

# NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR



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Thursday, February 18, 2016

nilesheraldspectator.com

## Local talent shines on NBC

Take a look behind the scenes of hot 'Chicago' shows. [Page 4](#)



MIKE ISAACS/PIONEER PRESS

"Chicago Fire" costume designer Susan Kaufmann oversees a fitting with actor Christian Stolte, who plays Mouch on the hit NBC series now in its fourth season. Both are Skokie residents.

### NEWS



## Case dismissed

An amended lawsuit filed by a Skokie-based gun control advocacy group against the village of Niles and the owners behind a proposed gun shop and range was dismissed by a Cook County judge. [Page 7](#)

### SPORTS



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## Survive and advance

Area wrestlers qualify for state tournament. [Page 37](#)

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## SHOUT OUT

# Christie Robinson, Skokie library rep

Christie Robinson has been the communications and marketing manager of the popular Skokie Public Library for nine years. The Pioneer Press recently asked her a series of questions.

**Q: Where did you grow up?**

A: Oregon. Born and raised, but not Harney County.

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

A: Many things. One was a microbiologist. I don't remember why. I thought the microscopes and the slides and tiny little things were pretty cool. I had a lot of ideas. I was going to be a doctor at one point.

**Q: When did you come to this area?**

A: I moved here right after college. I live in Wilmette now.

**Q: A movie you'd recommend?**

A: I see so few movies. I saw (the recent) "Star Wars." The last movie I saw in a theater might have been "The English Patient." Well, there was an ice skating movie in between there but I can't remember what it was called.



PIONEER PRESS

Christie Robinson

wife. Next on my list is "H is for Hawk." People here are saying I must read it but some also say it's overrated. There's a lot of opinions in this library about books.

**Q: What is your favorite local restaurant?**

A: The Noodle Cafe in Wilmette. Our lunch favorite in Skokie is the Kabul House.

**Q: Do you have children?**

A: Two girls, 22 and 18.

**Q: Words of wisdom?**

A: Always save time for something you're passionate about.

**Q: You're an empty nester now. What are some of those passionate things you make time for?**

A: Right now I'm doing costumes for the Evanston Dance Ensemble's "Alice in Wonderland." I also sing with the Bach Week Festival Chorus.

**Q: Interesting factoid about yourself?**

A: I was a music major in college and grew up on a farm. My brother is still doing it — fourth generation on the farm.

— Pioneer Press staff report

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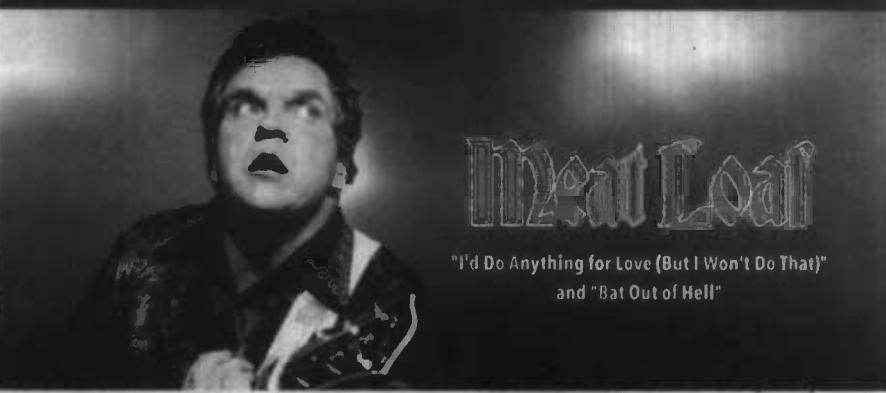
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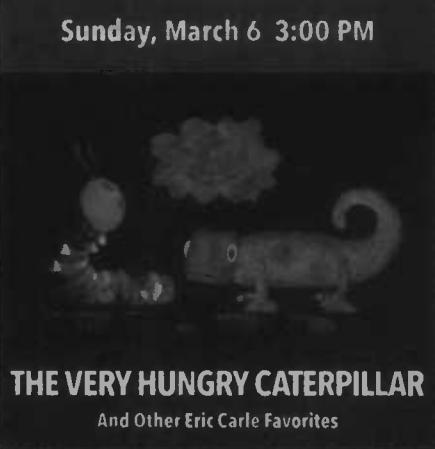
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# On set at 'Chicago Fire'

BY MIKE ISAACS  
Pioneer Press

On most days, Christian Stolte — better known as Mouch to millions of TV viewers — drives from Skokie to Chicago to fight fires, and Susan Kaufmann navigates a similar route to make sure he is dressed for the occasion.

The fires may not be real, but they sure are ones people want to see.

Stolte and Kaufmann — actor and costume designer — are among the large cast and crew of "Chicago Fire," the hit TV series now in its fourth season on NBC. The Skokie connection — both before and behind the camera — reflects just how much the series relies on key local talent.

Stolte and Kaufmann share a strong love for what they do and for the "Chicago Fire" family they get to be part of, they said.

When not on location to film one of Firehouse 51's hair-raising emergency calls, "Chicago Fire" uses the sprawling 50-acre campus at Cinespace Chicago Film Studios.

According to the show, space for the three Dick Wolf-produced NBC series ("Chicago Fire," "Chicago P.D." and "Chicago Med") occupies about 400,000 square feet under one roof, half of which belongs to "Chicago Fire."

The familiar interiors — Firehouse 51's locker room, rows of beds, chief's office, cafeteria — even the bathroom — are created here. So, too, is, Molly's Pub and Lt. Casey's living room and kitchen with an "outdoor" patio. A Chicago neighborhood seen from inside the firehouse garage is actually a crystal clear photograph recreated on an enormous sliding curtain of sorts.

On set earlier this month, Stolte appeared with other castmates in the cozy Firehouse 51 cafeteria and lounge. His likable Mouch



ELIZABETH MORRIS/NBC

It's been a busy year for Christian Stolte's Mouch on "Chicago Fire." In a recent episode, Mouch refereed a Battle of the Badges boxing match. Stolte, a Skokie resident, has played the supporting character on NBC's hit series "Chicago Fire" for all four years.

didn't have dialogue in the scene, but Stolte reacted in multiple takes, and the director repeatedly yelled "cut" so cast and crew can begin all over again. There were two cameras, one of them focusing on a different character each time the scene was filmed.

"Because of the nature of our show, which reflects the nature of the job we're portraying, we're together a lot," Stolte said. "Whether you have lines or physical action to perform, you're probably there. Even more so than the other Dick Wolf shows, we are in the background of each other's scenes."

According to Stolte, it takes about nine days to shoot an episode. If he's lucky, he said, he'll have two days off somewhere within that schedule. His working days can be as many as 13 hours, he said.

"It seems like as often as not, we're commuting in

the dark — both in the morning and at night," Stolte said. "When we're filming our incidents on location — our rescues, our fires, all that stuff — we need every second of daylight we can get. We have to get ready so we can start shooting just as the sun comes up."

Mouch is a supporting character regularly seen on the Firehouse 51 couch. But he also has had his share of key narrative moments this season — baby sitting a rescued tortoise, serving as a steady force for others when their beloved colleague fought for his life, refereeing a Battle of the Badges boxing match. Mouch this season revealed himself as a huge Rush fan, and, maybe most importantly, popped the big question to his girlfriend in his own inimitable way.

A hit TV series like "Chicago Fire" isn't something Stolte or Kaufmann said

they expected to land. Both the actor and the costume designer eschewed the Hollywood scene to become part of a local community like Skokie, they said.

Stolte served as grand marshal in last year's Skokie Fourth of July Parade; Kaufmann organized a few Highlandpalooza celebrations at Highland School where her son was a student until he moved on to junior high.

"I can't even say this was on my wish list," Stolte said about the series. "I wanted to get an appearance on a TV show here and there — enough to sustain me, to keep the insurance. But I've never been drawn to LA. The times I've been there, it hasn't been appealing to me. I don't like being that immersed in the business. I don't like being where every conversation is about the business."

Kaufmann said she also has had opportunities for

Hit series has local ties on, behind the scenes

On occasion, Kaufmann heads to Westfield Old Orchard to buy clothes for her characters. Plenty of wardrobes seen on her NBC shows are Skokie-bought even if viewers might not know it, she said.

The show's vast wardrobe department houses rooms filled with rows and rows of clothing — some everyday, some uniforms, some with blood and burn marks on them.

The nature of Kaufmann's days vary, she said. They can be eight hours, they can be 14 hours, and schedules can change last minute. But she is doing just what she loves, she said — bringing characters to life through the wardrobes they wear.

"I can honestly say I've loved every job I've had, and I love this one," she said. "I hope I can retire here."

This is not the first time the same Skokie connection has worked on a TV series. The actor and costume designer were part of the Fox drama "Prison Break," as well.

Late one February afternoon, Stolte made his way to Kaufmann's wardrobe department between takes for a scheduled fitting.

He tried on a tuxedo for a special event on an upcoming episode. Then he donned everyday out-of-uniform clothing for Mouch — an assortment of casual loose-fitting shirts.

It's not likely that the millions of "Chicago Fire" TV viewers will pay special attention to what Mouch wears, but that's just the point, Kaufmann said. The clothes have to instinctively feel real and a natural part of the Firehouse 51 veteran's regular wardrobe.

The actor has to feel that, too, he said. "When I put on the right clothes, I know I'm ready to go as Mouch," Stolte said.

# NBC's 'Chicago' series offer local talent opportunities

BY MIKE ISAACS

Pioneer Press

Skokie's contributions to "Chicago Fire" reflect just one piece of the larger pie of local talent connected to the hit NBC TV series filmed in the city.

Regulars like actor Christian Stolte and Costume Designer Susan Kaufmann of Skokie are everyday employees of the series along with many other locals.

The three Dick Wolf-produced series — "Chicago Med" and "Chicago P.D." too — employ hundreds before and behind the camera who regularly work at Cinespace Chicago Film Studios on Chicago's west side when they are not on location elsewhere in the city.

Most of them are from the Chicago area, according to "Chicago Fire."

The three Dick Wolf "Chicago" shows are filmed entirely in the Windy City, according to NBC, which means new local talent makes its way to these series all the time.

Wolf is intent on this, series representatives say — in part because he wants the city to become a character of sorts in itself.

In next week's episode, Evanston's Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Literary and Fine Arts School 2nd-grader Tyler Kaplan makes his debut on "Chicago Fire," hardly the first time the series has broken in new and young talent.

Kaplan plays "a young boy involved in an accident scene to which Firehouse 51 is called," according to "Chicago Fire." "As the episode unfolds, we come to learn that his home life is complicated."

During just about every episode of the three series, the regulars must help save or treat or apprehend everyday citizens, which provides opportunities for lo-



KAPLAN FAMILY PHOTO

Evanston second-grade actor Tyler Kaplan during a recent photo shoot.

cal talent of all ages to take on a prime-time gig. NBC confirmed that a fourth show — "Chicago Law" — is currently in development, which would only increase those opportunities for local actors and behind-the-scenes crew members.

"Chicago Fire" was more than satisfied with Kaplan's first turn on the small screen.

"I think he is very talented, he has amazing instinctive behavior on screen," said Reza Tabrizi, director of the episode titled "Two T's," which is scheduled to air Feb. 23. "His ability to take notes and actually be able to tweak his performance, considering his age, was impressive."

According to his family, Kaplan has been acting since age 4 and has already

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# Speed dating for dogs

Morton Grove's Wright-Way Rescue makes the date

BY NATALIE HAYES  
Pioneer Press

Because finding love can be just as difficult for dogs as it is for humans, Morton Grove's Wright-Way Rescue hoped it would be love at first bark for a group of adoptable rescue dogs looking for homes during the shelter's first annual Dog Speed Dating event on Feb. 12.

For an hour that night, about 14 families looking for a new canine companion made their way around a circle in a back room in the shelter, where they spent three minutes with each of the 12 dogs that were chosen for the speed dating event. Participants rated the dogs based on personality, appearance, friendliness, and other factors before tallying up the scores and choosing the dog of their dreams.

While people stopped by the shelter all night to admire the puppies that occupy the cages in the front entrance of the shelter, Feb. 12 was meant as a night for the older dogs to shine. All the dogs in the speed dating circle were chosen because of their older age, which usually makes it harder for them to find homes, according to Alisa Brill, executive director at Wright-Way Rescue.

"Our eligible bachelors and bachelorettes are mostly adult dogs that have come from foster homes, and they're ready to go home," Brill said. "We thought this was a cute idea for Valentine's Day, to try to get these dogs into new homes by the end of the night."

Because some families were eyeing the same dogs after the rating cards were submitted, it was a nail-biter as guests waited for the shelter staff to pick the winners by drawing a number.

Arlington Heights residents Megan Boedecker and Brennan Casey came to Dog Speed Dating to find



NATALIE HAYES/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

Dog Speed Dating at Wright-Way Rescue, 5915 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, on Feb. 12.



Dog Speed Dating at Wright-Way Rescue, 5915 Lincoln Avenue, Morton Grove, on Friday, Feb. 12.



Dog Speed Dating at Wright-Way Rescue, 5915 Lincoln Avenue, Morton Grove, on Friday, Feb. 12.

their first dog together as a couple. It was love at first sight when they were introduced to a 3-year-old spaniel named Leilani, but they found themselves on edge at the end of the meet-and-greet when they discovered another family had also chosen her.

"This feels like I'm a bachelorette waiting for a rose on 'The Bachelor,'" Boedecker said while the couple waited to hear whether Leilani would be going home with them. "Adopting is harder than you think because it gets frustrating when you find

one you want and someone else adopts him."

It was a happy ending for Boedecker and Casey, however. They ended up being chosen in the drawing and went home with Leilani that night.

Another couple, Mark and Bonnie Roter of High-

land Park, also went home happy with a mixed-breed dog named Ozzy.

"We had a fantastic first night with him," Mark Roter said the following day. "We had been looking for a dog we'd connect with for a long time, and speed dating was an amazing idea."

The frigid February temperatures may have kept some would-be speed dating attendees home. Out of about 20 families who pre-registered for the event about 14 showed up, according to Brill. The shelter's goal for the night was to make it as easy as possible for people to adopt. Guests could sign up on Facebook and filled out applications online so they would already be pre-approved if they selected a dog at the event.

Chicago resident Dana Land heard about Dog Speed Dating on Facebook, and drove in from the city with her three friends to meet the adoptable dogs.

"I think this is a great idea — it's a great way to highlight rescues," Land said. "I've been following (Wright-Way) for a while on Facebook, and I think this is a good shelter because they take good care of their animals."

Wright-Way Rescue is one of several no-kill shelters in the state that work to collect animals from overpopulated shelters that euthanize animals when they run out of space to house them. The rescued animals are first brought to the shelter's sister location, Wright-Way Rescue Admissions & Care Center in downstate Murphysboro, Ill. before vans driven by volunteers bring them up to the Morton Grove shelter each week.

The shelter is funded through private donations, adoption fees, and sales from an in-house pet supply store that opened last year, officials said.

Some families arranged "second dates" to come back the following week with other pets to see how they would interact together.

Six dogs were adopted after the event, Brill said Feb. 15.

*Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.*

# Judge dismisses amended Niles gun shop lawsuit

BY LEE V. GAINES  
Pioneer Press

An amended lawsuit filed by a Skokie-based gun control advocacy group against the village of Niles and the owners behind a proposed gun shop and range was dismissed by a Cook County judge Feb. 9.

Circuit Court of Cook County Judge Franklin Ulysses Valderrama in a hearing at the Richard J. Daley Center in Chicago granted motions to dismiss the suit filed by attorneys for Niles and 6143 Howard Partners, the company that plans to open a gun shop and range dubbed the Sportsman's Club and Firearms Training at 6143 Howard St., which is located within five miles of several schools.

Valderrama did not issue a written ruling on the case. He said his reasons for dismissing the amended suit did not differ substantially from those he already outlined in writing when he dismissed the group's original complaint last June.

Valderrama said he was swayed by arguments from the defendants' attorneys that the advocacy group behind the lawsuit, People for a Safer Society, did not have proper standing to file the complaint due to the fact that none of its members owns any property adjoining or adjacent to the site of the proposed gun shop and range.

An attorney for People for a Safer Society, Tony Hind, said the suit was dismissed with prejudice, meaning that the group's only recourse would be to file an appeal with the state appellate court.

"My client does plan to appeal," he said.

Denyse Stoneback, founder of People for a Safer Society, expressed her disappointment at the judge's ruling following the Feb. 9 hearing. She confirmed that



ERIN CHAN DING/PIONEER PRESS

In this file photo, protesters against a proposed gun range gather outside Niles Village Hall.

the group plans to appeal the decision.

"I'm a resident of Niles and I don't want this in my town," said a People for a Safer Society member, Ticia Ashcroft, who attended the hearing. "It's disgusting."

In response to the ruling, Hind said, "There's always room for disagreement when you have a case like this." He described the case as "nuanced" and said he believed the group stood a good chance of convincing the appellate judges of the validity of their suit.

People for a Safer Society filed an initial lawsuit against the village in October 2014 that sought to annul a special-use permit for the gun shop and range in addition to barring any other gun-related business from opening up shop at the site.

The Niles Village Board approved a special-use permit for the business in July 2014, and the board voted again last summer to extend the permit by an additional six months.

After the suit was dismissed, the advocacy group filed an amended complaint last July naming the owners behind the gun shop and range as a defendant in the case alongside the village.

An attorney for 6143 Howard Partners, Jim Ar-

gionis, argued during a hearing on the case last month that the group sought "unconstitutional relief" by asking the judge to bar any gun-related business from the site. He said the group did not have the proper standing to sue given that none owned any adjoining property, and that the harms alleged in the complaint were "hypothetical and potential."

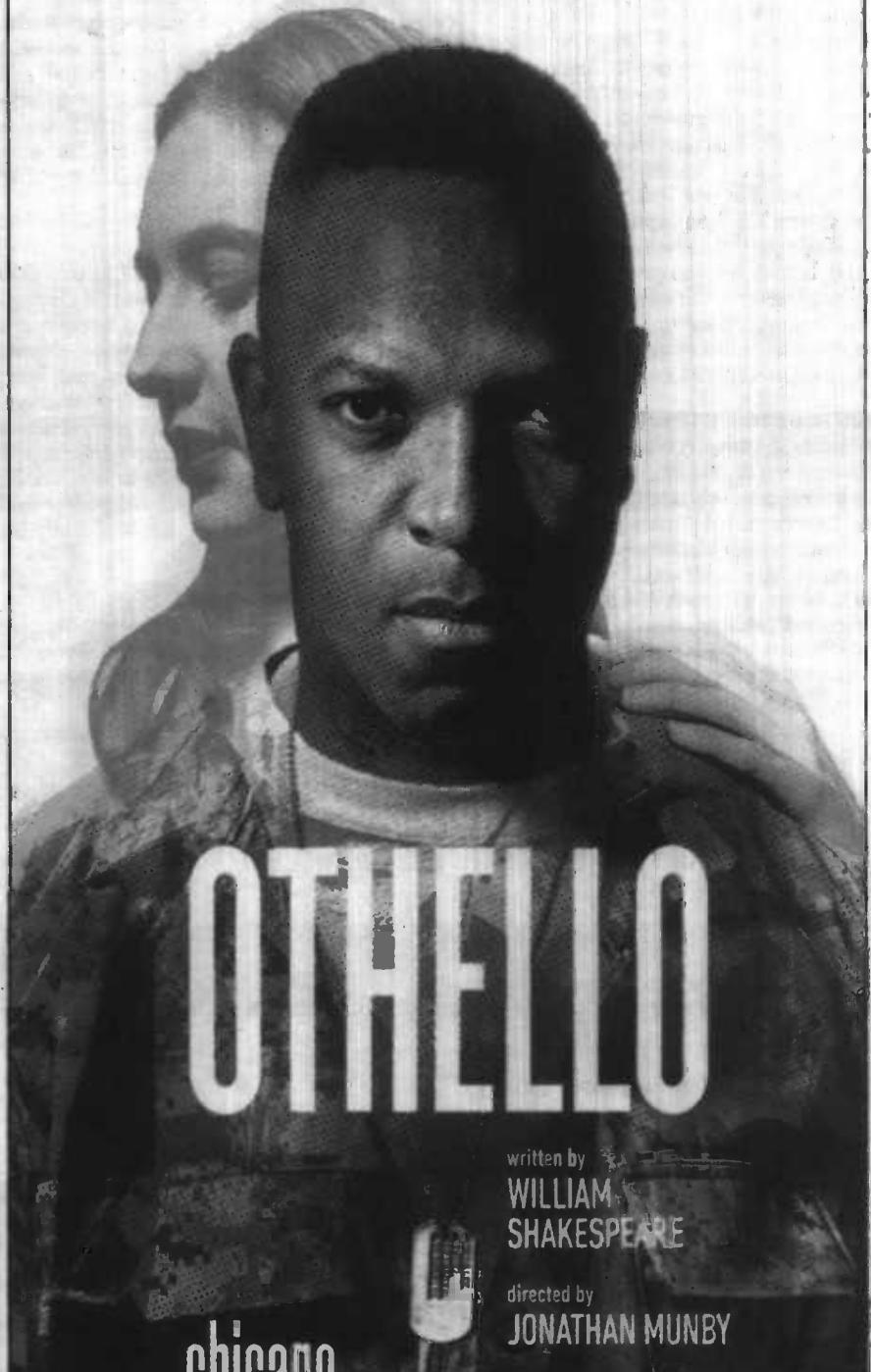
Mike Connelly, an attorney for the village, told Valderrama last month that the amended lawsuit was nearly "the same complaint" the judge dismissed last summer.

The basic tenet of the group's case, Hind said following the Feb. 9 hearing, was that they believed it was wrong to "drop a gun shop in a place surrounded by a bunch of schools."

People for a Safer Society previously urged the village of Skokie to sign onto the lawsuit as an additional plaintiff. Village leaders cited several reasons why they would not get involved in the suit, including the potential that their involvement in the case may undermine the village's own legal standing and position on home-rule rights.

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

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

#### OBSTRUCTION

■ Lucjan Majewski, 66, of the 7900 block of Churchill, Morton Grove, was charged with obstruction on Feb. 6 after he allegedly pointed a power saw at an officer who was taking a driver into custody at the intersection of Washington and Lake streets at 6 p.m. Police said Majewski, who was dressed entirely in black, continued to approach the officer with the saw and refused to put the tool down. He then reportedly opened the trunk of a parked car and began rummaging through it. When the saw was no longer in his hands and police attempted to handcuff him, Majewski became combative, clenched his fists and began swinging his arms, police said. He has a Feb. 26 court date.

#### DISORDERLY CONDUCT

■ Batzorig Altangerel, 44, of the 5000 block of Greenwood, Skokie, was charged with disorderly conduct, resisting a police officer and battery on Feb. 7 after police responded to a call of a highly intoxicated man who was trying to fight with an Uber driver in the 8000 block of Octavia Avenue at 12:45 p.m. Police said Altangerel refused to get out of the Uber driver's car, swore at police officers and spit at an officer. At the Police Station, he

allegedly attempted to kick police officers.

■ Andrezej Bielewicz, 25, of the 800 block of Marshall Court, Palatine, was charged with disorderly conduct and obstructing police on Feb. 7. According to police, Bielewicz was seen struggling with four other people outside a banquet hall in the 9100 block of Milwaukee Avenue around 1 a.m. Private security working at the hall told police Bielewicz had been causing a disturbance inside and refused requests to leave. Bielewicz was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital and ticketed for public intoxication, police said.

#### TRESPASS

■ Juan Cornelio-Gutierrez, 28, of the 4300 block of West Palmer, Chicago, was charged with criminal trespass on Feb. 6. Security at a bar in the 8700 block of Milwaukee Avenue told police Cornelio-Gutierrez had been touching women and whistling at them. According to police, the manager asked that Cornelio-Gutierrez be removed from the bar. When officers told him to leave or be arrested, he was loud and belligerent and screamed, "Arrest me," while flexing his muscles, police said.

#### DRUG POSSESSION

■ Jakub Otfinowski, 20, of the 600 block of Huntington Commons, Mount Prospect, and Daniel Przewoznik, 19, of the 8200 block

of Olcott Avenue, Niles, were each charged with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia on Feb. 9 after police located them inside a car parked in the 7600 block of Main Street just before 7 p.m. Otfinowski was also charged with possession of marijuana with intent to deliver.

#### BURGLARY

■ A 16-year-old Glenview boy was charged with felony burglary to a vehicle on Feb. 8 after police said he stole money from a wallet that was left inside an unlocked car parked in the 8500 block of Golf Road. The owner of the wallet followed the boy into the store after he found him sitting inside his car, police said.

#### RETAIL THEFT

Letecia Flores, 43, of the 4900 block of North Bernice, Chicago, was charged with theft on Feb. 4. Police said she stole items from a store in the 8500 block of Golf Road.

#### BATTERY

■ A 44-year-old man told police he was inside a bar in the 7300 block of Harlem Avenue around 1:25 a.m., Feb. 8, when another man struck him in the buttocks with a pool cue, according to police. The victim and a witness described the attack as unprovoked, police said. When the victim confronted the man, a fight between the two

allegedly occurred. The suspect reportedly left the bar before police arrived.

#### DISPUTE

■ Police were called to a banquet hall in the 9100 block of Milwaukee Avenue on Feb. 6 after a man allegedly became upset that he could not take a picture with the band that was playing and tried to interrupt the band. Security reportedly stopped the 56-year-old man from climbing up on the stage. No arrest was made.

#### FRAUD

■ On Feb. 8, a man reportedly used 13 counterfeit \$20 bills to buy two video streaming devices for \$250.27 at a store in the 8500 block of Golf Road.

#### BURGLARY

■ A house in the 6900 block of Seward Street was burglarized between Feb. 1 and 7, police said. Police did not indicate what, if anything, was taken.

#### THEFT

■ A carton of cigarettes valued at \$84.90 was stolen on the morning of Feb. 10 from a store in the 9000 block of Golf Road.

■ On Feb. 8, two men allegedly stole eight pre-paid credit cards from a display inside a store in the 8500 block of Golf Road after they attempted to buy several items using credit cards that were declined.

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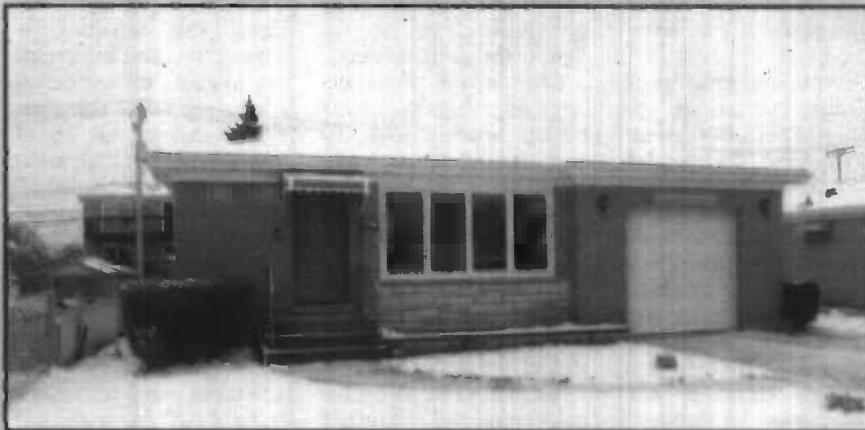
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# Chicago scientists part of team that confirmed Einstein's theory

BY MARWA ELTAGOURI  
Chicago Tribune

Hundreds of physicists and students sat still in a University of Chicago auditorium Feb. 11, their eyes wide and necks craned forward, anxious to hear the recorded sound of two black holes colliding 1.3 billion light-years away.

For several seconds, they heard only a muffled rumble. And then, it happened — a fleeting thump. The barely audible noise sparked a ripple of gasps across the room.

"You might not be that excited if you're not in the field," said Daniel Holz, an associate professor of physics at U. of C. "But if you're in the field and you've spent years thinking about this, dreaming about this? When that happens, it's mind-blowing."

He pointed at a couple of graphs that charted the noise's frequency with parabolic waves.

"For those of us that do this, that's the most beautiful thing you've ever seen," he said.

Several local scientists at Chicago institutions, including U. of C., Northwestern University and the Adler Planetarium, are among the team of nearly 1,000 scientists across the world to discover the first, direct evidence of gravitational waves, ripples in space-time that Albert Einstein predicted a century ago. The noise affirms a paramount aspect of Einstein's theory of relativity: the existence of black holes, bottomless pits where gravitational pull is so strong that even light can't escape.

