

NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR

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SHOUT OUT

Terri Schmidt, PARCHC chairwoman

Though nearly disbanded late last year, the Park Ridge Community Health Commission is re-vamping itself with a new focus and new direction, according to chairwoman Terri Schmidt.

"I see us as a centerpiece for coordinating aspects of public health and environmental health," said Schmidt, a local social worker.

The Health Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month on the second floor of Park Ridge City Hall, 505 Butler Place.

Q: What have been the biggest changes to the commission?

A: The expansion of its core mission. When it was started in 2005 by Ald. Frank Wsol and Dr. John Bello, the primary concern was substance abuse by minors ... [Over time] the membership on the commission dropped and a lot of members were not attending meetings. There was a concern [by aldermen] in November that the commission should be dropped. But a decision was made to expand the mission. We now have 11 commissioners and it's a very



TERRI SCHMIDT PHOTO

Terri Schmidt

active commission right now.

Q: Generally, what does the commission do for the community?

A: It's about increasing public health awareness and opportunities in terms of helping people know what they need to do to become resilient, no matter what happens, and how to locate resources to increase that knowledge.

Q: How will the group help citizens locate resources?

A: We're looking at whether we want to put information online or distribute it in literature. The Healthier Park Ridge Coalition was formed in response to the 2013 community survey and one of the biggest responses in that survey was the need for increased mental health, as well as dental services, in Park Ridge. Just last week, we finished up a brochure with mental health resources for people in Park Ridge. We're figuring out how to distribute it.

Q: What else are you working on?

A: One of the things I'm excited about is emergency preparedness. I became a member of CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) a few years ago because my area was without power for two weeks ... I wanted to find out how to launch an emergency preparedness plan. One thing we are thinking about is having short classes in emergency preparedness.

—Jennifer Johnson, Pioneer Press

COUNTRY FINANCIAL

PRESENTS

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Catholic Charities confronts \$25M deficit

Agency hopes to fund 150 social service programs

BY KAREN ANN CULLOTTA
Pioneer Press

An upcoming fundraiser is being counted on by Catholic Charities to help fill the gap left by \$25 million owed the agency by the state and to keep serving impoverished Cook and Lake County residents.

Despite the Illinois budget impasse delaying more than \$25 million in statewide funding to Catholic Charities, officials at the agency said this month they are determined to continue serving more than one million vulnerable and impoverished residents living in the two counties.

"Hearts for Hope" on April 16 will help fund the 150 social service programs in 160 locations, spokeswoman Kristine Kappel said.

The programs most at risk from the delay in funding caused by the state budget impasse aid senior citizens, ensuring that 25,000 seniors are able to stay in their homes, and child development centers, which assist low-income families with young children, Kappel said.

"It is truly heart-wrenching to see seniors who have no support system, but who are not at the point yet where they need to live in a nursing home," she said.

The nonprofit agency provides home visits that help seniors with house-keeping and transportation to medical appointments, Kappel said.

"We are providing people with the building blocks of life, and when you take away a block, all of a sudden their lives start crumbling, and they start falling deeper into poverty," she said.

Indeed, with the state's budget shortfalls and funding delays not expected to



JERRY DALIEGE/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

Volunteers prepare bowls of ice cream at Catholic Charities Northwest Regional office on March 24. The agency is being hurt by the budget impasse.



Volunteer Pat Cox serves guests March 24 at Catholic Charities Northwest Regional office.

be resolved any time soon, Kappel said officials are now counting on their "Hearts for Hope" fundraiser on April 16 to raise needed dollars to support programs for low-income residents in the northwest suburbs.

Mike Waters, director of

services for Catholic Charities Northwest Regional office in Des Plaines, said 92 cents of every dollar donated to the agency goes directly to programs that help families in the northwest suburbs who need food, clothing, shelter or counseling. The organiza-

tion's Northwest Region serves Barrington, Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Harwood Heights and Franklin Park, among others.

On a recent bleak and rainy March evening, more than 70 guests of all ages gathered in the basement dining rooms at the agency's Northwest Regional office in Des Plaines, enjoying platters of meatloaf, mashed potatoes and gravy and green beans, followed by bowls of ice cream. The agency's twice-weekly suppers serve roughly 7,000 low-income residents each year, Waters said, who also visit the food pantry and clothing room.

"A lot of families who come to our suppers have two to three jobs, but they don't pay well enough, so they're struggling to get by," Waters said. "Good-paying jobs are hard to come by. And when you're looking at the average rent in this area being \$1,200 a month, they would need to make about \$45,000 a year for housing to be just 30 percent of their

income."

Volunteer Pat Cox, 67, a Schaumburg resident and financial planner, pointed out two basement dining rooms at a recent Thursday supper, one bustling with young families and the other holding dozens of senior citizens and the homeless.

"There is a man eating dinner here tonight who played football for Notre Dame and has a Ph.D., but he has CTE (chronic traumatic encephalopathy) from all the concussions he got over the years, and he hit bottom," said Cox, a longtime volunteer who will receive the Heart of Charity award at the fundraiser.

"Some people who come to our suppers have drinking problems, and there's also a lot of low-income seniors struggling to get by on their Social Security checks," Cox said. "And then there are the young mothers who make sure their children are clean and well taken care of, but they don't have any milk or food

at home.

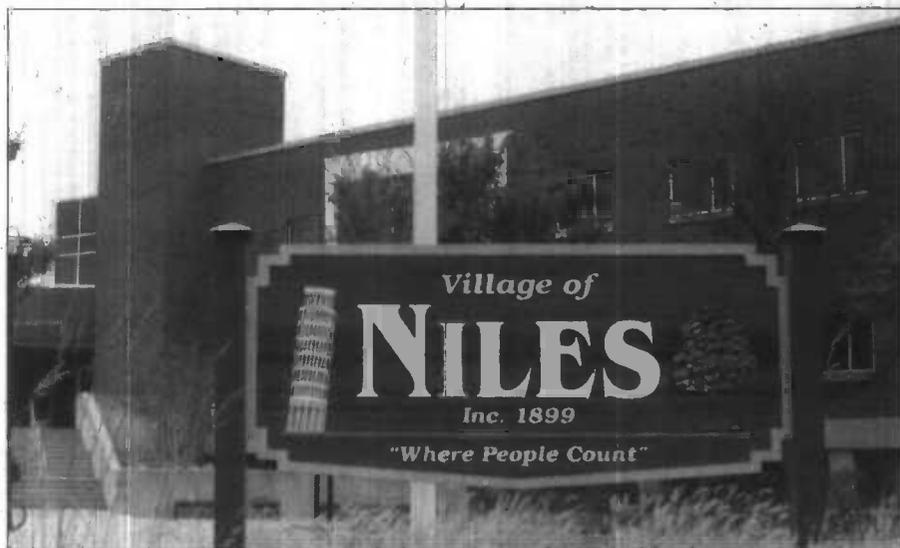
"But all of these people are my friends," Cox said. "When my dad died, they sent me a card, and when I had a heart attack and was in the hospital, they sent me another card. Our guests consider Catholic Charities home, so we try to make it fun."

Next month, Kappel said, several officials with Catholic Charities plan to travel to Springfield for the annual Advocacy Days, sharing stories with state legislators.

"It is our hope that our elected leaders will take responsibility and pass a budget that is not balanced on the backs of the poor, and remembers our most fragile citizens of the state," Kappel said. "We don't want our clients to worry. We're still here for them."

To purchase tickets for "Hearts for Hope," go to www.catholiccharities.net/hearts or call 847-376-2118.

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JONATHAN BULLINGTON/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

"Residents are invited to participate in a survey to help gauge satisfaction with their experiences in Niles," Hayley Garard, a spokeswoman for the village, said in an email.

Officials: Niles aims to improve village services

Residents have until April 11 to fill out community survey

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

The village of Niles is hoping to use the results of a new public survey residents can now take online to help shape future decision-making in multiple facets of local government, from police and fire services to garbage pickup and the functionality of the village website.

The community survey, available through April 11, asks residents to anonymously rank their satisfaction with the level of service provided by the village like snow removal and tree maintenance, but it also covers safety, asking residents to rank how safe they feel while walking alone at night.

So far, about 100 residents have taken the 35-question survey since it opened on the village website on March 18, according to Hayley Garard, spokeswoman for the village of Niles.

"We're here to serve residents and our businesses, so this is a chance for us to see whether people are happy or not," Garard said.

The village of Niles for several years has wanted to conduct a community survey, but local officials were deterred by the cost, which can reach upward of \$15,000 for municipalities that pay out of pocket, according to Assistant Village Manager Hadley Skeffington-Vos.

The village jumped at a rare chance to do the survey at no cost when it was invited earlier this year to participate in a study being held at the University of Illinois at Chicago's master's degree program for public administration, known as the MPA degree.

The MPA students at UIC worked with village staff to come up with the questions, which follow guidelines from the International City Management Association, according to Skeffington-Vos. Many of the questions mirror community-based surveys that have been distributed by other Chicago-area towns like Naperville, for example.

The results of the survey will be analyzed by the UIC students, and the results will be provided to the village sometime in May, according to Garard. Village staff will next compare the responses with the results of other nearby communities that have done similar surveys.

Village officials planned to go over the feedback at committee or Village Board meetings later in the year, according to Skeffington-Vos.

"We've already passed our budget this year, but the results could help us with prioritizing next year's capital projects," she said. "Everyone who lives here is a customer of the village, so if they're not happy this is a good time to bring it up."

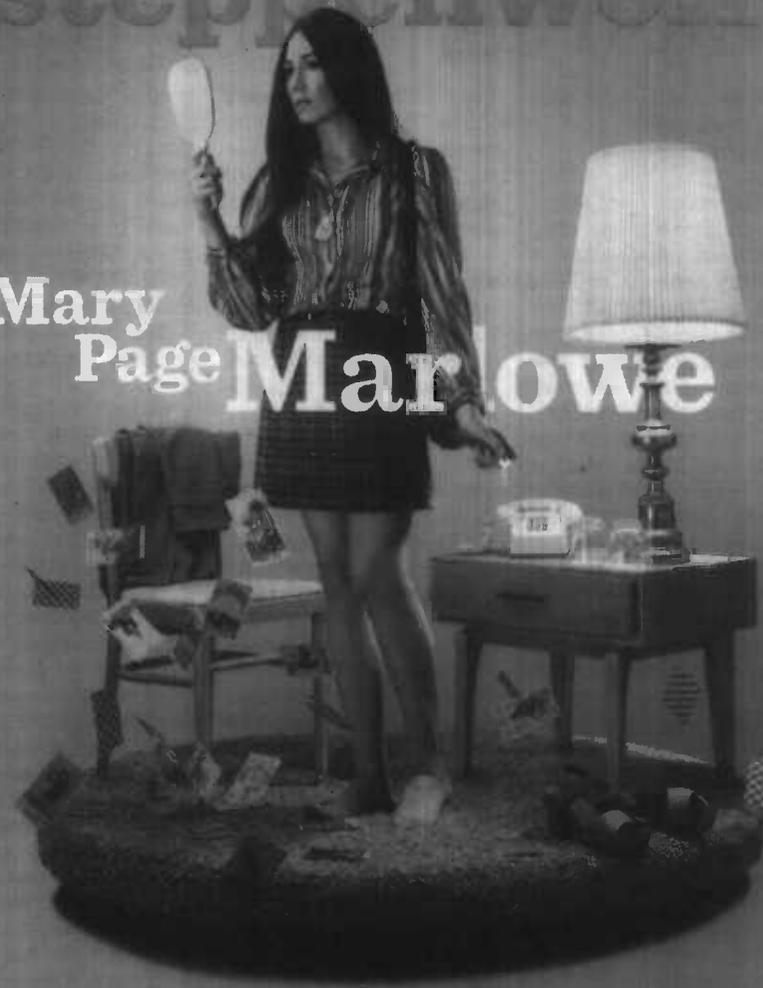
The survey is available on the village website at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/niles> survey. Residents can also visit the Niles Public Library at 6960 W. Oakton St. or the senior center at 999 Civic Center Drive to take the survey online.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Woman killed, 6 hurt when car hit by train

BY NATALIE HAYES AND MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

One woman was killed and another woman critically injured April 4 after a car they were in collided with a CTA Yellow Line train at a grade crossing in Skokie, also injuring five passengers on the train, according to Skokie police.

The woman killed about 10:20 a.m. in the crash at East Prairie Road and the Yellow Line tracks was identified as Blandina Hernandez, 62, of the 4100 block of Oakton Street in Skokie, according to the Cook County medical examiner's office. She was pronounced dead at 11:02 a.m. at Skokie Hospital.

Service on the Yellow Line was suspended April 4 following the crash at East Prairie Road, and drivers were asked to avoid the road, with closures in effect

from Oakton to Howard streets, according to Eric Swaback, of the Skokie Police Department. Full train service was restored about 5 p.m., according to the CTA.

The car was heading south on East Prairie when it was hit by a train heading east on the Yellow Line about 10:20 a.m., police said. Five ambulances responded.

In addition to the woman killed, a 45-year-old woman who also was in the car was taken to Presence St. Francis Hospital in Evanston, and five passengers from the train were taken to area hospitals for treatment of less serious injuries, according to police.

Several blocks both north and south of the crash scene on East Prairie Road were closed off well into the afternoon. Yellow tape surrounded the site of the crash, which was located only a few blocks to the

north of East Prairie School.

Dozens of personnel from the Skokie Police Department, the CTA and the Major Crash Assistance Team from the North Regional Major Crimes Task Force (NORTAF) were on hand to investigate.

The demolished red car was moved to the side of the tracks.

Skokie Village Trustee Ilnka Ulrich, who was home from work because of a death in her family, lives around the corner from the crash location. Her backyard faces the tracks.

"I just took a shower and was looking out the back window," she said. "I heard this loud explosion or a bang. I then see the train just stopped there."

Ulrich's first thought, she said, was that the train hit something on the tracks before the intersection. She said she could hear the sound of a railroad crossing



CHRIS WALKER/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A Skokie firefighter inspects a demolished passenger vehicle after it was struck by a CTA Yellow Line train.

although she could not tell whether the gates were down.

"I saw smoke coming out of the bottom of the train that was just sitting there," she said. "I came out with my dogs and then I heard from the train, 'ladies and gentleman, there has been a derailment. Call your employers. You're going to be here for awhile.'"

At that point, Ulrich said, she walked to the alley and looked at the wrecked car for herself.

"I knew there had to be a fatality," she said. "It just

shows you how tenuous life is. It shows you to appreciate the people in your life."

With CTA Yellow Line service shut down following the crash, it was an unusual midday scene a few blocks north at the Oakton Street station in downtown Skokie. No commuter was waiting on the platform and trains were nowhere to be seen or heard.

Freelancer Natalie Hayes contributed to this story.

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Four charged with identity theft, credit card fraud

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

Four men are facing charges in connection with an identity theft ring that targeted the mayor of northwest suburban Crystal Lake and another victim from the Chicago area, according to Morton Grove police.

Morton Grove police Cmdr. Paul Yaras said the men were carrying out a plan to open fraudulent lines of credit to buy expensive home improvement tools before their arrest March 5 at the Menards store in Morton Grove, where police said they found fake identification cards and credit cards in the names of the victims.

The men allegedly admitted to police they had

obtained the fake documents from someone on the South Side of Chicago who met them in a basement a few days before their arrest. They were given a list of high-priced items and were instructed to go to retail stores to use instant lines of credit opened under victims' names, police said. They then planned to resell the items and use the money to buy heroin, according to statements two of the offenders made to police.

Bobby Gordan, 60, of the 300 block of North Keystone Avenue, Chicago; Earl Stanley Rawls, 61, of the 9000 block of South Princeton Avenue, Chicago; and Brian Washburn, 42, of the 4200 block of West Monroe Avenue, River Grove, were charged with ID theft, credit card fraud and unlawful

possession of a fraudulent ID. Jesse Richard Thomas 51, of the 3200 block of North 171st Place, Hammond, Ind., was charged with ID theft and credit card fraud.

Gordan, Rawls and Washburn have extensive criminal histories, including drug possession and forgery charges, according to police records.

Police said their first stop was at the Home Depot store in Niles in the 900 block of Civic Center Plaza, where Rawls charged \$3,385 in merchandise to an instant line of credit using the information of one of the victims.

After loading the items, including a whirlpool, toilet and a lawn mower, into the back of a U-Haul truck being driven by Washburn,

the four men stopped at Menards in the 6300 block of Oakton Street.

Gordan went into the store while the others waited outside, police said. He brought three water heaters and several other items, totaling \$2,663, to the counter and asked the clerk to pull up his credit card information because he had left his Menards store-issued credit card at home.

After his request was denied, police said, a store manager wrote down the license plate of the U-Haul truck and called police. When police arrived in the parking lot, they found the truckload of merchandise from Home Depot, along with fake identification cards, Experian credit reports with the victims' information and other finan-

cial documents, according to police.

After he was taken into police custody, Rawls allegedly told officers that he has been addicted to heroin for at least 30 years and that he commits crimes to support his habit.

It was unclear how the victims' private information was stolen, but Yaras said police were looking into the possibility that it was stolen from a database kept at a Chicago-area law firm.

Gordan, Rawls and Washburn were released from jail on March 7 with electronic monitoring, according to the Cook County Sheriff's Department.

Thomas was released on bond on March 7.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Reptiles removed from residence

BY DANIEL I. DORFMAN
Pioneer Press

Five exotic reptiles are in foster care after being removed from a Winnetka home last week, according to an official with a reptile rescue group.

Erika Mede, founder of the Friends of Scales Reptile Rescue, March 29 described the condition of the reptiles as improving and said all had been able to eat over the weekend.

The owner of the animals was evicted from a Winnetka home March 22, according to hospital officials. The property owner soon found the reptiles and contacted authorities, and then they were taken to Skokie's Chicago Exotics Animal Hospital, the officials said.

Mede said last week that of the four geckos and five pythons originally brought in, two snakes and two geckos died and one of the surviving geckos was in critical condition.

"We've seen animal abuse in reptiles before, but this is probably the worst case I have seen," she said last week. "We had to wear protective gloves and a face-mask to handle these animals. We had to change our clothes because of the parasites."

Whether charges will be pursued in the case remains unclear. Hospital office manager LaMor Gatenio said last week the incident was reported to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources' Conservation Police. Chris Young, DNR spokesman, said in an email last week that Conservation Police officials directed that the animals should be taken to the Skokie hospital.

Daniel I. Dorfman is a freelance reporter.

Park Ridge VFW rezoning stirs up talk of annexation

By JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

The recent sale and proposed redevelopment of property belonging for decades to a Park Ridge VFW post has the city's elected officials raising objections — and talking annexation.

Aldermen on March 21 voted 6-0 to approve a resolution against a proposal from Canfield Higgins LLC to rezone the property at the northwest corner of Higgins and Canfield roads from single-family residential to a “restricted industrial district.” Because the property is located within unincorporated Cook County, the rezoning request will go to the county’s Zoning Board of Appeals, which is slated to hear the case at 1 p.m. April 6 at 69 W. Washington St., Room 2840 in Chicago.

Park Ridge’s objection will force a supermajority vote by the Cook County Board to pass the rezoning request, City Attorney Julie Tappendorf said.

In a Nov. 6, 2015, letter to area property owners, attorney Nicholas Ftikas, who represents Canfield-Higgins LLC, said the plan was to establish a “commercial and/or retail use” on the property at 10 W. Higgins Road, which had long been owned by VFW Post 3579. It was recently sold to the LLC, VFW representatives told the Park Ridge Herald-Advocate.

There have been discussions of building a McDonald’s or a convenience store there, according to a report from Strategy Planning Associates, hired by Canfield Higgins LLC to “evaluate the fiscal and economic impact to the taxing jurisdictions” of development.

Cook County Commissioner Peter Silvestri, whose district includes the property, said he is unaware of what is being considered, though industrial zoning includes “provisions for com-



JENNIFER JOHNSON/PIONEER PRESS

The VFW Post 3579 property located just outside Park Ridge has been sold and may be developed.

mercial use.”

“The application [before the ZBA] is not specific on the intended use of the land,” he said.

Despite having a Park Ridge mailing address, the VFW property was never annexed by the city. However, the possibility of new development on the site has the City Council now talking annexation, which was an option suggested by Tappendorf on March 21.

“If the city annexes it, it becomes part of the city’s jurisdiction and subject to the city’s zoning and control,” she said, adding that any tax dollars generated would go to the city, which would have to provide emergency services.

Because the property borders Park Ridge on the west and north, it could be annexed, Tappendorf said, but it would be more difficult if development started before annexation goes through.

“If we annex a property into the city, then whatever current uses are on the property are grandfathered in,” she said. “The zoning isn’t grandfathered in, but if they start [building] and have a specific use on that property, even though we have zoning control over them, we can’t apply any zoning that would be contrary to an existing, continuing use on the property. Let’s say it was currently used as

the VFW and was annexed in. We couldn’t stop the VFW use.”

Though resident Jeana Chammas told the City Council she had received notice from the county in November of the planned rezoning, Tappendorf said the city had not received a formal notice until March 21. Tappendorf acknowledged that “we had heard about it before,” though no concrete development proposals had been shared with city officials.

The fact that the property was for sale had been public for more than a year. The Park Ridge Herald-Advocate reported in April 2015 that the land had already been up for sale for several months (with a large sale sign affixed to the building) and had a potential buyer, according to a member of the post.

Having sold the property, the VFW membership is preparing to move to space within the White Eagle banquet hall at 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Niles by early summer, said Harry Benjamin, quartermaster and treasurer. The age and size of the building, which had served the VFW for more than 60 years, as well as costs for upkeep, prompted the sale, he said.

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POLICE REPORT

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

RESISTING ARREST

■ Serge Makeyev, 52, of the 7900 block of Milwaukee Avenue, was charged with resisting arrest, criminal damage to property and battery on March 27. According to police, an officer was attempting to speak with Makeyev, who was involved in a battery several days earlier, when Makeyev threw a metal snow shovel in the officer's direction. Makeyev allegedly resisted attempts by police to take him into custody and a Taser was used on him, though police said it was ineffective. According to police, Makeyev made statements like "You're not the real police" and "911 conspiracy." He was taken to a local hospital for an evaluation and later charged, police said. He has

a May 10 court date.

RETAIL THEFT

■ Lisa Fay, 21, of Lincolnwood, was charged with retail theft on March 25 after she allegedly stole 10 cosmetic items valued at \$295 from a store at Golf Mill Shopping Center. She has an April 19 court date.

DUI

■ Eusebio Garcia, 45, of the 500 block of West 45th Street, Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence on March 26 after he was allegedly involved in an accident at Dempster Street and Shermer Road. He has an April 19 court date.

■ Robert Jurek, 31, of the 7300 block of West Addison Street, Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence on March 27 after he was reportedly involved in an accident on the 9000 block of Milwaukee Avenue around 3:45 a.m. He has an April 19

court date.

PUBLIC INTOXICATION

■ A Niles man, 55, was ticketed for public intoxication and cost of emergency services on March 25 after police said he was found semi-conscious and smelling of alcohol on the 8200 block of Oak Avenue at 12:30 a.m. He was taken to Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge.

■ A Northbrook man, 53, was ticketed for public intoxication and cost of emergency services on March 25 after police said he was found unconscious in a parking lot on the 8500 block of Golf Road around 11 p.m. He was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge.

DISPUTE

■ A man allegedly punched the driver's side window of a car following a traffic-related dispute at Oakton Street and Waukegan Road

on March 24.

THEFT

■ A woman reported that an Army-issued medallion was stolen from her husband's headstone at St. Adalbert Catholic Cemetery, 6800 N. Milwaukee Ave., between Jan. 2 and March 19.

■ A woman told police that her backpack, containing an iPad, two pairs of shoes, makeup, clothing and a hair straightener, was stolen on March 26 from the front lawn of her home on the 7800 block of Octavia Avenue while she was out running.

■ Police said a 54-year-old Chicago woman lost several thousand dollars in a scam after she received a message via Facebook telling her she had won a lottery. According to police, the woman was told she would need to pay processing fees by making wire transfers in order to claim the lottery winnings.

Lincolnwood man shot, injured Easter Sunday

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

A 23-year-old man was shot and injured March 27 when someone a car pulled up and opened fire on another vehicle parked on a quiet residential street in Lincolnwood, police said.

A neighbor on the 6700 block of Hamlin Street, where the shooting occurred, heard gunfire and called police, who arrived shortly before 5 p.m. to find both vehicles had fled the area, police said.

Police said they later received a call from Evanston Hospital, where the victim, a Lincolnwood resident, was being treated for non-life-threatening injuries. He has since been released from the hospital, according to Lincolnwood

police.

The man who was shot had been sitting in the front passenger seat of a vehicle parked near his home along with two other people when a black-colored vehicle with several people inside pulled up and started shooting into the vehicle, according to Lincolnwood police Lt. Randy Rathmell.

Police said the Easter Sunday incident was isolated, and that the victim and the other people in the vehicle were likely targeted. The victim was cooperating with an ongoing police investigation, Rathmell said.

Lincolnwood police have increased patrols in the area of the shooting.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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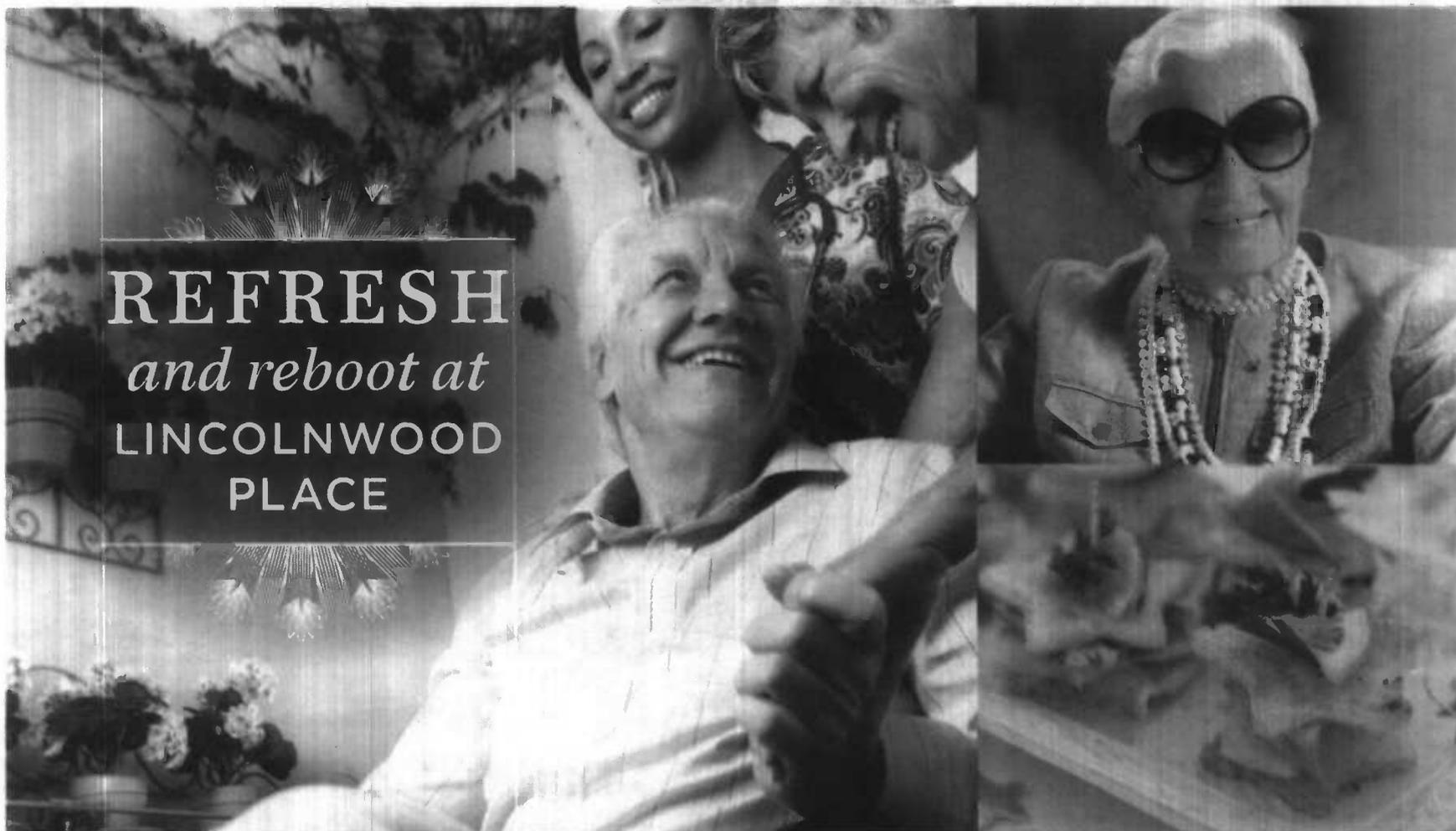
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EDUCATION

Poster power

Student artists join project to support police, fire departments

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

If you're a student artist, what is the best way to say thank you to the first responders of Skokie — to the men and women of the village's Police and Fire departments who do not always get the glory they deserve?

