

NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR

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nilesheraldspectator.com

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A tree for all faiths

Morton Grove holds inaugural interfaith tree lighting ceremony. Page 6



KARIE ANGELL LUC/PIONEER PRESS

John and Kat Corwine of Morton Grove help their son Henry Corwine, 7, write a special message of peace on a card that then was used as a tree ornament at the first annual interfaith ceremony and holiday tree lighting event held at Harrer Park Dec. 2.

GO



JOSH HAWKINS PHOTO

'Tidings of Tap!'

Chicago Tap Theatre's popular holiday show comes to the North Shore Center. Page 23

ALL-AREA FOOTBALL



KEVIN TANAKA/PIONEER PRESS

Pivotal players

Pioneer Press selects its best from 2016 on offense and defense. Sports



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SHOUT OUT

Niles coffee shop owner Gus Yamin

Gus Yamin is franchise owner of Gloria Jean's Coffees at Golf Mill Shopping Center in Niles and another location in Vernon Hills. A man "grateful for family," Yamin says he also enjoys the holiday season.

Q: Why is this time of year so special?

The holiday season is incredibly special because it gives everyone a chance to show some extra love toward their family and friends. The joy of brightening our customers' days by providing them with a festive cup of coffee to warm their spirits is one of the reasons we opened our Gloria Jean's stores in the area.

Q: What do you like about your job/business?

I really enjoy interacting with guests. We pride our stores on feeling like a home away from home.

Q: What do you like about the Niles area?

We specifically like the Niles area because of the close-knit community. We have so many incredible regular customers who consider our shop as a second



KARIE ANGEL LUC/PIONEER PRESS

Gus Yamin

home. Niles is a beautiful place that includes wonderful people who care about one another.

Q: Any other favorite things?

I run two stores in the area, one at Golf Mill in Niles and one in the Hawthorn Mall in Vernon Hills. So, I stay busy running those. I used to frequently play sports and now I enjoy watching them whenever I can. Also, one of my most favorite things to do is travel,

anywhere and everywhere. My favorite location is California where I can visit my friends and family who live there.

Q: Your personal cup of coffee comfort?

My favorite way to drink coffee is simply black. I can drink black coffee all day long. In fact, I drink about six to seven cups every day.

—Karie Angell Luc, Pioneer Press

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Morton Grove holds tree lighting event

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC

Pioneer Press

The Morton Grove Park District included a peace vigil as part of its inaugural interfaith holiday tree lighting ceremony held Dec. 2.

"It's (the vigil) an excellent thing to do always, it helps to strengthen our community," said Samina Hussain of Morton Grove, who represented the Muslim Community Center of Morton Grove.

Temperatures dipped to around 30 degrees at the nighttime event, held at Harrer Park, which was also a kickoff to the village's Holly Days festival and indoor winter farmers market held the following day. The evening's program included remarks from several local faith leaders, a sing-along of holiday carols led by the Mather Jammers band and a crowd-inclusive rendition of "God Bless America."

"I think it's great that the Morton Grove Park District started this event, trying to get people out and into the community spirit," said Daniel Staackmann, Morton Grove park board president.

Following the program, a large evergreen that faces Dempster Street was illuminated in a festive countdown. People were encouraged to write messages of peace on cards that were then used as ornaments on another, smaller tree, at the site.

Paul McGivern, president of Morton Grove School District 70, which includes Park View School, said the peace vigil and holiday festivities offer residents the opportunity to embrace cultural, faith and other differences.

"We are very proud at Park View of our diverse community," McGivern said. "And we celebrate it at school all of the time."

Stephanie Youkhana, a two-decade Morton Grove resident, and wife of Morton Grove School District 70 board member Wayne Youkhana, remarked that the event was one of unity.

"This town is so amazing as it is, but we don't have a lot of things that kind of just bring the whole community together," Stephanie Youkhana said. "And this is one thing that, finally, it's nice to have."



KARIE ANGELL LUC/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

The Morton Grove Park District hosted the town's interfaith peace vigil and tree lighting ceremony at Harrer Park in Morton Grove Dec. 2.



Sophia Duignan, 5, of Morton Grove, from left, her mother, Dani, and sister, Catherine, 7, listen to the program.



Morton Grove Village President Dan DiMarla places a message of peace on the holiday tree.

Karie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Niles looking to bring in more development

Village board focuses on Touhy Triangle with master plan

BY BRIAN L. COX
Pioneer Press

After more than two years of planning, the Niles village board has signed off on a key element of what has been called the Touhy Triangle Master Plan in the hopes it will help attract millions of economic development dollars to the village and market its most famous landmark, officials said.

The Niles village board voted 5-0 during its recent meeting to approve visual and schematic aspects of a development proposal affecting the area near Touhy Avenue. The plan was prepared for the village by Chicago-based architecture firm The Lakota Group and Vernon Hills-based engineering company Gewalt Hamilton and Associates, said Ross Klicker, Niles economic development and marketing coordinator.

"We're going to now start marketing that visualization and land use scenario for the corridor," Klicker said, adding that the study cost about \$46,000. "Hopefully the development community agrees with that visualization and will be interested in doing projects."

The Touhy Triangle site, which includes the area roughly bordered by Touhy Avenue on the south, Lehigh Avenue on the east, Gross Point Road on the north and Caldwell Avenue on the west, was created about two years ago to enhance the arts, entertainment and cultural offerings in the village, said Klicker.

"There's no secret about it in an way, shape or form that the Touhy corridor is an incredible economic driver for our community," he added. "The retail sales in that corridor are extremely high.

We want to see more uses that support our retail so we're looking at hospitality, restaurants supportive retail creating a destination environment."

He said the plan adopted by trustees at the Nov. 15 village board meeting examines the prevailing land use and building patterns, transportation and infrastructure conditions, and development potential within the proposed development area. Although the site is now zoned for entertainment and mixed-use development, until recently it was zoned primarily for larger-scale industrial or service business uses with a limited amount of retail business zoning, according to the study.

"The Touhy corridor is an incredible economic driver for our community"

— Ross Klicker

The village also is working to repair and restore its most famous landmark, a half-size replica of the Leaning Tower of Pisa in Italy, built in the north suburb in 1934, Klicker said.

"That tower itself is already a destination," he said. "We want to create an environment where (visitors) can come and stay for a while."

Klicker said the concept drawings that are part of the proposed Touhy Triangle plan will be used to aggressively market the triangle and includes the development of marketing materials which will be sent to broker developers and others interested in coming to the area. He also said it will also be used to promote the triangle at regional and national

trade events and that the village hopes to see significant development in the triangle within the next five to seven years — or sooner.

"We're waiting to see what the development world wants to get in there and do," he said. "Hopefully the development world ... will be interested in doing projects."

Klicker also said the triangle plan comes out of the village's 2030 comprehensive plan from 2011. That strategic planning initiative identified the village's lack of a true downtown area which, reportedly, has a negative impact on the village's "sense of community, image and identity," according to information in the plan document.

"It takes elements of the 2030 plan and expands on it," Klicker said about the Touhy Triangle proposal.

He also said the village has already worked to bring a new medical building to the triangle that will open in the 6300 block of Touhy Avenue in Niles in a few weeks. The new building, which used to include a Days Inn hotel, will house offices for 50 doctors and their staff, Klicker said.

"We want to create that environment so their employees not only can come here to work but can entertain clients, recreate themselves and go out for a nice lunch then hopefully bring their families back in the evening," he said. "It's an overall big-reaching game changer."

In addition, Klicker said that in the past year the village worked to allow retailer Costco to purchase a property in the triangle and operate a gas station.

"Costco in Niles did not have gas pumps and they were threatening to leave because of that," he said.

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

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Library renovation set to wrap up in 2017

Lincolnwood project cost \$5.2 million

By NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

After months of construction noises piercing the usual quiet of the Lincolnwood Public Library, the \$5.2 million renovation project is nearing completion, with a modernized building on schedule to open by late January, officials said.

Since the third and final construction stage started in early November, the focus of the work has shifted from the roof and teen study areas to the front entrance and main program rooms, where new individual study rooms are being constructed along with a redesigned, energy-efficient front entrance, said library spokeswoman Deb Keegan.

Work on the first two phases started in April and both stages wrapped up by Oct. 28, when a new room for youth and teens and a cafe area were unveiled to the public. A new lobby area, consolidated staff work space and a remodeled men's restroom were also completed during those phases. Crews also replaced the roof during the summer and fall.

Patrons who haven't visited the library in a while might be surprised to find the adult computer lab and quiet study area gone, but Keegan said more laptops for public use have been purchased. The library will have a modernized public computer space when the renovations wrap up, she explained.

"All of the computers for adults are gone right now, but anyone can check out the laptops for use in the library now," Keegan said. "The adult computer lab



DEB KEEGAN LINCOLNWOOD PUBLIC LIBRARY PHOTOS

The Lincolnwood Public Library's \$5.2 million renovation project includes an upgraded space for for pre-K, youth and teen programs, unveiled in October. The entire library redevelopment project is scheduled to wrap-up in January 2017.

will be replaced with a bank of computers instead of a designated computer room."

The entire collection of books, movies and music in what was the adult section has been put in storage until after the final construction phase, but patrons can order the materials they want at the circulation desk and have them delivered to Lincolnwood from another nearby library, officials said.

When the final phase of construction wraps up—by

Jan. 20, according to Keegan—patrons will notice a new lobby, study rooms, and additional large meeting and program space. The library will also unveil other amenities, including a new energy-efficient heating and air conditioning system, a larger public space, new windows, refinished walls and a new plumbing system, according to project plans.

Keegan said the construction noise resulted in a decline in patrons using the library since the work

started in April, but she said the library staff is looking forward to revealing the newly-remodeled building to the community during a Feb. 19, 2017 grand reopening event.

"There are days that are noisier than others," Keegan said, "but many of our adult patrons don't seem fazed by it, and we have earplugs and headphones available."

Library board members have been planning the modernization project since 2012, when they eval-

uated how many people in the community use the library and found less than 30 percent of Lincolnwood residents had a library card.

People thought the library was outdated, library officials said they learned from a public survey and a series of in-person interviews and focus groups.

At the same time, staff and board members brought up concerns about the mechanical, electrical, plumbing and other structural parts of the facility, including a leaky roof and

obsolete technology.

The board responded by approving an initiative they named "Visit a Comfortable Space," a building plan to provide residents with a "modern, comfortable and inviting library" that offers visitors open and private spaces for "reading, studying, working, playing, talking, and engaging with one another collaboratively," according to wording in the library's strategic plan.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Lincoln Hall sixth-grader wins geography competition

By NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

Responding successfully to a question about Honduras helped Lincolnwood sixth-grader Simon Solano earn bragging rights as the 2016 Geography Bee champion of Lincoln Hall Middle School.

For Solano, who said he dreams of becoming a geologist one day, having a mom who works for Chicago's Field Museum lends a hefty boost to his well-rounded knowledge of world geography, he said.

"My mom helps with conservation of rainforests in Peru and a little bit in Colombia," Solano said. "She inspires me to learn."

The 11-year-old admits he didn't spend much time preparing for the competition, which sixth-grade social studies teacher Wendy Kotrba said starts out as a written test taken by the entire student body of about 435 students.

The top 10 highest-scoring students in sixth through eighth grades earn a spot in the verbal competition, which was held at the school Dec. 1.

Securing a place in that round is an achievement to be proud of, but it can be devastating for the students who fall short despite giving it their best shot, according to Kotrba.

"I had two kids crying after the test results came in because they didn't make it into the bee," Kotrba said. "I find that some students — a small percentage — are passionate about geography and it's not a result of the teachers."

Some students, she said, seem to have a natural passion for learning about the histories and locations of other countries. Other kids, like Solano, take inspiration from family or have an interest in their cultural backgrounds.

Lincolnwood officials



WENDY KOTRBA

Lincoln Hall Middle School Assistant Principal Dominic Lupo, left, stands with the school's 2016 Geography Bee winner Simon Solano, center, and the school's sixth-grade social studies teacher Wendy Kotrba on Dec. 1.

proudly tout the diversity of the village's residents as a reason for standing out from some of its North Shore-area neighbors.

Lincoln Hall students represent about 42 different cultures, which Kotrba said sparks a natural interest in and awareness of places outside of the U.S.

"Kids in general at Lincoln Hall are interested in the world because they came from Serbia, Syria, Russia, and so many other places. So there's an inherent interest at least in the country they came from," Kotrba said, adding that some students have traveled with their families all over the world.

"I think there's definitely an interest in geography at the school, but in terms of the bee, there's a small percentage of kids who seem to get into it," she said.

For the small group of kids who do put their hearts into geography, even if it's just for the sake of the competition, winning is everything.

"My classmates thought it was cool because I won against an eighth-grader," Solano said. "My family was proud of me and everyone jumped up and was cheering."

Unlike a spelling bee,

where words can be memorized, the geography bee has a kind of randomness to it, Kotrba said. So winning sometimes involves a little bit of luck. The questions are pulled from a pool of topics covering hundreds of countries and their geographical features and histories, so a student who gets a question about Lake Michigan, for example, would instantly gain an edge over a classmate who gets asked about the name of a river in China.

"I had one girl spend months studying Africa, which is great, but then you get asked about Gettysburg in the bee," she said. "There's definitely a random quality to it."

Solano's winning question would leave most adults perplexed: "Archaeologists have begun excavating an ancient lost city in the region called La Mosquitia in which country north of Nicaragua?"

Eighth-grader Ephraim Bennett came in second place.

Solano's next step is to take the state exam, and he'll compete against other winners across Illinois if he qualifies.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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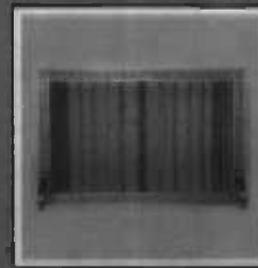
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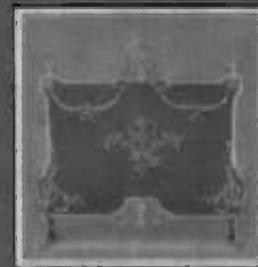
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The following items were taken from Niles Police Department reports. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt.

BATTERY

■ Haitham Hanna, 46, of the 8900 block of North Wisner Street, was charged with domestic battery on Nov. 21. Hanna was scheduled to appear in court Dec. 8.

BURGLARY TO VEHICLE

■ On Nov. 18, police said a car was forcibly entered in the 200 block of Golf Mill Center and a purse was reported stolen from the front seat.

■ A purse containing \$600 in cash and a money order for \$660 was reportedly stolen overnight Nov. 19-20 from a car parked in the 8500 block of Golf Road, police said.

■ A car parked in the 7700 block of Milwaukee Avenue was forcibly entered and ransacked on the night of Nov. 19, police said.

■ Three cars parked in a lot in the 9100 block of Milwaukee Avenue were broken into on the night of Nov. 19, police said.

Items reported stolen included two purses and a bag containing a wallet, clothing, makeup and keys, according to police.

■ A GPS device was stolen Nov. 23 or 24 from a car parked in the 8200 block of Newland Avenue, police said.

■ Two video games, a leather portfolio, a textbook and backpack were reported stolen Nov. 24 from a car that was possibly left unlocked behind an apartment building located in the 8600 block of Milwaukee Avenue, police said.

■ An evening dress was reportedly stolen overnight Nov. 23-24 from an unlocked car parked in the 7800 block of Greenleaf Street.

■ Two unlocked cars were burglarized overnight Nov. 22-23 while parked in a driveway in the 7800 block of Lill Court, police said. A garage door opener was reportedly stolen from one of the cars.

POSSESSION

■ Joseph Guiragossian, 28, of the 5900 block of North Rockwell Street, Chicago, was

charged with speeding on Nov. 25 after police said he was traveling 70 mph in a 35-mph speed zone near Gross Point Road and Howard Street. Guiragossian was also ticketed for possession of marijuana, police said. He is scheduled to appear in court Dec. 13.

THEFT

■ Janyssa Young, 22, of the 300 block of West Garfield Boulevard, Chicago, was charged with retail theft on Nov. 18 after she allegedly stole \$511.83 worth of merchandise from a store in the 200 block of Golf Mill Center. Young is scheduled to appear in court Jan. 3.

■ On the night of Nov. 18, a woman was reportedly seen walking out of a store in the 7900 block of Milwaukee Avenue carrying a shopping basket filled with unpaid, over-the-counter medication. The medication was valued at \$547, police said.

■ A bicycle valued at \$300 was reportedly stolen on the night of Nov. 18 from the 6900 block of West Oakton Street outside Culver School.

Niles police looking for driver involved in Nov. 23 hit-and-run

BY LEE V. GAINES
Pioneer Press

Niles police are asking for the public's help in identifying the driver of a vehicle believed to be involved in a hit-and-run last month that left a 28-year-old woman hospitalized with significant injuries, said Niles police Sgt. Robert Tornabene.

The woman, who is an employee at a business near the site of the incident, was pushing shopping carts eastbound across the street in the 9600 block of Greenwood Avenue Nov. 23 when she was struck by a vehicle traveling northbound on Greenwood Avenue, Tornabene said.

The woman sustained "extensive injuries" and was transported to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, police said.

The woman, whom police said is a Des Plaines resident, is still hospitalized.

"As of right now we are working on a few leads. But they are limited,"

Tornabene said.

Witnesses said the woman was hit by a black Jeep Patriot with Illinois plates — though the plate number is not yet known — and tinted rear driver's and passenger's side windows, according to police.

Witnesses told police the vehicle neither slowed down nor stopped after hitting the woman.

Niles investigators passed out fliers Nov. 29 at the site of the crash "in the hopes we can identify a witness to the accident," Tornabene said.

The Police Department also posted information about the hit-and-run to its social media sites in the hopes that someone would come forward with more details about the incident, the driver or the vehicle.

Anyone with information about this incident is asked to call Niles police at 847-588-6500.

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

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- Rekha Patel – Bookkeeping Associate
- Saosan Dadisho – Cashier

Home Depot Store 1907 Niles:

- Brian Swim – Store Manager
- Chris Nesbitt – MET Associate
- Vahan Boytazian – MET Associate
- Edward Posada – Garden Dept Supervisor
- Alexandria Garcia – Paint Dept Supervisor

Home Depot Store 1902 Evanston:

- Adam Martinez – Store Manager
- Mike D – Garden Dept

Home Depot Store 1922 Gurnee:

- Dave Plezia – Assistant Store Manager
- Brian Lyons – Home Depot District Manager
- Monica Salamon – Home Depot District HR Manager

We also thank.....

Maine South High School:

- Jim Harrier
- Mark Egan
- Frost Academy

Park Ridge Police Department:

- Police Chief – Frank Kaminski
- Deputy Police Chief – Duane Mellema
- Park Ridge Rotary Club – Roger Crawford

Our special thanks to Dawn Bluemke and Larry Kaufman – Black Diamond Charities

Sincerely, Ed, Donna and Drew Dernulc



NANCY STONE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Kim Foxx, the newly sworn in State's Attorney speaks to the Tribune in her Chicago office Dec. 5.

Kim Foxx details plans for state's attorney's office

BY STEVE SCHMADEKE
Chicago Tribune

Newly elected Cook County State's Attorney Kim Foxx detailed her plans Dec. 5 for shaping the second-largest prosecutor's office in the country, including creating a gun crimes unit and revamping the team that reviews potentially wrongful convictions.

Foxx, the first African-American woman to hold the powerful office, said she

wants to tackle violent crime by focusing on the most dangerous criminals and improving communications among the office's bureaus — including traffic and child support — to add to the pressure on those offenders.

In an interview with a Chicago Tribune reporter, Foxx said her office is looking at its authority to investigate police shootings and not wait for months or years while the Independent Police Review Author-

ity completes its investigation.

"We're looking at our authority to go in immediately like with the other cases, collect evidence and do a parallel investigation so ... that we get results in a timelier fashion," she said.

Foxx handily defeated two-term incumbent Anita Alvarez in a three-way primary last spring after public outrage over the killing of Laquan McDonald.

