of the rotation is junior forward **Sam Downey**, a Lake Forest alumnus.

Downey has been a model of efficiency off the bench for the Bulldogs, shooting an impressive 60.3 percent, including 37.5 percent from 3-point range, and 80.6 percent from the free-throw

line. That remarkable accuracy helped him rank sixth on the team in scoring with 6.1 points per game despite averaging just 16.2 minutes through 18 games.

At one point in late January, Downey led the NCAA in offensive rating, according to kenpom.com.

Coady makes splash with Illini

Heading into the postseason, Hinsdale Central graduate **Jennifer Coady**, a senior on the Illinois women's swim team, owned her team's top times in four events: the 50-yard breaststroke (30.65 seconds); the 100 breaststroke (1:02.92); the 200 medley relay (1:42.46); and the 400 medley relay (3:42.47).

Fenwick's **Adelaide**

Curry, a sophomore, also is on the team.

Michael named POW

Niles West alumna **Ato-rena Michael**, a freshman on the Oakton women's basketball team, was recently named NJCAA Division II Region IV Player of the Week. The point guard recorded 19 points against McHenry County and followed up with seven points, nine rebounds and five assists against College of Lake County.

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

Nick Bullock is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.



JOE MURPHY

Carolina Carmichael won her first three meets of the indoor season at Memphis.

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Jean Louis' absence felt in loss to Niles North

By ERIC VAN DRIL
Pioneer Press

One measure of a basketball player's value is to examine what is different in his absence.

The Maine East boys basketball team lost 62-43 to Niles North on Feb. 5. Senior Calvin Jean Louis missed the game because of the death of his grandfather.

Jean Louis' absence meant the Blue Demons would be without a player who scored 23 points and grabbed at least 10 rebounds, according to Blue Demons coach Dave Genis, in Maine East's 59-58 victory over the Vikings (19-6) earlier in the season.

"They didn't have an answer for Calvin when we played at our place," Genis said.

Genis said the Blue Demons (13-12 entering the week) were an entirely different team without the 6-foot-5 forward's ability to score in multiple ways, his athleticism and his rebounding prowess. Maine East's frontline also was much easier to defend.

"You have to respect Calvin's ability to shoot the ball and respect his ability to put the ball down on the wood and get to the rim," Genis said. "And in transition, we're different, too. He rebounds and can just go."

Maine East senior guard Ashoor Doushow added: "It was tough [without Jean Louis]. He has a huge impact on our team. He rebounds a lot. He finishes around the basket pretty good."

Niles North outrebounded Maine East 32-17. The Blue Demons hung in the game during the first half despite both Doushow and senior forward Wilson Noriega picking up their second fouls.

Niles North began to separate itself during the midway point of the second quarter, however. One memorable sequence came with 4:29 remaining, when Niles North junior Jordan LaBelle missed a pair of free throws. The Vikings led 16-14 at the time.

Maine East 6-2 senior forward Steven Ponzetti, who combined with 6-1 senior Sonny Lukovic to fill in for Jean Louis, used his body to wall off Niles North's Saveion Shadd on LaBelle's second miss. Shadd, a 6-4 senior, used his height and leaping ability to elevate over Ponzetti and snatch the rebound, however. Shadd then sunk a shot from about 4 feet.



KEVIN TANAKA/PIONEER PRESS

Niles North's DaMone Williams-Gray grabs the rebound against Maine East on Feb. 5 in Skokie. The Vikings finished with a 32-17 edge in rebounds.

That play was in line with the relentless Niles North coach Glenn Olson wanted to see from his team against the Blue Demons, especially with Jean Louis out of the lineup.

"We thought we got handled pretty good last game on the boards — or at least [on] significant rebounds. They got a bunch of significant rebounds," Olson

said of the teams' first meeting. "Rebounding was a huge emphasis for us."

Genis tried to alter the personnel within Maine East's 1-3-1 zone defense to put his team in a better position to battle the more-athletic Vikings on the glass. He moved Noriega to the top of the zone, where junior guard Jordan Irving typically plays, and Irving

shifted to the wing.

That put Irving and Doushow, the team's two most athletic starters, on the wings to try to rebound on the weak side.

Other than that, the approach to rebounding without Jean Louis was to just tough it out, Genis said. Maine East fought hard — especially Lukovic and Ponzetti on the interior — but Niles North's re-

bouncing advantage was another example of why Jean Louis is so valuable to the Blue Demons.

