Meijer closing up shop

Niles mayor: 'The economy is not what it should be.' Page 4

The Meijer location in Niles is closing come mid-June after about six years in business due to low sales volume, according to a new release from the company.

Honoring Solti

The late CSO director Georg Solti will be honored during a two-day music festival at the Copernicus Center. Page 20

SPORTS

Cause for celebration

All-area boys and girls basketball teams will be announced in next week's paper.

LIVING

After the holiday, time to pig out

When Easter hands you leftover ham, Melissa Elsmo offers this recipe for a sloppily delicious breakfast ham sandwich with a sweet and spicy sauce. Inside
Elizabeth Byrne, Niles West grad

Niles native Elizabeth Byrne left her roots in Illinois last fall when she moved to a small town in Wisconsin to embark on her freshman year at St. Norbert College, a private Catholic school in De Pere, Wis.

Q: When did you graduate from Niles West?
A: May 2015

Q: St. Norbert is a small school with only about 2,000 students. How did you decide it was the right choice for you?
A: I chose St. Norbert for two reasons. They have an excellent education program, which is my intended major. I could also continue my cheerleading career, once I tried out and made the team, which happened last April. It also helps that my twin brother Michael was recruited to play baseball and chose St. Norbert as well.

Q: What do you enjoy most about being a cheerleader?
A: Getting the crowd involved. It’s a lot of fun trying to get the crowd just as excited as you are, and when they are, it makes things so much more enjoyable. It’s a great feeling knowing that I can add to the excitement of the crowd’s experience.

Q: Despite being a native of Chicago Bears territory, you travel with your teammates regularly to Green Bay to cheer for the Packers for fun. How did this come about?
A: It’s all about community in this area and the relationship between St. Norbert College and the Green Bay Packers dates back longer than many people can remember. At Packer games, we are a small town in Wisconsin, cheer on the sidelines right in front of the stands. I have cheered at ten games this past season, including the annual Packers Family Night in August.

Q: What do you say to people who criticize cheerleading by claiming it’s not a real sport?
A: I believe cheerleading is a real sport and when people tell me it’s not I remind them that we work just as hard as many other athletes. Also, when we cheer for both football and basketball seasons, our cheer seasons are much longer than most other athletes’ seasons.

Q: Do you miss anything about your high school days?
A: The one thing I miss about high school would be the girls on my cheer team. They were like my second family.

Q: Do you have any summer plans?
A: I plan on working as a camp counselor, but also spending time with my family since I’m away from them most of the year.

—Natalie Hayes for Pioneer Press
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The Meijer location in Niles is closing come mid-June after about six years in business because of low sales volume, according to a news release from the company.

Przybylo: ‘The economy is not what it should be’

BY LEE V. GAINE
Pioneer Press

The Meijer location in Niles is closing come mid-June after about six years in business because of low sales volume, according to a news release from the company.

A spokesman for the company, Frank Guglielmi, said the store's approximately 200 employees were notified of the closing, effective June 18, this week. He said village staff were also informed about the shutdown.

He said the company would work with its Niles employees to find open positions at other Chicago-area stores.

"Anybody not interested will be offered a severance package," Guglielmi said.

The approximately 90,000-square-foot store in the Golf Glen Shopping Center at 9000 W. Golf Road opened in 2010, and "based on recent volume we have determined it would not be economically feasible to remain open," the release states.

Guglielmi declined to offer any additional details as to why the retailer, which sells groceries, electronics and apparel, had chosen to shutter the store.

Niles Mayor Andrew Przybylo said he wasn't aware of the impending Meijer closure when contacted by a reporter early last week.

He said the closure validates a message he's tried to hammer home to residents over the course of several Village Board meetings: "The economy is not what it should be, No. 1. And even when the economy comes back, there is no guarantee that large shopping center stores are going to come back 100 percent because of e-commerce."

Ross Klicker, economic development coordinator for Niles, said the impact of the closure on village coffers won't be known until Meijer has left the area. He said it's possible sales tax revenue could remain largely unaffected if Meijer shoppers migrate to other grocery retailers in the village following the closure.

Guglielmi said the Niles location is unique compared with most Meijer stores, given that the company leases the space. He said Meijer owns the majority of the buildings where its stores are located.

Klicker said Meijer has a lease on the property through 2024. He said the village would work with the property owner and the retailer to hopefully find another business interested in opening in the location. He said its possible a business might choose to sublet the property from Meijer or the property owner might choose to release Meijer from its agreement early in order to sign a new agreement with a different company.

News of the closure was a surprise, Klicker said. He also noted that "this was a different format for Meijer than their typical store."

"Their typical store is 250,000 square feet or more, and this is what they considered a small-format store," Klicker said. He said it's likely, given the closure, that the small-format model didn't work out for the company.

Both Przybylo and Klicker said the village would work to help fill the space once Meijer leaves. Klicker noted that the village's role in opening in the location.

"The village's role is largely that of a matchmaker, linking prospective tenants up with the property owner. He said the village would not and cannot get involved in lease negotiations.

"We are very aggressive in talking with new tenants to provide any kind of incentive that is possible and that makes sense," Przybylo said. "In other words, it has to be a win-win for all parties concerned."

Lee V. Gaines is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Voters reject mayoral appointment powers

BY LEE V. GAINES
Pioneer Press

Niles residents voted for the second time in as many years to deny the mayor the power to fill vacant trustee seats between elections.

With all precincts reporting, nearly 60 percent of almost 6,000 voters cast a ballot against a referendum question that, if approved, would have restored the mayor's ability to appoint trustees to vacant seats with the consent of the Village Board, according to unofficial election results. A referendum measure that stripped the mayor of this power was approved with roughly three-quarters of the vote in November 2014.

When asked to comment on the result on March 15, Mayor Andrew Przybylo said, “I don't know what the people who are part of the 60 percent are thinking. I just don't get it. They don't understand it probably. They don't understand the jeopardy they are putting the village in.”

In an interview earlier this month, Przybylo said the village is at risk while the mayor's office remains unable to fill trustee vacancies.

The danger, he said, lies in the board's limited ability to function in the absence of multiple trustees. If, for example, he said, one trustee passes away, another resigns and a third steps down due to health issues, the board is left with three remaining trustees and the mayor, which together form a quorum and allow the four officials to “carry on minor forms of business.”

Certain measures, like altering the budget or signing a lease agreement over $20,000, would require a super majority of four votes in the affirmative to pass, Przybylo said. Three trustee resignations occurred between 2009 and 2011 and were subsequently filled by appointment before voters had a chance to cast their ballots in an election, he said. Had those resignations occurred under current Niles law, the seats would have remained empty for between 18 months and two years, Przybylo said.

Two years ago, Niles resident Joe Makula gathered together enough signatures to put a question on the November 2014 ballot asking Niles voters to curb the mayor's power by approving a measure requiring any vacant trustee seats to be filled during a consolidated election. After the measure was approved, the Village Board subsequently altered the municipality's rules to conform with the outcome of the election.

The question was again put to voters this month because “it was the next possible election to do it,” Przybylo said.

Makula said, in an interview earlier this month, that the likelihood the board would lose three or more trustees between elections was slim, and that “the mayor is just trying to grab more power.”

In an emailed statement, Makula also claimed that the village spent roughly $60,000 of taxpayer funds on “legal fees, mailers, signs, etc. opposing the trustee referendum that 76.5% of voters approved.”

Hayley Garard, communications coordinator for the village, wrote in an email that Niles sent “educational, unbiased” mailers to residents in the run up to the November 2014 election that explained the referendum question regarding trustee vacancies “from both sides.”

“No official organization has ever found that this flier advocated a position,” she wrote.

The village spent about $5,600 on fliers and postage for the mailings, according to documents obtained via a freedom of information act request. A flier mailed out by the village during the run up to the November 2014 election states that the Circuit Court of Cook County “found that passage of the referendum may cause havoc in the operation of municipal government.”

Both Garard and Przybylo said the village did not send out any mailings in advance of the primary election.

Voters favor program funding, enhancing Leaning Tower property

A vast majority of Niles voters -- 88 percent -- voted yes on an advisory question that asked whether the village should continue to fund social, health and economic programs, which include the Senior Center, Family Services, Teen Center and the Family Fitness Center. The total annual cost to operate these village services is nearly $2.6 million, per figures obtained from the village.

“I kind of thought there would be overwhelming affirmation on that,” Przybylo said March 15.

A preponderance of voters -- 64 percent -- sided with Przybylo by voting yes on a second advisory referendum question asking whether the village should take steps to enhance the Leaning Tower of Niles, the iconic half-sized replica of its Italian counterpart, and adjoining property. The Village Board voted last year to purchase the Leaning Tower of Niles from the YMCA of Metro Chicago and spend nearly $550,000 on repairs to the 94-foot-tall steel, stone and concrete structure on Touhy Avenue.

Lee V. Gaines is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Former classmates recall Garland’s time at Niles West

BY JOHN KEILMAN, ANGIE LEVENTIS

Former classmates recall Garland’s time at Niles West

Garland's friends and former schoolmates reacted with pride upon learning that President Barack Obama had nominated him for a seat on the nation's highest court. They recalled him as brilliant, kind and popular, successful at anything he tried, from winning the lead role in a school play to claiming a seat on the U.S. Supreme Court. They noted that Garland was set to give a speech at the White House this month, and that he would have ended up in a position like this, he said, recalling howGarland was a great role model to the students who controls the school.

Several classmates remembered an episode Obama referred to when introducing Garland at the White House. Garland, as student council president, was set to give a speech at the Niles West graduation in 1970, but first a fellow student gave an address that turned into a broadside against the Vietnam War.

That didn't go over well with the crowd of parents or the administration, and someone cut off the student's microphone, sparking protests among the students. When it was Garland's turn to speak, classmate Doug Mann recalled, he started with a famous free-speech epigram: "I might not agree with what you said, but I will defend your right to say it."

To Mann, that demonstrated a precocious sense of judiciousness. He hoped that Garland would get a chance to put that quality into practice on the high court, but he acknowledged that the politics of the situation — key Republican senators have pledged to block any Obama nomination — could make that difficult.

"This really was a goal, an ambition for him," Mann said. "To not have the opportunity to realize that because of some kind of politics that has nothing to do with this guy, that would really be a disservice."

Tribune reporter Robert McCoppin contributed.
Niles Taste of Sister Cities
‘building culture...in Niles’

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

The Niles Taste of Sister Cities event launched March 19 at the Niles Family Fitness Center in Niles after a hiatus of several years.

The Saturday evening event was a fundraiser for the Niles Sister Cities Association.

"Niles Sister Cities Association is a 501c3 organization committed to promoting Niles as a global village," the village’s website reads, "developing international partnerships, networking and sharing new information and ideas through municipal, business, professional, educational and cultural exchanges."

An estimated 300 tickets were sold, with folks enjoying entertainment such as Greek and Irish dancing plus foods representing Poland, Italy and more.

The Niles Fire Department prepared chili, bringing the tasty concoction in two large roasters. "It's a special recipe," Niles fire Chief Steve Borkowski said of the chili from the Dempster Street firehouse.

Niles Mayor Andrew Przybylo hammed it up with Miles from Niles, the traveling mascot of goodwill. Miles is a laminated flat figure that residents are encouraged to take along on travel, and post photos with him on social media from far-away places.

"It’s important to support Sister Cities because Sister Cities is all about learning about people from all corners of the world and it’s about building culture here in Niles," Przybylo said. "I’m glad people like to live here. I’m proud."

Przybylo will travel March 28 to Pisa, Italy with nine students from Notre Dame College Prep and Maine South High School along with chaperons Julie Genualdi of Niles, Niles Sister Cities Association vice president, and her husband Niles Deputy Police Chief Vince Genualdi.

The chaperoning Genualdis will bring their children too. Julie Genualdi is a police officer for the Park Ridge Police Department.

Last fall, students from Pisa, Italy, visited Niles and now local students are being hosted there.

Niles has been a longtime sister city with Pisa, and the anniversary of the Sister Cities partnership will be celebrated.

"It’s an exchange of cultures and keeping those cultures alive," Julie Genualdi said.

Karie Angell Luc is a freelancer for Pioneer Press.

New Illinois license plate would raise money for monarch butterfly

BY TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICES

A new bill proposing a special Illinois license plate to help preserve the monarch butterfly has been proposed in the Illinois state Senate.

The plan by state Sen. Melinda Bush, D-Grayslake, is to allow motorists to pay a surcharge for stickers to indicate their support for the monarch, the official insect of Illinois.

The monarch population in Illinois has decreased 90 percent in the past two decades because of changes in habitat.

Bush says monarchs need milkweed plants to lay eggs and feed. Interstate highway medians could be developed with the plant so the butterfly could visit the milkweeds with little outside distraction.

The plate would be the first to comply with a new specialty plate law that provides stickers to put on otherwise standardized plates for easy tracking by law enforcement.

The bill is SB2882.

Associated Press
The following items were taken from local reports. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt.

Skokie

BURGLARY
- A home in the 8600 block of Keeler Avenue was burglarized on March 12 sometime around 11:30 a.m., police said. A witness reportedly saw a white male in his 20s walking down the driveway carrying two bags. He was picked up by a light blue-colored minivan, police said.

THEFT
- A backpack was stolen from an unlocked locker at XSport Fitness on the 3400 block of Touhy Avenue on March 13 between 2 and 3:15 p.m., police said.
- Catalytic converters were stolen from vehicles parked in the 8000 block of Kildare Avenue and the 5000 block of Wright Terrace on March 10 and 11.
- Marisa M. Baraley-Jafar, 38, of the 49000 block of West Henderson Street, Chicago, was charged with retail theft in the 3300 block of Touhy Avenue on March 11.

CRIMINAL DAMAGE
- Someone used a piece of concrete to damage the windshield of a vehicle parked in the 4600 block of Jerome Street on March 12.
- A U.S. Postal Service mailbox in the 5000 block of Church Street was uprooted on March 11.
- Feces was found smeared on the door of a residence in the 8200 block of Kilpatrick Avenue on March 12.

DRUGS
- Mike Douaji, 32, of Del Ray Beach, Fla., was cited with possession of marijuana in the 8800 block of Forest View Road on March 11.
- On March 15, a 30-year-old man from Franklin Park was found asleep inside a car with a “blood-filled syringe” on the passenger seat next to him, police said. The car was parked in a lot on the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue. Police said the man was taken to Resurrection Medical Center and ticketed for the cost of emergency services.

Niles

BATTERY
- Kathleen Dagley, 36, of the 8700 block of Stolting Road, Niles, was charged with domestic battery and false reporting on March 15. She has a March 29 court date.

DRUGS
- Kathleen Dagley, 36, of the 8700 block of Stolting Road, Niles, was charged with possession of marijuana in the 8800 block of Forest View Road on March 11.

RETAIL THEFT
- Rosalia Vasquez, 43, of the 400 block of Clayton Avenue, Hillside, was charged with retail theft on March 10. She has an April 19 court date.
- Marisa M. Baraley-Jafar, 38, of the 49000 block of West Henderson Street, Chicago, was charged with retail theft in the 3300 block of Touhy Avenue on March 11.

Lincolnwood and Skokie, the other vehicle followed and revealed a silver handgun, Montgomery said. The victim told investigators that the offender fired one or two rounds at the victim's vehicle, Montgomery said. The victim wasn't hurt and the victim's vehicle wasn't damaged.

State police closed the westbound Touhy exit for about 30 minutes while they combed the ramp for evidence, according to Sgt. Jason Bradley. No shell casings were found, Bradley said. All lanes were reopened.

The incident remained under investigation.
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Lou Malnati’s expanding Lincolnwood location

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

Since the early 1970s when Lou Malnati’s opened its first restaurant in Lincolnwood, the booming popular Chicago-style pizza empire led by owner Marc Malnati has stayed loyal to its humble beginnings in its homely original location on East Prairie Road and Lincoln Avenue.

Perched in a snug corner surrounded by a residential area, the 8,400-square-foot Lou Malnati’s hasn’t changed much over the years to meet the increasing demand for delivery and carryout orders—until now.

Malnati, whose family owns a home behind the restaurant, could have left the neighborhood for a larger building that would have plenty of space, but instead of taking off, Malnati spent close to two years working out an expansion plan for his restaurant that both village officials and his backyard neighbors could agree on.

The goal of the expansion was to reduce congestion inside the restaurant lobby, where diners waiting for a table and customers picking up orders are crammed into a narrow lobby area.

“This location is the mecca of where it all started, and I think people like traveling to the first Malnati’s to see where the whole thing started,” Malnati said. “It’s a very solid business for us — it’s always maintained a high level of sales, so we’ve kept the tradition going.”

Neighbors’ concerns about increased traffic noise from the influx of delivery drivers who would be using an alley behind the restaurant where the property backs up to Lou Malnati’s were addressed by Malnati, who offered to build an eight-foot brick wall to shield the residences from the bustle of the restaurant.

Residents near the restaurant had met with Malnati and his business partners during a series of private meetings to discuss potential solutions, and the idea for the wall — which will serve as a barrier to noise and light for the adjoining properties — seems to have quelled the neighbors’ concerns.

About six residents who live in the east and north areas bordering the restaurant property attended a March 2 Plan Commission meeting, where they expressed concerns about noise, but none of those residents returned two weeks later at the March 15 Village Board where Malnati’s project plans were approved.

Mayor Jerry Turrty said the absence of the neighbors was proof that Malnati had found a solution they could agree on.