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CTA Purple Line service halted after person hit, killed by train

BY GENEVIEVE BOOKWALTER
Pioneer Press

Service on the CTA Purple Line was temporarily suspended Dec. 2 after a person was struck by a train near the Foster Street stop around 4 p.m., according to CTA.

Evanston police responded to a call of a person struck by the Purple Line train and possibly pinned under the fourth car, according to a

department press release.

The individual was found dead at the scene, the release said.

The Cook County medical examiner's office identified the victim the following day as a 29-year-old Evanston man.

Perry Polinski, Evanston police communications coordinator, said the death is being investigated as an apparent suicide.

The Purple Line service suspension came as the eve-

ning rush hour got underway.

But trains had resumed operating with some residual delays shortly before 6:30 p.m., according to the CTA.

Foster Street was closed following the incident between Maple and Sherman avenues in Evanston, according to Evanston Fire Department spokesman Paul Polep.

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Report recommends changes to School District 219 policies

BY BRIAN L. COX
Pioneer Press

In the wake of the abrupt resignation last year of its superintendent and another top financial officer, Niles Township High School District 219 should beef up its ethics, anti-nepotism and whistle blower policies — among other changes — an attorney for the school district recently told the Board of Education.

The recommendations were part of a report produced by the Chicago-based law firm of Franczek Radelet that was presented to the school board at its Nov. 15 meeting.

The recommendations were the latest in the school district's ongoing self-assessment and investigation that began when the school district placed two top administrators, Superintendent Nanciann Gatta and chief legal officer and Assistant Superintendent for Operations John Heintz, on leave in August 2015. Gatta and Heintz resigned in November 2015.

The district has not said much about the investigation, and school board members mostly listened as attorney Dana Crumley, of Franczek Radelet, presented the list of 17 findings and suggestions for corrective procedures. However, the school board could take action on the recommendations at the Dec. 13 meeting, officials said.

"The biggest takeaways are first and foremost that we had the investigation based upon past practices," school board President Mark Sprout said about the report. "What

we want to do as the board is we want to be fiscally responsible for our constituents and make sure that we are doing things properly."

Neither Gatta nor Heintz has been charged with any wrongdoing.

During the November board meeting, Crumley told the board that the district must continue to implement an ethics policy for the school board and District 219 administrators, and extend the policy to third party providers. Additionally, the

"Part of this is just a change in the culture."

— Dana Crumley, attorney

district should create a policy that provides for full reporting and a requirement that supervisors stay out of employment decisions relating to spouses, relatives and significant others.

"Part of this is just a change in the culture," Crumley said. "I think one of the things that's relevant to this is we are starting to do more training and bringing administrators in at the policy level to make sure they're understanding the policies and use the policies just in their everyday work."

Gatta's brother and husband, at one point, worked for the school district, and a firm her father owned did business with NTHS District 219, the Chicago Tribune reported in 2012.

Three other school board members had relatives on the district's pay-

roll during the same time Gatta's relatives were employed.

"We want to hire individuals based on getting the most qualified people in there," said Sprout. "It could be an individual that is a relative or whatever, but we just want to make sure they are properly vetted and that we are getting the correct individuals in."

In the fall of 2015, a Chicago Tribune investigation showed that two unnamed former administrators at the high school district received \$450,000 worth of benefits and nearly \$300,000 worth of graduate school tuition at the Booth School of Business. Documents indicate Gatta's compensation also exceeded what was allowed by her contract. She cashed out nearly double the amount of unused vacation time she was allowed under her contract, and received \$73,000 from the district directly rather than through a retirement fund per her contract, according to district records.

Additional recommendations included in the Franczek Radelet report call for better monitoring of credit card spending by district officials, better financial oversight and a coherent whistleblower policy among other things, officials explained.

"We're still undertaking a comprehensive review of all of your policies that impact ethics," said Crumley. "Every policy that touches ethical behavior will be examined and brought to you ... in the December board meeting."

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

More security added for annual fest in Des Plaines

Tens of thousands of worshippers are expected at Dec. 11-12 event

BY LEE V. GAINES
Chicago Tribune

Officials have announced that security will be increased for this year's upcoming annual two-day religious festival at the Our Lady of Guadalupe Shrine in Des Plaines.

Tens of thousands of worshippers are expected to flock to Des Plaines' Maryville Academy campus for an overnight celebration at the outdoor Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe beginning Dec. 11. The annual event is a celebration of the feast day of Our Lady of Guadalupe on Dec. 12 and draws large crowds in honor

of the icon, second only to the pilgrimage at the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City.

This year's event will feature a 5 a.m. Mass by Cardinal Blase Cupich on Dec. 12, with the Rev. Alberto Rojas, auxiliary bishop of Chicago, opening the celebration with a Mass in Spanish at 6 p.m. Dec. 11.

Des Plaines police Chief William Kushner said during a news conference Dec. 1 that about 300,000 people attended last year's celebration and, depending on the weather, that number could increase this year.

The new rector for the shrine, the Rev. Esequiel Sanchez, said last year's event drew the largest crowd in the history of the Des Plaines pilgrimage.

In the interest of safety, Sanchez said, security personnel was doubled from



LEE V. GAINES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Des Plaines Police Chief Bill Kushner speaks at a press conference at the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Des Plaines on Dec. 1.

last year to about 120 people, a mix of volunteers and hired security staff.

"Whenever we have large crowds, there is always an opportunity for people, whether that's an opportunity for mischief, or based on

the FBI, even terrorism," he said.

The religious holiday is of particular significance to Latino Catholics and commemorates the appearance of the Virgin Mary to Juan Diego in the 16th century.

Diego was canonized in 2002 and is the first indigenous person from the Americas to reach Roman Catholic sainthood.

The annual celebration in Des Plaines began more than a quarter-century ago.

Though the event draws a predominantly Latino crowd, Sanchez said "more and more Americans are learning to draw great meaning through this wonderful icon."

Beginning Dec. 11, Kushner said, Central Road will be closed between River Road and the railroad tracks west of the Maryville campus.

The thoroughfare will be closed to all vehicular traffic with the exception of buses transporting worshippers between surrounding parking lots and the entrance of the campus. Kushner said a more detailed traffic plan is forthcoming.

Parking will be available on the Oakton Community College's Des Plaines campus, Kushner said. He added that police have been in communication with the college, surrounding residents and nearby police departments regarding plans for the event. He said the safety of pilgrims and residents is "our primary concern."

Worshippers from all over the Midwest are expected to walk, bike and drive to this year's celebration, Sanchez said.

Both Kushner and Sanchez said alcohol consumption will not be allowed on the public way or at the shrine.

"This has always been a peaceful event," Kushner said.

Lee V. Gaines is a freelance reporter.

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Retired deputy sheriff returns for turkey drive

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

For the second year in a row, former Deputy Sheriff Michael Wronkowski is coming out of retirement — not to perform his old day-to-day duties at the Skokie courthouse but to continue on with his annual turkey drive there.

For well over 20 years, almost all of them as an employee at the courthouse, Wronkowski has parked his holiday-decorated van on the first floor of the courthouse garage, and then from early morning to late afternoon, collected turkeys, hams, toys and cash for those in need over the holidays.

This year's 22nd annual "Drive for the Needy" is scheduled from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 14 in that usual location.

"The economy still stinks and people are still hurting," Wronkowski said. "It

doesn't seem like people are doing so fine. People are still struggling."

There is also a tradition about the drive, he said. When Wronkowski worked at the courthouse every day, he used to always field the same question as soon as the holiday season approached: "When is the annual turkey drive?"

Since retiring, he said, he first gets questions about whether it will still be held at all. As long as there is a need, he tells them, the answer is yes.

That the drive has reached 22 years is beyond Wronkowski's wildest expectations, he said — especially since it all began with one simple good deed.

A restaurant in Elgin that used to give away 50 tickets for a free holiday dinner had such demand that the restaurant owner asked friends and family to collect food, Wronkowski recalled.

He posted his first flier in



MIKE ISAACS/PIONEER PRESS

Skokie Deputy Sheriff Michael Wronkowski, left, works during a recent annual turkey drive.

the courthouse those many years ago, not knowing that he was creating an event that would carry on for decades. The restaurant closed for good a few years later, and Wronkowski said he felt a need to pick up the slack and continue the drive.

Like in previous years, Wronkowski said, he and his wife will make Christmas baskets from the donations the night of the drive. They plan to bring the baskets to St. Stanislaus Kostka and St. Vincent De Paul, which will distribute them to those in need.

Courthouse givers say the drive has now become tradition. At peak times, employees are lined up on

their way to park, quickly handing off their donations and sharing a few words with their former colleague. Wronkowski said in recent years he has received more donations from those coming from outside the courthouse too.

Whatever happens, he said, he remains grateful at how people have always been ready to give.

"I really appreciate that people have continued to support this," Wronkowski said. "Without everyone stepping up every year as they always do, we never would have been able to do this for so long."

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NU president among highest-paid in country

BY DAWN RHODES
Chicago Tribune

The presidents of Northwestern University and the University of Chicago rank among the highest-paid private university presidents in the country, according to a report released Dec. 4 by The Chronicle of Higher Education.

Northwestern President Morton Schapiro, who made \$2.35 million in 2014, ranked No. 6 for total compensation that year, the latest for which figures were available. U. of C. President Robert Zimmer had the eighth-highest compensation at \$2.05 million.

The Chronicle survey, conducted annually, is based on data from federal tax forms. The figures reflect what the presidents earned in 2014, including base pay, deferred compensation and benefits such as housing.

Both local presidents saw big increases in compensation compared with the previous year.

Schapiro's 2014 compensation included \$924,658 in base pay, \$100,000 in bonuses and \$188,842 in non-

taxable benefits, which could include health care and medical benefits, life insurance and university-provided housing. Another \$1.14 million was classified as "other," and could include cashed-out vacation pay, travel, meals, spending accounts, debt forgiveness and other miscellaneous benefits, according to the report.

Zimmer, who took the helm at the Hyde Park campus a decade ago, had a compensation package that included \$1.02 million in base pay — about half his total income — as well as \$175,000 in bonuses, \$137,806 in nontaxable income and \$716,612 in other pay, according to the analysis.

Zimmer, however, was the highest-paid private university president in the country in 2011, when he made \$3.4 million. His large salary boost that year — five years into the job — was mostly caused by \$1.3 million he received in deferred compensation that year.

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Morton Grove, Niles seek water supply agreement with Evanston

BY PHIL ROCKROHR
Pioneer Press

Morton Grove has agreed to hire an attorney to negotiate a water contract with the city of Evanston on behalf of the village and neighboring Niles.

Morton Grove trustees voted unanimously at the Nov. 28 Village Board meeting to hire Chicago-based Klein Thorpe and Jenkins Ltd. as special counsel to assist both villages in drafting a contract that would be in effect for up to 60 years, allowing Evanston to supply water to both towns.

The Niles Village Board is expected to address the proposal at an upcoming

meeting, Morton Grove Village Administrator Ralph Czerwinski said.

The two villages plan to split the cost of the negotiations, said Teresa Hoffman Liston, attorney for Morton Grove.

Niles and Morton Grove officials are working diligently to complete negotiations as soon as possible, Niles spokesman Mitch Johnson said.

After substantial increases in rates from Chicago, which currently supplies water to both towns, Morton Grove and Niles began working together to find lower rates, Hoffman Liston said in a report to the Niles Village Board.

"The villages have received a proposal to purchase water from the city of Evanston, which presents immediate and long-term savings and stable, ascertainable rates over a 60-year period," she said.

Officials are hoping to finalize the agreement in early January, Morton Grove's administrator said.

"We're in negotiations with the city of Evanston towards the development of a legacy effort, which has long-term implications for over 40 years," Czerwinski said. "We think it's necessary to have a clear and appropriate intergovernmental agreement prepared."

The three towns have not yet settled on a rate, but preliminary talks suggest Evanston's rate would be a significant savings over what Morton Grove and Niles are now paying to Chicago, Czerwinski said.

Morton Grove is currently paying Chicago \$3.81 per 1,000 gallons of water, he said.

The amount Niles pays was not immediately available.

Since 2000, Chicago has increased its rates to Morton Grove by 134 percent, Czerwinski said.

Morton Grove's contract with Chicago expires in December 2018, and Niles'

contract with the city expires in December 2019, he said.

Czerwinski explained that Niles and Morton Grove must first reach a supply agreement with Evanston and then hire an engineering firm to conduct a route study to determine how the water will be transferred to both towns.

The study is expected to cost about \$600,000 and would also be negotiated by Klein Thorpe and Jenkins, he said.

"The attorney is going to help us develop the terms of the agreement for that study," Czerwinski said. "We're not going to engage in a route study until we

have a clear understanding of our water supply contract agreement."

A proposed contract would cover 40 years with options for two 10-year extensions, he said.

Skokie has offered to let Morton Grove and Niles use its water lines to transfer water from Evanston, Czerwinski said.

"That would have to be evaluated from an engineering perspective," he said. "Another alternative is to place (new) pipe for Morton Grove and Niles from the city of Evanston to our water reservoirs."

Phil Rockrohr is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Evanston candidates scramble after deadline mix-up

BY GENEVIEVE BOOKWALTER
Pioneer Press

Would-be candidates for Evanston offices will be able to file their nominating petitions through Dec. 19 after confusion over the final filing date sent some scrambling to collect signatures over Thanksgiving weekend, city officials said.

The mix-up began after Evanston City Clerk Rodney Greene listed Dec. 19 as the final filing date for the April 2017 election in information provided earlier this year to candidate hopefuls. Greene said that date was given by the state as the deadline to file signature petitions for candidates running in April's consolidated general election.

So when a candidate stopped in to file paperwork before Nov. 28, Greene said

he told the candidate it was too early to file. The November date was the deadline for races with primary elections.

"I told [the candidate] we didn't take them then because we do not have primaries," Greene said. Among other reasons, the races for Evanston's local offices are non-partisan, so political parties don't need a run-off election to choose their candidates.

The candidate complained and Greene called state election officials for clarification, he said. The officials confirmed that Nov. 28 was the deadline for February primary election filings. The deadline for April consolidated general elections, in which Evanston participates, is Dec. 19.

Still, Greene consulted a private attorney after the candidate attempted to file

and updated the city's website to say papers would be accepted between Nov. 21-28 and again before Dec. 19, he said. At the Nov. 28 Evanston City Council meeting, Greene said that remains the plan.

Confusion arose because in most Illinois towns, a primary race still can be triggered in non-partisan elections if more than four candidates file to run for the same seat, explained Ken Menzel, general counsel for the Illinois State Board of Elections. As a result, candidates filing in those races must abide by the earlier, primary election deadline.

For example, Menzel said, if five people file to represent a certain ward, those candidates would go to a primary vote in February. The top vote getters would go to a runoff contest in the April consolidated general

election.

But not all towns follow that script. Because Evanston is a home rule city, Greene said, it set up local elections without primaries, despite the number of candidates who file and the guidelines from the state.

Menzel said that could indeed be the case. Illinois cities are allowed to set up local elections without primaries, despite the number of candidates in a race, and it is permitted under the state constitution. Those situations generally require a referendum approved by voters to proceed.

"Did they create some unique system in Evanston that does not require a primary?" Menzel said. "They could do that."

Greene said he is researching when and how Evanston's local election rules took effect that poten-

"We were very concerned if the clerk could actually accept petitions at that time."

— Alex Morgan, Ward 3 aldermanic candidate

tially did away with primaries.

Regardless of whether the December deadline is right or wrong, Menzel said precedent exists for municipalities to accept would-be candidates' petition signatures on a later date than that set by the state if the city clerk published incorrect information for candidates.

"It has happened in other communities," Menzel said. "It's the layman's sense of the right thing to do."

Ward 3 aldermanic candidate Alex Morgan said the discrepancy sent him and many other candidates

scrambling to collect signatures over the Thanksgiving holiday-weekend in case the December date was found invalid.

Morgan's campaign also sent an email blast to supporters asking them to sign a petition requesting clarification from Greene, Cook County Clerk David Orr and the state board of elections.

"We were very concerned if the clerk could actually accept petitions at that time," Morgan said. Regardless, "It was a good motivation to get back out there."

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NEWS

Midwesterners rank worst for texting while driving

Survey examines
risky behavior

BY MARY WISNIEWSKI
Chicago Tribune

Midwestern drivers admit to being the worst in the nation when it comes to texting while driving and racing through yellow lights, according to a new survey.

The survey of 2,000 U.S. drivers found that 17.1 percent of Midwesterners say they text while driving, compared with 13.7 percent in the West, 14.6 percent in the Northeast and 15.7 percent in the South. A total of 40.7 percent of Midwest drivers admitted to speeding through yellow lights, followed by the South at 39.7 percent and the Northeast at 39.1 percent.

The driving habits survey was conducted on behalf of Florida-based AutoNation, the largest U.S. automotive retailer. The study shows U.S. drivers to be a rude and often reckless bunch, with 68.5 percent admitting to speeding and more than half saying they made an obscene gesture at another driver.

Other habits include honking if the light turns green and the car in front does not move (50.3 percent) and throwing trash out of a window (30.7 percent). Drivers also admitted to driving without insurance (19.6 percent), not always using a turn signal (16.4 percent) and driving without a seat belt (13.7 percent).

Wayne Hartmann said he is not surprised by the results — in his 18 years of teaching teens how to drive, he has never seen more aggressive behavior on the roads. His student drivers from Neuqua Valley High School in Naperville have been honked at for stopping completely at a stop sign and for not turning left fast



ERIN HOOLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A driver uses his phone in his car along East Ohio Street on Dec. 2 in downtown Chicago.

enough — even when a turn would have been dangerous.

“I think people are often times wrapped up in their own worlds, in their own day-to-day events,” said Hartmann, secretary of the Illinois High School & College Driver Education Association. “They tend to drive for themselves and forget there’s a whole world out there and everyone else is trying to get somewhere as well.”

Kara Macek, spokeswoman for the Governors Highway Safety Association, said that today’s fast-paced society seems connected to unsafe driving behavior.

“The pace of life has changed and we’re all more caught up in the rat race,” Macek said. “We become racing rats.”

The survey found bad behavior across generations, but young adults, often called millennials, had some of the most dangerous habits.

They were most likely to text while driving, go without a seat belt and damage someone’s car without leaving a note.

The survey also identified the most frequent offenses by car type: Someone

in a convertible or sports car is most likely to throw trash out the window.

Bad driving behavior is having deadly consequences, with traffic deaths up nationwide 8 percent last year — the largest year-to-year increase in a half-century, according to the National Safety Council. More cars on the road due to a rebounding economy play a role, but safety experts say the increase is due in part to distracted driving.

Hartmann said anti-texting laws are tough to enforce, since an officer has to be at the right place at the right time.

He thinks a better way to tackle texting is through education.

“You can’t take your eyes off the road; you can’t multitask,” Hartmann said. He said texting at stop lights is not safe either — he has seen it cause a crash.

James Archambeau, Chicago Public Schools driver education supervisor, noted that while Chicago requires drivers ed, not every school district in the state does. “I think it should become a state mandate,” he said.

The survey can be found at autonationdrive.com/car-crimes and has a 2 percent margin of error.

First snowstorm of the season breaks a record

O'Hare sees 6.4 inches, beating 1964 storm

BY DEANESE WILLIAMS-HARRIS AND LIAM FORD
Chicago Tribune

The first snowstorm of the winter season dumped more snow at O'Hare than any single-day snowstorm in December since 2005 and broke the record for snowfall on Dec. 4 set in 1964, according to the National Weather Service.

Light to moderate snow began in the morning Dec. 4 and continued into the early evening in Chicago and surrounding areas, according to the National Weather Service.

The total snowfall of 6.4 inches at O'Hare was the heaviest in a single day in

December since 6.7 inches fell on Dec. 8, 2005, and surpassed the record 4.6 inches that fell on Dec. 4, 1964, according to the weather service.

The weather service recorded 8.1 inches of snow in Romeoville, where the Chicago-area weather forecast office is located. About 7.2 inches of snow had fallen in Batavia by 6 p.m.