"He's tall. He's aggressive," Doushow said of Jean Louis. "Calvin's a big piece."

Eric Van Dril is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Much-improved Niles North boys basketball team beats Maine East

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Pioneer Press

The Niles North boys basketball team was so young and inexperienced at the beginning of this season that coach Glenn Olson and his team broke their season into two halves: 2015 and 2016.

The 2015 Vikings lost to Deerfield by seven and Maine East by one.

The 2016 Vikings beat Deerfield by 27. They continued to play very well this year in a 62-43 Central Suburban North victory over Maine East on Feb. 5 in Skokie.

"We knew it was going to be an ugly 2015. We really did," Olson said. "We thought we could be pretty good in 2016."

Niles North improved to 10-1 in 2016 with the win. Senior guard Crishawn Cook is an experienced veteran and senior guard Craig "Dutch" Dawkins also was a key contributor for the Vikings a year ago, but practically everybody else on the squad hadn't experienced meaningful varsity minutes prior to the 2015-16 campaign.

Cook (eight points, five rebounds) and Dawkins (six points) both played well against Maine East on Feb. 5, but the Vikings (19-6, 6-2 after the win) also were led by their newcomers.

Sophomore guard Damaris Franklin was particularly effective, finishing with 17 points, five rebounds and six steals. Franklin shot 11-for-12 from the free-throw line. Springy senior guard Saveion Shadd finished with 10 points and five rebounds. Freshman guard DaMone Williams-Gray

"We knew it was going to be an ugly 2015. We really did. We thought we could be pretty good in 2016."

— Glenn Olson, Niles North boys basketball coach

added nine points and snared six rebounds.

Niles North defeated Maine East (13-11, 3-5 after the loss) with its effort, defense and athleticism. The Blue Demons committed 20 turnovers.

They were outrebounded 32-17.

"The way you beat them," Maine East senior Ashoor Doushow said, "is you can't turn over the ball and you've got to rebound. If you do those two things, you beat this team."

The Vikings' athleticism has been a constant from the first day of the season, but their practice habits have improved.

"The biggest leap I've seen is in practice. There's no doubt about it," Olson said.

"I think, for this group, we like to guard, we like to run. This is a player's game. I want to let the players be players. To do that, you have to practice a certain way. You have to do certain drills a certain way — you have to do attack drills a certain way. After that [Wheeling] Christmas tournament, I think we really started to become a team that buys in."

Franklin added that, from Niles North's perspective, the biggest difference between the first Maine East-Niles North game and the second was the Vikings' defense. The 59-58 loss to the Blue Demons on Dec. 18, in Park Ridge also was a source of motivation.

"We just do better in practice," Franklin said. "We've never lost back-to-back. After every loss, we want to come back with a big win."

The Vikings won't have a loss to fuel them on Feb. 12, when they face Deerfield (21-3, 7-1) for a third time this season. The game is scheduled to start at 7:30 p.m. in Deerfield. A share of the Central Suburban North lead is at stake, however, which figures to result in a series of very energetic, enthusiastic Niles North practices, Franklin said.

The Vikings hope that carries over to their game against the Warriors.

"We're going to be very motivated," Franklin said. "We've got to come out how we did the second time we played Deerfield. If we come out like that, we'll get the win."

Game notes

■ Maine East junior guard Jordan Irving finished with 15 points. Senior Milan Grover scored eight points.

■ Maine East was without senior forward Calvin Jean Louis (death in the family). That made it much more difficult for the Blue Demons to rebound effectively. They also missed Jean Louis' interior scoring.

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KEVIN TANAKA/PIONEER PRESS

Niles North's Damaris Franklin (13) goes up for a shot and is fouled by Maine East's Milan Grover on Feb. 5 in Skokie. Franklin and the Vikings earned a 62-43 victory.

Notre Dame shows resilience, beats Marian Catholic

By TODD MARVER
Pioneer Press

The Notre Dame boys basketball team entered its game against Marian Catholic, which was ranked No. 9 by the Chicago Tribune at the time, on a two-game losing streak. But the Dons didn't let that deter them.

Notre Dame continued its trend of bouncing back from losses with a 56-43 East Suburban Catholic victory over the Spartans on Friday, Feb. 5, in Niles. Coming into the game, Marian Catholic was the lone conference team with an undefeated mark in league play.

After road losses to Joliet Catholic (53-43) and Loyola (54-45) on Friday, Jan. 29, and Saturday, Jan. 30, respectively, the Dons worked on themselves more than on the Spartans (17-5, 4-1 after the loss) in practice.