“It’s testimony to the fact the neighbors are not here that they did reach a chord after working hard to find a solution that could benefit both residential and commercial,” Turrty said.

The board issued Malnati the zoning variations and special use permits to allow the addition of a 1,100-square-foot space at the back of the property. As part of the village’s approval, Malnati can also knock down the home owned by his family at the north end of the property to build an extra parking area and the separate space for deliveries and carryout orders.

A final ordinance that will allow construction to begin will appear on the consent agenda at the April 5 Village Board meeting, according to Steven Elrod, attorney for the village of Lincolnwood.

The expansion is expected to be completed by the end of the year, according to Sasha Milosavljevich, director of facilities for Lou Malnati’s.

“I feel that we have really collaborated with our neighbors and developed this plan that is a win-win for the neighbors and for us,” Milosavljevich said.

While shiny new urban Lou Malnati’s locations have popped up all over the city, the exterior of the Lincolnwood restaurant has stayed mostly the same over the years.

The interior has undergone three large-scale renovations — none of which, however, have changed the original character of the restaurant Lou Malnati opened in 1971.

“I’d like to say the place looks relevant, but it looks like it has some years under itself,” Malnati said.

Lou Malnati scooped up the property from the former owner of Neccess’s Chicken in the Rough when it closed in the early 70s.

“Today, Lou Malnati’s Pizzeria has a kind of urban living: a mecca of where it all started, an interesting place to go for a quick meal. But it’s also a place to see where the first east side home owner was living in 1971,” Malnati said.

“I feel that we have really collaborated with our neighbors and developed this plan that is a win-win for the neighbors and for us,” Milosavljevich said.

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Floral Avenue housing project breaks ground on east side

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

When it comes to downtown Skokie’s housing project on historic Floral Avenue, “West Side Story” is now complete and its sequel, “East Side Story,” is under way.

StreetScape Development recently announced that it broke ground on construction of houses on the east side of Floral after selling all 12 houses on the west side. Streetscape CEO John McLenin called the beginning of “phase two” another exciting achievement for Floral Avenue.

“We’re thrilled about the momentum of the project and feeling energized by the community and everything that’s happening in downtown Skokie,” McLenin said.

StreetScape held a groundbreaking ceremony last month — its second after holding one before west side construction got under way — with key village officials and others in attendance.

The ceremony included Skokie Economic Development Specialist Leslie Murphy; Economic Development Coordinator Tom Thompson; Village Manager John Lockerby; Streetscape CEO and president John McLenin; and the first east side home owner and his property broker.

According to StreetScape, the east side part of the project will include eight homes, making the total project 20-home development. In total, Streetscape reported, the development is now 70 percent sold with six lots remaining.

StreetScape’s development for downtown Skokie has received much publicity since the company has aimed at fostering a return to the kind of urban living featuring close-knit neighborhoods made up of houses with front porches. It is such an effort to transform an older downtown street.

The village approached Streetscape after the developer completed a reinvention of downtown Skokie’s School Street, its first such project. In taking on Skokie as its second, the developer also moved its headquarters. No longer in Libertyville, Streetscape set up shop on Lincoln Avenue in Skokie only a short distance from the project.

The 20 Floral houses in Skokie range in price from about $500,000 to over $800,000, depending on size, amenities and location.

The pricing for houses on the east side starts at $509,000 for a three-bedroom, two-and-a-half-bath residence, the developer said. The houses are located close to each other, but Streetscape says they are built with maximum efficiency and with luxury features so that privacy can be maintained.

“The east side of Floral was originally to have a series of smaller ‘coach homes’ — a different option for prospective buyers than what’s available on the west side — but Streetscape scrapped that plan and said there was not much interest in it.”

McLenin said the first east side house in expected to be completed in the summer.
Angered by Trump's rhetoric, groups launch poster campaign

BY LEE V. GAINES
Pioneer Press

Religious and social justice organizations rallied March 20 and fanned out across Evanston asking business owners to put up posters in their windows that denounce Muslim profiling and welcome refugees into their establishments.

"We want a visual reminder for everyone going through Evanston that Evanston is not a community that supports hate or religious bigotry," said Lesley Williams, an Evanston resident and the organizer of a previous rally held in December.

In the months since that first rally, Williams said the presidential primary and particularly the campaign of Republican front-runner Donald Trump, has continued to be the source of a lot of hateful rhetoric directed toward Muslims and undocumented immigrants.

"The continual onslaught is very intimidating to a lot of people of Muslim, Middle Eastern or Latin American backgrounds and contributes to this feeling that they don't belong and are not a part of the American landscape," said Williams, a member of Jewish Voices for Peace-Chicago — one of the groups that organized the March 20 event.

"Donald Trump is reprehensible, but what's more reprehensible is the millions of people following him," the Rev. Michael Nabors told the crowd of roughly 100 people at the rally in Evanston's Fountain Square.

Tahera Ahmad, a chaplain at Northwestern University, expressed her dismay about the recent defacement of the school's Alice Millar Chapel.

A slur against African-Americans, a swastika and a derogatory word for homosexuals were found painted inside the nondenominational chapel.

Lines were also spray-painted over pictures of Muslim students and the word "Trump" was painted in a stairwell. Two Northwestern students were charged in connection with the incident.

"These two young men put up these racial slurs against everyone and not just one community or another," Ahmad said. "We stand together for all of us, not just for one community."

Naushina Rahman, a member of Chicago's Muslim Community Center and a teacher at Elgin High School who canvassed several downtown Evanston businesses, said she believes Trump's campaign has acted as a catalyst for the hateful rhetoric that people of color and minority groups have always known existed in the country. More people feel comfortable openly expressing racist and bigoted views because of his campaign, she said.

Several speakers applauded the March 11 cancellation of Trump's rally at the University of Illinois at Chicago Pavilion amid clashes between Trump backers and protesters.

"We, as a city, Evanston, Chicago and the suburbs, when Donald Trump came to this town, we rose our voices and chased him away," said Renner Larson, communications director for the Council on American-Islamic Relations Chicago.

"But he still won in the Illinois (Republican) primary."

Larson urged attendees to get involved in the democratic process, to campaign for candidates who inspire them and to form relationships with their local officials.

"We are not pretending any one protest is going to change things," said Williams, who added that she plans to hold more rallies in Evanston, neighboring suburbs and Chicago.

Lee V. Gaines is a freelancer for Pioneer Press.

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Psychiatric hospital proposed for Northbrook

Fourth fire station may be needed

BY IRV LEAVITT
Pioneer Press

A proposed new psychiatric hospital in Northbrook could bring high-demand services to those in a mental health crisis, local mental health advocates say.

But that 75-bed Northbrook Behavioral Hospital could also increase demand for emergency services in a village that's been waiting for signs of when it might need a fourth fire station, according to the village's police and fire chiefs.

US HealthVest, a New York company, is asking for zoning changes to allow a $17.5 million refit of a vacant 66,000-square-foot building at 4201 Lake-Cook Road, across the highway from Deerfield. The company was expected to present plans to Northbrook trustees for the facility, which would care for people with depression, anxiety disorders, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia, on March 22.

"There's a severe shortage of psychiatric beds," said Nancy Carstedt, head of the local chapter of the National Alliance on Mental Illness. "We have people coming to the ER and staying there a day or two, until they're sent down to Chicago or some other suburb." The proposed facility's demands, however, could impact Northbrook emergency services, according to January memos sent from Police Chief Chuck Wernick and Fire Chief Jose Torres to village planning staff.

In his Jan. 22 memo, Torres estimated there would be 69 to 78 annual service calls - mostly for ambulances - to the hospital, based on the experience of another US HealthVest facility, Des Plaines' Chiuch Behavioral Hospital. Northbrook police reported that Des Plaines officers fielded 70 calls from that hospital in the first six months of 2015.

Meanwhile, about 1,000 new homes in Northbrook are under construction or likely to be approved, and the village is considering approval of an expansion of the Lodge senior housing complex, which generated 77 fire department calls last year, according to the village.

"At this point, it's very premature to say whether either of those facilities will call for it (a fourth fire station)," Torres said March 14 of the proposed psychiatric hospital and senior housing expansion. "It's something that's on my radar."

Two Northbrook fire stations built in 1996 cost a total of $2.2 million, according to previous Pioneer Press reports.

Northbrook Trustee Todd Heller said "there's a need" for the psychiatric beds, but the number of potential calls to local emergency personnel from a new psychiatric hospital is "concerning."

Additional calls could lengthen fire department response times to emergencies, he said.

Those times are already rising.

Average department arrivals to locations on surface streets have ticked up each of the last five years, from 5 minutes and 13 seconds in the fiscal year ending in April 2011, to 5 minutes and 35 seconds in 2015, according to department records.

An October 2014 department report warned that if the average hits 6 minutes, it should trigger a decision to build a fourth station.

In the small area of town where the hospital would be located, responders reached 123 calls in an average of 6 minutes and 7 seconds in the last fiscal year, according to the department's annual report.

If that pace of calls holds steady, and if Torres' estimate of the number of potential calls from the proposed psychiatric hospital is correct, there could be as many as 202 calls per year. That figure does not include potential calls from the new Northbrook Memory Care Alzheimer's center, which opened a few months ago.

That total is more than all but three of the village's 87 other measurement areas, according to the annual fire department report.

Since the area is on the edge of town, partially blocked by two expressways, it's often served by neighboring departments, the fire department's division chief Tim Cassidy said. The 2014 report indicated another station might be needed if such mutual-aid ambulance help, village-wide, reached 180 per year.

Last year, Northbrook received ambulance help 106 times, with the previous four years averaging 72, according to department data.

Though Northbrook firefighters and police might respond to extra calls at the psychiatric hospital, Carstedt said a new psychiatric facility might make it easier on local emergency personnel because both fire and police are on the front lines of dealing with mentally ill people. That includes responding to any conflicts they have with conventional hospital employees, she said.

Deerfield Police Chief John Sliozis said more nearby beds could make it easier on his officers.

"Any increase in the number of beds is a positive thing," he said.

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Teacher and advocate for those with autism honored

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

There are plenty of venues where Gloria Iverson of Skokie has made a positive impact on those she sees day in and day out. Iverson is a special education teacher in Evanston and the owner of the Mini Man Monkey Brains candy store and Nixie Events and Gallery in downtown Skokie, both created to help children on the autism spectrum.

People who know her - either at Skokie/Evanston School District 65 in Evanston where she teaches or through her two Skokie businesses or somewhere else in her busy life - have been singing her praises for a long time. Now Cook County is singing with them.

Iverson recently was named an "Unsung Heroine" by the Cook County Commission on Women's Issues. Representing Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin's 13th District, Iverson received the award from Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle.

MINI MAN MONKEY BRAINS, the penny candy store opened in 2014 and immediately employed people on the autism spectrum. When the store moved to a new downtown location, Iverson opened the Nixie Gallery right beside it. Iverson has said the newer gallery serves multiple purposes. It provides an opportunity for talented local artists to show and sell their work. But it also generates revenue to increase the pay for children with autism who work for therapeutic reasons at the candy store next door, she said.

In recognizing Iverson, the commission also noted that she volunteers as the cross-country coach for the Niles West High School feeder program and has provided religious education for special needs children at Queen of All Saints.

When Pioneer Press visited Nixie shortly after it opened last year, Iverson said she had more big ideas. Under consideration, she said then, is acquiring property that is currently for sale on Howard Street.

"I would love to have an urban farm there with goats and chickens and bees," she said. "What would be lovely is if we could help people with traumatic brain injury, including returning veterans, and give them a sense of purpose and vocational training."

According to Cook County, the Peggy Montes Unsung Heroine Awards go to those who contribute to their communities, families and professional endeavors.

The county presents the award to 18 women, one from each district and one countywide.

"This award, consistent with the purpose of Women's History Month, is designed to recover and tell the story of the powerful impact women have had throughout history on the development of our social, cultural, economic and political institutions," the county said. "In this spirit, the county honors these remarkable women."

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Park Ridge students raise $124,300 at annual event

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Holding the pony tail that until recently had been attached to her head, a newly bald Erin Costigan stepped off the barber's chair looking a little stunned, but also smiling happily.

The 8th-grader at Lincoln Middle School in Park Ridge was one of about 170 students and staff members who had parted with their hair as part of a St. Baldrick's schoolwide fundraiser March 18. The shaving event, which drew loud cheers and screams from classmates and turned parents into paparazzi as their children went under the electric razor, raised more than $124,300 for the St. Baldrick's Foundation, teacher and organizer Jim Tebo said.

"This group of kids, this community and this staff is just amazing," Tebo said. "For the last six weeks, the staff has done an outstanding job motivating the kids, pushing the kids, keeping the kids going. And the kids have responded by doing everything they can to keep fundraising." According to its website, the St. Baldrick's Foundation invests money in childhood cancer research being conducted at institutions across the world. To accompany their donations, many who participate in St. Baldrick's fundraisers volunteer to have their heads shaved to shave support for children undergoing cancer treatment, the foundation says.

Lincoln's first St. Baldrick's fundraiser took place in May 2011 - the same year Tebo's daughter, Alicia, who is now in college, was diagnosed with cancer. A second fundraiser and head shaving followed in 2013.

"When we first talked about this as a staff (this year), our goal was to try to make $75,000 - we wanted to match what we made last time," Tebo said. "The dream was to make $100,000. To raise almost $125,000 is just unbelievable.

Over the three St. Baldrick's fundraisers held in 2011, 2013 and 2016, more than $200,000 has been raised by the school for the foundation, according to Tebo.

Much of the money students raised this year was accomplished thanks to social media and help from parents and other family members, he said.

Some students found other ways to bring in additional bucks. Eighth-grader Brittany Wisowaty said she and friends Molly Honan, Fiona Maloney, Mackenzie Kron and Caroline Tully hosted a bake sale with brownies and other treats they made from scratch. They held it outside the Park Ridge Presbyterian Church across the street from Lincoln and raised $175 in one day, Wisowaty said.

"Every penny helps," she said. "One penny could be the difference in finding a cure." Lincoln's top individual fundraiser was 8th-grader Jack Folan, himself a cancer survivor who, at 10, had been diagnosed with Langhans cell histiocytosis, said his mother, Ann. Jack raised $2,720, according to the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

Jack said having a lot of Facebook friends helped his mom get the word out to many people that he was collecting donations for cancer research. He also grew his hair for three months so he'd have a lot to cut off, Ann said.

"This was a really big deal for him," she said. "He couldn't stop (cancer) from happening to him, but maybe he can help the next kid."

The second-highest Lincoln contributor, according to the foundation, was Vasilios Loutrianakis, who raised $2,065. Loutrianakis said he got a lot of help from his grandfather - who used networking to get donations - and other family members in Greece.

"I was really happy because I was supporting a really good cause," he said. "My aunt recently got cancer, so it felt really good to get all this money."

In addition to the $445 she raised, Erin Costigan said she plans to donate her severed 12-inch ponytail to Locks of Love, which makes wigs for children who have suffered hair loss because of cancer treatments or other medical reasons.

Catch Jennifer Johnson on Twitter @JenniferJohnson
Couple makes home out of former museum

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

For nearly a year, Mike and Kathy Marrese had been thinking about trading their mid-century, split-level house near Park Ridge's Maine Park for something more vintage.

"We always wanted to move closer to Uptown and ideally find an old Victorian," Mike Marrese said. "It got to be October and I said to my wife, 'We'll probably have to wait until the spring now, because of the holidays.'"

That's when an article in the Park Ridge Herald-Advocate caught Kathy Marrese's eye: A house that had served as the Park Ridge Historical Society museum for 26 years was up for sale.

"We made an appointment with the Realtor right away," she said. "When we walked in, we said, 'This house is awesome.'"

The next day, the Marrees made a bid and on March 8 they officially became the new owners.

"We're not knocking it down," Mike Marrese said. "We're going to rehab the inside, and the exterior will stay the same. There are some upgrades we need to do ... (but) we're going to keep all the hardwood floors and the molding."

"We're trying to keep the historic character of the home," his wife said.

The exact age of the house isn't clear with various sources putting its construction anywhere between 1880 and 1899. Whatever the year, it's vintage enough for the Marrees.

"We like the style of older homes and they're just built really good," Mike Marrese said, adding that he is still interested in seeing how the house looked when it was new. The couple say they are hoping to find historic photographs and obtain a local landmark designation.

Kathy Marrese described living in the house as "very comfortable."

"There are no spirits floating around or anything, considering how old it is," she said with a chuckle.

After extensive renovations, the Park Ridge Historical Society rented the house from 1983 to 2009, turning it into a local museum that was open for tours for a number of years. Items inside ranged from the personal library of George Carpenter, Park Ridge's first village president, to china from Park Ridge's Tally-Ho restaurant, according to the historical society.

Docents, said former President Paul Adlaf, "would speak to the times in Park Ridge and the artifacts on display. It was a nice pleasant visit to Park Ridge history."

The society moved out in 2009 after finding it cost-prohibitive to keep renting and paying property taxes, utilities and upkeep, Adlaf said. He appeared pleased that the house, which had initially been marketed as a tear-down opportunity, won't be replaced with new construction.

"I think it's a great moment for residential historic preservation," he said.

"Some people thought it was going to turn into another parking lot or be torn down for a multiresidential place. But lo and behold, someone comes along and says 'I want it,' takes action, and makes it happen."