A dozen or so Niles North High School students gathered after school recently to answer that question without even having to speak. The illustrated posters they created, sitting in front of them, spoke loudest of all.

The students who participated in the contest were all from the school's advanced studio art or drawing and painting programs, Niles North art instructor Lori Real said. Three of these finalist posters were named winners that will be used to promote a ribbon-tying celebration during the last half of May throughout the village.

"What's nice is a sophomore one, a junior one and a senior one were selected, and we didn't plan that," Real said after the winning posters were announced.

Skokie resident Elline Eliasoff formed the idea of a celebration, saying she wanted to honor the village's Fire and Police departments by tying blue and red ribbons around trees. In getting the project rolling, she quickly gained enthusiastic support from different corners of Skokie, she said — from the village itself to the

Chamber of Commerce to Niles North.

Real said she and her students were immediately interested in joining.

"We talked about the community and what our police and fire mean to the community," Real said. "We approached this as a graphic design project. This gave them real world experience."

Niles North student artists created their posters before finalists were pared down to 13 and then the three were selected. Although the finalist posters were diverse in how they expressed appreciation for police and fire — some were a bit more abstract and symbolic, others more realistic — they each shared visual commonality.

All of the posters reflected local police and fire in some way and included a rendering of a tree with ribbons wrapped around it.

"Your posters were amazing," Eliasoff told the students before the winners were selected. "Trying to choose was actually impossible for me."

Eliasoff later said that selections were a collaborative choice among different parties involved in the project, including the school and the chamber.

"The program is honoring Skokie's finest and brightest," Eliasoff explained to the students. "We're doing a ribbon-tying campaign around Skokie just as a way of showing gratitude toward the people



MIKE ISAACS/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

Niles North High School student artists created posters as part of a class assignment to help promote a May ribbon-tying campaign to honor Skokie Police and Skokie Fire personnel. Three posters were selected to use in the program.



who take care of us and keep our streets safe."

In addition to Eliasoff, Skokie Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Howard Meyer attended the winners announcement as did Principal Ryan McTague.

Posters created by students Dechen Tsechen, Cindy Salazar, and Revathi Ravindran were named winners.

"I was really excited as

soon as I heard about the project," said Ravindran, a sophomore. "It's because my work had a chance to be displayed for everyone to see — especially Skokie because my family lives here."

Ravindran said she kept her design "pretty simple" as she believed that would have the most impact.

"I went for a comic book style," she said.

Salazar, a senior, enthused about being able to create



the poster in whatever way she wanted.

The project, however, was an assignment that was graded and had some parameters, Real said. But not as many as some other projects because it was important to let students have the freedom to create from scratch, she said.

Salazar said she initially was stumped for ideas so she asked her family for suggestions. She didn't like most of

them, she said, and then she came up with an anime-style drawing of a firefighter and a police officer standing side by side, a large tree with a ribbon behind them.

She said it was a great experience — especially in light of what she sees for herself in the future.

"I want to be an animator," Salazar said.

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Two D219 debaters win big at national championship

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

The high school debate programs at Niles Township School District 219 didn't escape school board-approved budget cuts this year, but a national triumph recently secured by the debate team at Niles West High School is evidence that academic success was still possible.

Despite losing \$12,500 in funding this school year as part of \$25,000 in total cuts the school board made to the debate programs at Niles West and Niles North high schools, two sophomores on the junior varsity division at Niles West won the 2016 national championship on March 20 for second-year policy debaters.

The students, Nathan Glancy of Niles and Nasim Salehitezangi of Lincoln-



ERIC ODDO

Niles West sophomores Nasim Salehitezangi and Nathan Glancy in College Park, Ga.

wood, scored high enough to beat the 38 other teams from seven different states that competed in the national championship tournament hosted by Woodward Academy in College Park, Ga.

Niles West debate coach Eric Oddo described Glancy and Salehitezangi as one of the most successful debate

duos he's had in the club's six-year history. Oddo helped reinstate the debate club after it was defunct for more than 10 years.

"It's a fantastic year for them as sophomores," Oddo said. "The funding cuts took out a few tournaments for us, but we're thankful that we still had enough funding to make it to the national championships."

The win was made even more special, Glancy said, because three of the four teams pitted against Niles West in the final rounds of the competition were private schools that had better access to funding.

"Debate is largely governed by the private schools, so it's awesome that our school's program allows us to travel all the way across the country to compete against some of these other teams," Glancy said.

With annual tuition in the \$30,000 range, the private schools beaten by Niles West included Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart from Miami, Fla.; Greenhill School near Dallas; and the University of Chicago Laboratory School. Cabot High School from Arkansas was the other public school that made it to the final rounds, according to Oddo.

"It shows that kids can succeed, no matter what background they come from," Oddo said. "I think it's important for kids to know, that it's possible even if they don't have the means to attend private schools."

With more than two years of high school left and new opportunities on the horizon to compete for even more prestigious national titles at the varsity level, Glancy and Salehitezangi are planning to hone their

debate skills this summer at the University of Michigan's summer debate camp, for which they both landed scholarships.

For six weeks starting in June, they'll spend up to 14 hours per day practicing research and oral arguments with other high school students from throughout the U.S.

This will be their second summer in a row spent at debate camp, according to the students.

"It's less like a camp, but more like a community where you meet people from all over the country," Salehitezangi said. "It's cool because you make tons of new friends who you get to see later in the year at competitions — some people might think it seems boring, but it's actually really fun."

Popularity of the debate program has reached all-

time highs since the school district started offering debate class as one of four courses that meet a public speaking course requirement that was instituted four years ago, according to Oddo.

Of course, some students leave debate after fulfilling the mandated course requirement, but other kids who end up taking a liking to the thrill of winning an oral argument choose to stick around and become part of the after-school debate program.

"The public speaking requirement has exposed more kids to debate, and it's now more popular than it was before," Oddo said. "It fluctuates, but we're definitely not losing any students."

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Buffalo Grove returns safety signs

Visually impaired resident seeks policy change

BY RONNIE WACHTER
Pioneer Press

In recent years, the borders of the world have been closing in on Maureen Elias, but she continues to fight to keep them as expansive as she can.

For a woman who is losing her vision, knowing that people who drive through her neighborhood are watching out for her is reassuring.

"As you lose your sight, your world becomes a little bit smaller," she said. "Those signs really made me feel more secure."

But sometime between March 11 and March 16, the two signs cautioning drivers of a visually impaired pedestrian in the area disappeared. About two weeks later, they were back. Why the signs disappeared and how they were replaced highlights a Buffalo Grove policy that Elias hopes more people become aware of.

"I'm ecstatic that they're back," Elias said. "I feel very relieved."

Elias and her husband, Mark, live on the curvy White Pines Road north of Dundee Road. Maureen said she suffers from diabetic retinopathy, which started impairing her eyesight about seven years ago.

In 2011, the Eliases requested a pair of signs from Buffalo Grove's public works department. They were installed and for five years provided Elias peace of mind.

When they were first put into place, Elias could still see a bit. However, as the years progressed, her sight continued to deteriorate. Today, she is completely blind in her left eye and only has 10 percent of vision capacity in her right, she said.

Jessie Elias makes a point



MICHAEL SCHMIDT/PIONEER PRESS

Maureen Elias with her daughter Jessie Elias, both of Buffalo Grove, say the caution signs near Maureen's home give her peace of mind.

of driving by her parents' house most days on her way home from work. On March 16, she said she noticed the signs and their poles were gone.

The Eliases filed a police report. The responding officer, noting that it might have been a theft, listed the signs' value at \$100 and filed a request for replacements from public works. A crew completed that request on March 29.

The signs' disappearance was not in fact the result of a theft.

"It's just a simple miscommunication," said village engineer Darren Monico.

He said it boils down to this: Buffalo Grove will put signs up notifying drivers that a disabled person lives in an area, but will automatically take them down five years later unless the beneficiary remembers to

call the village and ask for them to be kept up, officials said.

The Eliases did not call. Maureen said she and Mark do not remember anyone explaining that policy to them, but she pointed out, they have been through a lot since 2011.

In emails on March 30, Monico explained that Buffalo Grove has only three sets of the signs on its streets right now. But those signs, and all the sets that came before them, do not stay up forever. A disabled person might move or die, and leaving outdated warnings on residential streets only makes matters worse, Monico said. When a sign is no longer needed, it has to come down, he said.

"But when do you make that change?" he asked. "Because it happens."

Monico says the village's current policy instructs him

to keep track of when each set of disability caution signs go up. The responsibility is on the resident to ask for the signs to be kept up at the five-year mark, not on the village's staff to reach out and alert them to looming sign removal, Monico said.

At the start of the year, Monico was updating his records and saw that Eliases' signs were nearing their five-year limit. Though not required to, Monico said he sent the Eliases a letter.

"I didn't want them to miss the deadline," he said.

The Eliases said they did not remember anyone telling them about a five-year deadline back in 2011, and that they did not remember seeing any letter from Monico. But Maureen acknowledged that with all the medical bills on top of regular bills, and only one

set of eyes to pore through them all, they may have lost the engineer's warning in the shuffle.

"It's very, very possible that we received the letter," she said.

The day after her signs reappeared, Elias said she hoped the Village Board would consider a new policy, which would require their staff to contact the postings' beneficiaries with a notice that their five years were almost up.

"Had I gotten a phone call, it would have made a world of difference," she said.

On March 31, Village President Beverly Sussman said she had spoken with Monico about the policy. There are no plans to examine it, but Sussman said she would be open to reconsideration if she heard from the Eliases or anyone else with a concern.

"It is etched in stone? Of course not," she said. "We're happy to discuss it."

But she noted that, even if the responsibility to communicate about the five-year deadline shifted to the public works department, her staff needed to maintain the ability to remove its signs at some point. She said families with such markers sometimes move in less than five years, and they rarely think to call Village Hall.

"Usually when we hear about it, it's from a neighbor who says 'Hey, can you come and get these, we don't need them any more,'" Sussman explained.

Elias says she still takes walks to show that she has some measure of independence. She, her dog Ryno and her white cane would traverse the generally quiet streets of her neighborhood, and sometimes even cross Dundee to visit the businesses on the south side.

Not everyone, she said, notices the white cane, or knows what it signifies.

"I've had people honking at me, pretty loudly," she said.

And, in a growing number of instances, the horn is the first noise she hears from a car. Hybrid and electric engines run quietly, and she said they can sneak up on her.

Ryno died months ago, but Elias said she was still looking forward to walking this spring until the signs disappeared.

But the world got a little larger for Elias when her signs returned. Spring is here, the family is thinking about buying a new dog, and even if it is just Maureen and her white cane, she said knowing that White Pines drivers are looking out for her again is reassuring.

"This is my strong belief: You have to be grateful for what you do have," she said.

Twitter: @RonnieAtPioneer

Volunteers take part in anti-hunger event despite weather

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

Approximately 100 volunteers worked in 35-degree weather, often in snowy conditions, April 2 at the Hunger Resource Network Community Outreach Day to distribute boxes of frozen chicken to more than 100 Chicago-area food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters.

The early Saturday morning event took place at Whole Foods Market at Northbrook's Willow Festival Shopping Center, 840 Willow Road.

"How appropriate for it to snow in April when we're distributing 125,000 pounds of frozen chicken," said Glenview's P.J. Weiland, an HRN board member. HRN had a similar distribution event in November at Sunset Foods in

Northbrook.

Volunteers used forklifts to load pallets of chicken onto trucks, and loaded boxes by hand into cars driven by other volunteers.

"It's a good feeling knowing we're doing our part to help those who don't necessarily have the means to provide for themselves or their families," said Northbrook Fire Chief Jose Torres, who loaded boxes with his son, Joseph Torres, a fire engineer in Santa Monica, Calif.

Matt Settler of Buffalo Grove, board president of the Northbrook Civic Foundation and co-chair of the Northbrook Days Festival, greeted Father Louis Marie of Fraternite Notre Dame of Chicago, who drove a large truck.

"This means a lot to our community," Marie said.

"I love helping out the

HRN," Settler said. "It's such a great cause."

"It's a partnership of people giving back," said volunteer Alan Karzen of Northbrook and a Rotary Club of Northbrook Rotarian. "It's major feel good."

The April 2 donations were sent to organizations including: the Emmaus House of Hospitality in Lake Zurich, Youth Services of Glenview/Northbrook, the New Trier Township Food Pantry in Winnetka, the Maine Township Food Pantry in Park Ridge, Kingswood United Methodist Church in Buffalo Grove, Hillside Food Pantry in Evanston, Mision San Juan Diego of Arlington Heights, the Niles Township Food Pantry in Skokie, Willow Creek Care Center of South Barrington, Lake County Haven of Libertyville, St.

Mary of Vernon Parish in Indian Creek, the Salvation Army of Evanston, Second Baptist Church of Evanston, Santa Maria del Popolo Catholic Church of Mundelein, Connections for the Homeless of Evanston, Ebenezer AME Soup Kitchen, Elk Grove Township Food Pantry, Northfield Township Food Pantry in Glenview, Moraine Township Food Pantry of Highland Park, Mihut Romanian Charitable Mission of Niles, St. James Parish of Highwood, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Glenview, St. Irenaeus Church of Park Forest, the Angel Network of Flossmoor and St. Nicholas Catholic Church of Evanston.

Karie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

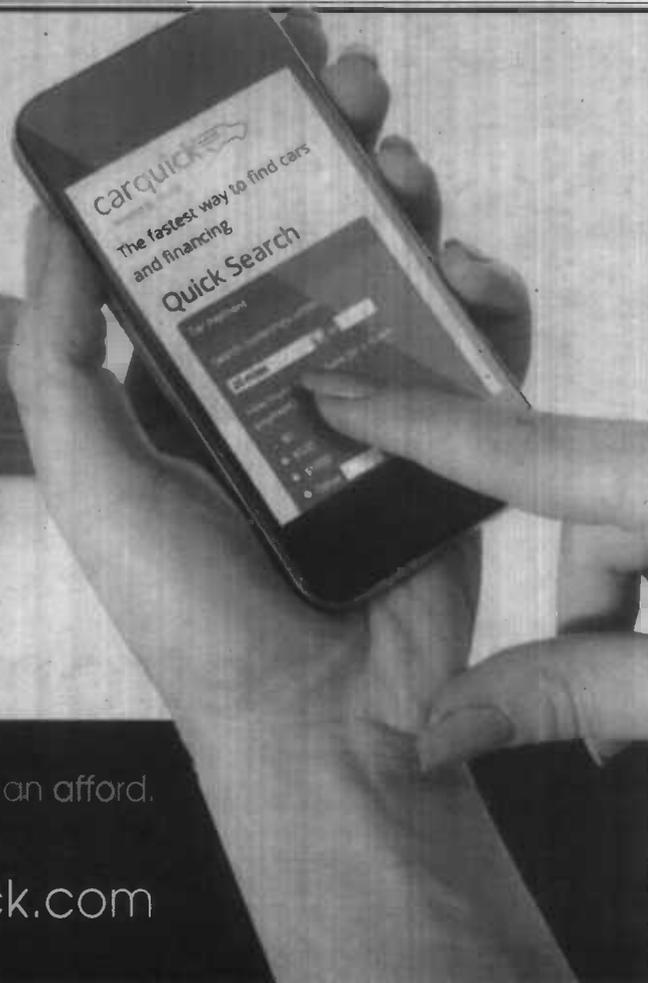


KARIE ANGELL LUC/PIONEER PRESS

First responders and volunteers are around a car driven by Bob Robinson, a volunteer and driver from Northbrook. Thirty boxes of donated chicken is the car at the Hunger Resource Network Community Outreach Day April 2.

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Highland Park looking at gender-neutral restrooms

BY KAREN BERKOWITZ
Pioneer Press

The City of Highland Park plans to designate some single-stall restrooms in city buildings as gender-neutral facilities as an accommodation to transgender individuals.

The city announced March 29 that a proposal to create gender-inclusive restrooms could be on the city council's agenda for action April 11.

Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering said a Tribune article several months ago brought the issue to her attention.

She said subsequent conversations with high school students reinforced the need to make bathrooms available without binary gender labels.

"I suggested the concept to the city council and received unanimous support that we take steps to protect an individual's choice to use a public restroom that is independent of binary gender identity," Rotering said in an e-mail.

Highland Park's proposal could affect nine of the city's 27 public restrooms, according to an analysis presented to a city committee March 21.

"Since announcing our initiative, we have already received emotional feedback from a number of residents supporting the plan," Rotering said.

Unlike a City of Evanston measure requiring gender-neutral facilities, Highland Park's proposal would apply only to city buildings.

The City of Evanston's ordinance, which took effect Nov. 9, applied to public restrooms and gave existing businesses and places of public accommodation 60 days to comply.

"It is good policy having all-gender, single occupant facilities, such as Evanston requires and Highland Park is now proposing," said Mi-



GREGORY TROTTER/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Highland Park is planning to designate some single-occupancy restrooms in city buildings, like City Hall, as gender neutral.

chael Ziri, director of public policy for Equality Illinois, which advocates on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals.

"It benefits a wide variety of people," Ziri said. "It provides safety and security for the nursing mother, a parent with a child of the opposite sex and, of course, the LGBT community, especially transgender individuals who so often face harassment and humiliation."

The Illinois Human Rights Act protects individuals against discrimination in the use of public accommodations based on sex, gender identity or sexual orientation.

By law, transgender individuals are allowed to use a public restroom of choice without regard to gender designation, according to Equality Illinois.

"Searching for a bathroom for transgender individuals can be an anxiety and stress-inducing experience," noted a City of Highland Park memo explaining the rationale for the change. "Due to fear of judgment

and hostility from fellow bathroom occupants, some transgender individuals may choose to forgo using public restrooms."

In accordance with the Illinois Plumbing Code, the city would retain one restroom for men and one restroom for women in each building with at least two washrooms.

No changes would be made to restrooms with multiple stalls.

The city would replace the "men" and "women" signs on some single-occupancy restrooms with all-gender signage.

The changes could affect restrooms at Highland Park City Hall, the Highland Park Public Works facility, the Highland Park Senior Center and the Firehouse Youth Center.

The city's Ravinia and downtown train stations and the Highland Park Police Department would not be affected because they have only two public restrooms.

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Police seek license-plate scanning cameras on cars

BY KEVIN BEESE
Pioneer Press

It might seem like something out of "RoboCop," but Burr Ridge police may soon be able to find wanted individuals through facial recognition scanning.

That is just one of the possibilities with a license-plate recognition program the village is considering. The village is pondering mounting front and rear cameras on two of its 11 police squad cars at a cost of \$36,000.

The cameras continually scan vehicle license plates in front of and behind the squad and continually run the plates through a law enforcement data base. When a scanned plate is linked to an individual who has a warrant out for his arrest, the officer in the squad is notified.



KEVIN BEESE/PIONEER PRESS

Burr Ridge police Chief John Madden presents a plan for cameras on squad cars that will scan license plate numbers and run them through a state system.

Although the facial recognition scanning is part of a higher premium service than the village is considering, police Chief John Madden did not rule out eventually seeking Village Board approval for that.

Madden had originally

proposed purchasing a radar speed trailer, where passing motorists would be shown their vehicle speed. The trailer also included four license plate recognition cameras. However, when he wanted to move forward with purchasing

the trailer, he discovered it was no longer being made.

The vendor told the Burr Ridge chief that a similar product could be provided. "But it was nowhere near the quality and had half the number of cameras for the same amount of money," Madden said.

The Police Department then considered a system where cameras would be mounted on power transformer poles.

"But it would cost \$1,000 every time we wanted to transfer the cameras to a different residential area," Madden said. "So that wasn't an option."

He said officers in their squad cars do not type license plate numbers into their computers while on the road, noting that would be considered texting while driving.

Madden said the pro-

posed mobile program would mount two cameras in the front and one camera in the rear of two squad cars.

Village Administrator Steve Stricker said that police cars are used two out of the three shifts in a 24-hour period.

"I would like to have them on the street more often," Madden said, "but we can't run them 24/7" because of the excessive wear it would put on those squads.

Madden said he would hope to be add the license recognition cameras to one squad per year until all 11 cars in the Police Department's fleet are equipped. He noted by adding at least one vehicle a year, the village would be able to get a free year of data base service.

The data base service

runs \$5,000 per year and annual maintenance of each camera is \$750 annually.

The Village Board tabled making a decision on the cameras until more information is gathered on the total cost of the project to the village.

"This would keep our police safe and our residents safe," Trustee Guy Franzese said. "I fully support it."

Thirty-eight states, including Illinois, are part of the license-plate recognition data base.

Madden said the camera scans are recorded and saved so if officers determine there was a burglary a month ago in a certain area, they can go back and see what cars where in that area that day.

Kevin Beese is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Budget crisis affecting college enrollment

Potential students looking elsewhere amid concerns

BY DAWN RHODES
Chicago Tribune

When Michael Houlihan narrowed his choices for college, Eastern Illinois University and Illinois State University made the short list.

But as he neared the end of his senior year at De La Salle Institute in Bronzeville, Houlihan and his mother became uneasy at what they were hearing about public colleges and universities amid the state's budget crisis: Schools were laying off staff, setting furlough days, halting construction work and making emergency plans in case they still hadn't received state funding by summertime.

Despite pledges from college officials that their schools will stay afloat, Houlihan and his family decided to change course — and take Illinois public universities off the table. The 17-year-old now is pursuing private schools and scholarships both in and outside the state.

"I told him, '(Private schools) are going to cost us more money, even though you're getting good scholarships. But you're not going to be in a situation where you're worried about your program being shut down,'" said Houlihan's mother, Michaelene Rosa, of Chicago's Mount Greenwood neighborhood.

This apprehension among prospective students appears to be growing as the budget stalemate slogs into a 10th month. Heads of public universities have warned lawmakers that institutions will fail if Springfield does not soon reinstate funding for operations and financial aid.

The doomsday scenario drew closer last week for Chicago State University on the South Side. School offi-



STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Evan Hatfield has a scholarship offer to the University of Illinois, but is considering other schools.

cialists said they will not be able to cut paychecks after April. The university tried to put the best face on the situation by saying it had no plans to close and would start registration soon for summer and fall terms.

But college officials across the state can't help wondering whether Chicago State is a sign of what they will face soon.

"My overall concern is the tarnishing of the brand of higher education in the state of Illinois that this budget impasse is creating," Illinois State President Larry Dietz said.

Losing students to financial instability — or even the perception of it — would be a double whammy of taking away tuition dollars, which comprise a greater

share of university income than state allocations.

College officials say they have kicked up recruitment efforts in hopes of neutralizing the damage, and it's too soon to know what impact there might be on fall enrollments. Some of the state's public colleges and universities report an increase in the number of applications for fall. But getting applicants to enroll is another matter.

Western Illinois University Admissions Director Andy Borst said the school is widening its territory this year, boosting its number of recruitment visits by 15 percent.

"Our primary strategy has been to focus on positive factors — the tuition reductions, scholarships,"

Borst said, referring to the trustees' decision to lower fall tuition by 3 percent. "(Families) have been following up with paying their enrollment deposits and committing to Western. ... I just wish we could talk to more of the students and reassure them that the state for higher education is going to be OK once we go through what we're going through now."

Northeastern President Sharon Hahs penned a letter to prospective students this year, acknowledging the state financial troubles as well as pointing to campus highlights like the planned opening of the school's first residence hall in August.

Some leaders said getting families to tour their campuses seems to mollify concerns.

"It's interesting that when people come and see campuses, the great faculty and facilities, they don't seem to ask as many questions as you would think," Northern Illinois University President Doug Baker said.

Still, the seed of doubt has been enough to rattle some incoming students.

Linda Hatfield said her son, Evan, a senior at Elk Grove High School, received a full-tuition scholarship to the University of Illinois. She worried, however, that the budget crisis might someday jeopardize the money promised to Evan.

Mother and son recently drove to Iowa to tour Evan's other prime choice, Drake University in Des Moines. The family plans another road trip in April to Muncie, Ind., to check out Ball State University, which also has offered Evan a generous scholarship.

"I think two or three weeks ago, he would have committed to U. of I. if it weren't for what's going on," said Hatfield, of Des Plaines. "He's really fallen in love with the school, so I think it's really frustrating and hard for him to have

this uncertainty."

Israel Alberto, a senior at Washington High School in Chicago's East Side neighborhood, was accepted to Western Illinois University and is gearing up to study criminal justice. When he heard a rumor the dual-campus school might close, his mother, Juanita Barajas, quickly phoned the admissions office.

Barajas said she was told in no uncertain terms WIU would stay open, but Alberto still is considering other paths. He was accepted to other schools and, if worst comes to worst, he can attend community college for awhile then transfer.

"It makes me sad because I just wish the state would care more about educating the youth," Barajas said. "Educating people is such a powerful tool."

Jennifer Norris, of Naperville, said Illinois' financial issues made her concerned about her daughter's long-term prospects for academic research and professional networking at a local university.

"Maybe today it's OK, but years from now is the institution going to have the respect that it does now or are they going to go downhill?" Norris said. Daughter Contessa, a senior at Metea Valley High School in Aurora, plans to attend Purdue University in Indiana and study engineering.

"It's just really disappointing that you have to resort to that to get your child into a good school. You can't use your own state's good schools."

Some current students are second-guessing their futures, as well.

Elise Taylor, who is pursuing a master's in communication, media and theater at Northeastern Illinois University in Chicago, said she has considered transferring, but even that would be dicey since not all of her credits automatically would move to a new school.

"So it's a wager, of sorts," said Taylor, of Chicago's Avondale neighborhood. "Do I trust our politicians that they won't really let public education shut down? Do I trust them enough to bet my degree on it? I still haven't decided."

College presidents continue to pressure lawmakers to end their stalemate. Without state money, schools have little option but to dip into savings and lean on tuition dollars.

University income funds, mostly made up of tuition and fees, total nearly 60 percent of educational revenue for state schools, according to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. University budgets have trended more heavily toward tuition over the past 15 years as state funding has dropped.

Governors State University President Elaine Maimon said three-fourths of the school's operating revenue came from the state as recently as 2002. But by 2015, less than half came from Springfield.

"Whatever we have to do until we have the partnership from the state, we're going to be relying more on our tuition revenue," Maimon said.

In the end, most college presidents maintain that the strain is temporary and legislators ultimately will right the ship.

"I'm confident this will be resolved, frankly because it's too important not to be resolved," U. of I. President Timothy Killeen said.

Parent Linda Hatfield isn't so convinced.