Other hard-hit suburbs included North Aurora, with 7 inches by about 7:45 p.m.; Downers Grove, with 6.9 inches by about 7:45 p.m.; Buffalo Grove, with 6.9 inches before 7:30 p.m.; New Lenox, with 6.5 inches by about 7:45 p.m.; and Midway Airport with 5.3 inches of snow by about 6 p.m., according to the weather service.

In Park Ridge, it was reported that 5.5 inches of snow had fallen, according

to the weather service. A total of 5.0 inches of snow was reported in Oak Park.

Conditions on many area roadways continued to be hazardous after the storm.

The Illinois Department of Transportation reported the Chicago Skyway and part of the Tri-State Tollway in the west suburbs were largely snow- or ice-covered as of about 7 p.m., with parts of the Eisenhower, Edens and Dan Ryan expressways also with patches of snow and ice.

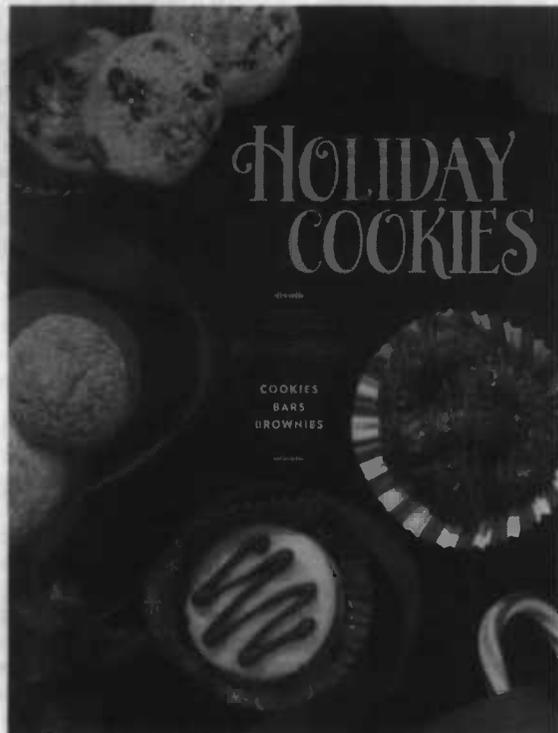
Travel times on area expressways had largely returned to normal by about 8:30 p.m., however. The city had more than 200 snow trucks out, mainly working to keep arterial roads clear.

Dec. 4 marked the first accumulating snowfall of winter 2016-17, officials said.



ALYSSA POINTER/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Greg Moyers, 23, left, and his girlfriend Sara Adams, 23, build a snowman at Oz park during the first snow of the season Dec. 4 in the Lincoln Park neighborhood of Chicago.



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Chicago Tribune

Chicago-area hospitals use apps to help patients

Technology utilized in recovery process

By LISA SCHENCKER
Chicago Tribune

Ten years ago, Tom Riley watched his mother struggle to communicate with her doctors as she battled ovarian cancer.

He noticed that, like many patients, she often skimmed over potentially important details about how she was feeling, problems that could have been addressed had doctors known about them.

"She didn't think it was important enough to tell her doctor about certain symptoms," Riley said. "She was editing the information without any real medical basis for it."

That experience led Riley, of Glenview, to create TapCloud, an app designed to help patients prepare for and recover from surgery and communicate their symptoms. Local hospital system Amita Health is now using it and has noticed promising results: of 309 orthopedic patients who have used the app, none have so far had to be readmitted to the hospital.

A growing number of Chicago-area hospitals are beginning to use similar apps in hopes of improving patients' health and reducing readmissions, which can be distressing for patients and costly for hospitals. Amita, Northwestern Medicine, Rush University Medical Center and Advocate Lutheran General Hospital are among local hospitals and health systems using such apps with some of their patients.

It's a trend that probably will continue to grow, said Dr. Karandeep Singh, an assistant professor at the University of Michigan Medical School who studies health care apps.

"Frankly, it's the direction our health care system needs to go," Singh said. "People are used to instant feedback."

Though the apps are all different, they often aim to help patients prepare for surgery by reminding them of tasks they should complete ahead of procedures, such as scheduling appointments, avoiding foods after a certain time or clearing their homes of clutter to



JAMES C. SVEHLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Karla Brandenburg, who underwent hip replacement surgery, exercises Nov. 23 in her Elgin home. She used an app provided by the hospital, Amita Health Alexian Brothers Medical Center in Elk Grove Village, to help her recovery.

make getting around easier after surgery. Such suggestions and requirements are otherwise often laid out in paper packets that patients might or might not remember to look at when the time is right.

The apps also help patients recover, such as by reminding them to move a certain amount each day, describing how they should be feeling and helping them communicate with nurses and doctors.

"You might tell patients to follow up in three months or six months, but for that period of time between those follow-ups, you're just assuming the patient is going to let you know if something's going on," said Dr. Reinhold Llerena, chief medical officer at Amita Health Medical Group.

He called the TapCloud app an "opportunity to follow those patients daily" — a feat that might not otherwise be possible. Nurses don't typically call patients each day to check on their symptoms and progress once they've left the hospital.

TapCloud allows nurses to see, on a daily basis and on one screen, a list of patients, whether they're feeling better or worse each day and their reported pain levels. They can then see which patients

need the most help and prioritize follow-up phone calls. Doctors and nurses also can drill down to see whether individual patients are taking their medications, what symptoms they're experiencing each day and what activities or exercises they've completed — based on what patients record in the app.

Elgin author Karla Brandenburg said she found the TapCloud app reassuring when she used it after a recent hip replacement at Amita Health Alexian Brothers Medical Center in Elk Grove Village. She probably would have remembered to do most of her post-surgery activities, such as exercises, without the app, she said. But she liked the part of the app that helped her describe her symptoms to nurses at the hospital.

The app asks patients to describe how they're feeling by presenting them with an array of words, specific to their conditions, to describe possible symptoms. Patients tap the words that best fit their physical and mental states on a particular day.

"Knowing that the word cloud was there and that those symptoms were typical, I think, did make me feel more comfortable with what I was going through," Brandenburg said.

She said it allows patients to tell doctors and nurses about symptoms they might otherwise gloss over — out of discomfort or forgetfulness.

When Bill Booth had his colon removed earlier this year at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, he used an app called Twistle. The app regularly sent him questions about his symptoms post-surgery and made communicating with his doctor simple, said Booth, who works in construction management. A few times, nurses called him to follow up when they thought there might be a problem based on his answers to the app's questions about how he was feeling.

"It's an easy means for them to reply back as opposed to fielding a call from the office and returning it," Booth said of communicating with doctors. "It's just like texting back and forth."

Lutheran General has been using the Twistle app with patients undergoing colon and rectal surgeries since March as part of a larger team-based care effort. Like Amita, it's seen encouraging results. Readmissions among colon and rectal surgery patients dropped from 14.5 percent in 2015 to 5 percent after March 2016. About 160 Advocate Lutheran pa-

tients are now using the app and the hospital plans to soon expand its use, said Flo Kiokemeister, a nurse at the hospital and project manager of the larger effort.

"We've been able to cut down on our readmission rate because these patients have problems that are identified sooner," said Dr. John Park, chief of the division of colon and rectal surgery at the hospital.

Reducing readmission rates can help hospitals and patients save money, said Jodi Rosen, director of innovation at Northwestern Medicine. Hospitals with too many readmissions can face financial penalties under Obamacare.

Northwestern began using an app called HealthLoop this fall with some patients at its downtown medical campus and plans to expand it to cardiac surgery patients at Northwestern Medicine Central DuPage Hospital in Winfield this month.

Rush University Medical Center also is just beginning to use an app called SeamlessMD with patients undergoing elective colorectal surgery, also partly in hopes of reducing readmission rates and complications, said Dr. Joanne Favuzza, an assistant professor and colorectal surgeon at Rush.

"Our hope is we'll be able to track patients' progress, see how they're doing, maybe identify problems early so they don't need to be admitted," Favuzza said.

Riley, the CEO of TapCloud, hopes to see his app expand to more hospitals. Like all the apps used by Chicago-area hospitals, TapCloud is free to patients. TapCloud costs hospitals anywhere from \$100,000 to \$2 million a year depending on how they want to use it.

Riley's mom died about five years ago from her cancer — too soon to use the app herself — but Riley hopes it helps others. He said one of the challenges in health care now is that once a patient leaves the hospital, all the onus is on that patient to decide when to speak up about a problem or seek care.

"If doctors are aware of what's happening with patients earlier, there's much more opportunity to be proactive and catch things before they worsen," he said.

Pearl Harbor: 75 years later, U.S. still must lead



RANDY BLASER

Seventy-five years ago, on Dec. 7, 1941, the United States entered World War II after the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor.

It was perhaps our darkest hour, to borrow a phrase from Winston Churchill.

In an attack that lasted less than two hours, 2,335 U.S. service members were killed. Nearly half of those victims served on the U.S.S. Arizona, which sunk after a direct hit from a Japanese bomb.

The Arizona was one of seven battleships lined up and moored on "Battleship Row," and one of eight that were sunk or damaged during the attack.

On Dec. 8, President Franklin Roosevelt called on Congress to declare war



AUDREY MCAVOY/ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

In this 2009 photo, scaffolding is seen on the mast of the now-decommissioned U.S.S. Missouri.

on Japan, uttering the famous line that Dec. 7 would be "a date which will live in infamy."

And so it has been these many years.

Throughout the war years, "Remember Pearl Harbor" was a rallying cry for soldiers and sailors who fought in the Pacific. After the war, Pearl Harbor became synonymous with unpreparedness. We vowed

never again to be so unprepared for an attack on our soil.

And we did remain vigilant until Sept. 11, 2001, when we were attacked by a new kind of enemy.

But Dec. 7 is a day that changed America and changed the world.

From our darkest hour, we became a world superpower.

Winning the war and the

following Cold War was a veritable good thing for the United States and the world. The relative world peace and prosperity we have enjoyed the past 70 years stem from that attack that brought us into a raging world war instigated by a gang of murderers and thieves.

The defeat of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan, the perpetrators of terror and occupation of other nations at the time were not only defeated by the United States and the allies, but also rebuilt into the thriving economic engines and democracies they are today.

The steadfastness of the United States for 50 years after the end of the war until the fall of the Berlin Wall created the world we live in today.

The question before us now is whether we can adapt to face new dangers and threats to world peace.

There are natural rivals to us now - China, the

European Union, Russia - but not nearly as daunting as the Soviet Union and the Communist Chinese under Mao.

And there are new threats from ISIS and their ilk. New threats, but really old ideologies of conquest and hate and extremism, ideologies we faced before and defeated.

The legacy of Pearl Harbor is that we are a nation that seeks peace, but once provoked we will fight to defend freedom on our shores and on the shores of others who seek peace and freedom.

Another legacy for the United States is that we must seek to lead if we desire a world that continues in peace and prosperity.

We have made mistakes. Vietnam is the prime example. And we will probably make other mistakes, too.

But the worst mistake we can make as a nation is to abdicate our leadership responsibilities to others or to step away from the tur-

moil and dangers of the world. The powers that rise to replace us will not be as kind, or share our vision and values.

It would be a tragic mistake to risk the peace and prosperity we won when plunged into the terrible war on Dec. 7, 1941, for the false comfort of isolationism at home.

To the question of whether the United States should remain the world's policeman, a former French nobleman once told me: "But you do it so well." We can rest assured, others will not do it so well.

No matter how much we may try to withdraw from the world, the thieves and murderers who seek the destruction of others and to rule over others will seek us out.

When we remember Pearl Harbor 75 years on, those are the lessons to remember.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

What's the best present you ever got?



PAUL SASSONE

What was the best Christmas present you ever received?

TV commercials would have you believe you are a failure as a human being if you don't receive a Lexus for Christmas.

But, super-commercialism aside, probably your most memorable Christmas gifts are those you received as a child.

Not that the adult me hasn't been gifted with fine gifts. It's the presents I received as a kid that I most remember.

Luckily for my parents - and for me, too - I wasn't a greedy kid.

Oh, sure, I wanted stuff for Christmas. And each year I would pore through catalogs and make a list of what I wanted.

But, I never demanded top-of-the-line toys. I mean, there was an Erector Set and there was an ERECTOR SET. The latter had way more girders and a motor to make a windmill that actually turned. I was perfectly happy with the Erector Set.

My buddy Tom, who lived across the street, always had the top toys - not just an electric train, but a Lionel electric train; not just a Gilbert chemistry set, but a five-drawer Gilbert chemistry set with a

microscope.

Me, I received for Christmas the three-drawer Gilbert chemistry set without a microscope. As I said, I wasn't greedy kid. I admired Tom's trains and chemistry set. But I wasn't jealous.

I was just fine with the three-drawer Gilbert chemistry set without a microscope that I received for Christmas. I was able to make all kinds of malodorous chemical concoctions - stink bombs and fuses out of turtle-food cans and the chemicals from my chemistry set were my crowning scientific achievement. I was one happy kid.

So, maybe that Gilbert chemistry set was my favorite Christmas present.

Or, maybe the metal castle with a working drawbridge, a pellet-shooting cannon and knights on horseback was my favorite. As I lay in bed not sleeping, I could hear my father cursing late on Christmas Eve as he assembled the castle. It took him a long time and there were band-aids on his fingers come Christmas morning. Because Dad took so much time and trouble, maybe that castle is my favorite present.

Then there was the chess set and the first game I played with Dad.

Or the Lincoln Logs with which my Mom and I built a pretty nifty-looking fort.

The weird Tinkertoy tower that my brother Mike and I created while



PHIL VELASQUEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Five-year-old Delaney Legut and her brother Hudson Legut, both of Batavia, take in the Santa Claus display in the Macy's window along State Street on Nov. 23.

ignoring all printed instruction.

Ah, what can I say? We can have more than one favorite Christmas

present, can't we? Yes, we can.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

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OPINION

Make yourself smarter about your hospital's safety



DAVID RUTTER

You have a 1 in 25 chance of leaving the hospital with an infection you didn't have when you arrived. But that's a statistical illusion.

The "1 in 25" is a broad numerical convention based on thousands of hospitals and millions of patients. As high as that seems — and it does seem unnervingly large — that's not your real, predictable chance of getting stray infections, which constitute a statistically significant reason hospital patients die from treatable conditions.

That rate depends on which hospital treats you. No hospital is identical to any other.

In some hospitals, your chance is 1 in 200 or even 1 in 2,000. You are relatively safe.

In other hospitals, the mathematical chance of infection is 1 in 10. That's a scary probability.

The only way to avoid the bad choice of a bad hospital stay is understanding which hospitals are better than others.

If you want to know your odds, bookmark the website www.hospitalsafetygrade.org.

Visit every spring and fall. Visit every time you will need a hospital's care. Nearly every hospital in every state is open to your judgment, as are their grades for the past four years.

Make yourself smarter.

Over the past half-dozen years, the Leapfrog Group Hospital Safety Grade has become the platinum standard for measuring hospital safety. The peer-reviewed report for hospitals arrives biannually for 2,633 acute-care hospitals in every state.

The rating lists the 113 Illinois hospitals in 30 different criteria with grades from A to F.

The state had 45 hospitals ranked A. Measuring safety procedures has become a necessary fixation because hospital breakdowns, including patient injuries, accidents and infections, kill more than 200,000 Americans each year. That's the third leading cause of death in the nation.

The grading scale offers two ways to view a hospital's record: What the score reflects on its face, and what trends indicate.

For example, Vista Medical Center East in Waukegan got a B, as it did in the spring, though it had been A in four of the five previous biennial ratings. Vista also had an issue with MRSA infections and with other infections during Intensive Care Unit stays and after surgeries.

But on a wide range of safety measures to protect patients, Vista's scores are exceptional and usually attributable to conscious safety efforts.

Though Advocate Condell Medical Center in Libertyville got exemplary scores for its surgical performance — maybe among the best in the state — it still scored just a B overall, partly because its MRSA drug-resistant infection rate was more than twice the state average. Hospitals with high MRSA rates often have facility cleanliness issues.

In nearly half of the categories that rate patient protections and staff training to reduce errors, Condell did not report. When hospitals are skilled in one self-reporting area, they usually take pains to reveal how attentive they are to management details.

But "did not report" indicates they either have no system to train staff, no leadership to set standards



JOE RAEDLE/GETTY

Hospitals nationwide have instituted stricter hand-washing policies and other measures in the fight against the methicillin-resistant bacteria commonly referred to as MRSA.

or indifference to reporting either requirement.

Condell had scored an A overall mark in seven consecutive grading periods. The B marks a noteworthy departure, because the gap between grades might indicate marginal, temporary issues, or might indicate as much as a 25 percent decline in performance.

Some hospitals seem to slip for no apparent reason. Northwestern University's giant medical fortress in downtown Chicago also was a B, though it had been scored a C in the spring after being rated A back through 2014.

When hospitals raise their grades, it's seldom an accident. Northwestern's Lake Forest campus got a B but had been rated C in the spring.

But nothing makes the reporting system more valuable than customers who pay attention to the care they and their loved ones get. That's your job.

There's a difference between great and mediocre. Hospitals now are required to pay attention too.

Sometimes anticipating and understanding the difference separates life and death.

David Rutter was editor for 40 years at six newspapers.

David.Rutter@live.com

Lessons from the warning signs at gas stations

While filling up my car at the gas station a few weeks ago, I hung out inside my car as my fuel tank filled up.

For some random reason later that evening, I was discussing this with my husband, Bill, who told me how I should never get back in my car when fueling because a spark could fly out, possibly ignite and start a fire. That did sound somewhat familiar. Although I thought Bill was being dramatic, I totally obliged the next time I got gasoline.

So, while filling up my car last week, I glanced at the large "WARNING" sign on the pump. Since I had loads of extra time now that I was standing outside during fueling, I decided actually to read it.

First, I noticed Bill was right.

Under the title "Static Electric Spark Explosion Hazard," it clearly states in ever-so-teensy print how drivers should not get back in the car while refueling because it can cause a static electricity spark.

Something else I noticed under the "Spark Explosion Hazard" title was how cell phones should not only be turned off but also left in the car.

I was surprised by that and wondered if that information was outdated since I see so many people on cell phones at gas stations.

I also really enjoyed reading the "Health Warnings" category.

One helpful tip said how people should keep the nozzle away from one's eyes while refueling. And I totally smiled to myself when I read, "never siphon by mouth."

Really? Are there actually people on this planet who would do these things? And if someone actually decided to fill his or her eyes or mouth with gasoline, do we think this person would be reading the "WARNING"



SUSAN DUBIN

sign?

Last, I read the "In Case of Fire" section. When I got to the part about activating the emergency shut-off switch, I immediately thought to myself, "There's a shut-off switch?"

I assumed the switch was going to be right in front at the pump. But I looked and looked and never found it.

Suddenly, I pictured myself running around haphazardly, trying to find the emergency shut-off switch if the need ever arose. I ultimately decided to seek an expert opinion about my (burning) gas station questions, so I called up Bob Grum, a retired deputy fire chief in Lake Forest. First, we discussed the rules about using cell phones at gas stations.

"It is not recommended to use cell phones or other electronics when refueling," Grum said. "In some devices, there could be a static electricity charge created. It's possible it could ignite the gasoline fumes."

Regarding the rule about leaving a cell phone in the car, Grum said that really depends on the manufacturer's recommendation.

"If it's off, it's probably not a likely hazard. But if it's on, and someone calls you, it could create a spark," he said. "Cell phones also can be a distraction. When you're refueling, you're taking a hazardous substance and putting it in your car, so you want to be paying attention to what you are doing and avoid distractions. It's less likely you would attempt to answer your phone (while) refueling, if it's off and in your vehicle."

I also wondered if Grum

ever came into contact with people who tried to siphon gas by using their mouths.

"It doesn't happen often nowadays," Grum said. "When gas was very expensive, it was not unusual for people to siphon gas out of other people's cars. Gas also is highly toxic and would cause health problems if you swallow or inhale it."