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Fighting Parkinson's disease through boxing

BY JACKIE PILOSSOPH
Pioneer Press

Lynn Braun doesn't hold back when she hits the bag, and the look on her face while she's boxing resembles the look of a fighter. Describing the exercise class she takes a few times a week at Glenview's Falcon Boxing Gym as "hard and challenging," the 62 year-old really is fighting. She's fighting Parkinson's disease.

"The high intensity intervals and balance work is supposed to lessen the symptoms and slow down progression of the disease," said Braun, who was diagnosed with Parkinson's in 2012.

The Deerfield resident is one of several students who participate in Rock Steady Boxing, a fitness class designed to improve the quality of life for those with Parkinson's.

The one-hour class is taught by Nelson Ibarra, a certified personal trainer and certified Rock Steady Boxing trainer, and consists of boxing, weight training, functional movement training, balance work, other cardio exercises and stretching.

Ibarra, a boxing trainer for four years, said balance and grip strength are two focuses of Rock Steady Boxing.

"Maintaining balance is very important for those with Parkinson's, so we teach students the boxing stance, which is a perfectly balanced stance that gives you a lot of leverage in your legs and teaches you how to move in a balanced way," Ibarra said. "Grip strength is also important, and with punching, you are developing grip strength and bone density. That strength helps them in their ability to do everyday activities."

Rock Steady Boxing is an Indianapolis-based program that was founded in 2006 by former Marion County prosecutor Scott Newman, who has Parkinson's.

"I knew the class would fit well within our mission at the gym alongside Jordan's Corner," gym owner Dan Falcon said, referring to a boxing program at the facility for special needs children. "I attended the training course in Indiana and I was hooked."

The former NFL player said Rock Steady Boxing classes are available six times a week, and have produced "amazing results" so far.

"We get to hear about results every week," he said. "One of our students just told me her doctor told her it's as if she doesn't have Parkinson's. The athletes have a built-in support system, so besides the physical training, they are healing mentally. It is truly inspiring."

"No one treats you like you're ill," Braun said. "You walk in here and you are a regular person. Everyone here is going through the same thing. It's a support group, but you're not sitting around talking about your problems. You're moving while you're feeling the connection."

Allen Dub, 66, of Highland Park was diagnosed with Parkinson's nine years ago, and said he has been coming to Rock Steady Boxing three times a week for several months.

"It helps with coordination, balance, and quick movements, and it teaches you skills that impact your daily living as someone with Parkinson's," Dub said. "This has been proven to work," said Robert Klein of Highland Park, who also has Parkinson's. "I'm going to feel better after this class and hopefully I'm slowing down the progress. That's the goal."
Is violence the new normal?

I saw on the news the other night a group of women airline passengers punching and kicking each other.

Traffic fatalities are caused by aggressive driving.
- Half of drivers on the receiving end of aggressive behavior, such as rude gestures, honking, tailgating admit to responding in kind.
- Thirty-seven percent of aggressive driving incidents involve a firearm.

So, in some weird sense, that bike-riding victim was lucky. He wasn't shot. But the road is not the only place that rage exists. I saw on the news the other night a group of women airline passengers punching and kicking each other.

Why?
- One of the women was blasting music. Someone complained. The result was violence.

Such video clips are a nightly fixture on TV newscasts.
A Chicago rally for Trump was recently called off. Why? The potential for violence between Trumpers and anti-Trumpers.
I can't prove it, but I feel violence has become a part of just about everything we Americans do - sporting events, politics, driving, religion, race and ethnicity, school rivalries and disrespect in personal relationships.

Am I wrong?
So, I guess I can't blame Donald Trump for injecting violence into elections. He isn't a cause, but just another symptom of our willingness to use violence in relating to others.

That bike rider was right when he said, "From now on, I'm going to watch what I say to people. That somehow is related to violence either for or against me."

Perhaps we have a new Golden Rule: Do nothing unto others and maybe the others won't do unto you.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

How did American politics get to where we are today?

As I watch this presidential election year unfold, I'm beginning to know how Theodore H. White felt covering the 1976 campaign in preparation for his next book in his still classic series "The Making of the President."

He had written of four previous campaigns, and after 20 years felt he didn't understand what had happened in America. "I suddenly realized the politics I had been covering all my life had nothing to do with the real or underlying politics of today."

White went back to the beginning and wrote his classic book, "In Search of History: A Personal Adventure."

I started covering local politics during the rise of President Ronald Reagan. As I watch this campaign unfold, I see a disconnect between the politics of the past and the underlying politics that affects everyday life. Of course, I'm talking about the rise of Donald Trump, who last week won the Illinois Republican primary on his steadfast march to be the GOP nominee for president.

I initially speculated that Trump would burn out. I still think he is a buffoon and in the American tradition of the Know-Nothings of the mid-19th century. But the prospect of him being the nominee for president of a major American political party is mind-boggling.

Trump is an empty suit - no policy, no plans and no knowledge. He is neither conservative nor liberal. He has supported policies that would enrich him.

At best he is an empty suit. At worst a blowhard whose main argument is that the game is fixed, the rules that enriched him hurt regular Americans. His solution? Elect him.
Both parties should find that familiar.

Why are so many Americans responding to him?
The best answer I've found was given by British journalist Tim Stanley writing in the Telegraph.

Trump, he says, is the symptom of a republic in decline, of institutional failure. He is the result of the angry nihilism of the right - think Tea-Party and Congressional obstructionists - and the authoritarianism of the left - think campus mob action to deny speakers with whom they disagree - combined with the corruption of the political class, where politicians do and say anything to get elected.

Trump, Stanley writes, "did not take America to war in Iraq on flimsy evidence, establish Guantanamo in contravention of human rights law, license the torture of enemy combatants, oversee theigan-

tuan NSA data-gathering operation, launch a dirty war of drone strikes against both terrorists and those unfortunate enough to live near them, undermine the religious freedoms of employees who do not want to subsidize the sex lives of their workers, overrule the states' wishes on marriage, compel citizens to buy healthcare products or deport thousands of illegals through aggressive round-ups."

Who wanted all that? Yet that has been our policy of the last 16 years, backed by the political establishment of both stripes.

Getting back to White ... History, he said, is the intersection of forces and ideas. It is where one man can take an idea and ride it through to his desire to impose their will on those around them.

Who is that man? Are we at the intersection of time in history that makes Trump possible?

It is frightening to ponder the possibilities.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
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Raccoon reminds us of suburban wildlife

Every once in a while, I'll go to a late movie with a friend of mine, who is also a big movie fan. It's not unusual to come home around or even after midnight, depending on how long the movie is.

A couple of weeks ago, my friend pulled in my driveway to drop me off. We chatted a bit, and then I moved to open the car door.

A couple of seconds later, though, I yelled. I mean YELLED.

Out of the corner of my eye, when I was just about to exit the car, I spotted a raccoon that looked to be about the size of my 1-year-old Labrador retriever. It was the biggest raccoon I've ever seen, and it was walking across my neighbor's yard and onto my driveway.

My friend and I watched in fascination (her) and terror (me) as the giant raccoon ambled up the driveway and looked to hide under my boxwood bushes.

"I'm not going anywhere. There's no way I'm going into the house now," I told my friend.

Sure enough, and probably not fairly, I made her talk to me for another 10 or 15 minutes and also asked her to flash her lights on my driveway. I got out of the car then, and seriously ran up the driveway and my front stairs faster than I've moved in years.

Not long afterward, I was talking with another friend, catching up on news, when she started telling me the story of a huge raccoon that she's seen around the neighborhood. It freaked her out because it was so big, she said.

After we swapped raccoon tales that were more like fish tales (It was "THIS BIG") we asked around and talked to other people in our area and found at least two others who have spotted BigFourFeet, as I've taken to calling it.

I complained about the pest to my older son, who is majoring in wildlife at college, and he gently reminded me that the suburbs aren't just made up of nice homes and tree-lined streets: this is a habitat, with wildlife all around us.

We see birds and squirrels (and dogs on leashes, of course) every day, but it is kind of funny that we point and stare when we spot a fox, coyote or, for that matter, a giant raccoon. Coyotes have been more numerous in the western suburbs in recent years and generally seem to mind their own business if you stay out of it, but that doesn't stop me from saying "LOOK! A coyote!" whenever I spot one trotting down the sidewalk, as if it's an elephant or giraffe.

Speaking of elephants and giraffes, the outdoor season is sort of upon us, so it's a good time to venture back to favorite official habitats like those at the Brookfield Zoo and local nature centers. Coming face to face with creatures in our midst is a good reminder that we share the planet with some pretty interesting living beings.

Except for 80-pound raccoons.
Don’t forget the freezer on Passover

Spring is in the air, and with it comes a mighty freeze and thaw cycle. Don’t be a silly goose and think even for a moment that I’m talking about the weather. I’m referring to the food preparations for Passover.

Show me a woman hosting a Seder, and I will point to a Sub-Zero stocked and overflowing with a pre-cooked, pre-sliced brisket. A closer glance at the contents behind that stainless steel door is sure to reveal frozen chicken soup, a couple of dozen matzo balls, two noodle kugels and a panoply of flour-free baked goods.

If women hosting Passover have learned one thing from the Exodus story; it’s never to be caught without at least 40 days worth of food stocked and ready to go. I’m convinced that if the Jewish women of yore had access to insulated totes, none of us would be choking down matzo. Who doesn’t have a frozen challah in her freezer?

This cryo-crazed phenomenon came to my attention in February, when my Aunt Audrey called to invite me to her Seder. She needed to know, “Do you want brisket or chicken?”

Looking at my calendar, I paused. “Isn’t Passover in late April this year?” I asked. “Yes,” she acknowledged. “Can you be here at 5 on Friday?”

To be clear, she was securing a start time for Friday, April 22. Most days, I make it to 5 p.m. before knowing what I’m having for dinner. Aunt Audrey wanted an entree commitment three months ahead of time for a meal that is so ritualized that the unspoken fifth question is, “Whole wheat or egg matzo?”

“Aunt Audrey,” I asked, “are you cooking this whole meal ahead of time?”

What a naive question. She assured me with pride that her entire menu would be coming out of the freezer.

Was this the norm? In the name of research, I asked my awesome friend Lynda, who is 73 years old and kicks my affikomen on a bike. “Do you cook and freeze for Passover?” “Oh yeah. Matzo balls? You don’t want to get involved with that when you got 25 to 30 people coming. In fact, I should have three freezers,” she said.

How had I missed this memo from the Sisterhood? Apparently, every Jewish freezer should be stocked with an entire banquet of Pesach food — literally, ready to go.

I texted some of my Easter-celebrating friends and inquired whether they, too, did the freeze and thaw. To paraphrase their replies: How hard is it to cook a ham and open a bag of jelly beans?

Before I get letters of complaint, let’s be clear. On my birth certificate, I’m Sally Schwartz. My beloved baby sitter, Kelly O’Hara, celebrated a Bat Mitzvah. It’s impossible to know who’s opening a fresh package of Peeps, and who’s defrosting macaroons. For all we know, Whoopi Goldberg has a freezer full of brisket and her Passover table has been set for weeks.

Good news, Whoopi. I’m free the second night. What time works?
Orchestra pays tribute to Georg Solti

Two-day fest celebrates late CSO director

By Dorothy Andries

A member of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra once said of its late music director, Sir Georg Solti, "You could feel him coming weeks before he arrived." And though the mighty maestro died in 1997, his legacy remains a musical treasure to this day, and a civic one as well. There is a bust of him just south of the Art Institute of Chicago, across Michigan Avenue from Symphony Center, where he was music director from 1969 to 1991. His widow, Lady Valerie Solti, established the Solti Foundation to benefit young conductors and its United States branch is located at the Evanston-based Music Institute of Chicago.

Philip Simmons, founder and music director of the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra, is celebrating the Solti heritage with a two-day festival April 3 and 4 at the Copernicus Center. Soloists include two musicians hired by Solti, former CSO violinist Albert Igolnikov and the orchestra's assistant principal clarinetist John Bruce Yeh.

"My relationship with Sir Georg Solti was a quiet, passive one," said Simmons, who is also artistic director of American Music Festivals and resident conductor of the Orchestra of the Hawaiian Islands. "It was just out of college and I often sat in the back of Orchestra Hall and watched Sir Georg at work." He means rehearsals as well as concerts, a bonus resulting from his conducting studies with Michael Morgan, Solti-appointed assistant conductor of the CSO.

Simmons will lead his Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra in the first of the festival's two concerts.

"We've chosen works that relate to Maestro Solti's heritage and his career with a strong emphasis on Hungarian composers," he said. That includes "Romanian Folk Dances" by Bela Bartok and "Angelus" by Franz Liszt, as well as an aria from Emmerich Kalman's operetta "Gypsy Princess.

Divertimento No. 1 for strings by Leo Weiner concludes the afternoon program. "We wanted something by Weiner because he was one of Solti's teachers at the Franz Liszt Academy," Simmons said.

Of particular note are the guest appearances by violinist Igolnikov and clarinetist Yeh. Igolnikov, who before becoming the CSO's assistant principal second violin in 1979 played for more than two decades with the Leningrad Philharmonic Orchestra under the baton of Russian Yevgeny Mravinsky, will play "Chaconne" by Tomaso Antonio Vitali and Giuseppe Tartini's Violin Concerto in D Minor. Yeh, who in 1977 became the youngest musician ever to be appointed by Solti, will perform the first movement of Carl Maria von Weber's Clarinet Concerto.

"I'd only been with the orchestra for two years when I was appointed to the audition committee," said Yeh.

Yeh recalled Igolnikov's first performance of the Brahms Violin Concerto with the orchestra was "rendered with the style and confidence of a 20-year veteran of the Soviet Union's greatest symphonic ensembles.

"After the concert, Solti addressed Igolnikov in the maestro's heavily Hungarian-accented English, which drew a blank expression from the violinist," Yeh continued. "Solti then switched to German, and Albert responded.

"Solti asked the violinist his age, which was several decades older than the other musicians vying for admission. But then he said to the audition committee, "My dear, this is a very special musician. We must not pass up this extraordinary talent"

Yeh congratulated Igolnikov in Russian, which he had studied at the Los Angeles High School for the Arts. "It was the day that changed my life," he said, "and the beginning of a deep and abiding friendship.

Yeh and Igolnikov established the Chicago Pro Musica in 1980, together with pianist and composer Easley Blackwood, plus additional members of the Chicago Symphony. Members of Chicago Pro Musica will perform the second concert in the Solti Festival, playing Tchaikovsky's Piano Trio and the Brahms Clarinet Quintet.

Igolnikov, who played in the Chicago Symphony Orchestra until 2013, speaks of his career with intense emotion. "I had the good fortune to play under two of the world's greatest conductors with two legendary orchestras," he said. "The first was Yevgeny Mravinsky in the Leningrad Philharmonic. When I was there we played in 250 cities in the world. "Then in the United States I played with the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, which became world famous under Sir Georg Solti," he continued. "He united the whole community of Chicago. He was an inspiration."

It was a Chicago Pro Musica concert in the Glinka Philharmonic Hall in Saint Petersburg, in memory of Mravinsky that sparked Igolnikov's imagination. "I thought we should have a festival in Chicago honoring Solti," he said. "He was a great mentor to me and to so many musicians who are still in the Chicago Symphony."

Both Yeh and Igolnikov had played as soloists with the Lincolnwood Chamber Orchestra, and Yeh toured with the ensemble several times, so the collaboration with Simmons was a natural.

Five hundred of the 2,000 seats at the Copernicus Center concerts will be set aside free to Chicago children, Igolnikov said. "We want young people to know about Solti, too," he said.
'Laughing Matters' looks at Carol Burnett's best

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

If you think that "Laughing Matters" — and who doesn't — you won't want to miss Hilary Ann Feldman's tribute to one of America's comic treasures, Carol Burnett, April 3 at the Skokie Theatre.

The show, which is subtitled "The Life and Laughs of Carol Burnett," recreates segments of some of Burnett's funniest routines, offers a view into the comedienne's complex life and features songs associated with her. "Laughing Matters" played to packed houses during performances at Davenport's last May and November.

"Originally, I was going to do a show about funny women but, as I started my research, the only funny woman I really related to and personally remember so well is Carol," Feldman said.

She spent a year researching and writing this show. "I read every book that's ever been written by her or about her," the cabaret artist said. "I watched a lot of old interviews."

Through her research, Feldman located a list of all of the songs sung on "The Carol Burnett Show" during its 1967-1978 run.

The name of Ken Welch jumped out. "He wrote a lot of special material for her over the years and he was her vocal coach when she was in New York," Feldman related.

She was particularly interested in using one of his songs for the show so Feldman contacted Welch about getting the music. "He told Carol about my show and then Carol called me," Feldman said. "So I got to talk to Carol on the phone. Best research ever!"

Feldman praised the contributions of music director Beckie Menzie. "She's such a huge part of this show," Feldman declared. "She helps with musical arrangements but she's also the person I bounce ideas off of." And Menzie often plays scene partner to Feldman.

"I think that how Hilary uses me is as a part of an idea generation team," Menzie explained. "She really wants to find out how the person ticks. She has so much info that she wants to share!"

Menzie indicated that she serves as both a sounding board and editor, ensuring that the audience isn't overwhelmed with information and that the show follows a clear path.

Menzie's onstage roles, in addition to accompanying Feldman on piano, include singing as herself, being part of a Lucille Ball/Carol Burnett duo and portraying "All the foils," Menzie revealed. "I am Vickie Lawrence, I am Tim Conway, I am Harvey Korman."