The detection was made by the Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, known as LIGO, whose two detectors in Hanford, Wash., and Livingston, La., picked up the



JOSE M. OSORIO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Daniel Holz, associate professor and LIGO member, speaks at the University of Chicago's Eckhardt Research Center on Feb. 11 after an announcement on efforts to detect gravitational waves, or ripples in the fabric of space-time.

frequency together on Sept. 14. In the months since, members of the LIGO group, comprised of a global team of scientists, have worked tirelessly on a study detailing the discovery, which culminates their decadeslong search for signs of the phenomenon.

Gravitational waves occur as objects move through space, similar to a boat moving across a lake and sending ripples across the water's surface. But they're so tiny that until now it has been nearly impossible to detect them. To pick up on the signal, scientists have to look for violent events in the universe. In this case, two black holes combined and turned roughly three suns' worth of mass into gravitational waves in a fraction of a second.

"We're used to looking at the sky with our eyes, and now we can hear it," said Shane Larson, one of three Northwestern University professors on the LIGO team. "It's taken us 25 years from the day we funded LIGO to today. I've worked

on it my whole career. And finally, to get to that thing — it's a little bit overwhelming."

While it's "up to historians to decide," Larson, also an astronomer at Adler Planetarium, said he believes the detection is among the most important astronomical discoveries in a century. Local scientists agree, saying the signal marked the first time mankind has been able to "hear" the universe.

At the U. of C.'s Eckhardt Research Center on Feb. 11, students sat shoulder to shoulder on the floor of the auditorium, crouching to get a peek of the live-streamed announcement by the LIGO group and the National Science Foundation in Washington, D.C. Afterward, U. of C.'s four LIGO members explained their roles in the project.

In the months since the detection, they were primarily involved in two aspects of the study: interpreting the meaning of data collected during the detection and figuring out how those findings played into

Einstein's theory, Holz said. The process led to late nights of nonstop work through the winter break and a whirl of conference calls with other LIGO members across the nation, all excitedly sharing findings and conclusions. Scientists joked that the discovery seemed "too perfect."

The most stressful part of the process, Holz said, was keeping the discovery a secret for almost half a year.

"In some ways it was awful. You're so absorbed by this, but you can't share it with anyone," he said. "The energy within the LIGO members here was very extreme. People inferred something was up because we were constantly meeting, but we couldn't tell anyone about it."

The work isn't quite over, Holz said. Scientists now understand that pairs of black holes exist in the universe and will try to understand their properties. "We have this probe," Holz said. "Now, let's use it to learn about the universe."

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NATALIE HAYES/PIONEER PRESS

Teachers at Todd Hall School in Lincolnwood gathered in the school lobby Feb. 10.

## D74 students donate to Ronald McDonald House in Chicago

BY NATALIE HAYES  
Pioneer Press

Another year, they brought in books for Lake Forest-based Bernie's Book Bank.

Kids and teachers brought in more than 500 household items by the end of the two weeks, according to Todd Hall principal Ellen Shankar, who said the school always selects a local charity so kids can better see the impact of their good work.

"It helps them understand that not everyone has the things they have, but that there are things they can do to help," Shankar said.

Social worker Nancy Nasby planned the first family service night in 2010 when a group of teachers got together and formed what they call the Service Learning Committee. The group meets several times during the school year to plan activities geared toward building social awareness among students at Todd Hall.

At the end of the night, students gathered around lunch tables that had been set up in the gymnasium to write "feel good cards" for patients at Lurie Children's Hospital.

"The goal was to get kids involved in helping other kids at a young age, and to show them that 'Here's something small you can do that makes a big impact,'" Nasby said.

*Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.*

## SNAPSHOT

# Nothing But Net VEX Tournament

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC  
Pioneer Press

It's not every day you hear the sound of squeaky robotic parts sparring in friendly competition.

Buzzers started rounds Feb. 13 at the Niles North Nothing But Net VEX Tournament at Niles North High School in Skokie.

"This is a great opportunity to learn about STEM principles and to apply them in real-life situations," said Robb Barton, event coordinator and a Niles North engineering teacher.

An estimated 150 students from area schools participated in the VEX signature tournament. This was the second VEX robotics competition at Niles North and was open to middle school and high school stu-



KARIE ANGELL LUC/PIONEER PRESS

Pratheek Muskula, from left, Nawfal Memon, and Sheev Modi, all of Naperville and Neuqua Valley High School, make adjustments to their robot Feb. 13.

dents.

Feb. 13 was an official Illinois VEX HS/MS state qualifying event. Participating schools included Niles North High School, Niles West High School, Adlai E.

Stevenson High School and Glenbrook South High School.

One event required robots to toss balls in a large square.

"We shoot into a 4-foot goal from a distance of 17

feet," said Nawfal Memon, 17, of Naperville and a junior from the Naperville-based Neuqua Valley High School. "We're showing our skills of engineering at a young age and how important STEM is for the future."

Memon's teammates shared that sentiment.

"Robotics is a nice way for us to expose ourselves to STEM engineering in a hands-on manner as opposed to the theoretical lessons we have in the classroom," said Neuqua Valley team member Rishi Kalluri, 16, also of Naperville, who wants to become an engineer.

Barton acknowledged supporters and STEM fans during the event.

*Karie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter.*

# 2 CTA workers injured during train derailment

BY CHICAGO TRIBUNE  
Staff report

erine Hosinski said.

Check the CTA's website for updated travel information.

Two CTA employees requested medical attention for minor, non-life-threatening injuries, Hosinski said.

No passengers were on the train when it derailed at about 9:30 p.m., said Skokie police Cmdr. Terry Shiel.

Shortly before 1 a.m. Feb. 12, workers finished cleaning up the scene following the derailment, and normal Yellow Line service was expected shortly after, according to CTA officials.

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# Writers Theatre pays homage to group's past

**New complex is dedicated in downtown Glencoe**

BY DANIEL I. DORFMAN

Pioneer Press

More than 100 people gathered in Glencoe last week to celebrate the opening of the long-awaited Writers Theatre in a 36,000-square-foot complex that pays homage to the group's past.

The Feb. 12 ribbon-cutting ceremony was the culmination of a process that began about eight years ago.

"We had no idea it would turn into this," Writers general manager Jon Faris said. "We dreamed there would be something really magnificent at the end, but none of us sitting there in 2008 could have envisioned this building looking like this and generating this excitement and interest."

Writers was founded in 1992, holding plays for audiences of as many as 50 in the back of a downtown Glencoe bookstore, and later in a 108-seat theater in the Woman's Library Club building, which was razed to make room for the new theater.

"There is a lot of pride, there is some relief that we made it here to this day in one piece and we are all here to celebrate," Faris said. "But mostly we are just excited to see how we inhabit this building that is our new home."

The \$28 million building at 325 Tudor Court is the result of a collaboration between Writers officials, who had been seeking a larger venue, the Woman's Library Club of Glencoe and the village of Glencoe, as well as a \$34 million fundraising campaign. Writers officials said Feb. 12 that the campaign has been nearly completed, and will give Writers some money for operations and to place into reserves.

Nationally-known architect Jeanne Gang headed the Studio Gang Architect team in designing the building and its main 250-seat theater, with a design meant to capture the intimacy of the company's previous venues and make the audience feel they're still sitting in the back of the bookstore. Bricks from the Woman's Library Club building are being positioned to enhance acoustics, and a collage



KEVIN TANAKA/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

Officials marked the opening of the new Writer's Theatre with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Feb. 12.

of photographs from the group's past are also on display.

A second theater has seating for up to 99 people, and can also be used for workshops, cabarets and educational opportunities. There are walkways as well as an upstairs terrace with views across the village.

"It is inspiring to see all this physical material coming together in such a nice way," Gang said.

She said the harsh winters of the past two years made reaching the construction deadline difficult.

Additional landscaping will be added when the weather improves, she said, including vines and thick ivy to soften the appearance of the theater, located just to the east of Friends Park.

"It will be fitting into the park setting very well," she said.

Caren Thomas, chair of Glencoe's Plan Commission, said the theater complex has personality.

"It is its own character, like a character in a play, and I didn't know it would bring its own personality in this way," Thomas

said. "It is a personality that really feels like it is at home in Glencoe."

Village Manager Phil Kiraly said that while the building's impact is yet to be seen, it has received significant positive publicity.

"The national press that Writers has received, and Glencoe has received because of it, is exciting to me, and the opportunities are great because of that perspective," Kiraly said.

He said a crosswalk will be constructed this spring between the commuter parking lots across Green Bay Road and the building. The theater is putting together a signage plan to direct people to the appropriate places to park, but he said theater-goers will be encouraged to take public transportation as Metra and Pace routes are nearby.

The first performance at the Writers Theatre is scheduled for March 16. The atrium will be open for visitors on weekdays.

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



Architect Jeanne Gang discusses the interior design of the Writer's Theatre with Bruce Sagan of Chicago, a Steppenwolf Theatre board member, at a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Writer's Theatre on Feb. 12.

# Lawsuit settled at Evanston apartment building

BY ROBERT CHANNICK  
Chicago Tribune

A North Shore developer has agreed to retrofit a 3-year-old Evanston luxury apartment building to settle a lawsuit over disability access.

The 175-unit building at 1717 N. Ridge Ave. will undergo renovation during the next five years, making everything from bathrooms and kitchens to mailboxes easier for people in wheelchairs to use, according to the agreement.

In addition to the repairs, Northfield-based Focus Development and Booth Hansen, the building's architects, will each pay \$87,500 in damages and court costs to Open Communities, the non-profit fair housing organization that filed the federal discrimination lawsuit in January 2015.

The Fair Housing Act requires certain multifamily dwellings built after 1991 to be accessible to people with disabilities.

"Today we celebrate a victory

for people with disabilities in Evanston," said Gail Schechter, executive director of Winnetka-based Open Communities, in a recent statement announcing the settlement. "And by upholding their fair housing rights, we also uphold the rights of all people, including those with mobility impairments, to live in the housing of their choice."

The lawsuit followed a 2014 complaint filed by Open Communities with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development over the eight-story apartment building, which includes studio and one-, two- and three-bedroom rental units, as well as a fitness center, pool and other common areas.

Concerns included high thresholds at patio entrances, insufficient space within bathrooms, and kitchen sinks and ranges not fully usable by people in wheelchairs, all which will be renovated under the terms of the settlement. Other modifications will include a curb

cut on Ridge Avenue and a restriping of the garage to avoid parking obstructions.

Focus and Booth Hansen denied the discrimination allegations but agreed to settle the claim "to avoid the cost and disruption of protracted litigation," according to the settlement.

"We recognized that there were a few items that were noncompliant," said Justin Pelej, director of development at Focus. "We agreed to fix what was ours and move on."

Pelej declined to disclose the estimated cost of repairs.

Focus sold the building for \$70 million to Atlanta-based Invesco in September 2013 — five months after it was completed.

In November, Open Communities settled an accessibility lawsuit with Minneapolis-based Ryan Companies, which agreed to make \$2.7 million in alterations to more than 900 apartments in 10 housing complexes in Illinois and Iowa.

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BILL SIKES/AP

North Shore developer Focus Development has agreed to retrofit a 3-year-old Evanston luxury apartment building to settle a lawsuit over disability access.

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## NEWS



TARGET

An image from Target's website shows a Caroline's Cart, a shopping cart designed to help parents and caregivers shop with older kids or adults with disabilities.

## Target adding new carts for kids, adults with disabilities

BY LAUREN ZUMBACH  
Chicago Tribune

Target is rolling out a line of new shopping carts designed to make trips to the store easier for people shopping in the retail store with kids and adults with disabilities.

Target's Caroline's Carts look like its traditional red carts, but with a larger, harness-equipped seat. Drew Ann Long, of Alabaster, Alabama, designed the cart after her daughter Caroline, who has a neurological and developmental disorder called Rett syndrome, outgrew the seat in standard shopping carts.

Maneuvering a wheelchair and shopping cart through store aisles is a challenge, and many families don't want to or can't leave a child with special needs at home while shopping, Long said.

"I figured if I needed it,

other moms needed it, as well," said Long, who founded a company called Parent Solution Group to market the carts.

Target has been testing the carts in some stores since February 2015 and announced last week that all stores will have at least one Caroline's Cart by March 19, except for its smallest stores that don't have full-sized carts. They're already at two Target stores in Chicago's Chatham and Near West Side neighborhoods in addition to suburban locations in Schaumburg, Niles and Crystal Lake, according to a Target spokesperson.

"Caroline's Cart can be a game-changer for families, and we're excited to offer this for our guests across the country," said Juan Galaraga, senior vice president of store operations, in a statement. "Target is always looking for new ways to make guests feel welcome in

our stores and give them a more comfortable shopping experience."

Target is the largest retailer to bring Caroline's Cart to all its stores, Long said. Illinois has 54 stores that currently have at least one cart, according to Caroline's Cart, including several Fresh Thyme Farmers Market, Kroger, Mariano's and Jewel-Osco stores. Kroger has endorsed the carts, but it's up to individual store owners to decide whether to purchase them, Long said.

The carts are made by Technibilt, a North Carolina shopping cart manufacturer.

"If a retailer is going to provide a variety of carts, it's an accommodation they should provide," Long said. "Families of children with disabilities should be able to have the same experience as a typical family."

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# From pit to script: Two pals become filmmakers

CBOE friends combine forces to make 'Jim Shoe' in north suburbs

BY RONNIE WACHTER  
Pioneer Press

American Airlines does not get any product shots in the film "Jim Shoe," but writer/director Peter Sutton said he should "give props" to their generous frequent-flier-mile discounts.

The airline agreed to make the flight from Los Angeles to Chicago — which usually costs 12,500 miles one-way — for only 10,000 miles, which allowed Sutton and producer David Hoelscher to bring their actors in from California with the 100,000 fre-



DARIEL ARCHULETA

Peter Sutton, right, and Mike Erwin discuss a scene of "Jim Shoe," which Sutton directed and Erwin stars in.

quent-flier miles they had to work with.

Savings like that kept "Jim Shoe" around the pair's \$200,000 budget, which made its scheduled premiere on Feb. 10 at the

Pickwick Theatre in Park Ridge possible.

Sutton, a 1978 graduate of Niles North High School, said they had to fly everyone in coach and put them up at affordable hotels, but

the pressure and unpredictability of making a low-budget film was exhilarating.

"Everything was run-and-gun," he said. "It was like a big steam-roller on my back." But with his film now "in the can," Sutton said all that pressure has turned into elation.

"It's like bringing out your firstborn," he said.

Sutton said he and Hoelscher met while working in a trading pit at the Chicago Board Options Exchange, and found a common love of movies. Sutton was the first to make the jump — in 1996, he moved to California and has been working in casting ever since — but the two remained close.

"I gotta poop or get off the pot, and I went out there," is how Sutton described his decision-mak-

ing process.

While casting for both films and television shows, he worked on his own script at night. When he believed it was ready, he contacted Hoelscher again.

"He saw this as his bucket list," Sutton, 55, said of his filmmaking partner, a Park Ridge resident. "He wanted to be a producer of a movie, and I wanted to be a writer-director."

So the pair made "Jim Shoe," which Sutton called a "dramedy" about the titular character — played by Mike Erwin — an attorney at a prestigious Chicago law firm that is searching its top lawyers for who will be its next partner. Jim Shoe's "eccentric, Machiavellian" boss sets up bizarre pro-bono work for the candidates to perform. Out of a hat, Jim draws a card that sends him down a con-

struction-plagued Interstate 290 to Chicago's Lawndale neighborhood, to mentor a juvenile delinquent there played by Denzel Armon.

Sutton and his cast and crew filmed most of "Jim Shoe" in the fall of 2014, and came back last summer for a few re-shoots. Working the magic of movies on a gym-shoe-string budget, Sutton and Hoelscher turn Buffalo Grove, Northbrook, Skokie, Evanston and Winnetka into Chicago's West Side, and varying suburbs.

The character Jim Shoe is a New Trier Township High School graduate, but Sutton said homes in Buffalo Grove pose for Winnetka — and real-life Winnetka poses for other spots in the film.

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# Orchids on display at Valentine's Day show

Visitors can see up to 10,000 flowers

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC  
Pioneer Press

When it comes to Valentine's Day flowers, it is hard to beat the annual orchid show at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe.

"I am so in love with this show," said Jodi Zombolo, 2016 project manager for The Orchid Show. "On Valentine's Day, what a great time to bring your special someone out of the cold and into a tropical oasis. Flowers are the language of love, and orchids are at the highest level of that language."

The third annual orchid show opened Feb. 13 and runs through March 13. This year's theme is "A Study in Contrasts," which features different aspects of orchids.

Guests can expect to see at least 24 types of orchids, including lesser-known and smaller species.

In total, visitors might see displays of up to 10,000 blooming orchids.

"I love it and this year is my favorite show," said Gabriel Hutchison, exhibitions and programs production manager. "There's a whole range of color, and it's the most celebrated flower."

This year, orchids were placed so people could study them up close.

"We have brought more of the orchids down to eye level for people, and a lot of varieties have been put by each other," Zombolo said.

While more than 100,000 hybrid orchids have been developed by scientists, breeders and horticulturists since the 1850s, orchids can also cross-breed in nature.

"It's one of the showiest flowers, and they're not as finicky as people think," Hutchison said. "It's a good starter for being a parent or pet owner. If you can buy one and re-bloom it, it's a commitment."

On Feb. 12, assistant horticulturist Salina Wunderle, filled greenhouse beds with orchids.

"The strangler fig columns, they're gorgeous and rare," Wunderle said.

Native to warm climates, the strangler fig, which wraps around trees, provided a natural space to place orchids from ground level to the ceiling.

"The colors and variety are all exquisite," Zombolo said. "Orchids are one of the most unique flowers, and we have put together a great event to celebrate that uniqueness."

Sharon Nejman, a senior horticulturist, spent part of her day watering orchids with a spray hose in the greenhouse.



KARIE ANGELL LUC/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

Salina Wunderle, an assistant horticulturist at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe, completes final rounds of greenhouse plantings.

***Orchids are one of the most unique flowers, and we have put together a great event to celebrate that uniqueness.***

— Jodi Zombolo, orchid show project manager

"They love it," Nejman said. "I give them a lot of love, I nurture them. I water them every day ... On Valentine's Day, I think you can't ever have too many flowers."

The Orchid Show is open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is \$10 for adults (\$8 for members) and \$8 for seniors and children 3 to 12 (\$6 for members).

Karie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.



Jodi Zombolo, said she appreciates how many orchids at the 2016 Orchid Show are placed at adult eye level.

# Why Cam Newton deserves the criticism

**RANDY BLASER**

One of the major reasons to watch the Super Bowl every year is because it always teaches us something about ourselves.

Whether it happens during the game, after the game, at halftime or during the commercials, we discover something new every Super Bowl.

This year's lesson?

Cam Newton may be a phenomenal football player, but he is also a self-proclaimed sore loser who still has a lot to learn about winning and losing.

I really don't know much about Newton, other than what others have said about him and what I saw on Super Bowl Sunday. He seems to me like any other world-class athlete — arrogant, demanding, self-absorbed and used to being coddled his whole life.

But he sure can throw a

football. And for some people, that makes him great.

The lesson to be learned about this year's Super Bowl came at the end, when Newton attended the post-game interview. It was bad.

Newton's team lost the game 24-10. And Newton, who had just been crowned the league's MVP, didn't play very well. He fumbled the press conference, too.

He appeared to pout. He gave one-word answers. He mumbled his way through before getting up and leaving.

It was not a winning performance.

Someone has to lose. And Newton could easily have gotten away from the post-game interview looking magnanimous by saying things like: "They had a tough defense." "I didn't play well." "I'm disappointed in my performance." Etc., etc., etc.

The next day, Newton explained why he responded the way he did. He's a self-proclaimed sore loser.

"Who likes to lose?"



KEVIN C. COX/GETTY IMAGES

Cam Newton of the Carolina Panthers reacts after the Denver Broncos defeated the Panthers by a score of 24-10 to win Super Bowl 50.

Newton said. "You show me a good loser and I'm going to show you a loser."

OK. That kind of reminds me of Gen. George S. Patton's famous speech to the Third Army. Everyone has heard it. It's the opening scene in the movie "Patton," where the general

explains:

"Americans love a winner. Americans will not tolerate a loser. Americans despise cowards. Americans play to win all of the time. I wouldn't give a hoot in hell for a man who lost and laughed."

We didn't ask Newton to

lose and laugh. He was just asked to talk about what just happened on the field. No one was trying to define him as a loser because he came up short in the big game. He was just supposed to talk about it.

Newton said he didn't want to talk to the press at

that time.

Too bad. That's his job. As one of the biggest players in the biggest game watched by nearly the entire country, you talk about what happened. That's what adults do.

There are always two contests going on in the sports world. One is how the athlete performs on the field. The other is how he handles the outcome in front of the world.

Newton's a sore loser. OK we got that. But he forgot the rest of what Patton said.

Americans will not tolerate a loser and play to win all the time.

Newton forgot the "all the time" part. Like it or not, the post-game interview is part of the game. According to the Patton rules, Americans will not tolerate a loser.

What makes a loser? Not the outcome of one game, that's for sure. But how you handle it when the game, or life, goes south.

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

## Private toll lanes a sign of government's failure

**PAUL SASSONE**

Maybe it's a good idea. But it seems like just another admission of failure.

Gov. Bruce Rauner is proposing creation of at least one toll lane in each direction along a 25-mile section of the Stevenson Expressway (Interstate 55) between the Dan Ryan Expressway and Interstate 355. Drivers would have the option of crawling along in the regular lanes or paying to zip along in the toll lanes.

Reducing congestion would be a boon. The Illinois Department of Transportation estimates more than 170,000 drivers use the Stevenson each day. That's a whole lot of people stuck in traffic.

The new wrinkle in all this is that a private business would pay the state for the right to collect tolls and keep the tolls collected. The company would vary what it charges drivers depending on how congested traffic is on a given day. The term for this is "dynamic pricing."

Construction of these lanes — paid for by the yet-to-be-selected firm — would start in 2017. By law, such a "public-private

partnership," as the governor calls it, needs the approval of the Illinois General Assembly.

With the governor and the legislature continually at each other's throats, who can say whether the plan will get the required approval. Though from what I've read, there's support for the proposal even among some Democrats.

Supporters say this public-private partnership is necessary because federal and state funding for highway infrastructure keeps shrinking. This is the same argument that has driven the growth of charter schools, the privatizing of federal tax collection

and other, hitherto, government functions.

Government can no longer pay for government. So, the argument goes, private business must take over the services government used to provide.

And that's an admission of failure. When our democracy can no longer provide public education and other basic services, then we have failed.

And what do these public-private partnerships offer? The "private" gets money. What does the "public" get? I don't know. But the first duty of a business is to make a profit. The first duty of government is to serve the public. I'm not comfortable



CHUCK BERMAN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A morning rush hour on the inbound Stevenson Expressway (I-55) at Harlem Avenue Nov. 2, 2011, near Forest View.

with this shift in priorities.

If this latest public-private enterprise comes to be, I only hope it works out better than the Chicago

parking meter public-private partnership.

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

# When to worry about memory loss

Recently, I was at a Bar Mitzvah for my friend Lisa's son and I was speaking with her cousin whom I've met on several occasions. During the conversation, the cousin mentioned that I wrote an article about his kidney transplant a bunch of years ago. Although I kept speaking to him like nothing was wrong, I was having a different conversation in my head. Here's how it went:

"OH MY GOSH! I have no recollection whatsoever of writing a column about his kidney transplant! How can this be? I've actually written a few columns on some of his family members but wouldn't I remember a kidney transplant? And since I know a bunch of people in his family, wouldn't I think about his kidney transplant and ask him how he's doing each time I bump into him? Why isn't any part of this sounding familiar?"

My head was spinning. Was this the start of dementia? Should I see a doctor? Is this what happens as people get older? Luckily, Lisa happened to stop by our table before the cousin walked away. "OMG, Lisa!" I said. "Your cousin says I wrote an article about his kidney transplant and I'm FREAKING out because I don't remember anything about it!"

"That's because you didn't write the article, Susan," Lisa assured me. "I remember reading it and you were not the author."

"Hmmm," said the cousin. "I really think you wrote it 15 years ago."

A huge sigh of relief ran over me. "I've only been writing for the paper for 11 and a half years, so it could not have been me," I said.



SUSAN DUBIN

to the cousin. Of course, I then had to ask him a million questions about the kidney transplant and thought how interesting a future, follow-up article might be at some point.

Then, after realizing I was not losing my mind yet, I thought about how real this sort of "forgetful" situation might become in my future or anyone's future, for that matter. I decided to contact my friend, former Buffalo Grove resident and internist with a specialty in geriatrics, Jodi (Malis) Goh, to ask a few questions about the mind's aging process and when to seek help.

So, how much forgetfulness is normal as one ages?

"Starting at age 30, people do start having memory problems with names and such," says Dr. Goh. "The feeling you get that something's at the tip of your tongue and then it comes to you in the middle of the night and you're like, 'now I remember!' That's all normal. We actually call it 'normal memory loss with age.'"

When is it time to call the doctor?

"If something is affecting your daily life and your daily activities, it's time to see your physician," says Dr. Goh. "Like problems paying your bills, managing your money, working your appliances, repeating yourself with questions or stories and getting confused while driving, not being able to figure out the name of an object so you

describe it instead, losing things and finding them in strange places and dressing inappropriately for the weather."

"Actually, most times it's a spouse or other family member who notices something is different before the person does," says Dr. Goh. "If you have dementia, you would not always notice anything is wrong."

Dr. Goh highly recommends the Alzheimer's Association website [www.alz.org](http://www.alz.org) for more information. "They have TONS of information on what's normal and what's not," says Goh. "The site is also a really helpful resource if you have family members with Alzheimer's or dementia."

Additionally, "People with dementia cannot learn something new," says Dr. Goh. "And they cannot think back to find something misplaced."

Dr. Goh also says, "If you have high blood pressure, diabetes or high cholesterol, you'll want to get all of it under control because besides increasing your risk for heart disease, it also increases your chances of getting dementia. Alcohol and smoking can also increase your risk for memory loss."

And, to help in the prevention of memory loss, Dr. Goh says to do aerobic exercise and continue learning new things like an instrument, dancing, computer, crossword puzzles and increasing social activities. "Now is the time to be healthy," says Dr. Goh.

To contact me about future columns or to be on my email list when I take a poll or do a survey, email [gabbin@susandubin.com](mailto:gabbin@susandubin.com).

## The imaginary QB Cam-troversy

Will everyone please get off Cam Newton's back?

For a guy who just took his team to the Super Bowl after going 15-1 in the regular season, you'd think he was a contestant on "American Idol" being judged by a panel of Simon Cowell clones based on his heightened level of sports media scrutiny.

Really, a quarterback who celebrates too much after scoring touchdowns? Where were these critics during one of the most awkward celebration eras in NFL history? Of course, I'm referring to the "Ickey Shuffle."

To say sports and news media have been piling on to create a "Cam-troversy" is an understatement. When you peel away the layers of criticism, one reason for calling out Cam is unfairly comparing him to the studious and non-celebratory Peyton Manning on one end of the emotional spectrum.

Breaking news on that one — Cam studies game film and his digital playbook to prepare just as hard as every other quarterback in the league or else the Panthers wouldn't have played



ERIC SCOTT

on Super Bowl Sunday.

On the other end, there's also this strange desire by many to knock an all-star athlete in the prime of his career off the mountaintop and watch him fall. For those critics, if what they're saying is rooted in hate, then there's no sense in cloaking that extreme in a conversation about football.

What Carolina Panthers fan under the age of 10 isn't "dabbing" in front of the family TV with Cam every time he celebrates in the end zone? Furthermore, how cute are these kids when they copy Cam pretending to rip away their shirts in superhero fashion and reveal a make-believe Superman "S" underneath?

Newton, recognized as college football's best player in 2010 when he won the Heisman Trophy before leading Auburn to a national championship and becoming the number

one overall pick in the NFL Draft, makes watching football fun because he's having fun. What's wrong with that?

He has the winning record to back up the occasional showboating and oh yeah...he hands, not throws, but hands footballs to little kids in the stands after scoring touchdowns. This is a guy we want to criticize?