"I think (universities) are telling people what they want to hear," she said. "I don't think anyone expected this crisis to go on as long as it has, so who can honestly predict how long it will continue to go on?"

Chicago Tribune's Jodi S. Cohen contributed.

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Revisiting bygone eras of baseball greatness



RANDY BLASER

When you're just a kid and great things unfold before your very eyes, you just don't realize you're watching greatness.

You just think that's how the world works. You have no clue of any larger meaning, or even how we got to this place.

So it was for me during the greatest era of baseball ever. I'm talking about the two decades of baseball during the 1960s and 1970s.

And why was it so great?

My theory is this: Those decades represent the full flower of the impact of the African-American ballplayer on Major League Baseball. I believe what began on April 15, 1947, when Jackie Robinson stepped onto Ebbets Field to play first base for the Brooklyn Dodgers, culminated in those two great decades more than a decade later.



RAY GORA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The Brooklyn Dodgers' Jackie Robinson sits in the dugout at Wrigley Field on June 6, 1954.

Everyone by now must know the heroic story of Robinson, chronicled most recently by Hollywood in the film "42" and in the brilliant book "Opening

Day: The Story of Jackie Robinson's First Season" by Jonathan Eig.

But there is a rest of the story, as iconic radio personality Paul Harvey used

to say. And it is worth contemplating how the courage of Jackie Robinson made it possible. Consider this:

In the 11 seasons from 1949 to 1959, African-

American ballplayers won the National League's Most Valuable Player award nine times, including three times by Roy Campanella and twice by Ernie Banks.

Speaking of Banks, I had no idea until his death last year that he was the first African-American to play for the Cubs. By the time I was cheering him, black players were among the best in baseball.

Perhaps the most feared clutch hitter in baseball at that time was Frank Robinson, who won the MVP in both leagues. Hank Aaron was a perennial star whose consistent power numbers helped him surpass Babe Ruth as the home run king in 1974.

Bob Gibson was the best pitcher in baseball during those years. His performance in 1968, 22-9 with a 1.12 ERA and 13 shutouts, led to what's known in some circles as Gibson's rule - lowering the pitcher's mound from 15 to 10 inches, where it stands today.

Willie Mays combined power and speed like no other player before or since.

And Lou Brock and Maury Wills turned stealing second base into an art form and a more exciting play than the home run.

A black man of that era also had the greatest impact on the business side of baseball. Curt Flood, a very good centerfielder for the St. Louis Cardinals, was traded to the Phillies after the 1969 season. He refused to go and sued baseball over the reserve clause, which tied players to the teams that originally signed them.

Flood sued baseball all the way to the Supreme Court. He lost his case, played in just 13 games for the Washington Senators and was out of baseball.

But his fight spelled the end of the reserve clause and the beginning of the system of free agency players enjoy today.

Baseball always was a great sport. Jackie Robinson opened the door that made it greater than ever.

Consider that when you hear "Play ball!" this year, and give 42 a thank you.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Don't fall victim to tax season scam attempts



PAUL SASSONE

Are we really that dumb? I keep seeing items in the news alerting us to income tax scams. They play a recording of an alleged IRS agent threatening on the phone someone who the caller accuses of owing the IRS.

"If you do not pay this amount immediately the police will come to you and put you in the handcuffs

and put you behind the bars," the caller says in a highly accented voice.

Does anyone think an IRS agent sounds like that, like a member of the Jamaican bobsled team?

Apparently.

These news reports always include a sad sack who dejectedly admits he or she was terrified and immediately wired \$3,000.

The real IRS says there has been a 400 percent increase in phishing and malware incidents this year.

Phishing is when scammers via phone or email try to elicit information from us, such as Social Security number, bank or credit card

numbers.

Malware is where the computer scammers get access to your email files or are able to track your computer keystrokes.

What we are told to remember is that the IRS gloms onto our money the old-fashioned way - by taxing us.

The IRS:

- Never demands immediate payment. The IRS will tell you when.
- Never calls on the phone to say we owe taxes. If you owe Uncle Sam, he always will send you a terrifying business letter.
- Always offers an opportunity to appeal. Go ahead,

appeal. You might get lucky. It could happen.

■ Never requires a specific payment method. But pay you must.

■ Never asks for credit or debit card numbers on the phone.

■ Never threatens arrest. It's the government. It doesn't have to threaten.

Did there used to be all this tax scamming before computers? I never heard of it.

But computers have made tax time doubly depressing. Not only does the government have its hand in our pocket. The hands of scammers are looking to get in our pocket, too.



BRENDAN SMIALOWSKI/GETTY-AFP

A view of the Internal Revenue Service's headquarters March 24 in Washington, DC.

How do you tell the scammers from the IRS? Call the IRS at 1-800-829-1040.

If you get a call from someone with a lilting

accent who threatens to have you "put behind the bars," hang up.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Neighbor feuds mostly rooted in stupid stuff

Dispute over treehouse illustrates how quickly we turn on one another



JOHN KASS

The last thing you want to do is have a fight with your neighbors over something stupid, like a treehouse, and then get the lawyers involved.

But neighbor fights are usually stupid, and, yes, they often start with the kids.

My brother Nick — then 4 years old or so — started a real doozy with the Zaglifas, who lived behind us.

They didn't have a treehouse. They had a nice, new, brick garage. And one day, Nick hurled a shovelful of Buffy the cocker spaniel poop over the fence and straight at the back of that garage. It all went splat on the clean bricks.

Why did he do it? Who knows? But it must have been something. Nick worked his shovel like a catapult and heaved another load. Then another. It all went splat.

Oh, there was much yelling and screaming across the fence that evening, let me tell you.

Moms and kids went at it, we jabbered, making faces, saying terrible things in the manner of backyard fence squabbles, all those angry summer voices just as the fireflies came out.

Our dads were World War II combat veterans wise to real conflict, so when they got there, they simmered us down and found an equitable solution.

But there's no simmering down in the great treehouse neighbor fight of Park Ridge. Neighbors have picked sides. A finger was allegedly flashed. Some punches may have been thrown. Manly pride was jeopardized.

Unfortunately, lawyers are involved. Lawyers don't throw punches. There are good ones. And there are the ones who sink their fangs into your neck and suck out every drop of blood and call it legal.

The suburban Chicago community of Park Ridge is a peaceful town, and once home to Hillary Clinton when she was a quiet Goldwater Girl, long before she started loudly running for president.

Now, with Hillary gone, there has been much yelling in Park Ridge, and angry yelling, too.

It's all over that big treehouse built by Margaret and Joseph Solomon in their backyard.

Some neighbors hate it. Some neighbors are apparently willing to fight for it. And snarky emails were sent from neighbor to neighbor.

Let's just say the emails weren't nearly as nice as a Bundt cake.

Town officials now want the Solomons to take their treehouse down, arguing that it violates zoning laws. The Solomons have their lawyers, too.

This isn't any little old treehouse. This is a 15-foot-high treehouse with a great big deck, and it's not built in the hidden branches of a big, leafy tree.

In the photos I've seen, it is plopped on top of a long stump and it has an accompanying sturdy walkway.

I'm not taking sides, but it looks less treehousey and more like a fort for archers if you were trying to defend Paris in the Middle Ages and you needed to slaughter a horde or two of barbarian invaders.

In this, the Park Ridge treehouse resembles the forts I saw on "The Vikings" the other evening, when many good Vikings, brave and true, were sent to Valhalla.

Still, what do I know about architecture, medieval or modern? Nothing.

What I do know is that the Solomons say it cost them \$26,300.

Yeah, you read that right, \$26K and change. For a treehouse.

Not exactly some scrap lumber and nails you may have used to build your own treehouse when you were a kid.

"We would like to keep the treehouse," Solomon told the Pioneer Press, adding that he'd contacted a lawyer. "I believe we did everything appropriately."

That may be, or not, but at least he's not throwing punches. Others are.



JENNIFER JOHNSON/PIONEER PRESS

Margaret and Joseph Solomon of Park Ridge say they want to keep the play house and deck they built for their children, but the city has ordered them to remove the structures due to zoning violations.

The reported fight may have been triggered by a sign put up by a neighbor, a sign taking the Solomons' side.

"SAVE THE TREE HOUSE!" reads the sign. "A TREE HOUSE = FAMILY FUN. GET A LIFE PEOPLE!"

The pro-treehouse neighbor, Tony Mendoza, put up the sign in his front yard. In February, an anti-treehouse neighbor walked by and, since he already had a life, decided to critique the sign.

"He pointed his middle finger at us," Mendoza was quoted as saying. Apologies were demanded, and a glass of water may have been thrown in someone's face, and punches may have been thrown at faces, too.

Mendoza's girlfriend, Angie May, told the Tribune that they put up the sign after the email war, because the anti-treehouse issued some snarky remarks directed at them.

"I had to let everyone know I am totally supporting these wonderful people," May said of Margaret and Joseph Solomon. "These are salt-of-the-earth people. These are the kind of people you want to be next-door neighbors with."

There has been no resolution, but I've got a feeling the lawyers will get fat, like summer mosquitoes on your arm.

And this brings me back to that summer evening of long ago, when my brother Nick catapulted

Buffy's dog doo on the Zaglifa garage.

My dad and Mr. Zaglifa weren't lawyers. They just gave Nick a bucket of hot water and soapy bleach, a rag and a stepladder.

Nick needed the stepladder. He wasn't even in kindergarten and could barely reach the evidence. I can still see the little guy crying in rage at the unfairness of life, as he approached that wall. But he scrubbed it and scrubbed it well.

If only there were a quick wash for the Park Ridge treehouse war. Instead, you hear the lawyers buzzing.

Antiques Garden & Design show back at CBG

BY JENNIFER THOMAS
Pioneer Press

Unique objects beautifully displayed is the earmark of the Antiques Garden & Design Show, April 15-17, at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

"There are less than a handful of antique shows that are in this type of setting — an actual garden," reported Jodi Zombolo, senior director of visitor events and programs, who manages the Antiques Garden & Design Show. "In a time where antique shows are not as popular as they used to be, we have been going strong."



Jeff Ross

This is the 16th year of the event, which this year will feature more than 80 exhibitors. The show is divided into four areas: The Antiques and Midcentury Section; Design Row (artwork and accessories for the home); Garden Gallery Tent (garden furniture, plants, containers, tools, seeds); and Market Court-yards (gift items).

That's part of the reason Zombolo cited for the continuing popularity of this event — the show goes beyond presenting only antiques. It also features items for the garden and design pieces.



CHERI EISENBERG

The Chicago Botanic Garden Antiques Garden & Design Show runs April 15-17.

Sometimes these elements are combined.

"The center island of one of our tents is completely dedicated to garden antiques," Zombolo revealed. "You will find garden antique exhibitors right next to a display garden." Those indoor gardens have been designed for the show by Craig Bergmann Landscape Design. The gardens follow a blue and white theme

with hints of bright colors, including yellow, coral, magenta and purple.

One highlight of the annual show is the Preview Evening on Thursday, April 14. "Not only is it a fundraiser for the garden, it gives you the opportunity to purchase items that you want before we open up to the public the next day," Zombolo said.

It's also a great social event, she

added. "It's wonderful food and drink while you shop and talk to the exhibitors."

The event also includes four combined lectures and book signings. "Friday is our design day at the garden because our two speakers are interior designers," Zombolo said.

Los Angeles-based award-winning interior designer Martyn Lawrence Bullard will speak on

Antiques Garden & Design Show

When: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. April 15-17; preview evening April 14

Where: Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe

Tickets: \$18 members; \$20 non-members for three day passes purchased on or before April 14; \$20 members/\$22 nonmembers show weekend; children under 16 free with an adult; preview tickets \$250 and up. See website for lecture prices.

Contact: 847-835-5440; 847-835-6958 for Preview Evening reservations; See more at www.chicagobotanic.org/antiques

"Design and Decoration" at 11 a.m. Bullard is the honorary event chair. At 1 p.m., interior designer Timothy Whealon will address, "Classicism Revisited: Mixing Art & Antiques in 21st Century Interiors." Zombolo said they are referring to Saturday's lectures as "the garden day."

At 11 a.m. Blackberry Farm's farmstead manager Jeff Ross will talk about how good gardeners cook and good cooks garden in "Eating Between the Rows." Landscape architect Mario Nievera will talk about, "Inspiring Landscapes: How the North Shore Changed My Life!" at 1 p.m.

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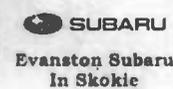
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William Burke-White / University of Pennsylvania
Levin Award for Excellence in Teaching

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to
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MUSIC

Park Ridge Chorale ready to rock with the 'Fabulous '50s'

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

The Park Ridge Chorale is taking a sentimental journey to "The Fabulous '50s" on April 16 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church.

"I think '50s music is a lot of the music that the audience grew up with and a number of the members as well," said Music Director Edward Zelnis, adding, "I'm more of a '60s, '70s kid."

Nevertheless, Zelnis appreciates the songs of that period. "The thing that impressed me was what a tremendous range that decade had in terms of music," he said. "When the decade started, it was the swing era so you had the Sinatra and Rat Pack stuff. By the time the '50s ended, Elvis had happened and it was well into rock and roll. In-between, it turned out to be a very rich period for Broadway. A lot of the most famous Broadway musicals — like 'Guys and Dolls,' 'Music Man' and 'West Side Story' — were written during that decade, too. And the movie music was really strong."

"Last year, we did a concert on the '30s and we saw how much people enjoyed the memories the music brought," said Park Ridge native Rhet O'Neill, president and founding member of the Park Ridge Chorale. She thinks audience member will find a '50s salute equally enjoyable.

"This was a time in our country when everything was booming," she explained. "There was a lot of underlying political strife but the booming brought out changes in the music. It was a fabulous time for music in our country."

Because she has to rest her voice, O'Neill will be narrating rather than singing.

She has a favorite selec-



PARK RIDGE CHORALE

Sarah Ma, from left, Colleen Joyce and Laurie Wit pose with Elvis as they rehearse for the The Park Ridge Chorale's "Fabulous '50s" concert.

Park Ridge Chorale presents, 'The Fabulous '50s'

When: 7 p.m. April 16
Where: St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 205 N. Prospect, Park Ridge
Tickets: \$16; \$14 seniors; free for ages 18 and under
Information: 224-585-3403; www.parkridgechorale.com

tion. "We do a beautiful rendition of Elvis Presley's 'Love Me Tender,'" O'Neill reported.

Park Ridge resident Kyle Cartwright, another founding member of the 31-year-old organization, praised the '50s concept because, "I think a lot of the music was really fun. We were just coming out of World War II. People were ready to be a little bit more carefree. With the advent of

rock and roll and Elvis and the new dance styles, it was a real transition."

Cartwright will evoke her inner puppy to play the part of the canine in a rendition of Patti Page's hit, "(How Much is) That Doggie in the Window?" She is also soloing in the opening number, a parody that she and O'Neill wrote to, "Another Op'nin', Another Show" from "Kiss Me Kate."

Cartwright's husband Gary also sings in the chorus and her son Adam will solo on "Mack the Knife."

Cartwright noted that the Park Ridge Chorale will also sing, "Lollipop," "Autumn Leaves," a medley from "Pajama Game," a tribute to the Everly Brothers and a lot more.

Chorale members will get into the spirit of the period, Zelnis revealed. "We're going to have some bobby socksers and some hula hoops," he said. "Lots of fun stuff."

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EXHIBIT

Adler: 'What is a planet?'

Planetarium looks
at the controversy
over Pluto's title

BY STEVE JOHNSON
Chicago Tribune

When Pluto was officially disappeared from the list of planets almost a decade ago, it didn't go easily.

Sure, it was a pipsqueak next to the other eight celestial masses officially bestowed with the term. Sure, it was smaller than Eris, the other roundish, bigger chunk of rock orbiting the sun that was discovered a year earlier, for which not many claimed planet status.

The demotion of Pluto, and the age-old question of how we classify those big things rotating in the sky, is at the center of the new Adler Planetarium exhibit, "What is a Planet?"

It's an especially relevant question now, because not long after the Adler announced this exhibit, scientists in mid-January said they had discovered a more plausible ninth planet, way out beyond Pluto, almost as big as Neptune, and shown to exist not because astronomers had seen it but because they had seen other things in space reacting to it.

Meanwhile, the institution's next sky show, debuting in May, will utilize footage from the New Horizons voyage to Pluto to explore further the question of what deserves universe cred beyond Neptune.

And that New Horizons imagery, said Adler astronomer Lucianne Walkowicz, has helped reignite debate. Scientists expecting a dead rock have been surprised to find "active geology," she said.

The Adler show explains what happened to Pluto and why in detail. But it leaves it up to visitors to



PHIL VELASQUEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The Adler Planetarium's new exhibit, "What is a Planet?," contains great vintage depictions of the planets as they were understood in previous centuries.

'What is a Planet?' exhibit

When: Through Jan. 8
Where: Adler Planetarium,
1300 S. Lake Shore Drive,
Chicago
Tickets: Included with \$12
general admission;
Information: 312-922-7827;
www.adlerplanetarium.org

decide if the right call was made.

There are space scientists, including Alan Stern, principal investigator with NASA's New Horizons mission, who think the Pluto decision was made on "scientifically indefensible" grounds. The rules for a new, official definition of "planet" seem to have been defined expressly to exclude Pluto.

The three criteria in this definition were that a "planet" had to orbit the sun, our sun; it had to be the boss gravitational figure in its stellar neighborhood; and it had to "be big enough for gravity to form it into a nearly-round shape," according to the wall text.

Pluto was not a gravitational big dog, ergo it became a "dwarf planet."

But what about the 2,000 planet-like masses discovered so far orbiting around other stars? Are such exoplanets not actual planets just because they attached to the wrong sun?

And can you define something solely by context rather than by intrinsic properties, another portion of the exhibit asks? Does a horse cease to be a horse if it hangs out in a shopping mall?

Where the show gets really intriguing is in the concluding room, which draws on the Adler's top-notch collection of historical astronomical instruments to demonstrate that the current fuss over Pluto's status is only part of an ongoing debate about the heavenly bodies.

A 1630-era telescope demonstrates that science of the time held there to be some 35 planets, because big known asteroids were then being counted.

So if there's a takeaway here, it's that celestial definitions, like language itself, are fluid.



DEVONSHIRE PLAYHOUSE

Families will enjoy "Once Upon a Mattress" by Devonshire Playhouse Young Performers at 7 p.m. Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays, April 9-17, at 4400 Greenwood, Skokie.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Old tale, modern laughs in 'Once Upon a Mattress'

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Princess Winnifred has her share of problems, including a cruel queen and a pesky pea, in "Once Upon a Mattress." Devonshire Playhouse Young Performers will present the G2K (Getting to Know You) musical based on the Hans Christian Andersen fable, "The Princess and the Pea," 7 p.m. Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays, April 9-17, at Devonshire Playhouse, 4400 Greenwood, Skokie.

"It's very, very funny, the music and the choreography are very good, the characters are interesting," said Gayle Starr, who directs a cast of 19 second-through-seventh graders. "It takes place in a different time period and that's always fun to explore. It has a fairy tale quality but it also has some modern twists."

Starr has added practical jokes to amuse young audience members. "We're going to use joy buzzers and whoopee cushions and 'Kick Me' signs and all kinds of fun things for the

kids to do," she said.

Tickets are \$10 adults; \$8 ages 2-17.

For details, call 847-674-1500, ext. 2400 or go to skokieparks.org.

Experience experiments

You and your children will explore science topics together on Science Night, 6-7 p.m. April 13 at Wildwood Nature Center, 529 Forestview Ave., Park Ridge. You'll do experiments, work on projects and play. The cost is \$12 per family. Registration is required.

For details, call 847-692-3570 or go to prparks.org.

To your health!

There will be organized activities for all ages and goody bags for the first 100 families that arrive at the Spring Forward Health Fair, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. April 9 at Weber Leisure Center, 9300 Weber Park Place, Skokie. There will also be family Zumba, free screenings, samples of healthy snacks and more.

For details, call 847-674-1500, ext. 3500 or go to skokieparks.org.

Pure gold

A Parents' Choice Gold Award-winner will introduce your children to classical music during a Second Sunday Family Program: "Green Golly and Her Golden Flute," 2-3 p.m. April 10 at Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St., Niles. Pick up free tickets in KidSpace at 1:30 p.m. that day.

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

Meet cute

The birthday boy is planning to attend the Happy Birthday Curious George celebration, 2-4 p.m. April 10 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. There will be games, activities and a treat for kids ages 3-8, with an adult, at this celebration of the literary monkey's 75th anniversary.

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

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or online at www.skokieparks.org/devtickets.html



In style with the Park Ridge Community Fund

The Park Ridge Community Fund Fashion Show was held March 18 at the Summit of Uptown. Chico's supplied the outfits and hair and makeup expert Linda completed the looks.

The Community Fund, established in 1958, helps those in the community in need of critical help via nearly two dozen local service organizations and care providers. Volunteers control all aspects of Fund activities. More information at www.prcommunityfund.org.

— Pioneer Press staff report



Shameka Turner walks the runway in a turquoise shawl paired with a patterned handkerchief skirt, perfect for spring weathers.



PARK RIDGE COMMUNITY FUND PHOTOS

Olivia Antosz models a classic look right for work or play.



Community Fund Fashion Show models were Nancy Armstrong, from left, Carol Gonzalez, Maureen McCarthy, Kalley Hopkins, Shameka Turner and Olivia Antosz.

BEAR TIE BALL RAISES \$540K TO FIGHT KIDS' CANCER



MISS MOTLEY PHOTOGRAPHY/BEAR NECESSITIES FOUNDATION

Bob and Jean McGinnis, from left, and Sally and Tim Mauery, all of Park Ridge, were among 600 supporters at 'Mission: Possible, the 23rd annual Bear Tie Ball,' at the Geraghty in Chicago on Feb. 27. The evening raised \$540,000 for the programs of the Bear Necessities Pediatric Cancer Foundation. For more information, see www.bearnecessities.org.



PARK RIDGE CIVIC ORCHESTRA

PRCO HOSTS LUCKY 21 GALA APRIL 29

Brian Jacobi, School District 64 music instructor, with his two sons and vocalist Abigail Riccards, will perform at the "Lucky 21 Casino Night Gala" of the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra April 29. Festivities begin at 6:30 p.m. at Café la Cave, 2777 Mannheim Road, Desplaines. Tickets are \$125 and include a lavish dinner as well as all entertainment. Tickets available at www.parkridgecivicorchestra.org or 847-692-7726.

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

Living

Thursday, April 7, 2016



**Mommy on a shoestring:
Turning trash to treasures
for Earth Day** Page 3



HERO IMAGES

Travel for 2

What to talk about
before leaving town with
a friend or partner Page 14

SUBURBAN COOKS

Fill My Jar offers sweets for fun, work

Friends explore world of chocolate, candy in sugar-coated business

By Judy Buchenot
Naperville Sun

After meeting while working at the decorating specialty company Wilton Industries, Annette Pardun and Renee Campagna formed a sweet friendship.

"It was a fun hobby for us," says Pardun, as they mastered the art of decorating a cake to look like just about any flower, superhero or princess. It was only a matter of time before they slid down the buttery path to candy making. Campagna first started dabbling in the confectionery arts several years ago and soon mastered the perfectly soft and chewy caramel. After showing her partner in powdered sugar this new development, they both decided it was time to move beyond the decorating bag and into the world of tempered chocolate and candy thermometers.

Earlier this year, the two friends partnered to create a sugar-coated business plan for Fill My Jar. "We make handcrafted candies that we package in mason jars," explained Pardun. "Our goal is to have corporate based sales, as well as online sales. We might also go to some farmer's markets and trade shows."

They decided to package their candy in jars because it helps keep them fresh longer and is a unique package. "It makes a great favor for weddings or showers or gift for companies to give to clients," said Campagna. The women can customize the jars to include company logos or to announce events.

Coming up with candy creations has been a sweet task. "We have learned by trial and error," Pardun said. "We have spent a lot of time coming up with the right consistency, how fine the nuts should be and all of the other factors that go into making it right."

"Making candy takes a lot of patience and attention," said Campagna. For example, she has found that making caramel can't be done quickly. It takes her about two hours to make a batch of caramel. She explains that there is more to making candy than reaching a certain temperature on the candy thermometer. If the mixture is heated too quickly or too slowly, the end result will not be perfect. "You have to find the right rate to raise the temperature."

The two women note that dipping everything from potato chips to bacon in



JUDY BUCHENOT/BEACON-NEWS

Renee Campagna and Annette Pardun dip graham crackers into their Caramel S'more Dip, an easy way to enjoy the flavors of traditional s'mores without a campfire.

Annette and Renee's culinary cue

Size is very important when adding ingredients to candy, especially when making bark style candies where ingredients are added to melted chocolate. Think about the size of the things you are adding so they create a pleasant texture to the finished product.

chocolate has become very popular. "There is an art of melting chocolate, though," said Campagna. "Especially if you try to use the microwave." She notes that every microwave has a different level of power so she suggests microwaving the chocolate at 15 second intervals and stirring after each melting time. When the chocolate just starts to lose its shape, it can usually be stirred and melted the rest of the way. Chocolate will quickly burn if overheated.

Another candy making tip is to have all ingredients at room temperature. "If you are working on cooking something and then add cold butter, it changes the consistency," said Campagna. "It is really

important to start with everything at room temperature."

Although some candy treats are difficult to master, there are some that are easier. The two friends came up with two recipes for simple treats that are sure to impress. The first is a method of turning an everyday marshmallow into a tempting pecan and caramel confection that would be a perfect addition to a buffet. The second recipe for a caramel s'more dip uses a cast iron skillet. "We use a cast iron skillet that is heated at the start to make this dessert. The skillet will hold the heat and keep the chocolate and marshmallow soft enough for dipping for quite a while. It is easier to make and easier to eat than a traditional s'more," Pardun said.

The two women currently are making handcrafted caramels, toffee, three different flavors of bark and a caramel sauce for Fill My Jar clients. They hope to have a website in operation soon but have a Facebook page with product information and also can be contacted at 630-640-0428.

Judy Buchenot is a freelance writer.

Turtle Dipped Marshmallows

- 12 regular size marshmallows
- 8 ounces caramels
- 1 tablespoon water
- 1/2 cup milk chocolate chips
- 1/2 cup finely chopped pecans
- 12 candy sticks

1. Line a cookie sheet with parchment paper. Insert candy sticks into the marshmallows. Unwrap caramels and place in a saucepan. Add water and melt over low heat while stirring until mixture is creamy and smooth.

2. Dip each marshmallow into melted caramel and place on parchment paper on cookie sheet. Set the cookie sheet in the refrigerator for 10 minutes to allow caramel to become firm.

3. Meanwhile, melt chocolate chips being careful not to burn them. Place pecans in a small bowl. When caramel is firm, dip the bottom of each marshmallow in chocolate and then into the pecans. Place on the parchment lined cookie sheet. When all marshmallows are dipped, place in refrigerator for 15 minutes or until chocolate is firm.

Caramel S'more Dip

- 1 tablespoon butter
- 1 cup milk chocolate chips
- 2 cups miniature marshmallows
- 2 tablespoons caramel sauce
- 8 graham crackers

1. Lightly butter the bottom and sides of an 8-inch cast iron skillet. Place in the oven and set oven to preheat to 300 degrees. When oven reaches 300 degrees, remove the skillet using a hot pad.

2. Pour chips into the skillet in an even layer. Top with miniature marshmallows in an even layer. Turn oven to broil and place pan into oven. Heat three minutes or until marshmallows are toasted brown.

3. Remove pan and immediately drizzle with caramel sauce. Serve with graham crackers that are dipped into the mixture.

4. For a tasty variation, sprinkle marshmallows with coconut before placing into the oven to broil. Coconut will toast along with the marshmallows.