There were many things Feldman enjoyed learning about her subject. "One of them was how unbelievably nice she is," Feldman said. That was reconfirmed when she received a note from the comedienne inviting Feldman to visit her backstage after one of Burnett's Chicago Theatre shows in May.

Feldman also learned that, despite the trials and tragedies Burnett sometimes faced, "She seemed to always be able to find the fun in her life."
The parody is the thing for Skokie Theatre show

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Some people complain about their pains and problems. Singer/songwriter Scott Urban uses life’s burps as fodder for his hilarious parodies. Urban will share some fan favorites when he presents, “And the Parody Lingers On,” April 2 at the Skokie Theatre.

Urban was a 15-year-old working in his dad’s drugstore when he first heard Allan Sherman’s parody record, “My Son, the Folk Singer” on the radio. “I stopped at a record store on the way home to buy the album,” Urban recalled. “I was hooked.”

Urban said that he always felt that making people laugh was “the highest attainable goal. To do it in rhyme and rhythm was sheer genius.”

Since then, the prolific lyricist has written hundreds of parodies, including one every morning for two years for his then girlfriend and now wife Karen Morby.

Almost anything can inspire an Urban parody although his focus has shifted in recent years. “Now a lot of it’s about growing older, being heavy and my pet peeves — like Andrew Lloyd Webber or rotten drivers,” he said.

Thirteen of his parodies are on Urban’s new CD, also called “…and the parody lingers on.” Each audience member will receive a free copy of the CD.

Urban has invited Carla Gordon and Pam Peterson to perform. He declared they each “consistently write brilliant parodies.”

Gordon wrote her first parody when she was 14 because, “I wanted to make my father laugh.” It worked and Gordon’s parodies have been making audiences laugh every since. That included her hugely popular adult parody show, “Don’t Bring the Kids.”

For the Skokie show, Gordon will sing her updated version of “Strangers in the Night” about Internet-arranged first dates. Urban will join her in a duet. Gordon wrote about how they met at Myron and Phil’s, to the tune of “Yes, I Remember It Well.” She will also perform one of her serious songs.

Peterson also exhibited her talent at a young age. “Then, for therapeutic reasons, I started writing songs about aging,” she said. Peterson’s solo rendition of her parody, “Memory,” has been viewed nearly seven million times on YouTube.

In 2004, Peterson paired up with Jan Slavin as the Boomer Babes. Together they perform parodies about facets of aging, most often written by Peterson.

“She really is the brains behind the operation,” Slavin declared. “I think I execute things really well and I give ideas and sometimes I’ll even think of the song but she’s the queen parodist.”

Scott Urban
BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Your family will have extra fun for no extra cost at Spring Skate, Bunny Hop, from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. March 26 at IceLand Skate Complex, 8435 Ballard, Niles.

"It's our public skate leading up to the Easter holiday," said Marty Stankowicz, manager of IceLand. "We'll have our two mascots out there -- Puck and Tiny -- and then we'll have an Easter Bunny. Toward the end we'll have an Easter Egg Scramble. We put a whole bunch of eggs on the ice. It's a mad rush to pick up as many eggs as you can."

The faster skaters have to travel farther to gather their eggs. In addition to treat-filled plastic eggs, there will be a couple of golden eggs for special prizes.

The first 50 children that arrive will receive small goody bags filled with candy.

The drop-in event is for kids of all ages and adults. Admission is the regular fee of $5; skate rental is $3.

For details, call 847-297-8010 or go to www.niles.parks.org.

Looking back

Fossil hunter Lisa Zago will share the story of the time when dinosaurs reigned during BOOMbox Earth: Dinosauria, from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. March 29 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. The event is for kindergartners through fifth graders. Parents of children under 8 must remain in the library during the program. Registration is required.

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

Progress report

Renovation is in process at the Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. You and your children can find out what's been done so far at Storytime with Construction Abe from 10 to 10:30 a.m. April 2. All ages are welcome at this drop-in program.

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

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Questions?
Email metromix@metromix.com
Three high school seniors who received scholarship awards from the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra were honored at the orchestra's March 16 concert at the Pickwick Theatre in Park Ridge.

Nicholas Brown, violin; Leevy Williams, cello; and Anthony Dare, clarinet were the 2016 scholarship recipients. Williams and Dare are co-winners of the PRCO Scholarship that is underwritten by the Rotary Club of Park Ridge, named the Rotary International Educational Scholarship. Brown's PRCO Scholarship is the J. Mark Waltz Memorial Scholarship, underwritten by Karin Waltz in honor of her late husband, J. Mark Waltz, a long-time member of the PRCO bass section.

Students have been a focus of the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra since its beginning when orchestra founders Edgar and Nancy Muenzer established the annual student scholarship auditions. Over the years the orchestra has given over $30,000 to high school seniors for financial support to continue their musical studies at the college level.

The Park Ridge Civic Orchestra with special guest violinist Rachel Barton Pine performs at 7:30 p.m. April 7 at the North Shore Center for Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Tickets and information at www.parkridgecivicorchestra.org.
Mel's Kitchen: Turn leftover Easter ham into sloppily delicious sandwiches Page 3

A smarter spring break Make that vacation a time of learning something fun Page 14
Mary Circle members share tips for a smooth Easter dinner

By Judy Buchenot | Naperville Sun

If it's your turn to have the family over for Easter dinner this year, the pressure is on to create the perfect feast. When looking for a few pointers, it's best to turn to those who have been there, baked that, burned that and now know what works. Home cooks like the women from Grace United Methodist Church's Mary Circle are great resources.

At a recent meeting at Erma Bryan's Naperville home, circle member Ann Mitchell said of the group's purpose, "We get together for prayer and education and social activity." "And to talk," added Ruby Allen with a knowing grin. "We welcome everyone whether they are grumpy or happy. Some of us have been Mary Circle members for more than 40 years. A few years ago, we thought about disbanding or joining with another group because we had so few members, but now look at us. I think there are 24 of us."

The women agreed that they all value the friendship they experience within the group. They also love to share a meal together, like the fresh fruit, fluffy egg and bacon casseroles and platters of coffee cakes served at this meeting. Before digging in, the circle members shared a little of their Easter kitchen wisdom, beginning with hard-boiled eggs.

To begin, the group advises adding about 1 teaspoon of salt to the water for boiling eggs. Use eggs that are at least a week old because fresh eggs will not peel as well. Be sure the eggs are completely submerged and start the water boiling. When the water is at a full boil, cover the pot, turn off the heat and let the eggs sit for 15 to 20 minutes, depending on the size of the egg. Then plunge the eggs into cool water to stop the cooking and loosen the shell. If you refrigerate the eggs, bring the egg back to room temperature before peeling since cold eggs don't peel as well.

Mariamma Thomas said she cracks the hard-boiled egg, lets it sit in cold water a few minutes and finds it easier to peel. Ruby Allen, who is in charge of peeling the 22 dozen eggs for the church's annual hamball luncheon, suggests rolling the egg on the counter to shatter the shell before peeling.

They agreed that deviled eggs should be part of the Easter meal because "what else are you going to do with all those hard boiled eggs?" The popular recipe for deviled eggs was simply mayonnaise with a touch of mustard and a spoonful of sweet pickle relish. The final touch must always be a sprinkling of paprika.

The main dish of choice is ham, according to these ladies. The ham should be bone-in for the best flavor. Score the fat, stick in cloves and then lay on pineapple slices with maraschino cherries in the middle. Make a thin glaze by mixing brown sugar, melted butter and pineapple juice and use the glaze to baste the ham throughout the cooking time.

"And save the bone to make bean soup the next day," advised Sue Lippencott.

"You can also get one of those spiral cut honey baked hams which are pretty easy" Eunice Lacky said.

After getting the main dish arranged, it is "all about the sides," noted Allen.

The women began listing their favorites including au gratin potatoes, sweet potatoes, green bean casserole, glazed carrots and both whole and jellied cranberries. Dessert should include lemon bars, a bunny-shaped cake and pies.

"And there should be relishes — pickles and green and black olives," Ann Mitchell said. "But you have to hide them until it's time to eat or they will be all gone."

Lippencott said that in recent years, she has found that the best way to deal with teenage grandchildren and busy families is to offer a buffet style meal. "We put food in Crock pots and set everything out and everyone eats when they can."

Here are a few of their suggestions.

Judy Buchenot is a freelance writer.

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**Simply Potato Casserole**

- 2 pound bag frozen shredded hash brown potatoes, thawed
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 2 tablespoons dried minced onion
- 6 tablespoons butter
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1/4 cup freshly grated Parmesan cheese

1. Bring milk and butter just to a boil in a large pot.
2. Add onion, butter, salt, pepper and potatoes. Stir to mix. Spread into a buttered 2 quart casserole dish. Sprinkle cheese over the top. Bake uncovered at 375 degrees until top is browned. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

— Jean Anderson

**Southern Style Favorite Yams**

1. 29-ounce can yams, drained
- 1/4 cup brown sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 tablespoon melted butter
- 1/4 cup whipping cream
- 16 marshmallows
- 1/2 cup chopped pecans (optional)

1. Mash together yams, sugar, salt, cinnamon, nutmeg, butter and whipping cream. Cut six marshmallows in half and stir into mixture. Spread mixture into a buttered two quart casserole dish. Sprinkle pecans on top. Place remaining marshmallows on top. Bake at 350 degrees for 20 minutes or until puffy and marshmallows are lightly browned. Makes 6 servings.

— Veronica Radowicz

**Strawberry Cream Cheese Salad**

6. ounce box strawberry flavored gelatin
2 cups boiling water
2. 10-ounce packages frozen strawberries
8. ounces cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup powdered sugar
8 ounces frozen whipped topping, thawed
1 1/2 cups crushed pretzels
1/2 cup sugar
1/4 cup melted margarine


— Ann Mitchell
As a young girl I loved nothing more than picking out my annual Easter dress. White tights and dressy shoes were always a perfect complement to whatever brand new spring-hued frock I'd selected at the local department store to wear to our family celebrations. I'd worn soft pink, mint green and periwinkle colored dresses without incident for years, but I was right around 11 years old when a seersucker sundress with subtle yellow stripes and a rather lovely yellow Easter dress colored dresses without incident for years, I'd worn soft pink, mint green and periwinkle hued frock I'd selected at the local department store to wear to our family celebrations. White tights and dressy shoes were always a perfect complement to whatever brand new spring-hued frock. I'd selected at the local department store to wear to our family celebrations. I'd worn soft pink, mint green and periwinkle colored dresses without incident for years, but I was right around 11 years old when a seersucker sundress with subtle yellow stripes and a rather lovely yellow Easter dress...and falling until I landed splat in the center of the church aisle. I had completely missed the pew. As I hit the ground my foot caught the edge of the book holder. It broke, swung down and hit my mom square in the shins; shocked by the pain she stood up and screamed. I blinked once as I stared up at the church ceiling before scrambling to grab my Easter bonnet and return to my seat as fast as possible.

My love for Princess Diana propelled me to pick out a pair of low heels to complete the look. In many ways that helped me choose a princess worthy hat and my very first grown-up looking white bolero jacket to go with it. My mom leaned over to my mom and whispered, "You know what, Mom? I sure do feel pretty today." She smiled and nodded as we slid into a pew near the front of the church. The woman behind me complimented my hat as we stood up to sing and the yolk is runny but warmed through.

Some Easter memories are worth trying to forget, but my Easter pew miss has proven to be unforgettable and remains one of my most embarrassing moments of my life. So I took a little inspiration from my mishap and whipped up an Easter sandwich to honor my worst (and best) Easter memory. A perfect way to use up all that leftover ham, this breakfast may look pretty and put together, but one bite and it will be falling all over the place just like I did all those years ago. It is one pretty little mess of a sandwich.

Happy Easter!

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Easter Splat Breakfast Sandwich with Sweet and Spicy Sauce

Leftover Easter ham, thinly sliced and cut to fit the English muffin (3 slices per sandwich)
Swiss cheese, thinly sliced and halved (2 halves per sandwich)
1 tablespoon canola oil
1 red pepper, diced
1 small sweet onion, thinly sliced
Salt and pepper
1 tablespoon Italian parsley, chopped
1 egg per sandwich
Non-stick cooking spray
1 tablespoon butter
Whole wheat English muffins, split, toasted and buttered
1 tablespoon per sandwich of sweet and spicy sauce (recipe follows)

1. Preheat the oven to 300 degrees. Place a piece of the ham on a parchment-lined baking sheet. Top with a piece of Swiss cheese, a second piece of ham, another piece of cheese and finally a third piece of ham. Create one stack for each sandwich you are building. Place the ham and cheese stack(s) in the oven for 5-6 minutes or until cheese begins to melt. Remove from oven and keep warm until ready to assemble the sandwiches.

2. Heat the canola oil in a small skillet over medium heat. Add the red pepper and onions and season with salt and pepper. Sauté the vegetables until tender and just beginning to brown (about 5 minutes). Remove from the heat and stir in the chopped parsley. Keep warm until ready to serve.

3. Spray a skillet with non-stick cooking spray and melt the butter in the same skillet over medium heat. Crack one egg for each sandwich you are preparing and slide it into the skillet. Allow the egg to cook sunny-side-up until the whites are set and the yolk is runny but warmed through.

4. While the egg(s) cook, begin assembling the sandwich. Spread 1 tablespoon of the prepared sweet and spicy sauce on the bottom of each buttered English muffin and top with some of the sautéed peppers and onions. Place a warm ham and Swiss stack on top of the peppers. Slide 1 sunny-side-up egg on top of each ham stack. Season the egg with salt, pepper and fresh snipped chives before topping with the second English muffin half. Serve at once. Makes up to 4 sandwiches.

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Sweet and Spicy Sauce

2 tablespoons orange marmalade
2 tablespoons honey mustard
1 teaspoon whole grain mustard
1 teaspoon minced chives (plus extra for garnish)

1. Combine all the ingredients in a small bowl and mix well. Set aside until ready to use. Refrigerate any leftovers.
For pet owners and dog-sitting folks, a win-win

By Leslie Mann
Tribune Newspapers

Someday, she and her husband might have grandchildren, said Lyn Hathaway. In the meantime, the Rocky Mount, N.C., couple has their “granddogs,” Theodore and Reagan.

Theodore is their daughter Madelyn Gallagher’s 3-year-old pug. Reagan is daughter Lacy Gallagher’s 4-year-old beagle.

While the daughters work, their dogs stay together at one of their Raleigh, N.C., homes. When their “moms” leave town for vacations or business trips, the dogs stay with the Hathaways.

“They all lie on the futon on our porch and watch the wildlife in the backyard,” Hathaway said of her charges, plus her three dachshunds and one foxhound.

Today’s young adults are having children later and marrying later, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Marriage and children may not be on their horizon, but canine companionship is. About 74 percent of millennials (ages 19 to 35) have dogs, according to the American Pet Products Association.

Their dogs affect their life decisions.

“We joke that our dogs must like people we choose as boyfriends or girlfriends, but it’s true,” said Cory Smith, director of pet protection and policy at the Humane Society of the United States. “We hear from a lot of couples who met at dog parks because that’s where they found other ‘dog people.’”

Doggie dynamics affect their careers too. “We choose jobs that allow us to be near our parents if they dog-sit for us,” Smith said.

Sitting for your granddog is a win-win, especially when mom and dad can no longer have dogs of their own.

“Our last family dog, a Lhasa Apso, died at age 17,” said retiree George Maskaly, of Carteret, N.J. “I’m too old to have another one for that long. It wouldn’t be fair to the dog.”

Maskaly sits for his daughter Michelle Maskaly’s dog, an 8-year-old Chihuahua named Toby and 1-year-old terrier mix named Maddux. At least once a month, she drives the duo three hours to her dad’s house, or he drives to her home. “I get all the benefits without the vet bills,” said the elder Maskaly.

Maskaly admits he caters to his buddies. “Toby has to sleep on something fuzzy,” he said. “If there’s no fleece blanket around, a fleece jacket will do.” He equipped the front of his kayak with a rubber mat so the dogs can ride with him instead of staying home.

“It’s all about peace of mind,” said Lori Dowling, a Mt Lebanon, Pa., homemaker who takes her 8-year-old poodle-cocker spaniel, Lacey, to her parents’ house before she leaves town.

“I don’t worry because I know she’s safe and happy with them,” said Dowling of her folks, retirees John and Donna Viehman, also of Mt. Lebanon. “They adore her, and she follows my dad everywhere.”

Like two-legged grandkids, granddogs learn that different households have different rules. At home, 9-year-old China, an English mastiff, sleeps in her dog bed. While her mom is out of town, though, she climbs into bed with her “grandma,” Lori Barnes, of Bonney Lake, Wash. “There’s nothing like having your nose buried in her fur,” she said.

China knows her routine at Barnes’ house, where she’s the center of attention. “We go to the dog park, then to McDonald’s drive-through for a treat,” Barnes said. “When the ice cream man comes, she gets in line with the neighbor kids and takes her turn like the well-mannered young lady she is.”

At home in New York City, Stanley, a terrier mix, is a city dude, used to brisk walks with his humans, Jeremy Whiteman and Marsha Ignatyeva. When they travel, though, Stanley spends hours leisurely inspecting his country digs (Whiteman’s mom’s home in Tom’s River, N.J.).

“The only problem is our dog door, which scares him,” said Lynette Whiteman, who also sits for another son’s dog, Guthrie. “He gets right behind one of my dogs so he can run through before the flap comes down.”