And what about that emergency shut-off switch? "It's usually located away from the pumps somewhere on the building itself," Grum said. "It should be very well-marked."

I'm seriously going to look for this next time I get gasoline. I also asked him if he had any other tips for people when they refill at the pump.

"When filling a portable gas tank, like for lawn mowers, put the container on the ground outside the vehicle," Grum said. "Keep the tip of the nozzle in contact with the tank the entire time and don't try to center it in the container. If the nozzle is not touching the container, it can create a static electrical charge."

In the end, Grum advised people to avoid getting into the car during the fueling process.

"It's not likely, but there's always potential for a problem, especially if you're not paying attention," he said. "If you do get into your car and then back out to remove the nozzle, touch the metal on the side of the car a few feet away from the nozzle. This will release any possible static electrical charge."

The entire "WARNING" sign may be scary (and a little funny), but everyone should take a peek at it once in a while for a little refresher course in gas station safety.

Susan Dubin is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press. Reach her at gabbin@susandubin.com.

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'Tidings of Tap' steps into new home

North Shore Center to host performance for the first time

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Oh, the sights a young girl will see as she wanders through the wintry woods in "Tidings of Tap!"

It's the 10th anniversary of Chicago Tap Theatre's popular holiday show and the first time that the company has performed it at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie.

"We've never had a story to the holiday show before but we felt like with this move to the new venue we wanted to have a show that felt more cohesive," Artistic Director Mark Yonally said. He noted that 70 percent of the Dec. 18 show "is a loose connection of holiday pieces. But we've created a framework to wrap all that together."

The focus of that framework is guest artist Dasha Merkulov, a 14-year-old award-winning rhythmic gymnast who plays the part of the young girl.

"We worked with Dasha two years ago on our circus show and we were amazed at her talent," Yonally said. "She is really an international class rhythmic gymnast. And she's got that perfect look for that innocent child that gets lost in the woods."

Yonally thinks the highlight for the audience will be a piece for which the company hired Dasha two years ago, "Spyrographe." "The tap dancers while they're dancing are juggling and manipulating and playing with imaginary balls," Yonally said.



JOSH HAWKINS PHOTO

Chicago Tap Theatre brings its "Tidings of Tap!" show to the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts.

"All these things that the dancers do with imaginary balls she can bring to life by manipulating actual balls. It's really magical."

Dasha, a Grayslake Central High School freshman, began studying rhythmic gymnastics when she was eight. "When my mom and I watched the Olympics and rhythmic gymnastics was the event, I was sort of intrigued by it," Dasha said. "I wanted to try it and my mom found a gym." She currently studies at Vitrychenko

Academy in Niles. Dasha is considered one of the top 23 rhythmic gymnasts in the country. "When I go to the gym every day, it's so exciting to work with my coach (Olena Vitrychenko) who's an Olympic Bronze Medalist," Dasha said. "It makes me part of another world."

Dasha, who performs in competitions across the country, hopes to go to the 2020 Olympics.

The Chicago Tap Theatre show also features an annual audience favorite. "The

Chicago Tap Theatre presents, 'Tidings of Tap!'

When: 3 p.m. Dec. 18

Where: North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie
Tickets: \$24-\$40

Information: 847-673-6300; www.northshorecenter.org

three men in the company do a very rousing, up-tempo version of 'Chanukah Oh Chanukah,'" Yonally said. "The audience seems to love watching us almost kill ourselves onstage."

There will also be a rousing dance number to "Let it Snow."

New this year is a New Year's Eve piece created by rehearsal director Kirsten Utlich based on "The Night They Invented Champagne."

There are also two pieces choreographed by Caleb Teicher, winner of Dance Magazine's readers' poll as Best Emerging Choreographer of 2016.

Many of the other pieces in the show were choreographed by Yonally.

Live music by a sextet will accompany the company's nine dancers. A youth tap piece will feature 15-18 young tap dancers from around the city. "Some are my students but many are tap dancers that are coming to take our holiday intensive," Yonally said. "We wanted to integrate some of the future of tap dance into the show."

Yonally said he conceived the idea for "Tidings of Tap!" a decade ago because, "I felt tap was such a perfect medium to express the joy and togetherness of the holidays," he said.

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MUSIC

'Gloria,' 'Let It Snow' part of Park Ridge Chorale show

BY MELISSA WASSERMAN
 Pioneer Press

The Park Ridge Chorale will perform its holiday concert, "Gloria," Dec. 10 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church in Park Ridge.

The nonprofit organization performs a wide variety of musical genres and is dedicated to creating entertaining programs, while exposing audiences to the best choral compositions and arrangements.

The chorale currently has about 45 voices. Members range from college students to senior citizens and come from across the Chicago area.

Ed Zelnis is the Park Ridge Chorale's music director and he has been with the group for almost 20 years. He describes the chorale's singers (accepted through an audition process) as diverse and musically eclectic.

This year's holiday concert's name comes from Antonio Vivaldi's "Gloria," which will be a featured piece along with traditional holiday favorites. A 10-piece chamber orchestra will also accompany the singers.

"We're doing this 17th century Italian Baroque piece, the Vivaldi 'Gloria,' and some chorale music from the contemporary American masters like Randall Thompson, Eric Whitacre and John Rutter, but then also the second half of the concert we're doing a jazz arrangement of 'Jingle Bells' and we're doing a glee arrangement of 'Let it Snow,'" said Zelnis of the concert's musical mix.

Park Ridge resident Adrienne Dimopoulos is a singer with the Park Ridge Chorale has been involved with it for 16 years. She humorously calls the classical "Gloria" "gymnastic



PARK RIDGE CHORALE

The Park Ridge Chorale performs its holiday concert Dec. 10 at St. Luke's Lutheran Church.

Park Ridge Chorale Holiday Concert

When: 7 p.m. Dec. 10

Where: St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 205 N. Prospect, Park Ridge

Tickets: \$14-\$16 in advance; \$16-\$18 at the door; free for ages 17 and younger

Contact: www.parkridgechorale.com

music" as it challenges singers.

"You have to have some vocal agility to sing some of these really challenging passages," Dimopoulos said. "It keeps our skills up and, frankly, it has a sound. This particular piece has an amazing sound and when you're singing it, you understand why it's called the 'Gloria.' This particular piece is very lively; it's not a slow, ponderous piece. It moves quickly, it has a lot of energy and it's really fun to sing."

The group performs three concerts a year. Typically, concerts have a theme, which the chorale weaves through the music and extra entertainment, such as displaying related memorabilia or including narrations. Past themes have included World War II, the Civil War and A

Night at the Tony's.

Zelnis said the chorale is letting the music speak for itself in this holiday concert.

"The thing about Christmas is the music itself is just so beautiful and profound and the church, St. Luke's, is just such a beautiful, beautiful space and they decorate it so beautifully for the holidays," Zelnis said. "Basically, we just try to find the best arrangements of the best Christmas stuff we can and that becomes the immersive experience."

Zelnis thinks people will find the classical music portion of the concert "very tuneful and very approachable."

"We just want to send everybody away in a holiday spirit and with the spirit of the season," he said.

MUSIC

Melissa Etheridge hopes show lifts people's spirits

BY CATEY SULLIVAN
Pioneer Press

For more than 25 years, rocker Melissa Etheridge has been cranking out hits defined by her pile-driving, whiskey-over-gravel vocals. She does heartbreak ("No Souvenirs"), yearning ("Come to My Window") and good, old-fashioned torrid attraction ("I Want To Come Over") with an intensity that has garnered her an Oscar, two Grammys, a star on Hollywood's Walk of Fame and millions of record sales.

Etheridge has a new song at the heart of her Dec. 13 concert at Skokie's North Shore Center for the Performing Arts. Performing with her eponymous trio, Etheridge will perform "Pulse," a piece that is a haunting memorial, a plea for compassion and a pounding rock song.

Etheridge wrote "Pulse" this summer, hours after a gunman opened fire at Orlando's Pulse nightclub. The June 12 shooting left 49 people dead, and turned the club — a vibrant, well-known hub of LGBTQ nightlife — into a scene of devastation.

"I was alone in New York when I heard about it," says Etheridge. "The first thing I did was call my loved ones. I told them all I loved them. And then I started doing the only thing I knew to make myself feel better — I started playing the guitar."

"My apartment overlooks the Freedom Tower, which was lit up with a rainbow flag," she says. "It was so beautiful, and so inspiring. It was as if the rest of the world, all of us, we were all feeling this tragedy. I kept playing, and eventually I came up with what turned into 'Pulse.'"

Etheridge's North Shore Center concert will feature "Pulse" as well as Christ-



JOHN TSIIVIS PHOTO

Melissa Etheridge will perform Christmas songs, some of her greatest hits and a new song, "Pulse."

Melissa Etheridge's Holiday Trio

When: 7:30 p.m. Dec. 13
Where: North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie
Tickets: \$70-\$90
Contact: 847-673-6300; NorthShoreCenter.org

mas songs, greatest hits and tracks from her latest album, the blues-infused "Memphis Rock and Soul."

Pairing a song inspired by a horrific crime with Christmas carols might seem incongruous, but "Pulse" is a testimony to the very definition of the holiday season, Etheridge says.

"I didn't want to write an angry song. I wasn't thinking about vengeance. I wanted to talk about how everyone is the same inside," Etheridge says.

Using music as a tool for social activism and a clarion call for acceptance is nothing new for Etheridge, 55. She's been out as a lesbian since 1993, when she

released the provocative, unapologetically titled "Yes I Am."

Much of Etheridge's early music dealt with soul-shattering love-gone-wrong, and her lyrics never disguised the face that she was singing about women. Since 2014, she has been married to Rockford native Linda Wallem. "One of the reasons I love coming to Illinois is that all of my in-laws are here," Etheridge says. "That and the fans in Chicago have always been incredibly supportive, right from the beginning."

Etheridge's music has evolved over the years. "I love performing all those songs about heartbreaks, but I have to say, it's a lot more fun when you're not actually living them. I'm in greener pastures than I was when I started," she says.

Her Skokie concert will be a celebration, she says.

"I want people to have fun, to have their spirits lifted. To jump up and down and holler. We have all been through way too much in 2016. Now, it's time to come together and celebrate."

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SKOKIE PARK DISTRICT

There will be plenty of time to get good photos of kids with Santa during the Dec. 17 breakfast at Skokie's Oakton Community Center.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Photos, food and fun with Santa at Skokie breakfast

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

A North Pole visitor will greet his many fans at Breakfast with Santa, 9:30-11 a.m. Dec. 17 at Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton St., Skokie.

"Santa is there the whole time at the front of the room to talk with all of the kids and spend time with them," said Mary Amato, special events supervisor for the Skokie Park District. "Parents have an opportunity to take photos of their kids with Santa. I have staff available that are happy to take photos with the customers' cameras or phones."

While they wait to speak to Santa, kids can work on crafts throughout the event. There will also be a raffle for holiday books and small gift buckets filled with Christmas goodies.

The breakfast includes pancakes, hash browns, bacon or sausage, coffee-cake, yogurt, fresh fruit, juice and coffee.

The cost is \$13 per person for residents; \$16 for nonresidents. Advance

registration is required.

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

Slim chance

Santa will work off some of those breakfast calories during Skate with Santa, 1-2:30 p.m. Dec. 18 at Oakton ice Arena, 2800 W. Oakton, Park Ridge. His elves will also take to the ice. All kids will receive a free candy cane. There will be a drawing for two tickets to a Chicago Wolves hockey game.

For details, call 847-692-3359 or go to www.prparks.org.

Trent is tricky

Award-winning comedy magician Trent James will present "Pure Lies," 8 p.m. Dec. 17 at Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave. James' high-energy performance combines amazing magic with humor and has won him top awards from the International Brotherhood of Magicians. Tickets are \$20.

For details, call 847-677-

7761 or go to www.skokie-theatre.org/purelies.

Nosy business

There's a new take on a classic tale in Mudlark Theater's "Pinocchio," Dec. 8-18 at Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston. Mudlark's script is based on Carlo Collodi's original story, which differs from the Disney movie version. Performances are 7 p.m. Thursdays-Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets are \$12; \$10 for children.

For details, call 847-448-0708 or go to www.mudlarktheater.org.

Animal adventures

Tales of "The Tortoise and the Hare," "The Three Little Pigs" and other creatures will be featured during Second Sunday: Damen Avenue Puppets, 2-3 p.m. Dec. 11 at Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St. Pick up free tickets in KidSpace starting at 1:30 p.m.

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

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Section 2

Living

Thursday, December 8, 2016



Mel's kitchen:
Make your own
julbord with
meatballs,
sides Page 3

20



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PRODUCTIONS

Party like your parents

Boomer offers tips to millennials on how to throw a thoroughly grown-up bash Page 14

SUBURBAN COOKS

Cookie walk volunteers crank out treats

By Judy Buchenot

Naperville Sun

When Naperville resident Doris Walker presented the idea of a cookie walk to the members of Knox Presbyterian Church in Naperville last year, she recalled that "I didn't think they knew what I was talking about."

Walker, who had worked on 15 cookie walks for other organizations, tried her best to explain how tables would be filled with trays and trays of cookies for people to walk around and select their favorites to fill a box. "Even the pastor wasn't sure what I was talking about but everyone took my word that it would be a good thing." The first cookie walk went well last year and now that everyone understands the concept, Walker predicted that this year's event will be even bigger and better. Church members are busy baking their favorites to get ready for the Cookie Walk on Saturday.

Walker's partner for the cookie walk is Kay Sullivan of Naperville. Last year, there were close to 6,000 cookies at the cookie walk. Walker, 78, baked 2,000 cookies, Sullivan, 81, also baked 2,000 cookies and remaining members of the congregation baked the other 2,000 cookies. Sullivan is an avid baker who said she just can't "pass up a new recipe. I am hooked on recipes. I see a new one and I can't wait to try it. I save the recipes on my computer and try them. If they turn out, then I print out a copy and keep it."

When a cookie can both taste good and have a clever presentation, it is a must-make cookie, according to the two bakers. A good example is their melting snowman. The cookie begins with a tasty recipe for gingerbread cookies baked in a simple round shape and frosted.

"I think lemon-flavored icing is the best because it goes well with the flavor of gingerbread," Sullivan said. The icing is thin so that it drips over the edge of the cookie base. Then a marshmallow is melted in the microwave just long enough for it to begin to lose its shape. The soft, slightly melted marshmallow is placed on the iced cookie. For the final touch, a face is piped onto the marshmallow and



JUDY BUCHENOT/NAPERVILLE SUN

Doris Walker and Kay Sullivan get started on the task of making over a thousand cookies for their church cookie walk.

Christmas Cookie Walk

When: 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday

Where: Knox Presbyterian Church, 1105 Catalpa Lane, Naperville.

Cost: Admission is free. Cookies are \$6.50 per pound. Proceeds go to local missions.

Information: knoxpres.org

the resulting melting snowman cookie is both adorable and delicious.

The two women encourage church members to move beyond chocolate chip, oatmeal or peanut butter cookies and try new flavor combinations for the cookie walk. Both women start mixing batters in the weeks before the event and freeze the unbaked dough.

"Sometimes, I can shape the cookie into a roll and then just thaw it a little and slice it when I am ready to bake the cookies," Walker said. The unbaked dough must be carefully wrapped before freezing it. Walker wraps her dough first in plastic wrap, then foil and then slips it into a freezer bag.

"I also mark the baking temperature on each bag of dough," Sullivan said. "Then when I am going to bake, I pull out cookies that bake at the same temperature."

Both women recommend placing parchment paper on the cook-

ie sheets for recipes calling for either greased or ungreased cookie sheets. "It just gives a better bottom to the cookie," Sullivan said.

Sometimes, the women bake at the church kitchen where there is a large oven. "We can really make a lot of cookies in a short period of time there," Walker said.

Knowing when a cookie is done is always a challenge. "I usually go for the shortest baking time and look at the edges," Sullivan said. "If I am not sure whether it is done, I break a cookie in half and look at it. Of course, then I have to eat that cookie because, well, it is broken after all."

After all of the cookies are baked and decorated, they are placed in tins. The layers of cookies are separated with sheets of waxed paper to keep them from sticking together.

The two women graciously share some of their favorite recipes. Walker offers her chocolate sugar cookie recipe which can be rolled out or put through a cookie press. She likes to cut the cookie into the shape of a gingerbread man. Then, she turns the gingerbread man upside down to make it a reindeer. The legs become antlers, the arms are ears and the head is the face. Sullivan's recipe is for raspberry almond crescents which can be varied by changing the flavor of the jam.

Judy Buchenot is a freelance writer.

Chocolate sugar cookies

- 4 cups flour
- 1 1/2 cups unsweetened baking cocoa powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 2 cups unsalted butter
- 2 cups sugar
- 3 teaspoons vanilla
- 2 large eggs

1. Combine flour, cocoa and salt in a large bowl. Set aside. In a second bowl, cream butter and sugar. Add vanilla and eggs. Beat until well combined. Slowly add flour mixture and mix until combined. Cover dough and refrigerate about one hour. Roll out dough to 1/4-inch thickness. Cut into shapes. Place one inch apart on parchment lined cookie sheets.

2. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes. Cool and decorate with frosting as desired. Makes about 36 cookies.

Raspberry almond crescent cookies

DOUGH

- 2 cups flour
- 1 cup cold butter
- 1 egg yolk
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- 1 teaspoon vanilla

FILLING

- 1 cup seedless raspberry jam
- 3/4 cup coconut (optional)
- 1/3 cup finely chopped almonds (optional)
- 1/4 teaspoon almond or vanilla extract
- 1 egg white
- decorating sugar

1. Place flour in a large bowl. Cube cold butter and place in bowl with flour. Cut in butter with flour until mixture is crumbly. In a second bowl, whisk together egg yolk, sour cream and vanilla. Add to flour mixture and mix until smooth. Divide dough into four pieces. Form each piece into a disk shape and wrap in plastic wrap. Refrigerate at least 30 minutes or until firm.

2. To make filling, mix jam, coconut, almonds and flavoring until well blended. Sprinkle sugar on rolling surface and roll each disk into a circle with a 10-inch diameter. Spread 1/3 of the filling mixture over the circle. Cut circle into 12 wedges starting from the center like cutting a pie. Starting at the wide end, roll up each section. Place on cookie sheets lined with parchment paper, placing the pointed side of the roll down. Curve the roll slightly into a crescent shape. Beat egg white until frothy. Brush each roll with egg white and sprinkle with coarse decorating sugar. Repeat for each disk.

3. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes or until set but not brown. Makes four dozen cookies.

Doris and Kay's Culinary Cue

Invest in a thermometer and check your oven temperature. Many ovens do not register the right temperature, especially when they are first heated. Baking cookies at the correct temperature will yield the best results.

Make your own julbord with meatballs, sides



MELISSA ELSMO
Out of Mel's Kitchen

On a chilly November night not too long ago, I found myself huddled over a plateful of Swedish fare at Tre Kronor in Albany Park. My son's soccer team had just lost a hyper-competitive sectional soccer match by the slimmest of margins and we were all feeling a little broken hearted when we wandered into the cozy cafe.

I savored a pickled herring salad before diving into a serving of comforting Swedish meatballs. We all ended up ordering the exact same thing and walked away from the table feeling full and happy. Ever since stumbling upon that tiny Swedish restaurant my holiday menu planning has been focused on creating dishes worthy of a traditional julbord.

A julbord (pronounced "yuleboard") is a long-standing Scandinavian Christmas Eve tradition. A buffet laden with pickled herring, savory pate, poached salmon, braised ham and cardamom-spiked meatballs beckons holiday revelers to fill plate after plate throughout the evening.

This festive time of year is well suited to grazing late into the night with friends, family and the merry glow of a Christmas tree. No matter what you choose for your own julbord, plan to leave room for my cardamom meatballs with potatoes, cucumber salad and lingonberries.