Earth Day: Turning trash to treasures



BETH ENGELMAN
Mommy on a Shoestring

Tiffany Threadgould is a woman on a mission. As the chief design junkie at TerraCycle, she spends lots of time coming up with innovative ways of giving new life to scrap materials.

"I love the idea of turning a negative into a positive," Threadgould told me recently.

"All it takes is slightly shifting your mindset. Before you toss out an old object, think first about different ways you could possibly reuse it. Soon, you'll discover the possibilities for reusing old junk are endless."

Threadgould's book, "ReMake It!" (Sterling Publishing, 2011), is chock full of DIY projects that turn ordinary trash into something extraordinary. In honor of Earth Day, I asked Threadgould to share some favorite upcycling projects.

Soda Bottle Trinket Dish

Give a plastic bottle new life as a trinket bowl to hold jewelry, change, keys and other precious junk.

You need:

- 20 oz. plastic soda bottle, clean and dry
- Ribbon, cut into two 16-inch pieces
- Hole-punch
- Scissors

Directions:

Cut the bottle, so you only retain the bottom 2 1/2-inches, to use as the dish. Use a hole-punch to punch holes about 1/2-inch apart around the top of your container. Weave both pieces of ribbon through the holes and finish off with a bow.

Vinyl Record Clock

I love this project because it gives new meaning to the song, "Rock Around the Clock." Threadgould suggests making this clock as an anniversary gift, which lets you elevate a couple's favorite song into a useful piece of art.

You need:

- Vinyl record — visit thrift stores, used book stores, garage sales, Ebay or Amazon
- Decorative paper — Threadgould suggests old sheet music.
- Number stencils
- Pencil

- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Ruler
- Clock mechanism, available at most craft stores and hardware stores
- Battery
- Picture hanging hardware, available at most craft stores and hardware stores

Directions:

Trace numbers 1-12 onto decorative paper. Carefully cut each number and set aside.

Use a glue stick to glue numbers to your record. Start with numbers 3, 6, 9, and 12 at quarter points around the clock to make sure the numbers are evenly spaced. Fill in the other numbers using ruler and pencil for accuracy. Now you are ready to add the clock mechanism.

The average clock mechanism is often a little too large for the hole in the center of the vinyl record; therefore use scissors to widen the hole and allow the mechanism to fit through.

Insert the clock mechanism through the hole in the vinyl record, screw it into place, add the minute and second hands, and put the battery in. Add picture-hanging hardware if desired.

Mint Tin Wordplay

I love this game, which is the perfect antidote for restless kids. I keep it in my purse so my son and I always have something to do when we're waiting at a restaurant, doctor's office or the airport. It's also a great way to reinforce sentence structure and parts of speech.

You need:

- Old magazines
- Mint tin (Altoids tins work great)
- Flexible magnet — reuse the magnets you get in junk mail or buy magnet tape at your favorite craft store.
- Glue stick
- Scissors

Directions:

Create a word list by going through magazines and cutting out words that interest you. Include a variety of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. Place magnet (magnetic side down) on a flat surface. Glue words to non-magnetic side of magnet and set aside to dry.

Use scissors to carefully cut apart the pieces. Place words in tin and use inside cover as your "canvas" for creating sentences and fun phrases.

Learn more about Threadgould, her book, recycling kits, DIY videos and loads of recycling tips at www.tiffanythreadgould.com. She is also featured on the TV series "Human Resources" on the Pivot network.



TIFFANY THREADGOULD PHOTOS

Update an old vinyl record as a new, working clock.



Ribbon upgrades a plastic bottle to a decorative trinket bowl.



An empty mint tin will hold pieces for a word game that fits into a purse or pocket.

PETS/ANIMALS

Animal motherhood, grizzly encounters featured in new books

By Jeremy Mikula
Chicago Tribune

With all due respect to cats and dogs, they don't hold a monopoly on the books-about-animals publishing industry. March offers a great selection of books about some other species of the animal kingdom.

"Amazing Moms: Love and Lessons From the Animal Kingdom" by Rachel Buchholz (National Geographic): The most adorable book you'll come across this month, "Amazing Moms" features stunning National Geographic photographs paired with stories and fun facts about animal motherhood and the steps these moms go to to provide for and protect their pups, cubs, joeys, calves, etc. Quotes (from humans) about mothers and parenthood adorn each spread.

"Taken by Bear in Yellowstone: More Than a Century of Harrowing Encounters between Grizzlies and Humans" by Kathleen Snow (Lyons Press): Faster than Usain Bolt, stronger than Mariusz Pudzianowski, and much cooler than those sad sack "Bears" who ply their trade at Soldier Field, grizzly bears have long been revered in North America. Bears also have been long-feared by hu-

mans, perhaps with good reason: Snow details more than 100 years' worth of human-bear interactions in Yellowstone National Park that have ended in human fatalities or maulings. But fear not, bear-lovers: Snow devotes the book's afterword to tips on how to prevent human-grizzly interactions from turning ... grisly.

"Running With Rhinos: Stories From a Radical Conservationist" by Ed Warner (Greenleaf Book Group): Only about 5,000 black rhinos still live in the wilds of sub-Saharan Africa, according to the World Wide Fund, and the fact that more haven't died off is because of the work of conservationists such as Warner. In "Running With Rhinos," the self-proclaimed "radical conservationist" dishes on his collaborations with the veterinarians and biologists who engage in the dangerous fieldwork that is rhinoceros care.

"The Rarest Bird in the World: The Search for the Nechisar Nightjar" by Vernon R.L. Head (Pegasus Books): It's not every day a new species of bird is discovered, but that's just what happened in 1990 when a group of Cambridge scientists visited Ethiopia to collect specimens of the country's birds. One of the collected specimens was a soli-

tary wing from an unidentified bird, later to be declared a new species called Nechisar Nightjar (*Camprimulgus Solala*). Head, an avid bird watcher and the chairman of BirdLife South Africa, details the Cambridge finding and engages on an expedition of his own to find this rare bird.

"They All Had Eyes: Confessions of a Vivisectionist" by Michael Slusher (Vegan Publishers): Slusher recounts his experiences conducting tests on

animals — from mice to monkeys — in the name of biomedical and pharmaceutical research. Slusher rails against animal testing, arguing such testing is cruel and causes animal suffering, and describes the traumatic memories his work as a vivisectionist has left him.

"Spill Simmer Falter Wither: A Novel" by Sara Baume (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt): Set over the course of four seasons, this novel follows two out-

casts: a man ignored and shunned by his village and the one-eyed dog he stumbles across and takes in. In *One Eye*, Ray finds kinship and familiarity in their shared feeling of being treated as outsiders. But as their friendship grows, the village begins to notice and falsely perceives menace and abuse, forcing Ray and *One Eye* to take to the road.

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CHICAGO TRIBUNE

PET OF THE WEEK



Max

Max is a very sweet and playful, 5-year-old, 14-pound, male purebred Shih Tzu looking for a loving guardian.

This fellow is almost blind and diabetic, so he's looking for a dog-lover with the ability to give him loving care and insulin shots every 12 hours.

Max is housebroken and crate-trained. He's great with people of all ages — including children, dogs and other cats.

He loves walks and enjoys rides in the car. He loves to dance on his hind legs for freeze dried liver treats. Despite his health issues, Max is a very loving and good-natured boy who will repay his adopter with years of love.

For more information, please contact Maria at mltherese@gmail.com. He is being fostered in Lincolnwood.

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

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



How to address issues with Comcast billing

This week's column is a Comcast "two-fer" involving billing issues; neither an exorbitant amount of money. But, if, as they say, time is money, both came at a price.

Alice In Glenview posted the below to Xfinity's Facebook page and complained she received no response.

"I'm beginning to have serious doubts about Comcast. I spent seven hours trying to resolve one issue over a service call. Three times I took off work (to wait for a service visit). The first (technician) went to the wrong house; the second, upon arrival, reported he was not allowed in my house. Compounding this, Comcast switched me to an at-home appointment without informing me there was a fee for connecting my TV. I called and requested a reversal of this fee. A supervisor named Bruce waived \$20 of the \$70 then said he would reduce it another \$30, taking money "from his budget." Since \$50 carried over to my next bill, I called and spent an hour with a supervisor who repeatedly itemized my charges, trying to relate one to the \$50 fee. It was an enormous feat for her to concede

that Bruce didn't credit me as promised. However, Comcast is still charging me! How many more hours will I need to spend resolving this issue? By the way, my hourly rate is, \$120. I believe Comcast owes me \$890!"



CATHY CUNNINGHAM
Help Squad

Stan In Park Ridge wrote Help Squad, "I've been a Comcast customer for a few years and last October they raised my monthly charges without notice. I called a few times and was told they would lower the bill, but they never did. In November when I called to cancel, they sent me an email saying my bill would be \$132. So I stayed with them. When the December bill came, it was a lot more. When I called, they agreed I was over-charged and said not to pay the bill; they would send me a new bill. They never did. The next month they not only didn't correct the bill, they charged me a \$10 late fee! That's when I called and canceled. But they keep sending me a past due bill!"

Since these two Comcast complaints came in around the same time, I forwarded both to my Comcast go-to, Regional Vice President of Communications Jack Segal. After a quick investigation of Alice's complaint, Segal told me: "We did respond to

Alice (on Facebook)." He included a screen shot as evidence. "(A)fter we sent her the message asking for info, we did not hear back ... We determined (Alice) is correct. She was told she would be given the \$50 credit and we've now credited her ..."

Then came Stan's issue. Following Comcast's November email detailing his newly lowered monthly charge, Stan's bills varied from \$147.96 to \$189.36. When I asked him if this might be due to long distance calls or on-demand purchases, he replied: "I never used anything but basic TV, never had a phone connected and did not receive any detailed bill." A few days later, Stan reported that Comcast customer care had called. "I talked to Candice yesterday and

she did admit (Comcast) has over-charged me since August. She said they will send me a refund in a few weeks." Segal elaborated: "We are going to take (Stan) at his word and give him a \$109 credit, the difference between what we billed him and what he said we quoted him ..."

For most who write to Help Squad with a Comcast issue, I first recommend they post their complaint to Xfinity's Facebook page. Response time is typically quick due to the public nature of the forum. Here are three easy steps for posting a complaint to the Xfinity Facebook page.

1. Type grievance where it says "Write something on this page." Complaint will post under "Visitor Posts."
2. Check back for Comcast's response in "Notifications" — the globe icon in the upper right corner.
3. Reply as appropriate.

Need help?

Send questions to HelpSquad@pioneerlocal.com.

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist.

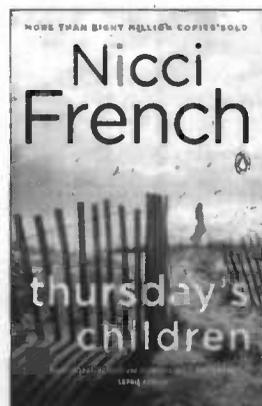
**ALWAYS
GIVING
ADVICE?**

Here's a tip: start a blog

chicagonow.com/pitch



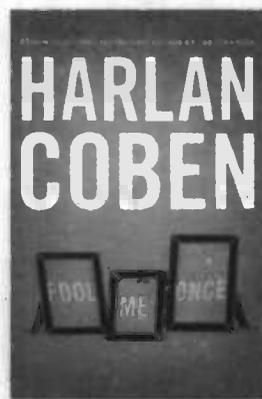
ROUNDUP | CRIME STORIES

**Thursday's Children**

By Nicci French, Penguin, 336 pages, \$16

With her brooding intelligence and maddening aloofness, Frieda Klein may be the most compelling female character in today's crime fiction. A psychotherapist who clears her mind by taking lonesome strolls through London in the middle of the night, she doesn't mind canceling appointments to pursue a murder investigation — especially when, as in “Thursday's Children,” the fourth installment in a strong series by the husband-wife team of Nicci Gerrard and Sean French, the crime resonates with her own dark history. When 15-year-old Becky, the daughter of an old high school friend, is found hanging from a beam in her bedroom, police are quick to rule it a suicide. But Frieda, who met with the girl before the tragedy, knows better. The resilient Becky told her she had been raped in her own bed by a masked man. Details of the attack leave the therapist believing it was the same man who raped Frieda 23 years ago, when she was 16. She also is certain the man killed Becky to keep her from reporting the crime. Returning home to question former classmates awakens painful, suppressed memories for

Frieda. With her irascible, long-estranged mother dying and her just-dumped boyfriend pressuring her for answers — he did, after all, just move back from New York to be with her — she finds herself caught eerily between past and present, a ghost of herself. Leave it to her loyal circle of friends to bring her back down to earth, to deepen the footprints of those midnight walks.

**Fool Me Once**

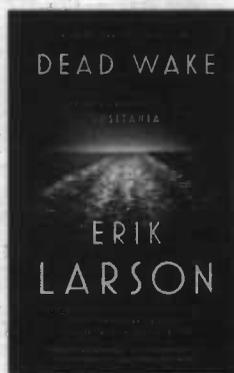
By Harlan Coben, Dutton, 390 pages, \$28.

When an author sells as many books and has as many nice things written about him as Harlan Coben, a reviewer who has managed to avoid his thrillers has the duty to right that wrong. Right? Coben's latest, “Fool Me Once,” a standalone, is a good place to start. And for much of the going, it's a good place to continue, thanks to the spell cast by former Army helicopter pilot Maya Burkett, PTSD-suffering mother of a 2-year-old girl. Pushed out of the service after an airstrike she led near the Iraq-Syria border killed five civilians, she now must contend with the killing of her husband Joe during an outing in Central Park (and the skepticism of a police detective who can't understand why the muggers who shot her husband didn't also shoot her). Mysterious circumstances also surround previous deaths in the family, including that of Maya's sister Claire, who was shot during a supposed home invasion, and Joe's brother Andrew, who years ago perished in an odd yachting accident. Ultimately, everything points back to the secret dealings of

Joe's powerful, pharmaceutical-manufacturing family. As indicated by the title, devilish plot twists are in store. Give credit to Coben for the cleverness of his concept and the shivery subtlety of his plotting. But ultimately, the book skims along the psychological surface too much to overcome its contrivances and grab readers the way it should. Do love a high-tech whistleblower hiding out in a strip club, though.

CHICAGOLAND BEST-SELLERS

1. “**Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania**” by Erik Larson (Crown, \$17)
2. “**The Little Paris Bookshop: A Novel**” by Nina George (Broadway, \$16)
3. “**The Nest**” by Cynthia D'Aprix Sweeney (Ecco, \$26.99)
4. “**My Brilliant Friend**” by Elena Ferrante (Europa Editions, \$17)
5. “**When Breath Becomes Air**” by Paul Kalanithi (Random House, \$25).



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

**So You've Been Publicly Shamed**

By Jon Ronson, Riverhead, 318 pages, \$16

Ronson looks at the phenomenon of using shame as a form of social control, drawing on conversations with people who've experienced its damaging effects, ranging from ridicule to job loss. Among them: Justine Sacco, who made an AIDS joke on Twitter, and Lindsey Stone, who posted on Facebook a photo of herself mocking the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

**The Dream Lover: A Novel**

By Elizabeth Berg, Ballantine, 373 pages, \$16

“The Dream Lover” is a fictionalized account of the controversial life of 19th-century French novelist Aurore Dupin Dudevant, who won literary fame under the pseudonym George Sand. Berg follows Dupin's steps from fleeing a loveless marriage to her affairs with prominent figures such as Frederic Chopin, Gustave Flaubert and Victor Hugo — and her struggle to find balance amid this tumultuous existence.

**Girl at War: A Novel**

By Sara Novic, Random House, 343 pages, \$16

Novic's debut novel explores the life of 20-year-old Ana Juric, a Croatian college student in 2001 Manhattan. Ana returns to her home country to make peace with childhood memories of the Croatian War of Independence, which started in 1991.

**Bradstreet Gate: A Novel**

By Robin Kirman, Broadway, 336 pages, \$16

For Georgia, Charlie and Alice, the anticipatory euphoria of graduating from Harvard is shadowed by the murder of a classmate. Their beloved teacher, Rufus Storrow, is named prime suspect, which makes them question not only their trust in him, but also in one another. As they transition to adulthood, the three friends confront their personal demons, while witnessing the decay of a mentor whose guilt they are still not sure of.

**Creatures of a Day: And Other Tales of Psychotherapy**

By Irvin D. Yalom, Basic, 240 pages, \$15.99

“Creatures of a Day: And Other Tales of Psychotherapy” is a collection of 10 stories gathered from patients who attended Yalom's psychotherapy sessions. His unconventional advice on dealing with thoughts about death turns each story into a lesson on living with meaning and facing the inevitable end with serenity.

— Andreea Ciulac



puzzle island

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

Water Log: As your pencil flows along

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

Across

- 1 Cotton shirt fabric
5 Paid promos
8 Cantina fare
14 Honolulu-born leader
19 Overcharge
20 Take a load off
21 Cracker shape of a sort
22 Low point
23 Puritanical nature
26 Break down slowly
27 Skye topper
28 Retro "Awesome!"
29 Vote out
31 Grp. awarding merit badges
32 Vigilant
34 Thick bankrolls
37 Brief cybermessages
39 Run rings around
41 Aussie bird
42 Homeland, affectionately
45 Land parcel
46 Be intolerant of opposition
51 Disrespectful
52 Land-parcel measures
54 County near London
55 At any time
56 Genesis setting
57 Fridge foray
58 Part of a Dracula costume
59 Loud sound
60 Film's orchestral music
62 Polished off
63 Finance deg.
65 Teeth expert's deg.

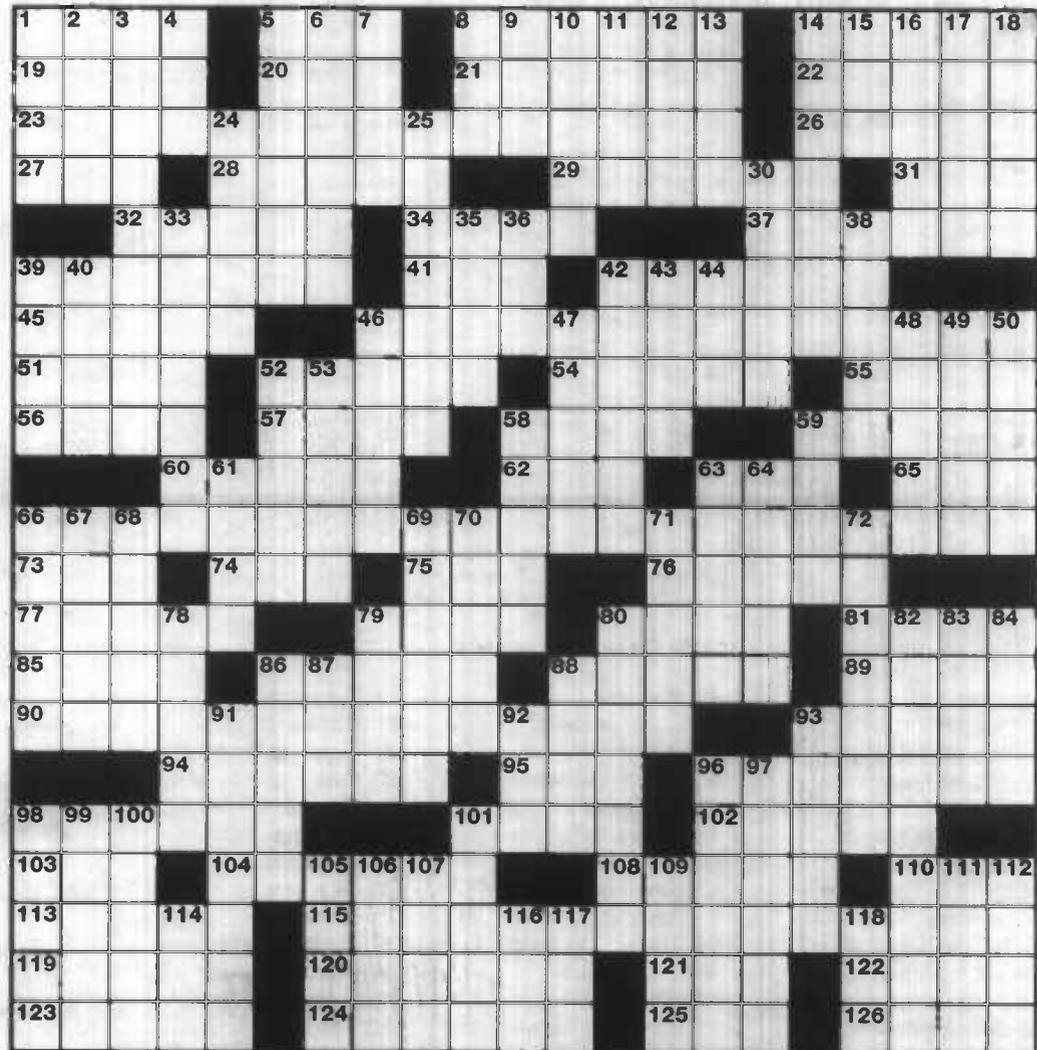
- 66 Literary narration method
73 — la la
74 Chum

- 75 Play a part
76 Place a hex on
77 Caravan stop
79 Needing a rubdown
80 Sound of 113
81 Keycard receiver
85 Ratio phrase
86 Undue speed
88 French impressionist
89 Give in, so to speak
90 Giving the remote a workout
93 Film with a posse
94 Sioux City citizens
95 Hulk director Lee
96 Erin Brockovich's former employer
98 Social group
101 Liverpoollian, for one
102 Microsoft cofounder
103 French article
104 "Ya got me"
108 Evoking the shivers
110 Prof's helpers
113 Iron's output
115 Prudent part of portfolios
119 My Cousin Vinny star
120 Free-for-alls
121 Summer clock setting in Md.
122 ¿Cómo — usted?
123 Unwelcome weather
124 Good to go

- 125 Nine-character signal
126 Accident-probing agcy.

Down

- 1 Whispered call
2 Kappa preceder
3 Bread spread
4 Alias abbr.
5 Daisylike flowers
6 Widen, as pupils
7 OR order
8 — kwon do
9 "What's more ..."
10 Less
11 Solemn assent
12 Colleen
13 Apart from this
14 Pairs of punches
15 Watering hole
16 Southwestern building material
17 Central spot
18 Fields of expertise
24 Clumsy
25 Showed fear
30 When the evening news may be on
33 Proof of permission
35 Pop singer Tori
36 Pair
38 Dad of Henry Ford II
39 Raison d'—
40 Gunk
42 Just hoping for a profit
43 Fail to keep
44 He preceded JFK
46 Succinct
47 "Beauty is truth" poet
48 Get away from
49 Geeks



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

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- 50 Lock of hair
52 Appetite arouser
53 Christmas song
58 Twain's pauper
59 Game fish
61 Spending limits
63 Cursor mover
64 Fireworks display
66 Unemotional
67 Compactor contents
68 Dreadlocks wearer
69 Symbol of Arizona
70 Yellowish brown
71 Cupcake covering.
72 Folger's alternative
78 Greek column style
79 Trade org.
80 Wave rider's phrase
82 Seminarian's hurdle
83 Done
84 School segment
86 Chopped down
87 Emulating
88 Series starter
91 Lacking a max
92 Wide partner
93 Possible barn nestling
96 It's southwest of San Antonio
97 Top-tier groups
98 Points of a crescent
99 Chip giant
100 Oscar winner
101 Filet's lack
105 Alma mater of 44 Down
106 Christmas song.
107 No longer valid
109 Prior nights
111 Colony crawlers
112 Rough guess
114 Virtuoso
116 "Zip-a-—Doo-Dah"
117 Ending like -arian
118 What boys will be

Quote-Acrostic

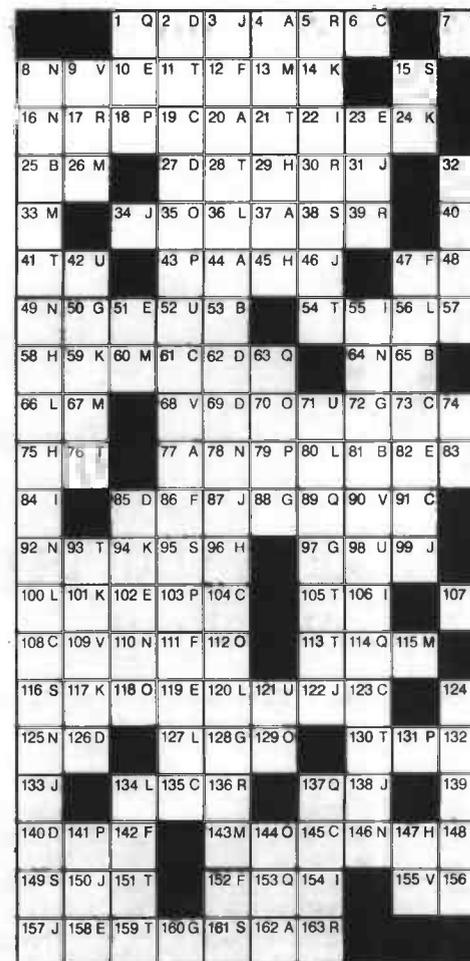
- Define clues, writing in Words column over numbered dashes.
- Transfer letters to completed, quotation can be read left to right. The first letters of the filled-in words reading down form an acrostic yielding the speaker's name and the topic of the quotation.