OK, so maybe some of his past performances in press conferences haven't been great, including Sunday's post-Super Bowl media gathering where he wasn't super talkative after losing the biggest game of his career and walked out. Would any of us really want to look into a sea of lights and cameras and explain why we just failed? Yeah, me neither.

It seems like this level of criticism shouldn't be happening when you win and play well enough to compete for the ultimate prize. Imagine if we were talking about Jay Cutler?

*Eric Scott is a freelance writer for Pioneer Press*

*Twitter: @viberider18*

## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

### Library director will be missed

Morton Grove Public Library staff and board members are preparing to say farewell to Debra Stombres, our library's director since March 2014. These past two years of the library's history will stand out in part because of the massive reconstruction project and in part, due to the superior leadership demonstrated by Ms. Stombres. Throughout the period the library was partially kept open for all but a few days. Much of the credit for keeping things running smoothly, both the reconstruction and library functioning is due to the

director's outstanding effort and determination.

Ms. Stombres' departure will take place in early March for her new position as director of the Poplar Creek Public Library District in Streamwood. Not only will this be a step up on the promotion ladder, possibly more important, it will take an hour off her driving time to work. She will be leaving our Morton Grove Public Library running smoothly under the leadership of qualified department heads together with all of the modern electronic paraphernalia in today's library world, study

rooms, teenagers' space, a digital media lab, and coming soon will be a brand new public computer room.

Yes, Debra Stombres you will be missed! On behalf of my fellow trustees, we wish her only the very best in her new endeavors. We also will continue to serve our patrons and the community as the Morton Grove Public Library continues to be one of the best small libraries in the country.

*—Barbara Novick, president, Morton Grove Public Library Board of Directors*

# How long do we mourn before moving on?

**Northlight stages  
'Mothers and Sons'**

BY CHRIS JONES  
Chicago Tribune

"Don't they know it's the end of the world?" Karen Carpenter once asked in a deeply poignant song, marveling how time marches on, the perplexingly cheery populace seemingly oblivious to the bereft singer's pain.

Katherine Gerard, the bereaved mother at the heart of Terrence McNally's haunting drama "Mothers and Sons," now in its first Chicago production, at the Northlight Theatre, doubtless would sympathize. Although her pain took root a quarter of a century ago when her only son died of AIDS, it clearly has continued, marinating in the woman's burden of guilt for not having accepted her son's gayness. Thus she condemns herself for not really knowing her son at all. Years after his death, where does that leave her?

For, while her grief is stubborn, the world around Katherine (Cindy Gold) has changed. McNally sets his play on the day that Katherine visits her son's old partner, Cal Porter (Jeff Parker). Cal has, of course, moved on. What choice did he have? He has a new partner — a new husband, no less, in young Will Ogden (Benjamin Sprunger). For the world has changed that much. And these two men have a kid. A very cute one (played by Ben Miller). At once appalled, jealous, envious and racked with remorse, Katherine is furious about that which society affords her no right to be angry. And she has to swallow these emotions as she is a guest in the home of men she hardly knows at all.

But she has cards to play, and play 'em she does. A mother, Katherine insists, cannot move on.

You were barely his mother! That's Cal's retort. It comes from the man who stood by the side of a dying young actor, one of so many being felled by a plague, and who is now being forced to relive all that pain because the actor's very difficult and caustic mother is standing in his living room even though she refused to hug him at her son's funeral. Years ago.

To some degree, "Mothers and Sons," directed at Northlight by Steve Scott, is a construct. Katherine comes to New York and, suddenly, her son's former partner's life, through a flimsy excuse — to return her late son's diary (true, many of us use such devices to motivate the unpleasant but necessary).

But I thought this an important play when I first saw it on Broadway in 2014 (it



MICHAEL BROSILOW PHOTO

(From left) Benjamin Sprunger, Jeff Parker, Ben Miller and Cindy Gold in "Mothers and Sons" at Northlight Theatre.

## Mothers and Sons

**When:** Through Feb. 27

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

**Running time:** 1 hour, 40 minutes

**Tickets:** \$25-\$79 at 847-673-6300 or [www.northlight.org](http://www.northlight.org)

starred Tyne Daly), in part because I remember seeing a couple of mothers like Katherine at funerals, in part because it reminds us what some (hardly all) family members did to those who died of AIDS, but mostly because it offers a chance to

think about guilt, mourning and moving on, while we're in the hands of one of America's most compassionate and yet unstinting playwrights.

At one point, Cal, who is played with great sincerity by Parker, wonders aloud whether moving on to a new partner means he did not love Katherine's son enough. It's a common worry of the widowed, although the play is, I think, arguing that he has no choice, given how time moves so inexorably forward, leaving some of us behind.

Scott's production does not take enormous risks, nor does it capture all the humor that was present in the Broadway original, and the fireplace-free set is a bit more low-budget than would be ideal for a

tony Manhattan apartment with a view. But it's a very solid and well-acted endeavor.

Gold's performance is an exceptionally sincere and honest piece of acting that moved me greatly in some moments. Parker also nails the sheer horror of your past walking right through your front door, dredging up all that complexity. And Sprunger, playing that new man in Cal's life, has just the right lack of compassion for that which he was just young enough to miss.

You'll sense I'm fond of this emotional play, imperfect as it may be, and you would be right. It is honest, fair and moving, and entirely applicable to any number of other circumstances in which we find ourselves.

## SHOW

# Everyone can relate to 'The Internet Ate My Brain'

By MYRNA PETLICKI

Pioneer Press

"Please leave your cell phone on."

That's something you wouldn't expect to hear during a show but "The Internet Ate My Brain" is not your ordinary show and Bill Dyszel, who created the innovative evening, is unique — to say the least.

Dyszel sang with the New York City Opera for 14 years and has won rave reviews as a cabaret artist in New York. He is also the author of 21 books in the "Dummy" series, including "Microsoft Outlook for Dummies." And he's a filmmaker who has created more than 60 short films. He will perform "The Internet Ate My Brain" at the Skokie Theatre Feb. 27.

Sounds like someone who would really understand how the Internet could chomp on your cerebral cortex, but Dyszel declared, "When the Internet eats your brain, you're the last to know."

"The Internet really is changing how we're thinking," he added. "Nothing has ever changed the way people behave as rapidly as the Internet has done. In some ways, we're not ready for it. This is the last time humanity will know a world with and without the Internet."

What should we do about it? In Dyszel's case, he has created a number of parodies and original tunes about such topics as people's addiction to online shopping and to selfies.

The New York resident, who spends half his time in Palatine because he inherited his family's home, decided to create this show about a year ago.

"I have been writing a



BILL DYSZEL

Bill Dyszel presents the musical parody show, "The Internet Ate My Brain" at the Skokie Theatre Feb. 27.

## 'The Internet Ate My Brain'

**When:** 8 p.m. Feb. 27  
**Where:** Skokie Theatre,  
 7924 Lincoln Ave.  
**Tickets:** \$20  
**Contact:** 847-677-7761;  
[www.skokietheatre.com](http://www.skokietheatre.com)

bunch of the songs one by one," he said. "I do a lot of cabaret and open mics so I've been going to Petterino's in the Loop." Every Monday night, Dyszel brought a new original song to gauge if people liked it. The ones people loved are in the show.

About half of the songs are parodies; Dyszel wrote music as well as lyrics for the other half.

"Most of my parodies are in the Great American Songbook," he noted. That includes, "Google, Facebook and Bing" to the tune of "Bubbles, Bangles and Beads," and "Top Secret Love" to the tune of "Secret Love."

The audience will get into the act via those turned on cell phones. "I pose questions to them and ask them to discuss them and then send me a text message," Dyszel said. "I give a prize for one of the text messages for each question I pose."

Dyszel has presented, "The Internet Ate My Brain" at Don't Tell Mama in New York City four times to critical acclaim and the editors of BroadwayWorld.com nominated the show for a Broadway World NY Cabaret Award in the category of Best Musical Comedy.

Audience members have been enthusiastic, too, Dyszel indicated, noting, "Everybody identifies with the topic."

Confirmation of that, Dyszel related, is that when he walks down the street wearing his, "The Internet Ate My Brain" hat and jacket, people tell him, "That happened to me."

## THEATER

# Drury Lane hires casting director to bring in shows

By CATEY SULLIVAN

Pioneer Press

For years, New York independent producer and casting director Laura Stanczyk has been an out-of-state, behind-the-scenes collaborator at Oakbrook Terrace's Drury Lane Theatre. Seen a show at the suburban venue that featured talent from New York? Odds are, Stanczyk had a hand in putting that talent on stage. Now Stanczyk is taking on a more conspicuous role at Drury Lane as the newly named Director of New Works. The consulting position announces Drury Lane's desire to develop a reputation for producing new musicals and pre-Broadway tryouts as well as revivals such as "Oliver" and "Camelot."

"It's easier to sell tickets to 'Hello Dolly' or 'White Christmas.' But I think Drury Lane audiences have a hunger for more than revivals," says Drury Lane Executive Director Kyle DeSantis.

For the last 20 years or so, Broadway in Chicago has had the lock on pre-Broadway tryouts, giving Chicago area audiences their first look at shows including "The Producers", "The First Wives Club" and "Gotta Dance." It remains to be seen whether Drury Lane can when it comes to landing the next "Producers." But In some ways, Drury Lane has slowly but surely already begun building a reputation as a nurturer of new shows.

Stanczyk was instrumental in bringing last year's new musical "Beaches" to Drury Lane. When "Hazel" opens in April, it will be a bona fide world premiere. The show, based on the spirited maid in Ted Key's beloved Saturday



DRURY LANE

New York-based producer and casting director Laura Stanczyk will help bring new musicals to Drury Lane.

Evening Post comic strip, came to Drury Lane's attention via Stanczyk, who saw an early reading of the show in New York.

"I think of 'Hazel' as 'Matilda' meets Jersey Boys," Stanczyk says. "It's the kind of big, bold beautiful new show that I see Drury Lane doing more and more of."

Stanczyk started working with Drury Lane in 2010, when she helped cast "Funny Girl" with New Yorker Sara Sheperd in the title role. Stanczyk has been spearheading the theater's New York casting since. Why look east when the talent pool in Chicago is so deep? "The problem we run into is that Chicago actors are so crazy talented, they're already booked lots of times when we want them," Stanczyk says.

Stanczyk will remain based in New York, where she estimates she sees around 100 or so readings and backers' auditions of new shows over the course of the year. Logistically, that's something DeSantis just can't swing. "We do seven shows a year at the Drury Lane," he says.

"We're always either auditioning or in tech or getting

ready to open. I need someone on the ground in New York who can wade through all the new works coming down the pipeline and help find those that would be a good fit here."

A Detroit native, Stanczyk trained at New York University and started her show biz career as an aspiring actor before switching to casting. And for several years she's been dabbling in producing, primarily working on 2014's staging of the new musical "Bull Durham" at Atlanta's Alliance Theatre. Her belief in Drury Lane as a tryout powerhouse is palpable.

"I remember one of the first shows I saw here, 'Sweeney Todd,'" she says of the 2011 staging helmed by Rachel Rockwell. "That was the best 'Sweeney' I've ever seen. I remember thinking right then, this is a theater that could handle new works, that could do far more than revivals."

"Hazel" will be the first true test of that belief.

"I want us to be a hub for new works, doing one a season," DeSantis says. "More than anything, I want to keep our audiences happy and looking forward to whatever it is we're doing next."

# Living

Thursday, February 18, 2016



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Massage is  
legitimate  
therapy for  
back pain** Page 12



## Why boredom is anything but boring

Embracing ho-hum moments can spur creativity and productivity. Page 3

COLIN ANDERSON/GETTY

# Aurora woman's fare simple, yet delicious

By Judy Buchenot  
Beacon-News

Louise Christian doesn't like to boast about her cooking, but she has a recipe that is easy to fix and tastes great for just about any occasion.

Christian retired to Aurora but grew up and lived in Oswego her whole life. She raised four children and spent a considerable amount of time preparing meals for them. Gardens provided her with many ingredients over the years.

"My parents had a big garden. In those days, I think everyone had a garden. My mom even sold some of the things from her garden. I remember helping her pick and wash green beans to take in to Kroger to sell," she said.

Her own garden was also bountiful. "I had a big strawberry patch, so we ate strawberry shortcake till it came out of our ears," she said. "I grew peas too but the kids loved them raw out of the garden, so the peas never made it to the kitchen. My Uncle George always planted some sweet corn for me and we also had carrots, beans, cucumbers, everything. I used to get up early and spend a half hour working in the garden every day before the kids got up."

She found that if she spent some time each day in her garden, she never lost control of weeds or other maintenance. She canned some of the produce like tomatoes and froze some things like corn. "I miss my garden — not working in the garden, though — just eating all of the fresh things," said Christian.

Christian cooks most meals without recipes. "Once I make something that I like, I can make it again and again with a few changes," she said. With eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren, she still has opportunity to cook for a large group when they come to visit.

For example, one of her simple family favorites is her chicken and dressing. She starts with a 14- to 16-ounce bag of sage and onion seasoned stuffing mix. She noted that all flavors of stuffing mix will work in the dish, so just choose a favorite.

"Then you have to get the stuffing moist," she said. She usually starts by adding a can of condensed cream of chicken soup but noted that other flavors like cream of mushroom or celery would also work. She then adds 1 to 2 cups of chicken broth or milk until the mixture is moist. Next she adds about a pound of cut-up cooked chicken.

Everything is mixed together, placed in a casserole dish and baked at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. She then removes the casse-

## Mandarin Orange Salad

- 2 11-ounce cans mandarin oranges
- 1 15-ounce can pineapple tidbits
- 2 3-ounce boxes orange Jell-O
- 2 3-ounce boxes tapioca pudding
- 1 8-ounce container whipped topping

**1.** Drain mandarin oranges and pineapple, saving the juice. Combine juices and add water if needed to make three cups liquid. Pour liquid into saucepan. Stir in Jell-O and tapioca mixes. Bring to a boil, while stirring. Remove from heat and cool until thickened but not solid. Stir in oranges and pineapple. Stir in whipped topping. Spread into a 9-by-13-inch pan and refrigerate until set.

## Coconut Angel Squares

- 1 pre-made angel food cake (8 to 10 ounces)
- 1 quart vanilla ice cream
- 1/2 cups milk
- 2 3.4-ounce packages instant coconut pudding mix
- 1 8-ounce container whipped topping
- 1/2 cup coconut

**1.** Cut angel food cake into one-inch squares. Place in a lightly greased 9-by-13-inch pan. Allow ice cream to soften slightly. Beat together milk, pudding mix and ice cream until smooth. Spoon mixture over the cake squares. Spread whipped topping over the top. Sprinkle with coconut. Refrigerate about one hour or until firm. Cut into squares to serve.

## Louise's Culinary Cue

Louise always wanted her children to try new dishes, so she instituted the "no thank you helping." This is a single spoonful of a new dish that everyone had to try. After tasting, sometimes the response was a simple "no thank you," but many times, they would request more because they had learned that the new dish was pretty tasty.

role and tops it with cheese, either shredded or sliced. The casserole goes back into the oven for a few minutes to melt the cheese. It is then ready to serve.

When making a baked item, Christian



JUDY BUCHENOT/BEACON-NEWS

Aurora's Louise Christian gets ready to mix up a chicken and stuffing casserole, one of her easy-to-make, yet delicious family meals.

does pull out her recipes, which she has organized into a notebook. "I know that a recipe is a good one when I make it and everyone asks me for a copy of the recipe," she said.

Two dishes that always elicit recipe copy requests are her mandarin orange salad and her coconut angel squares. As with all her favorite recipes, the two dishes are simple yet unique and delicious. The angel food cake squares require a prepared angel food cake, which can be made or pur-

chased. She often buys a loaf-shaped angel food cake because it is easier to slice into cubes for the recipe.

Christian also notes that finding coconut instant pudding mix is sometimes difficult so she substitutes 2 boxes vanilla instant pudding with about 1/2 cup of coconut added. The light dessert is a perfect ending to a meal. She shares both recipes for others to try.

Judy Buchenot is a freelance writer.

# Why boredom is anything but boring

Embracing ho-hum moments can spur creativity and productivity

By Leslie Barker

The Dallas Morning News

An unexpected word is making the rounds, one that causes some embarrassed eyes to lower, some astonished jaws to drop.

The word? Boredom.

Embarrassed because "admitting you're bored," says Peter Toohey, author of "Boredom: A Lively History" (Yale University Press), "is a bit like saying you burp in church or something dreadful like that. People will deny it."

Astonished because, well, in this day and age, how could anyone ever be bored? Even in historically boring situations — jury duty room, post office line, last day of the flu — out come the phones to alleviate any of that nonsense.

But boredom shouldn't be seen as "an unpleasant, disgusting experience," Toohey says. He and others say that mastering it can boost productivity, enhance creativity and more.

"The big problem with the world we live in is that there's no excuse to be bored," says Austin Kleon, author-illustrator of "Steal Like an Artist: 10 Things Nobody Told You About Being Creative" (Workman Publishing) and who, incidentally, doesn't mind being bored. "We're in this culture in which entertainment is at your fingertips 24/7."

But, adds Kleon, "I think part of an artist's job is to bore yourself into working. I really do."

At Southern Methodist University, advertising professor Willie Baronet asserts that creativity "is one way to get unbored." As to whether there exists a link between creativity and boredom, "I'm not a researcher, but this is fascinating to me," he says.

Whatever it does or doesn't, something about this ho-hum topic is garnering attention. Boredom is so mundane that even the Bible, which deals with all sorts of emotions, doesn't mention it, Toohey points out. (Although the idea that the devil finds work for idle hands apparently goes back to 18th-century hymn-writer Isaac Watts, and Chaucer's 14th-



HERO IMAGES/GETTY IMAGES

Some authors who have studied boredom say that mastering it can boost productivity, enhance creativity and more.

century "Canterbury Tales" quotes St. Jerome about the dangers of being unoccupied.)

"It was trivial until the early 2000s," says Toohey, a professor of Latin and Greek, among other ancient topics, at the University of Calgary. "There's a book by a Norwegian, which I think is a better book than mine, and that started the topic. There's a huge amount of interest in boredom. People call me all the time to talk about it."

Kleon, who just released "The Steal Like an Artist Journal" (Workman Publishing, \$12.95), says boredom has a movement behind it.

"I think boredom might make a comeback," he says from his home in Austin, Texas. "I think it's almost a luxurious thing, a decadent thing. To allow yourself to be bored is almost like a pampering thing. I can see a boredom ranch: 'Come here and be bored!'"

Here's how boredom has figured into the news lately:

■ A Spanish company has developed an algorithm to determine, by phone usage, when someone is bored. It then offers suggestions on what to do.

■ As part of a University of Central Lancashire study linking boredom to creativity, participants were divided into three groups. The first was instructed to copy names from a phone book. The second, to read the phone book, and the third, to do nothing. Booooring! The groups were then asked to take part in a task requiring creativity. The results? Even boredom has layers: Boring activities involving reading led to more creativity "in some circumstances" than boring written activities, which were more creativity-inducing than no pre-task activity at all.

■ A summary in the journal Science of boredom-related studies found that participants preferred "mundane activities," including administering electric shocks to themselves, to being in a room alone with their thoughts, even

for less than 15 minutes.

Toohey knows how boredom can lead to productivity; it's how he came to write his book.

"It was telling me to do something," he says. "It drove me to think about it, to sit down, spend a couple of years reading and writing about it." He pauses. "That sounds pretty boring."

His research taught him something about himself too: "Realizing that boredom can be a positive experience surprised me, that my proneness to boredom wasn't the product of a lazy, idle nature or being too much of a dreamer, the sort of thing teachers accuse you of being. It's part of me and what I've achieved, which is part a feeling of restlessness, of dissatisfaction and slight disgust of things."

When Baronet sees people sitting down and looking at their phones, he says, "It makes me wonder, would they be bored otherwise? I've seen people at the museum looking at their phones. I'm not judging or saying it's

## Putting boredom to use

Steve Jobs was, in his words, "a big believer in boredom. Boredom allows one to indulge in curiosity, and out of curiosity comes everything."

So what's the best way to indulge your own boredom?

**Do something different.** Creativity professor Willie Baronet suggests engaging in conversation with someone who annoys you, or listening to music you don't ordinarily listen to.

**Leave your phone in your pocket or purse.** Reach for a book instead, says author Austin Kleon.

**Be of service.** Perform a random act of kindness for a stranger, Baronet suggests.

**Stare at a dot or a crack in a wall.** "That's one I stole from (philosopher) William James," Kleon says. "The more you stare and zone out and be bored, the more you make yourself forget what you're doing, and ideas start to pop up."

**Draw a picture with your non-dominant hand of what you had for breakfast,** Baronet says.

Write a haiku about a bad date, he adds. Or about Donald Trump.

**Don't do anything at all,** says "Boredom" author Peter Toohey, "and see what happens."

wrong, but I wonder if it's because they're bored by what's there, or if they find their phones more interesting."

The short answer, he says, "is that the phone is a fallback. It's very easy to check messages, turn on the phone, stay engaged. There will never be a lack of content."

Challenging himself to not do so, however, "can provoke me to draw or read or take a walk, to do something likely to cause a different kind of creativity," he says, "and I like that a lot."

# Variety is key for a bird-friendly backyard

**Winter is a good time to plan changes**

By Tim Johnson  
Chicago Tribune

I would like to attract more birds to my garden in coming years and would like advice on how to do so.

— Ellen Sanderson, Highland Park

Winter is a good time to plan to enhance your garden with plants that will attract birds all year long. It takes more than feeders, bird houses and a birdbath, along with some flowers, for a truly bird-friendly garden.

Birds need a complete habitat that includes food, shelter, nesting areas and perching spots. A good garden for birds tends to have more of a natural look to it. Design your garden so that there are different vertical levels, each attracting and providing something important to different bird species. Some birds prefer the canopy of tall trees while others perch in the understory trees and shrubs. Different species of birds will have varying requirements and preferences for nesting, eating and shelter. Try to create as many of these levels as possible in your backyard garden to attract a larger variety of birds. Even open areas of soil can be beneficial by providing an area for birds to take a dust bath.

Select plants to provide food for birds at different times of year. Fruit of different plants will ripen



CHICAGO BOTANIC GARDEN

To attract birds to your yard, you need to offer a complete habitat that includes food, shelter, nesting areas and perching spots. Plus, keep in mind that different species have different needs, so variety is key.

in different seasons. For example, serviceberries provide spring-ripening fruit, and red-twisted dogwood does in summer; hawthorns and crab apples provide fruit in fall and winter. Perennials such as purple coneflower and grasses such as a prairie dropseed pro-

vide seed to act as a food source. Sunflowers are quick-growing annual flowers that will produce seeds that are attractive to birds. Nectar-producing plants such as penstemon, Mexican bush sage, and columbine are attractive to hummingbirds. It is a good idea to

include a mix of evergreens in your planting to provide year-round shelter for the birds. When feasible, leave some dead branches on living trees to provide zones for the birds to perch on. Prune any dead branches that are safety hazards, though.

Leave the leaf litter in your garden beds this fall as an easy and environmentally friendly method to recycle material and help meet some of a bird's basic needs. Other organic materials such as small twigs, fallen seeds, fruits and berries should be left in the litter too. Many insects will thrive in the leaf litter and insect-eating birds will be attracted. Some birds will store their seeds and nuts in the leaf litter for later use.

There are many kinds of seeds and feeders to choose from if you decide to start a feeding program. Take the time to do some research as different species of birds prefer different types of seeds and feeders, and no one type is preferred by all birds. It is best to avoid buying bags of mixed birdseed as they contain a lot of filler, such as red millet, which most birds won't eat. The filler ends up on the ground, where it rots.

Place your feeder in an open area where it is easy to see 10 feet or so away from protective cover (for the birds) and convenient to refill (for you). If the feeders are too close to large plants then squirrels will have easy access to them. To maximize the number of species that visit your feeders, you'll want to offer a variety of food and at different heights above the ground.

Tim Johnson is senior director of horticulture for the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe.

ctc-realestate@tribpub.com

## PET OF THE WEEK



**Joseph**

I am just a puppy with everything that goes with being a puppy. Every outing is a reason to discover new things and of course to meet people, small kids, big kids, and other dogs. I get along well with other dogs and can't wait for a family where the real fun will begin! Interested in meeting me and all the extra work that will come with adding a puppy to your family, then head out to Save-A-Pet.

For additional information, please visit [www.saveapetil.org](http://www.saveapetil.org).

## chicagotribune.com/pets

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

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



# Direct Auto says claim can't be paid

Dear Help Squad,  
I saw your Nov. 11 column regarding an issue with Direct Auto (Insurance) and decided I should enlist your help with a claim.

On August 24, 2015, a driver hit my fence and my neighbor's fence. A police report was filed. There was significant damage to both of our fences. We filed a claim with our homeowner's insurance and were compensated, minus our deductible of \$500. Our insurance company, Traveler's, tried numerous times to contact Direct Auto to recover our deductible. A representative from Direct Auto told Traveler's that (its insured) was not responding to its investigation so no payment would be made. We sent in the requested paperwork and my husband followed up with the representative numerous times with no response.

This accident was in no way our fault or our neighbor's fault and we have each had to put out money for repairs. Because the parties involved were not cooperating, Direct Auto just leaves it at that? I have

filed a complaint against Direct Auto with the Illinois Department of Insurance.

Sandra, Orland Hills

Soon after requesting that Sandra forward me all her claim information and repair estimates, she sent this email: "Initially, when we requested our deductible be reimbursed, Direct Auto told us they would not reimburse. It was only after I filed a complaint with the Illinois Department of Insurance ... that they agreed to settle. However, we will only receive a portion of our deductible as Traveler's also takes a percentage, which I think is unfair. Out of \$600, we will receive \$195."

First up: the Illinois Department of Insurance. Alissandra Calderon, the Illinois DOI's public information officer, along with her staff, answered all my questions and provided data on Direct Auto.

Can an insurer simply state lack of cooperation from a policy-holder and be



CATHY CUNNINGHAM  
Help Squad

absolved of paying a claim? (Liability insurance policies typically contain a cooperation clause that states the insured must cooperate with the insurer in order for a claim to be settled.) Does an insurer have to provide any evidence to substantiate an insured's lack of cooperation?

Calderon explained, "Insurance regulations require that insurers maintain detailed documentation to permit reconstruction of the company's claim activities. When an insurer claims noncompliance, DOI requests copies of all notices sent to their insured and any other documentation supporting their claim. DOI also performs market conduct examinations to ensure compliance with insurance laws and regulations related to claims practices."

As to the topic of market conduct examinations, just such an investigation of Direct Auto was recently concluded, Calderon said.

The examination resulted in an Illinois DOI "stipulation and consent order" (a disciplinary report highlighting non-compliance issues that an insurer agrees to address).

"The department continues to actively monitor (Direct Auto's) compliance with the order and is engaged in ongoing discussions with the company," Calderon said.