Served alongside nutmeg-scented mashed potatoes, a proper plate of Swedish meatballs begins with humble ingredients, but transforms into a vibrant and memorable dish thanks to unexpected flavor combinations. A rich combination of beef, pork and sweet spices like cardamom, nutmeg and allspice make up the meatballs. When nuzzled up to herbal notes of fresh dill, sour pickled cucumbers and tart lingonberries, the dish becomes yuletide bliss.

These savory meatballs can be made a day or two ahead, cooled and refrigerated. Simply reheat them in the gravy before serving. While I like to enjoy my Swedish-inspired meatballs with a steaming hot cup of coffee, they would be equally lovely with a fruity red pinot noir to punch up the jammy lingonberry flavors on the plate.

Whether you are making a simple dinner for a small group or a bountiful julbord-inspired feast fit for a larger crowd, you can't go wrong when you whip up a batch of Swedish meatballs. They are a classic Christmas comfort food.

Cardamom Meatballs and Swedish Mashed Potatoes with Cucumber Salad and Lingonberries

Serves 6-8 as an entree or 14-16 as part of a larger julbord. Lingonberries can be found near jams and jellies in finer super markets.

FOR THE CARDAMOM MEATBALLS (MAKES 3 DOZEN):

- 4 slices white-bread, crust removed and cut into chunks
- 3/4 cup milk
- 3/4 cup minced sweet onion (about 1/2 an onion)
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1 egg
- 1 1/2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1 teaspoon coarse black pepper
- 1-1 1/2 teaspoons ground cardamom
- 1/2 teaspoon ground allspice
- 1/4 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1 pound ground chuck
- 1 pound ground pork

FOR THE GRAVY:

- 8 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 shallot, minced
- 1 teaspoon dried dill
- 1/2 cup flour
- 4 cups beef broth
- 1 beef bouillon cube or salt to taste
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 heaping tablespoon lingonberries

FOR THE CUCUMBER SALAD:

- 1 English cucumber, sliced into 1/4-inch rounds
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- 1/2 sweet onion, thinly sliced
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley
- 1/4 cup chopped fresh dill
- 1/2 teaspoon lemon zest
- 1 1/2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/4 cup white vinegar
- 1/4 cup cold water
- 1/4 teaspoon coarse black pepper

FOR THE SWEDISH MASHED POTATOES:

- 4 large russet potatoes, peeled and cut into 1-inch cubes
- 2 tablespoons kosher salt
- 6 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 1 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 cup whole milk
- Salt and black pepper to taste



MELISSA ELSMO/PIONEER PRESS

FOR THE MEATBALLS: Heat the oven to 400 degrees. Place the cubed bread in a large bowl and cover with the milk. Allow the bread to soak for 10 minutes before adding all the remaining ingredients (except the meat) to the bowl. Mix well until a paste forms. Quickly mix in the meat until well combined. With damp hands, form the mixture into 36, 1 1/2-inch meatballs. Place the formed meatballs on a parchment lined rimmed baking sheet. Bake the meatballs for 25 minutes.

FOR THE GRAVY: Melt the butter in a large sauce pot. When the bubbling subsides, add the shallots, sprinkle with salt and cook over medium-high heat for 2 minutes. Add the dill and pepper; mix well. Whisk in the flour and continue to cook until flour is lightly golden — about 7 minutes. Gradually whisk in the beef broth trying to avoid lumps. Allow the mixture to simmer until it thickens. Add the bouillon cube and stir in the lingonberries. Adjust seasonings and keep warm.

FOR THE CUCUMBER SALAD: Toss the cucumbers with the salt and place in a large bowl. Place a plate over the cucumbers and weigh the plate down; set

aside for 1 hour. Pour the liquid off the pressed cucumbers and mix with the onion, parsley, dill and lemon zest. Whisk the vinegar, sugar, salt, water, salt and pepper in a small bowl. Pour over the cucumber mix and toss well. Cucumbers can be made one day ahead.

FOR THE SWEDISH MASHED POTATOES: Place the potatoes in a pot and cover with cold water by 2 inches. Add salt (up to 2 tablespoons). Bring to a boil and simmer for 30 minutes until potatoes are very tender. Drain well and mash with ricer, mixer or by hand. Allow the butter to melt over the potatoes and mix well. Stir in the nutmeg and milk. Season to taste and serve.

TO SERVE: Serve the meatballs and gravy over the hot mashed potatoes with the cold cucumber salad and extra lingonberries on the side.

PETS/ANIMALS

MY PET WORLD

How to decide if you should trim your pet bird's feathers

By Marc Morrone
Tribune Content Agency

Q: Our sun conure is now 1-year-old. When we bought him as a baby his wing feathers were trimmed so he would not fly, but now they have grown back and he is flying all over the house. He leaves a mess everywhere, and I want to get his wings trimmed, but my husband and son say he will be happier and healthier if we allow him to fly. What are your thoughts on this?

— Kathi Palmer, Las Vegas, NV

A: This is one of those questions that involve endless debate. For the record, I personally love to see a bird fly, and I never trim any of my bird's wing feathers — I never have, and I never will.

However this is to satisfy my desires and has nothing to do with the well-being of the birds. A bird does not need to fly to stay in top physical condition, with the exception of species like swifts, hummingbirds and nightjars. Those birds have very small and useless feet that deny them the ability to walk but these are not birds we keep as pets anyway.

A bird that has a rich environment to climb, exercise and a proper diet can stay physically fit. Birds do not have any psychological need to fly when they are cared for in a happy and safe

environment.

Just about every zoo in the USA has ponds and pens with ducks, flamingos and cranes all walking about in them. These birds have all been pinioned, meaning a vet will surgically remove the tip of one of the bird's wings at the first joint. Those birds that are operated on never fly again and they are quite happy and healthy — the zoo would not render the birds flightless if the result would compromise their physical well-being.

So my point is that the decision to trim a pet bird's wing feathers is a personal one. One observation I have noticed is birds with trimmed feathers have a lot more freedom than those that can fly. Typically when a bird can fly, then the owners do not allow it out of its cage very much. In addition, just about every other day, I get calls from tearful pet keepers whose birds are perched 100 feet up in a tree outside and have no idea how to get down.

So again, this situation is a personal one, and I cannot say what is right or wrong as there is no right or wrong answer. One plus side on making this decision is it is not permanent. A trimmed feather falls out when the bird molts and thus re-grows. So if you do have the feathers trimmed and do not like the result, then all you need to do is wait a few months, and the bird will be flying again, so there is no harm done.

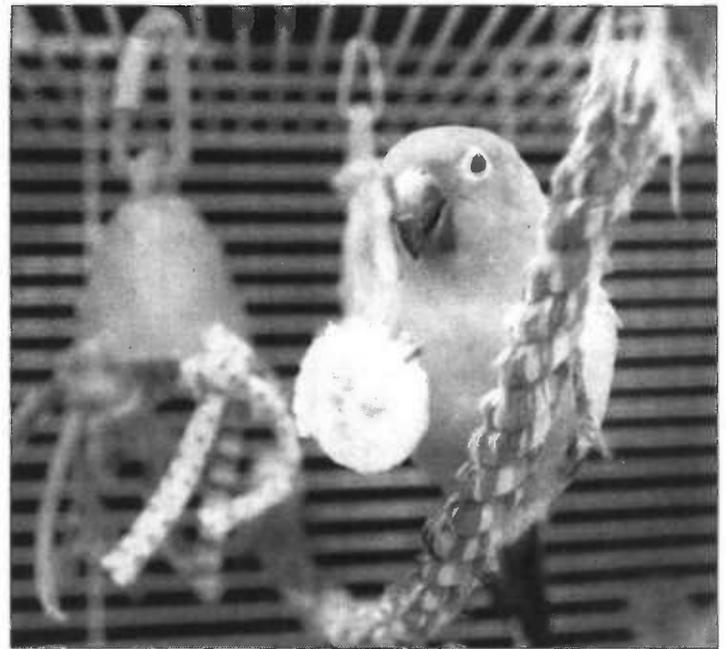
Q: In the past you printed an article about how you felt that some cats digested canned food better than dry food as you felt the canned food was less processed. How do I decide what type of canned food is processed more than others?

— Frank Duffy, Chicago, IL

A: The best answer I can give you is to just read the label of ingredients of that particular food. If you recognize them and would eat them yourself, then those are food items that you would want to feed to your pet. If you do not recognize or are not familiar with those ingredients, then just pass on that food and pick out one of the other many brands that are out there.

The only exception to this is if your pet is eating a prescription diet from your vet. These prescription diets can have some odd sounding ingredients in them, but they are in the foods to help treat the condition that your pet is suffering from.

Q: I have watched the fall migration at my beach house for the last 40 years and each year I notice there are fewer and fewer Monarch butterflies that migrate through my yard this fall. I have planted butterfly bushes and other flowering plants for them to feed off of



SHAUN SARTIN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A family is debating whether to trim the feathers of its sun conure, like the one seen above, so that the bird cannot fly around the house.

but each year there are fewer anyway. Is there anything else I can do to help them increase in population?

— Sharon Herbert, Wilmington, NC

A: While flowering plants do help, what the Monarch butterflies really need are more patches of milkweed to lay their eggs on; that is the only thing their caterpillars eat, and if there is no milkweed, then no Monarchs.

Milkweed is a native plant and not a weed at all really — it is not invasive and looks quite pretty. There are lots of companies such as livemonarch.com that offer milkweed seeds to people like you

that want to be sure that future generations will still be able to experience the Monarch butterfly. Of course, now it is December and it is too late to think about gardens, but I will be sure to bring this subject up again in late winter when people are buying seeds for their gardens.

Marc Morrone has kept almost every kind of animal as a pet for the last half-century and he is happy to share his knowledge with others. Although he cannot answer every question, he will publish many of those that have a general interest. Contact him at petxperts2@aol.com; please include your name, city and state.

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Customer denied interest-free promotion, rebate

Dear Help Squad:

When my fiance and I purchased our home, it had no appliances. We spent weeks shopping and ended up at Best Buy. The representative that helped us was thorough, knowledgeable and professional. On June 30, when we decided to place our order, she told us her manager approved 36 months interest free, not 48, as we had discussed. When we explained we wouldn't be able to pay off the balance at 36 months, she got the 48-month promotion approved. As we attempted to place the order, the Best Buy computers crashed, so the representative processed it manually by phone the following day. The sale was for \$4,800 and included LG kitchen appliances. We were reminded to send in the LG rebate to receive a \$200 gift card.

After faxing the rebate forms, we received a denial from LG stating Best Buy was not participating in the rebate. I did a conference call with LG and our Best Buy sales representative. LG even spoke to the general manager directly. Still nothing.

Unfortunately the rebate isn't the only problem. The 48-month interest-free pro-

motion showed up as 18 months interest free. I called Citibank (issuer of Best Buy's store card), and was told it does not offer 48 months deferred interest. I called Best Buy and was told by the assistant manager that he had never heard of a 48-month promotion and there was nothing he could do.

The general manager called the next day. He said 48 months wasn't available, but he refunded me the difference so I would have the same payment for 36 months as I would have for 48.

Since my second statement, my balance of \$3,700 has been accumulating 25 percent interest. The promotion wasn't reinstated after the partial refund!

It's five months later and we still don't have the rebate or the promotion. Can you help?

Anthony, Riverview, Fla

As a result of assisting a different Best Buy customer with a similar LG rebate issue



CATHY CUNNINGHAM
Help Squad

in November 2015, I knew who to contact. I emailed Best Buy spokesperson Ryan Stanzel, who immediately responded, "Happy to help. I forwarded this on to our customer care team."

While waiting to hear back, I conducted some research.

It appears the Best Buy manager's assertion that 48 months deferred interest is not a standard offering is accurate. Best Buy's typical promotions range from six to 36 months.

Though not applicable in Anthony's case, Best Buy interest-free financing can sometimes be as specific as applying only to the first item purchased using the store card. Bottom line: Know what you're signing up for before you start charging because interest on store cards can be 25 percent or more. And if you carry any balance past the promotional period, you will be charged interest on the entire purchase.

Anthony's greatest challenge was proving he'd been offered the 48-month-long de-

ferred interest promotion, as it was finalized by the sales rep via phone. Hindsight is 20/20, of course, but written receipt of the promotion's terms and conditions would likely have saved Anthony much time and anguish.

A week after contacting Stanzel, I received the following statement from him: "We certainly apologize to (Anthony) for the miscommunication he received in one of our stores regarding financing offers. We have resolved his concerns and have worked to get his monthly payment reduced to what it would be if he had received a longer financing term."

Anthony confirmed this and added, "A Best Buy resolution specialist teamed up with Citibank to place my balance on the 36-month interest free promotion and remove all accrued interest and late fees. She will be mailing out a \$300 gift card to compensate the rebate and terrible experience."

Need help?

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

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist.

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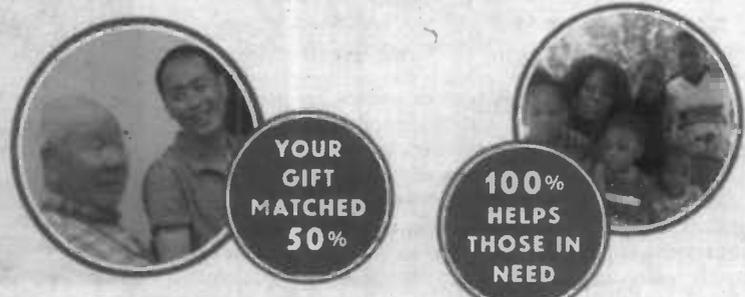
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In praise of Prose

By John Warner
Chicago Tribune

In general, I like literary awards. Anything that delivers more recognition to books is OK with me.

I already give out my annual Biblioracle Book Awards, which I will be releasing in a couple of weeks, once I can liberate my own opinions from the accountants at Price-waterhouseCoopers.

But as satisfying as it is to recognize some of the most worthy books in a given year, there's something special about acknowledging a longer, more sustained commitment to the writerly arts.

Thinking another way, it's one thing to vote on the league MVP award, but I want to get in on the Hall of Fame action as well.

Therefore, I am pleased to announce the first winner of the — however often I feel like giving it — Biblioracle Lifetime Achievement Award for Writing Good Stuff... Francine Prose.

Because even lifetime achievement awards like to have some particular relevance, the occasion for the award is the recent release of Prose's 16th novel for adults, "Mister Monkey," which is a typically acute exploration of the cast and audience of a third-rate children's musical. Each chapter focuses on a different figure either involved with or orbiting the off-off-Broadway production, from a troubled early pubescent kid who plays the titular Mr. Monkey, to the author of the beloved children's book the musical is based on, to a man who takes his grandson to one of the performances where some odd stuff happens.

Ms. Prose is perhaps not a household name, even though she has been producing very fine books since the 1970s, but in a just world, she would be. "Mr. Monkey" shows off what I think of as her trademark "intimacy" with her characters. Each chapter resets with a new character, but rather than resetting our emotional temperatures, our engagement is deepened, as we see how these individuals are braided together. I read the book greedily in a matter of hours.

Perhaps the most admirable part of Ms. Prose's work is its range. While you know you are going to be brought close to the human experience, the container changes each time.

"Blue Angel" is a scathing academic satire, both empathetic and merciless to its characters. "A Changed Man" and "My New American Life" are also simultaneously sympathetic and caustic as they take on some of the darker aspects of contemporary America, which have been uncorked by our recent election.

"A Changed Man" explores a neo-Nazi youth who wants to "save guys like me from becoming guys like me."

"My New American Life" is an immigrant story, as a woman comes from Albania to be a sort of nanny to both a



STEPHANIE BERGER PHOTO

Francine Prose, who released her 16th novel, "Mister Monkey," earns the first Biblioracle Lifetime Achievement Award.

son and his father who have been left by the mom/wife. Oh, the Albanian mob is also involved.

"Lovers at the Chameleon Club, Paris 1932" is a densely rendered historical novel that you wouldn't know comes from the same author as the earlier books.

And if that isn't enough to deserve this most prestigious award, Francine Prose also wrote what I consider to be the single most valuable guide for the avid book person, "Reading Like a Writer: A Guide for People Who Love Books and for Those Who Want to Write Them."

Reading "Reading Like a Writer" reveals the secret to Ms. Prose's long and wonderful career. She loves books, she is fascinated by the world and she looks as closely as possible at all the things around her.

She asks, why are we here? What do we owe to the others around us?

Francine Prose's books are attempts to make sense of what is meaningful, and when I read them, I feel a little closer to answering those questions for myself.

John Warner is a freelance writer whose most recent book is "Tough Day for the Army."

Book recommendations from The Biblioracle

Readers list the last five books they've read — and John Warner suggests a sixth.

1. "The Storied Life of A.J. Fikry" by Gabrielle Zevin
2. "The Rosie Project" by Graeme Simsion
3. "The Little Paris Bookshop" by Nina George
4. "The Nightingale" by Kristin Hannah
5. "Firefly Lane" by Kristin Hannah
Sally M., Chicago

Sally looks like a fan of novels with a certain amount of romance in them; not in the love affair sense, necessarily, but more like books invested in big, bold emotions. "Wonder Boys" by Michael Chabon comes to mind as a good fit for such a reader.

1. "Tobacco Road" by Erskine Caldwell
2. "The Violent Bear It Away" by Flannery O'Connor
3. "Nightwood" by Djuna Barnes
4. "The Fire Next Time" by James Baldwin
5. "Sometimes a Great Notion" by Ken Kesey
Liam T., Dublin, Ireland

Not sure why my radar is responding with a foreign author when the list is all American, but it must be the spirit of the books on the list that compels me to go with "Notes From the Underground" by Fyodor Dostoyevsky.

1. "Slade House" by David Mitchell
2. "Setting Free the Bears" by John Irving
3. "The Empathy Exams" by Leslie Jamison
4. "Lucky Jim" by Kingsley Amis
5. "A Bend in the River" by V.S. Naipaul
John T., Oconomowoc, Wis.

A good list to recommend one of my favorite big novels of the last 10 years, "Skippy Dies" by Paul Murray.

What should you read?

Send a list of your last five books to printersrow@chicagotribune.com. Write "Biblioracle" in the subject line.