Clues

Words

- A. Apollo 13 commander Jim
37 4 44 20 77 162
- B. Group character
132 65 81 25 53
- C. Stan Laurel's partner
135 108 73 19 104 145
.91 40 123 61 6
- D. Despised
62 69 140 85 27 2 126
- E. Like some gains: 2 wds.
158 148 51 119 32 82 10 102 23
- F. Four score
142 12 47 86 152 111
- G. Purchased
97 88 160 50 128 72
- H. Value highly
75 96 58 147 45 29
- I. Ham equipment
84 124 55 22 154 106

- J. An Edgar Bergen dummy
74 138 87 99 57 3 122 157 34 46
150 31 133
- K. Horrified
94 24 101 117 14 59
- L. After dark
134 66 80 120 100 127 36 56 156
- M. Infraction
143 33 26 115 13 67 60
- N. Longing for the past
125 8 146 92 110 16 49 64 78
- O. Gallery
35 118 112 129 144 70
- P. 'I found it!'
131 79 103 43 141 18
- Q. Talkative
1 153 89 137 114 63
- R. Edible mollusk
30 163 39 136 17 5
- S. Divulges
95 38 149 83 15 116 161
- T. Immediate
105 130 76 139 11 41 113
54 21 93 159 28 151
- U. Teach
52 42 98 7 107 121 71
- V. Playground equipment
68 109 48 9 90 155



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

By Nell Goldstein.
Edited by Linda and Charles Preston.
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Pen in Hand

BY CHARLES PRESTON

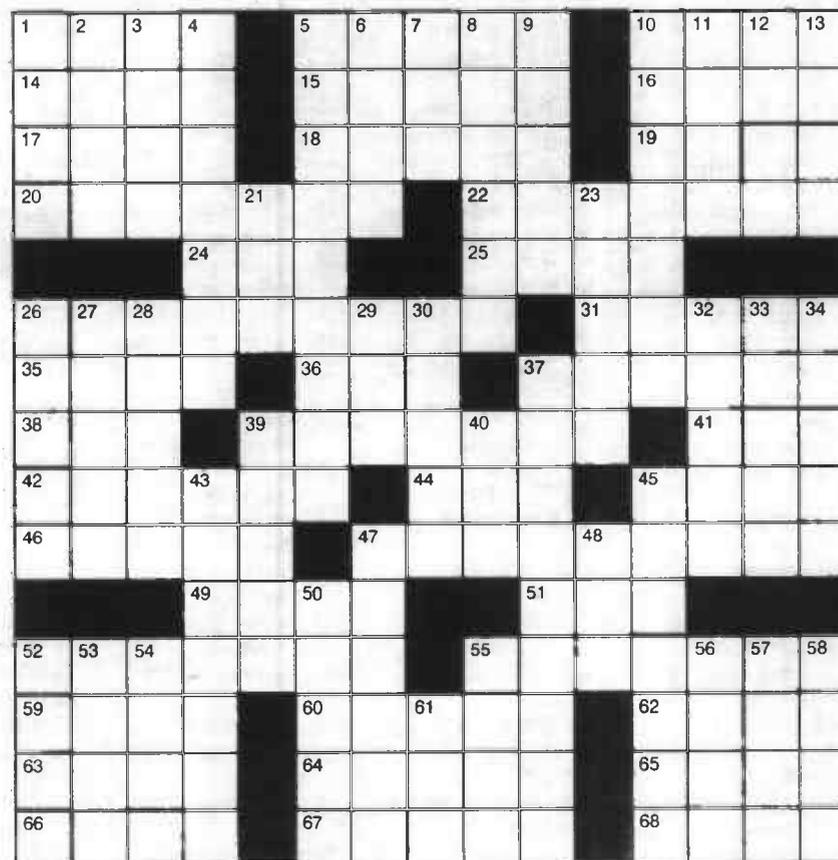
Across

- 1 Moiety
5 Woodland clearing
10 Makes out
14 Spread
15 OK, in radio communications
16 Of the sword side
17 Bartlett
18 "___ to bury Caesar"
19 UN member: abbr.
20 Sprightly musical work
22 Popular beverage
24 Namely: L.
25 ___ party
26 Unspecified location
31 Canary's cousin
35 Fragrance
36 ___ jiffy
37 To boot
38 Slangy negative
39 Writes, in a way
41 Letter
42 Counsels
44 ___ much
45 African lake
46 Vilify
47 Honestly

- 49 Element
51 ___ man: indispensable executive
52 You, for instance
55 Belligerency
59 ___'s Castle
60 Languished
62 Small combo
63 Marginalia item
64 Have ___ to pick
65 Preposition
66 *Mardi* ___
67 Furnishes temporarily
68 Galley hand

Down

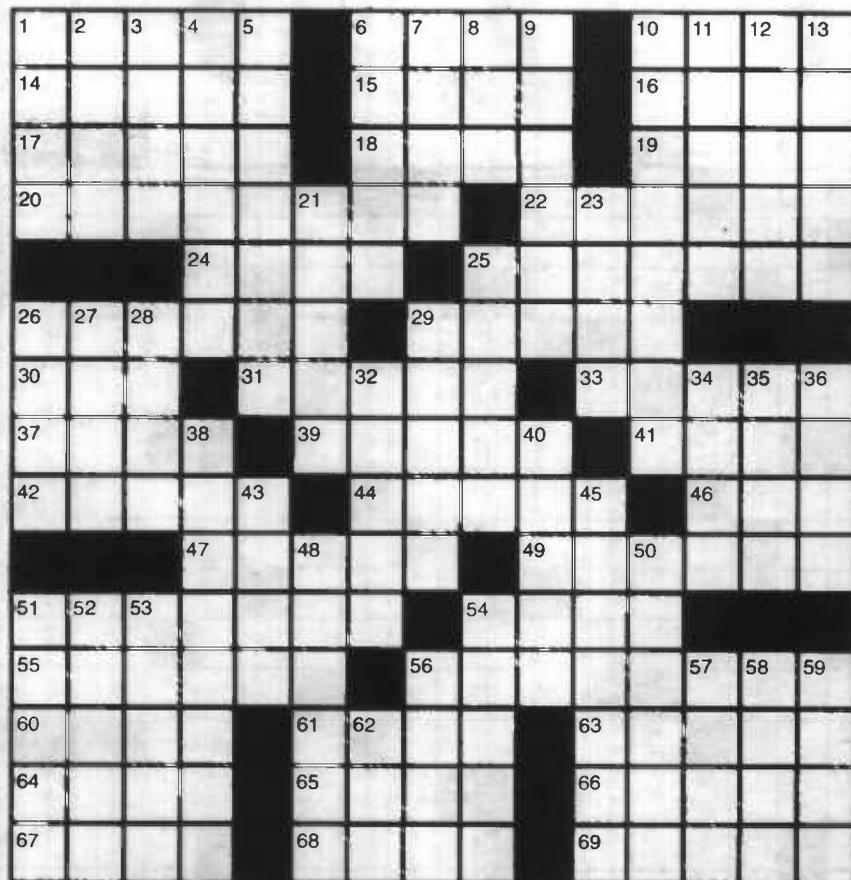
- 1 Informal dances
2 ___ Waugh
3 Jacob's wife
4 Eternally
5 Bears
6 Crazy: Sp.
7 Gone by
8 Death
9 Not prone
10 Begrimes
11 Near ___
12 If not
13 Evening: It.
21 Tear apart
23 Paves, as the way
26 Airs
27 Disgrace
28 Courage
29 Girl's name
30 Desert flora
32 *Nouveau* ___
33 Justice, for instance
34 Impoverished
37 Isolates by force
39 Jeopardy
40 Particle
43 Overpowers by brilliance
45 Puzzling
47 Penman
48 Poetic contraction
50 Where Katmandu is
52 Paroxysm
53 Caesar's wife
54 Fraternity letter
55 Proceed
56 River of Italy
57 Mr. Broz
58 Hamus, e.g.
61 *Persona* ___ grata



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

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Crossword



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4/6/16

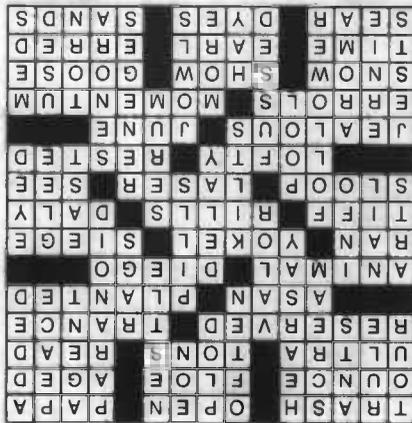
ACROSS

- 1 Garbage
6 "___ Sesame"; Ali Baba's line
10 Family member
14 Small weight
15 Sheet of floating ice
16 Middle-___, neither young nor old
17 Prefix for violet or sound
18 Truck scale divisions
19 Use a Kindle
20 Shy
22 Hypnotic state
24 Strong ___ ox
25 Sowed
26 Bat, cat or rat
29 San ___, CA
30 Hightailed it
31 Local ___, small-town resident
33 Prolonged attack
37 Argument
39 Small brooks
41 Tyne or Tim
42 "___ John B"
44 High-powered surgical beam
46 Look at
47 Very tall
49 Took a nap
51 Envious
- 54 May's follower
55 Flynn & others
56 Impetus; force that is growing
60 Winter flakes
61 Exhibit
63 Silly as a ___
64 Magazine title
65 Actor James ___ Jones
66 Miscalculated
67 Burn slightly
68 Coloring agents
69 Makes smooth

DOWN

- 1 Sightseeing trip
2 Regulation
3 Household pests
4 Shriek
5 Rumor
6 Frequently
7 Trudge
8 Very long time
9 Move around and get cozy
10 Suspicious of everyone
11 Insurance policy seller
12 Harmony
13 ___ in; inserted
21 Bravery
23 Dust cloths

Solutions



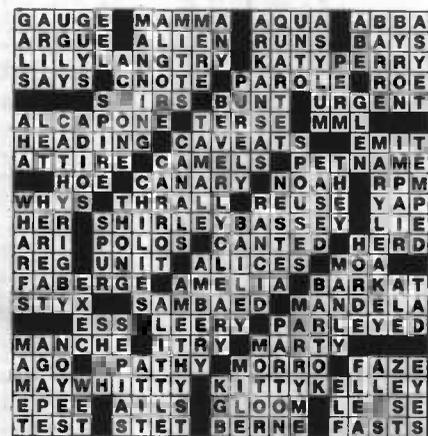
- 25 Aspirin or Vicodins
26 Performing ___, dancing, etc.
27 ___-biter; very close race
28 Lowdown; facts
29 Procrastinate
32 Scot's skirts
34 Vane direction
35 Joy
36 Observed
38 Disciple; imitator
40 Antitoxin
43 Swimming spot
- 45 Goes back on a promise
48 Kept griping
50 Lady of the casa, often
51 Jokes around
52 Bert's buddy
53 Fragrance
54 Bulldog's cheeks
56 Oliver's request
57 Shredded
58 ___ up; spent
59 Prescriptions, for short
62 Stable supper



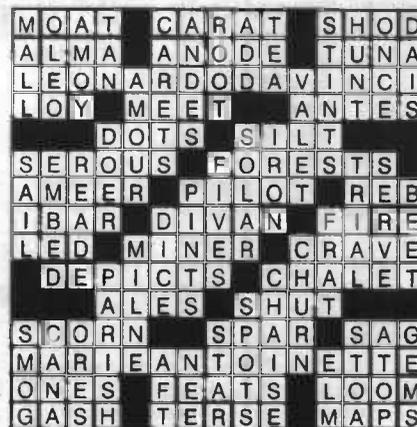
puzzle island solutions

Last week's crosswords:

"Wise Women"



"Famous Figures"



"C Battery"



Last week's Quote-Acrostic

JONATHAN LAST: TV FOR TOTS: Men on kids TV tend to be aged, and hence harmless, or young and vaguely effete. Why can't more resemble youthful working fathers butch enough to enjoy baseball and change their sensible family sedan's oil?

Last week's Sudoku

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

This week's Jumble

AROUND BOTANY PLACID
EMBODY ITALIC USEFUL

The home improvement show became so popular because it was able to —

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chicago
tribune.com
/games

Interactive puzzles and games

Do cultural differences affect a couple lasting?

I can't wait to see "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2," the sequel to the 2002 hit, "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," a movie that had me laughing so hard I still remember my cheeks hurting when I walked out of the theater.



JACKIE PILOSSOPH
Love Essentially

Toula and Ian ended up falling madly in love and getting married, despite their vast cultural differences and backgrounds, as well as the resistance they initially got from her ultratraditional Greek family.

The sequel, in which 14 years later, Toula and Ian are still together, got me thinking about couples who come from different faiths, cultures or ethnic backgrounds. Do these relationships have less of a chance of working long-term? Does coming from similar cultures give a marriage better odds of lasting forever?

For answers to these questions, I talked with Chicago-based relationship therapist Anita Chlipala, who said she's counseled couples who come from different cultures, as well as those who come from very similar backgrounds. The root of her clients' issues: not the actual cultural differences, but rather their attitudes.

"The biggest challenge I see in couples is their inability to accept, honor and respect what is important to their spouse," said Chlipala, who said she has been in practice for more than 10 years. "They fail to reach a compromise where both partners feel like they are getting what's most important to them."

Chlipala said that an attitude of "We have to do things my way and my family's way" leads to negativity that will chip away at the health of the relationship.

"When years go by like this, resentment builds up and it ends up not being the religious differences that caused the problems, but rather the inflexibility to bend for their partner," she said.

Another big mistake couples from different cultures make is that they don't discuss their wishes upfront — before they are married.

"People date and they think, 'We'll figure it out,'" Chlipala said. "They are so blinded by love that they think it is enough to solve their differences. So, they don't talk about the big things."

According to Chlipala, some of "the big things" include:

- How are we going to raise our children?
- How and where are we spending holidays?

- What kind of religious symbols are going to be in our house?
- What cultural traditions and rituals are important to each person that they would like to continue?
- How will the extended family play a role in the relationship?

Speaking of extended family, I can't help but think of the Portokalos family in "My Big Fat Greek Wedding." Not sure if you saw the movie or the trailer for the sequel, but the couple who is having "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2" happens to be Toula's parents, who find out they were never legally married. Apparently, the priest forgot to sign their marriage license 50-some years ago.

This brings to light the issue of whether or not being legally married really matters. From the trailer, it appears Toula's mom doesn't care, but her dad is devastated.

So, what are the advantages of being legally married?

"Research shows that people who consider themselves married or are legally married have higher levels of relationship satisfaction," Chlipala said. "Some people say 'It's just a piece of paper,' but I totally disagree. When you are legally married, it is a different level of commitment than just saying, 'We're in a relationship.' Even if you are exclusive."

No one goes into a marriage thinking, 'I can get a divorce if it doesn't work out.' So, I have to believe that when people tie the knot, they are committed to making the relationship work.

The bottom line is if you ask anyone — married or divorced, they will tell you marriage isn't easy. I believe that applies to people in relationships who have similar cultural backgrounds, as well as those who don't. There is a part of me who thinks similar cultures do make things a little bit easier, but regardless of race, religion or ethnicity — whether they are the same or vastly different — the key to being happy is as simple as this: you have to like your spouse.

Despite being divorced, I am and will always be a huge fan of marriage, but only if both people are finding happiness in it. If problems arise, both partners have to want to fix them, by making changes such as better communication or couples therapy. Or, like they do in "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," you can always try a little Windex!

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist.

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Simple actions can prevent deep-vein thrombosis



DR. ANTHONY KOMAROFF
Ask Doctor K

Dear Doctor K: A friend of mine recently developed a blood clot in his leg after a long flight. I travel a lot for work, so this has me worried. Is there any way to prevent this type of thing?

Dear Reader: A blood clot that forms deep inside a leg vein, known as deep-vein thrombosis, can cause pain, swelling and redness in the affected limb. But the real threat happens if the clot breaks off and travels to the lungs. Known as a pulmonary embolism, this can lead to sudden death. (I've put an illustration of this process on my website, AskDoctorK.com.)

Clots tend to form in blood when the blood is not moving much. They form in still ponds, but not in babbling brooks. Ordinarily, as you walk around, your leg muscles squeeze your veins and keep blood in the leg veins flowing back to the heart. If you are inactive for many hours, blood flow in the veins of your legs may slow so much that clots form.

If you have to sit for several hours at a time on a plane or train, the following tips may help prevent DVT:

- Get up and walk around every hour. I do this religiously every time I fly or travel by train. I always get an aisle seat so that I don't disturb my seatmates.
- While sitting, flex and extend your ankles and knees every once in a while.



WESTEND61

Stretching and walking around while on a long flight may help prevent deep-vein thrombosis.

- Avoid crossing your legs. That pinches off even more of the flow of blood in your leg veins.

- Change positions often while seated.
- Stay well hydrated by drinking plenty of water.

Learn to recognize the signs of DVT. The affected area may be tender or painful, swollen, red and warm to the touch. If these symptoms linger for more than a few hours, call your doctor for advice. It's very unusual for a person to develop DVT in both legs at the same time. So the signs of DVT are particularly important to bring to your doctor's attention when they're just in one leg.

Treating a DVT typically includes injections of an anti-clotting drug such as heparin, followed by additional anti-clotting drugs taken by mouth. People with less serious cases may need only anti-clotting pills. More serious cases may require power-

ful clot-dissolving medications given intravenously in a hospital.

If you have ever had a blood clot before, you may well be at increased risk for getting another one. So all of the advice I've given above goes double for you.

Very early in my medical training, I saw several patients die from blood clots in the legs that traveled to the lungs. One of them had been on a long airplane ride the day before. I don't know if he had taken any precautions — he couldn't tell me.

It made me decide that if there were any simple things I could do to protect myself from a similar fate, I would do them. I have, and you should too.

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

PEOPLE'S PHARMACY PRESCRIPTIONS AND HOME REMEDIES

Dandelion root promotes helpful gut bacteria growth

By Joe Graedon
and Teresa Graedon
King-Features Syndicate

Q: Dandelion root tea has helped me a lot with my acid reflux. I have used a proton-pump inhibitor for just 14 days with a combination of apple-cider vinegar diluted in warm water for immediate relief. Decreasing my alcohol consumption and eliminating coffee made a difference, as these are huge triggers for me. But dandelion root tea seems to rid me of any heartburn issues, so I've stopped all other remedies.

A: The recent news about serious side effects from long-term use of proton-pump inhibitors such as esomeprazole (Nexium) and lansoprazole (Prevacid) makes nondrug alternatives appealing. Dandelion root has a reputation as benefiting digestive problems, though there is not much clinical research. The root of *Taraxacum officinale* (dandelion) does contain effective antimicrobial compounds (Phytotherapy Research, April 2015).

Dandelion root has prebiotic properties that encourage the growth of beneficial gut bacteria (Fitoterapia, December 2004).

We are unsure whether these activities explain the good results you experience, however.

Q: I read your recent column about the aroma in soap being the secret cure for leg cramps. It dawned on me that I haven't been experiencing leg cramps or foot cramps at night for the past six weeks. This coincides with my recent purchase of an aromatherapy mister that I use at night in the bedroom with es-



MANUEL ADORF/ISTOCK

Dandelion root has a reputation for helping with digestive problems, but there is not much research about it.

sential oils, e.g., lavender, tea leaf, lemon grass, eucalyptus and sweet orange. I used to get cramps almost every night, so painful that they woke me with severe, excruciating pain.

I got the mister because I like the smell, but maybe it's the reason the leg and foot cramps have abated. If so, that's a great benefit. I'll try the bar of soap when I travel and don't have the mister with me.

A: Thanks for sharing your secret. Other people with nighttime leg cramps might want to try it.

We offer many other recommendations, from pre-bedtime stretches to mineral supplements, in our Guide to Leg Pain. Anyone who would like a copy, please send \$3 in check or money order with a long (No. 10), stamped (71 cents), self-addressed envelope to: Graedons' People's Pharmacy, No. RLS-5, P.O. Box 52027, Durham, NC 27717-2027. It also can be downloaded for \$2 from our website: www.peoplespharmacy.com.

Responses to cramp remedies seem to be highly individual, so a person who is regularly awakened with painful leg cramps may need to try a few to find the best one.

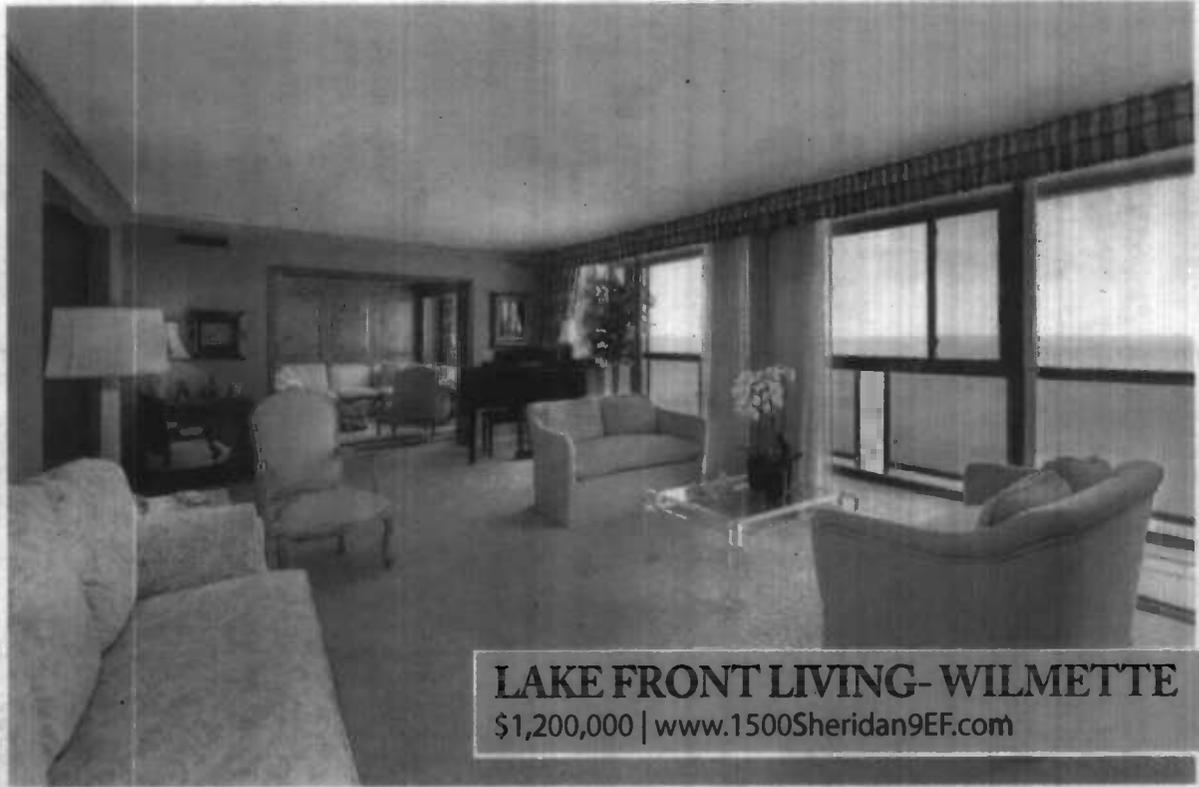
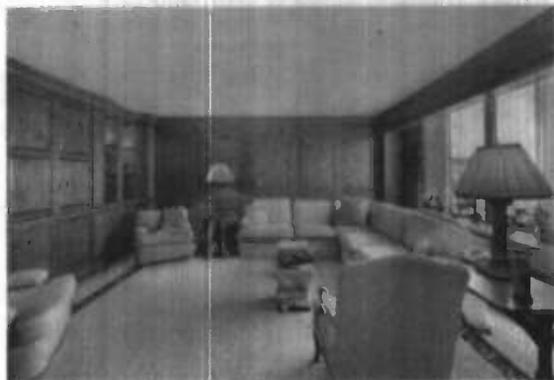
Q: You recently ran a story about someone who suffered psoriasis until she went to Hawaii on vacation. I, too, suffered with psoriasis for years, using creams, ointments, light treatments, etc., and have always loved sun and salt water. My psoriasis always improved after a little sun and salt water, but it went away completely after I retired. Stress gone, psoriasis gone.

I believe stress is a major component to psoriasis. Many people may not realize they are under too much stress.

A: Thanks for pointing out the relationship between psychological stress and psoriasis (Dermatology Research and Practice online, Oct. 15).

Leading experts in dermatology and psychology recently convened a workshop on this topic (Frontiers in Psychology, Feb. 2). They agreed that cognitive behavioral therapy can be helpful, but also considered some online-based stress-controlling therapies as promising.

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



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Map it out

What to talk about before leaving town with a friend or partner

By Allison Bowen
Tribune Newspapers

Two times, Dena Roche realized boyfriends were going to become breakups while traveling.

The first time, her plus-one got jealous when someone pulled her onto the dance floor in Belize, revealing an insecure side “I hadn’t seen before,” she said.

Next, during a Hawaii vacation, a man took advantage of an all-you-can-eat situation to a repulsive degree.

“I actually faked being sick on this trip to avoid him touching me,” said Roche, who lives in Phoenix and writes *The Travel Diet*.

Whether it’s a best friend or a romantic getaway, travel for two can bring obstacles more unique than solo or groups.

We talked to experts to find out potential plane, train or automobile pitfalls — and what to tackle before you go.

Money

Talk about cash. And not just an overall budget.

Do you prefer a \$2 lunch of street food, or an expensive three-course dinner with a skyline view? The answer matters, because money is where you decide how you want to spend the trip.

When traveling with her partner, “Approach Guides” co-author Jennifer Raezer makes sure to discuss meals, excursions and transportation.

“These are critical items to get out of the way before taking off, so you don’t spend your vacation discussing money issues or missing an experience because you’re worried



FLORIN PRUNOIU PHOTOGRAPHY

about cash,” she said.

Sure, at home, you may decide easily enough whether to order Thai or pizza. But those decisions amplify when it’s the one night you’ll spend in a locale, or debating different price points.

For example, said Stacie Krajchir, author of “The Itty Bitty Guide to Business Travel,” “Do you want to alternate paying for meals as we go rather than split the check at every meal?”

Having different budgets isn’t a deal-breaker. Consider getting groceries at a local store so you can splurge on meals when you want to, suggests Jetta

Bates, who runs Jettasetting.com and is on Bravo’s “Tour Group” show following travelers.

Without chatting before, “the person that is in a place to really spend on vacation will feel stifled and perhaps a bit obligated to pick up the check,” she said.

Style of travel

Make sure to compare organization and research styles. Do you want to sleep in, or get up early and attack the day?

Liz Dahl, a former travel agent who founded Boomer Travel Patrol, advises

people to compare sleeping and eating expectations. Three meals a day or snacks? Chat about whether you want to sit on the beach or visit museums.

“All of these activities are great, but know this before you go so you can compromise and make sure each person has a good time,” she said.

Whether planning with a romantic partner or friend, talking about it before embarking on your fifth museum is key, said Colin Matthes, who runs Stamped Travel with his girlfriend, Jenoa Esplin.

“Some people are very

good at improvising and making plans as they go,” he said, “Other people love having an entire day planned out.”

One option is for each person to pick a No. 1 thing they want to do during the trip. Prioritize those.

And think through stressful triggers that will put you in a tense spot — waiting for baggage, standing in lines.

For example, John and Luisa Rasiej, who have been married for more than 25 years and help couples travel together, suggest that one person get the luggage, letting the other relax with an airport cappuccino.

Thought process

What are you both expecting from the trip? For example, said Mark Jackson, travel editor for Brad’s Deals, if one person’s plotting a romantic getaway, it never hurts to compare notes.

“I have heard many a tale of potential lovers not being on the same page before departing,” he said.

Traveling together can boost, or crumble, a relationship. Either way, you’ll probably see each other at your worst.

Krista Canfield, at travel website Gogobot, and her fiance took a trip three months into dating. They planned to hike in Kauai, Hawaii, and summit Mount Fuji in Japan.

“We knew an epic excursion together would either break or cement our relationship,” Canfield said. Sitting next to each other on long-haul flights helped them bond, she said.

Finally, embrace the unexpected.

Beth Santos, founder of Wanderful, was in Istanbul with her husband for just 24 hours — and her husband decided to use precious moments for a haircut.

“At first I was fuming,” she recalled. “But then it turned out to be one of the best experiences ever to watch him get his hair cut by a tiny barber in the streets of Istanbul.”

Plan and discuss ahead of time to get on the same mental page to ensure a great trip and head off headaches.

As Roche learned, “It’s really hard to ask someone to find their way to an airport three hours away.”