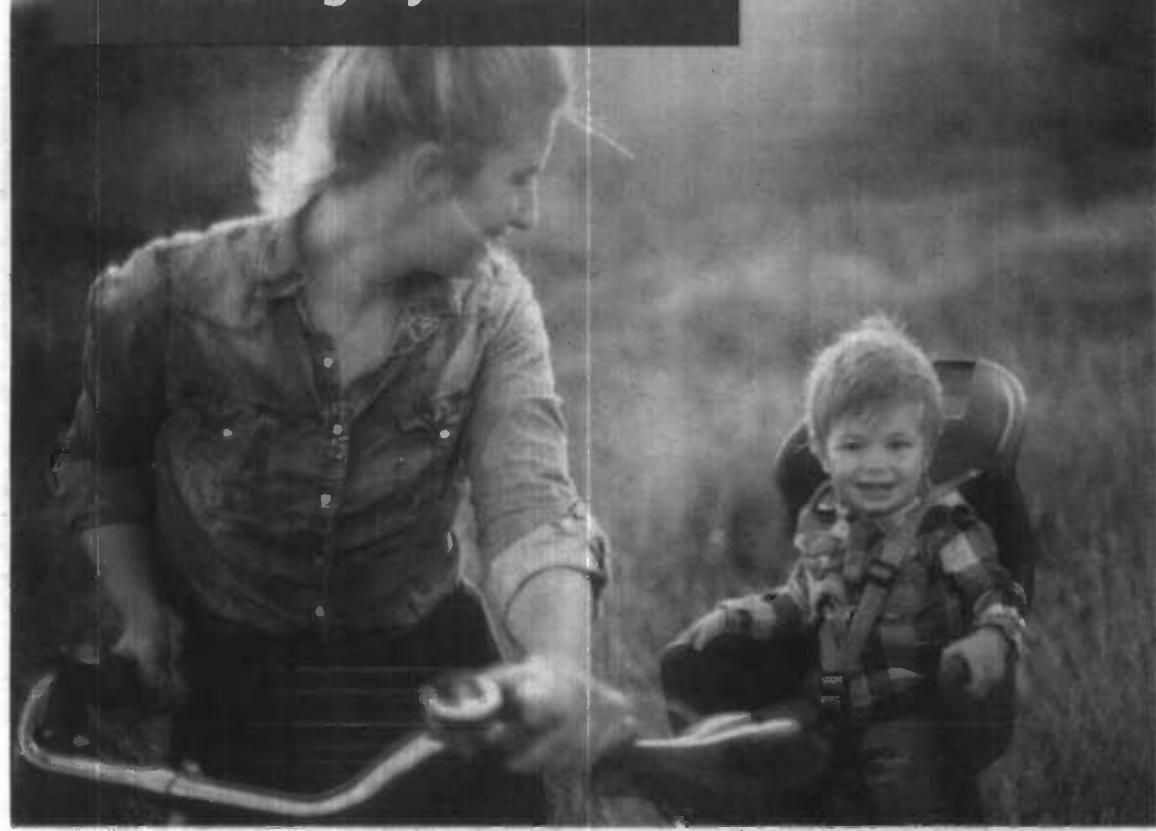
Per Travelers, \$600 was actually the settlement amount it obtained via subrogation from Direct Auto — not a deductible reimbursement.

Because Illinois is a pro rata insurance state, Sandy was awarded 39 percent of the \$600, because \$600 is 39 percent of the total claim value of \$1,520.94. (Got that?) Sandy agreed to accept the settlement rather than take Direct Auto to small claims court.

*Send your questions to HelpSquad@pioneerlocal.com.*

*Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.*

## Your legacy matters



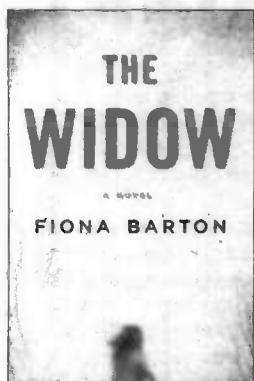
**Thank you to those who created their Jewish legacy and supported:**

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Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago  
North Shore Congregation Israel  
North Suburban Synagogue Beth El  
Oak Park Temple B'nai Abraham Zion  
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Temple Jeremiah

To create your Jewish legacy, contact Naomi Shapiro:  
[legacy@juf.org](mailto:legacy@juf.org) • (312) 357-4963 • [www.juf.org/legacy](http://www.juf.org/legacy)

**LIFE & LEGACY**  
A JEWISH FEDERATION OF METROPOLITAN CHICAGO INITIATIVE

## ROUNDUP | CRIME FICTION

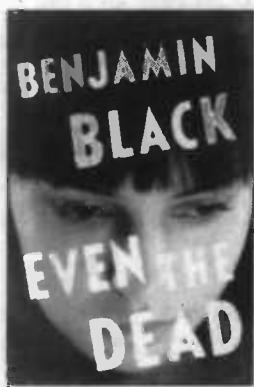
**The Widow**

By Fiona Barton, New American Library, 324 pages, \$26

Riding the streak of humdinger, unreliable narrated mysteries started by "Gone Girl" and "The Girl on the Train," Fiona Barton's debut, "The Widow," has you right where it wants you from the start. In 2006, in the southern British city of Southampton, a 2-year-old girl left unattended outside her home went missing. Four years later, with the case still unsolved, the child porn addict suspected of abducting and likely killing her, Glen Taylor, is struck dead by a bus. When his widow, Jean, hears the footsteps of hotshot newspaper reporter Kate Waters coming up her path,

"(h)eavy-footed in high heels," the fun begins. Waters thinks she's in control after sweet-talking the mousy, media-beleaguered Jean and then whisking her off to a posh hotel for an exclusive interview. Fully aware of how she's being used, but happy to be treated to a little luxury after being bottled up in an unhappy marriage, the widow (the book's main narrator) proves anything but easy pickings. D.I. Bob

Sparkes also thinks she is holding back. He has determined that Glen, reduced to driving a delivery van after being fired from his bank job, was in the area when baby Bella disappeared. Was the alibi provided by his wife solid? Did he act alone? For all its twists, "The Widow" never loses sight of the dark secrets that define ordinary lives, the gray areas where deception gives way to truth. This is one book in which such subtleties matter as much as the plot.

**Even the Dead**

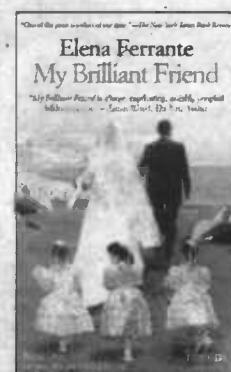
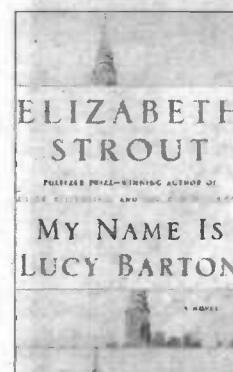
By Benjamin Black, Henry Holt, 304 pages, \$27

Quirke, the pathologist hero of Benjamin Black's Dublin-set mysteries, is in no shape to take on a new case. His drinking has caused him to experience stretches of not knowing who or where he is, he suffers from depression and he's convalescing from a brain lesion. But when his daughter, Phoebe, tells him of the disappearance of an imperiled pregnant woman she tried to help, he can hardly remain on the sidelines — especially since the woman's story resonates with the supposed suicide of a man authorities say crashed his car into a tree. At the heart of "Even the Dead" is an insidious plot involving the Catholic Church's plot to sell babies to rich American families. With the help of his old sidekick, Inspector Hackett, Quirke is soon face to face with the prime villain. The mystery matters less, however, than the moral vacuum against which the aging Quirke takes a last-ditch stand. Black, the pen name of Booker Award-winning novelist John Banville, never worries about letting the plot dangle, breathing lovely, rich emotion through these pages with his unhurried, reflective prose:

"However tranquil the scene before us, beneath our feet another world is thrashing in helpless agony. How can we live up here, knowing what goes on down there? How can we know and not know, at the same time?" You linger over his descriptions: the cleft between a woman's breasts "were the color of a knife blade," reflecting light from a window, a villain's eyeglass lenses look "like two coins placed over his eyes."

**CHICAGOLAND BEST-SELLERS**

1. "My Name Is Lucy Barton: A Novel" by Elizabeth Strout (Penguin Random House, \$26).
2. "A Man Called Ove: A Novel" by Fredrik Backman (Washington Square, \$16).
3. "The Swans of Fifth Avenue: A Novel" by Melanie Benjamin (Delacorte, \$28).
4. "When Breath Becomes Air" by Paul Kalanithi (Penguin Random House, \$25).
5. "My Brilliant Friend" by Elena Ferrante (Europa Editions, \$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), Lake Forest Book Store (Lake Forest).

**NEW IN PAPERBACK****The Monopolists**

By Mary Pilon, Bloomsbury USA, 314 pages, \$17. Pilon explores the lost history behind the classic board game Monopoly, revealing its true origins compared to the history present by Parker Brothers and others. Pilon looks at the game's original inventor, a forgotten feminist named Lizzie Magie who created the identical but anti-capitalist "Landlord's Game" more than 30 years before Parker Brothers sold their version.

**The Doll's House: A Detective Helen Grace Thriller**

By M.J. Arlidge, New American Library, 421 pages, \$15.

The body of a dead woman has been found on a secluded beach. The woman has been dead for years, but why would her family report her missing when she is still sending them text messages? Detective Helen Grace knows the murder is not the work of an amateur and must race to solve the case before the killer can claim another victim.

**Our Auntie Rosa**

By Sheila McCauley Keys with Eddie B. Allen Jr., TarcherPerigee, 201 pages, \$15.

The nieces and nephews of Rosa Parks share their memories of the civil rights icon as both a leader in the movement and as a mother figure. "Our Auntie Rosa" shares lessons taught by Parks and her experiences growing up in the segregated South.

**Munich Airport: A Novel**

By Greg Baxter, Twelve, 271 pages, \$14.99.

An American man living in London receives a call from Germany informing him his sister, Miriam, has been found dead from starvation in her Berlin apartment. Over the course of three weeks, the man, his father and an American consular official wait for the body to grieve and attempt to share Miriam's suffering.

**Wilfred Owen**

By Guy Cuthbertson, Yale University Press, 346 pages, \$27.

Cuthbertson looks at the life of influential World War I poet Wilfred Owen, who was killed in action just one week before the Armistice was signed. Cuthbertson details Owen's lower-middle class upbringing, his class anxieties, religious doubts, relationships, military service and his growth as a poet.



— Jeremy Mikula



# puzzle island

For interactive puzzles and games go to [chicagotribune.com/games](http://chicagotribune.com/games)

## For Valentine's Day: AKA 29 Down

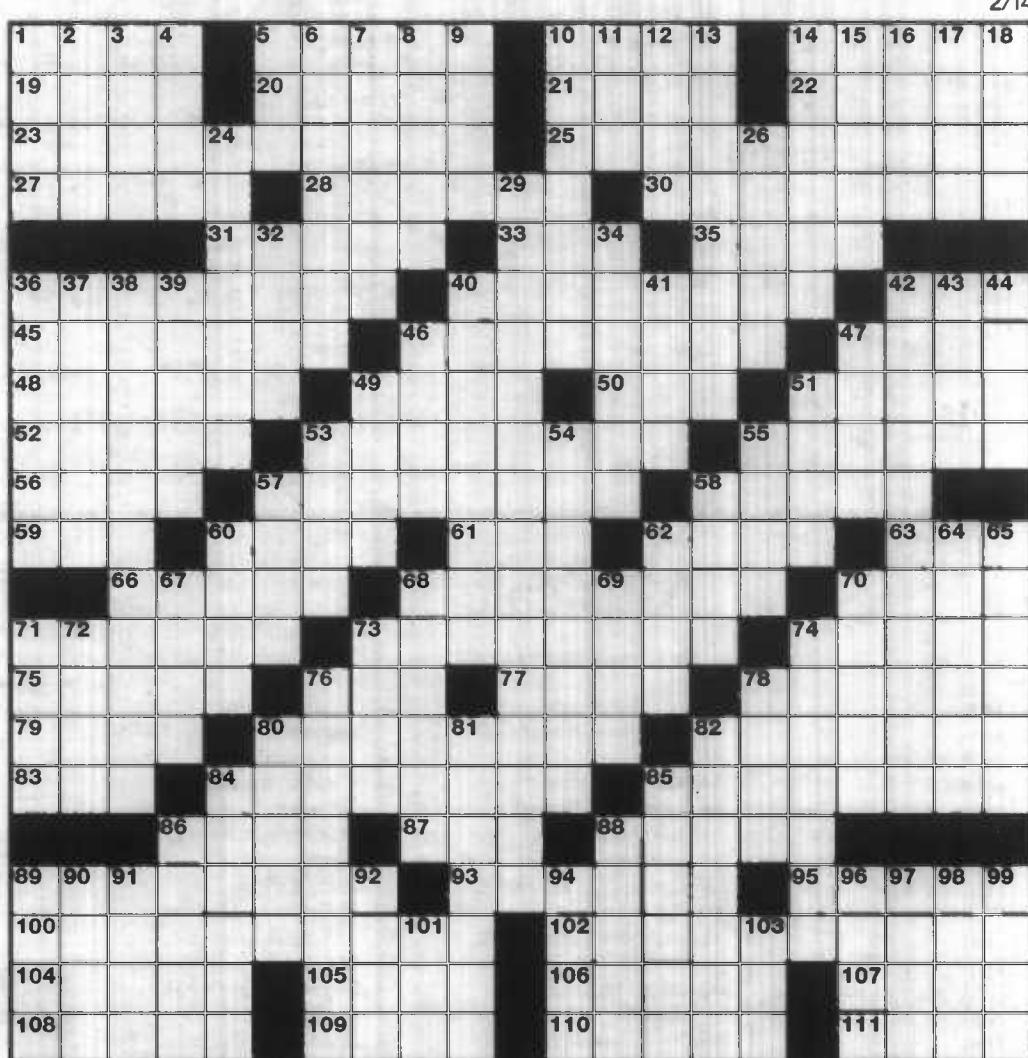
By S.N. | EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN  
(stanxwords.com)

### Across

- 1 Role model
- 5 Participated, with "in"
- 10 350, in the Forum
- 14 Disbursed
- 19 Jurassic Park menace
- 20 Blueblood
- 21 Starter for sweet
- 22 Elizabeth I's house
- 23 Train puller
- 25 Evinces vitality
- 27 The other side
- 28 Least common base hit
- 30 Online lingo
- 31 Downhill transportation
- 33 Oprah's network
- 35 Nintendo systems
- 36 Props up
- 40 Zoo features
- 42 CD predecessors
- 45 Ideal societies
- 46 Encroach
- 47 Motel amenity
- 48 Moore poem VIP
- 49 Singer Amos
- 50 Strong cleanser
- 51 Winter apparel
- 52 Sources of wisdom
- 53 Signs of affection
- 55 Flock loser of rhyme
- 56 Flock members
- 57 Denies
- 58 Saturn's largest moon
- 59 On the Road narrator
- 60 Cost of leaving
- 61 Spa treatment, for short
- 62 Large quantities

### Down

- 63 Sci-fi sound effect
- 66 Road retreat
- 68 Transparent desserts
- 70 Square-mile fraction
- 71 With no trouble
- 73 Butter plant
- 74 Regular hangout
- 75 Serge or gabardine
- 76 Spokesperson for Progressive
- 77 Valentine's Day symbol
- 78 Stephen King's first novel
- 79 Rapturous review
- 80 Credit to the community
- 82 Convinced
- 83 Discriminating perception
- 84 Former Quebec NHLer
- 85 Mr. Clean's notable feature
- 86 Zamboni venue
- 87 Abbess subordinate
- 88 Serial starter
- 89 Colorful cats
- 93 Swedish tennis great
- 95 Everest sharer
- 100 Meshy, as some fabric
- 102 Citrus source
- 104 Earliest stage
- 105 Big cheese
- 106 Stay away from
- 107 Persevere
- 108 Very little
- 109 Overfill
- 110 Crammed in diagram
- 111 "I didn't mean that"
- 1 Just chillin'
- 2 Canadian singing superstar
- 3 Long ago
- 4 Tower (over)
- 5 Donator of Lennon's home to the National Trust
- 6 Ceramic artisans
- 7 Former Fords, for short
- 8 First rock star on a US stamp
- 9 Thought-provoking
- 10 Narnia creator
- 11 Big cheese
- 12 Encouraging word
- 13 "Me too!"
- 14 Equilibrium
- 15 Inexpensive mags of yore
- 16 Actress Falco
- 17 Astronomical sighting
- 18 Arduous journey
- 24 Séance holders
- 26 Major messes
- 29 Alternative title for the puzzle
- 32 Security concern
- 34 City near Vesuvius
- 36 Smooches
- 37 Parliament Hill locale
- 38 Tough to attain
- 39 Plants or moles
- 40 One run in
- 41 Solar products
- 42 Wealth distribution
- 43 Not-so-gentle reminder
- 44 Physical reprimand
- 46 Unable to choose
- 47 Kid-lit bear
- 49 Peacock's pride
- 51 Greenhouse supplies
- 53 Genesis farmer
- 54 Urban tree
- 55 Storage containers
- 57 Cartoonist Larson
- 58 Stylish
- 60 Zodiac beast
- 62 Need a break
- 64 — Army (golf legend's fans)
- 65 Soprano Roberta
- 67 Roof piece
- 68 Beethoven actor
- 69 Lab procedure
- 70 First in Who's Who in the Bible
- 71 To be, in Paree
- 72 On holiday
- 73 Lummox
- 74 Submitting, with "in"
- 76 Irrevocably
- 78 Young stallion
- 80 "Amscray!"
- 81 Put pressure on
- 82 Mars and Ares
- 84 Fine point
- 85 Guy handling screwdrivers
- 86 Ascended
- 88 Sore point
- 89 Solidify
- 90 Top-of-the-line
- 91 Get outscored
- 92 Paretsky of crime fiction
- 94 Deflated slightly
- 96 Consequently
- 97 Kid-lit bear
- 98 Olay alternative
- 99 2014 TV Hall of Fame inductee
- 101 Authenticate
- 103 Michelle Obama, — Robinson



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

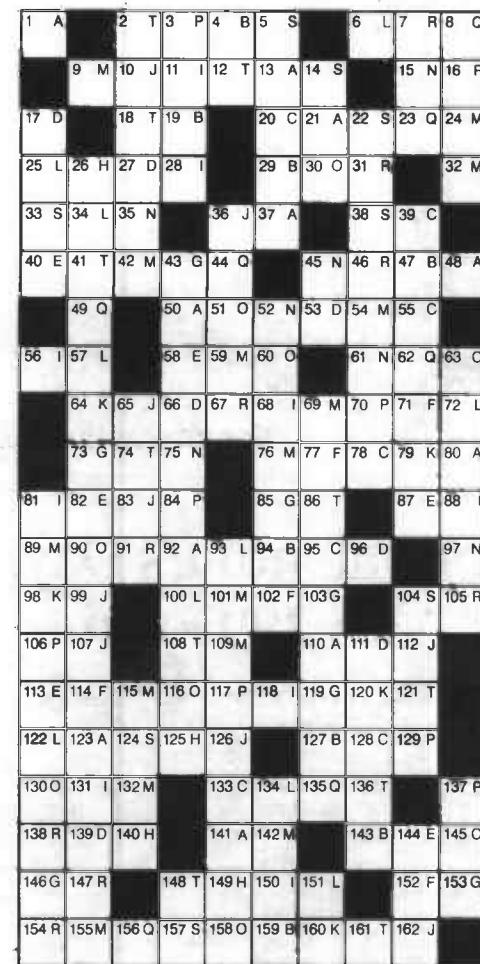
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## Quote-Acrostic

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

Clues	Words
A. Hair piece: 2 wds.	21 13 1 37 80 141 92 110  123 48 50
B. Day-Lewis' writing implement: 2 wds.	94 47 19 159 4 127 143 29
C. Tree farm	95 55 133 39 20 63 145 128 78
D. Lost child, often	96 111 27 66 53 139 17
E. Dapper: sl.	113 87 82 40 144 58
F. Layered veggie	77 71 152 114 102
G. Like a glove: 2 wds.	153 119 43 146 73 85 103
H. Struggle	140 149 26 125
I. Throne: 2 wds.	131 11 28 118 68 81 88 56 150
J. Missed	99 83 126 36 162 10 112 65 107

K. Din, e.g.	120 98 160 64 79
L. Troops' carryalls: 2 wds.	100 93 57 122 25 151  6 134 72 34
M. Invisible regal duds?:	155 115 32 54 42 59 89 76  9 24 101 109 69 132 142
N. Decay: 2 wds!	75 45 35 61 15 52 97
O. Close summer house windows, say	158 30 60 90 130 116 51
P. Making picots	117 3 129 137 70 106 84
Q. Rut: 2 wds.	62 49 8 156 23 135 44
R. Undecided: 4 wds.	7 46 91 147 154 138 31  16 105 67
S. Vulnerability: 2 wds.	22 124 33 14 104 157 5 38
T. Rich mining guy	136 108 86 121  2 18 12 74 148 41 161



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By Patricia Bittermann.  
Edited by Linda and Charles Preston.  
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## Musicale

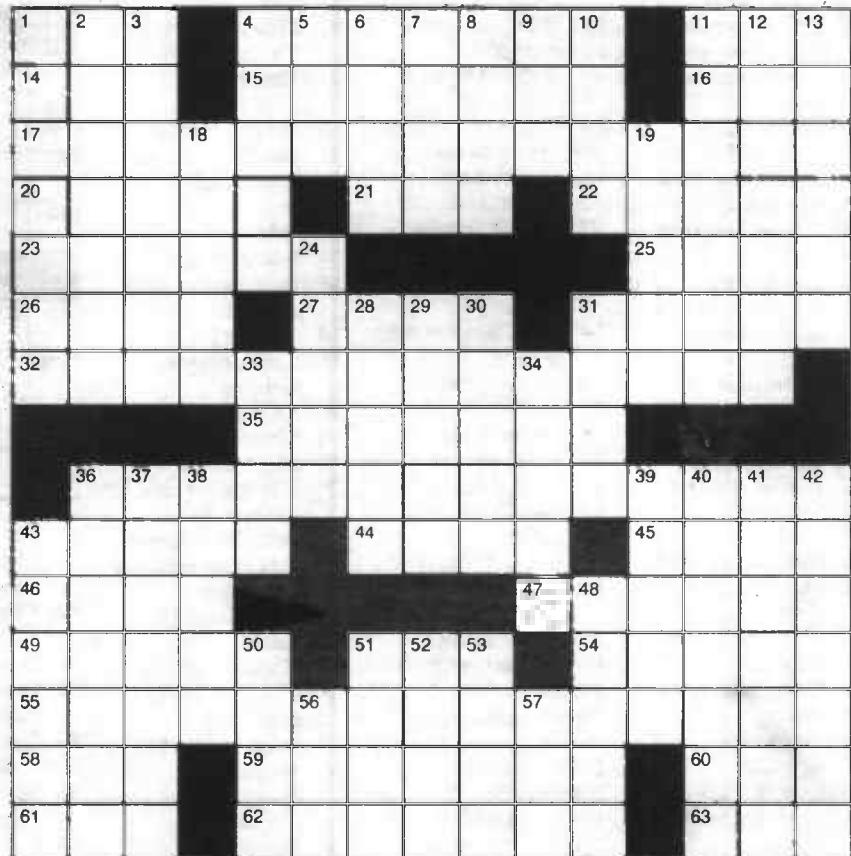
BY CHARLES PRESTON

### Across

- 1 Ben \_\_\_  
4 Spots for struggling artists  
11 Some of the IBM line  
14 Eight bits  
15 \_\_\_ of Aquitaine  
16 Modern music style  
17 Weill/Brecht opus, with *The*  
20 Ten or pen followers  
21 Nourishment oversight grp.  
22 Tasty  
23 Certain Chopin works  
25 Velocity  
26 Deed: Sp.  
27 His cookies are famous!  
31 Fine fiddle  
32 Cornettist Red Nichols' story  
35 Antofagasta announcement  
36 Small-stakes school  
43 Di Laurentis, and namesakes  
44 \_\_\_ we forgot ..."  
45 Launder  
46 Line from Lod
- 47 \_\_\_ the ocean  
49 Violinist Oliveira  
51 Suitable  
54 Garde starter  
55 Somerset Maugham tale, with *The*  
58 Deviate  
59 Oyster, for example  
60 EC member  
61 Functional or peptic beginning  
62 Modern sculptor Jacob  
63 Palm Sunday mount
- Down
- 1 Roastee's place  
2 Let go  
3 Send a different way  
4 Canadian flyers  
5 Jungfrau or Eiger  
6 Great Barrier, e.g.  
7 Pretoria specie  
8 Sicilian resort  
9 FAO Schwartz product  
10 Theater sign message: pl.  
11 Get ready  
12 Roman kindness  
13 Dug

- 18 "... the \_\_\_ the beginning": Churchill  
19 \_\_\_ Quebecois  
24 London theater or cabbage  
28 Musically, this can be heavy  
29 Have a view  
30 Shiites and Shakers  
31 \_\_\_! crackle! pop!  
33 London's \_\_\_ of Court  
34 Negatives from Nikita: var.  
36 Hold up to ridicule  
37 Charms  
38 Pitcher Ryan  
39 Branch or oil  
40 Shaba, once  
41 Displays  
42 Lessees  
43 Considered  
48 Von \_\_\_  
50 Broccoli \_\_\_  
51 Selling letters  
52 Early college entrance exam.  
53 Bathroom wall-covering, often  
56 Chill  
57 Sweet age, in old Roma?