If your parents are your dog’s sitters, “choose a breed that matches your lifestyle and your parents’ lifestyle,” Smith said. “You may be able to keep a border collie exercised because you’re a runner, but he may be too high energy for your parents.”

Check the homeowners association covenants at both homes. “If they say no dogs more than 30 pounds, get on the HOA board and change it, because it’s backward,” Smith said. “Tiny dogs are the ones who are noisy and scratch the door while you’re gone. Larger breeds are couch potatoes. They nap.”

Ideally, you and your parents learn dog training together with your dog, said Clare Reece-Glore, a Durham, N.C., dog training instructor.

“Crate train your dog so the crate is her home away from home when you’re gone, Reece-Glore said. “Done right, the crate is her refuge, not somewhere she goes to be punished,” she said.

Don’t schedule vacations until your dog is potty trained and past the chewing stage. Buy an extra dog tag that has your sitter’s name and phone number. If your dog was “chipped” (implanted with an identification chip under her skin), call the chip registry to add the sitter’s information.

Lest anyone doubt the dogs like visiting their grandparents, consider China.

“When it’s time to go home, she hides behind the pillar in my living room,” Barnes said. “She thinks if she can’t see us, we can’t see her, but we can see everything but her face. All 180 pounds of her.”

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**PET OF THE WEEK**

Spring loaded, I have so much happy energy that I often get all excited when I am first outside. You should see how high I can jump up, just straight up. I possess natural athletic abilities and since I am quite smart too, I would love to get into agility or some other type of fun activity where I can exercise both physically and intellectually. I love running around with a toy, one minute I’m right by you and the zoom, I am at the other end of this huge play yard. I may even be great as a running companion, what do you say?

For additional information, please visit www.saveapetil.org
Dear Help Squad,

On August 23, 2014, my husband, daughter and I were in our home when we heard a very loud crash. A carload of teenagers had turned into our driveway, crashed into our brand new 2014 Nissan Maxima, then tried to get away and crashed into our Chevy Suburban.

We have been trying to recover the value of our Maxima since August 2014, to no avail. We are not trying to make any money off this situation. We would just like to be made whole. There have been scores of phone calls, FedEx documents, letters and emails with Erie Insurance (the driver's insurer), but they will not provide the requested payment, reports or even a substantive response.

We hired a professional appraiser, got an offer from CarMax and information regarding the diminished value of the vehicle as a result of the kid crashing into our new car, and we have provided it all to Erie Insurance.

As a result of the accident, the Maxima's value is now less than the amount owed on the loan. We are only seeking restitution for the diminished value of our vehicle and the cost of the appraisal fee, for a total of $6,720.

Marilyn, Northbrook

In talking to Marilyn and her husband, I learned that Erie Insurance had paid for the repairs to both their Maxima and Suburban. What they were now attempting to obtain was the loss of value to their Maxima because of the crash. When I asked if their insurance company was pursuing the claim on their behalf, Marilyn replied, "Liberty Mutual told us we must work with Erie directly regarding diminished value."

Because I was not familiar with diminished value, I turned to two sources for a primer, the Illinois Department of Insurance and the Insurance Information Institute.

Alissandra Calderon, the Illinois DOI's public information officer, said this: "Illinois case law has defined diminished value as a repaired vehicle's loss in market value resulting from the fact that it suffered property damage. In Illinois, there are no statutes or regulations that obligate an insurance company to compensate an insured for diminished value."

I asked Michael Barry, the Insurance Information Institute's vice president of media relations, if insurers legally are obligated to respond to claimants within a certain time frame. (Marilyn's diminished value claim was opened on March 6, 2015, and closed on Feb. 10, 2016.)

Barry explained: "There are state laws that say insurers must respond to their policy holders in a certain amount of time, but the law in many states is silent on what the time frames are for resolving a situation with a third party."

Then, out of the blue, Marilyn emailed to say, "Did you reach out to Erie? I don't know what got them unstuck, but they have agreed to settle our claim for $5,785.38, approximately 90 percent of what we were requesting."

I hadn't contacted Erie, but I learned that in addition to emailing me, Marilyn and her husband also had enlisted the help of Collision Claim Associates Inc., vehicle appraisers that specialize in diminished value claims.

I called Collision Claim Associates and spoke to President and CEO Richard Hixenbaugh. He explained that for $295-$395, clients are provided an instruction manual that includes everything from an overview of the claims process to a sample initial claim demand letter to specific replies to insurance company responses.

Said Hixenbaugh: "Diminished value is a valid and legal claim in all 50 states and has been for nearly 100 years. Once (a claimant) is able to respond to an insurance company in an effective manner, the insurance company will usually start making reasonable offers."

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist.
The Memory of Light
By Francisco X. Stork, Arthur A. Levine Books/Scholastic, 328 pages, $17.99, ages 12 and up

If clinical depression is not the same as sadness, then what is it? Francisco X. Stork examines this question with the same grace, eloquence and respect found in all of his writing for young adults, particularly in his previous, much-acclaimed novel “Marcelo in the Real World.” In “The Memory of Light,” he pulls back the curtain on a disease that often feels shameful, as if sufferers themselves are to blame, and gives readers space to consider nonjudgmentally, almost philosophically, both the pain and the wisdom depression can bring.

Hospitalized after a suicide attempt, Vicky Cruz has one thing in common with the three other teens in her therapy group. They are, as Vicky puts it, “failures at the thing called living.” Vicky has long defined herself as the opposite of her materially successful family, who set and reach goals with apparent ease. Whereas her father and sister seem to have weathered their grief over Vicky’s mother’s death and moved on, she has stalled. They ask her why she wanted to kill herself; yet, for her, “want” is barely a concept. “I don’t want anything. I simply don’t want.”

Under the patient guidance of her doctor, and in conversation with her therapy mates, who gradually become solid friends, Vicky learns that she has depression, but that it doesn’t have to consume her. She starts to feel valued and needed for who she is rather than striving unsuccessfully to fit her father’s blueprint for who she is supposed to be. Emily Dickinson’s image of “boots of lead creeping across her soul” resonates, and she wonders if she, too, “could learn to work with words and images and rhythms so others can see and feel what they could not see or feel or understand before” — in short, what Stork himself does so well.

Burn Baby Burn
By Meg Medina, Candlewick, 310 pages, $17.99, ages 14 and up

“Maybe the things that scare us seem more powerful than they truly are when we keep them secret.” It’s 1977, a turbulent year in New York City history, and Nora, a Cuban-American 17-year-old living in Queens, has good reason to fear walking the streets, given the recent string of shootings linked to a serial killer, still at large, who calls himself the Son of Sam. But for Nora danger lurks even closer to home. Her younger brother Hector has fallen into drugs and crime and acts violently toward her and their mother, Mima. Mima excuses Hector’s behavior as typically male, telling Nora that “he’ll meet a good woman one day who will straighten him out.” Despite burgeoning feminist beliefs and anger at Mima’s passivity Nora covers up for Hector and pretends to her best friend and boyfriend Pablo that nothing is wrong. Thus she joins, in her words, “a secret club” of abuse victims who stay silent out of shame.

Winner of the Pura Belpré award for her previous young adult novel, “Yaqui Delgado Wants to Kick Your Ass,” Meg Medina once again shines in evoking a specific setting peopled with complex, diverse characters. As “Disco Inferno” blazes on the radio, mayoral candidate Bella Abzug leads marches for women’s rights, and an historic July blackout spurs citywide vandalism, Nora navigates relationships at home, at work, and in her community, ultimately gaining the insight and strength to do what needs to be done.

CHICAGOLAND BEST-SELLERS

1. “H Is for Hawk” by Helen Macdonald (Grove/Atlantic, $16).


5. “Between the World and Me” by Ta-Nehisi Coates (Spiegel & Grau, $24).

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

Charlie Martz and Other Stories: The Unpublished Stories
By Elmore Leonard, William Morrow, 239 pages, $15.99

“Charlie Martz and Other Stories” is a collection of 15 stories, 11 previously unpublished, from the early part of Leonard’s career. Recognized later for his crime fiction, Leonard’s early work produced several Westerns and an attempt to explore new locations, such as a military base in Kuala Lumpur, southern Spain and more.

Kill Chain: The Rise of the High-Tech Assassins
By Andrew Cockburn, Picador, 315 pages, $18

Cockburn explores drone warfare, detailing its origins in secret programs and the changes in technology that have made remote targeted assassination possible. Cockburn investigates the military and intelligence interests behind drone warfare, the frequency with which drones fail despite official claims otherwise, and the billion-dollar contracts they generate.

In the Country: Stories
By Mia Alvar, Vintage, 350 pages, $16.95

In nine stories taking place across the world, Alvar fictionalizes the Filipino diaspora and the men and women who leave their homes to take up work in another country in professions as diverse as housemaid or teacher. The stories in “In the Country” explore the feeling of displacement and the longing to connect to one’s home.

The Grind: Inside Baseball’s Endless Season
By Barry Svrluga, Blue Rider, 187 pages, $16

The national baseball correspondent for The Washington Post, Svrluga details the grueling duration of the 162-game season of the 2014 Washington Nationals, shedding light not only on the star players, but on the supporting cast— from wives to scouts, equipment managers and travel schedulers — who make enduring the season possible.

Too Bad to Die: A Novel
By Francine Mathews, Riverhead, 348 pages, $16

Intelligence officer Ian Fleming eases his work boredom by inventing espionage stories more exciting than his life. On the cusp of the 1943 Tehran Conference, Fleming learns of a Nazi plan to assassinate Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin. To stop the killer, Fleming must become a secret agent and mix with a seductive Soviet spy.

— Jeremy Mikula
Electric Company: For a pleasant kilowatt-hour

BY GAIL GRABOWSKI | EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN

ACROSS
1 Dugout array
5 Green beans
10 Tiff
14 Moral principle
19 Somewhat
20 Talk big
21 Southermost
22 Bucks
23 Mayonnaise
25 Major player in international affairs
27 Shorthand user, for short
28 Hoodwinks
30 Finely contoured
31 Size up
33 Plays for time
36 Dire situation
40 Plops down
42 Unnerve
45 Ready to pour
46 Muscles worked in sit-ups
49 Historical achievement
53 Era
54 Pick peppers, say
56 Colt's mom
57 Caught a glimpse of
58 Combustible heap
59 Bucks and bulls
61 High-IQ club
64 Forest female
65 Sailed through
66 Swordfish
68 Unemotional
71 Separates, in a way
73 Electrical surge
75 Overplay a part
76 Flooring specialist
77 Crouched
79 Overalls fabrics
81 Ill-mannered
84 Dull sound
85 Clever person
86 Chews like a mouse
89 Sound from a sheep
90 Dance and drama
91 French states
94 Catches some z's
96 Oklahoma city
97 Bit of cybermirth
98 Across-and-down pattern
102 NFL scores
103 Nemesis
105 Do some roadwork
106 Cloth measure
108 Pupil's neighbor
110 Muscle twitches
113 It's not there
117 Rosters
120 Be dishonest with
122 Printer brand
123 ATM fee, for example
128 Slams on the brakes
130 Nautically
131 Big name in elevators
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This week's Jumble

FOLLOW MORTAL HUBCAP
DOODLE IMPOSE TIPTOE

When he looked through his new telescope, he thought the view was —

OUT OF THIS WORLD
Anti-aging medical procedure aims to give women better sex life

Move over Botox and Restylane. There's a new kid on the block gaining attention in the field of anti-aging procedures. It's called Femilift. But its focus isn't on the face; it's on rejuvenating the vagina for the purpose of giving women a better sex life.

I sat down with Dr. David Preskill, an OB/GYN and partner in his North Shore- and Chicago-based practice, V Femina, who said he has performed the Femilift procedure on more than 40 patients during the past several months.

Q: Can you tell me more about the procedure?

A: Femilift is a safe, non-invasive procedure that treats vaginal laxity caused by aging and childbirth. Using a laser vaginal probe, a single beam of light gets divided into pixels and releases energy into a grid pattern. To repair the treated tissue, the body then naturally produces collagen, which shrinks the vagina and stabilizes the urethra. The result is an increase in natural lubrication and a tighter vaginal wall that increases sexual stimulation for both partners. It also discourages urinary incontinence, helps bladder leakage, which typically occurs in women who have gone through childbirth.

Q: What's involved in the procedure?

A: There is no prep, downtime or pain involved. The procedure takes about eight minutes. We recommend three treatments once a month. Femilift is estimated to last about 18 to 24 months before a touch up is needed.

Q: Why did you decide to become trained in the Femilift procedure?

A: I've been practicing for 25 years, and have seen some of my patients from the time they were in their 20s, pregnant with their first child, until now. So as a physician, I see the changes in their bodies that happen with each delivery and as they age. Many of my patients have complained over the years about how intercourse isn't the same as it was before they had children. They say they don't get the same satisfaction from sex and they don't feel as confident. They also have the issue of bladder leakage due to childbirth and aging.

Q: What have you heard from your patients about the results so far?

A: They are telling me there is a dramatic change, and that their husbands are happy. But even more importantly, women say they have a heightened sexual experience after the procedure.

I have to say, when I first heard about this procedure, I rolled my eyes, thinking it seemed vain, superficial, perhaps even silly. But it occurred to me that marriage and long-term relationships have so many challenges, and if Femilift helps with those challenges in some way, then that's not silly at all.

Couples who have a good sex life are happier, they get along better, and they are less likely to cheat. Physical intimacy keeps the relationship fresh and exciting and romantic. It remains to be seen whether Femilift gets to be as popular as Botox. But if Femilift does become a household name, I'd be willing to bet that not only will divorce rates come down, but women will be as happy in bed as they are with the way their foreheads look!
Generic drugs work as well as their brand-name counterparts

Dear Doctor K: My doctor switched me from several brand-name drugs to generic versions of those drugs. It has saved me a lot of money — but are they really as good for me?

Dear Reader: The vast majority of generic drugs have been shown to be equally effective as brand-name drugs, and no more likely to cause side effects. There have been a few exceptions, which I’ll mention. But that is my bottom line — and I vote with my feet: I take generic drugs. They work as well as the brand-name drugs they replaced, they haven’t caused side effects and they save me money. What’s not to like?

Drugs available in the United States are carefully examined by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The FDA makes sure that a generic drug has the same chemical structure as a brand-name drug, and that the generic drug behaves the same way in the body.

Still, once the FDA has released a generic drug for widespread use, a much larger number of people take it than was true when it was being tested in the pre-approval period. That means that rare problems may emerge in the post-approval period.

There have been many careful studies comparing generic drugs to their brand-name equivalents in the post-approval period. Almost always, the generics prove identical. However, there have been a few instances where the generic drug was not equivalent — at least until a problem in the manufacturing process was corrected. Examples include some generic drugs to treat underactive thyroid (hypothyroidism).

In late 2015, an expert committee of the American College of Physicians summarized what is known scientifically about generic drugs. The committee’s report agrees with what I have said. The report also summarizes evidence that generic drugs often are not used when they could be. One study published in 2013 found that the brand-name versions of several popular drugs were used 23 percent to 45 percent of the time when generic versions were available.

The report also pointed out a problem with taking brand-name drugs instead of generic versions: a person might get fewer health benefits. Why is that? Any medicine will work only if it is taken. And many studies have found that people are less likely to take brand-name drugs when they are prescribed than they are to take generic drugs when they are prescribed. That’s probably because the brand-name drugs cost more.

While I believe the evidence shows that almost all generic drugs perform as well as brand-name drugs, that evidence is based on the “average” person in studies typically involving hundreds or thousands of people. Now and then I have a patient who swears that a generic drug is not as effective as the brand-name drug. It is possible that the patient’s body chemistry is different in some way from that of the average person. So I prescribe the brand-name drug — but the insurance company determines how much more the patient will have to pay.

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

Will hair dye increase the danger of bladder cancer?

A: Your question is surprisingly difficult to answer. For decades, epidemiologists have been debating whether hair dye increases the risk of cancer. The problem is that studies often are contradictory.

One large meta-analysis (Annals of Epidemiology, February 2014) concluded that there was no excess bladder cancer risk from using hair dye. Hairdressers, on the other hand, had an increased risk for bladder cancer attributed to their exposure to hair dyes (Occupational and Environmental Medicine, May 2010).

A case-control study of Finnish women reported that the use of hair dye increased the risk for breast cancer (PLoS One, Aug. 11, 2015). Two recent studies show how dark hair dyes alter cells to make them more prone to cancerous growth. According to the authors of one study (Food Chemistry and Toxicology, December 2015), “These results point to the hazard of the hair dye exposure to human health.”

The risk, if it exists, appears to be small. Given the confusion and your diagnosis, you may wish to discuss your concerns with your oncologist.

Q: I had asthma for many years and was treated with Advair. During flare-ups, I also used an albuterol inhaler.

A: Respiratory-tract infections like the one you suffered are often associated with worsening of asthma (Occupational and Environmental Medicine, February 2013).

Research in mice suggests that treatment with azithromycin (Zithromax, Z-Pak) ameliorates inflammation and improves airway remodeling (Pulmonary Pharmacology and Therapeutics, February 2016). Young children with repeated asthma-like symptoms benefited from azithromycin treatment (Lancet Respiratory Medicine, January 2016).

Q: I have Ti bladder cancer and am being treated with BCG immunotherapy. I dye my hair dark brown every four weeks, as I have been for 20 years. I heard that hair dye is linked to bladder cancer. Should I stop using color?