Quote-Acrossic

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

Clues

Words

A. Regatta participant	144	149	108	35	134	64	16	42	77	
B. Early nuclear reactor: 2 wds.	107	78	92	151	49	123	141	62	166	13
C. Day of rest	18	98	74	126	36	63	41			
D. Take cover: 3 wds.	104	125	160	61	52	45	84	10	66	33
E. Tomb inscription	23	81	122	103	139	44	2			
F. Flammable liquid	21	114	157	38	87	59	55			
G. Wall scribble	65	128	161	89	148	53	109	27		
H. Short cannon	113	136	34	135	15	97	167	150		
I. Inverted: 2 wds.	32	24	57	96	146	76				
	116	165	4	50						

J. Detestable	147	93	138	117	153	82	5	28	37	
K. Sleeping garment	102	155	90	79	112	12	31	68	137	
L. Venerable gent	11	105	127	132	3	159				
M. Cut it out!: 2 wds.	140	121	67	43	56	163				
N. Very odd	20	85	115	124	60	162	48	100	8	70
O. One-piece swimsuit	118	72	17	95	142	158	7			
P. Selecting from various sources	119	51	91	154	86	1	110	22		
Q. Stylish	106	39	6	71	26	152	54			
	94	30	130	80						
R. Microscopic animal	143	156	101	47	9	129				
S. Short fictional stories	19	88	46	58	75	120				
T. Kitchen appliance	25	83	133	40	69	145	164			
U. State of equilibrium	73	99	29	14	131	111				

1	P	2	E	3	L	4	I	5	J	6	Q	7	O	8	N				
9	R	10	D	11	L	12	K	13	B	14	U	15	H	16	A	17	O		
18	C	19	S	20	N	21	F	22	P	23	E	24	I	25	T	26	Q	27	G
28	J	29	U	30	Q	31	K	32	I	33	D	34	H	35	A				
36	C	37	J	38	F	39	Q	40	T	41	C	42	A	43	M				
44	E	45	D	46	S	47	R	48	N	49	B	50	I	51	P				
52	D	53	G	54	Q	55	F	56	M	57	I	58	S	59	F				
60	N	61	D	62	B	63	C	64	A	65	G	66	D	67	M				
68	K	69	T	70	N	71	Q	72	O	73	U	74	C	75	S				
76	I	77	A	78	B	79	K	80	Q	81	E	82	J	83	T				
84	D	85	N	86	P	87	F	88	S	89	G	90	K	91	P				
92	B	93	J	94	Q	95	O	96	I	97	H	98	C	99	U	100	N	101	R
102	K	103	E	104	D	105	L	106	Q	107	B	108	A	109	G				
110	P	111	U	112	K	113	H	114	F	115	N	116	I						
117	J	118	O	119	P	120	S	121	M	122	E	123	B	124	N	125	D		
126	C	127	L	128	G	129	R	130	Q	131	U	132	L	133	T	134	A	135	H
136	H	137	K	138	J	139	E	140	M	141	B	142	O	143	R				
144	A	145	T	146	I	147	J	148	G	149	A	150	H						
151	B	152	Q	153	J	154	P	155	K	156	R	157	F	158	O	159	L		
160	D	161	G	162	N	163	M	164	T	165	I	166	B	167	H				

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

By Max Engle.
Edited by Linda and Charles Preston.
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Blowup

BY CHARLES PRESTON

Across

- Jargon
- Assayed
- Stop
- Prevaricator
- French pupil
- Over: Ger.
- Too
- Serve
- Fair to middling
- Explode
- Sent forth
- White wood
- Troubled
- Powerful
- Saddle parts
- La Traviata*, e.g.
- Range
- FDR agcy.
- Jewelry items
- The Eternal ___
- Imperfect: prefix
- Compass pt.
- Worms
- Hunter's target
- Newcomers
- Swear

- Female ruffs
- American Indian
- Saturated
- Piling in
- Platform
- New York city
- Region
- Cotton waste
- Operatic name
- Having pedal digits
- Nervous
- Metal
- Finishes

Down

- Dressed
- Wing: Fr.
- Cartoonist
- State policemen
- Take back
- Winged
- Head: Fr.
- Mother of us all
- Making fun
- Light-horse soldier
- ___ *ben Adhem*
- ___ *majesty*

- Walked on
- One of three ships
- Dry
- Particles
- Paul and Pius
- Express a view
- Belief
- Pierces
- Loosen
- Gets ready for college
- Helmet: var.
- Insults
- Liberties
- Precede in history
- Happiness
- Pack
- Model prisoner
- Without harmony
- Lecture
- Out of work
- Servant
- ___ cherry
- Wax
- Kind of ore
- Want
- Runs about
- Ancient language: abbr.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	
14				15					16				
17				18					19				
20				21				22	23				
			24				25						
26	27	28				29				30	31	32	
33						34				35			
36						37				38			
39						40				41			
42						43				44			
						45				46			
47	48	49						50			51	52	53
54						55	56				57		
58						59					60		
61						62					63		

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

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Hold the Tomato

BY GARRY MORSE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

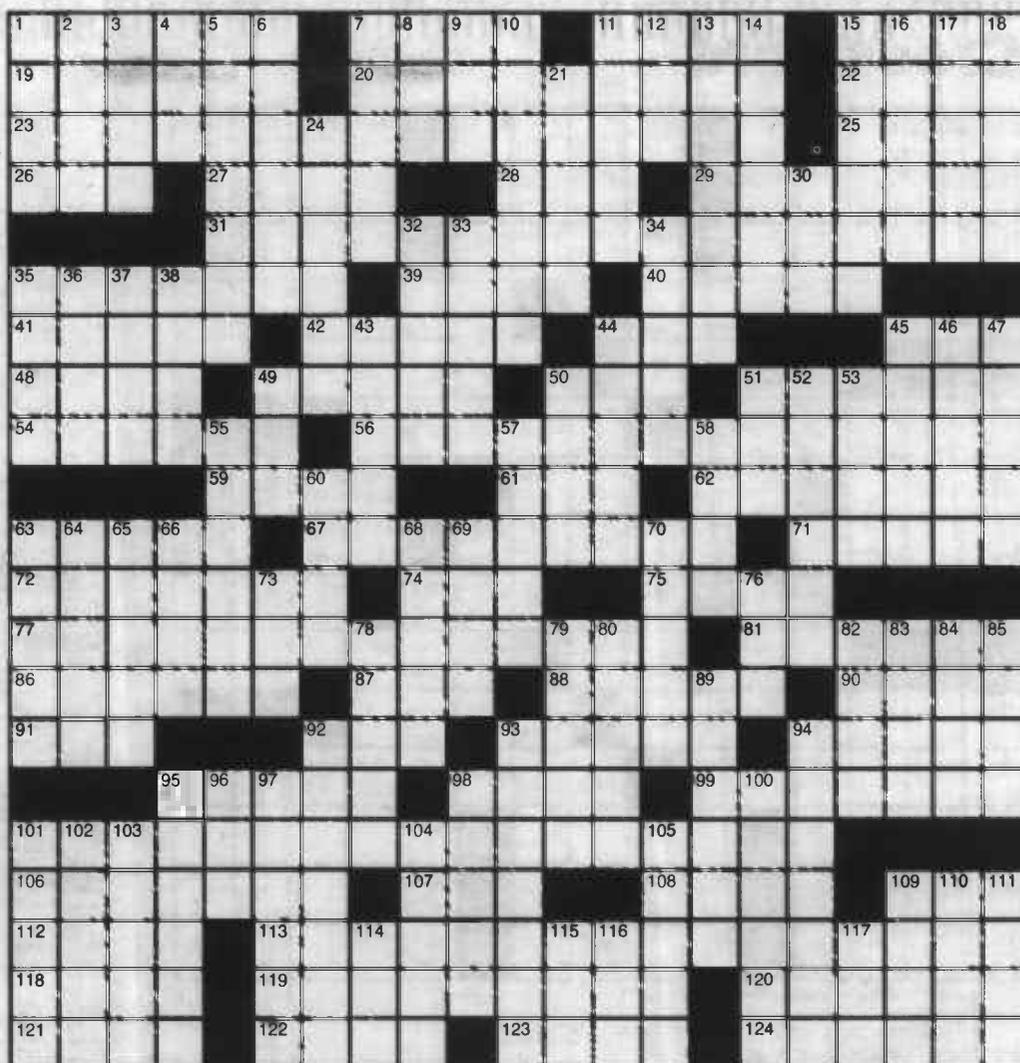
12/4

9 Living | Section 2 | Thursday, December 8, 2016

CN

Across

- 1 Like some felonies
7 Get whipped
11 "The Nutcracker" garb
15 Missile with a flight
19 Rep's bad news
20 Vegas bigwig
22 Asian nurse
23 Warning technologically unavailable in Titanic times?
25 Second start
26 Half-_: coffee order
27 Island band The _ Men
28 Plastic _ Band
29 Helps keep track
31 Passionate maintenance of one's Cuisinart?
35 "This fortress built by Nature for _": Shakespeare
39 Suspicious of
40 It merged with SAG in 2012
41 Kind of TV personality
42 Pitney's partner
44 Prince _ Khan
45 Prince Buster music genre
48 Tetra- doubled
49 One who doesn't get out
50 At age 88, Betty White was its oldest host, briefly
51 Jah worshipers
54 Fired by a waiter?
56 Forgetting how to stay up?
59 University of San Marcos city
61 Form 1040 fig.
62 NASA, for one
63 Out at the station
67 Feline snitch?
71 "Shucks"
72 Second Amendment word
74 _ Tomé
75 Migratory herring
77 Junkyard guards?
81 Rhinos and hippos
86 Ducks
87 Hunk's pride
88 Sharpens
90 Six-time Hugo winner Frederik _ sleep
92 Recently stolen
93 Link up with
94 Hooded snake
95 Butter-yielding bean
98 Micro- ending
- 99 Finishes
101 Haul in à la the Big Bad Wolf, as a wrecked vehicle?
106 Leeds lot
107 Letters in an arrest records database
108 En _ in the lead, in French
109 Early Beatle Sutcliffe
112 Within: Pref.
113 Where a chant of "Well done, blokes!" might start?
118 China neighbor
119 Kitchen whistler
120 Just as planned
121 Specks on a screen
122 Schumann quartet: Abbr.
123 This, in Toledo
124 Text _
- Down
- 1 "Power Lunch" ailer
2 Kinks title woman with "a dark brown voice"
3 Like
4 Patsy
5 Kiss like a dog, perhaps
6 Happen to
7 Actress Lindsay
8 Neruda's " _ to Wine"
9 '80s missile prog.
10 Lines of squad cars, maybe
11 Simply not done
12 Lute family member
13 Evoke screams from
14 Pressing
15 Patrick on a track
16 Introducer of the first side-by-side refrigerator
17 Dr.'s orders
18 "God helps _ ..."
21 _ Park: Edison lab site
24 '60s-'70s crime drama
30 Dugout VIP
32 Carpentry pin
33 Warm Argentina month
34 "My Eyes Adored You" singer
35 Place for a shoe
36 Like many cks.
37 Pro _
38 Site of the "Shall We Dance?" dance
43 Butcher's waste
44 Marx Brothers staple
- 45 Ford muscle car, to devotees
46 West of Atlanta
47 "If you _ ..."
49 Floral neckwear
50 Like saltimbocca, flavorwise
51 GOP org.
52 Rub the wrong way?
53 Deliberate
55 Carefree
57 Drum played with a fife
58 Promise
60 Yale School of Management degs.
63 Brew hue
64 City in northern France
65 Pelvic bone
66 Cowboys' home, familiarly
68 Foppish accessory
69 Data transfer unit
70 To this point
73 " _ so you!"
76 Six-pack you can't drink
78 Tablet download
79 "If only"
80 Central idea
82 Informal pricing words
83 They may be choked back
84 Word on a fast food sign
85 Waves-against-dock sound
89 Bunting relative
92 London taxi
93 As you like it
94 New England tourist mecca
95 Grape-Nuts creator
96 Lawyer's org.
97 Marks for a 124-Across
98 Journalist Roberts
100 What some spits do
101 Bone marrow lymphocyte
102 Polynesian porch
103 "Entertaining Mr. Sloane" playwright
104 Negotiations
105 Fifth cen. pope called "The Great"
109 Paving stone
110 Palm Pre predecessor
111 Password creator
114 Pinup's leg
115 Stats in NBA bios
116 Sandwich that hints at this puzzle's theme
117 Yokohama yes



Last week's answers appear on the next page

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Jumble

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



PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW



This week's answers appear on the next page

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

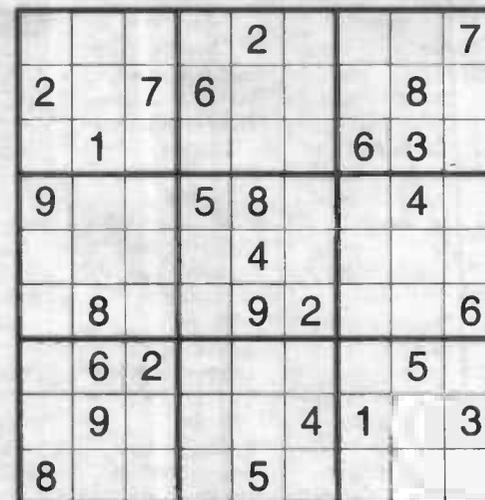


Sudoku

12/4

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

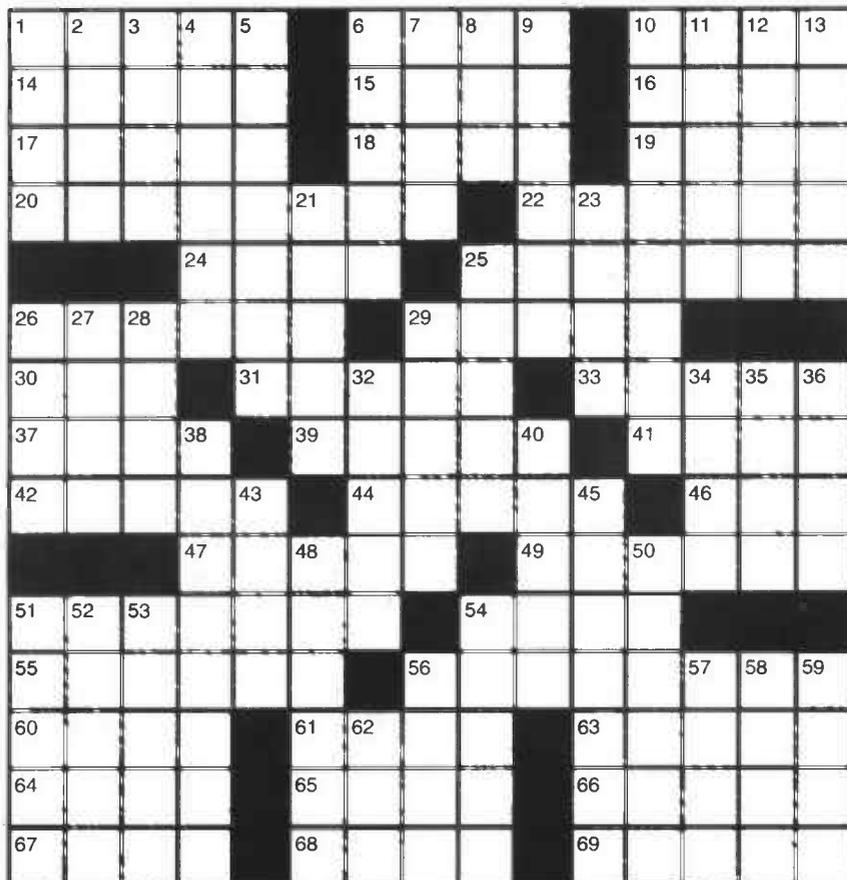
Level: **1 2 3 4**



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Crossword



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12/7/16

ACROSS

- 1 Body's largest internal organ
6 Where to order Rooty Tooty Fresh 'N Fruity Pancakes
10 Late singer Mama ___
14 Amphitheater
15 Lunch spot
16 Kiln
17 Expenses
18 Bump ___; meet
19 "The ___ Star State"; Texas
20 Tempting
22 Speak highly of
24 ___ out; peeled
25 Small kitchen appliance
26 Sick
29 Actress Sally
30 In favor of
31 Makes airtight
33 Hollers
37 Take ___; assume control
39 Scout group
41 Genuine
42 More rational
44 Plato & Delany
46 ___ out a living; get by
47 Fortune-teller's deck of cards

- 49 ___ out; got rid of gradually
51 Dispute settler
54 College official
55 Golf ___; Ernie Els' hangout
56 Home loan
60 Monster
61 Fashionable
63 December 7th
64 Trick
65 ___ Finn; Mark Twain hero
66 Clear the slate
67 Brooklyn team
68 Raw minerals
69 Skateboarding inclines

DOWN

- 1 Bridal veil fabric
2 Golf club with a metal head
3 Waistcoat
4 Whole
5 Mischief-makers
6 Cake topping
7 ___ around; linger
8 Many a time
9 Magazine title
10 Kitchen sieve
11 Steer clear of
12 Good judgment
13 Derisive smile
21 Creek

Solutions



- 23 ___ on; have confidence in
25 Plains dweller
26 Eerie saucers, for short
27 ___ Scotia
28 Songbird
29 Parade entry
32 Zeal
34 Bruce & Jason
35 Geneva or Erie
36 Toboggan
38 Pensioners
40 ___ clip; staple alternative
43 "Phooey!"
45 Break into bits
48 Continue to resound
50 ___ goat; source of mohair
51 Oak tree nut
52 Scoundrel
53 Exploded
54 Landing places
56 Small rodents
57 Man from Eden
58 Inhale in shock
59 Facial features
62 "Ben-___"; Heston classic



puzzle island solutions

Last week's crosswords

"THEY'RE EASY"

GOOFS AGES ATTIC DINE
IKNOW POET DIANA VSOP
BRUCEWAYNE ANNEBRONTE
BASILICA POPES SORTIE
TIE BOLTS ATYA
IRISES ELUDE SNACKBAR
POLAR KNUTEROCKNE IGO
ODIN CLAM ROLD BLIP
DEE ALICEMARBLE BELLE
SONORANT OVOID RUTES
ARISE TOAST CADRE
LASSES PULTS SLUGABED
ALTOS NATALIECOLE USO
PLAN BERT MAST ERTE
SOS CARRIEWHITE MAKER
EYECANDY RIOTS CATERS
IRKS PALLS SIR
AMINOR LUSTY CATAPULT
JANEMARPLE MARILCURIE
ATOM TIGER AXEL ANDES
XTRA EGADS NEWS STUNT

"Name Dropping"

CORAL JEDDA AVE
ALICE ADORN MOI
DAGHAMMARSKJOLD
IVA HEMP LUNGE
WOOS BEGGAR
EXCELS FLITS
VERNE HEELS SPA
ENID KULAK DOOR
NOB TIMID MINSK
CODEX BARGES
ACCORD SENT
CLASP BETA TVA
MAMIEEISENHOWER
ERE DANTE UNITE
SAL ORDER BANOS

"Do Stuff"

SOBA HARDLY ODDS COPE
AMAS IBERIA LORI IDEA
SAUSAGELINK DIRAB VENT
SHEATH OED POPYRI
YARDAGE STORAGELOCKER
REDS NIL IDARE
CARRIAGELAMP PSA UZIS
OREO REGALE TUTU TOTE
DEALT RAGE PAGELAYOUT
ENDLESS MAKEMAD
SAYSTO CABARET IDTAGS
RUNAWAY STOODUP
MILEAGELLOG HOSE NOLIE
ASIAN HALL MORTAR RILL
SHUE TPS LUGGAGELABELL
TORRE WIN TOGO
STAGELIGHTING DICTATE
YEARLY FIRE MAHSHIA
CURB SWAY GEORGE LUCAS
ASTA SIRE ACUMEN CONE
BOOR ONES PETALS ETES

Last week's Quote-Acrostic

CHARLES KURALT: THE CREAM: Cream used to come in pitchers. Now it comes in plastic trapezoids. If you get any in your coffee instead of on your shirt, what it tastes like is hydrogenated palm kernel oil, artificial flavor and water.

Last week's Sudoku

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

This week's Jumble

AWAKEN ORNERY WISDOM
VACANT ADRIFT STITCH

It's easy to skip rocks on a pond when the pond is a —

STONE'S
THROW AWAY

chicago
tribune.com
/games

Interactive puzzles and games

Did Bradys set bar too high for blended families?

My heart sank when I heard of Florence Henderson's death. A talented, successful and well-loved actress, Henderson is remembered most by her role as Carol Brady, the warm, loving mom and stepmom who with her husband and fellow widow, Mike, was



JACKIE PILOSSOPH
Love Essentially

dedicated to dealing with family problems in a constructive and educational way.

But while the "Brady Bunch" certainly painted a delightful picture of second marriage and blended families, and while I appreciate the sitcom's message of hope and happily ever after, I'm wondering, did the show give divorced parents a false sense of bliss? Did the Bradys make blending families seem too easy and stress-free?

I'm thinking yes. Not that the Bradys are responsible for really high second marriage divorce rates, but it is possible the delightful little sitcom could cause single parents to become disillusioned into thinking remarriage is heaven.

I wanted to get a therapist's perspective on the subject, so I reached out to Dori Mages, a North Shore-based licensed clinical social worker who has been working with kids and teenagers for 22 years.

"People forgot after a while that the Bradys were a combined family," said Mages, who is a mom of two teens and a pre-teen. "I think I remember an episode when one of the parents said, 'We don't have stepchildren in this house, only steps.'"

Mages pointed out three reasons the Brady's blended family worked so well:

1. Carol and Mike were on the same page as far as parenting. They consulted each other on every issue and made decisions together.

2. From a parent level, they realized that not every child is the same. They found each kid's individual needs and tried to meet them as a family.

3. The parents had respect for each other and acted as a team.

Although I do realize the Bradys were fictional characters, I feel like if more parents implemented Mike's and Carol's values, there might be a lot less divorce.