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# Cherish the Thought

BY JAKE BRAUN

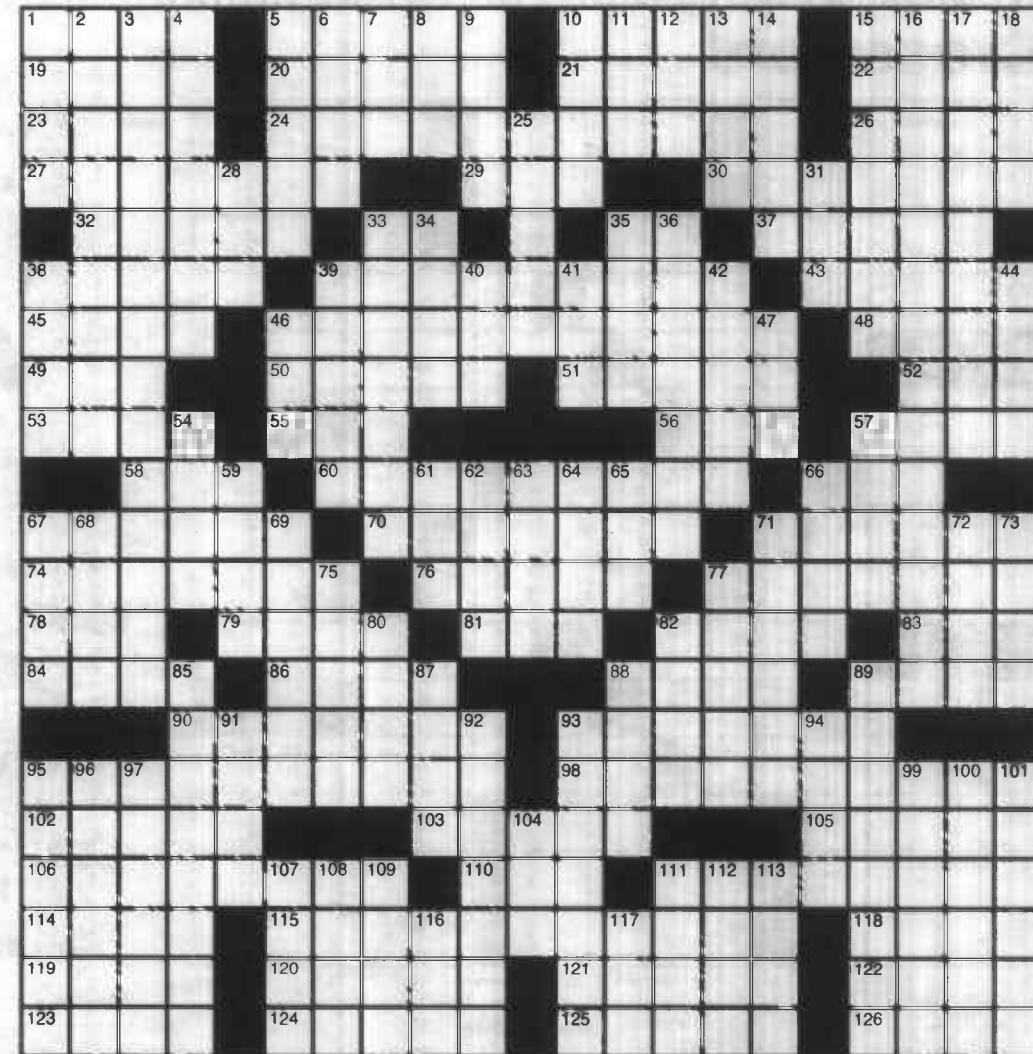
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

**Across**

- 1 Kitchen qty.  
5 Band of schemers  
10 Orgs. on 84-Across signs  
15 Touch  
19 Swerves at sea  
20 Pine Tree State campus town  
21 One who gives you chills  
22 Taberna snack  
23 Hunter's target  
24 \*120-year-old candy  
26 Way to the top  
27 Put together  
29 Chicago rumbler  
30 Like a good waiter  
32 Dumas duelist  
33 With 35- and 60-Across, request for today  
35 See 33-Across  
37 Withdrawn  
38 Hurt  
39 Puts on the air  
43 Isn't resolved  
45 Brought to court  
46 Dishonesty  
48 Cut it out  
49 St. with both Lewis and Clark counties  
50 Rolls up, as a flag  
51 Covered with spots, in a way  
52 I-road?  
53 Jamie of "M\*A\*S\*H"  
55 Consumer protection org.  
56 — quandary  
57 Coop group  
58 Butter container  
60 Today's honoree, nicknames for whom begin the answers to starred clues  
66 Methodology word  
67 Vet  
70 Runway activity  
71 Jai alai ball  
74 Intensifies  
76 Get up  
77 Indistinct  
78 Some trial evidence  
79 Where she blows  
81 Sea of France  
82 It was orig. the State School of Mines and Metallurgy  
83 Place for pips  
84 Sign of success  
86 Over  
88 Birth announcement words  
89 IRS IDs  
90 Agree to pay later  
93 Code
- 95 \*Ingénue's benefactor  
98 \*Venezuelan wonder  
102 "— today is better than a hen tomorrow": Franklin  
103 Gave one's word  
105 Clinton's FBI chief  
106 Start of a project  
110 1995 World Series winner: Abbr.  
111 When many fans come out  
114 Dutch astronomer who lent his name to a cloud  
115 \*Weasel relative  
118 "Permit Me Voyage" poet James  
119 Learning method  
120 Frequently framed words  
121 Lab dish eponym  
122 Sorry sort  
123 Hershey's toffee bar  
124 Improv bit  
125 Online admin  
126 Mtg. with a therapist

**Down**

- 1 Kind  
2 Double-dealer  
3 \*Offer that can't be refused  
4 Motivated, with "up"  
5 Farm houses  
6 Shortstop who made his MLB debut at age 18  
7 Cause of a start  
8 Tiny worker  
9 Drop a game  
10 Hard-to-beat foursome  
11 "Get out of my yard!"  
12 Corp. top banana  
13 TripAdvisor alternative  
14 Snowball impact sound  
15 On occasion  
16 \*Innocent  
17 Fluctuating  
18 Sharp-tasting  
25 Informal message for one's 60-Across "Dracula" (1931) director Browning  
31 Racetrack edge  
33 University of Cincinnati athlete  
34 Month after Av PC time meas.  
35 Craving



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## Jumble

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

BLUENN
○  ○  ○
XAHHEEL
○  ○  ○
LOVTIE
○  ○  ○
KANWEE
○  ○  ○
ROTFOG
○  ○  ○
BALDEB
○  ○  ○



PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW



This week's answers appear on the next page

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2016 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

## Sudoku

2/14

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

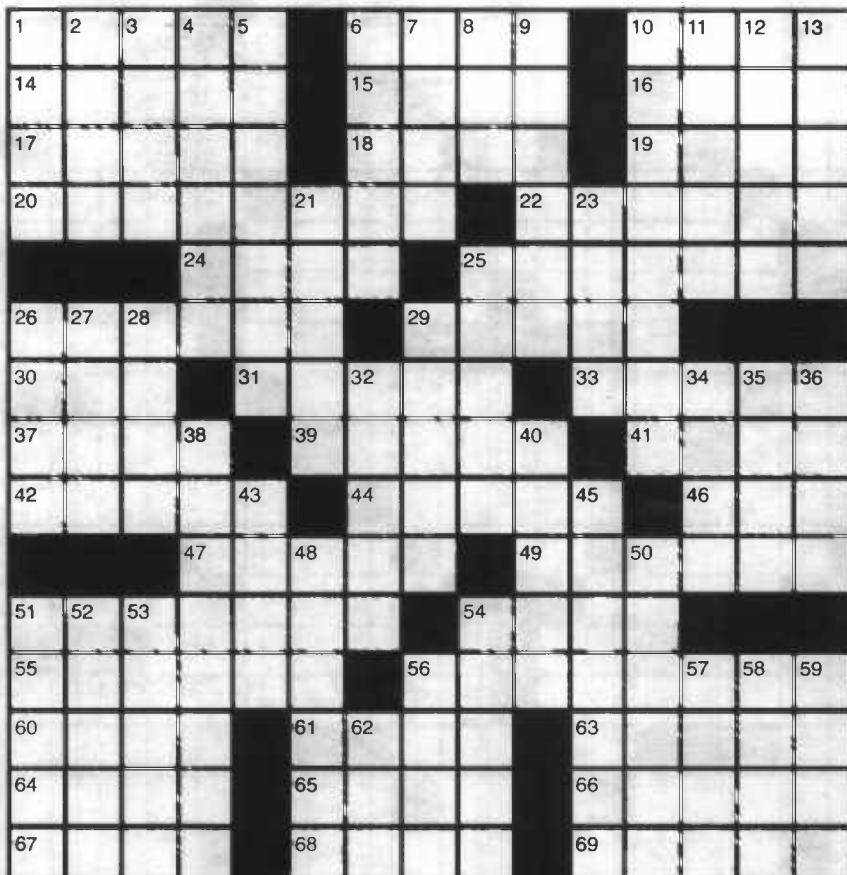
Level: **1 2 3 4**

3	1							
2								

Last week's answers appear on the next page

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# Crossword



By Jacqueline E. Mathews. © 2016 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

2/17/16

## ACROSS

- 1 Beside the \_\_\_; irrelevant
- 6 Potato peel
- 10 Tiny computer screen image
- 14 Concur
- 15 Roll call response
- 16 "\_\_\_ Lisa"; da Vinci painting
- 17 Treasure \_\_\_; valuable cache
- 18 Eras
- 19 Overly proper
- 20 Upper house members
- 22 In a \_\_\_; dazed
- 24 Flat walking area on a ship
- 25 "\_\_\_ are the meek..."
- 26 Times or Trafalgar
- 29 Sword fights
- 30 Umpire's cry
- 31 \_\_\_-toothed tiger; extinct cat
- 33 Hollers
- 37 Dishonest one
- 39 Invalidates
- 41 Official stamp
- 42 Each \_\_\_; one another
- 44 City leader
- 46 Highest club

## Solutions

- 47 Opium source
- 49 Sunbathed
- 51 Part of a golf course
- 54 Bride's headwear
- 55 Register, as for military service
- 56 Airport building
- 60 Related
- 61 Seldom seen
- 63 Keep away from
- 64 Flat wood strip
- 65 Smell
- 66 Eggheads
- 67 Kennedy and others
- 68 \_\_\_ off; dozens
- 69 Rendezvous

## DOWN

- 1 Boone & Sajak
- 2 Meanie
- 3 Press clothing
- 4 Western state
- 5 Wobbles
- 6 Dangerous fish
- 7 Beer barrels
- 8 Indignation
- 9 \_\_\_ Crunch; chocolate bar
- 10 Stalemates
- 11 Foot problems
- 12 In reserve
- 13 Appointed
- 21 Pacific or Arctic
- 23 Depend
- 25 Husky
- 26 Fly alone
- 27 Give up
- 28 Provo's state
- 29 Filibuster
- 32 Like a road full of potholes
- 34 Faucet problem
- 35 Frilly trimming
- 36 Snow toy
- 38 Additional book publishing
- 40 Not plastered
- 43 Arguments

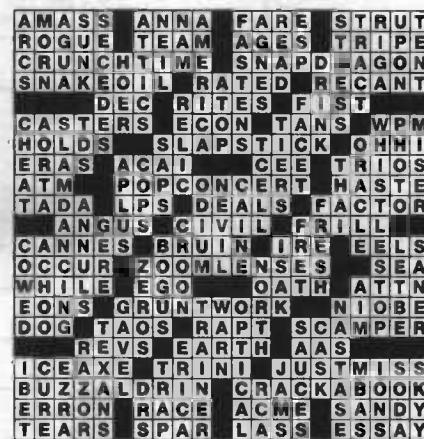
- 45 Clothing
- 48 Benefactor
- 50 Dieter's piece of pie
- 51 Banquet
- 52 Joint most often sprained
- 53 Epic by Homer
- 54 Swerves
- 56 \_\_\_ on; trampled
- 57 \_\_\_ a soul; nobody
- 58 Tallies up
- 59 In case
- 62 "Much \_\_\_ About Nothing"



# puzzle island solutions

## Last week's crosswords

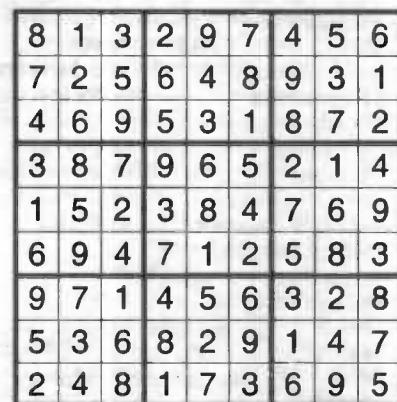
### "Hearing Things"



## Last week's Quote-Acrostic

B(arbara) EHRENREICH: WORTH WHILE: The secret of the truly successful is that they learned early in life how not to be busy. They saw through that adage, repeated to me so often in childhood, that anything worth doing is worth doing well.

## Last week's Sudoku



### "No Dough"

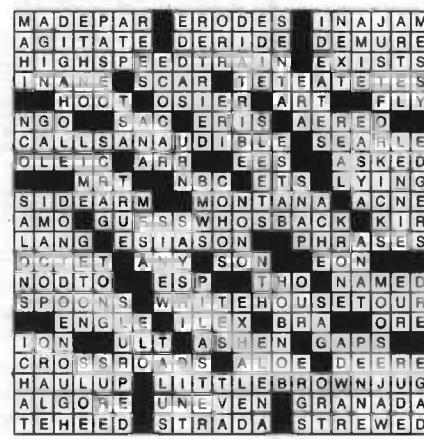


## This week's Jumble

MUMBLE VIOLET FORGOT EXHALE WEAKEN DAPPLE He had a foam heart put on her coffee drink because he —

LOVED HER  
A "LATTE"

### "Presidential Firsts"



# New laws aim to make divorce easier

Most people who have been through a divorce will tell you that the process can be long, and that months or sometimes even years spent in litigation can cause stress, extra tension between the divorcing couple and, of course, huge legal fees.

But new divorce laws, which went into effect last month, aim to lessen the time couples spend in divorce court and make the devastating life change easier.

Michael Ian Bender is a Chicago-based family law attorney and former Cook County judge, who gave me some of the highlights of the new statutes. Here are four changes in Illinois divorce law and the reasoning behind each:

## 1. There are no more grounds for divorce, just 'irreconcilable differences.'

Bender explained that the former law made it difficult for couples to get divorced before living separately for at least two years. So, in order to shorten that length of time, one or both parties would often allege grounds, such as "extreme physical or mental cruelty," "adultery" or "drug addiction."

"The other person would get a petition and be shocked because it was so inflammatory," said Bender, who has been a family law attorney for 22 years. "So it immediately started a fight."

The new law eliminates grounds and only provides for a no-fault divorce based upon "irreconcilable differences." Also, the period of time a couple has to be living apart is now six months.

"When people are less defensive they can reach an agreement and move on quicker," said Bender. "They're not stuck in the litigation process due to misinterpretation of the other person's intentions."

## 2. The term 'custody' is no longer used.

The term "custody" in divorce law used to mean the right to make significant decisions for the children, in areas that included health care, education and religion. The new law now calls custody "decision making."

"People would come to court and say, 'I want full custody' because they were confusing the term with parenting time," Bender said. "The new law is more friendly and understandable to parents as to what those terms mean. And with more understanding comes less stress, anxiety and fear, which leads to more peaceful

negotiation."

## 3. 'Visitation' is now called 'parenting time.'

"You don't visit with your child, you parent your child," Bender said. "Who wants to be told you are visiting your own children? The new term is more accurate and less inflammatory."

## 4. Relocation just got easier.

The old law: a parent could move anywhere in the state of Illinois without court approval, but if he or she wanted to go beyond state lines they had to get court approval — even if they were moving five miles away, but the new home was in Wisconsin, rather than in Illinois.

The new law states that if the move is 25 miles or less, a parent can move across state lines without seeking court approval. What's the benefit? According to Bender, it's protecting children from being taken too far from the other parent while eliminating needless litigation over a benign move.

Being someone who went through a divorce, I think these new laws make a lot of sense and could make the divorce process smoother, shorter and much less expensive.

Think about it. If you tell a mom she has "visitation," how does that make her feel? Or how about a dad who gets served divorce papers that include the word adultery on them, when in reality those grounds will make no difference in the outcome of the divorce?

Divorce litigation is an extremely emotional process, and, sadly, fear, anger, resentment and jealousy often play a part in one or both of the divorcing party's decisions. Not having a full understanding of terminology on legal documents or misinterpreting what court orders mean can only intensify one's already fragile state of mind. That's why these new laws might really make a difference in reducing conflict, thereby shortening the process.

I do feel the need to express, however, that no matter how hard lawmakers try to simplify and expedite the divorce process, going through a divorce remains brutal. So there's a part of me who feels that whether it's called visitation or parenting time, the bottom line is, divorce means spending less time than you used to with your kids. And no new divorce laws can change that really sad fact.

*Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist.*



JACKIE PILOSSOPH  
Love Essentially



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**DR. ANTHONY KOMAROFF**  
Ask Doctor K

**Dear Doctor K:** My back is always sore. A friend suggested that massage therapy might help. Massages are expensive, so I want to make sure there's some evidence behind this. Is there?

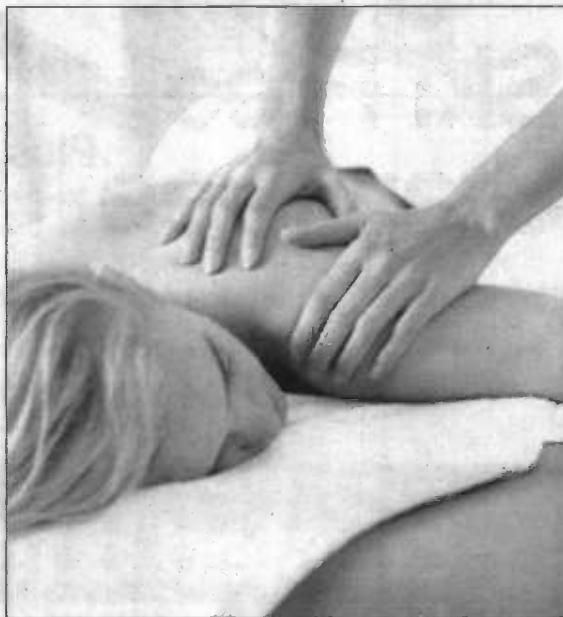
**Dear Reader:** Massage used to be considered an indulgence. But it's now recognized as a legitimate therapy for some painful conditions — including back pain.

Therapeutic massage may relieve pain in several ways. It may relax painful muscles, tendons and joints, or relieve stress and anxiety. It may even change the way the brain processes pain signals.

Many types of massage are available in the United States, with Swedish massage being the most common. It involves long, gliding strokes and kneading of the major muscle groups, as well as friction, gentle rhythmic slapping and vibration. Other massage techniques include deep-tissue, pressure-point, Thai and neuromuscular massage. (I've put a table describing different types of massage, and what they involve, on my website, [AskDoctorK.com](http://AskDoctorK.com).)

Massage therapy can also involve varying degrees of pressure. Massage doesn't have to be painful to be therapeutic, so be sure to tell your therapist what type of touch you prefer (light touch, firm pressure, hard pressure).

Massage should not be the only treatment you use for back pain. Instead, use



DAVID DE LOSSY/GETTY

Dr. Anthony Komaroff says massage therapy is a legitimate way to relieve back pain.

massage in addition to standard care. That includes taking anti-inflammatory pain relievers, staying as active as possible, getting physical therapy and giving your body time to heal. When added to the mix, massage can reduce pain and speed your return to normal activities.

There hasn't been enough research to say for certain what type of massage is best for back pain. We also don't know the optimal "dose" and frequency of treatment.

Talk to people you know to get a recommendation. Good practitioners get good results and generate positive referrals. Find out if a medical center in your area has an alternative or integrative medicine program. Such programs typically offer massage by qualified practitioners: people licensed to practice in your state, and certified by a national organization such as the American Massage Therapy Association ([www.amtam.org](http://www.amtam.org)).

[sage.org](http://sage.org)). When I was just beginning medical practice, I learned a valuable lesson. A woman in her mid-80s told me that she had trouble sleeping. I told her about the various ways to improve her "sleep hygiene," such as going to bed and getting up at the same time each day, not watching TV while in bed, etc.

When I saw her a few months later, she said a massage therapist had cured her sleep problem — and implied that my advice hadn't done much good. What was keeping her up (as I would have known, had I asked her more questions about her sleep problem) was chronic back pain. That was resolved with massage — and she slept like a baby.

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

## PEOPLE'S PHARMACY PRESCRIPTIONS AND HOME REMEDIES

# Garlic takes the bite out of reader's cold symptoms

**By Joe Graedon  
and Teresa Graedon**  
King Features Syndicate

**Q:** I have used garlic for at least 20 years to ward off a cold. It works nine times out of 10 if I use the garlic as soon as the symptoms begin. Simmering the garlic for 12 to 15 minutes softens the taste and smell so it is no stronger than a cooked onion.

Here's my current favorite recipe: Pour an 11.5-ounce can of V8 into a saucepan and add half a cup of water. Bring to boil and add six large cloves of fresh garlic, chopped; the juice of one lemon; and as much hot pepper as you can stand. Simmer for 12 to 15 minutes.

I drink half when I make it, half the next day. I know of no other remedy with such an amazing record of preventing a developing cold.

Some people do not tolerate fresh garlic. I have no recipe for garlic pills, but maybe someone can contribute one.

**A:** Thank you for sharing your recipe.

Many people may find that much fresh garlic challenging, but they don't have to give up on garlic.

We were fascinated to read an article in the Journal of Nutrition (online, Jan. 13) that reinforces your observations. A University of Florida researcher gave aged garlic extract or placebo to 120 volunteers in a randomized controlled trial.

After three months, the volunteers taking the garlic extract had no fewer colds, but their symptoms were less severe, and they missed fewer days of work or school. Two types of immune-system cells were activated. The scientist concluded: "(Aged garlic



ARTYOM MALOV/ISTOCK

A reader's use of garlic, vegetable juice and hot pepper to ward off colds is reinforced by newly published research.

extract) supplementation may enhance immune cell function and may be partly responsible for the reduced severity of colds and flu reported."

People interested in other remedies may wish to consult our "Guide to Colds, Coughs and the Flu," at [www.peoplespharmacy.com](http://www.peoplespharmacy.com).

**Q:** Our adopted son, now 11, suffered from severe, often-bleeding eczema for most of his life. A naturopath suggested using coconut oil topically. After using this daily for three months, the eczema vanished.

We had tried everything for nine years — diet and topical lotions and ointments. She said perhaps his body wasn't getting some kind of midlevel oil.

His eczema scars also are fading. He used to scratch, scratch, scratch. That is no longer a problem.

**A:** Eczema (also known as atopic dermatitis) is a chronic skin problem in which the skin becomes inflamed, red and itchy. A rash with liquid-filled bumps sometimes develops.

One study compared virgin coconut oil to mineral oil applied to the skin to treat symptoms of ec-

zema (International Journal of Dermatology, January 2014). During the two months of the study, coconut oil performed better in easing the symptoms of these children, confirming your own experience.

Coconut oil is a source of medium-chain fatty acids. Perhaps that explains why it worked better than other creams and lotions.

**Q:** I use liquid cayenne to bring down my blood pressure. It is strong, so I only need a drop or two a day. It makes the blood vessels expand. The last time I checked, my blood pressure was 118/70. Previously, it had been up around 140/90.

**A:** Capsaicin, the compound that makes cayenne hot, has indeed been shown to make blood vessels relax in rodents (Open Heart online, June 17, 2015). When blood vessels relax, blood pressure drops. Your experience suggests that capsaicin should be tested in humans for its potential to help control blood pressure.

*In their column, Joe and Teresa Graedon answer letters from readers. Send questions to them via [www.peoplespharmacy.com](http://www.peoplespharmacy.com).*

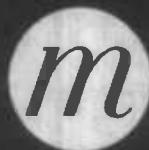


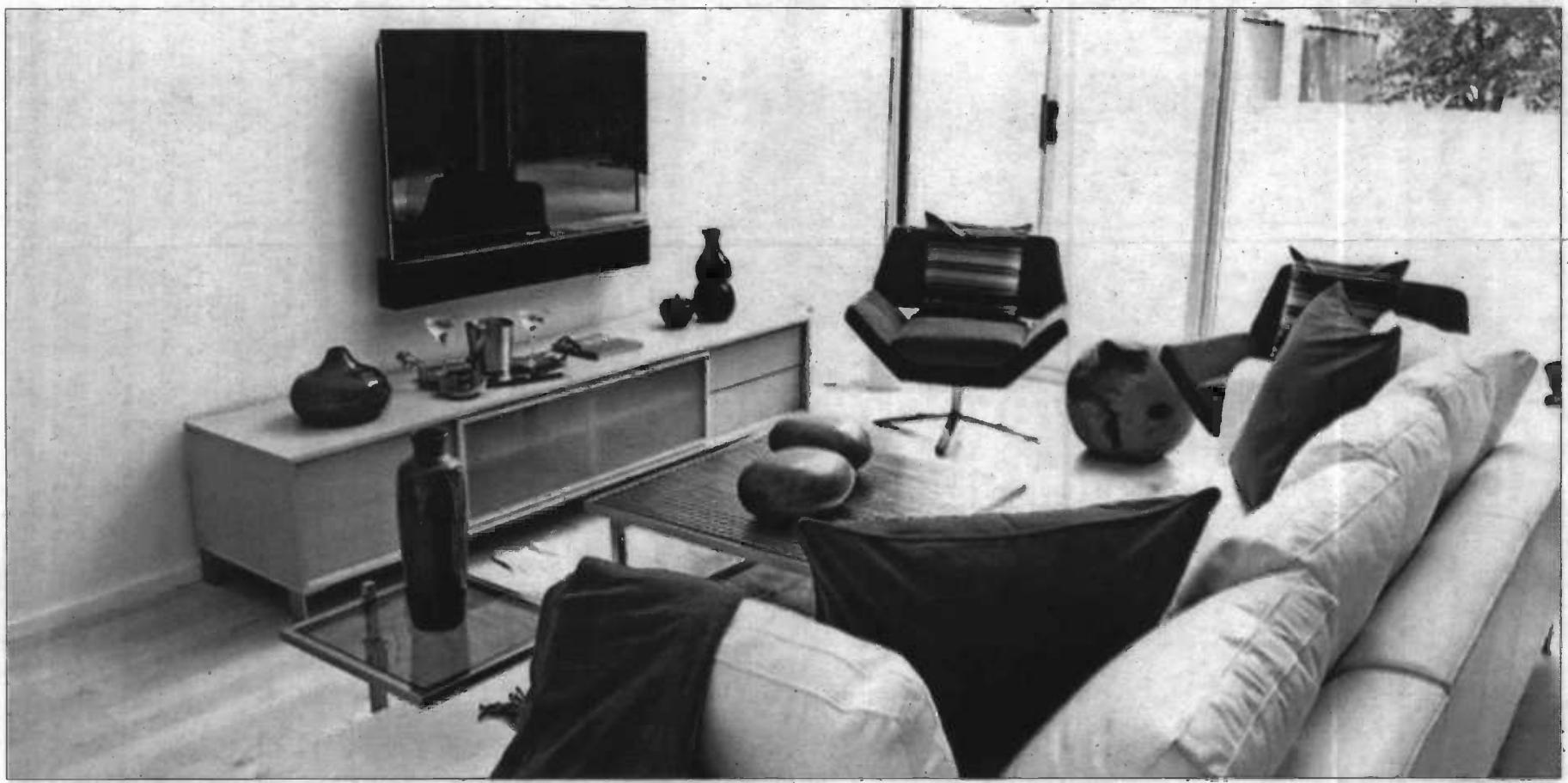
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TNS PHOTOS

A deep red such as cranberry stands out when paired with a contrast color such as a crisp white. When considering colors to pair with red, think about neutral colors that will not conflict, such as black, brown, charcoal gray, white and taupe. Ruby, bright poppy and rich tomato are other shades of red easy to work with in a space.

# Accent on red helps perk up your home

**By Cathy Hobbs**  
Tribune News Service

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, you will likely see a lot of red home decor items in retail stores. Red is a strong, bold color that can perk up a space year-round. If you are looking to infuse red into your home decor, now is an ideal time to snag key pieces.

#### Shades of red

Red comes in all shades and tones, and you don't have to limit yourself to using just one in a space. For example, it's OK to mix tomato red with burgundy in the same space. This

technique essentially involves using a tint or shade of a dominant color. In home decor, some of the easiest shades of red to work with in a space are ruby red, bright poppy and rich tomato. These shades of red can serve as ideal pops of color.

#### How to use red

Red, like other bold accent colors, can be used in virtually any room, but be sure to use the color purposefully in order to not overdo it. Some of the best ways to bring red into the home are through bold, bright pops of color used in deliberate and thoughtful

ways. Incorporating small yet impactful red accents could be achieved through the use of pieces such as chairs, artwork, toss pillows and area rugs. These types of accent pieces will allow you to bring the color red into your space, while still allowing versatility should you choose to swap in another accent in the future.

#### Color pairings

Looking to purchase red accent pieces for your home? Why not start out small with toss pillows, lamps or signature art pieces? The use of a bold



The use of artwork with red accents provides color in this master bedroom. Chairs, toss pillows and area rugs are among other ways to incorporate shades of red in your decor.

accent color will not only make a statement and add interest but could also serve as the springboard for the

rest of the color story around your space. When looking for colors to pair with red, consider neutral-

colors that will not conflict, such as black, brown, charcoal gray, white and taupe.



BERKSHIRE HATHAWAY HOME SERVICES PHOTOS

# French provincial estate in Winnetka: \$1.695M

ADDRESS: 1144 Tower Rd. in Winnetka

ASKING PRICE: \$1,695,000

Listed on Jan. 28, 2016

A two-story foyer with bridal staircase welcomes guests into this five-bedroom home. First-floor features include a living room with coffered ceiling, kitchen with light cabinetry and top appliances and a family room with French doors that lead to the stone terrace. A library with built-ins provides a private study. On the second floor, the master suite with deck boasts of two walk-in closets and a spa bath. The lower level with radiant heat has a recreation room, fireplace, theater, exercise room, fifth bedroom, full bath, additional laundry and storage. In the heart of Hubbard Woods, near town, train and schools.

Agent: Sherry Molitor of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices KoenigRubloff, 847-441-6300

*At press time, this home was still for sale.*

**chicagotribune.com/homes**

Visit us online for exclusive Home of the Day photo galleries, plus views of other featured homes and real estate stories.