A: Your question is surprisingly difficult to answer. For decades, epidemiologists have been debating whether hair dye increases the risk of cancer. The problem is that studies often are contradictory.

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Q: The person who wrote you that pharmacies receive drug orders the same way mail-order companies deliver to individuals (via UPS, FedEx, USPS) was mistaken. My husband and I own an independent pharmacy. We receive our drug order daily via a courier service from our supplier. Any refrigerated items are in an insulated tote with ice packs, so they are indeed delivered in a temperature- and humidity-controlled vehicle.

A: Thank you for the clarification. What you describe is the correct way for drug delivery. We hope that all pharmacies follow your good example. We suspect that mail-order drug delivery cannot meet such rigorous standards.

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

Felicia is a North Shore native who has called Winnetka home for 22 years. She believes that the solutions to tough questions are straightforward answers. And she knows that trust and accountability anchor any good relationship. If you find this modern approach to wealth management compelling, stop by the Schwab Winnetka branch or give Felicia a call.

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Spring break usually is the time for getting away from the classroom, kicking back and relaxing. But just because you're on vacation doesn't mean your brain has to be too.

Why not take advantage of your time off to learn something — more specifically, something fun?

We've sloughed out a wide range of getaways that give you the chance to explore new skills, from playing the bagpipes and sailing to becoming a whitewater rafting guide or driving a snowcat.

Some are multiday programs; others take a few hours. There are options for young kids and college students as well as adults without children. After all, they need a break too.

**Bahama Buddies:** This inexpensive program at Abaco Beach Resort and Boat Harbour Marina in the Bahamas pairs kids visiting the resort with local children to learn about their lives. Joint activities might include catching, cleaning and cooking fish. New friends are encouraged to keep up a relationship by email after the vacation's over. tinyurl.com/hbyg67t

**Cat crawl:** If you've been to a ski resort and watched the slopes being groomed, you might have thought it would be fun to charge up and down the mountain at the controls of the snowcat. Time to stop thinking and start doing. In Aspen, Colo., they offer Snowcat Academy, and in Crested Butte, Colo., there's Snowcat Driving XP. Both include instruction, followed by an opportunity to drive the cat for 60 to 90 minutes while accompanied by an instructor. You have to be at least 18. Aspen: tinyurl.com/ltvssapa; Crested Butte: tinyurl.com/z5smbn5

**Your first rodeo:** Wannabe cowhands can learn the ropes at the Cowboy for a Day program at Forever Florida's Crescent J Ranch in St. Cloud, Fla. The day starts with instruction on riding, followed by the chance to help move cattle, round up strays and help with other ranch chores.
Minimum age is 10 with a parent or guardian. tinyurl.com/nxj5jdr

**Pipe up:** A bagpiper salutes the sunset each day at Sea Island, a resort on the Georgia coast. Guests can arrange a one-hour class with a piper, which includes a practice chanter to keep your lungs busy after you go home. tinyurl.com/uxv65nb

**Sail away:** At Washington's newest state park, Cama Beach, the Center for Wooden Boats offers sailing lessons that range from a half-day session to a three-day intensive course. Classes are customized to students' skill levels and are designed for two people.
Students must be at least 16, though younger kids can participate if accompanied by an adult. tinyurl.com/hefuvoz

**Up close with dolphins:** Interacting with marine animals is the appeal of trainer-for-a-day programs for nearly all ages. At Atlantis, Paradise Island in the Bahamas, ages 10 and older get to experience the dolphins by learning to do a double-dorsal tow and signature “foot push.” They also get to feed nurse sharks and stingrays and snorkel with hundreds of animals. At Gulf World in Panama City Beach, Fla., those 12 and older help prepare food, assist in dolphin training sessions and appear onstage during the dolphin show. Atlantis: tinyurl.com/j9xqq32; Gulf World: tinyurl.com/jh0x7x

**Be a guide:** The Nantahala Outdoor Center near Bryson City, N.C., is the place to go if you'd like to become a professional rafting guide. The center's Raft Guide School runs six days and includes some classroom time, though most of the instruction takes place on the river. Minimum age is 18. tinyurl.com/lso59yy

**Take off:** It's not a traditional classroom experience, but all ages can thrill to the sight of a rocket launch at Cape Canaveral, Fla. The Kennedy Space Center has a public viewing area, or there are many viewing sites outside the center's grounds. Dates for upcoming launches can be found at www.kennedyspacecenter.com. Afterward, visit the center for a tour or have lunch with an astronaut. www.wearego f.com

**Hit the ice:** The Ice Park in Ouray, Colo., is well known to fans of ice climbing. If you're a newbie, San Juan Mountain Guides offers an Introduction to Ice Climbing course. The first day covers the basics, while the second day focuses on more advanced climbs.
Classes are offered until mid-March.
Minimum age is 7. tinyurl.com/zx4wvck

**Give back:** Rustic Pathways aims to teach teens from 14 to 18 about other countries and cultures through programs that combine travel and community service. It offers four spring break options: two in the Dominican Republic, one in New Orleans and one in Costa Rica. tinyurl.com/zyx57wv

**Back in time:** Cosgrove Farm Museum, a living history museum in Bristol, R.I., has a program that gives a taste of tenant farmer life in the 1700s. Field, Forge and Hearth: Living History Immersion on an 18th-century farm has participants pitching in to care for heritage breed livestock, mend fences and stone walls, learn how to cook over an open hearth and more. The four-day/three-night program has rustic sleeping accommodations and is for ages 14 and older, though kids under 18 must be accompanied by an adult. tinyurl.com/hpp25uv

**Get fit:** Serious athletes can head to Boulder, Colo., for Up Your Game, a one-to-three-day package that focuses on aspiring triathletes and cyclists. This offers custom-tailored training and education along with lodging. Also provided: nutrition counseling, fitness testing, gait analysis and strength training. tinyurl.com/jvso9gvy

Phil Marty is a freelance reporter.
Winnetka colonial on oversized lot: $1.895M

ADDRESS: 1182 Asbury Ave. in Winnetka
ASKING PRICE: $1,895,000
Listed on March 7, 2016

Custom-built home completed in 2001 on oversized lot in Hubbard Woods neighborhood near train, town, schools and the lake. Foyer leads to living room with fireplace and entertainment-sized dining room. A large eat-in kitchen with light cabinetry, center island and premium appliances is adjacent to the family room with fireplace. Master suite has fireplace, high ceilings and spa-like bathroom. Four additional bedrooms and two baths complete the second floor. Lower level includes a sixth bedroom and bath, recreation room, media room and exercise room.

Agent: Sherry Molitor of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices KoenigRubloff, 847-204-6282

At press time, this home was still for sale.

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Park Ridge... Just Listed! Move right in to this sprawling 3 bedroom 2 ½ bath brick Ranch! Beautifully refinished hardwood floors + freshly painted. Living rm with woodburning fireplace, separate dining rm & eat in kitchen. Full finished bsmt with huge family rm, wet bar & laundry. Cozy 3 season room overlooking gorgeous 78' yard with many perennials. 2 car attached garage. Numerous updates include roof Nov 15, new 2 panel doors, new fixtures & recessed lighting + new windows 2010. True pride of ownership!................................. $359,900

ONE OF OUR FINEST OFFERINGS!
Niles... Super solid 7 rm brick Ranch in fabulous location! Charming front porch. Large living rm/dining rm combo, 3 nice size brs & 2 full baths. Kitchen with 12' eating area & garden window. Full finished bsmt with family room, dry bar, utility rm, laundry rm, tons of storage, 2 sump pumps & overheads. 2 sets of washers & dryers one on main level. Screened in porch overlooking private back yard is 17'x11'. 2 car garage. Hardwood floors under carpet. Newer tear off roof & windows. Steps from Nico Park/playground. Convenient to everything!................................. $289,900

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PRICED TO SELL!!
Skokie... Price just reduced on this rare 5 room condo at Luxurious “Park Lincoln”. Brand New Carpet throughout! Living room & dining room with beautiful marble fireplace. 2 brs & 2 baths. Eat-in kitchen + 22'x5' balcony overlooking manicured grounds. Master suite offers a generous size bath with double sink vanity, whirlpool tub & linen closet. 10'x6' walk-in closet has custom shelving. In-unit laundry, heated garage space, pool, party room & large storage locker. Unit has been freshly painted. Great Location! Hurry Before it's Gone!!................................. $199,900
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<td>Ulikan Moon</td>
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<td>Rajat Gupta</td>
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<td>Alan Hamilton &amp; Margaret Hamilton</td>
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<td>Terence Vavra</td>
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<td>1209 Claridge Dr, Libertyville</td>
<td>Michael F Sutton &amp; Emily Whitecomb</td>
<td>Diane M Schilling</td>
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<td>414 Meadow Ln, Libertyville</td>
<td>Evan M Williamson &amp; Kristen M Williamson</td>
<td>Anthony Douglas Hahn</td>
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<td>3007 N Providence Dr, Libertyville</td>
<td>Jay Cash &amp; Michelle Cash</td>
<td>James G Seymour</td>
<td>02-17-16</td>
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SKOKIE
Address: 3343 Wilder St.
Price: $248,900
Schools: Evanston Township High School
Taxes: $4,846.52
Agent: Eric Chaplik/@Properties

MOUNT PROSPECT
Solid brick exterior ranch with a two-car attached garage. Three bedrooms and two full baths, hardwood floors under the carpet. Basement has wet bar and extra storage. Possible fourth bedroom in the basement. Large fenced yard with 16'x24' deck perfect for grilling and entertainment. Sewer cleaned out in November 2015.
Address: 15 Hatlen Ave.
Price: $289,000
School: Prospect High School
Taxes: $2,006
Agent: John Campobasso/Keller Williams Team Realty

WILMETTE
Five-plus bedrooms. Two-level living room with 13 rooms, gas fireplace, eat-in kitchen, bedroom, office, den, separate dining room and deck. Master suite has jacuzzi and separate shower, dressing area and closets. Family room with bedroom, full bathroom and summer kitchen. Two-car attached garage and backyard.
Address: 2628 Old Glenview Road
Price: $1,000,000
Schools: New Trier Township High School Northfield
Taxes: $15,301
Agent: Beth Ryan/Ryan Realty & Associates

NILES
Brick bungalow with second-floor addition, newer windows and hardwood floors throughout first floor. Separate living and dining rooms. Large unfinished attic, enclosed porch off of kitchen with sliding doors leading to 16'x14' deck. Home warranty included.
Address: 6569 W. Ebinger Drive
Price: $225,000
Schools: Niles West High School
Taxes: $3,079
Agent: Tina Paras/Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Northbrook
Listings from Homefinder.com

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Thursday, March 24

The Subdudes: 8 p.m. Thursday and 8 p.m. Friday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $6-10, 847-472-8860

Evanston Restaurant Week: Celebrate the ingenuity, creativity and sublime decadence of Evanston restaurants. Lunch and dinner prix fixe menus are available at participating restaurants. #EvanstonRW. 11 a.m. Thursday-Saturday, Evanston Chamber of Commerce, 1609 Sherman Ave #205, Evanston, $20-$40, 847-328-1500

The 10th Annual Opera Idol Competition: The 10th Annual Opera Idol, hosted by The Merion, is the highlyanticipated vocal competition for aspiring opera singers all across the Midwest. The winner of the competition receives a full ($3,000) scholarship with airfare to attend the nationally recognized two-week workshop directed by baritone Sherrill Milnes and the non-profit VOICE Experience in Savannah, Ga. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, The Merion, 1611 Chicago Ave, Evanston, free, 847-570-7895

Connecting Cultures: 40 Years at the Mitchell Museum: The latest exhibit unveiled is: “Connecting Cultures: 40 Years at the Mitchell Museum.” The exhibit celebrates four decades of thought-provoking exhibits, lectures, and performances through photographs and memorabilia. There is also a dazzling display of 45 objects donated by key collectors and Native artists who have presented at the museum. 10 a.m. each day, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, $2 children, seniors; $5 adults; Tribal Members Free, 847-475-1030

Chicago Botanic Garden’s Camp CBG Registration Now Open: Online registration for Camp CBG, the Chicago Botanic Garden’s signature summer day camp is now open. The camp, which runs from June 20 through Aug. 19, provides exciting, fun, and enriching outdoor learning experiences for children ages two to 15 years old. 9 a.m. each day, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, Visit event website for fee information, 847-835-5440

“Arcadia”: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Friday, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Writers Theatre, 325 Tudor Court, Glencoe, $35-$70, 847-242-6000

“Proof”: The story is about Catherine, a troubled young woman, who has spent years caring for her brilliant but unstable father, a famous mathematician. How much of her father’s madness or genius will she inherit? 8 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday, 3 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday, Oak Lamp Theater, 1723 Glenview Road, Glenview, 847-834-0738

Rocklin’ Thursdays: Come hear Doug Rosenberg with his Modern World Jazz. There are wine specials also to enjoy. Visit http://www.dougorosenberg.com. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, The Rock House, 1742 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 224-616-3062

Adult literacy classes: spring session: For native and non-native English speakers to improve their reading and writing skills. A small, friendly group led by a teacher and volunteer tutors meets twice weekly. Classes are conducted by Oakton Community College. Call 847-635-1426 for details. 9:15 a.m. Thursday and 9:15 a.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

A New Slant on the Old West: Karen Barrie, artist, blends her artistic talents and professional training into a multifaceted career as an author, freelance writer, and healthcare consultant. Karen’s western series is inspired by childhood TV Westerns and grownup cowgirl days on ranch vacations. The exhibit space is open during regular library hours. 9 a.m. Thursday-Saturday, 1 p.m. Sunday and 9 a.m. Monday-Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Build it at Kohl Children’s Museum: The popular temporary exhibit “Build It!” allows children to explore their creativity while learning about architecture, science, storytelling and much more. Children may grow using 10 different varieties of building blocks, all in one exhibit space. 9:30 a.m. each day, Kohl Children’s Museum, 2100 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, $11 children and adults; $10 senior citizens; free for members and children under 1, 847-832-6600

Between the Lines: “The Miniaturist” by Adolphe whose figures and furnishings are forked life events, mysterious notes, family secrets and the powerful guild and church of 1868 Amsterdam (from NoveList Plus). 10 a.m. Thursday and 7 p.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6400 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-929-5090

Wonder Ground Open Lab: Look, touch, tinker, and play with an intriguing array of science-oriented curiosities in this new space designed especially for kids. A drop-in visit is meant to last about 15 minutes. Activities are repeated each week from Tuesday to Thursday. The Wonder Ground is a STEAM playground for kids. 4 p.m. Thursday and 4 p.m. Tuesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Meet the Author Patricia Skalka: Chicago author Patricia Skalka is the author of two mysteries set in Wisconsin: “Death Stalks Door County” and “Death at Gills Rock.” She discusses and signs copies of her books. 7 p.m. Thursday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Woo Play (Birth to 24 Months): Music, rhymes, giggles, and books for the caregiver and baby. 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Thursday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

TEDx Northbrook Library Business Confidential: Screen four prerecorded TED Talks and have a discussion afterwards. Video presenters include: leadership expert Simon Sinek, business educator Eddie Obeng, information security manager David Grady and journalist Alianna Huffington. 1 p.m. Thursday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Total Memory Workout: This is a unique and innovative educational series designed to enhance and develop your memory. 2:30 p.m. Thursday, Bernard Weinger JCC, 300 Ridge, Northbrook, $59 for six week series, 224-406-9257

Maudy Thursdays liturgy and agape meal: Proper liturgy: celebration of Holy Communion, simple agape meal, and striping of the chancel (note that incense is used). 7 p.m. Thursday, St. Giles Episcopal Church, 3025 Walters Ave., Northbrook, free, 847-262-6622

Diana: Glorious Life and Tragic Death of the Princess: She was the "People’s Princess." Beloved for her compassion as much as for her beauty and style, Diana’s unique life, veering between glamour and tragedy, and her sudden and controversial death make for an unforgettable story. 1 p.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $25 member; $30 non-member, 847-784-6030

Tai Chi: Practice the ancient, healing art of Tai Chi, which is the practice of controlled, relaxed body movements. Increase your understanding of the mind-body connection, breathing techniques, flexibility and all other healthy benefits of Tai Chi. Participants should wear loose clothing. 9 a.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $25 member; $30 non-member, 847-784-6030

Apples’ iPad: An Overview: Find out how to download both free or fee-based apps using your wi-fi connections. 1 p.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $25 member; $30 non-member, 847-784-6030

The New American Political Map: This workshop dedicates one week to each of the four zones of a new political map (Liberal, Conservative, Libertarian, Tea Party), but each week attendees explore how the group under scrutiny relates to the other three. 10 a.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $25 member; $30 non-member, 847-784-6030

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

Beginning Ukulele: Have you ever wanted to learn how to play the ukulele? Peggy Mistak teaches this very simple and delightful instrument. Participants must provide their own ukulele and register in advance. Contact the Centennial Activity Center for more information. 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Park Ridge Park District- Centennial Activity Center, 100 South Western Ave., Park Ridge, $25 member; $30 guest, 847-692-3597

Intermediate Ukulele: Brush up on your skills or learn new songs! This class is for those who have experience playing the ukulele and want to continue their skills. Participants must provide their own ukulele and register in advance. Contact the Centennial Activity

Turn to Calendar, Next Page
To Place An Ad Online go to:

placeanad.tribunesuburbs.com
All Day Purim Play Zone for Kids: Drop in with your kids and enjoy Purim crafts, open play, and activities until 4 p.m. For more information, call the website. 10 a.m. Thursday, Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie, 4059 Dempster St., Skokie, $5 per child, 847-677-1770