DREAM HOME



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1:25pm
to
2:35pm



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to
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9395 Landings Ln, # 502, Des Plaines	Alexander Salhani	Judicial Sales Corp	02-26-16	\$67,500
9009 Golf Rd, # 4F, Des Plaines	David Lieberman	Rada Ledbetter	03-01-16	\$78,000
9420 Bay Colony Dr, # 1E, Des Plaines	Bhavesh Shah & Hema Shah	Damian V Cabaj	03-04-16	\$89,000
9357 Landings Ln, # 402, Des Plaines	Malgorzata Boksa	Judicial Sales Corp	02-29-16	\$91,000
640 Murray Ln, # 416, Des Plaines	Malgorzata Kosinska	Bank Of New York Mellon Ttee	02-26-16	\$93,000
9700 Bianco Ter, # 2C, Des Plaines	Mila Rankovic	Greg Martin	02-29-16	\$97,000
109 Ashland Ave, Des Plaines	Byron O Quasthoff & Krystle C Hanger	James Keller	03-04-16	\$122,000
9332 Landings Ln, # 204, Des Plaines	Zaya Touma	Forat M Lazar	03-01-16	\$130,000
9342 Landings Ln, # 405, Des Plaines	Thomas W Segreti	Georly George	02-29-16	\$131,000
9331 Landings Ln, # 305, Des Plaines	Joanna Gonzales	Natalia Levchenko	02-26-16	\$133,000
1748 Linden St, Des Plaines	Peter M Seraffin & Ursula I Seraffin	Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp	03-03-16	\$148,000
815 Pearson St, # 1, Des Plaines	Novica Milenkovic	Marion K Needham Estate	02-29-16	\$162,000
549 E Washington St, Des Plaines	Angela P Bucaro	Fannie Mae	02-26-16	\$170,000
1330 Perry St, # 205, Des Plaines	Cristian Valdivieso	James Pierson	03-02-16	\$182,000
761 W Lincoln Ln, Des Plaines	Alejandro Martinez	Jeanne G Adams	03-03-16	\$183,000
1964 Webster Ln, Des Plaines	Marie Altraït	Hanna H Hall	03-02-16	\$189,500
1595 Ashland Ave, # 406, Des Plaines	Radostina Georgieva & Ivan Georgiev	Allina Kasperek	03-01-16	\$190,000
945 Timothy Ln, Des Plaines	Michael Randall	Jp Morgan Chase Bank	03-03-16	\$205,000
254 S Cumberland Pkwy, Des Plaines	Daniel Burmoski	Lulgi Labelia	03-04-16	\$211,000

ADDRESS	BUYER	SELLER	DATE	PRICE
2720 Pearle Dr, Des Plaines	Mateusz Maciasz & Dorota Maciasz	Spartan Exchange Llc	02-29-16	\$253,000
1864 Illinois St, Des Plaines	Radoslaw Karczmarczyk	Nikolaos Angelopoulos	03-04-16	\$284,000
2216 Sprucewood Ave, Des Plaines	Thomas Joseph & Ancy Joseph	Eva Ziomek	02-29-16	\$708,000
200 Ridge Ave, # 1E, Evanston	Clifford Moorehead	Naomi Jolynn Parchen	03-01-16	\$78,000
243 Custer Ave, Evanston	Luis Fernandez	Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp	03-03-16	\$83,000
500 Lake St, # 402, Evanston	Mami Chiyokubo	Champion Mortgage Co Inc	03-03-16	\$163,000
525 Grove St, # 6B, Evanston	Mark Leybovich & Irina Kossova	Sul Zhang	03-03-16	\$220,000
901 Hinman Ave, Evanston	Rodolfo Prieto & Sharyn Prieto	Michael Miro	02-29-16	\$250,000
3617 Central Rd, # 104, Glenview	Edyta Cholewinski	Anil Bhushan	03-01-16	\$100,000
4172 Cove Ln, # 3F, Glenview	Francis Kim & Minhwa Kim	Tom Wolowiec	02-29-16	\$142,500
1104 Castilian Ct, # 305, Glenview	Edward Kozdoy & Yullya Rukhlyada	Kevin Farahmandpour	03-04-16	\$145,000
3410 Ashley Dr, Glenview	John Y Yu & Linda M Yu	Fannie Mae	03-03-16	\$205,000
3100 Lexington Ln, # 212, Glenview	Jeffrey Lazar & Carol L Lazar	Steven M Wulfsohn	03-03-16	\$300,000
2637 Victor Ave, Glenview	Justin D Teten & Sarah Teten	2942 Nora Llc	02-29-16	\$378,500
2738 Langley Cir, Glenview	Alexander D Nellesen & Georgina L Loomos	Michael J Cerny	03-01-16	\$415,000
143 Stacy Ct, Glenview	Hewi Adaay	Sf Rehab Debt Fund I Llc	03-04-16	\$422,500
10217 Dearlove Rd, # 3, Glenview	Ashirul Hai & Waheeda Hai	Alex Shvedchenko	03-02-16	\$570,000
1060 Church St, Glenview	Juanita Oh	Eric J Christophersen	03-02-16	\$720,000
2902 Wilson Ln, Glenview	Albert A Halawah & Virginia Halawah	Development Solutions Gln Llc	03-04-16	\$1,144,000
3122 Thornwood Ave, Glenview	Andrew Zwerner & Michelle Zwerner	Pickwick & Thornwood Llc	03-04-16	\$1,299,000
6 Golf Crest Dr, Hawthorn Woods	Carl Koenemann & Megan Koenemann	Crowley Trust	02-24-16	\$135,000
25746 N Kyle Ct, Hawthorn Woods	Raymond R Douglas & Kristine L Maybach	Anger Trust	02-25-16	\$573,000
1913 W Ashbury Ln, Inverness	Lynn Gallizia	Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp	02-26-16	\$251,000
91 Lochleven Ln, Inverness	David M Shober & Elizabeth M Shober	Fannie Mae	03-01-16	\$347,500
21511 N Pine Lake Ct, Kildeer	Daniel Mark Terhune & Marie Adele Terhune	Pvrh Fl Holdings Llc	02-23-16	\$549,000
919 Muir Ave, Lake Bluff	Lori Sandler	Fannie Mae	02-23-16	\$178,000
130 S Winston Rd, Lake Forest	Maribeth Marshall & Dean L Marshall	Coleman O Donovan	02-24-16	\$375,000
750 Spencer Ln, Lake Zurich	Laichand T Goyal	Luxor Homes Builders Llc	02-25-16	\$342,500
518 E Rockland Rd, Libertyville	Daniel L Valadez	Stephen C Pope	02-25-16	\$175,000
823 Valley Park Dr, Libertyville	Michael Gregory	James D Christensen	02-25-16	\$230,000
604 Carter St, Libertyville	Patricia Lutz & Diane Potter	William E Liss	02-25-16	\$475,000
820 Crestfield Ave, Libertyville	Jamie M Lane & Colin E Lane	Michael Mazz	02-24-16	\$490,000
5500 Lincoln Ave, # 415, Morton Grove	Loann Quach	Alexandra Denenberg	03-02-16	\$67,500
7710 Dempster St, # 408, Morton Grove	Hlmzija Hamzabegovic & Mevlinda Hamzabegovic	Danish Syed Iqbal	03-04-16	\$140,000
7532 Churchill St, Morton Grove	Richard L Moosh & Hanan G Moosh	Joseph C Pickett	03-02-16	\$295,000
9001 Luna Ave, Morton Grove	Ronish Roy Mathews	Syed M Ali	03-01-16	\$305,000
6818 Prairie St, Morton Grove	James W Yoo & Deborah A Yoo	Jonathan H Yu	03-03-16	\$320,000
8815 W Golf Rd, # 4F, Niles	Jaqueline Ishak Zaya	Jeffrey S Schwartz	02-26-16	\$70,000
7060 N Franks Ave, Niles	Ioan Tiron & Violeta Tiron	Hajduk Construction Llc	03-03-16	\$245,000
8236 N Ozanam Ave, Niles	Teodoro F Orellana & Edwin R Orellana	Nahrin Kifarkis	03-01-16	\$350,000
9811 N Maynard Ter, Niles	Alvin Yonan & Elda Yonan	Ayman Halawah	03-02-16	\$355,000
6811 W Keeney St, Niles	Husam Abdeljabar	Edward Youkhana	03-02-16	\$445,000
2420 W Talcott Rd, # 312, Park Ridge	Susanne Colieran	Malgorzata Moskala	02-26-16	\$189,000
1621 S Crescent Ave, Park Ridge	John J Papanos	Rajendra S Patel	03-02-16	\$216,000
913 Wesley Dr, Park Ridge	Vladimir Cech & Vladimir Skala	Fannie Mae	03-03-16	\$300,000
1004 Peale Ave, Park Ridge	Tomajz Rajchel & Andrew Rajchel	Catherine G Causby	03-02-16	\$350,000
1016 Rene Ct, Park Ridge	Alexey Abramov	Cecile M Horsky	03-04-16	\$352,000
1219 Elliott St, Park Ridge	Dariusz Roman & Margaret Roman	Scott R Magnuson	02-26-16	\$367,500
108 S Dee Rd, Park Ridge	Matthew Straczek & Agnes Srebro	Park Ridge Place Llc	02-26-16	\$408,500
20 Wisner St, Park Ridge	Neil Timothy Hunt & Mary Parkhill Hunt	Joseph J Taddeo Jr	03-03-16	\$520,000
1111 Garden St, Park Ridge	Brian M Crawford & Lynda M Crawford	David P Belmonte	03-02-16	\$840,000
728 Overhill Ave, Park Ridge	Ziemowit Smulkowski & Malgorzata Bremmer	Lucital Development Llc	03-04-16	\$930,000

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BEAUTIFUL "DEVONSHIRE" RANCH!

Skokie... Just Listed! The Best of "Devonshire!" Sparkling Clean & Absolute "Move In Condition!" New décor/painting + newly refinished oak floors throughout. Huge living/dining room with custom Plantation shutters. 3 brs & 2 full updated baths on main floor. Large eat in contemporary white kitchen with 2 ovens & ceramic tile backsplash. Exceptionally large lower level family room (35x13 + 18x11). Huge laundry room + storage area. Large rear yard (60' x 132' lot). Super convenient to Devonshire Park/Pool and the Award Winning Devonshire School!.....**\$329,000**



"BARTLETT ESTATES" BEAUTY!

Morton Grove... Charming Turret Style solid brick English Cape Cod in sought after "Bartlett Estates" subdivision on 75' x 250' lot. Rounded turret entry foyer-Formal Living rm w/FP. Custom kitchen with 42" cabinets is adjacent to spectacular 3 season Sun Rm w/wraparound windows, FP & sliding glass doors to 20' x 20' Paver brick patio. 1 bath with whirlpool tub & 2 baths with shower stalls. Huge Master br with 2 skylights. 2nd floor bonus loft/sitting area. Finished bsmt Family Rm + wine cellar/pantry + workshop, laundry room & bath.....**\$439,000**



SIMPLY SPECTACULAR!

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



FABULOUS "DOWNTOWN" LOCATION!

Mount Prospect... Price Reduced! Contemporary 2 br - 2 bath Condo with Superb In-Town location near Train, Shopping & Restaurants. Spacious room sizes & closets, separate dining room, deluxe kitchen with eating area. Master br with walk-in closet. Custom window treatments & floors. 13' Balcony. In-unit laundry room & Heated Garage with large storage rm behind parking space. Great location near Village Hall, Library & Downtown Mount Prospect!.....**\$249,500**

REAL ESTATE HOMES IN YOUR AREA



ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

Home has three bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, a family room with a fireplace, an eat-in kitchen, and a living room/dining room area. Partially finished basement. Two-car garage and a large backyard. Home sold in "as is" condition.

Address: 2142 N. Cherry Hill Drive
Price: \$349,900
Schools: Wheeling High School
Taxes: \$7,163
Agent: Bob Glueckert/CENTURY 21 Kreuser & Seiler



MUNDELEIN

Home has five bedrooms, two full baths, a walkout basement, a professionally landscaped yard with deck and new flooring on lower level. Walk-in closet in master bedroom. Near schools and Metra.

Address: 952 N. Idlewild Ave.
Price: \$219,900
Schools: Mundelein High School
Taxes: \$6,426
Agent: Kevin Johnson/RE/MAX At Home



WINNETKA

Three-bedroom, 2.5-bath Colonial home with first-floor family room with vaulted ceiling. Wood-burning fireplace inside. Yard has garden area. Powder room and den/office on first floor. Near schools and Metra.

Address: 589 Sunset Road
Price: \$634,500
Schools: New Trier Township High School
Taxes: \$15,277
Agent: Yvonne Sito/@properties



SKOKIE

Home has three bedrooms and two full, updated baths. Two-oven kitchen has ceramic tile backsplash. Living, dining and laundry rooms, carpeted family room. Newly painted. Near parks and schools.

Address: 9157 Keeler Ave.
Price: \$329,000
Schools: Niles North High School
Taxes: \$6,647
Agent: Amy Marino/Century 21 Marino Inc.

Listings from Homefinder.com



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Institution	30 yr APR	30 yr Fixed	Product	Rate	Points	Fees	% Down	APR	Phone Number / Website	NMLS # / License #
			20 yr fixed	3.500	0.000	\$795	20%	3.555		
			15 yr fixed	3.000	0.000	\$895	20%	3.078		NMLS# 66247
			10 yr fixed	2.875	0.000	\$995	20%	3.001		MB 6760960
Sebonic Financial	3.684%		5/1 ARM	3.125	0.000	\$1595	20%	3.238	866-723-1989	
			30 yr Jumbo Conforming	4.000	0.000	\$0	20%	4.001		
			30 yr FHA	3.250	0.000	\$1295	3.5%	3.313	http://bankrate.sebonic.com	
Sebonic Financial	30 yr Fixed APR		30 yr VA mtg	3.250	0.000	\$1295	5%	3.313		
			7/1 ARM	3.500	0.000	\$895	10%	3.501		

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COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Thursday, April 7

Celebrate Earth Day at the Des Plaines History Center: Children are invited to participate in a recycling project at the After School Adventures program, Recycle, Reuse, Renew. Youngsters are asked to bring an empty water bottle and will learn how to transform it into a piece of art. 3 p.m. Thursday, Des Plaines History Center, 781 Pearson St., Des Plaines, \$3 per child, 847-391-5399

Tim O'Brien & Old Man Luedecke: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$18-\$38, 847-492-8860

Project Space: Curatorial Vision Series: The Art Center invites three curatorial practice students from the School of the Art Institute to present an exhibition and public programming that engages audiences in meaningful ways while fostering the Art Center's relationship to its community. Young curators are selected during the spring/summer of 2015. 10 a.m. Thursday-Wednesday, Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-5300

Retail Therapy Slip N Shop on Central Street in Evanston: The annual Retail Therapy Night offers special discounts, raffles, refreshments and giveaways from participating businesses along the 1800-2100 blocks of Central St., just East and West of Green Bay Road. 6 p.m. Thursday, Central Street shopping district, 1800-2700 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-864-5565

Nature preschool open house: Early childhood staff at the Chicago Botanic Garden host an open house introducing the Nature Preschool, a nature- and play-based preschool. 10 a.m. Thursday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, free, 847-835-5440

BookBites Reading Social: "The Boys in the Boat: Nine Americans and Their Epic Quest for Gold at the 1936 Berlin Olympics" by Daniel Brown. Co-sponsored by the Niles Public Library. Visit facebook.com/nilesglenviewbookbites for details. 7 p.m. Thursday, Hackney's Glenview, 1514 E. Lake Ave., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

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 in the library's Community Room West. Call 847-635-1426 for details. 9:15 a.m. Thursday and Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Karaoke: A's Karaoke Bar has karaoke every day from 8 p.m. to 4 a.m. 8 p.m. Thursday, A's Karaoke Bar, 8751 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles, free, 224-534-7158

German Stammtisch: The group meets on the first and third Thursday of each month in the community center to practice German and learn about German culture. For all experience levels, from native speakers to beginners. 1 p.m. Thursday, Oakton Park Community Center, 4701 Oakton St., Skokie, free

"Butler": 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday, 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 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. Thursday-Wednesday, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, free, 847-967-4835

Friday, April 8

"Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat": St. Stephen Church Gaslight Players perform "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" for two weekends in April. 7:30 p.m. Friday, 3 p.m. Sunday, St. Stephen Church, Hanley Hall, 1280 Prospect Ave., Des Plaines, \$15 adults; \$10 seniors; \$8 children, 773-824-7754

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

Leo Kottke: 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$30-\$65, 847-492-8860

Nia: Holistic dance fitness: With Nia develop flexibility, agility, mobility, strength and stability in your body. 11 a.m. Friday, Monday and Wednesday,

Raydiant Day, 1400 Greenleaf St., Evanston, \$11 drop-in. \$80 unlimited class pass., 847-869-6477

The Latest Developments in Alzheimer's Research: Dean Hartley, Ph.D., director of Science Initiatives, Alzheimer's Association, discusses the latest research and what the future might hold. To register, call or visit website. 1 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Video Game Night Ages 13-18: Play with the library's game systems and collections on big screens. Pizza is generously donated by Pappi's Pizza. Please register by calling or to the website. 5 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

iPad and iPhone tips: Learn about basic settings, how to access the Internet and how to find, download and organize apps on an iPad or iPhone with iOS 9, the latest operating system. 2 p.m. Friday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-929-5090

Gentle Yoga: Due to high demand, two yoga sessions are now offered. Space in each session is limited to the first 50 people. Yoga instructor Olga Rudiak leads a series of yoga sessions for improved physical strength, relaxation and mental clarity. Exercises are done in a chair or standing not on the floor. 9:30 a.m. Friday, 11 a.m. Friday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

CD Release Concert: Internationally-acclaimed violin and piano duo David Yonan and Susan Merdinger present highlights of their newest prize winning CD, "Four Centuries." 7:30 p.m. Friday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Lantern Light Campfire for Ages 7-1/2 to 10: Use tools to create a one-of-a-kind tin-punched lantern, then try it while on a night hike through the woodland. Roast marshmallows over a campfire to celebrate your hard work. 6:30 p.m. Friday, Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, \$10 Skokie resident, \$13 nonresident, 847-677-7001

Saturday, April 9

Animal Arts and Seasonal Stories: Animal Arts & Seasonal Stories are recommended for children ages 5 and

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

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

Old School Dance Party: Peckish Pig is hosting it's second Old School Dance Party. Beats by DJ's Teebot and Freddy Phatz. 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Peckish Pig, 623 Howard St., Evanston, free, 847-491-6778

Pocket Night at Am Shalom 11th Annual FUNdraiser: This evening is an "out-of-pocket" experience with an array of pocket-focused festivities. Headlining are: The Empty Pockets. Bid on fabulous items from pocket watches and pocketbooks to corner pocket sporting events and the hottest tickets in town! Enjoy music, food, drink, games of pool and more. Tickets are still available at the website or by calling. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Am Shalom, 840 Vernon Ave., Glencoe, \$60 general admit, 847-835-4800

Baby Signs for infants through 3 Year Olds: Pre-readers learn sign language with their families new vocabulary, songs and play activities monthly with an ASL interpreter and certified Baby Signs instructor. Tickets are given to Glenview Library cardholders beginning 30-minutes prior to story time sessions. 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

AP Biology Practice Test Grades 9-12: C2 Education of Glenview guides attendees through a practice test for the AP Biology exam in a relaxed atmosphere. Bring two pencils and register by calling or at the website. noon Saturday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

National Library Week Special Event Storywalk StoryMob: Kick off National Library Week with an outdoor storytime, featuring Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses. To register, call or go to website. 11 a.m. Saturday, Gallery Park, 2001 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

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Auditions — "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat": The Glenview Theatre Guild holds open auditions. Children in fourth through eighth grades have their auditions held an hour prior to the high schoolers/adult auditions posted each day. Performances are for: June 24-July 9. 11 a.m. Saturday, Glenview Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, free, 847-724-5670

Rummage sale: Join in this 53rd annual rummage sale, where attendees can find: furniture, housewares, collectibles, jewelry, clothes, French Room, books, linens, toys, etc. 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Glenview United Methodist Church, 727 North Harlem Ave., Glenview, free, 847-729-1015

Online Privacy (Offsite): Learn about free tools you can use to protect yourself from tracking, malware and other threats to online privacy. This is an intermediate-level class for those who feel comfortable using a mouse and keyboard and accessing the internet. Registration is requested at the event website, but drop-ins are welcome. 10 a.m. Saturday, Lincolnwood Community Center, 6900 N Lincoln Ave, Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

International film shorts and discussions: The library screens several short films from a variety of languages and genres, including drama, comedy and animation, followed by a short discussion of each. 2 p.m. Saturday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-929-5090

LinkedIn Headshots: Improve your LinkedIn profile with a professional photo taken by a skilled photographer. Call 847-663-6606 to register. 10 a.m. Saturday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Second Saturday Breakfast Bingo: Kids and families are welcome to enjoy some breakfast treats as everyone plays Bingo. Enjoy a kick start to one's weekend with a morning of family fun at the library. 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Sam Bennett's "Get It Done": Skype with Sam Bennett, author of "Get It Done: From Procrastination to Creative Genius in 15 Minutes a Day." His innovative exercises, success stories and online components help procrastinators to get it done. 2 p.m. Saturday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Free Film "The Revenant": This

Oscar-winning film for Best Actor, Best Director and Best Cinematography is inspired by true events. Independent film-maker Reid Schultz discusses this epic story of survival and transformation on the American frontier after both screenings. 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Monthly meeting of Essential Tremor Group of Northbrook: Individual people who have been diagnosed with Essential Tremor meet monthly to discuss issues connected to Essential Tremor. 10 a.m. Saturday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-564-1777

JUF Dinner and Dessert with Author David Liss: Temple Beth Israel presents JUF Dinner and Dessert Reception with author David Liss, on behalf of the 2016 Jewish United Fund Annual Campaign. Register online: www.juf.org/congregants/Temple-BethIsrael. 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie, Dinner and Dessert: \$20 for TBI members, \$25 nonmembers. Dessert only: \$10 for TBI members, \$15 nonmembers, 847-675-0951

Spring Cleaning Detox Yoga Workshop: Lighten up, make new space and renew your body, mind and spirit as you transition into Spring. Clean out the old, blocked energies with a natural yoga detox and a mindful, invigorating practice. 3 p.m. Saturday, North Branch Yoga, 8056 N. Lincoln Ave, Skokie, \$25, 847-906-3547

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

The Second City's Improv All-Stars: The Second City's Improv All-Stars astound audiences with their talent and skill without the aid of scripts or sets. Reserved seating for parties of 4 and 10 guests are available. 7 p.m. Saturday, Winnetka Community House, 620 Lincoln Ave., Winnetka, \$75, 847-446-0537

Sunday, April 10

Free Handbell Concert: The First Congregational UCC of Des Plaines, presents a hand bell concert featuring their Wholly Ringers, the First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights

and All Saints Lutheran Church of Palatine. 6 p.m. Sunday, First Congregational United Church of Christ Des Plaines, 766 Graceland Ave., Des Plaines, free, 847-299-5561

Hilromi: The Trio Project: Featuring Anthony Jackson and Simon Phillips. 6 p.m. Sunday, 8:30 p.m. Sunday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$25-\$50, 847-492-8860

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

StoryWalk "Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses": Welcome back to the Storybook Trail in Little Bear Garden at Gallery Park! Stroll, bounce, hop or better yet, bike along the path to read about Pete the Cat and his friends. Learn how awesome a positive outlook can be. The StoryWalk Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and was developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle and Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. 9 a.m. Sunday-Wednesday, Gallery Park, 2001 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

3rd Annual Beeping Egg Hunt, for visually impaired kids: In partnership with the Glenview Lions Club, The Chicago Lighthouse North invites families with children to participate in an exciting search for colorful sound-producing eggs! These special eggs create a beeping sound, giving the visually impaired children a fun way to move around and utilize multiple senses. 1 p.m. Sunday, Johns Park, 2101 Central Rd., Glenview, free, 847-510-2055

Maot Chitim Jewish Charity to feed 15,000 for Passover: More than 200,000 pounds of food is being packed to feed 15,000 people for the eight days of Passover, which starts Friday night, April 22. Between 400 and 500 volunteers come to a warehouse at 1808 Holste Road in Northbrook and work in shifts from 9:30 a.m. to after 2 p.m. packing food. Call for information. 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Maot Chitim of Greater Chicago, 7366 N. Lincoln Ave, Lincolnwood, free, 847-674-3224

Prairie Poetry Four Essential Illinois Poets: Storyteller William Pack shares life stories and selected writings of significant Illinois poets, like: Vachel Lindsay, Edgar Lee Masters, Carl Sandberg and Gwendolyn Brooks. 2 p.m. Sunday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Launch 2016: Driving Fashion Forward: The Autohaus on Edens show-

room has transformed into a dynamic catwalk and fashion hub in conjunction with their yearly, can't miss, North Shore fashion event Launch 2016: Driving Fashion Forward. This fifth annual event attracts philanthropists, fashion and luxury car enthusiasts. 5 p.m. Sunday, Autohaus on Edens, 1600 Frontage Rd., Northbrook, \$80-\$100, 888-476-0282

Chicago Parent 2016 Spring Playdate Going Places: Join Chicago Parent Magazine for the 2016 Playdate. Featuring sporting fun, character visits, bounce houses, train rides, obstacle courses and more. 10 a.m. Sunday, Athletico Center, 1900 Old Willow Rd, Northbrook, Infants-2, \$4 in advance, \$5 at door; ages 2-14, \$8 in advance, \$10 at door; adults free, 708-386-5555

JUF's TOV presents: Good Deeds Day: Good Deeds Day, an international day of service. This community-wide event will engage hundreds of people in 20+ volunteer projects at organizations in Chicago, Lake Bluff, Evanston, Riverwoods, Lincolnwood, Deerfield, Geneva, Oak Park, Flossmoor, Olympia Fields and Woodridge. There will also be a special volunteer open house at the Weinger JCC in Northbrook where participants of all ages can work on a variety of hands-on volunteer projects. 7 a.m. Sunday, Bernard Weinger JCC, 300 Revere Dr., Northbrook, free, 312-357-4762

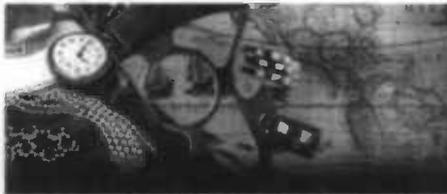
"Three Stories of Love" The Wilmette Premiere: Asian Pop-Up Cinema presents a sincere, award-winning drama about three vastly different people struggling to love and to be loved. Directed by Ryosuke Hashiguchi from Japan. The film will be screened in Japanese with English subtitles. 2 p.m. Sunday, Wilmette Theatre, 1122 Central Ave., Wilmette, \$10; \$7.50 (students/seniors); \$70 (Group of 10), 312-315-6393

Lecture: Jens Jensen, Visionary: Historian and author Julia S. Bachrach presents an illustrated talk on landscape designer Jens Jensen, illuminating Jensen's belief that all human beings need to commune with nature and highlighting many of his most significant Prairie-style landscapes in Chicago and on the North Shore. 2 p.m. Sunday, Wilmette Historical Museum, 609 Ridge Rd., Wilmette, Free (members); \$5 (non-members), 847-853-7666

Monday, April 11

Teddy Thompson and Kelly Jones: 7:30 p.m. Monday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$15-\$26, 847-492-8860

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CALENDAR

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

The Mudflapps live every Monday: The Mudflapps sing and play their hearts out every Monday in the pub from 8 p.m. until 12 a.m. Food and drink served late. 8 p.m. Monday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679

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

hoopla, MyMediaMall and Zinio Individual Appointments: Meet with trained Library staff for a 45-minute one-on-one session and learn how to download ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, movies, TV shows or music to your portable device. Visit or call the Reader Services Desk at extension 7600 for questions, to register and for appointment locations. A Glenview Library card is required. 10 a.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Book Discussion: "A Man Called Ove" (Offsite): This adult book discussion is offsite at the Lincolnwood Community Center and features "A Man Called Ove" by Fredrik Backman. 11 a.m. Monday, Lincolnwood Community Center, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Knitting Roundtable for Adults: Ronnie Rund, an expert knitter, shows attendees how to knit or how to solve knitting challenges. Bring one's current project(s) and needles. 2 p.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

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

Battle of the books 2016: Cheer on the teams of teen readers as they compete in head-to-head trivia contests answering questions about young adult books, all leading up to the championship contest in May. 4 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-929-5090

MGPL Kids; Monday Morning Play:

group: Drop-in play time for preschoolers with a parent or caregiver to introduce young children to the library in a low-key, unstructured session. Call 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

Minecraft Monday: Students in grades 3-5 are welcome to register to try their hand at this monthly MineCraft Monday challenge! The group meets in the new computer training lab on the lower level. 4:30 p.m. Monday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Monday Movers: Enjoy a morning at the Library's Story Corner with your little one. For walkers up to 24 months of age. 10:30 a.m. Monday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Munch a Bunch of Books: Listen to new books, munch on a snack, and have fun with activities and crafts. For grades K-3. 4 p.m. Monday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Ballroom Dancing Classes: Not only is Ballroom again one of the most popular forms of dance, it has been proven to promote keeping the mind active and healthy. Most importantly, knowing how to dance provides confidence and a source of social enjoyment on the dance floor. These classes are \$10 per person per class. 6:45 p.m. Monday, Bernard Weinger JCC, 300 Revere Dr., Northbrook, \$10, 224-406-9257