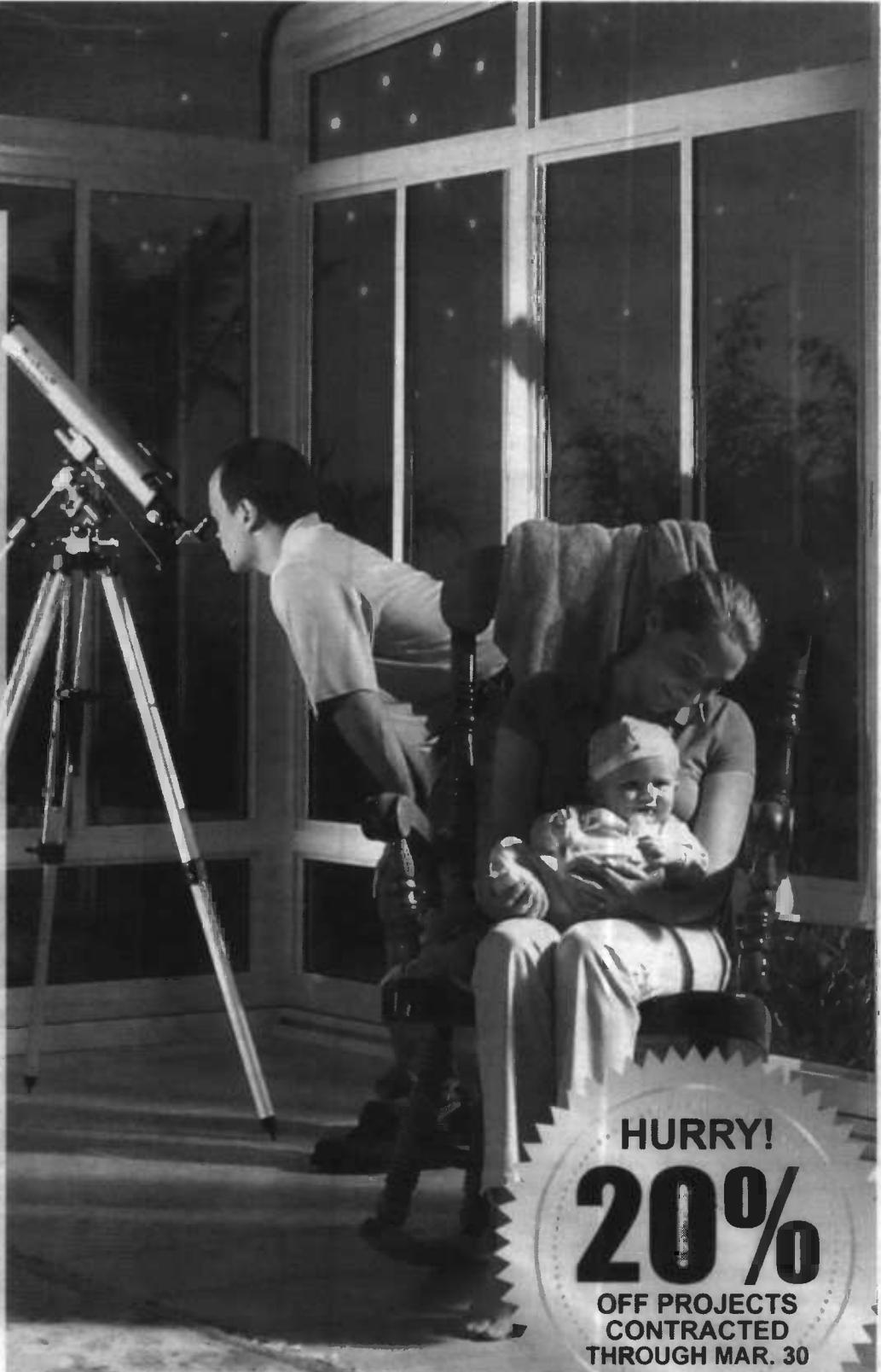
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# SOMETHING REEL IS COMING SOON!



POTAWATOMI  
HOTEL & CASINO



LAURA DOHERTY

Laura Doherty debuts songs from her new album at the Park Ridge Public Library.

## FAMILY FRIENDLY

# Laura Doherty performs new songs at concert

BY MYRNA PETLICKI  
Pioneer Press

Families will get a sneak preview of the latest album by popular children's entertainer Laura Doherty during a Winter Kids' Concert, 11-11:45 a.m. Feb. 20 at Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave.

"I have a new CD coming out in April called, 'Animal Tracks,'" Doherty said. "It's a collection of my animal songs plus three brand new songs." Selections include, "Early Bird and Night Owl," "I'm a Turtle" and "Animal Tracks."

The songwriter/singer/musician will also perform songs from her three earlier CDs.

Audience members will have something to do during each song. In addition, Doherty said, "I use a few puppets in my show and I'll have a child or two come up and do the puppets."

Doherty enjoys performing family shows because, "I love that kids are so spontaneous and they love music and they love to move and dance and sing."

Registration is required.

Non-Park Ridge Library cardholders must pay \$3 per person.

For details, call 847-825-3123 or go to [www.parkridgelibrary.org](http://www.parkridgelibrary.org).

## Kids auto love this

Children ages 2-5, with a parent or caregiver, will create a cardboard car, then watch an animated film at "Coupes and Comedy: Indoor Drive-in Theater," 10 a.m.-noon Feb. 26 at Lincolnwood Community Center, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave. Kids should bring a "seat cushion" for their car. Registration is required.

For details, call 847-673-1540 or go to [www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org](http://www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org).

## Families that play together

...will enjoy doing that at T.G.I.F. Family Night, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Feb. 19 in the Dance Studio and Gymnasium at Prairie View Community Center, 6834 Dempster St., Morton Grove. There will be entertainment, a tot play area, sports and other activities.

Parents must accompany kids. The cost is \$3 per child and parents.

For details, call 847-965-1200 or go to [www.mortongroveparks.com](http://www.mortongroveparks.com).

## Hoppy talk

Beatrix Potter's bunny book will be read during a storytime featuring, "The Classic Tale of Peter Rabbit: And Other Cherished Stories," 11 a.m. Feb. 20 at Barnes and Noble, 55 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. There will also be related activities.

For details, call 847-676-2230 or go to [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com).

## All about Alice

Ballet, tap, jazz, modern and percussive dance styles will be used to tell the tale of "Alice in Wonderland" when the Evanston Dance Ensemble previews its upcoming production, 3-4 p.m. Feb. 21 in the Petty Auditorium at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St.

For details, call 847-673-7774 or go to [www.skokielibrary.info](http://www.skokielibrary.info).

# Writers Theatre Center opens in Glencoe



**LEE LITAS**  
Social Studies

**The Event:** On Feb. 8, the whole Writers Theatre community — from the founders to the donors to the actors and core supporters — came home. Their new theater center was christened by 255 guests who came to Glencoe to celebrate and rejoice at the achievement that was 23 years in the making.

"I feel very blessed to be a part of this theater," said Alexandra Nichols of Winnetka. Support from her and her husband, John, along with that of five other families, paved the way to the creation of the Alexandra C. & John D. Nichols Theatre in the new building.

Created by Jeanne Gang and Studio Gang Architects, Writers' new home was constructed as it was envisioned: a seamless blending into the wooded, picturesque town of Glencoe that surrounds it. The new acoustically perfect Nichols Theatre seats 250, and a smaller flexible space, the Gillian Theatre, seating 50-99, that honors Writers original 50-seat book store space.

**Cause Celebre:** "My heart is so full and so grateful," said Michael Halberstam of Rogers Park, founder and artistic director.

Halberstam's vision was to create a theater that would focus on the written word. "We try to strip away what we consider the unessential (to) remove distraction," explained Halberstam.



LEE A. LITAS/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

Kimberlee Harold of Winnetka, donor, from left, with Klm Swinton of Park Ridge, director of Writers Theatre institutional advancement, and Therese Lysaught of Wilmette



John and Alexandra Nichols of Winnetka, vice chairmen and donors, from left, with Brenna and John Nichols III of Winnetka

"This theater will be a big game-changer for the North Shore," said Mary Pat Studdert of Wilmette, Steering Committee North Shore co-chairman. She was part of a team of three, including Glencoe and Chicago chair teams, tasked with a \$4-million campaign goal.

The new building also includes a spacious atrium,

with seating for educational events, a gallery walk and a rehearsal room.

"Isn't it terrific to be able to have something like this on the North Shore of Chicago?" asked Donna LaPietra of Mettawa.

"It's going to bring artistic excellence in theatrical productions for years to come," said Nichols.

See [writerstheatre.org](http://writerstheatre.org)

## 'DRIVING MISS DAISY' IN SKOKIE



KATE RYAN/OLD WORLD THEATRE COMPANY

Joseph Garcia, from left, Renardo Johnson and Joan Rinchisen star in Old World Theatre's "Driving Miss Daisy," presented by Congregation Kol Emeth, 5130 W. Touhy Ave., Skokie. Performances are 8 p.m. Feb. 27, March 3 and 5; 2:30 p.m. Feb. 28 and March 6. Tickets are \$25, CKE members \$23, students \$10. Call 312-857-8487 or see [www.oldworldtheatre.com](http://www.oldworldtheatre.com).



STACEY WESCOTT/PHOTO

## LECTURES SPOTLIGHT FINE LOCAL ARCHITECTS OF THE PAST

Park Ridge's Art Deco film palace, the Pickwick Theatre and its designers, Roscoe Harold Zook, William F. McCaughey and Alfonso Iannelli, will be part of the story told in the first of a three lecture series presented by the Pleasant Home Foundation and the Oak Park Public Library when Karen Larsen speaks on "Park Ridge: Rediscovering an American Art Colony," at 7 p.m. Feb. 25. Christopher Payne speaks on 1890s architect J. L. Silsbee in "Silsbee in Polo: A Chicago Architect in a Prairie Town," 7 p.m. March 3, and Christopher Meyers talks about Maher's work and its recent restorations in Gary in "The Lakefront Transformed: George W. Maher in Gary," 7 p.m. March 10. The free talks take place at the library, 834 Lake St., Oak Park. See [www.oppl.org](http://www.oppl.org) or [www.pleasanthome.org](http://www.pleasanthome.org).

We want to publish your photos. To submit, visit <http://community.chicagotribune.com> or email [sburrows@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:sburrows@pioneerlocal.com).

# REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

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810 E Shady Way, # 301, Arlington Heights	Kaushill Patel	Thomas C Vayalil	01-12-16	\$91,500	2018 Sherman Ave, # 1E, Evanston	Chihiro Jimbo	Claire L Kanari	01-08-16	\$190,000
2620 N Windsor Dr, # 201, Arlington Heights	Alfredo Vitiritti	MJ Renovation Lic	01-12-16	\$115,000	843 Judson Ave, # 2, Evanston	Tomas McEwen & Richard McEwen	John L Poust	01-08-16	\$195,500
101 N Lincoln Ln, # 1C, Arlington Heights	Jeffrey M Manga	Jane C Brinkworth	01-08-16	\$115,000	841 Judson Ave, # 3, Evanston	Thomas Cates & Joanna Cates	Jeremy A Doherty	01-11-16	\$205,000
10 S Dunton Ave, # 204, Arlington Heights	Stephaine Dahl	Kbsi Lic	01-12-16	\$245,000	705 Brown Ave, Evanston	Tyrone Ivory	Jb Real Estate Fund Lic	01-12-16	\$220,000
1543 N Kennicott Ave, Arlington Heights	Marta Cleply	Jiri Machacek	01-12-16	\$260,000	222 Main St, # 206, Evanston	Jun Hu & Kwi Jeong Lee	Jeanne M Cook	01-11-16	\$240,000
77 S Evergreen Ave, # 508, Arlington Heights	Yuta Soai & Yuanyuan Xu	Martyr Jean Harris	01-12-16	\$270,000	2010 Keeney St, Evanston	Hunter K Young & Sarah R Young	Michael J Green	01-14-16	\$327,500
1705 N Kaspar Ave, Arlington Heights	Jacob E White & Natalie I White	Melvin A Pendergraph	01-13-16	\$270,000	500 Sheridan Rd, # 1E, Evanston	Ray Mueller & Elaine Mueller	Sherman R McEwen	01-13-16	\$342,000
119 N Wilke Rd, Arlington Heights	Katherine A Viola	David R Nitka	01-13-16	\$275,000	1813 Dodge Ave, Evanston	Roy Kellner	BobCity South Inc	01-12-16	\$355,000
719 N Kennicott Ave, Arlington Heights	Christopher M McNally & Sarah M McNally	Mont Blanc Construction Inc	01-15-16	\$335,000	9311 Crawford Ave, Evanston	Stjepan Misetic & Regina Cairo	Erin Patrick Olsen	01-14-16	\$379,000
1435 S Evergreen Ave, Arlington Heights	Zachery Creer & Dana Creer	Eric P Mucha	01-08-16	\$340,000	1101 Dodge Ave, # 202, Evanston	Douglas R Hasegawa & Nancy A Berle	1101 Dodge Lic	01-08-16	\$410,000
705 E Hamlin Ln, # 91, Arlington Heights	Ross Moore & Meghan Moore	Yasushi Ihara	01-12-16	\$351,500	2662 Crawford Ave, Evanston	Abigail Lynn & Traci L Wozniak	Raymond R Kulpa	01-13-16	\$422,000
1619 W Oakton St, Arlington Heights	Robert W Andrews & Melisa S Andrews	Paul W Andrews	01-14-16	\$363,000	1321 Monroe St, Evanston	Michael Green & Lynne Green	William Blackburn Jr	01-13-16	\$500,000
412 W Palatine Rd, Arlington Heights	Roy Isai Gonzalez & Saidy P Garcia	Bryon W Crowley	01-13-16	\$375,000	1020 Austin St, Evanston	John M Watson	Michael A McCauley	01-11-16	\$520,000
519 S Roosevelt Arlingtn Hts, Arlington Heights	Michal Lenarczyk & Magdalena Lenarczyk	Justyna Janik	01-11-16	\$376,000	2525 Ashland Ave, Evanston	John P Cosgrove III & Sarah A Landis	Andrew Madsen	01-15-16	\$524,500
305 E Euclid Ave, Arlington Heights	Bob Krzysik & Cynthia Krzysik	Annette R Cameron	01-12-16	\$392,000	807 Davis St, # 306, Evanston	Ana Paula Machado De Lacerda	Andrew J Yun	01-08-16	\$545,000
214 S Fernandez Ave, Arlington Heights	Patrick M Stearns & Christina L Stearns	Cornello Villejo	01-12-16	\$425,000	4203 Quinlan Rd, Glenview	Nataliya Mancheva	Keum Mi Bai	01-13-16	\$153,000
1205 N Arlington Heights Rd, Arlington Heights	Christopher Letkewicz & Danyce Letkewicz	Kimberly Pitney	01-08-16	\$462,000	1762 Pickwick Ln, Glenview	Brian H Yoo & Lisa A Yoo	Jaroslav Olkhovyi	01-12-16	\$187,500
10 N Dryden Pl, Arlington Heights	Robert A Marzano & Linhong Zuo	M I Homes Of Chicago Lic	01-12-16	\$466,000	15 Washington St, Glenview	Michael Miranda	Gail L Walsh	01-15-16	\$187,500
8 N Lincoln Ln, Arlington Heights	Kelly E Cain	M I Homes Of Chicago Lic	01-12-16	\$510,500	1509 Winnetka Rd, Glenview	Victor Smith & Rachel Smith	Catherin Ann Flanagan	01-08-16	\$379,500
1116 W Alec St, Arlington Heights	Jianyang Wang & Xiaoyan Liu	National Residential Nominee S	01-13-16	\$605,000	104 Bucknel Ct, # 104, Glenview	Asif A Samani & Rashida A Samani	Davic C Park	01-12-16	\$385,000
498 Lauren Ln, Buffalo Grove	Maya Manoshin & Sława Manoshin	Bank Of America Na	01-11-16	\$144,500	1919 Central Rd, Glenview	Eric R Decristofaro & Molly J Decristofaro	Mary Jo Lipman Rolnick	01-15-16	\$480,000
935 Pinetree Cir S, Buffalo Grove	April S Peterson	Eric Cohen	01-12-16	\$180,000	1918 Dauntless Dr, Glenview	Gregory Doliner	Development Solutions Gln Lic	01-11-16	\$525,000
8824 Jody Ln, # 1F, Des Plaines	Khalima Alimbayeva	Malik Hussain	01-08-16	\$75,500	2034 Shermer Rd, Glenview	Rosa Monita	Development Solutions Gln Lic	01-13-16	\$665,500
8936 N Parkside Ave, # 212, Des Plaines	Shujat H Mohammed & Nikhat Farha	Kun Hui Park	01-12-16	\$98,000	748 Chatham Rd, Glenview	Peter Hendrick & Susan Hendrick	Maya Trust	01-08-16	\$940,000
593 Nelson Ln, Des Plaines	Ma Remedios T Sunga	Marie Anne Olson	01-11-16	\$113,000	2 Melrose Pl, Hawthorn Woods	Arnold J Walker & Maria V Walker	Pulte Home Corp	01-11-16	\$521,500
603 S River Rd, # 2F, Des Plaines	Adam D Voglitz	Marianne Embree	01-15-16	\$122,000	1 E Stone Ave, Lake Forest	Randy Fairchild & Lauren Fairchild	Christopher P Burke	01-12-16	\$590,000
9001 Golf Rd, # 10H, Des Plaines	Murtuza Rangwala	Khaled Hassanpour	01-12-16	\$132,000	230 Jamie Ln, Lake Zurich	Lisa Nguyen & Doan V Nguyen	Jem Lic	01-12-16	\$247,500
351 S Warrington Rd, Des Plaines	Rita Tenuta & Emilia R Beradi	Eran Ron	01-14-16	\$135,000	44 Lakeview Pl, Lake Zurich	Carolyn E Spola	Joseph Cernivec	01-11-16	\$250,000
9595 Park Ln, Des Plaines	Rammen Al Barwary	Cit Bank Na	01-12-16	\$135,000	209 S Pleasant Rd, Lake Zurich	Rajendar Reddy Kondam & Shwetha R Na	Vadim Berkun	01-12-16	\$425,500
395 Graceland Ave, # 201, Des Plaines	Kristina Paladin	Rose R Calovic	01-15-16	\$139,000	212 Alpine Dr, Lake Zurich	Cesar Carranza & Lauren Carranza	Timothy J Mahoney	01-11-16	\$485,000
121 N Warrington Rd, Des Plaines	Raymond W Markham	Kathleen M Baker	01-08-16	\$150,000	5510 Lincoln Ave, # B306, Morton Grove	Myong Seo & Helen Seo	Claudia Diana Matei	01-08-16	\$98,000
1600 E Thacker St, # 303, Des Plaines	Mary E Hamre	Mary G Meletis	01-14-16	\$160,000	5506 Lincoln Ave, # A419, Morton Grove	Susan Shellito	Mirela Mecollari	01-12-16	\$103,500
9307 Brockton Ln, # 5C, Des Plaines	Manda Trutin	Jonathan C Baek	01-08-16	\$180,500	6211 Lincoln Ave, # 208, Morton Grove	Andrew Sarris	Premiere Housing Lic	01-12-16	\$139,000
501 Alles St, # 501A, Des Plaines	Mehmed Akataj	Ahlbeck Trust	01-12-16	\$200,000	9207 Nagle Ave, Morton Grove	Stephen Kraig Keiser II & Raul M Reyes	Jack Mosquera	01-12-16	\$325,000
9218 W Church St, Des Plaines	Nena B Valencia	Ernesto D Solano	01-13-16	\$200,000	5736 Keeney St, Morton Grove	Zaim Mackic & Ramo Perazic	Harish B Patel	01-11-16	\$345,000
700 Graceland Ave, # 702, Des Plaines	Rory Ward	Timothy Otten	01-13-16	\$205,000	8662 Narragansett Ave, Morton Grove	Sung Hwan Park & Jihyun Park	Peter S Choi	01-11-16	\$350,000
714 W Lincoln Ln, Des Plaines	Mark R Lemke & Brianne M Connolly	Gary F Lemke	01-15-16	\$212,500	7132 Foster St, Morton Grove	Miljan Jovanovic	Ljubisa Radic	01-14-16	\$844,000
244 Wilkins Dr, Des Plaines	Sebastian F Espiritu & Annaele G Espiritu	Walter M Wodzien	01-14-16	\$242,000	6701 N Milwaukee Ave, # 207, Niles	Fuad Kelmendi & Minike Kelmendi	Blanca R Gonzalez	01-13-16	\$178,500
1887 Wilmette Ave, Des Plaines	Andrew G Mesina & Heather L Mesina	Skygordo Lic	01-14-16	\$246,000	7330 W Jonquil Ter, Niles	Mariam Odisho & Sarjon Odisho	Khamo W Nissan	01-14-16	\$250,000
1113 Perdido Ln, Des Plaines	Dawid Gniecki & Agata D Gniecki	Sakata Trust	01-11-16	\$255,000	8522 N Osceola Ave, Niles	Elliott T McGillivray & Sandra Valdez	James J Adams	01-11-16	\$265,000
344 Graceland Ave, # 1N, Des Plaines	Dustin Thomas	Kyung P Kim	01-11-16	\$275,000	8050 N Elmore St, Niles	Sherryl Ann B Rosete	Kristin Maria Michels	01-08-16	\$274,000
1100 Anderson Ter, Des Plaines	Augustus Brathwaite & Paulette Brathwaite	Daniel W Douglass	01-13-16	\$335,000	8158 N Grand Ct, Niles	Tham Hoang & Ngan Luong	Andy Deville	01-14-16	\$365,000
1516 Hinman Ave, # 410, Evanston	Ward Hamm & David C Hamm	Irina Kossova	01-15-16	\$102,000	8044 N Octavia Ave, Niles	Noel G Neylon & Dympna M Neylon	George C Rogojina	01-08-16	\$365,000
815 Judson Ave, # 1W, Evanston	Kathleen Heaton	Alyssa Jennifer S Avestro	01-15-16	\$146,000	44 Park Ln, # 433, Park Ridge	Philip Bauer & Marek Kolendo	O Malley Trust	01-13-16	\$205,000
1242 Elmwood Ave, # 3, Evanston	Laura C Botten	National Residential Nominee S	01-14-16	\$147,000	310 N Home Ave, Park Ridge	Timothy Magnuson	Mary Anne Browne	01-08-16	\$363,000
319 Custer Ave, # 2E, Evanston	Tiberiu Horj	Brendan J Friedman	01-14-16	\$155,000	1425 Garden St, Park Ridge	Sean Heneghan & Rebecca Heneghan	Thomas Jurczyk	01-12-16	\$365,000
900 Chicago Ave, # 308, Evanston	Di Li	Victor Fong	01-15-16	\$165,000	1335 Tyrell Ave, Park Ridge	Reid C Manning & Sarah E Manning	Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp	01-11-16	\$420,000
2321 Bradley Pl, Evanston	Adam Lebin & Malaiaka Lebin	Mary Juanita Wilkerson	01-12-16	\$170,000	297 S Northwest Hwy, Park Ridge	John T Witherspoon & Judith M Witherspoon	Brighton Mews Venture Lic	01-13-16	\$492,000
					297 S Northwest Hwy, Park Ridge	Nathan James Spang	Brighton Mews Ventures Lic	01-14-16	\$628,000
					1755 Evergreen Ln, Park Ridge	Erik White & Alycia White	Brookfield Relocation Inc	01-13-16	\$655,000
					1112 Prairie Ave, Park Ridge	Tyrone Drew Bekiars & Kristin Marie Davids	Parisi Trust	01-11-16	\$680,000
					231 S Vine Ave, Park Ridge	William Loren Dickinson & Julie M Dickinson	Gary K Sapp	01-14-16	\$825,000

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

**EVANSTON**

Three-bedroom, 2.5-bath center entry Colonial. Oak floors and neutral decor throughout. Formal living room, wood-burning fireplace, built-in bookcases, duet blinds. Panelled den with built-in cabinet/bookcases and plantation blinds, access to rear patio. Galley kitchen with maple Amish cabinets up to ceiling. Door to backyard and patio.

**Address:** 2519 Ridgeway Ave.

**Price:** \$669,000

**Schools:** Evanston Township High School

**Taxes:** \$12,398

**Agent:** Julie McWilliams, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices KoenigRubloff Realty Group

**PALATINE**

Two-story family room offers custom, two-story stone fireplace & opens to kitchen. Updated gourmet kitchen features cherry cabinets, granite counters, tile splash, two islands & newer appliances. First-floor office/5th bedroom & full bath. Expanded, 7-foot, 3-car garage perfect for larger cars and toys. Bus stop nearby.

**Address:** 5512 Highland Drive

**Price:** \$709,900

**Schools:** Fremd High School

**Taxes:** \$16,293

**Agent:** Ann Baker, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage The Groves

**LAKE BLUFF**

Updated vintage classic meticulously maintained. Close to town, lake and train. Kitchen opens to family room with stainless steel appliances. Hardwood floors on the first floor. Fresh, neutral painted interior. Spacious master bedroom with spa bathroom and sitting room. Dual vanity in second full bath upstairs. Attached two-car garage.

**Address:** 548 E. Scranton Ave.

**Price:** \$798,000

**Schools:** Lake Forest High School

**Taxes:** \$14,654.66

**Agent:** Chris Wegren, CENTURY 21 Kreuser & Seiler

**SKOKIE**

2,300-square-foot brick home located in the Devonshire. This recently remodeled home features four bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, two family rooms and an expansive backyard. Hardwood floors throughout, maple kitchen and granite counters with stainless steel appliances.

**Address:** 4308 Davis St.

**Price:** \$475,000

**Schools:** Niles North High School

**Taxes:** \$9,924

**Agent:** Rose Alvarez, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices KoenigRubloff Realty Group

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		Points: 0.000	15 yr fixed	3.000	0.000	\$395	20%	3.034		MB.6760960
	10 yr fixed	2.875	0.000	\$495	20%	2.938				
	5/1 ARM*	3.000	0.000	\$1495	20%	3.084		866-723-1989		
Sebonic Financial	30yr Fixed APR	30 yr Jumbo Conforming	3.875	0.000	\$0	20%	3.876			
		Fees: \$1495	30 yr FHA	3.250	0.000	\$295	3.5%	3.264		<a href="http://bankrate.sebonic.com">http://bankrate.sebonic.com</a>
	30 yr VA mtg	3.250	0.000	\$0	5%	3.251				
	7/1 ARM	3.250	0.000	\$895	20%	3.251				

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# COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

## Thursday, Feb. 18

**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 come back to save us at just the right time. 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, Actors Gymnasium, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, \$25; \$15 for students, 847-328-2795

**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

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

**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

**Digital demos in the lobby:** Explore the library's digital movie, TV program, music, e-book, audiobook and magazine collections. Learn how to download items to your portable device using hoopla, MyMediaMall and Zinio. 6 p.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Books 'n Bites:** The discussion features graphic novel "Nimona" by Noelle Stevenson. 4 p.m. Thursday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

**Do More with Excel 2010:** This follow-up to Introduction to Microsoft Excel 2010 covers performing calculations with formulas and functions. Registration is limited to six and Morton Grove residents have priority. 7 p.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

**Between the Lines: The Book of Unknown Americans:** This book by Cristina Henriquez is about the Rivera family who move from Mexico to the United States when their daughter suffers a near-fatal accident. 10 a.m. Thursday; 7 p.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

**Hot Ticket: Sicario:** This movie is about an idealistic FBI agent who is enlisted by a government task force to aid in the escalating war against drugs at the border area between the U.S. and Mexico. 2 p.m. Thursday, 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

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

**Reading with Rover:** These friendly dogs are great listeners, always positive and always fun to cuddle with and read out loud to. This is for beginning to advanced readers to be in the room without parents (for grades kindergarten and up). 7 p.m. Thursday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

**Neighbor Time:** Join as we visit everyone's favorite neighbor. We'll watch, play, talk and sing in the style of this classic children's show. 1:30 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

**Tai Chi:** Practice the ancient, healing art of Tai Chi, which is the practice of controlled, relaxed body movements. 9 a.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, \$75 NSSC members; \$89 non-member, 847-784-6030

**How Social Media Is Transforming our Democracy:** Julie Strauss, Ph.D., explores how candidates are harnessing the power of social media to bolster their campaigns, as well as how voters are influencing the campaigns through social media outlets. 10 a.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, \$10 NSSC members, \$13 nonmembers, 847-784-6030

**Watergate:** Watergate was the largest and most frightening presidential scandal Americans had ever faced. In this two-part presentation, Barry will look at the roots of the crime and the desperate attempts of the Nixon Administration to cover it up, all of which were unraveled by journalists, a judge, and Congress. He closely examines the role of Woodward and Bernstein's efforts to uncover the truth as told in two films: All the President's Men and The Final Days. The films Nixon & Dick are also discussed. 1 p.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, \$19 NSSC members; \$25 non-members, 847-784-6030

**Extended Travel Presentation with Fancy Free Holidays:** Elizabeth Killings of Fancy Free Travel will present an overview of the upcoming trips. 12:30 p.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, free, 847-784-6030

**The Franklin Expedition: Tragedy in Ice:** Of all the attempts to locate the Northwest Passage, none captured the imagination of a nation like the lost Franklin expedition. Departing to accolades, the tragedy that followed initially disappointed a nation. Examine the fate of the Franklin Expedition by focusing on the events of the ill-fated voyage along with more recent discoveries and theories. 10 a.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, \$10 NSSC member; \$13 non-member, 847-784-6030

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

**Family Storytime for All Ages:** Offers stories and crafts for the whole family. 10:15 a.m. Thursday, 9:30 a.m. Monday, Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-4527

**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

**Skokie Photographic Society:** All levels of photographic skill are welcome. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton St., Skokie, free, 847-677-8324

## Friday, Feb. 19

**Chicago Doo Wop Dreams:** Music, Chicago, Live brings their hit show 'Chicago Doo Wop Dreams' to the historic Leela Arts Center. 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday; 3 p.m. Sunday, Leela Arts Center, 620 Lee St., Des Plaines, Tickets are \$15 to \$25, 800-838-3006