"This whole week we have been working on our team-building skills," said senior Elvin Husejnovic, a guard who scored a team-high 11 points against the Spartans.

"We didn't focus much on Marian Catholic and we just focused on ourselves and running our things to the best of our abilities, so come game time we execute properly."

Notre Dame coach Tom Les noted that his team's performance in practice helped it earn the win.

"I thought we had a good week of practice, which leads to productivity in the game," Les said. "So, I thought we practiced hard all week and we competed and it was a huge difference in the way things went during this game. It was energy and focus [on Feb. 5]. We knew we were playing a really good team, so we were much more focused and had much more energy. I think that was the difference."

Notre Dame (17-6, 3-3 after the win) earned its two tournament championships this season after a defeat. After a 51-50 home loss to St. Patrick on Dec. 18, the Dons won four consecutive games at the Wheeling Hardwood Classic, culminating with a 62-48 win in the championship over Libertyville on Dec. 26.

Notre Dame lost its first two contests of 2016, falling to Fenwick 61-52 on Jan. 6, and to Benet 62-45 on Jan. 14. But then it reeled off four straight wins at the



TIM BOYLE/PIONEER PRESS

Notre Dame's Elvin Husejnovic, right, guards Marian Catholic's Sean Taylor during their East Suburban Catholic game on Feb. 5 in Niles.

Wheaton Warrenville South MLK Tournament on Jan. 16, and Jan. 18. In the tournament title game, the Dons earned a 49-46 win over Benet, the same team they had lost to just four days prior.

Husejnovic credited Notre Dame's three senior starters who also started together last year — Ammar Becar, Lucas Simon and Anthony D'Avanzo — for providing leadership and positive encouragement in practice after a loss this season.

"They really help us out, especially Ammar doing a great job keeping us positive and cheering us on during practice and pushing us to get better every day," Husejnovic said.

"So I think having a lot of great leaders and experienced players

on our team helps a lot with bouncing back."

The Dons have used tunnel vision to disregard previous losses and move forward. Notre Dame hasn't had a three-game losing streak this season.

"We don't put our heads down and think about that we lost," said Becar, a senior forward.

"We try not to remember the past because the past is the past and we can't change anything. What you want is not to let it happen again and that's what we all knew, and coach knows that, and we just want to go into the playoffs with a good [winning] streak."

The Class 4A playoffs begin on Feb. 29.

Game notes

■ Notre Dame plays an inside-out game on offense and the Dons got contributions from numerous post players and guards against Marian Catholic. In addition to Husejnovic, Becar and junior guard Matt Stritzel also reached double figures by scoring 10 points each. Junior forward Chris Heinichen recorded nine points, while D'Avanzo, a center, and Simon, a guard, netted six points apiece.

"It's good when you have a lot of options," Husejnovic said. "So we can hurt you from the inside and when they start overplaying you inside, it creates open shots for shooters like myself and Stritzel and it's our job to knock them down. If they start closing out too