Meet Author Peter Brown: Meet author and illustrator Peter Brown ("Mr. Tiger Goes Wild," "My Teacher is a Monster") as he discusses his first illustrated novel for middle grade readers, "The Wild Robot." 6:30 p.m. Monday, Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie, free, 847-446-8880

Loyola Academy - Courageous Conversations: Heroic Leadership with Chris Lowney: Loyola Academy's Courageous Conversations book and speaker series features renowned authors and experts on the issues most influencing adolescents and their families today. For more information, visit www.goramblers.org/courageousconversation. 7 p.m. Monday, Loyola Academy, 1100 Laramie Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-256-1100

Tuesday, April 12

Heather Nova: With Chris Riffle. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago

Ave., Evanston, \$17-\$32, 847-492-8860

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

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

Tuesday Morning Music: Garden visitors can enjoy free hour-long meditative musical performances on Tuesday mornings in the McGinley Pavilion overlooking Evening Island. Music varies from string quartets to Native American flutes and are focused towards an older crowd. After the concert, visitors can board a 25-minute narrated tour on the Bright Encounters Tour, a close-up view of the gardens on the main island, or the Grand Tram Tour, an overview of the Garden's history and highlights. Tram tickets may be purchased in the Heritage Garden or any ticket location. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, free, 847-835-5440

Smile and Rhyme Storytime for Ages 2 and Up with Adult: Drop by to hear Miss Fran share stories, rhymes and songs in the Cafe. Stay for a snack and to chat after the program. 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Heinen's Grocery Store, 1020 Waukegan Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Lego Club Grades 1-2: Calling all Master Builders...join in this monthly free-build. The Lego pieces are provided and you supply the ideas. A Glenview Library card is preferred, so please register by calling or to the website. 4 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

"Lady Almina and The Real Downton Abbey": Hear about the real historical characters who lived the legacy of Highclere Castle. Based on the book by Almina Herbert, current Countess of Carnarvon and performed by book dramatist, Lynn Rymarz. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Word 2010 Basics: This is an overall introduction to this popular word processing software. Mouse and keyboarding skills are required and a Glenview Library card is required when registering by phone or on the website. 2 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Career Counseling Appointments: Six 30-minute appointments available. Consult with a career expert for resume help and job search strategies for any stage of your career. Call the library at extension 7700 to register. 9 a.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

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, 847-965-4220

Film: "Home Run": Troubled baseball all-star Cory Brand is suspended from his team following a high-profile DUI, and struggles to turn his life around while attending a 12-step program and coaching a youth baseball team in his small hometown. 11:30 a.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

Preschool Storytime (Ages 3-5): Enjoy a half-hour storytime with your little one on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the Library's Youth Services Activity Room. 10:30 a.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Jazz Forum Rare Performance on Film: The library's exclusive program of vintage jazz performances on film features the Modern Jazz Quartet, the Curtis Amy-Paul Bryant Quintet, and a rare performance of Count Basie with Billie Holiday from 1950. 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

The Secret to Landing Your Dream Job in a DigiT: Discover techniques to help you soar ahead of the competition in an interactive presentation by Sari Klein, expert recruiter, and Megan Walls, career transition coach. Registration is required; visit the library's website to sign up. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Great Books Discussion Group: Meets on the second Tuesday of each

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month to discuss some of the best books in the English language. For more information on joining, call 847-673-1814. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie, free, 847-673-7774

Wednesday, April 13

Larry Campbell and Teresa Williams: With special guest Donnie Fritts. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$22-\$36, 847-492-8860

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

Preschool Story Time: Stories and songs for children ages 3-5 and a caregiver. 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston, free, 847-448-8610

New Hours and Programs: The museum is doubling the hours it is open to the public, including Thursday evenings and first and third Saturdays. New programming for students and collectors, access to research library and collection, a Blog and special exhibits are in the making. See website for hours. 10 a.m. Wednesday, American Toby Jug Museum, 910 Chicago Ave., Evanston, free, 877-862-9687

The Music Room: Looking back on the year's best, join AV Librarian Michael White to hear some of 2015's most critically acclaimed releases, both on and off the radar. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Excel 2010 Basics: Learn the layout of the Excel spreadsheet, how to input data, and the basics for writing formulas. A Glenview Library card is required when registering by phone or on their website. 2 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

A Celebration to Honor Irene Overman Kreer: A special reception to honor Irene Kreer for her decades of dedicated service to the Glenview Public Library, the Friends of the Glenview

Library, and the Glenview community. 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

ESL conversation group: Practice speaking English in an informal and friendly group setting. 3 p.m. Wednesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-929-5090

The Creative Impulse: Gathering the Sparks: A poetry-based writing workshop for writers of all levels and genres led by writer, teacher and editor Arlyn Miller of Poetic License, Inc. 1 p.m. Wednesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Chess Club: Whether you're a skilled player looking for a challenge or a beginner interested in learning new skills, all are welcome at this new, weekly Chess Club! Chess sets and clocks provided. No registration is required. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Free Film "Carousel": This Rogers and Hammerstein production stars Gordon MacRae as Billy Bigelow, and a

millworker (Shirley Jones). With a score that includes "If I Loved You" and "You'll Never Walk Alone," it is presented in CinemaScope-55 and 4K DCP. 1 p.m. Wednesday, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

LitLounge: This book discussion of the Morton Grove Public Library is held at The Curragh. Registration is not required and new members are welcome. This book description is: about a saga that explores the age-old question of whether or not you can ever truly come home again (from NoveList Plus). 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, The Curragh Irish Pub Skokie, 8266 Lincoln Ave., Skokie, free, 847-929-5090

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

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Now playing

**"Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" ★ 1/2**

PG-13, 2:33, action

A near-total drag, "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" is 2½-half-hour lesson in jaw-jutting and awkwardly framed handheld camerawork. Having killed thousands of innocent bystanders at the end of "Man of Steel," high-flying alien Superman (Henry Cavill) is now considered a pariah by many. Batman (Ben Affleck) has hardened into a boozy sociopath who wants to murder the alien invader with the "S." Crucially, there's a new

headliner in town: Gal Gadot's Wonder Woman. Long before she actually suits up, though, you're good and sick of waiting for Gadot to hijack all the rage-y, steroidal, bone-crushing smackdowns setting the tone in Snyder's literal blockbuster. — *Michael Phillips*

**"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. As strange as this combination might seem, it works. 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, specifically one Emmet Otterton, with the aid of wise-cracking fox Nick (Jason Bateman). One of the strongest messages is about discrimination. — *Katie Walsh*

**"My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2" ★★**

PG-13, 1:34, comedy

Back in 2002, "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" became a bona fide cultural phenomenon, a romantic comedy that mined the cultural specificities of the Greek heritage of unknown writer and star Nia Vardalos. Fourteen years later, Vardalos and gang are back again for another wedding, but this time, it's to drastically diminished returns. The screenplay feels as if it was written the year after the first film's success, just with a few jokes about

Facetime inserted for 2016 topicality. The rest of the jokes either don't land or feel about as fresh as a two-day old spanakopita. — *K.W.*

**"Miracles From Heaven" ★★ 1/2**

PG, 1:49, drama

"Miracles From Heaven" is based on an amazing — and weird — true story. Jennifer Garner is Christy Beam, mother to Anna (Kylie Rogers), who suffers from a debilitating, incurable intestinal disorder. One day Anna is climbing a tree and falls, head-first, 30 feet inside the dead tree trunk. When firefighters pull her out, not only is she unharmed, but she's miraculously cured. Garner is compelling as the dedicated mom questioning every-

thing she believes while fighting for her daughter's life, and young Rogers gives an impressive performance as Anna. — *K.W.*

**"The Divergent Series: Allegiant" ★ 1/2**

PG-13, 2:00, Action

You know how it is. A franchise must eat and make hay while the sun shines and the customers still give a rip. So here we are with the third installment in "The Divergent Series" from the thin-to-begin-with Veronica Roth trilogy set in post-apocalyptic dystopian rathole Chicago. It's a pretty dull picture. Tris is once again portrayed by Shailene Woodley; Theo James has perfected his sullen glower as Four, who is so much more than a number to

Tris. Woodley's starting to look a mite bored with this assignment and comes off peevishly. — *M.P.*

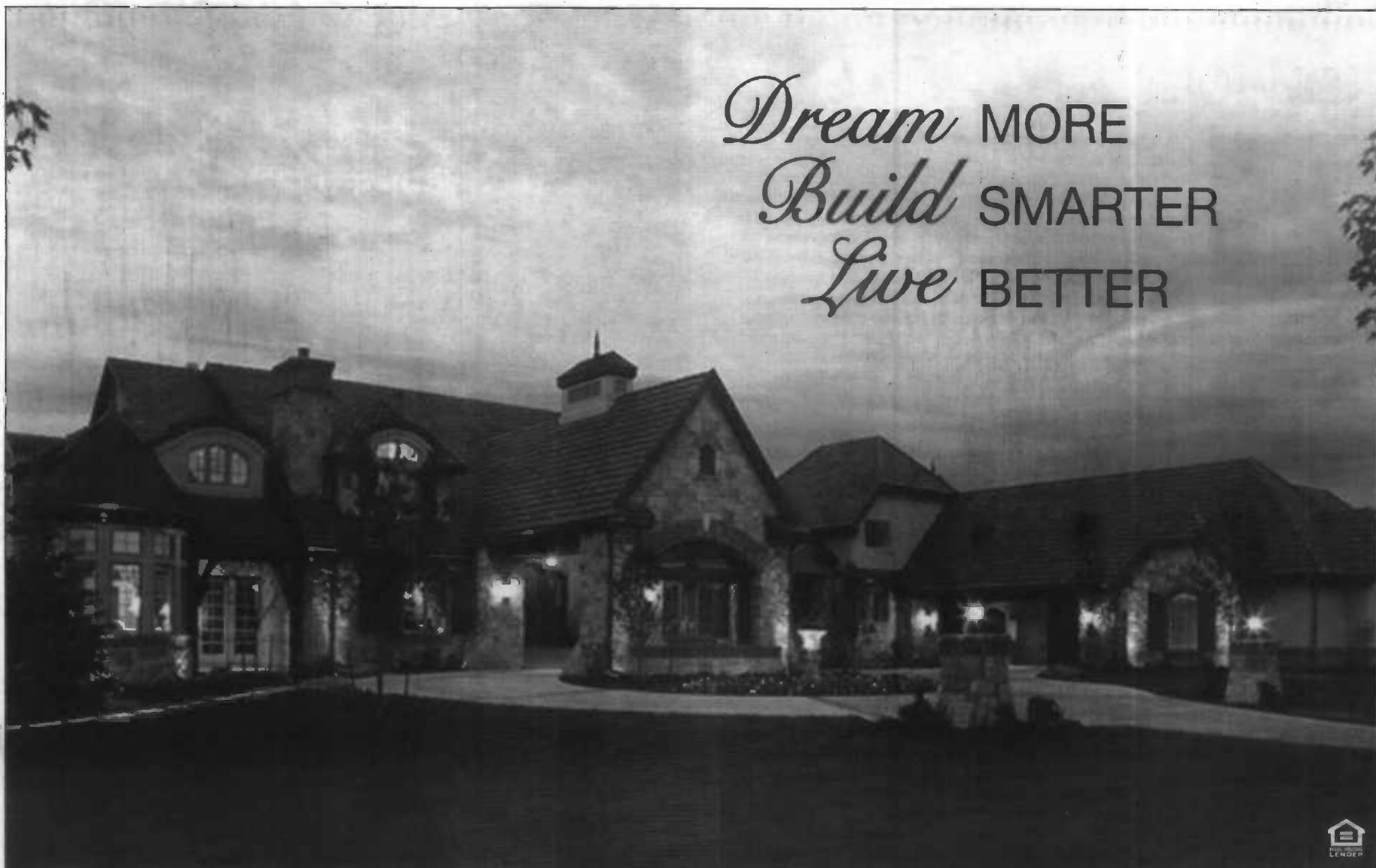
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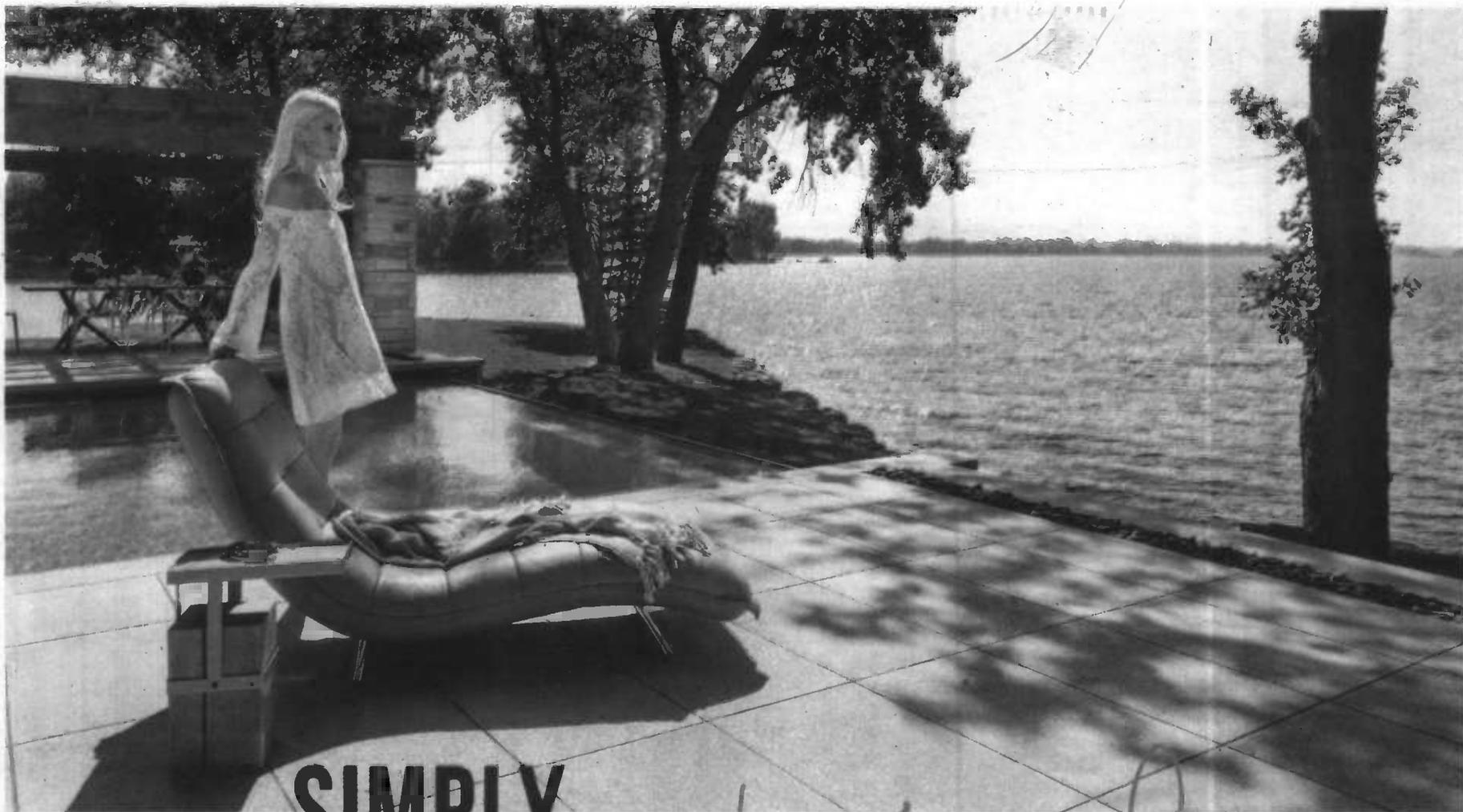
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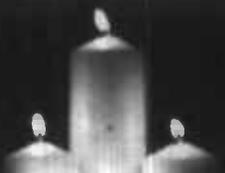
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EVAN SEARS/CARS.COM

A group of auto experts put U.S.-made muscle cars with V-8 engines — from left, a Ford, a Chevy and a Dodge — to the test on a racetrack outside Phoenix and a real-world course.

A showdown of V-8 muscle

BY PATRICK OLSEN
Cars.com

Americans always have loved muscle cars, and they love muscle cars with big V-8 engines. With gas prices down, there might not be a better time to buy one.

We tested American-made muscle cars with V-8 monsters on a racetrack outside Phoenix, as well as on a 130-mile real-world course. The Chevrolet Camaro 2SS was judged best, followed by the Dodge Challenger R/T Scat Pack, with the Ford Mustang in third.

Dodge Challenger R/T Scat Pack

PROS

■ True muscle:

"The Challenger R/T Scat Pack is fun in the most immature way imaginable, with obnoxiously loud exhaust, a huge Shaker hood scoop and bright purple paint that lets everyone at the party know you've arrived," said Joe Bruzek, senior road test editor for Cars.com. Judges mentioned the roomy, sedanlike interior.

"The Challenger is still a muscle car, while the Camaro and Mustang are sports cars," said in-market shopper Jason Kadah.

■ Hemi V-8:

"It has the most immediate response of any of the engines here, with gobs of low-end torque available right now, but it still calmly motors around town without any quirks," said Aaron Bragman, Detroit bureau chief for Cars.com.

CONS

■ Clutch:

"It's the StairMaster of the group," said Joe Wiesenfelter, executive editor of Cars.com, "too firm for daily driving."

"The clutch pedal and gear shifter effort are as old school as the styling, with serious punch and pull required when shifting gears," said Brian Robinson, PBS producer of "MotorWeek."

■ True muscle:

"While it feels great in a straight line, and the sport suspension improves its track performance, it's still just too massive to be fun on twisty mountain roads or tight racetracks," Bragman said.

Ford Mustang GT

PROS

■ Ride and handling:

"The GT feels right at home on the road course, with superb balance and a playful, tail-happy attitude, even if it doesn't have the outright grip and speed of the Camaro SS," Bruzek said.

"The Mustang definitely feels lighter and more responsive than the Challenger but not as responsive as the Camaro," Kadah said.

■ Engine:

"The 5-liter V-8 makes big noise and big thrust," Bragman said. "This thing feels crazy fast, especially on the track."

"It may not be the most capable on the track," countered Robinson. "But it is quite possibly the most fun."

■ Transmission:

"The best of all the manuals," Robinson said, and Bragman added, "It feels very precise, with short, direct throws."

"The clutch pedal is crazy light," Kadah said, "like I'm just pushing air."

■ Overall:

"It provides the best visibility of the three contestants in all directions, which lends confidence on the track as well as in daily traffic," Wiesenfelter said.

CONS

■ Recaro seats:

Nearly all the judges hated them, but Bruzek best summed it up. "(Recaro seats) don't have power adjustability, a heated or ventilated function, cost \$1,595, are uncomfortable and don't grip any better than the sport seats in the Challenger or Camaro, which have power, heated and ventilated front seats," Bruzek complained.

■ Underpowered:

"Acceleration is a bit soft off the line, though the GT came into its own on the track, where the revs are higher and first gear is but a memory," Wiesenfelter said.

■ Design:

"The exterior fit and finish are a problem," Robinson said. "The body gaps are not consistent, and panels are misaligned."

"Poor build quality is apparent from nose to tail," Bruzek said.

Chevrolet Camaro 2SS

PROS

■ Performance:

"The 6.2-liter engine is the sweet spot between the more modest Ford 5-liter and the Dodge's brute-force 6.4-liter V-8, with great power off the line and all the way up," Wiesenfelter said. It should be noted that the SS swept all three performance tests and still won the top prize for fuel economy to boot.

■ Handling:

"The excellent steering, balance and road-holding raises the Camaro above the level of muscle car and into the realm of sports cars," Wiesenfelter said.

Bruzek added that it felt more like a Corvette than the other muscle cars.

■ Sound:

"With its active exhaust, the SS sounds great when you want it to, without being overly rumbly when you don't," Wiesenfelter said.

"I almost want to turn down the radio and just listen to the exhaust," Kadah said.

CONS

■ Brakes:

"They feel much too soft for a car like this, with no confidence-inspiring initial bite at all," Bragman said. Wiesenfelter agreed, calling the brakes mushy.

■ Cramped:

"The back seat and cargo room make compromises you shouldn't have to in a four-seater that isn't a dedicated weekend-duty sports car," Bruzek said.

Robinson called the driver's area "incredibly cramped."

■ Forward visibility:

Several judges noted that the visibility is a problem on the road and track. "The super-high belt line combines with the low roof to make visibility the worst of all the cars here," Bragman said.

■ Interior:

"The SS interior comes up short on material quality against the Mustang and Challenger, even with a few nicer touches on the inside compared with the Camaro 1LT," Bruzek said.

For the complete rankings, including specs and real-world fuel economy numbers, visit tinyurl.com/zxjt7c6.



TOM SNITZER/FOR TRIBUNE NEWSPAPERS

The all-electric range of the 2016 Chevrolet Volt increases about 30 percent, to 53 miles, while the total range jumps more than 10 percent, to 420 miles from 380.

Improved Volt is impressive

BY ROBERT DUFFER
Tribune Newspapers

You like trees. You like cars. With the Chevrolet Volt, those preferences don't have to be at odds.

The second generation of General Motors' plug-in hybrid improves on range, efficiency, tech and styling.

Efficiency improves by about 30 percent, for a 53-mile all-electric range, up 15 miles from the previous model and a 420-mile total range, up from 380. The 2016 Nissan Leaf (all electric) has a 107-mile range.

The Volt has a new 1.5-liter four-cylinder engine that charges the battery when the plug-in juice runs dry, so you don't have to worry about running out of power. Volt owners could keep filling up the 8.9-gallon tank and get an impressive 42 mpg, but why bother when it can be plugged in at home, yielding the equivalent of 106 mpg?

When the battery runs out, the generator kicks on, making a groan that rises and falls with the throttle. It's the sound of the past, reminding the driver how silly it is to be powered by liquid dinosaur juice.

The overlooked truth of plug-in cars is the punchi-

2016 CHEVROLET VOLT LT

Plug-in hybrid compact

Price as tested:

\$33,650

Base price: \$33,170

Mpg: 42 miles gas only, 106 miles electric equivalent

Engine: 1.5-liter direct injection four-cylinder EcoTec

Battery:

Twin motors powered by 18.4 kWh battery

Parting shot: Better in every way, the new Volt is the future of cars

ness behind the wheel. The two-motor drive unit of the Volt, powered by a lithium-ion battery pack, generates 294 pound-feet of torque that is instantaneous and ever-present.

I love the new Volt from the front seats forward. The cabin feels upscale in the Buick way. The wheel has simpler, redundant buttons instead of a blend of roller dial and buttons.

The buttons take some getting used to in concert with the reconfigurable 8-inch instrument cluster.

The center console is the showcase of the improved interior design. There are fewer controls and buttons, but enough for radio and climate controls. The 8-inch touch screen has large icons and is reachable without a lean. Energy info is more detailed than before, and the voice commands are the best in this price range.

But the praise ends in the back. It bothers me that GM says the Volt seats five. Just because you add a fifth seat belt does not mean you have five functional seats. There is a massive middle hump because of the T-shaped battery pack running to the rear seat. The center console extends over the hump to the back, with two cupholders reaching to the rear seat, so only an infant can fit or young people cramming the car or circus clowns.

Sales of plug-in cars have plateaued due to low gas prices, but the new Volt is an excellent fuel-saving option with a quiet but spirited ride.

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Twitter @DufferRobert

Synthetic oil: What's it worth?



BOB WEBER
Motormouth

Q: My wife took our 2009 Camry to the local tire dealer to get the tires rotated and decided to get the oil changed, too. She was told that she had to get synthetic oil if we wanted the change interval to be 5,000 miles. If she wanted regular oil, it would have to be changed every 3,000 miles. We checked with the Toyota dealer where we normally get the oil changed and they confirmed regular oil and 5,000. Have we been scammed with a \$64 oil change?

— T.M., Bethlehem, Pa.

A: Let's just say you have been super-sized. Once again, trust your owner's manual for the proper service intervals. You did read the manual, didn't you? By the way, would you like fries with that?

Q: I have a 1997 Dodge Ram with 110,000 miles. When I get the oil changed, is it worth the extra money to get high-mileage oil or am I just wasting money?

— K.P., South Bend, Ind.

A: The high-mileage oils have additional additives to help keep seals and gasket supple. That reduces the chance of developing leaks. Replacing gaskets and seals can get expensive. The high-mileage oil is cheap insurance.

Q: I have had a similar problem to last week's Dodge Magnum. My defroster was not working well on my 2002 Prius. The owner's manual said to check the cabin filter. I replace it every 20,000 miles or when the windows start to fog. Problem solved!

— B.C., Oak Park, Ill.

A: Good point. Anything that blocks the flow of outside air will exacerbate the fogging problem. That includes leaves and other debris at the intake vents on the cowl at the bottom of the windshield.

Q: My 2014 Prius has a button for controlling air in the cabin. I can choose recirculate or outside air. This seems simple enough, but often when I am driving with the recirculate button on it simply turns itself off and begins to take in air from the outside. When I had the car in for servicing I asked my technician about this. He said this is what it is supposed to do. Can you explain?

— R.B., Chicago

A: It is absolutely normal. According to your owner's manual: "In Eco drive mode, the air conditioning system is controlled as follows to prioritize fuel efficiency: Heating/cooling capacity is restricted. Outside/recirculated air mode may automatically switch depending on the temperature setting or the inside temperature." If you lost yours, you can find a replacement manual online: www.toyota.com/owners/manual.

Q: I have a 2012 Camry XLE and am planning to put a new battery in the car. Will I lose all the data stored in my car's GPS and Bluetooth when the dealer disconnects the current battery to put in a new one?

— R.B., Orefield, Pa.

A: That is a good question. We want to remind our readers that swapping out a battery on today's electronics-engorged cars is risky unless power is maintained. The Toyota dealer is aware of this, but some shade-tree mechanics and do-it-yourselfers may get into trouble.

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*.