Hourly Megillah Readings: Around the clock Megillah readings, every hour on the hour, until 6 p.m. For more details, see website. 8 a.m. Thursday, Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie, 4059 Dempster St., Skokie, free, 847-677-1770

Insider Secrets To Container Gardening: Jennifer Brennan, Horticultural Information Specialist at Chalet Garden Center in Wilmette, shares her secrets about how to create beautiful outdoor containers. Jennifer has appeared on an array of television and radio shows. Refreshments are provided. Please register by calling. 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Toms-Price Home Furnishings (Skokie Old Orchard) Suite J-18, 4599 Old Orchard Center, Skokie, free, 847-675-9400

*Butler*: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday, 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, and 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9500 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, $15-$74, 847-673-6300

Special Exhibition Three Years, Eight Months, and Twenty Days: The Cambodian Atrocities and the Search for Justice: Learn about the Cambodian genocide and the current trials to bring the perpetrators to justice, 40 years later. 10 a.m. each day, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, free, 847-967-1835

National security talk: Dr. Dan Schueffner, National Security Center, University of Haifa and Dr. Yael Bein-Granot, Head of Holocaust Studies Program at the University of Haifa from Israel discuss the complexity of the realm of security in Israel, the upcoming Presidential Election and the growing challenge of teaching the subject of the Holocaust decades ago took place. 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, free, 847-967-4800

Friday, March 25

Chicaco Doo Wop Dreams: Music, Chicago, Live brings their hit show "Chicago Doo Wop Dreams" to the historic Leela Arts Center in Des Plaines for a limited run beginning Friday, Feb. 19. 7:30 p.m. Friday, Leela Arts Center, 620 Lee St., Des Plaines, $15 to $25, 800-838-3006

Nia: Holistic dance fitness: With Nia, develop flexibility, agility, mobility, strength, and stability in your body. 11 a.m. Friday, 11 a.m. Monday and 11 a.m. Wednesday, Raydiant Day, 1400 Greenleaf St., Evanston, $11 drop-in, $80 unlimited class pass, 847-869-6477

"The Misanthrope": With its fierce argument between conformity and non-conformity, Moliere's masterpiece is reworked in this blistering contemporary version by Martin Crimp. In modern London, the writing is cool, sharp and ferociously funny as the world of theatre is scrutinized. 8 p.m. Friday, 8 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, Piccolo Theatre, 600 Main St., Evanston, $15-$27, 847-424-0089

5Rhythms Dance: Come explore the 5Rhythms Dance - a movement meditation to music. 7:30 p.m. Friday, Foster Dance Studios, 915 Foster St., Evanston, $15, $10 for students and seniors, 847-869-0250

Annual Square Foot Show Returns to The Arts of Life: Over 100 artists exhibit at the Fifth Annual Square Foot Show, with an opening reception from 6-8 p.m. Friday, The Arts of Life, 1963 Johns Dr, Glenview, free, 847-486-0808

Parkinson Wellness Recovery Brain-Body Training: Brain-Body Training/PWR! is Parkinson-specific exercise, scientifically designed to target symptoms of PD. It includes boxing training for endurance, agility, and stability. The instructor is Drew Surinsky, an exercise physiologist. 10 a.m. Friday, 10 a.m. Monday and 10 a.m. Wednesday Glenview Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, $10-$15, 847-502-0630

Free Practice ACT Test for High School Students: College Nannies and Tutors offers free Practice ACT tests, only at the Glenview location. 10 a.m. Friday, College Nannies and Tutors, 9743 North Harlem Ave, Glenview, free, 847-998-5657

Poetry workshop: Want to write poetry but don't know where to begin? Learn how at this workshop led by an instructor with Young Chicago Authors. 5 p.m. Friday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1224

Jazz/Blues Salon Concert Series: The Fat Babies: The Fat Babies are a seven piece jazz band interpreting classic styles of the 1920s and '30s. String bass player is the founding member along with the other musicians: Andy Schumm, John Otto, Dave Bock, Jake Sanders, Paul Asaro and Alex Hall. Hear them play hot jazz tunes from the era of Bix and Louis. 7:30 p.m. Friday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

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

Friday Night Fit Club: Fitness and fun combine, when the Northbrook Park District offers drop-in Zumba to end the work week. The dance fitness program mixes international music and dance movements. All ages are welcome to enjoy cardio and muscle-toning in a party-like atmosphere, guided by instructors Natalie Skorob and Quyen Dang. Advance registration is not required. 7 p.m. Friday, Greenbrier School, 1225 Greenbrier Lane, Northbrook, $5, 847-291-2995

Good Friday Proper Liturgy: Proper Liturgy: reading of passion gospel according to John, Solemn Collects, communion from the reserved sacrament. 7 p.m. Friday, St. Giles Episcopal Church, 3025 Walters Ave., Northbrook, free, 847-262-6622

Stations of the Cross: The Stations of the Cross are a 14-step devotion that commemorates Jesus Christ's last day on Earth as a man. The 14 devotions, or stations, focus on specific events of His last day beginning with His condemnation. Noon Friday, St. Giles Episcopal Church, 3025 Walters Ave., Northbrook, free, 847-262-6622

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 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 NSCC member, $115 non-member, 847-784-6030

Poetry workshop: Want to write poetry but don't know where to begin? Learn how at this workshop led by an instructor with Young Chicago Authors. 5 p.m. Friday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1224

The Future and Fate of God: Spirituality in Modern World: "Modern" or "Modernity" have been characterized by the view: all that exists is "matter." If that is true, what kind of God can we worship? Without spirit, what happens to "Spirituality"? Rabbi Bronstein's presentation opens up a wide range of questions as well as lively discussions. 10 a.m. Friday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield,
Calendar, from Previous Page

$19 member; $25 non-member, 847-784-6030

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

Women In Business Networking Breakfast: Networking and breakfast with speaker: Dymphna Fay-Hart, of Century 21 McMullen. 8:30 a.m. Friday, Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce, 720 Garden St., Park Ridge, $10 members; $15 prospective members, 847-825-3121

Travel to Morocco with JCC 20s and 30s: Accompany JCC 20s & 30s on their first trip to Morocco. Program includes visits with the Moroccan Jewish community, tours of Casablanca, Rabat and Marrakech, a cooking class, and sightseeing. 9:30 a.m. Saturday, JCC Chicago - Mayer Kaplan JCC, 5050 Church St., Skokie, $2,400, 847-763-3629

Saturday, March 26

Hop to the Movies with Marcus Theatres: Celebrate Easter with family-friendly activities and a special movie showing. The fee also includes coloring, crafts, eggs hunts and photos with the Easter bunny himself. The morning begins with coloring and craft stations and photos with the Easter bunny, 9:30 a.m. Easter egg hunt and 10 a.m. "Hop" movie showing. 9 a.m. Saturday, Marcus Addison Cinema, 1555 W. Lake St., Addison, $7, 630-932-0864

Russian teacher to lead Easter egg program: This annual family program, "Easter Egg Traditions," is held until 4 p.m. The session is directed by Marina Orzhynska, who teaches Saturday school at Holy Virgin Protection Russian Orthodox Cathedral in Des Plaines. Come create something beautiful to take home! 1 p.m. Saturday, Des Plaines History Center, 781 Pearson St., Des Plaines, $3 per child, 847-391-5399

Phil Angotti and Tommi Zender perform Simon & Garfunkel: 8 p.m. Saturday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $15-$25, 847-492-8860

Writing the Short or Feature Screenplay: This class is for writers ages 18 and up who can be in a creative environment to kick start the screenplay process. At the end of the class, participants have an understanding of what turns a story into a successful screenplay. Please register in advance by contacting the Centennial Activity Center or for more information. 2 p.m. Saturday, Park Ridge Park District-Centennial Activity Center, 100 South Western Ave., Park Ridge, $100, 847-692-3597

The Rise of Nat King Cole: Michael Ross and the Boss Ensemble with Strings, takes a journey through the life and times of the legendary Nat King Cole. The program also includes tributes to Natalie Cole, George Benson, and Lou Rawls. 6 p.m. Saturday, Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, $40, 847-677-7761

Architecture Tour: Symbolic by Design: Learn how renowned Chicago architect Stanley Tigerman infused every space in the Museum with historical and emotional symbolism. 11 a.m. Saturday, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, free, 847-967-4800

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

Survivors Speak: Take advantage of the unique opportunity to hear a Holocaust survivor tell their story and answer questions. 12:30 p.m. Saturday, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, free, 847-967-4800

Hop On In For Easter Brunch: Celebrate Easter in style with a magnificent buffet hosted by Bar Louie, including a "Kid's Stop," with kid-friendly favorites including chicken. 2 p.m. Sunday, Holiday Inn North Shore, $300 W. Touhy Ave., Skokie, $29.95 for adults, $16.95 for kids 5-12, and free for those 4 and under, 847-765-3069

One Man Show: "The Mitzvah Project": Acclaimed actor Roger Grunwald performs "The Mitzvah," a one-man drama revealing the history of German men known as "mischlings" — the derogatory term the Nazis called Jews descended from one or two Jewish grandparents — who served in Hitler's army. 2 p.m. Sunday, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, free, 847-967-4800

Monday, March 28

Yarn Gang: Kids in grades 1 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

MGPI 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. 8:30 a.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Lego Club: For students in kindergarten through 5th grade to join in this club on the first Tuesday of each month at 4 p.m. 847-929-5102 or visit www.mgpl.org for more information. 10:30 a.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

American Politics and Current Events: Come to actively participate in the moderator-led discussion as we cover a wide variety of topics, or come just to listen and learn from the opinions of others. 9 a.m. Monday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, free, 847-663-1234

Belgium and Luxembourg: Ralph visits Belgium and Luxembourg, and some of the battle sites and somber memorials as well as the world's most beautiful town square, marvelous medieval towns, imposing castles, ancient art and dramatic architecture. 1 p.m. Monday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $19 (NSSC member); $25 (non-member), 847-784-6030

Turn to Calendar, Next Page


**Tuesday, March 29**

**Opera Idol Junior Competition:**
Opera Idol Junior invites young, aspiring singers to showcase their talent and compete for a $500 scholarship to apply toward tuition for the Camp Voice for Teens, directed by opera star Sherrill Milnes, or toward continued vocal studies of winner's choosing. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, The Merion, 1611 Chicago Ave., Evanston, free, 847-570-7895

**Film: “Mona Lisa Smile”:** A UCLA graduate is hired to teach art history at Northwestern University School of Law in 1953. Determined to confront the outdated mores of society and the institution that embraces them, Katherine inspirers her traditional students to challenge the lives they are expected to lead. 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-929-5090

**MGPL Kids: Listen Up!** Drop-in story and play time for preschoolers with a parent or caregiver. Call 847-929-5102 or visit www.mgpl.org/kids for more information. 4:45 p.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-929-5090

**Mozart’s Requiem:** Niles Metro Chorus performs Mozart’s Requiem this spring. New singers are welcome, and for more information, please call. Rehearsals are weekly. Every Tuesday, 7 p.m. Tuesday, St. John Brebeuf Parish Church, 8307 North Harlem Ave., Niles, free, 702-806-8421

**Yoga for the Rest of Us:** This class is uniquely designed for individuals of all fitness levels to relax and unwind. 9 a.m. Tuesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $75 NSCC members; $89 non-members, 847-784-6030

**The Journey of the Universe:** In their book and video, “The Journey of the Universe,” Brian Swimme and Mary Evelyn Tucker create a profound sense of wonder. 1 p.m. Tuesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $30 member, $39 non-member, 847-784-6030

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

**Wednesday, March 30**

**“Charlie and the Chocolate Factory”:** Get out of the house and get over to the library for a great family film and a snack. 2 p.m. Wednesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

**Knitting Studio and Workshop:** Each Wednesday afternoon, Certified Knitting Instructor Mary Stackmann 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

**Rachmaninoff: Ravishing and Romantic Piano Masterpieces:** Jim Levin reviews the remarkable story of how the passionate piano music of Rachmaninoff came about - a truly inspiring saga! 10 a.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $10 member, $13 non-member, 847-784-6030

**Edith Wilson: To End All Wars:** Jessica Michna portrays Edith Wilson to share her experiences as she has greeted the new year quietly after the death of her husband President Woodrow Wilson in December 1924. 1 p.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $10 member; $13 non-member, 847-784-6030

**Beginning Bridge Classes:** This series of lessons with a certified Bridge Master is for those who have never played bridge or haven’t done so in a long time, and have forgotten how to bid and play. Call to register in advance or for information, 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Park Ridge Park District-Centennial Activity Center, 100 South Western Ave., Park Ridge, $59, 847-692-3597

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

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MOVIES

Now playing

"Zootopia" ★★★
PG, 1:48, animated
Somehow, Disney has managed to pull off a hard-boiled police procedural thriller about political corruption starring an adorable, large-eyed bunny. Judy Hopps (Ginnifer Goodwin) is a plucky bunny who sets her sights on life in the big city of Zootopia, making the world a better place as a police officer. In Zootopia, the predators and prey are civilized, clothes-wearing city dwellers. Judy throws herself headlong into an investigation of missing mammals. One of the strongest messages is about discrimination and not judging someone by a stereotype like "sly fox" or "dumb bunny." Judy's boundless enthusiasm and can-do attitude keep the story properly on message. — Katie Walsh

"10 Cloverfield Lane" ★★★
PG-13, 1:43, drama
After surviving a car crash, Michelle (Mary Elizabeth Winstead) awakens with an IV in her arm and her leg chained to the wall. Her captor, Howard (John Goodman), claims to be her savior. In his underground lair, this paranoid survivalist has also confined a handyman neighbor (John Gallagher Jr.). Howard claims there's been an attack, either by the Russians or space invaders, and the air outside is no longer breathable. So it's a little bit of "Room," a little bit of "War of the Worlds," along with director Dan Trachtenberg's brutally effective bursts of violence. Goodman's very good, taking care of job one, which is to keep us guessing at Howard's intentions. And Winstead is even better. — Michael Phillips

"Deadpool" ★★ 1/2
R, 1:48, comedy
"Deadpool" is a movie about an unkillable wisenheimer who never shuts up, even while enduring or inflicting a degree of brutality that would've earned an X or an NC-17 rating just a few years ago. Early on, Wade Wilson, played by Ryan Reynolds, learns he has late-stage cancer and hooks up with a sadistic scientist who subjects him to a series of torture sequences. He's immortal, and the cancer's gone. But so is his face and skin, and the sociopath Deadpool is born. At least Reynolds is entertaining; it's rather sweet to see this eternally not-quite-a-star get closer than usual to justifying star billing. — M.P

"London Has Fallen" ★ 1/2
R, 1:40, action
The frenzied sequel to 2013's "Olympus Has Fallen," which returns Gerard Butler to his role as the U.S. president's infallible protector, works on a very low level of bloodthirsty escapism. When the president (Aaron Eckhart) attends the funeral of the British prime minister, he and a collection of world leaders come under siege in an astonishingly well-coordinated act of terrorism. This many-hands screenplay never figured out how to do its job correctly—to build suspense and deliver the gory money shots in such a way that we don't start dwelling on the paranoid, bellicose worldview baked into the premise. — M.P

"Whiskey Tango Foxtrot" ★★
R, 1:51, comedy
"Whiskey Tango Foxtrot" stars Tina Fey as Kim Baker, a battle-untested TV news producer thrown into the war correspondent game in Afghanistan. Here and there, directors Glenn Ficarra and John Requa capture the strangeness of what it must be like to drop into a conflict as a reporter. Alas, most of the film settles for comic dithering and hoked-up romance. Robert Carlock based his script on "The Taliban Shuffle," former Chicago Tribune correspondent Kim Barker's 2011 memoir. Barker's perspective and wit managed to keep the chronicle just this side of glibness. This movie exists on the other side. — M.P
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Coming to America

World debuts from the Geneva auto show to hit market in U.S.

BY ROBERT DUFFER
Tribune Newspapers

Family-friendly SUVs rub wheels with eye-popping supercars and fuel-sipping hybrids at this year's Geneva International Motor Show, which runs from through Sunday.

Here are the world debuts headed for American shores in late 2016 or early 2017.

**Bugatti Chiron**

Volkswagen's supercar brand seeks to raise the bar set by its predecessor, the Veyron, for massive horsepower, speed and eye-catching styling.

The first thing you notice are the dramatic metal semicircles sweeping along the sides, bold styling that sets it apart from other supercars. Then there's the signature Bugatti grille in front.

The all-new Bugatti Chiron has been dubbed the fastest and most powerful production car in the world. The eight-liter W-16 (16-cylinder) engine has four turbochargers that generate in total 1,500 horsepower and 1,500 pound-feet of torque through two available transmissions and a seven-speed manual or eight-speed automatic with paddle shifters. The 207 performance package adds carbon-ceramic brakes, Michelin Sport Cup 2 summer tires and carbon-fiber aero package.

The coupe and convertible hit dealer lots summer 2016.

**McLaren 570GT**

High-end sports cars can have spartan interiors, but this McLaren moves in the opposite direction. The British company wanted this one to be more suited for daily use, long drives and weekends away.

There's a side-opening glass hatch in the rear of the two-seater, offering added luggage capacity and interior light. Custom Pirelli noise-canceling tires aim to quiet the ride. A glass panoramic roof creates a bright, open feeling inside, while a lower door sill makes it easier to get in and out. The 12-speaker sound system aims to immerse the occupants in the music.