I asked Mages some of the things she hears from kids living in blended families. Here are four issues, along with her tips for parents in handling them:

1. "My mom/dad doesn't spend as much time with me as she/he used to — just one on one."

Mages' advice: Sometimes kids can be resentful of this. Don't argue with your kids

and try to convince them that it isn't true. Acknowledge their feelings, empathize and execute a plan that includes a schedule for more one-on-one time.

2. "I dislike my stepdad/stepmom."

Mages' advice: It is everyone's job to try to build a

better relationship, not just one person's, but rather the child, the biological parent and the step-parent. Work together to find commonalities, things they like to do together. Also, pay attention to why the child is saying it. Is it unwarranted and they are saying it because they want something they aren't getting? Or, is it more realistic? Ask questions and find out exactly what the real reason is for the dislike. Also, remember that the child and the step-parent do have something very important in common — love for the biological parent.

3. "He/she treats me differently than their own kids."

Mages' advice: Find out from the child in detail what would be a "better" way to treat them. Ask them what specifically the biological kids get that they don't get. Where is the discrepancy?

4. "I feel like I am forced to spend time with my stepbrothers/sisters."

Mages' advice: While family time is important for building a bond, listen to their concerns and make additional time for you and your biological children.

When asked what the positives are that can come from blended families, Mages said more siblings can mean more kids to play with and more overall attention for kids. She also said a step-parent can offer wisdom, warmth and love, and can become another source of support and a healthy role model for a child. And lastly, kids in a blended family can have the opportunity to see what a healthy romantic relationship looks like. In other words, seeing their biological parent and their step-parent happy together, enjoying each other and treating each other with kindness and respect sets a healthy, meaningful example.

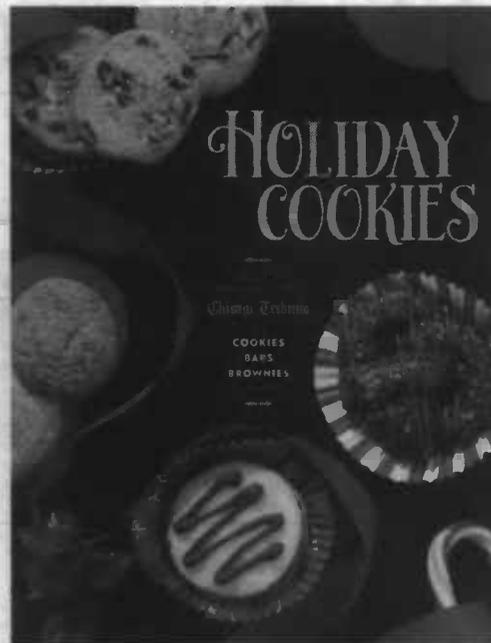
If you happen to be channel-flipping and you end up on a "Brady Bunch" rerun, I guarantee it will instantly bring a warm smile to your face. But ask any single parent who entered into a blended family if life is as easy as that famous '70s family makes it look.

They will probably respond, "Marcia, Marcia, Marcia." Rest in peace, Florence Henderson. You will be missed.

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist.

Trib Books

LIBRARY



Holiday Cookes: Prize-winning Family Recipes from the Chicago Tribune contains more than 100 recipes and mouthwatering photos of winning cookies from nearly three decades of the newspaper's annual Holiday Cookie Contest. From Sparkly Oatmeal Cookies to Coffee Toffee, the book captures generations of beloved family recipes.

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Chicago Tribune

HEALTH

ASK THE DOCTORS

Moderate alcohol use shows some benefits for women

By Dr. Robert Ashley
Ask the Doctors

Dear Readers: Welcome to our new "Ask the Doctors" column. As an internist and primary care physician at UCLA Health, my approach to medicine is to understand that I don't have all the answers — that I have to learn new topics and review old topics all the time.

Sometimes, I can provide answers right away. But sometimes, I have to stop and reassess. Medicine has seen many breakthroughs since I graduated from medical school nearly 20 years ago, and evidence has changed many dogmatic ways of practice.

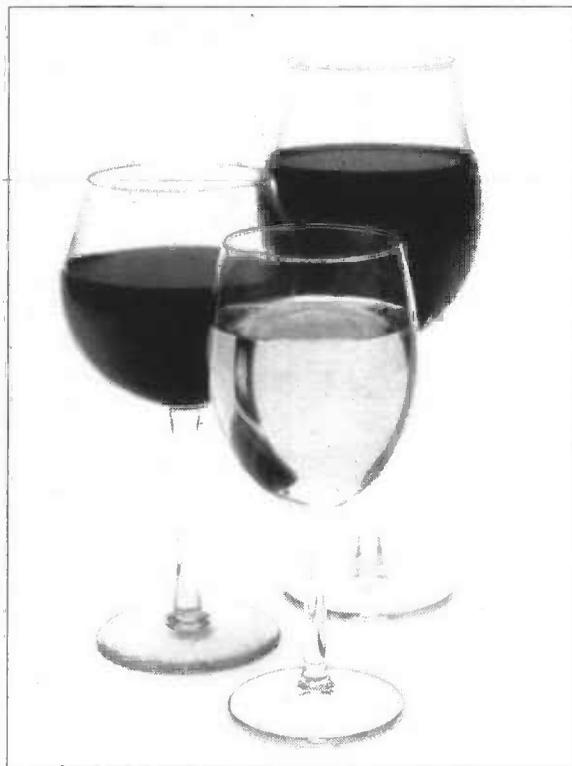
Objective, nonbiased data are important to the practice of medicine. Doctors must understand how that data can be applied to one person or to large groups of people.

My column focuses on common-sense answers based upon scientific literature. As I increase my professional knowledge, I hope to provide people with thoughtful and deliberate interpretations of medical science that people can use to direct their own health.

— Robert Ashley, M.D.

Dear Doctor: I enjoy a nice glass of wine at the end of the day, but I've heard various reports about its health risks. So, tell me: In women, does alcohol increase or decrease the chances of premature death?

Dear Reader: It depends on the amount. The most definitive study on this topic was done in 1995. It



NICHOLAS EVELEIGH/GETTY

looked at more than 85,000 women, ages 34 to 59, and followed them for 12 years. That research found that having one drink (2 units of alcohol) every three to four days was linked to a significant decrease — 17 percent — in death during the course of the study. One drink per day was linked to an 11 percent decrease in death rates. However, more than one drink per day increased death rates, compared to no alcohol at all.

For women, the greatest benefits of alcohol were in the link to reductions of stroke and heart attacks. Yet, as women increase their alcohol intake, the risk of cancer increases. In this study, there was a

significant correlation between having two or more drinks per day and breast cancer.

In short, alcohol does have benefits when it comes to life span, but those benefits vanish when a woman has two or more drinks per day.

Robert Ashley, M.D., is an internist and assistant professor of medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Send your questions to askthedoctors@mednet.ucla.edu, or write: Ask the Doctors, c/o Media Relations, UCLA Health, 924 Westwood Blvd., Suite 350, Los Angeles, CA, 90095.

PEOPLE'S PHARMACY PRESCRIPTIONS AND HOME REMEDIES

Antibiotic temporarily eases woman's dementia

By Joe Graedon
and Teresa Graedon
King Features Syndicate

Q: My 83-year-old mother was diagnosed with dementia several years ago. She has been declining in her mental capabilities and is on the Alzheimer's drug Aricept.

She recently became ill with salmonella and was hospitalized for a week. There, she was prescribed Levaquin every other day for two weeks to clear the infection. After the third dose, there was a remarkable improvement in her dementia symptoms.

After she finished the medication, she got worse again. I've asked her neurologist and medical doctor if there is a compound in Levaquin that could be responsible for the drastic improvement, and they both said no.

I know she can't take this antibiotic on a long-term basis, but the results we saw were amazing.

A: We are intrigued by your report, even though we could find no evidence that antibiotics like levofloxacin (Levaquin) improve cognitive function. Such drugs can cause agitation and confusion.

There is one case report of a person with cognitive decline due to hydrocephalus becoming less apathetic and more capable during levofloxacin treatment (Neurologist, May 2012).

Fifteen years ago, we received a number of reports about dementia symptoms being reduced or temporarily reversed by a narcotic such as hydrocodone or oxycodone. We can't explain those unusu-



KATARZYNA BIALASIEWICZ/ISTOCK

A reader's mother experienced lessened Alzheimer's symptoms while taking an antibiotic, the reader says.

al reactions any more than we can explain your mother's temporary improvement.

Q: Can you please tell me about a blood-pressure medicine that won't cause a cough? I have been on lisinopril and can't stand the constant coughing. I'd be grateful for any information you can send.

A: ACE inhibitors like benazepril, captopril, enalapril, lisinopril and ramipril do a good job controlling blood pressure, but the cough that some people experience can be maddening. You must not switch any blood-pressure medicine on your own, but you should ask your physician for an alternative.

To help you with that conversation, we are sending you our "Guide to Blood Pressure Treatment" with other drug options and nondrug alternatives. Anyone who would like a copy, please send \$3 in check or money order with a long (No. 10), stamped (68 cents), self-addressed envelope to: Graedons' People's Pharmacy, No. B-67, P.O. Box 52027, Durham, NC 27717-2027. It also can be downloaded for \$2 from our website: www.peoplespharmacy.com.

Q: When our kids came down with lice, we used Ulesfia. It was expensive, but it worked.

My son got lice again a year later, and I tried soaking his hair in original Listerine and covering it with a shower cap for 30 minutes. The results were even better, with the egg sacks sliding off the hair shaft easily. Very inexpensive!

The key is to comb out all the lice and nits after any treatment. Repeat the process in about a week to ensure that all are killed.

A: Ulesfia is a prescription anti-lice drug containing 5 percent benzyl alcohol. It works by suffocating the lice. Each 227-gram bottle costs around \$190 with a coupon, and some people will need more than a single bottle.

We are pleased to hear that the amber Listerine worked so well. We suspect it, too, works by suffocating the lice. Thank you for pointing out the importance of re-treating after a week to kill the newly hatched nymphs.

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



OFF THE VINE

Taste the season
Pair your holiday with wine that shines

YOUR LOCAL GUIDE TO WINE AND MORE

- How to host a wine tasting party
- Great wine selections for your holiday dinner or party
- Where to buy Midwest produced wines locally
- Gift ideas for the wine enthusiast
- Advice for selecting Champagne for New Year's Eve

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BEVERAGE DEPOT

Celebrate the holidays with wine: chicagotribune.com/offthevine

Party like your parents

Boomer offers tips to millennials on how to throw a thoroughly grown-up bash

By Bill Daley | Chicago Tribune

Millennials have it rough, or so it seems based on conversations in story meetings (and personal observations of my own 23-year-old daughter). They can't, apparently, balance their own checkbooks, write in cursive, get their own health insurance before they're 26 or leave large areas of skin unadorned. Now I'm hearing they can't party like grown-ups.

I can't imagine. But then I was the one in college who created Chinese dinners for 12, threw cocktail parties with honest-to-God booze and knew that the snack bar was a good source for cheese when the fondue pot ran low. Hosting a dinner party was my idea of entertainment in my 20s and 30s. If dessert was followed by boozy dancing to early B-52s, I knew the evening was a success.

I'm not sure what would count as early B-52s now (Frankie Cosmos? Fitz and The Tantrums? Really late B-52s?). But one thing remains unchanged: A party, be it a beer blowout for 100 or a posh dinner for eight, is sort of a contract between you, the host and your guests. You all agree, for at least a few hours, to try to be your better selves: more sparkling, more tolerant, more helpful, more creative, friendlier.

Contracts, however, often seem meant to be broken. Hosts need to work hard to minimize that possibility by being prepared for whoever shows up. I'm 57, going on 58, and I've seen some beauts come through my door. You will too. Trust me.

Given this is the holiday season and the pressure will be on to host a party, here are some tips and suggestions to help you throw a proper do.

Send a real invitation. Emails are fine for very casual get-togethers. For more important or formal entertaining, consider writing out and mailing an invitation. Yes, you'll have to buy stamps, but you can do that online. Imagine the impact when your invite arrives in the mail amid all

the circulars and bills. It will immediately stand out. However you decide to extend the invitation, make sure all particulars are listed: where, when, why and whether you expect your guests to bring anything. (I don't, but that's the control freak in me; I want to plan the experience.) Be very, very clear about what they can or can't wear. No jeans at your sit-down dinner for 12? Tell 'em upfront — but be realistic; know your friends. You also might want to give prospective guests a sneak peek at the menu, so those with dietary restrictions can alert you if there's an issue. (Even so, make sure there are some vegan and/or vegetarian dishes on the menu.) Ask guests to RSVP and set a date by which to respond; an email will work fine for that.

Shop in advance. Buy the liquor, beer, wine and soda ahead of time and store in a cool, dark place, preferably a location you can lock up, so roommates can't get at your stash. If it's cold out and you have a secure outdoor area, stow the beverages there a few hours before the party begins, instead of clogging the refrigerator. Just remember to keep an eye on it, so nothing freezes or wanders off. How much to buy? Depends on how much you and your friends drink; be honest in estimating. (At a multicourse dinner party, I generally count on the equivalent of one bottle of wine per person, if all that's being drunk is wine.) Decide on your menu ahead of time too. Look to offer a combination of dishes you can easily and cheaply make in advance with ready-to-eat items picked up at the supermarket or



PORTRA IMAGES

Too many people make for a noisy, uncomfortable party where people can't get food or drink and have to claw their way to the bathroom. Better to invite fewer people.

ordered in from a restaurant. Absolutely avoid anything that requires last-minute cooking or preparation, and that includes outdoor grilling, because no one wants to wait around for half-cooked burgers rushed to the table reeking of charcoal starter.

Rearrange your space, if necessary, for the party. I adhere to the Sit Your Butt Down school of interior decorating, meaning that when I feel the urge to sit down, I sit down. There better be a chair or sofa there. Ditto for tables. I want to be able to put down a drink or a dish, safely, on a table without having to go in search of one. So, walk around your space, drink in hand. Think about where people are going to want to gather and think about where you'd want to sit if you were a guest at your own party. Is there a seat there? Make it so; even a folding chair will do. At the same time, make sure you don't clog entries or pass-throughs with too much seating.

Make eating easy. Write up identification tags for the food so

guests know what they're eating. If you are feeling especially conscientious, you might want to note which dishes are gluten-free or vegetarian or contain nuts or meat. Assemble the platters and bowls and serving utensils you'll need to properly present your menu. Make sure you have enough plates, cups and cutlery for your guests. I have always loved real plates and metal cutlery, but paper and plastic work too. Have lots and lots of napkins.

Be prepared for smokers (and vapers). Today, people are less tolerant of smoking. It's understandable, but the thoughtful host still tries to accommodate guests. Don't just hand them an ashtray and point to the street, unless your building has a no-smoking policy. The perfect guest will likely insist on going outside anyway, but you should be ready for the less-than-perfect partyer. Can you gussy up a back porch or set aside a little-used guest room for smokers? Do make sure any butts are fully extinguished before throwing them in the trash.

Put away the phones. This sounds great in theory, but good luck getting people to actually do it. Perhaps the best strategy is an age-old one: distraction. Get any guests glued to the phone to start talking with you and with other guests. You might even want to take them gently by the arm and walk them over to the snack table or the bar — anything that will focus their attention back on the party.

Drink responsibly. Offer a lot of nonalcoholic beverages. Gently redirect those who are overindulging to other pursuits like eating or sleeping. Keep the telephone number for a cab company handy. Or you might want to sign up for the various app-based ride services so that you can smoothly cover the cost for a woozy guest (just remember to politely ask for reimbursement later). Take it easy on the drinks yourself; you want to stay fairly alert and sober to tend to your guests.

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Twitter @billdaley



VHT STUDIOS PHOTOS

Hamptons-style Highland Park home: \$5.3 million

ADDRESS: 330 Hazel Ave. in Highland Park

ASKING PRICE: \$5,299,000

Listed on Aug. 25, 2015

This 14,000-square-foot home includes seven bedrooms and six full bathrooms. The residence is completely outfitted. Take an elevator to the master suite, which has a statement barrel ceiling. The lower level boasts a wine cellar, theater, sport court and en-suite bedroom. Outdoor space includes an outdoor pool, screened-in porch and a cabana kitchen.

Agent: Ryan Newberry L'Heureux of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices KoenigRubloff, 847-999-8433

At press time, this home was still for sale.



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EVANSTON YWCA PRESENTS LEADERSHIP AWARDS



GINA GRILLO/PIONEER PRESS

Wendy Dickson, Domestic Violence Training and Prevention Director, left, and Geniyeta Papirov of Niles, YWCA Operations Director, were among 360 guests at the Ninth Annual YWomen Leadership Awards presented by the YWCA Evanston/North Shore to Julie Smolyansky of Chicago, president of Lifeway Foods, Amita Lonial of Chicago of the Skokie Public Library and Evonda Thomas-Smith of South Holland, Director of Evanston Health and Human Services. The event took place at the Hilton Orrington/Evanston Hotel on Oct. 14 and raised \$200,000 for YWCA programs. More at www.ywca.org.

NILES LIBRARY STAFF DONATES THANKSGIVING FOOD



NILES PUBLIC LIBRARY DISTRICT

Niles Public Library District staff members with some of the 35 Thanksgiving bags (up six bags from last year) they donated to Niles Family Services on Nov. 21. Each bag included a \$25 Jewel gift card and non-perishable items for a Thanksgiving dinner. The staff has donated Thanksgiving food for the community since 2011.

GALA RAISES \$158,000 FOR CONCORDIA PLACE



CINDY LIU/CONCORDIA PLACE

Carol Westley, from left, and Tom Westley, both of Niles with Patty and Tony Tunney of Chicago were among 300 guests at Go Gala 2016, a benefit for Concordia Place, Chicago, that provides services for children, teens and seniors. The event took place at Venue One, Chicago, on Sept. 29, and raised \$158,000 for Concordia Place. See concordiaplace.org.

'SALUTE TO BROADWAY' SUPPORTS WOMAN'S CLUB



KARIE ANGELL LUC/PIONEER PRESS

Lori Rush of Grayslake, from left, Doreen Csarman of Rolling Meadows and Cindy Rush of Park Ridge were among 250 guests who enjoyed "Salute to Broadway," the Philanthropy Luncheon/Fashion Show of the Morton Grove Woman's Club held at Cafe la Cave, Des Plaines, on Oct. 22. The festivities raised \$7,500, which will be donated to charities. See www.facebook.com/mortongrovetowomansclub.

Share your event

We want to publish your photos. To submit, visit community.chicagotribune.com or email sburrows@pioneerlocal.com.

**LONG GROVE**

Four-bedroom, 2.5-bath, custom-designed home built on 1.5 acres in 1992. Two-story foyer, large kitchen with island, granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Kitchen and eating area open to large family room with fireplace. Master bedroom with tray ceilings, fireplace, walk-in closet and master bath. Fourth bedroom has play loft. Bonus room on second level and finished walkout basement with bar.

Address: 4537 Eleanor Drive
Price: \$724,500
Schools: Stevenson High School
Taxes: \$24,836
Agent: Frank Denovi, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

**WHEELING**

Four-bedroom, 2.5-bath colonial design built in 1973. Foyer with staircase, updated kitchen with granite counters and private breakfast area. Family room with fireplace. First floor has a powder room and laundry area. Upstairs has railing and wide hallways. Master suite has fireplace, vaulted living room, luxury spa bath has been updated with soaking tub with whirlpool and separate shower. Finished basement has recreation area.

Address: 165 Mockingbird Lane
Price: \$425,000
Schools: Wheeling High School
Taxes: \$11,381.70
Agent: Marilyn Dopler, RE/MAX Suburban

**WILMETTE**

Three-bedroom, 2.5-bath, two-story Colonial home with brick exterior built in 1947 on a quarter-acre lot. Kitchen includes range-oven, dishwasher, refrigerator, washer, dryer and disposal. Flooring is both hardwood and ceramic tile. Central air, gas heat, full basement and fireplace. Recent neutral paint. Move-in ready.