**Rock and Roll Kidz with Wendy Morgan:** Kids sing, wiggle, jump, dance and have a great time with Wendy's original songs that encourage children to use their imaginations and teach musical basics. 10 a.m. Friday, Glencoe Public Library, 320 Park Ave., Glencoe, free, 847-835-5056

**The Freeze Basic Skills Figure Skating Competition:** Take a break from the cold and watch the skating stars of tomorrow at this United States Figure Skating sanctioned competition which draws more than 180 participants across the Midwest and beyond. 8 a.m. Friday-Saturday, Glenview Ice Center, 1851 Landwehr Road, Glenview, free, 847-724-2800

**Film Series: The End of the Tour:** Enjoy the story of the five-day interview between Rolling Stone reporter David Lipsky and acclaimed novelist David Foster Wallace, which took place right after the 1996 publication of Wallace's groundbreaking epic novel Infinite Jest. As the days go on, a tenuous yet intense relationship develops between journalist and subject. 2 and 6:30 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Meeting of the MINECRAFTers for grades 4-8:** Build, craft, mine, farm and explore the mammoth world of MINECRAFT. Come with your favorite servers, your own account, or play on one of the Library's. No Griefers. 6 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Android Photography:** Do you know all the capabilities of your device's camera? Learn how to take, edit and share photos with your Android phone or tablet. 2 p.m. Friday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

**Rise and Shine Storytime:** Children are welcome to drop in for a 30-minute story time. The children and their caregivers listen to stories, share in some songs and get out some wiggles. 10 a.m. Friday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

**Turn to Calendar, Next Page**

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## Calendar, from Previous Page

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

**Shabbat with a Twist:** Challah making, stories and songs with clergy for families with preschool age children. All are welcome. 11 a.m. Friday, Congregation Beth Shalom, 3433 Walters Ave., Northbrook, free, 847-498-4100

**Israeli Art Show and Sale at Temple Beth-El:** All are invited to enjoy this Israeli Art Show and Sale. This event is open to the community. 9 a.m. Friday and Sunday, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Temple Beth-El, 3610 Dundee Road, Northbrook, free, 847-945-6830

**More of a Loesser:** Frank Loesser was no one-trick pony. Besides the immortal Guys and Dolls, Loesser wrote the scores for several other successful musicals including "Where's Charley?", "The Most Happy Fella" and "How to Succeed in Business Without Really Trying," as well as a number of hit songs in his earlier life as a Hollywood lyricist. Here is your opportunity to catch up on the rest of Loesser's life and work. 10 a.m. Friday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, \$12 NSSC member; \$15 non-member, 847-784-6030

**Great Decisions In Foreign Policy:** Gary Midkiff facilitates this discussion group that meets every other week to explore in-depth the topics featured in the year's 2016 Great Decisions Briefing Book, including the Middle East, the rise of ISIS, the future of Kurdistan, migration, the Koreas, the United Nations, climate change and Cuba and the U.S. 9:30 a.m. Friday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, \$95 NSSC member; \$115 non-member, 847-784-6030

**Vincent van Gogh in Arles:** This spring, the Art Institute of Chicago hosts an exhibition of all three versions of The Bedroom by Vincent van Gogh. The show will reunite the Art Institutes version with the two other versions of Van Gogh's beloved painting for the first time in 126 years. Art historian Jeff Mishur will examine these works and others the artist produced while living in Arles, France. Vincent's prolific and intense Arles Period resulted in some of his greatest and most famous paintings. 1 p.m. Friday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, \$10 NSSC member; \$13 non-member, 847-784-6030

**Share The Warmth:** Join a group of warm, friendly, supportive women (men welcome) to prepare one-of-a-kind fleece blankets for chemo patients. Add a crocheted edge to fleece and send free blankets to new adult chemotherapy patients. A basic crochet stitch can be taught if needed. 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 every Friday morning. 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 gentle 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. 20

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

**Jazz Night at Friendship Park Conservatory:** The return of Multiplicity Ensemble features a live performance of works by legendary jazz artists and favorites from the Great American Songbook. The talented group includes Barb Kalnes on vocals, Tom Kalnes on piano, Gary Swiontek on double bass and George Aparo on drums. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Friendship Park Conservatory, 395 W. Algonquin Road, Des Plaines, \$15 in advance; \$18 at the door, 847-298-3500

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

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

**Overeaters Anonymous:** 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. 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

**Russian Storytime with Miss Vlada:** Kids ages 3 and older can drop in to hear Miss Vlada share stories in Russian and make a craft. 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Service Buddies: Project Buddy Bags for grades 1-8:** Students in 5th through 8th grades assist children in 1st through 4th grades with a service project to support the Glenview Fire Department. Service Buddies decorate canvas backpacks and fill them with items to comfort and calm children during emergencies. Glenview Fire and Rescue workers from Engine Company Number 6 stop by to pick up the completed kits. Older children must arrive at 2 p.m. 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Glenview Resident Open House:** This drop-in event is for new and established residents includes refreshments, visits with police, firefighters and dispatchers. Learn more about the Village, service and community organizations. 9 a.m. Saturday, Glenview Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, free, 847-724-5670

**Restoration Work Day:** Help Air Station Prairie's restoration team remove invasive plants to make way for native prairie grasses. Seasonal activities include brush cutting, weed removal and seed collection. Bring work gloves if you have them. 9 a.m. Saturday, Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie/The Tyner Center, 2400 Compass Road, Glenview, free, 847-299-6096

**Special Event - Miss Jamie's Farm for ages birth-6:** Wake up your weekend with Miss Jamie, as she and her puppet friends from the farm take the audience on a magical barnyard adventure. A sing-along, dance-along show that's fun for kids and grown-ups alike. 10:30 a.m. Saturday, The Book Market at Hangar One, 2651 Navy Blvd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Practice ACT:** Prepare for the ACT with a free full-length practice test proctored by Kaplan. 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

**Fandom Club:** Anime and Manga Club has expanded to include all fandoms. Gather with fellow fans to discuss your pop culture favorites, make fan art and eat themed food. 2 p.m. Saturday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

**Say Hello to Raspberry Pi:** Come in to see a small credit card-sized computer that is capable of doing things you might expect of a desktop computer. Raspberry Pi has been used to create a working robot to control a home theater. 10 a.m. Saturday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

**Magic Matt Family Fun Show:** This show is fun for the whole family, as children clap their hands, wiggle their fingers and shout out the magic words, to help throughout the show to make the magic happen. 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. The musical takes a hilarious look at growing up. 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, Northbrook Theatre, 3323 Walters Ave., Northbrook, \$10-\$12, 847-291-2995

**Actors Training Center Hosts Auditions for BIG musical:** The Summer Musical Theatre Intensive is casting students entering 7th-12th grades for BIG: The Musical. 1 p.m. Saturday, Actors Training Center, 1122 Central Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-251-8710

## Sunday, Feb. 21

**The Joyful Ringers 30th Anniversary Celebration Concert:** The Simple Gifts Concert Series of the Glenview Community Church presents The Joyful Ringers 30th Anniversary Celebration Concert directed by Gary Wendt, Minister for Music. 3 p.m. Sunday, Glenview Community Church, 1000 Elm St., Glenview, Free will donation, 847-724-2210

**To Be...Or Maybe Not: Shakespearean Improv:** Based on audience suggestions, The Improvised Shakespeare Co. creates a fully improvised Shakespearean masterpiece right before your eyes. 2 p.m. Sunday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

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**Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra concert:** 3 p.m. Sunday, Lincolnwood Community Center, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood, free

**Shakespeare Project of Chicago: 50 Minute Hamlet:** Utilizing just two actors, this 50-Minute Hamlet, adapted by Jeff Christian, presents Shakespeare's most enduring tragedy. It contains many of The Bard's most famous lines and speeches while retaining much of his saga's pathos, poetry and passion. 2 p.m. Sunday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

**St. John Brebeuf Do-It-Yourself Messiah Concert:** The Musica Lumina 2015-16 concert series continues with this commemorative concert given in honor of the legacy of the Rev. Stanley Rudcki, the former chair of the Niles College Department of Fine Arts, who founded the Niles Concert Choir and the Niles Symphony Orchestra in the 1960s. The Avanti Guitar Trio performs. 3 p.m. Sunday, St. John Brebeuf Parish Church, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., Niles, free, 847-966-8145

**Academy Awards film discussion:** Join independent filmmaker Reid Schultz for his 24th annual pre-Oscar night film discussion. 2 p.m. Sunday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

**Concerts on 3 - GSO Ensembles:** The library's annual winter concert series returns. Enjoy a relaxed concert setting with a spectacular view from the third floor. GSO Ensembles perform works by Mozart, Brahms. 2 p.m. Sunday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

**Meet the Curator and Children of Olympians:** Olympian Jesse Owens' daughter, Marlene Owens Rankin and Olympian Ralph H. Metcalfe's son, Ralph H. Metcalfe, Jr. participate in a moderated discussion about the legacy of their Olympian parents. Exhibition Curator Susan Bachrach, United State Holocaust Memorial Museum, discusses themes from the exhibition. 2 p.m. Sunday, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, \$0-12; free with Museum Admission, 847-967-4800

**Monday, Feb. 22**

**Book Babes:** 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 Street, Evanston, free, 847-448-8600

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

**hoopla, MyMediaMall and Zinio Individual appointments:** Meet with trained library staff for a 45-minute one-on-one session and learn how to download e-books, audiobooks, magazines, movies, TV shows or music to your portable device. 10 a.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**French Alliance of North Shore Aperitif:** Meet fellow Francophones for mid-evening conversation, in French. Facilitated by one or more native-speaking or fluent-speaking AFduNS members. 7 p.m. Monday, Glenview Grind, 989 Waukegan Road, Glenview, free, 847-328-9516

**Knitting Roundtable:** Work through 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

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

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

**Babylime 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 an adult. 11 a.m. Monday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

**Lego Club:** For students in K-8th grades to join in this club to create masterpieces at this new Lego Club. No registration is necessary. 4:30 p.m. Monday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

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

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

**It Is not Over 'Til the Fat Lady Sings Great Opera:** Through lecture, listening, and video examples, Michael Vaughn will examine several of the most dramatic finales in the operatic repertoire. 10 a.m. Monday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, \$19 NSSC member, \$13 nonmember, 847-784-6030

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

**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. 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. 23**

**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

**Supervision Group:** Chicagoland's credentialed music therapists are invited to this networking event. 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Dempster Street Theatre, 2008 Dempster St., Evanston, \$5, 847-448-8337

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

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

**Historical newspapers:** Learn how to find and search historical newspapers in your genealogy research and discover why they are an important resource. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**CJE senior life counseling:** Do you have questions about retirement and health insurance options? CJE SeniorLife resource specialists provide 30-minute counseling sessions to adults 60 and over. 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Movies, Munchies, & More: Film: Everest:** A climbing expedition on Mt. Everest is devastated by a severe snow storm. Cast: Jason Clarke, Ang Phula Sherpa. 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

**Intro to iMovie:** Learn the basics of video editing with Apple's iMovie. Topics covered include: importing media, editing and saving your work on multiple formats. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

**2015 In Movies with Oscar Preview:** The library's very own librarian, Cecilia, reviews the best and the worst of Hollywood in 2015. Join in this great opportunity to chat about movies and meet some fellow film lovers. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

**Mozart's Requiem:** Niles Metro Chorus performs Mozart's Requiem this spring. 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

**Glenbrook North Band Concert:** The Glenbrook North Bands offer this free and open-to-the-public concert. Come enjoy the sounds of the Freshman Band, Symphonic Band and Symphonic Wind Ensemble under the direction of Rich Chapman and Mark Running. The concert features traditional band literature, marches, Latin music and movie music. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Sheely Center for the Performing Arts, 2300 Shermer Road, Northbrook, free, 847-412-0210

**Villa Venice Luncheon:** Adults can enjoy an Italian meal and listen to music from the Rat Pack at a Villa Venice Luncheon with the Northbrook Park District. 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Northbrook Park District Leisure Center, 3323 Walters Ave., Northbrook, \$19 for Northbrook Senior Center members, \$29 for nonmembers, 847-291-2988

*Calendar, from Previous Page*

**iPhone and iPad Tips and Tricks for Maximum Benefit:** Learn how to leverage the settings icon on your Apple device. 1 p.m. Tuesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, \$25 NSSC member, \$30 nonmember, 847-784-6030

**The Culture Wars:** Hartman's history of the long clash between social progressives and cultural conservatives will guide Jim's conversations on the forces that ushered America into the 21st century. 1 p.m. Tuesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, \$40 NSSC member, \$52 non-member, 847-784-6030

**Camera Club:** 10 a.m. Tuesday, Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-692-3597

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

**Life Transitions Group:** A support group for men and women who have been widowed for one to four years. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Park Ridge Nonprofit Center, 720 Garden St., Park Ridge, \$5 per session, 847-720-4170

## Wednesday, Feb. 24

**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. 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

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

**Friends of the Lincolnwood Public Library:** 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

**Toddler Time:** Stories, songs and rhymes for children with an adult caregiver. 10 a.m. Wednesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

**Hands-on Tech with MaKey MaKey:** A MaKey MaKey is a gadget that lets you control a computer with everyday stuff, all by completing a circuit. Turn bananas into piano keys or turn tinfoil and toilet paper tubes into mini drums. 3:30 and 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

**3D Design with TinkerCAD:** Learn how to use TinkerCAD to design a 3D object. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

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

**Chess Club:** Whether you're a skilled player looking for a challenge or a beginner interested in learning new skills, all are welcome. Chess sets and clocks provided. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

**Knitting Studio and Workshop:** Certified Knitting Instructor Mary Staackmann provides personalized instruction, answers any questions about knitting, and perhaps gets you started on a new project. Bring your supplies or project in progress. Brush up on your skills, learn new techniques, or just 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 while engaging in meaningful discussions and service learning opportunities. The evening starts with a tasty dinner: sometimes chicken, sometimes pasta or pizza. 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, First Congregational Church of Wilmette, 1125 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-251-6660

Have an event to submit? Go to [chicagotribune.com/calendar](http://chicagotribune.com/calendar)

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## MOVIES

# Now playing



### "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. Poly-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. — Katie Walsh



### "Hail, Caesar!" ★★½

PG-13, 1:40, comedy

With any sort of comedy set in Old Hollywood, the characters' names become weirdly important because, well ... they just are. In "Hail, Caesar!" there's a smooth British director by the name of Laurence Laurentz, whose trademark billing is "Laurence Laurentz presents." Dueling Hedda Hopper-brand gossip columnists, who happen to be identical twin sisters, go by Thora Tacker and Thessaly Tacker. These details, like the perfect,

vaguely threatening hats those last two wear, kept me smiling through much of "Hail, Caesar!" But it isn't a laff, in the parlance of Daily Variety. It's a grinner at best, and the jokes are surprisingly meager. — Michael Phillips



### "The Revenant" ★★½

R, 2:36, drama

The gorgeously brutal first hour of "The Revenant" marks the peak of director Alejandro G. Iñarritu'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" recounts Glass' tortures of the damned. DiCaprio's very good. You believe his character's suffering. There's not much more to Glass. — M.P.



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

PG-13, 2:16, fantasy

So: Where were we? Let's skip past the prequel trilogy "The Phantom Menace," "Attack of the Clones" and "Revenge of the Sith," apparently written and directed by droids. In chronological story terms we last saw Luke Skywalker, Han Solo, princess-turned-queen Leia, Chewbacca, R2-D2 and C-3PO whooping it up at the Ewok luau back in 1983, in "Return of the Jedi," celebrating the massive global popularity and merchandising sales of George Lucas' bright idea. The idea was simple, and quaintly retro: The world, Lucas figured, might enjoy a whiz-bang riff on the old "Flash Gordon" serials. Now, minus the Ewoks, the gang's back. And it is good. Not great. — M.P.



### "The Choice" ★½

PG-13, 1:50, drama

The attributes of "The Choice," the latest book-turned-film from author Nicholas Sparks, are also the hallmarks of almost every other movie based on the best-selling writer's romance novels. (See: "The Notebook," "A Walk to Remember," etc., etc.) "The Choice" is nothing if not consistent, following the well-worn footsteps of its predecessors. The film tells the complicated love story of Travis (Benjamin Walker), a smooth-talking veterinarian used to getting his way, and Gabby (Teresa Palmer), an uptight, career-focused medical student. Once again, Sparks delivers the goods to his waiting fans. — Caitlin Moore

## DEATH NOTICES

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

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### Death Notices

#### Ballogg, Evelyn

Evelyn Ballogg, Age 86 of Park Ridge, formerly of Toledo, OH. Beloved wife of Roy. Loving mother of Carla (Tony) Aukett. Dear grandmother of Tony Aukett, Jr. Services and interment were private. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Redeemer Lutheran Church, [www.redeemer-changinglives.com](http://www.redeemer-changinglives.com), are appreciated. Arrangements were entrusted to Ryan Parke Funeral Home. Info., [www.ryan-parke.com](http://www.ryan-parke.com).

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### Death Notices

#### Sayre, Ruthann Hermanson

Ruthann Hermanson Sayre, 92, passed away peacefully Tuesday, February 9, 2016, at The Moorings in Arlington Heights, IL. She was born January 15, 1924 in Ruthven, Iowa. Ruthann attended Waldorf College and the University of Northern Iowa, earning a degree in Education. She also earned a Master's degree in Sociology from National Louis University. Ruthann dedicated more than 35 years to teaching and over 60 years to the P.E.O. Sisterhood (a Philanthropic Educational Organization). She is fondly remembered for her "graciousness," "smiles" and "positive outlook on life." Ruthann met her husband, William Buxton Sayre, on a high school trip they took to New York City for 4-H Leaders of America. After WWII, they married in 1947 and lived in Indianola, Iowa where they managed a family farm. In 1964, they moved to Wilmette, IL where William pursued a career in banking and Ruthann continued teaching. Both retired in 1985 and moved to Palm Springs, CA, returning to Park Ridge in 1996. They spent their remaining precious years at The Moorings of Arlington Heights where they shared many fond memories with dear friends and caring staff. Ruthann is preceded by her husband, William (April 2011), and survived by her children: Bill (Sandra) of Bristol, VT, Ann of Skokie, IL, Mary of Park Ridge, IL, and Elizabeth (Brian) of Chicago, IL; 6 grandchildren and 2 great grandchildren; her brother Andrew (Elaine) Hermanson and many cousins, nieces and nephews. Services will be 11 am on Saturday, March 19, 2016 at The Moorings Harbor Room, 811 E. Central Rd., Arlington Heights, IL 60005. Memorial contributions may be made to the Geneva Foundation, specifying the "Moorings Memorial Fund" at the same address. There will be a private family interment at the Town of Maine Cemetery in Park Ridge. Arrangements by Friedrichs Funeral Home.

Funeral info call 847-255-7800 or [friedrichsfh.com](http://friedrichsfh.com)  
Sign Guestbook at [chicagotribune.com/obituaries](http://chicagotribune.com/obituaries)

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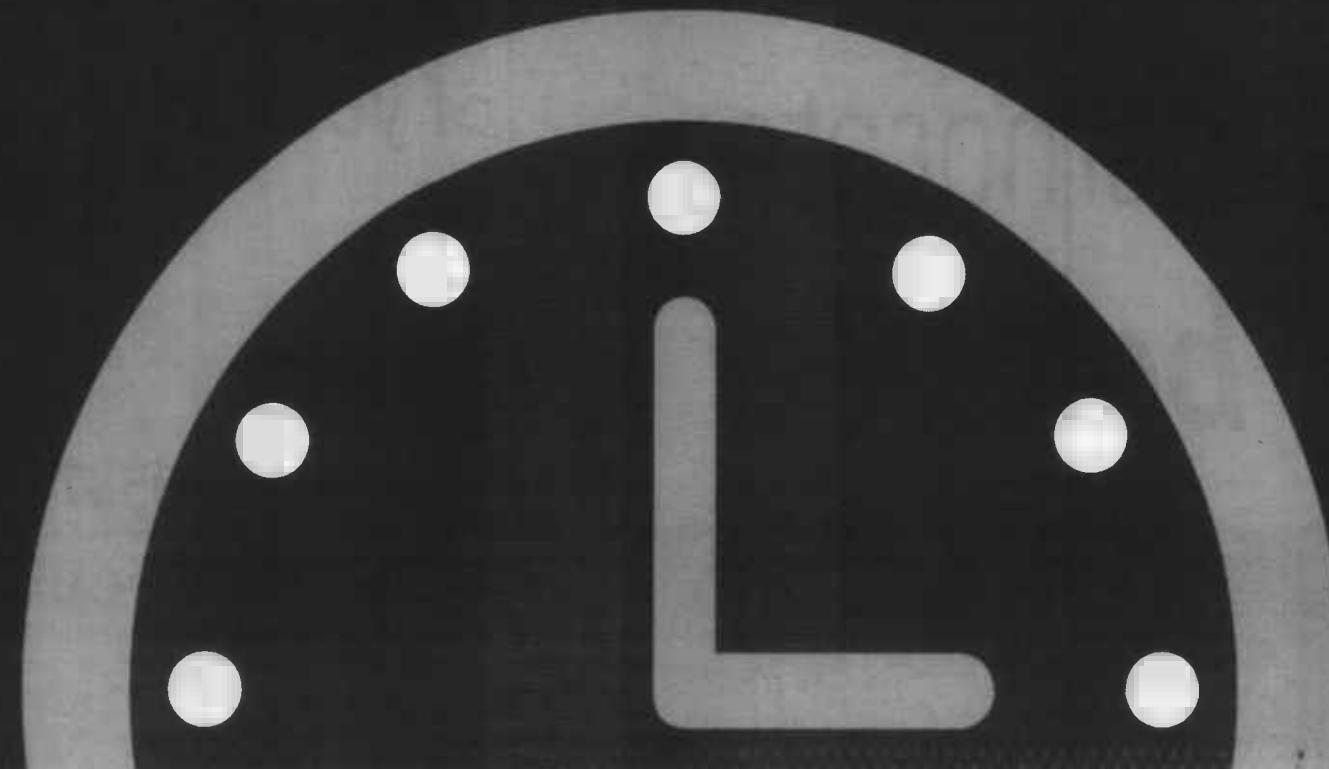
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# Fear of long-term auto loans

**Experts warn against trend, say loose credit could backfire**

**BY RICK POPELY**  
Tribune Newspapers

After a year of record new-vehicle sales, automakers, dealers and the banks and finance companies that issue car loans are jubilantly exchanging high-fives.

Analysts list several reasons for record sales of 17.5 million vehicles in 2015, including an improving economy and job market, low interest rates and growth in leasing.

New-car sales also are being driven by easy credit: Consumers, many with marginal credit ratings, are borrowing higher amounts and for longer loan terms.

Experian, one of the three major credit bureaus, says that the average loan for a new vehicle in the third quarter was \$28,936, up more than \$1,100 from a year earlier, and the average loan was for 67 months.

What's more, consumers are trying to keep monthly payments affordable by stretching out the payments. Seventy-one percent of new-vehicle loans were for longer than five years, and nearly 30 percent were longer than six years. In addition, 29 percent of new-vehicle loans were issued to borrowers with credit scores below



DON BARTLETTI/TRIBUNE NEWSPAPERS

The auto industry celebrated record new-car sales in 2015, aided in large part by looser credit. But some fear that consumers are going into hock longer and for higher amounts to buy vehicles, and a government official warns that lenders are exposed to potential higher losses in an economic downturn.

prime (660 or lower).

Potentially millions of consumers will owe more than their vehicle is worth for years. When they get the new-car itch again, they might have little or no equity in the vehicle they want to trade in.

Few within the auto or banking industries express concern about these trends, but others warn that loose credit that puts consumers in hock longer and for higher amounts could backfire in the future, especially if there is an economic downturn.

In an October speech to financial services execu-

tives, Thomas J. Curry, comptroller of the currency, head of the federal agency that regulates banks, warned that longer loans are "exposing lenders and investors to higher potential losses."

"Although delinquency and losses are currently low, it doesn't require great foresight to see that this may not last. ... It should be a real concern to the industry," he said.

Melinda Zabritski, senior director of automotive financial solutions for Experian, notes that delinquency rates on auto loans are lower than before the

recession.

In the third quarter of 2007, 2.81 percent of auto loans were 30 days past due. In 2015 it was 2.53 percent. The 60-day delinquency rate is virtually the same, at less than 1 percent. Subprime borrowers — with credit scores below 600 — take out a smaller chunk of auto loans today than in 2007, 24 percent compared with 28 percent.

"In today's market we're pretty much where we were back pre-recession. The level of subprime borrowing is even a little more conservative than it was pre-recession," Zabrit-

ski said in an interview.

Moreover, she added, most subprime customers pay on time. "Just because you're subprime doesn't mean you'll absolutely go delinquent," she said.

Loans are getting longer because car shoppers are seeing higher sticker prices on new vehicles, and more are opting for high-end models loaded with expensive features.

"Because cars cost more, consumers need to finance more of the vehicle in order to make that purchase, and that drives the monthly payment up," Zabritski said. "Most people who are buying a car are trying to negotiate monthly payments. If you can't put more money down, and you're increasingly having higher vehicle cost, the only way to keep that payment modest is to push out the term."

Greg McBride, chief financial analyst for Bankrate.com, said there is another way, but many consumers don't want to hear it: Buy a cheaper car.

"If you're buying a new car, and the loan goes beyond five years, you're buying too much car," McBride said in an interview. He added that too many consumers focus on their monthly payment instead of the total cost.

"That's detrimental to your financial health. It's financial engineering; the dealer can stretch out the loan term to squeeze that monthly payment into your budget. When people shop

for a monthly payment, they're not focusing on the total cost," McBride said.

For example, stretching a \$500 monthly payment over seven years instead of five raises the total cost by \$12,000. Worse, the car's value will decline faster than the principal balance.

"Automobiles are depreciating assets, and the longer you stretch out that loan term, not only does that mean your interest (cost) grows, but you spend more time being upside down," he said.

The focus on monthly payments has also contributed to the growth in leasing, McBride said. Experian says that 27 percent of new vehicles were leased instead of purchased in 2015, up from 18 percent in 2010. A key reason is that the average lease payment last year was \$398 versus \$482 for the average new-car payment. Another reason is that leasing is touted as a way to drive a more expensive car than a consumer could afford to buy.

That's fool's gold, McBride warns.

"There's no free lunch; the trade-off is that at the end of the lease you don't own it. You hand the keys back and start all over," he said. "You don't get rich by driving expensive cars."

McBride offers this "tough love" advice.

"Look at the total cost. Don't look at what you can afford based on a monthly payment alone," he said.

Rick Popely is a freelancer.

## Auto loan costs

The longer you stretch loan payments on a new car, the more you will pay. It lowers the monthly payment but increases the amount of interest due. At the same time, depreciation continues to mount, so the car is worth less when the loan is paid off. The following examples are based on the average transaction price of \$33,800 for a new vehicle; a down payment or trade-in value of \$4,800; a \$29,000 loan at the industry average 4.3 percent interest; and annual depreciation of 15 percent, which is a conservative estimate.

SOURCES: Bankrate.com, Experian and KBB.com.

Loan Term	months	months	months	months
<b>Monthly Payment</b>	\$659	\$538	\$458	\$400
<b>Total Interest</b>	\$2,617	\$3,281	\$3,953	\$4,635
<b>Total Cost</b>	\$36,417	\$37,081	\$37,753	\$38,435
<b>Depreciation</b>	\$16,156	\$18,803	\$21,053	\$22,965
<b>Resale value</b>	\$17,644	\$14,997	\$12,747	\$10,835

Tribune Newspapers



The 2016 Nissan Maxima is slightly longer, sportier and better equipped than the Altima.

## Mixing sport, sophistication

By ROBERT DUFFER  
Chicago Tribune

The redesigned Nissan Maxima is like a new shoe. It looks sharp but feels better, and the more you wear it, the better it feels.

The Maxima is footwear that is athletic and sophisticated, functional and stylish. You can schlep the kids in it, take it out for date night, challenge its performance capabilities on the road and make the driver of an Infiniti Q70 work much harder for the extra \$10,000 he spent on the premium brand.

### Design

It shares the same platform as the midsized Altima, but the sportier design sets it apart from the more bland — and less expensive — Altima. With the same wheelbase, but a bit longer with a lower roofline than the Altima, the Maxima no longer takes up the full-size sedan slot for Nissan.