But fear not, it's still a McLaren. With a 562-horsepower eight-cylinder engine, the 570GT has a top speed of 204 mph. Prices start at $198,950, and orders are being taken for delivery later this year.

**Maserati Levante**

The century-old sports car-maker, owned by Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, is now in business with its first sport utility.

The Levante's tapering rear window and big haunches underscore the company's heritage as a producer of high-performance vehicles; the sides carry the three little vents that are a Maserati signature. Though it's a big SUV, the Levante hardly hunches, reaching 62 mph in a respectable 5.2 seconds for the version with the bigger, 430 horsepower engine. Top speed is 164 mph. For a price, there's an optional interior outfitted with premium leather and Ermenegildo Zegna silk.

The Levante, which debuted in Switzerland, will begin selling in Europe in May, Asia in July and North America in September, at a starting price of $72,000.

**Toyota C-HR**

As a concept introduced just over three months ago at the Los Angeles Auto Show, the angular coupelike "Compact with High Ride height" seemed like a far-fangled attempt to get attention for struggling Scion. A lot has changed since then, including the end of the Scion brand and the C-HR shifting from concept to production.

With pumped-up wheel arches and a razorback roofline, the C-HR is quirky like a Scion but representative of Toyota's commitment to design cars that can no longer be called boring. The compact crossover will come as either a hybrid or with a 1.2-liter turbo or a 2.0-liter four-cylinder. Toyota says it will come with either a six-speed manual or CVT, though we doubt the former will be offered in the U.S.

Associated Press contributed.
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It's a lock: Digital key fobs will keep supplanting keys

Bob Weber
Motormouth

Q: My wife has read your column for years and thinks you walk on water. She bought a new car with the keyless start. After using it, neither of us can figure why automakers wanted to push this. You still must have the fob with you and the fob is bigger and thus more of a nuisance to carry than a key. All it appears to is do is replace putting the key in and turning it with pushing a button, not exactly a prodigious saving of personal energy. We don't get it.

R.G., Park Ridge, Ill.

A: We can't address the diagnoses you have received, but we can tell you that there are companies that repair instrument clusters at a fraction of the cost of a new, original equipment unit. With overnight shipping, you can have your instrument cluster repaired. The Swedish carmaker plans to replace it with a smartphone app. Of course, there is growing concern that these systems may get hacked. We shall see. Walk on water? Nah. We just know where the stones are.

Q: I have a 2005 Toyota Tacoma. It has about 116,000 miles. Several months ago the check engine light came on. The scan calls for a speed sensor problem. I had the sensor replaced, but the light stays on. I have had three different reputable mechanics try to reset the computer but the light comes on after 100 yards of driving. The last mechanic told me that a sensor is not reading and it stays on 0 mph. He said I need a new instrument cluster and Toyota needs to do it because everything will need to be reset. I need to get this through emissions shortly. Any ideas to try before I spend a lot of money at Toyota?

R.G., West Hartford, Conn.

A: We can't address the diagnoses you have received, but we can tell you that there are companies that repair instrument clusters at a fraction of the cost of a new, original equipment unit. With overnight shipping, you can have your instrument cluster repaired. The Swedish carmaker plans to replace it with a smartphone app. Of course, there is growing concern that these systems may get hacked. We shall see. Walk on water? Nah. We just know where the stones are.

Q: My 2012 GMC Terrain with 35,000 miles needs to have the catalytic converter replaced. Over the past six months, I have infrequently used Costco gasoline. Each time, after the fill-up and by the time I am on the road, the check engine light goes on. I took the car into the GM shop twice and they ran the scan and found nothing. Last week the icon went on and the test showed "failed catalytic converter." GM warranty is good for eight years, so it is no charge for me. My question has to do with the fuel at Costco. What are your thoughts?

R.K., Palatine, Ill.

A: We have not heard of any problems with Costco gas. In fact, it is one of the Top Tier gasolines that exceed EPA requirements. The brand of fuel has little impact on the catalytic converter. It is more susceptible to getting too much unburned fuel (rich running engine) caused by ignition problems or oxygen sensor failure. If the check engine light comes on immediately after a fill-up, you might not be tightening the gas cap or the cap could be damaged.

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.
SPORTS

COLLEGE NOTES

Porter, Brown help Foresters reach conference tournament

BY NICK BULLOCK
Pioneer Press

A pair of local athletes have capped off terrific seasons for the Lake Forest College men’s basketball team.

Deerfield graduate Eric Porter helped lead the Foresters to a fourth-place finish in the Midwest Conference and a berth in the four-team conference tournament. Lake Forest College lost in the semifinals to top-seeded St. Norbert 63-48 on Feb. 26 at St. Norbert.

Lake Forest College finished 12-11 overall and 10-8 in league play.

Porter, a sophomore guard, averaged 12 points per game, good for third on the team. He added 3.7 rebounds, 2.5 assists and 1.3 steals per game. Porter also led the team in 3-pointers with 49. He started 17 games for the Foresters, a Division III program.

Fellow sophomore Orlando Brown, a Hinsdale South alum, started 21 of the team's 23 games. He finished fifth on the team in scoring with 8.3 points per game and his 53.8 percent mark from the field was third on the team among players who averaged at least five minutes a game. Brown, a forward, also averaged 4.9 rebounds per game, which ranked third on the team.

Mazur shines in classroom

Iowa women's soccer player Sarah Mazur, a Lyons graduate, was named to the 2015 Big Ten Fall Academic All-Conference team. Of the 1,023 fall sports athletes recognized by the conference, Mazur was one of only 21 who has maintained a perfect GPA, according to the Iowa athletic department website.

Mazur, a senior defender, played in 11 games for the Hawkeyes in the fall, starting two.

Loyola’s Corey Barry honored

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Loyola’s Corey Barry was also on the team. She played in three games before missing the rest of the season with an injury and was granted a medical redshirt.

Barry honored

Loyola graduate Sean Barry, a junior on the Saint Xavier men’s volleyball team, was recognized as the school's athlete of the month for February. The outside hitter set a program record in kills in a match with 26 in a four-set victory against Marian (Wisconsin) on Feb. 19 in Chicago. The effort also earned Barry the Chicago Collegiate Athletic Conference Men’s Volleyball Player of the Week award.

It has been a tough season for the Cougars, but Barry, and teammate Bradley Gadek have been solid individual performers.

Barry led the team in kills (214) and kills per set (2.63), and was third in digs (96) and digs per set (L63) through 18 games.

The 6-foot-5 Gadek, a Carmel graduate and sophomore middle blocker, led the team in blocks (63) and blocks per set (1.63) through 18 games.

Saint Xavier, an NAIA program, dropped to 5-13 on the season with a 25-13, 25-19, 25-22 loss at Siena Heights (Michigan) on March 12.

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

Nick Bullock is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @Pioneer_Press
SEASON PREVIEW

BOYS VOLLEYBALL

BY DAN SHALIN
Pioneer Press

Loyola

Coach: Lionel Ebeling
Top returners: Sr. L Noah Regnier (397 digs, 2.50 passer rating on a 3.0 scale), Jr. OH Matthew Byrne (106 kills), Sr. M Steven Zapart, Sr. OH/RS/M Ryan Gardner
Newcomers: Fr. OH Jack Howard, Jr. S John Fox
2015 record: 32-7 (9-4 Chicago Catholic Blue), lost to New Trier in sectional final
Season outlook: The Blue Demons will be reloading. It remains to be seen whether the current group can replicate the leadership and crunch-time playmaking of Mazaurek, Kereb and Talaga.
Storyline to watch: Ebeling raves about the 6-foot-3 Howard, who likely will be in the starting lineup. While Ebeling doesn't expect Howard to dominate on the varsity level just yet, he said Howard has all the tools to be a future Division I player.
They said it: "What's cool about this group is there is not one dominating guy," Ebeling said. "We'll have a balanced offense and we have pretty good kids, the younger ones just need time to develop."

Maine South

Coach: Gary Granell
Top returners: Sr. OH Declan Cannon (257 kills, 259 digs, 24 blocks), Sr. OP Jake Sidner (111 kills, 48 blocks), Sr. S James d'Ambrosio, Sr. S/OP Patrick Doherty, Jr. M Paul Rzepnicki
Newcomers: Jr. OH Jakub Krzyzanowski, So. OH Richie Hoff, Sr. OP/M Grant Miller
2015 record: 21-15 (3-6 in Central Suburban South), lost to New Trier in regional final
Season outlook: Last season the Hawks struggled to find consistency due to their inexperience, according to Granell. Having lost only one starter from last year's team to graduation, Maine South expects to improve its conference record and perhaps make a deeper postseason run.
Storyline to watch: The graduation of all-conference performer Evan Walsh has left a hole at the outside hitter position opposite Cannon. Sophomore returner Nick Sremac, Krzyzanowski and Hoff are vying for playing time at that position early in the season.
They said it: "We're going to need the consistency that we didn't have last year," Granell said.

Niles West

Coach: Sue Ellen Haak
Top returners: Sr. OH Henry Lindstrom, Sr. OH Peter Hindsley, Sr. OH Michael Tominic, Sr. OH Harry Marwil, Sr. S Alec Chang
Newcomers: Jr. OH Billy Fauntleroy, Jr. OH Kieran Hutchinson, So. OH Brian Kaiser, So. M Joe D'Atomo
2015 record: 36-3 (10-0 Central Suburban South), lost to Sandburg in state quarterfinal
Season outlook: The Trevians look to take the next step after losing in the state quarterfinals each of the last two seasons. They feature two established offensive weapons in Lindstrom and Hindsley, both third-year varsity players. The graduation of star setter Dante Chakravorti leaves a void that Chang, a former libero and outside hitter, will try to help fill.
Storyline to watch: The JV team was undefeated for a second straight year in 2015, and several of the stars of that team have moved up to varsity. They add significant size to the varsity roster. Fauntleroy and Kaiser are both 6-foot-5; D'Atomo is 6-6 and Hutchinson is 6-4. Haak said the newcomers also can play several positions.
They said it: "We haven't been big the last couple of years, we've just been good at volleyball. Now, we have a big team and also are good at volleyball. It's a nice combination," Haak said.

Maine East

Coach: Jon Kulesza
Top returners: Jr. M Michael Boduch, Sr. OH Patrick Malkowski, Sr. L Krzysztof Wiech, Jr. M Denis Milchev, Sr. OH/M Shiloh Smith, Sr. OH/RS Sebastian Sak
Newcomers: Sr. S Marcus Ramamo
2015 record: 26-8 (9-4 Central Suburban North), lost to New Trier in sectional semifinal
Season outlook: Three starters return from last year's team that won the program's first regional title and first conference title since 1991. The Blue Demons will be looking to replace two stellar graduates: Lerin Mathew, the 2015 Central Suburban North Player of the Year, and Joe Swobo-
Confidence contributes to Kontos' success

George Kontos is coming off the best season of his professional baseball career. The 30-year-old, who graduated from Niles West and played college baseball at Northwestern, was 4-4 out of the San Francisco Giants' bullpen in 2015. He finished with a 2.33 ERA and 0.941 WHIP in 73 1/3 innings pitched. Kontos, who lives in Chicago's West Loop in the offseason, is currently in the midst of spring training in Arizona.

Kontos signed a $1.15-million, 1-year contract with the Giants on Feb. 1.

Pioneer Press freelance sports reporter Eric Van Dril caught up with Kontos on March 21.

Q: You had a career year in 2015. Why?
A: It was the year that kind of everything clicked. I think a lot of it had to do with being out of options, and just being confident in the fact that I was going to have my opportunity to be myself on the major league team without having to worry about going up or down (from the minors to the majors, and vice versa). It was just one of those things where I was able to just go out there, be myself and pitch. I think the results kind of showed what I was capable of.

Q: On the mound, did anything really click in during your 2015 season? Was there a key to pitching so well?
A: It was just building confidence (with) every positive outing. The biggest thing for success in the major leagues is a consistent delivery and just confidence in your ability to go out there and get hitters out. I’m able to repeat my delivery, which allows me to throw strikes and locate my pitches. The mental aspect, in my opinion, is a little bit more important than that. Every time I went out there and I had success — or I stranded a runner — the confidence kept building and I kept pitching well.

Q: Has that confidence really carried over to this spring? Are you really happy with how you’ve been throwing?
A: Yeah. It’s spring training so these numbers at this point in time don’t really matter too much, but I’m very happy with how my delivery is, with how my stuff’s coming out. All my pitches are working. Everything that I had success with last year is kind of right where it needs to be right now, heading into the season.

Q: Do you have a favorite stadium, or a favorite city, to pitch in?
A: Other than San Francisco, I really enjoy coming back home and playing against the Cubs. It’s always a good time and a lot of fun getting to see my family and friends, and having everybody come to the games. I have a few good buddies on the Cubs (Anthony Rizzo, Jason Hammel), so it’s always a good time when we get to come back and we get to play the team I rooted for as a kid.

Q: When you come to Wrigley Field, as a pitcher, how quickly do you look at the flags in center field? Is that the first thing you check when you step into the stadium?
A: It is 100 percent the first thing you look at. I remember we played there in 2012, and the first at-bat I think I ever had there was — or the first outing, it was definitely the first outing — Anthony Rizzo hit a fly ball to center field and the wind was blowing out. I thought our center fielder, Angel Pagan, was going to get camped under it in mid-center field, and he just kept drifting back, drifting back. It ended up in the basket in left-center. That just kind of goes to show how much the wind really plays a factor there. There are other days when you can go out there and challenge guys with fastballs and they can crush them and they don’t go anywhere.

Q: Why do you wear No. 70?
A: When I was first called up with the Yankees — they have an unbelievable amount of retired numbers — so No. 70 was hanging in my locker. In 2011, I thought I had a lot of success when I pitched up there with the Yankees in my first taste of the big-leauge lifestyle. The next spring training, I still wore 70. It was hanging in my locker. When I got traded over here to the Giants, I got called up after about five, six weeks. When they asked me what number I wanted, I said No. 70. It kind of just stuck. It’s a big, round number. If it was 71 or 72, I think I might have changed it by now.

Q: When you come back to Chicago, is there a go-to thing you like to do? Is it just about seeing family, or is there a restaurant or a place that you like to come to when you do get the chance to play in Chicago?
A: Yeah. Barnaby’s in Northbrook is probably my favorite pizza place of all-time. We open up the season in Milwaukee this year. After the Opening Day game, I’m driving back to Chicago and I think Barnaby’s is going to be the first stop. It’s great to see family. Last year, I went and bought 15 pizzas from Barnaby’s and brought them to the clubhouse for all the guys to try. I want to say they were gone in 10 minutes, all 15 of them. Barnaby’s changed it by now.

Eric Van Dril is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Student section gives Dons a boost

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Pioneer Press

When Elvin Husejnovic and his teammates on the Notre Dame basketball team walked into Welsh-Ryan Arena on March 15, the senior guard asked where the school’s students would sit. The answer was sections 107, 108 and 109 — behind the west basket in Northwestern’s arena. Sections 107 and 109 have 14 rows of wooden seats. Section 108 has 12.

“I honestly said, ‘I don’t think we’re to fit that many people,’” Husejnovic said. “My teammates looked at me and they were like, ‘You’re crazy. They’re going to fill it up.’”

The Dons ran out for warmups a little more than 20 minutes before the tip-off of the Class 4A supersectional in Evanston — a game Curie held on to win 65-62 — and Husejnovic received his answer.

“When we ran out, I saw that whole [area] was filled,” Husejnovic said. “I was shocked.”

Notre Dame’s fan section was a raucous sea of green throughout the game. It was loud and energetic beforehand—the Dons shouted “OH!” after nearly every Curie miss in pregame warm-ups — and during all four quarters. The Condors built a 10-point lead in the third quarter, however, and they continued to lead by 10 with 6:28 remaining in the fourth.

Curie did so thanks in part to its offensive rebounding in the first three quarters. The Condors (26-5) grabbed 13 offensive rebounds during that span.

“The offensive rebounding was huge,” Curie coach Mike Oliver said. “I knew we could rebound with them. But the guys ... just went to the boards hard for us tonight.”

Notre Dame (25-7) rebounded much better in the fourth quarter as it mounted its comeback to the delight of its fans.

“The school spirit we have is unlike any other school I’ve ever seen,” Husejnovic said. “I’m definitely going to miss playing in front of all of those guys.”

At that moment, the Dons’ fans were the loudest they had been all night.

“The school spirit we have is unlike any other school I’ve ever seen,” Husejnovic said. “I’m definitely going to miss playing in front of all of those guys.”

Notre Dame wasn’t able to complete its comeback. Nolley made two free throws with 25 seconds remaining and Curie held on to advance to state for the first time in school history.

“We have nothing to be ashamed of, nothing to put our heads down about,” D’Avanzo said. “Last year, we had 26 wins. This year, 25 wins. We were all a part of that, so it was just great. Fifty-one wins together.”

After the final buzzer sounded and the teams shook hands, Curie posed for pictures and celebrated as Notre Dame walked to its locker room. But first, the Dons — coach Tom Les, his assistants and his players — paid tribute to the sea of green in sections 107, 108 and 109.

They faced the student section and clapped as it chanted, “We are ND! We are ND!” over and over.

Eric Van Dril is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Loyola's Noah Regnier passes the ball during a match against New Trier on May 8, 2015, in Northfield.

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