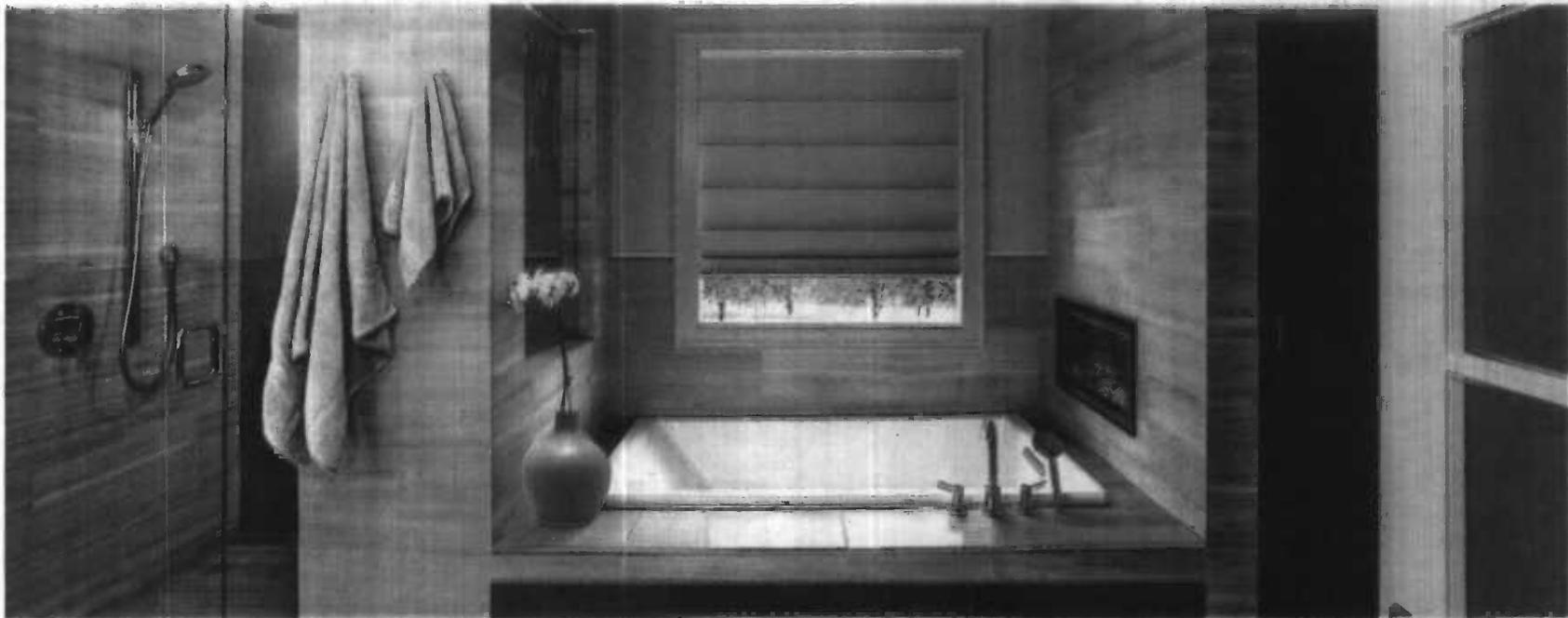


TOYOTA

The 2009 Toyota Camry SE can use regular oil and be serviced every 5,000 miles; no need for synthetic oil. If in doubt, check your owner's manual for proper service intervals.

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OF THE MONTH

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THE POLLS ARE OPEN!

Support your favorite local athletes and vote for April Athlete of the Month! The polls open at 9 a.m. Thursday and close at **noon on April 14.**

You may vote once every 12 hours at chicagotribune.com/athletes.

**Anthony
 D'Avanzo**

Notre Dame senior
Best game: D'Avanzo scored 18 points on 7-of-8 shooting from the field, grabbed eight rebounds and blocked three shots in the Dons' 65-62 loss to Curle in the Class 4A basketball supersectional at Northwestern on March 15.

**Martin
 Barr**

Niles North senior
Best result: Barr won the 3,200-meter run at the Illinois Top Times Indoor track and field invitational in 9 minutes, 22.22 seconds. He beat Young sophomore Clayton Mendez by 1.31 seconds. Barr's sophomore teammate Conor Perreault took eighth (9:32.79).

**Olivia
 Niziolek**

Maine South sophomore
Best result: Niziolek finished 13th in the 1,600-meter run at the Illinois Top Times indoor track and field invitational. She finished in 5 minutes, 20.29 seconds. She had a seed time of 5:10.59.

CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM/ATHLETES

Berlin turns Cubs affiliate into model franchise

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Pioneer Press

Andrew Berlin purchased the South Bend Silver Hawks at a point when the franchise was in real trouble.

South Bend, which is a Low-A minor league baseball team, had only drawn 112,795 fans in 2011, according to www.milb.com. The team was close to bankruptcy when Berlin purchased it, he said recently, but the Glencoe resident transformed the franchise into the top team in minor league baseball in four years.

"Andrew ended up turning around a franchise that was on the cusp of actually leaving South Bend," Ballpark Digest publisher Kevin Reichard said, "and instead made it into a community institution."

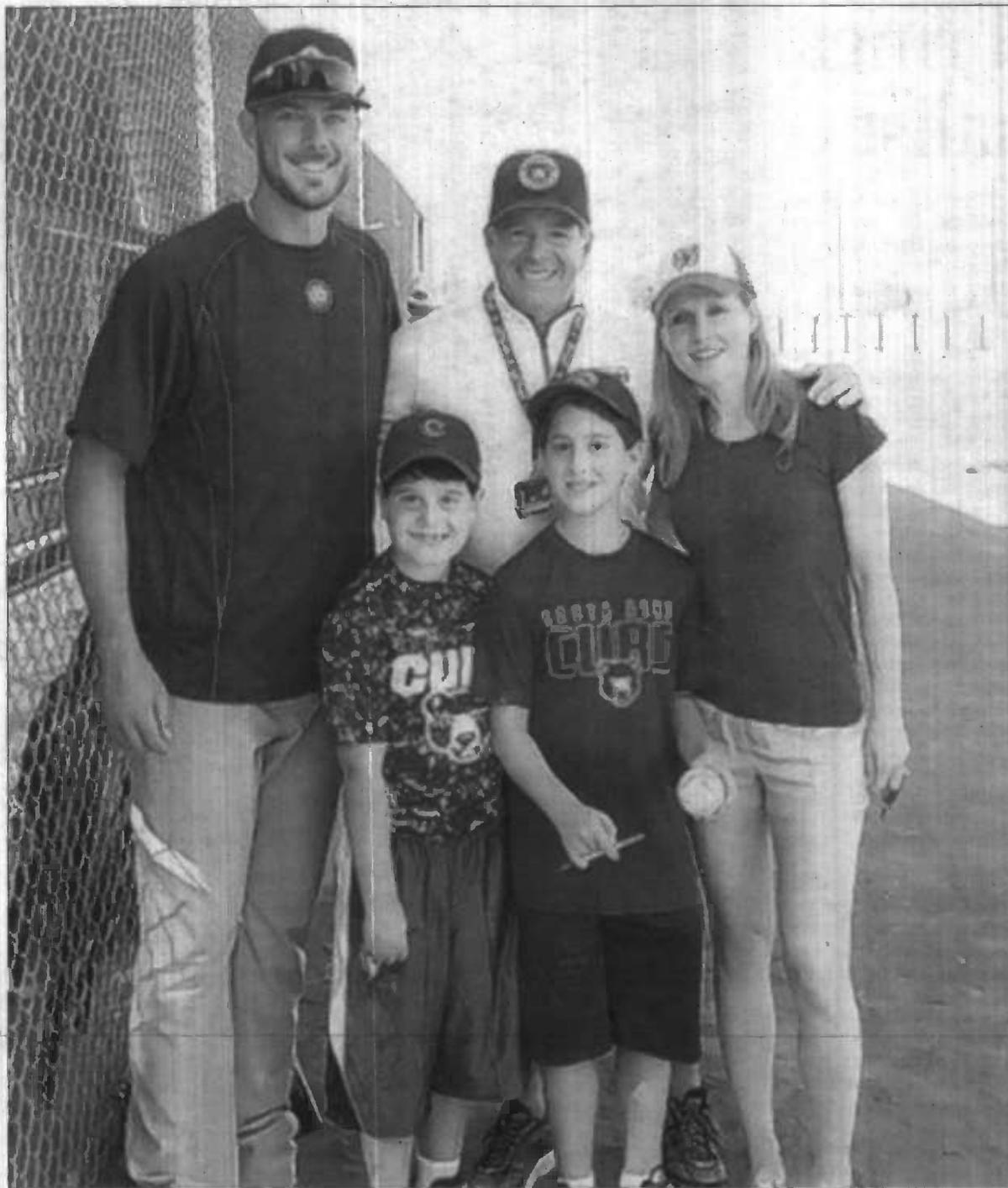
Berlin did so slowly and steadily.

First, he hired quality employees --- including Joë Hart, who is now in his fifth season as the team president --- and implemented an attention to detail, customer service and quality control that helped the valuation of his company, Berlin Packaging, reach \$1.8 billion in 2015.

South Bend's attendance climbed to 189,575 in 2012. It reached 237,448 in 2013. The Silver Hawks, who were affiliated with the Arizona Diamondbacks at the time, drew 258,836 in 2014.

Then, in September of 2014, Berlin brought an iconic brand to South Bend when he landed an affiliation with the Chicago Cubs. The major league team switched its Low-A affiliation from Kane County to South Bend.

"We knew we needed to make improvements to give us a competitive advantage over some of our competition," Berlin said. "We changed the field from artificial turf to natural grass. We hired ... Roger Bossard of the White Sox, (whose



ANDREW BERLIN

Glencoe resident and South Bend Cubs owner Andrew Berlin, center, poses for a photo with his family and Chicago Cubs third baseman Kris Bryant at spring training.

nickname is 'The Sodfather.' We installed a state-of-the-art irrigation and drainage system, and field, for about \$750,000. Beyond that, we built this performance center, which is the gold standard in minor league baseball, fashioned after the (Under Armour

Performance Center that the Cubs have in Mesa, Arizona."

Berlin continued: "Once we had that stuff on the planning board, we were able to present those ideas to whoever we could attract. We started with the Cubs. Thankfully, the Cubs

said yes."

As the performance center was being built in right field at Four Winds Field, the South Bend team elected to change its nickname, colors and logo. It rebranded itself as the South Bend Cubs.

The decision to do so was

an obvious one, according to Berlin.

"There are a lot of minor league teams that do not take the brand of their major league affiliate for fear that one day they may lose the affiliation, and then they have to rebrand once again," said Berlin, a minor-

ity investor in the Chicago Cubs. "But again, our goal is to attract the Cubs to the point where they'll never want to leave."

South Bend reached new heights in 2015.

The South Bend Cubs set a franchise-record in total attendance (347,678) and per-game attendance (5,039) last season. The team's merchandise sales increased 700 percent thanks to the rebranding, Berlin said.

The South Bend Cubs also won the John H. Johnson President's Award in 2015, which is the highest honor a franchise can receive in Minor League Baseball. Ballpark Digest named the South Bend Cubs its Team of the Year in 2015.

Berlin hopes to see continued improvement this year, he added. His goal for total attendance is 400,000 or more. A new party deck has been built on the performance center in right field. Berlin is also about to break ground on new apartments in left field and center field. He said he hopes they will be completed by the end of the 2017 season.

Another goal Berlin has for this season is to continue to refine the experience for the South Bend fans. In order to look for ways to improve his franchise, Berlin will sometimes disguise himself at the ballpark by wearing a hat and sunglasses and try to blend in.

"When I go to a game, in South Bend especially, I'll often stand in the concession lines to see how they're moving along," Berlin said. "I'll ... do a little mystery shopping there, just to see how the service is. If I'm walking through the concourse or through the bathrooms and I see something on the floor, I'm cleaning up. I'm methodical (in) paying attention to the details."

Eric Van Dril is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @VanDrilSports

Thai develops into still rings state finalist

BY TODD MARVER

Pioneer Press

Niles West senior gymnast David Thai never competed in the sport before high school, but he has placed at state the last two years on the still rings.

Niles West coach Adrian Batista explained that a combination of physical abilities, hard work and intellect enabled Thai to quickly pick up on the sport. He also has been aided by talented teammates throughout his career.

"(Thai) knew a couple of the juniors on the team just from before high school and they got him in the gym (before his freshman season)," said Batista, adding, "He just seemed to pick it up. He picked it up pretty quick and he was smart. He learned, he paid attention and he's definitely a student of the sport. ... He figured it out and asked the right questions."

Batista noted that Thai worked even harder to improve after his freshman season.

"He would be in the gym whenever he was allowed to go in when the girls season was going on," Batista said. "The last four years, on his personal time in the off-season, he went to different clubs to learn what he could do. He's been in the gym every day as much as he can, and when he's not in the gym he's working out."

Thai felt he had an edge over other gymnasts his age, and that drove him to work harder.

"I could control my weight pretty well compared to other people entering high school," Thai said. "So I thought I'd have a better advantage over other people so that made me want to do it even more."

Thai learned from seniors on the 2014 squad, including Harris Khan, Paul Dugo, Timmy La, Ryan Tang, David Nipas and Andy Tran, that placed fifth at state.

"When David was sophomore, we had a very, very strong senior group of guys," Batista said. "Working with such a good group of kids on that varsity team two years ago, he was able to learn how to get past the JV mentality and freshman mentality and jump right to the varsity mentality. Those seniors when he was a sophomore they just kind of took him under their wing and they taught him the little things and he got it."

Thai took eighth in the still rings at state in 2014 (8.6). Both Thai and the Wolves took a step forward in 2015. He placed fifth on the still rings (8.85) and Niles West finished in third place.

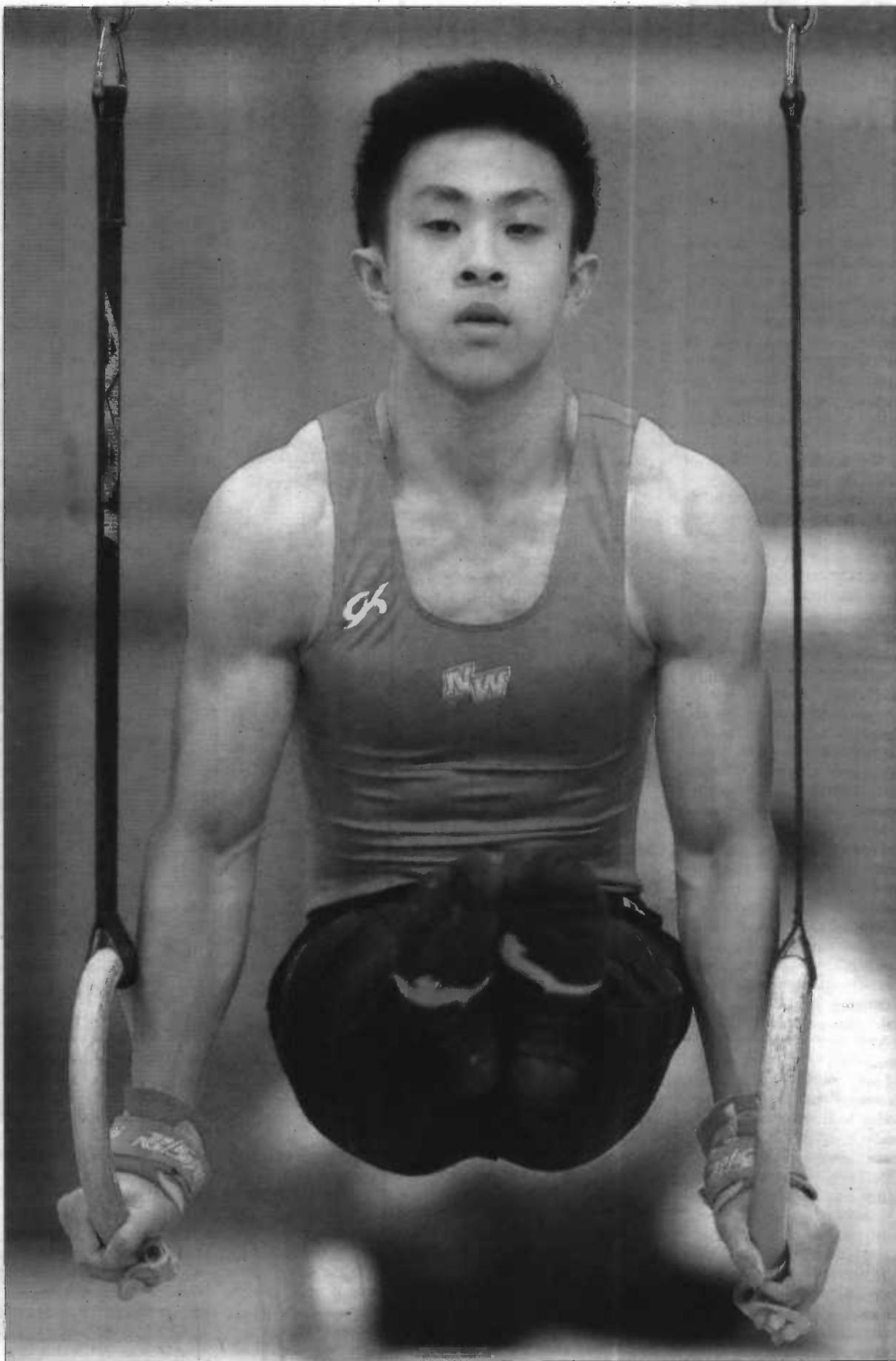
Thai also has had the opportunity to compete alongside fellow Niles West senior gymnast Dalai Jamiyankhuu throughout high school. Jamiyankhuu won the all-around at the 2015 state meet.

"(Thai) has worked with Dalai a lot and just learned some technique," Batista said.

This season, Thai said he is more concerned about his team's performance in the state series than his individual performance. Thai is looking to pay it forward.

"So what I'm more focused on for my senior year is mostly about passing my legacy on to my younger teammates," Thai said. "That way for the years to come, they can keep qualifying to state."

Todd Marver is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.



BRIAN O'MAHONEY/PIONEER PRESS

Niles West's David Thai competes on the still rings during the state finals on May 16, 2015.

Sports Performance helps Boduch develop into college prospect

BY DAN SHALIN
Pioneer Press

At the completion of his club volleyball season in late winter, Maine East junior Michael Boduch had some kind words for his Sports Performance Volleyball Club coach Mark Jones.

"I walked up to him and basically said, 'Thank you for coaching me,'" Boduch said. "At the beginning of the (club) season, he told me he could see the potential in me, but that (playing club) is a big commitment and I was going to have to put a lot of work into volleyball."

The 6-foot-8, 215-pound Boduch did just that during a grueling October-through-February schedule, which included nearly 40 matches against top competition and several practices per week.

Maine East coach Jon Kulesza also is thanking Jones and Sports Performance for helping to unlock Boduch's potential. After losing all-conference players Lerin Mathew and Joe Swoboda to graduation, the Blue Demons needed players to step up — and Boduch has done just that.

Maine East began the season 6-1, including going 4-1 and finishing second in its own invite on March 26. Boduch, a middle hitter, made the all-tournament team after collecting 35 kills. Through seven matches Boduch, had a team-high 21 point blocks, nearly twice as many as any other Blue Demons player.

Kulesza said Boduch's success was not unexpected after he saw Boduch's evolution during winter open gym sessions.

"Every time I saw him in open gyms, he was just

getting better and looking smoother, more polished," Kulesza said. "Mike has a legit chance to play at a good Division II school and I know (some Division I) schools are looking at him and talking to him."

Patrick Malkowski, Boduch's high school and club teammate, said the person he affectionately refers to as a "Walking Tree" has become "scary," in a good way, this season. Boduch hardly resembles the raw sophomore who played right side on Maine East's Central Suburban North title-win-

"Club taught me to look at the court and recognize everything much better. I now look at the court and know who (the opponent's) primary hitter is and who their best blocker is."

—Maine East junior Michael Boduch

ning team last spring.

"When Michael came in (to varsity) last year, he had the size, but he didn't know how to play varsity-level volleyball," Malkowski said. "His fundamentals and hitting were bad. During the season, he learned the basics and started to use his height better."

After last season, Kulesza and Malkowski tried to sell Boduch on the merits of playing club volleyball. Boduch eventually agreed to give it a try.

"I used to play football, and I was thinking about whether I should do football or club volleyball in the fall (of 2015)?" Boduch said. "I talked to coach Kulesza and he said I should play year round and not wait until open gyms (in the winter)."

"(Malkowski) talked to me about Sports Performance and said I could get so much better. After talking to coach and Patrick, I convinced my parents to let me do club."

At Sports Performance, Jones has helped Boduch improve his skills and understanding of the game. Jones also has contacted college coaches on the Boduch's behalf, though Boduch said the recruiting process is in its preliminary stages.

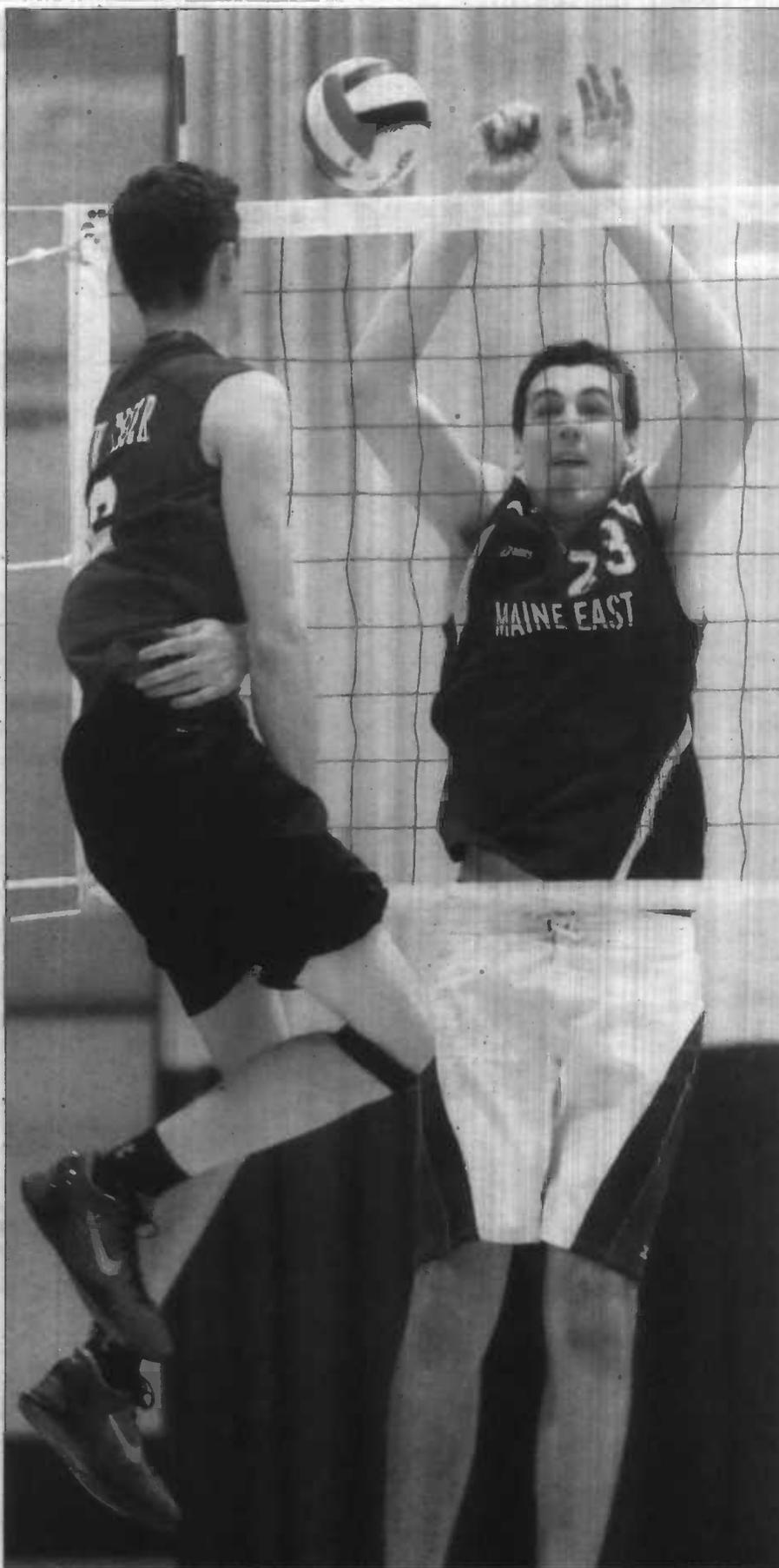
At the club, Boduch worked extensively on his arm swing.

After being kept from serving during much of his sophomore year, Boduch has added a jump serve that, according to Kulesza, has become a weapon. The coach said Boduch's three aces during the Maine East Invite are just a sample of what's to come.

Boduch said club volleyball helped him understand the importance of being vocal on the court and communicating with his teammates. He also said he's become adept at reading the game.

"Club taught me to look at the court and recognize everything much better," he said. "I now look at the court and know who (the opponent's) primary hitter is and who their best blocker is, and I really see the court in a different way."

Dan Shalin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

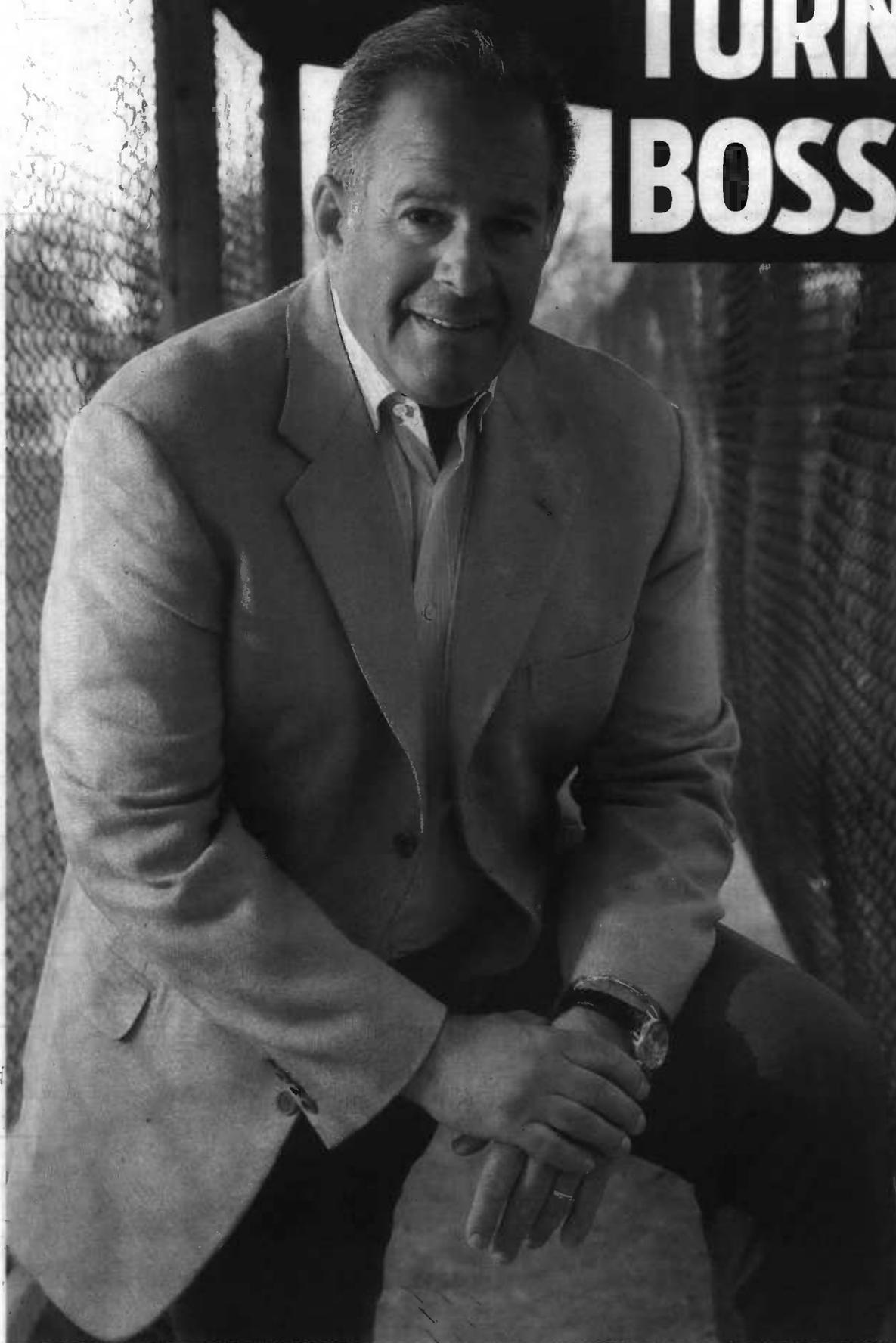


TIM BOYLE/PIONEER PRESS

Maine East's Michael Boduch, right, attempts to block a shot by New Trier's Henry Lindstrom during their match on May 29, 2015, in Glenview.

TURNAROUND BOSS

Cubs' affiliate in South Bend named top minor league team in the country. Page 43



Glencoe resident Andrew Berlin has revitalized the minor league baseball team in South Bend, Ind., since purchasing it.

ABEL URIBE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

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