The windshield is long and slanted, the roofline sleek and low, and the curves distinct enough for the car to attract attention without ever calling for it. Like a new pair of shoes, it looks best in motion.

### Performance

We didn't drive it on the track, nor did we drive it

### 2016 NISSAN MAXIMA PLATINUM

Midsize sedan

**Price as tested:**

**\$40,080**

Base price: \$32,510

Mpg: 22 city, 30 highway

Engine: 3.5-liter V-6

Transmission: Xtronic CVT with a 7-speed manual override

**Parting shot:** The new Maxima straddles the raw side of sport and the sophisticated side of sedan quite well.

much more aggressively than the legal limits. We drove it like most drivers will, but from a stop, the 261 pound-feet of torque kicking out of the beefed-up 3.5-liter V-6 engine is more than enough to put a smile on your face.

Front-wheel drive keeps it more composed (OK, dull) than other sport sedans, and the steering isn't as sharp as German sport sedans. Yet in most situations, it feels just fine.

Another element keeping the Maxima more on the sophisticated side rather than the sport side of the sedan world is the fuel-saving, continuously

variable transmission.

But the improved CVT Nissan calls Xtronic also contributes to the impressive burst from a stop. Blowing past more traditional on-ramp mergers and soaking up the lovely, throaty call of the V-6 is the driver's recurring privilege. Open it up and feel young at heart, tone it down and feel adult.

### Comforts

The Maxima stays relatively low to the ground, but is more sedan than sports car, so you don't need a handle or a crane to get out. There are enough seat adjustments to comfortably set your visibility, a trait that is positively more sedan than sport car. That's a good thing.

Calling it a sports sedan, as Nissan has done, is like calling a Chuck Taylor a basketball shoe: not quite. In the company of true performance sedans such as the Audi S6 and BMW 5-Series, the eighth-generation Maxima handles more like the smaller Mazda6, but with upscale interior like the larger Toyota Avalon. I'd take the Maxima over either of the last two, despite the drop-off in fuel efficiency.

rduffer@tribpub.com  
Twitter @DufferRobert

## Radio stations: New normal



BOB WEBER  
Motormouth

**Q:** My wife bought a 2016 Ford Escape. We noticed that the AM band of the car radio starts at 87.9. She used to listen to a station at 87.7 on her 2009 Escape. She emailed Ford for an explanation but has not gotten an answer. Can you advise us if not getting 87.7 is normal?

— W.S., Morton Grove, Ill.

**A:** Newer car radios will not receive broadcasts from any frequency below 87.9 MHz, as the lower frequency is assigned to TV channel 6. Some radio broadcasters use 87.7 where there was no channel 6 in use in the vicinity. Some simulcast the TV audio. Since the FCC required all TV broadcasts to be digital, this is going away.

**Q:** Two years ago, the cruise control in my 2003 Honda Accord began disengaging after five to 10 minutes, for no reason. I had the throttle body assembly and gas-

ket replaced (\$400 parts, \$120 labor), but now the problem has returned. At least one online Honda blog says it's a common problem in 2003 to 2005 Hondas, caused when a plastic notch breaks from its molding to the butterfly valve shaft. My local Midas guy can't see anything physically wrong with the throttle body. Do you think another throttle body replacement will fix the problem again?

— R.G., Skokie, Ill.

**A:** The problem is usually the plastic cam on the side of the throttle body to which the cruise control cable is attached. Due to engine heat, the plastic gets brittle, breaks and the cable falls off. Although this cam assembly and its spring attach to the outside of the throttle body with a couple of screws, Honda does not sell it as a separate part. If you can locate a cheap, used throttle body at a junkyard or eBay, any good technician can salvage the part and put it on your car instead of replacing the whole throttle body. But don't overlook a bad or misadjusted brake light switch or clutch switch, as these will cancel the cruise control intermittently as well.

**Q:** I have a 2005 Hyun-

dai Accent with 155,000 miles on it. Periodically, the check engine light comes on. I go to the garage, and they clear it for a few days, and I pass inspection. Now they can't clear it. It has new plugs, cables and coil. The light still comes on and says all the spark plugs are misfiring. Any ideas on what it could be?

— R.C., Pen Argyl, Pa.

**A:** All of the spark plugs cannot be misfiring or the engine probably would not run, but there could be a random misfire. The misfire trouble code will be P0300. There are numerous possibilities such as faulty spark plugs or wires, faulty ignition coil, faulty fuel injector(s), faulty oxygen sensor(s), faulty catalytic converter(s), a problem with the EGR valve, a faulty camshaft position sensor or crank-shaft position sensor. On Hyundais, the ignition coil wiring connector may be loose. Throwing parts at it is just a waste of money. Find a tech who can do a thorough diagnosis.

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](mailto:motormouth.trib@verizon.net).



STEVE PETROVICH/FORD MOTOR CO.  
Newer car radios will not receive broadcasts from any frequency below 87.9 MHz.

## COLLEGE NOTES

# Zirngibl singled out by CCIW

BY NICK BULLOCK  
Pioneer Press

The North Central College football team's senior defensive back **Richard Zirngibl**, a Buffalo Grove alumnus, was recently named the 2015 Jack Schwartz Academic Award winner. The award is given by the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin each year to one male and one female student-athlete who achieves a 3.5 grade-point average or higher, is enrolled as a full-time student and earns a letter in his or her sport.

Other North Central football players from the area include running back **Oshayne Brown**, a Niles North graduate; defensive back **Pat Cravens** and linebacker **Tom Sora**, both from Notre Dame; running back **Andrew Sledd**, a Highland Park graduate; running back **Zane Lodico**, a Lake Zurich alumnus; defensive lineman **Ben Smajlovic**, sophomore defensive lineman Gunnar Schiferl and tight end **Alex Rose**, all from Leyden; defensive lineman **Ramsey Pokryfke**, linebacker **Mike Kosanovich** and offensive lineman **Eli Kosanovich**, all York graduates; defensive

lineman **Emonte Logan**, from Oak Park-River Forest; and offensive lineman **Ricky Strba**, a Buffalo Grove alumnus.

## Zieba, Vandixhorn contribute to NU tennis

Freshman Ben Vandixhorn and junior Konrad Zieba powered the No. 21-ranked Northwestern men's tennis team to yet another victory this spring season, this time against Cornell on Feb. 7 in Ithaca, N.Y.

Vandixhorn, a Libertyville graduate, won at No. 6 singles 6-2, 7-6 (7).

Glenbrook South's Zieba, ranked No. 16 nationally, won his No. 2 doubles match 6-4. He then held a 2-6, 6-3, 4-2 lead at No. 1 singles when the meet was decided, leaving his match unfinished.

Hinsdale Central's Michael Lorenzini is also on the team. The freshman holds a 2-2 singles record and a 1-1 doubles record.

*Have a suggestion for the College Round-up? Email Nick Bullock at [bullockpioneerpress@gmail.com](mailto:bullockpioneerpress@gmail.com).*

*Nick Bullock is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.*



PATRICK GORSKI/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

## Meet the February winner!

### Jon Arenas, Maine South

Jon Arenas, a senior shooting guard, leads Maine South in points (14.2 per game), assists (3.4) and steals (1.9). He's second on the team in rebounding (5.5). Through games on Feb. 11, Arenas had helped the Hawks to an 18-8 overall

record and a 5-3 mark in the Central Suburban South, which was good for a tie for second. "Jon is a true scorer," Lavorato said. "He's a high-energy, high-volume guy. He's very confident in what he can do."

Good luck to the teams in this weekend's IHSA Girls Bowling, & Gymnastics, Speech & Boys Wrestling STATE FINALS

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## WRESTLING STATE TOURNAMENT PREVIEW

# Football teammates help Ramirez advance

BY MATT HARNESS

Pioneer Press

Dylan Ramirez was a big part of the best football season in Niles North's history.

Chris Albandia, his wrestling coach, said Ramirez carried that success — the Vikings football team won two playoff games for the first time in the fall — over to the mats. The junior heavyweight qualified for the Class 3A state tournament by finishing fourth at the Conant Sectional on Feb. 13 in Hoffman Estates. He lost the third-place match 4-2 to Rolling Meadows senior Maciej Pogorzelski.

"We absolutely expected this from him," Albandia said after Ramirez's state-clinching, 3-2 win over Lane junior Jeremiah Olojo in the consolation semifinals. "He got progressively better over the season. This was a tough sectional. There are some kids he lost to this season that are here and going home. He timed things just right."

The top four in each weight class moved on to the state tournament, which runs Feb. 18-20, at the University of Illinois' State Farm Center. Ramirez earned the 15th seed and is scheduled to wrestle second-seeded Lincoln-Way Central senior Bryan Ditchman (42-2) on Feb. 18.

But Ramirez (29-9) didn't do it alone, according to Albandia. Four of Ramirez's fellow linemen on the football team — junior Raymar Delemios, junior Bledar Jahovic, sophomore Michael Pimentel and junior Elmir Nikezic — joined him on the wrestling team and were instrumental in helping him advance to his first state tournament, the coach said.

"It was great to have them with me," said Ramirez, who was a two-way starter on the football team and earned all-Central Suburban North honors. "It was a lot of fun. We got after each other, and they helped me achieve this."

## Evanston

Chris Rivera rested his backside on the gym wall and put his hands on his knees.

Rivera needed a chance to catch his breath. The 106-pound junior

earned his first trip to the Class 3A state tournament, but it wasn't an easy road.

After losing in the second round, Rivera won four matches in the back draw to take third place, beating Mount Prospect freshman Andrew Baysingar 8-0 in the consolation final. Rivera (46-5) finished 5-1 at the sectional.

"It was good to finish the tournament strong," Rivera said. "It was good to recover from that loss. I was determined to get to the state tournament."

Rivera, who finished second at the Maine East Regional, said practicing against teammate David Rivera-Kohr, a 126-pound senior and Princeton recruit, in the week leading up to the sectional tournament was helpful in reaching his goal.

"I got beat up," Rivera said. "It was a hard week. [The coaches] really pushed me, but that's why I felt good here."

Evanston coach Rudy Salinas said Rivera normally doesn't train with Rivera-Kohr, but the other light weights were not available to practice due to injuries. Salinas said he's considering letting the two go at it again to prepare for the state tournament.

"It was sink or swim for Chris," Salinas said. "David gave him that edge. Maybe he can do that again."

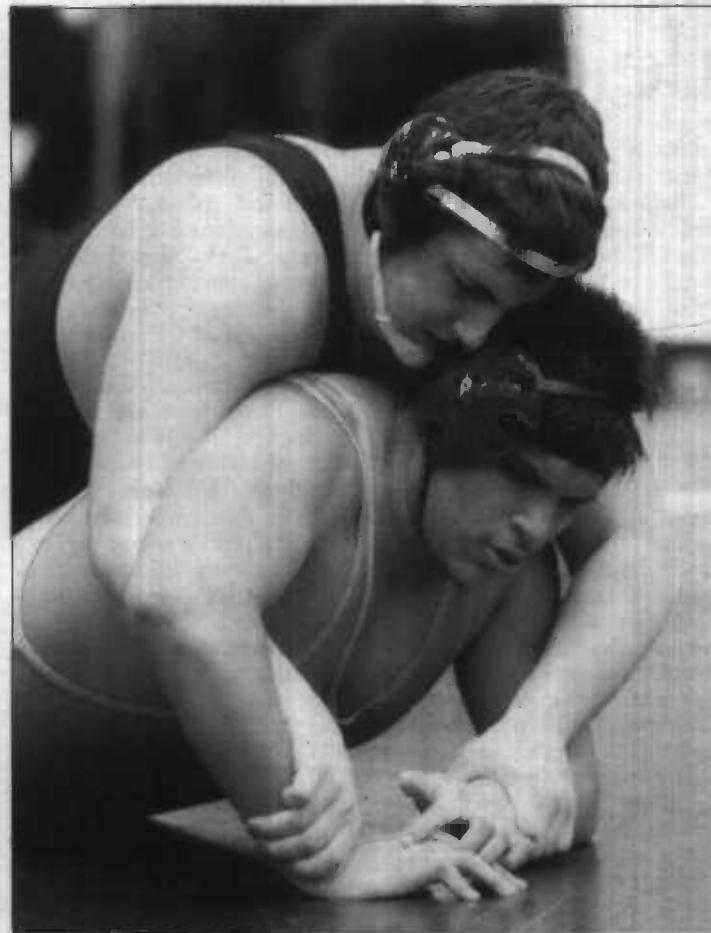
Rivera, the 11th seed, is scheduled to face sixth-seeded Bolingbrook freshman Dylan Burnoski (30-8) on Feb. 18.

Rivera-Kohr (40-1) and senior 182-pounder Jaalen Banner (43-7) were Evanston's other state qualifiers. Rivera-Kohr placed third with a 7-3 win over Leyden senior Wesam Alabed. Banner also took third with an 8-7 win over Glenbard West's Jack Vesevick.

## Notre Dame

Notre Dame wrestling coach Augie Genovesi didn't expect Dons senior Tom Simon to qualify for the state tournament.

However, Simon, who wrestled only 10 varsity matches last season, earned his way to Champaign by finishing fourth at 220 pounds at the Class 3A Conant Sectional. He secured his first trip to the state tournament with a 3-2 win over Schaumburg senior John



MICHAEL SCHMIDT/PIONEER PRESS

Rolling Meadows' Maciej Pogorzelski (above) wrestles Niles North's Dylan Ramirez during the Class 3A Conant Sectional on Feb. 13 in Hoffman Estates.

Serio in the consolation semifinals.

"He was the last guy we thought would go at the beginning of the season," Genovesi said. "He was too inexperienced."

Simon's dedication to the weight room contributed to his standout senior season. Genovesi said he would open the school on Sundays to let Simon work out. In the fall, Simon was an all-East Suburban Catholic center for the Dons. He plans to play football at Augustana in Rock Island.

"He was a butterball up until he found the weight room last spring," Genovesi said. "He spent almost every day in the spring and summer in the weight room. He transferred all of his weight around. He really tightened everything up. He's now put together like a brick house."

Genovesi said there were a lot of nervous moments at the sectional. Except for his 20-10 loss to Oak Park-River Forest senior Allen Stallings in the semifinals, Simon (32-14) was in close matches. His other four matches were each decided by two points or less.

"He makes it exciting for fans, but it can be a nightmare for us coaches," Genovesi joked. "But it was good to see that he was in almost every match."

Simon earned the 16th seed and is scheduled to wrestle top-seeded Plainfield South senior Eric Johnson (44-0) on Feb. 18.

Senior Jake Barzowski (40-1) and junior Josh Barzowski (32-7) were the other two Dons who advanced to the state tournament. Jake Barzowski took third at 138, and his brother placed second at 152.

## Maine South

As soon as his wrestling season ends, Ibrahim Nasir said the first place he's going to eat at is Chipotle.

"I am going to have them make the biggest burrito possible," said Nasir, who qualified for the Class 3A state meet at 220 pounds.

The senior hasn't dined at his favorite restaurant since wrestling season started. It was a sacrifice he made in order to drop nearly 30 pounds to compete at 220. Nasir wrestled as a heavyweight last season, but he said he was on the lighter side of the weight class. He qualified for the 2015 state meet and went 0-2. Nasir said 220 is a more natural weight class for him.

A defensive lineman for Maine South's football team, Nasir said he weighed around 245 pounds in early November.

"Dieting was the hardest thing to do," Nasir said. "I'm a big guy, and I like my food. I just ate small meals or sometimes nothing at all."

Nasir (37-4) reached the Class 3A state meet by taking second place at the Conant Sectional. He lost to Oak Park-River Forest senior Allen Stallings 17-8 in the final on Feb. 13.

"I felt great [Saturday]," Nasir said. "It took a while for my body to adapt to this weight, but I am in the best shape of my life right now. I move well at this weight, and it's more natural. I can use my speed and strength better."

Nasir received the seventh seed at state and is scheduled to wrestle Belleville East senior Dewayne Hill (46-1) in his first match on Feb. 18. Hill is the 10th seed.

Nasir will soon add weight again to his 6-foot-2 frame. He plans to play college football at Middlebury, a Division III program in Vermont.

"Putting on pounds is not a problem for me," he said. "But I want to do it in a healthy way."

Matt Harness co-hosts a golf podcast called Teeing Off. Find it on Twitter (@Teeing\_Off) or at [www.facebook.com/teeingoff-podcast](http://www.facebook.com/teeingoff-podcast) and on iTunes.

## GIRLS GYMNASTICS STATE MEET PREVIEW

# New Trier's Rohrer could vie for title on beam

BY ERIC VAN DRIL  
Pioneer Press

Carmel junior Samantha Loco, Barrington senior Abby Hasanova and DeKalb junior Aleah Leman are the favorites on balance beam going into the state gymnastics meet. All three scored higher than 9.5 on beam at their respective sectional meets.

New Trier sophomore Emma Jane Rohrer received a 9.125 on beam at the Mundelein Sectional on Feb. 9, but she too has the potential to win a state championship on beam. She just has to stay on the beam.

Rohrer scored a 9.025 at the Central Suburban South meet on Saturday, Jan. 30. Rohrer fell off the beam in that meet, too.

In spite of the fall, which is a half-point deduction, Rohrer earned an automatic state berth on beam at the sectional by finishing in a tie for fifth. The top five individuals in each event earned automatic berths.

"She is going to stay on the beam one of these days," New Trier coach Jen Pistorius said following the Central Suburban South meet.

Rohrer fell early on in her beam routine at the sectional, but she recovered very well. The rest of her difficult routine was clean and executed crisply.

Staying on the beam "is harder than it seems," Rohrer said at the sectional. "[People are] like, 'You've just got to make it.' It's really hard to make it."

Rohrer explained that the key to doing well on beam, especially in a high-stakes environment like the sectional or state, is for her to stay focused and patient as she goes through her routine.

"It's just making sure you take your time, take one skill at a time and just focus on what you're doing," Rohrer said. "Once you make one [difficult element], you're not done. You have to finish it up. Even after my [standing] back tuck, I still have a full turn [and a] dismount to get through. I can't just blow it off, like, 'OK, I'm done,' and forget

about the dismount and full turn."

Rohrer qualified for state on all four events and in the all-around. She will be joined at state, which begins at Palatine on Feb. 19, by New Trier senior Taylor Kwok (floor exercise).

## Loyola

Falls on balance beam are common at gymnastics meets, but they haven't been for Claire Sullivan this year. Sullivan, a senior at Loyola, has fallen just once during the 2015-16 season on her favorite event.

A part of the reason for her success, Sullivan explained after finishing second on beam (9.45) at the Mundelein Sectional, is she feels completely comfortable on beam. It's an event dreaded by many, but not Sullivan.

"It's so different from the other events," Sullivan said. "It takes a lot of poise. It's mostly all confidence, I feel like. Just getting up there and knowing that I'm confident, I know in my head that I can stick the routine. There's no better feeling than sticking a beam routine."

Sullivan added that she hopes to make state finals again this year. She finished 10th on beam as a junior.

The state finals take place on Feb. 20 at Palatine. Sullivan is scheduled to compete on beam, uneven parallel bars (she tied for third at the sectional, 9.30) and in the all-around (sixth, 36.50) on Feb. 19.

## Niles West

Earlier this season, Niles West coach Sue Arcus praised the way Jasmine Dirks has relearned old tricks and picked up new tricks during her outstanding freshman campaign.

Dirks, who stepped away from gymnastics for two years prior to joining the Wolves' high school team, picked up one more new skill in the week leading up to the sectional. After the regional, Dirks started piking her Yurchen-

ko vault in practice.

Dirks debuted that trick at the Mundelein Sectional on Feb. 9, and almost stuck it on her first attempt. Dirks flipped through the air and landed on her feet.

"I took a tiny step and I was really shocked," Dirks said. "I was really happy."

Dirks was awarded a 9.40 on vault. Soon after she finished competing, she was informed that she had finished in a three-way tie for third place.

Dirks didn't have to wait to hear if she'd earned an at-large berth to state, like many gymnasts. She had secured an automatic berth.

"I'm excited," Dirks said with a big smile. "I thought I was going to be close to making it. Since it was my first year, I didn't think I would make it."

Dirks is the only Niles West gymnast who advanced to state.

## Niles North and Glenbrook North

Neither Niles North nor Glenbrook North advanced any athletes to the state meet, but gymnasts on both teams were inspired at the end of the Mundelein Sectional.

The Spartans, who competed as a team at the sectional, are slated to return their entire roster. Being in the sectional setting, as a group, was a big deal for Glenbrook North.

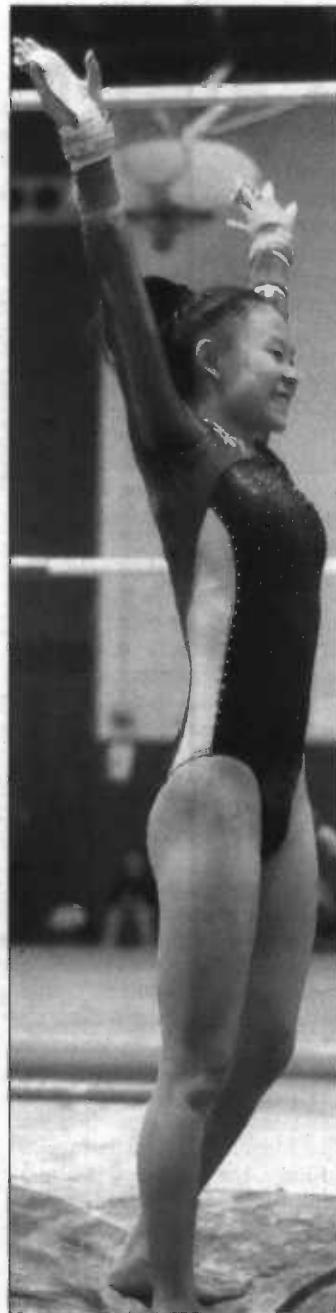
"We were all really excited about [qualifying for the sectional as a team]," junior Alex Michalak said. "It's nice that this is pretty much going to be our team for next year, I'm assuming, so we have another year together."

Michalak added that it was inspiring to be in the same meet as a team like Carmel, which won the Mundelein Sectional easily with 146.275 points.

Niles North sophomore Athena Xidis agreed.

"It's motivating," Xidis said. "You want to get as good as them, especially by the time you're a senior. That's the goal."

Xidis plans on training in the



ERIC P. DAVIS/PIONEER PRESS

In this Jan. 30, photo, New Trier sophomore Emma Jane Rohrer is pictured at the Central Suburban South gymnastics meet after her dismount from the uneven bars.

offseason, she said, and would like to incorporate more difficult elements into some of her routines. One example is giants on bars, and a Tsukahara pike is a possibility on vault.

"I just want to increase my skills on every event [for next year] and hopefully make state," she said.

*Eric Van Dril is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.*

*Twitter @VanDrilSports*

# Guerrero contributes to Wolves as freshman

BY ERIC VAN DRIL  
Pioneer Press

Xander Guerrero has had to acclimate to his surroundings during his first year of high school swimming.

Guerrero said the older members of the Niles West boys swimming team have made this season a lot of fun. The squad's training trip to Baraboo, Wis., was particularly helpful, he added. It allowed Guerrero, who was the only Niles West freshman to compete at the Central Suburban South varsity meet, to bond with his older teammates during winter break. The Wolves used that trip to train, but they also went out to eat together and went to the movies.

High school swimming "is a lot harder," Guerrero said, "but it's really fun experience."

Another adjustment for Guerrero has been competing with some of the best distance swimmers in the state.

This year, the Central Suburban South features three competitors who finished in the top six in the 500-yard freestyle at state in 2015. That group includes Glenbrook South junior Sam Iida, the defending state champion, as well as New Trier senior Maxwell Robertson (a UMass recruit) and Glenbrook South senior Tommy Hagerty (Boston U.).

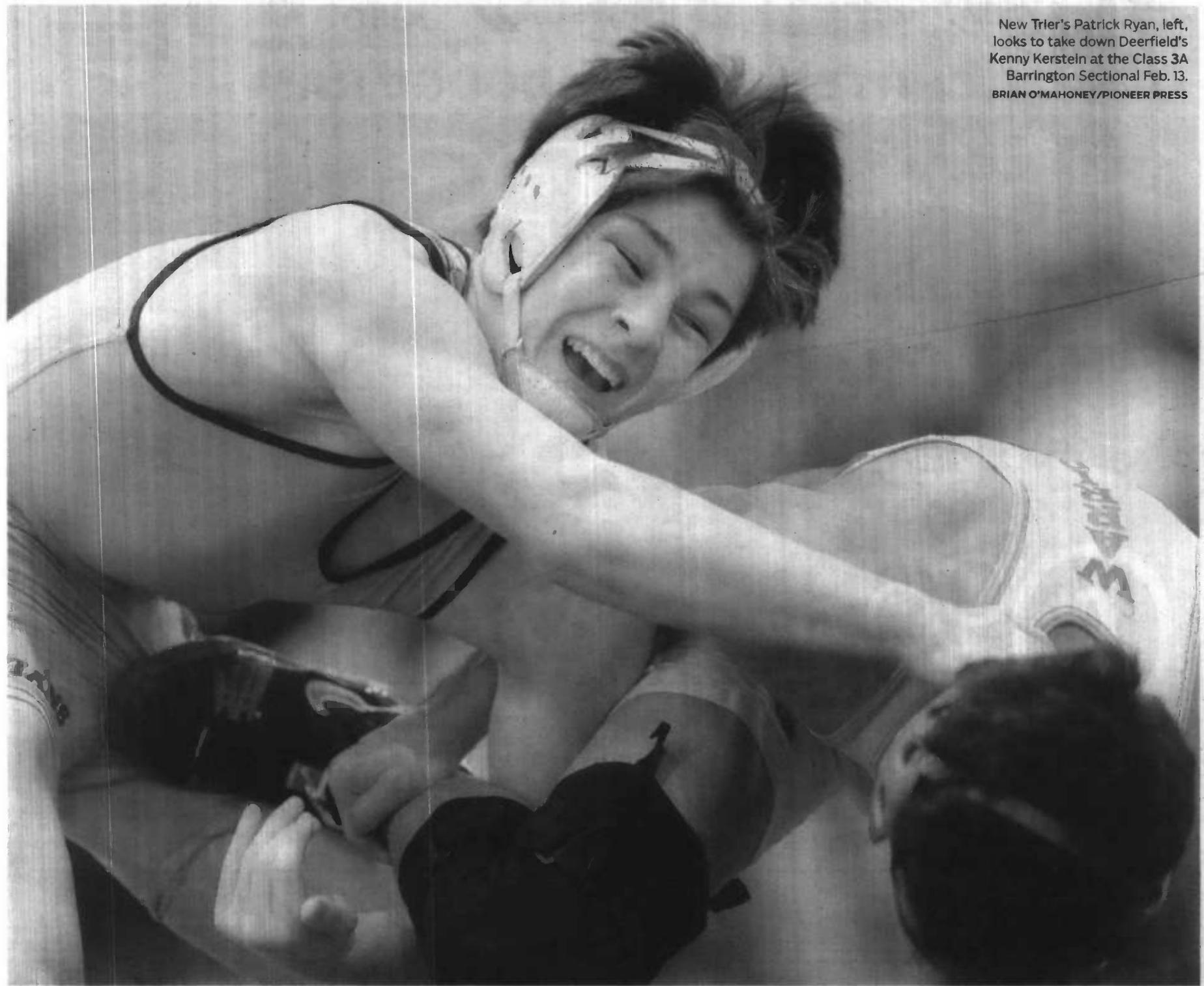
"I feel that, even though I'm a freshman, it's a great experience for me, and I think it's going to help me prepare for my later years in high school," Guerrero said.

In the long term, Guerrero said he hopes to get closer and closer to the times the conference's best distance swimmers logged both last year and this year.

Guerrero's short-term goal is to break five minutes in the 500 free at the Niles North Sectional on Feb. 20. Guerrero swam a season-best 5:09.77 (10th place), at the Central Suburban South meet without a swim cap or a fast suit and without being tapered.

*Eric Van Dril is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.*

New Trier's Patrick Ryan, left, looks to take down Deerfield's Kenny Kerstein at the Class 3A Barrington Sectional Feb. 13.  
BRIAN O'MAHONEY/PIONEER PRESS



# GOING ALL OUT

Local wrestlers to compete in state tournament this weekend in Champaign. Page 37

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