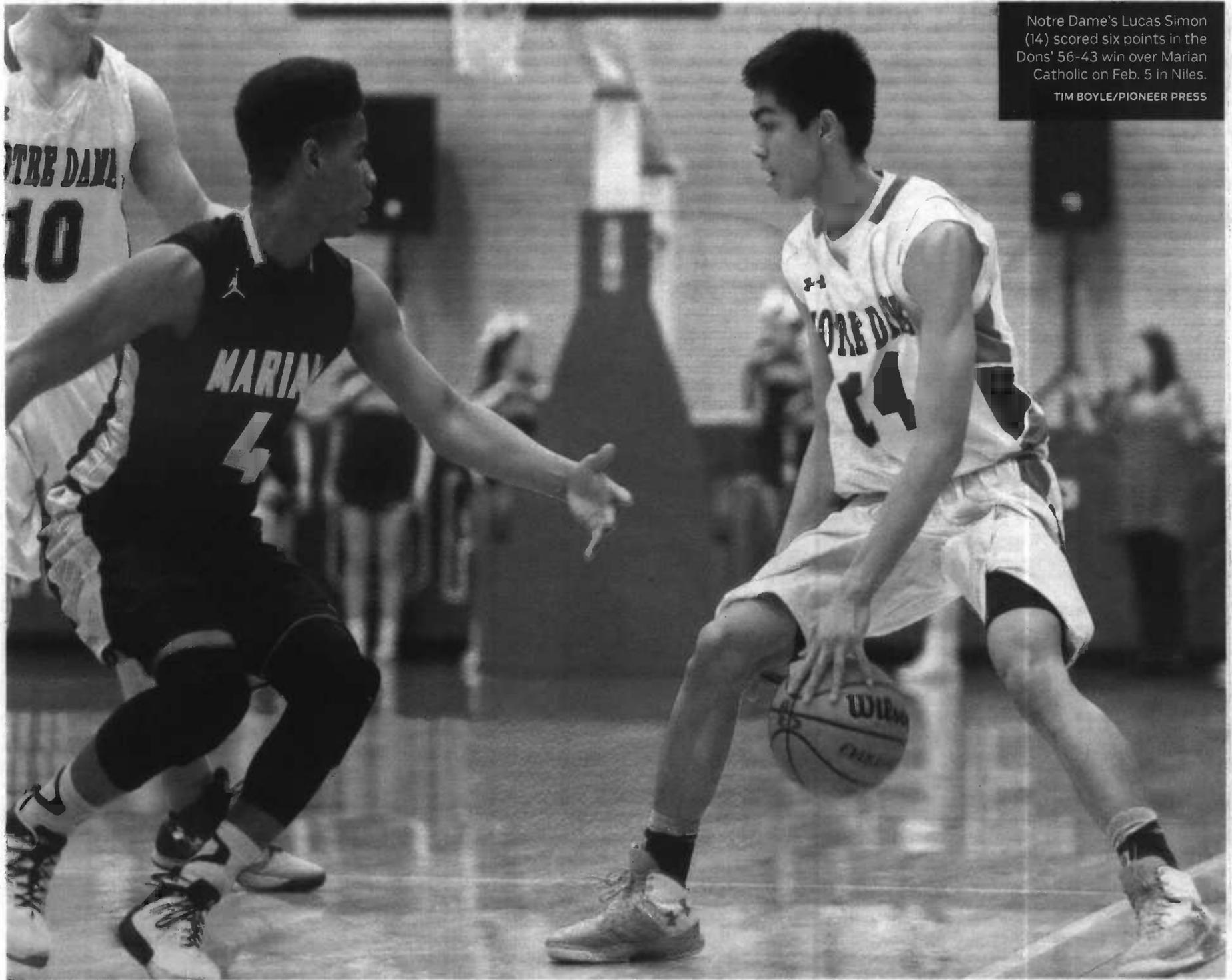
much on us, we dump it down to the big guy, so it's a lose-lose situation either way."

■ Notre Dame's goal was to keep Marian Catholic under 40 points and the starters achieved that goal. The Dons were up 56-35 when their starters were taken out of the game. Marian Catholic ended the game on an 8-0 run.

"Coach said in the locker room to keep them under 40," Becar said. "That was our goal to keep them under that and play good defense and execute on offense and that's pretty much what we did."

Todd Marver is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Notre Dame's Lucas Simon (14) scored six points in the Dons' 56-43 win over Marian Catholic on Feb. 5 in Niles.

TIM BOYLE/PIONEER PRESS

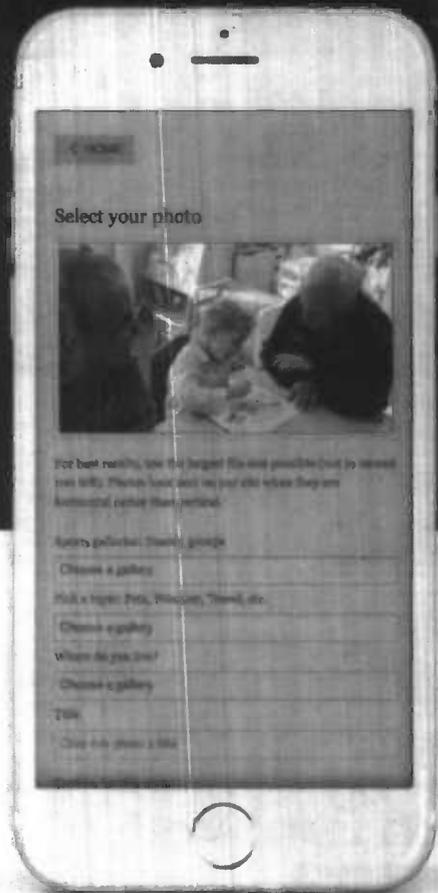
UPSET ALERT

Notre Dame knocks off No. 9 Marian Catholic. Page 43

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