Address: 2215 Birchwood Ave.
Price: \$675,000
Schools: New Trier High School
Taxes: \$12,712.30
Agent: Mary Ann Kollar, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices KoenigRubloff Realty Group

**NILES**

Four-bedroom, two-bath brick home built in 1961 with optional fifth bedroom. Hardwood flooring throughout. Kitchen has stainless appliances and granite counters, including island. Living room flows to reading room. Skylight in dining room. Two-car garage off fenced yard with patio.

Address: 7901 W. Park Ave.
Price: \$565,000
Schools: Maine East High School
Taxes: \$5,331.33
Agent: Patricia Huston, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices KoenigRubloff Realty Group

Listings from Homefinder.com

COUNTRY FINANCIAL

PRESENTS:

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

VOTE AT
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HOME REMEDIES

6 common mistakes made using your garbage disposal

BY JURA KONCIUS
The Washington Post

The holidays are crunch time for your garbage disposal.

Many of the disposals grinding away in homes across the land aren't exactly state of the art. Some may be builder-grade models; others just old and worn out. That is why there are such wide-ranging recommendations from manufacturers and service technicians about how to safely use them.

"There are a lot of myths about what you can and can't put in," says Chad Severson, president of InSinkErator, a major manufacturer of disposals founded in 1938. There are rules laid down by grandmothers generations ago: no eggshells, coffee grounds, bones, banana peels or pasta. Most units can now handle these foods in small batches. New, more powerful and quieter disposals have advanced technology and features. InSinkErator's Evolution disposals can grind avocado pits and bones, Severson says.

Another urban legend floating around: You shouldn't run your disposal while the dishwasher is operating. This is false, experts say. Just be mindful of what and how much you put in there, and read your manual.

Share this list of disposal mistakes with your household.

Using the wrong operating sequence. For best operation, follow this order, Severson says: First, start running cool water. Second, turn on the disposal. Third, gradually put food in (don't shove it in all at once). Run the disposal until food is gone (usually 30 seconds is enough). Turn it off and let the



water run for another 10 or 15 seconds to flush out the drain.

Not cleaning it correctly. Sprinkle in a bit of baking soda to freshen and clean. Have a couple of lemon or lime slices left over after a party? Toss them in; they work as cleaners and can eliminate odors. Grind up a few ice cubes, which will knock off bits of food that may be caught inside the disposal. Never use bleach or harsh drain cleaners, Severson says, as they could cause a malfunction.

Running hot water while grinding waste. Cold water is preferred, as it allows any fat or grease to move through the pipes intact, Severson says. Hot water could melt fat and clog a pipe.

Shoving in nonfood items. The list of no-nos includes wooden matches, cigarettes, rubber bands and twist ties and, of course, glass. Stick to only food waste.

Pouring grease or fat into the disposal. Grease can solidify in the pipes like candle wax, says Paul Abrams, spokesman for Roto-Rooter. In this case, your grandmother's system of pouring bacon grease into a coffee can kept by the stove is still good today. Use any metal can, glass bowl or jar and let it cool.

Calling for service too soon. Resist the urge to call for repair before you have tried these two things, Abrams says: Start by turning the unit off. Press the reset button under your unit (it's usually red). This acts as a local circuit breaker and, hopefully, will let you re-establish power. If that doesn't work, get out your jam key, which is sold with most disposals. (No worries if you can't find it; a quarter-inch Allen wrench also works fine.) Insert the tool into the hole in the bottom of the disposal housing. Rotate it back and forth to see whether you can clear the jam.

ADDRESS	BUYER	SELLER	DATE	PRICE
715 E Falcon Dr, Arlington Heights	Hope Fowkes	Francine Cosentino	11-03-16	\$125,000
2812 E Bel Aire Dr, # 101, Arlington Heights	Susan M Johlie	Michael D Splon	11-07-16	\$153,000
2812 E Aire Dr, # 101, Arlington Heights	Susan M Johlie	Michael S Splon	11-07-16	\$153,000
3129 N Daniels Ct, Arlington Heights	Iris C Garcia	Shok Beom Lee	11-07-16	\$195,000
911 N Chicago Ave, Arlington Heights	Brett H Hogen & Amanda V Hogen	Bryan D Ganek	11-07-16	\$275,000
1057 S Walnut Ave, Arlington Heights	Pawel Szczepankiewicz	Fannie Mae	11-02-16	\$283,000
1420 W Saint James Pl, Arlington Heights	Victor Rodriguez & Sara Rodriguez	Donald M Barretto	11-02-16	\$287,500
623 S Cleveland Ave, Arlington Heights	Brent M Salyards & Kimberlee A Salyards	Benjamin Ho	11-03-16	\$320,000
510 E Miner St, Arlington Heights	John R Schroeder & Patricia S Schroeder	James B Schubring	11-07-16	\$331,500
708 W Grove St, Arlington Heights	Connie Nurre & Gerald McGreevy	Gregory J Pindras	11-03-16	\$340,000
3133 N Walker Ln W, Arlington Heights	Tatyana Vaysberg	Brian Wise	11-07-16	\$370,000
119 E Orchard St, Arlington Heights	Michael F Maloney & Anna K Maloney	Gorny Trust	11-02-16	\$395,000
1614 S Surrey Ridge Dr, Arlington Heights	Wei Li & Yong Li	Gina DeFranceschi	11-03-16	\$429,000
118 S Forrest Ave, Arlington Heights	Brett Buynack & Kari Buynack	Right Residential II Fund I	11-03-16	\$565,000
630 N Salem Ave, Arlington Heights	Michael O Malley & Kelly C O Malley	Greenscape Homes Llc	11-04-16	\$670,000
1244 N Illinois Ave, Arlington Heights	Giuseppe Gambino	David J Ramsey	11-07-16	\$863,000
174 Raupp Blvd, Buffalo Grove	Viktorila Pankiv	Welstead Trust	11-03-16	\$133,500
101 Old Oak Dr, # 315, Buffalo Grove	Mary Ann Tuteru & Maureen Merczak	Sanford Gerber	11-03-16	\$152,000
2154 Apple Hill Ln, Buffalo Grove	Pankaj Tyagi & Neha Tyagi	Xiang Yu	10-24-16	\$215,000
1228 Clearview Ct, Buffalo Grove	Binod Kumar Singh & Munita Singh	Steven J Usher	10-24-16	\$229,000
1519 Quaker Hollow Ct S, Buffalo Grove	Tia Saarements & Mario Patrick Garcia	Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp	10-24-16	\$310,000
2426 Palazzo Dr, Buffalo Grove	Timothf Mah & Natash Mah	Kaho Ho	10-24-16	\$318,000
910 Lucinda Dr, Buffalo Grove	Susan Kochitty	Puthenpurackal C Kochitty	10-24-16	\$400,000
5 Springside Ct, Buffalo Grove	Robert Stawiariski & Anya Stawiariski	Richard A Drucker	10-24-16	\$465,000
9208 Bumble Bee Dr, # 1H, Des Plaines	Karina Garcia	Igor Ozerov	11-03-16	\$80,000
1283 E Washington St, # G, Des Plaines	Janina Trzcinska & Zbigniew Trzcinska	Vertex Re Inc	11-02-16	\$85,000
8910 Robin Dr, Des Plaines	Regeena Francis	Deutsche Bank Natl Trt Co Ttee	11-03-16	\$105,000
1632 Van Buren Ave, Des Plaines	Edilburg Giscard Artajo	Miguels Ruiz	11-03-16	\$119,000
1675 Mill St, # 203, Des Plaines	Mirko Glavanovic & Bojan Rasie	Hsbc Bank Usa Trustee	11-07-16	\$152,000
1302 E Washington St, # 3, Des Plaines	Michael J Bilek & Marta Bilek	John R Thomas Co	11-07-16	\$160,000
555 S River Rd, # 508, Des Plaines	Carl J Klimowicz	Deyan G Petkov	11-02-16	\$208,000
74 N Cumberland Pkwy, Des Plaines	James Arcuri & Christine Arcuri	Susan D Bandy	11-07-16	\$210,000
9104 Terrace Pl, Des Plaines	Mert H Kara	Eddy Mirko	10-31-16	\$212,000
1636 Ashland Ave, Des Plaines	Krystyna Walker	Barbara Szymel	11-03-16	\$213,000
1065 Greenview Ave, Des Plaines	Andreea R Zegrea	Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp	11-02-16	\$240,000
9341 Cedar Ln, Des Plaines	Manu Thulasi Balkrishnan & Devlya Vasudeva Panlcker	Joan D Colby Estate	11-02-16	\$252,500
2708 Joseph Ave, Des Plaines	Loredana Pop	Equity Trust Co	10-31-16	\$263,000
1835 Pratt Ave, Des Plaines	Michael W Contino	Alliance For Revitalized Commu	11-02-16	\$279,000
414 N Wolf Rd, Des Plaines	Carolyn Kitty	Christine L Mrozek	11-04-16	\$305,000
328 Calian Ave, Evanston	Yingmin Zhang	Marc D Osher	11-03-16	\$74,000
140 Clyde Ave, # 3E, Evanston	Cemal Yalcin	Amy Benning	11-03-16	\$90,000
717 Brummel St, # 2W, Evanston	Tania J O Connor & Cheru A Endale	Daniel Caldwell	11-04-16	\$125,000
2240 Central St, # 1G, Evanston	Benjamin Dale Prozinski	Holly P Clark	11-02-16	\$137,500
3361 Church St, Evanston	Madiha Khan & Amir Khan	Hubert Seales	11-02-16	\$270,000
1916 Keeney St, Evanston	Ryan J Hellenbrand & Whitney C Hellenbrand	Peter N Everds	11-07-16	\$359,000
527 Chicago Ave, # E, Evanston	Lorenzo Boni & Beata K Zalinska Boni	Bret T Murphy	11-07-16	\$440,000
529 Chicago Ave, # B, Evanston	Christopher J Burnham & Melinda S Russo	Sterling Mitchael Pavelec	11-04-16	\$492,500
527 Chicago Ave, # C, Evanston	Smriti Wagle	Jacqueline Brenner	11-02-16	\$495,000
4168 Cove Ln, # F, Glenview	Angie Zafirris	Gilboa Enterprises Llc	11-02-16	\$148,000
135 Washington St, Glenview	Pawel Lis	Ann August	11-03-16	\$335,000

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Morton Grove...Reduced to SELL! Impeccable quality built 6 room brick Ranch located in Park View School District 70! Oak floors under carpet. Large living room + separate formal dining room. 19' eat-in kitchen. Huge finished basement with rec room, laundry/utility room, workshop, pantry & tons of storage. All newer windows, roof, furnace & central air. Fenced yard with shed, 2 car brick garage & brick paver driveway. Super location near shopping, transportation, park/pool, forest preserve, bike & bridle trails, Park View School & Niles West HS! Mint Condition!!.....**\$297,000**



EVERYTHING YOU'VE EVER WISHED FOR!!

Morton Grove...Price Reduced! Spectacular 4 br-2 ½ bath brick Colonial Built in 2006! Dramatic 2-story foyer. Open kitchen-family rm concept for entertaining plus a separate formal dining room & living room that can be used as a library/office. Gorgeous island kitchen with 42" custom cabinets, SS appliances & Granite countertops. Oak floors throughout, Oak staircase, crown moldings +2 fireplaces. Master BR with FP, dramatic trayed, walk-in closet, 8' glass door to Juliet balcony & master bath with Jacuzzi +shower. Wood deck + fenced yard. 2 car garage.....**\$569,000**



SPECTACULAR "WOODLANDS" CONDO!

Morton Grove... 2 PRIME PARKING SPACES & STORAGE UNITS! Meticulous 1800 sq ft 2 BR-2 bath end unit condo is fully upgraded. Large gourmet kitchen with breakfast bar & eating area, Granite counters, SS appliances, wine fridge & custom cabinets. Custom bar with custom cabinets & glass. Large master bed/bath suite with 2 walk in closets & custom shelving. New solid oak doors & trim. Hardwood flooring in kitchen, living & dining room. Remodeled bath w/spa like shower & marble tile. In unit laundry. Large balcony. Park View School Dist. Near Transportation!.....**\$345,000**

COMMUNITY REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

ADDRESS	BUYER	SELLER	DATE	PRICE
4646 Linden Ave, Glenview	Kazimierz Kupiec	Eugeniusz Wojciechowiz	11-04-16	\$380,000
2137 Dauntless Dr, Glenview	Cesar F Pina & Sari R Pina	Development Solutions Gln Lic	11-02-16	\$579,000
3550 Vantage Ln, Glenview	George Varughese & Vincy G Varughese	Stilling Trust	11-02-16	\$820,000
2119 Stratford Ln, Glenview	Aamer Ahmed & Aisha Hussain	Renee A Dickman	11-02-16	\$865,000
626 Forest Rd, Glenview	Jennifer L Olsen & Geoffrey M Olsen	626 Forest Lic	11-02-16	\$1,390,000
4312 W Shamrock Ln, # 2G, Lake Zurich	Kevin Koch	Dennis Jagla	11-04-16	\$49,000
100 Clubhouse Ln, # 305, Lake Zurich	Shuqin Tao Denbleyker & John Denbleyker	Susan Gorecki	10-24-16	\$127,500
1245 William Dr, Lake Zurich	Marc S Goldsmith & Joanna M Goldsmith	Greenfield Trust	10-24-16	\$419,000
128 4th St, Libertyville	Anthony J Smith & Jennifer J Smith	Lorene J Schramm	10-24-16	\$247,500
123 N Stewart Ave, Libertyville	Kelly S Smith	James Devin	10-24-16	\$332,000
190 Westminster Way, Lincolnshire	Gregory St Ville	Vince S Haduch	10-24-16	\$290,000
10 Buckingham Pl, Lincolnshire	Scott A Josephson & Antonia Josephson	Michele N Lynch	10-24-16	\$345,000
6150 Mayfair St, # 4 6, Morton Grove	Syed H Kabalazeda & Ashraf Kabalazeda	Pok Jean Yang	10-31-16	\$285,000
8632 Narragansett Ave, Morton Grove	Andre E Garcia & Sandra Simovic	Cathy A Levine	10-31-16	\$362,500
7316 Church St, Morton Grove	John E Garcia & Julie K Reeves	Wha B Kang	11-07-16	\$382,500
834 W Partridge Ln, # 52, Mount Prospect	Kirti Kumar Patel & Subash-chandra Patel	First Bank	11-07-16	\$188,000
1313 N Peachtree Ln, Mount Prospect	Cynthia S Petros & Mark L Petros	Alva S Phillips Estate	11-07-16	\$258,500
907 E Central Rd, Mount Prospect	Than S Zual & Len M Zual	Susan A Duff	11-02-16	\$259,000
1411 S Fern Dr, Mount Prospect	Daniel R Helm & Mildred Helm	Joshua Slater	11-02-16	\$266,000
611 W Rand Rd, Mount Prospect	Luis O Rodriguez	Melissa Espinal	11-07-16	\$337,000
312 N Elmhurst Ave, Mount Prospect	Michael T Cavanagh & Deborah Cavanagh	James Paul Thompson	11-03-16	\$375,000
303 S Hi Lusi Ave, Mount Prospect	Todd Hatfield & Valerie M Hatfield	Jeffrey M Lange	11-03-16	\$460,000
2133 W Haven St, Mount Prospect	Nicholas Loebmatow & Anna Gordova	Baldini Trust	11-03-16	\$530,000
9128 W Terrace Dr, # 6M, Niles	Busbra Yonan	Us Bank Na Trustee	11-07-16	\$101,000
6600 W Wood River Dr, # 206, Niles	Noah Montgomery Parr & Suehui Parr	Ivana Djordjevic	11-04-16	\$147,000
8990 W Heathwood Cir, # 10D, Niles	Sangchel Chung & Hihyang Chung	Young H Won	11-04-16	\$198,000
8361 N Milwaukee Ave, Niles	Lina Toma & Benyaman Toma	Jacob Gartner Estate	11-03-16	\$211,000
8149 N Oketo Ave, Niles	Glen W Michelinl & Eve L Michelinl	Corazon L Bracerros	10-31-16	\$322,500
7333 W Greenleaf St, Niles	Christy J Featherstone	Euricle Merrero Iii	11-07-16	\$335,000
3853 N Parkway Dr, # 3D, Northbrook	Agnieszka Joanna Hruza	Taras Zakalyuk	11-04-16	\$100,000
3445 Barbary Dr, Northbrook	Heather Kavka & Gail Kavka	Lise Van Oostenbrugge Estate	11-07-16	\$290,000
4044 Lindenwood Ln, Northbrook	Jose K Thomas & Manju J Thomas	Owb Reo Lic	11-02-16	\$335,000
2763 Wilshire Ln, Northbrook	Young A Yoo	Young Sook Choi	11-07-16	\$360,000
1800 Mission Hills Rd, # 515, Northbrook	Michael Batler & Donna Batler	Sigele Trust	11-07-16	\$425,000
2412 Walters Ave, Northbrook	Fariba Behnain	Teich Trust	11-07-16	\$485,500
3067 Pawtucket Rd, Northbrook	Sarah Pascual	Us Bank Na Trustee	11-03-16	\$525,000
2820 Manor Dr, Northbrook	Ryan Springer	Charles A Foltz	11-03-16	\$550,000
2566 Audrey Ln, Northbrook	Nahid Vaisipour & Alan Ghannad	Liberty Bank For Savings	11-03-16	\$575,000
2259 Post Rd, Northbrook	Chao Wang & Zhenxian Wang	Edward Bruslc	11-07-16	\$732,500
845 Busse Hwy, # 206, Park Ridge	Jacob A Powers	Jogmen Trust	11-04-16	\$88,000
1005 Peterson Ave, # C, Park Ridge	Rajendra Manandhar & Merina Manandhar	George W Tommasi	11-07-16	\$210,000
1237 Grove Ave, Park Ridge	Luke J Garbarino & Mary Josephine Zefeldt	Waltraud Neugebauer	11-04-16	\$237,500
1721 S Prospect Ave, Park Ridge	Krystyna Kanla	Dorothy R Sandrock Estate	11-04-16	\$280,000
1208 Tyrell Ave, Park Ridge	Monica Muciaccia & Steven Chovanec	S&I Construction & Mgmt Lic	11-03-16	\$340,000
1128 Gilllick St, Park Ridge	Joanna Stawarz	Bank Of New York Mellon Ttee	11-03-16	\$342,000
407 N Home Ave, Park Ridge	John J Weber III & Kara K Weber	Matthew M Baranowicz	11-07-16	\$415,000
307 S Northwest Hwy, # 4, Park Ridge	Carlos Orjuela & Yelitza Hernandez	Ryan K Williams	11-03-16	\$487,000
303 S Northwest Hwy, # 6, Park Ridge	Kevin F White & Debra W White	Brighton Mews Venture Lic	11-04-16	\$571,500
42 Meacham Ave, Park Ridge	Neil Machchhar & Bina Machchhar	Hinkiel Park Development Llc	11-02-16	\$696,500

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

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



DUCK BRAND

Poufs are less expensive than other seating options and project a relaxed, inviting feel.

A cozy home on a budget

MyDomaine

For all the frigid months ahead when weekends are meant to be spent indoors, creating a cozy environment becomes a primary focus.

Nothing makes winter more enjoyable than bundling up in a luxe throw with a cup of tea and relishing in a fragrant scented candle with a good book or a Netflix binge session. But while we're busy crossing off dozens of presents on our holiday shopping list and getting our homes ready for entertaining season, our wallets might not be flush with cash for redecorating this time of year.

Luckily, many small tricks can make your home feel extra cozy. Try these seven easy ways to make the place you live the comfiest winter cave ever — without breaking the bank.

Faux fur is your friend.

A faux-fur throw feels incredibly luxurious. Whether it's placed on the back of a chair, draped over the arm of a sofa or layered over a footstool, the plush texture screams "high end" while providing warmth — aesthetically and in reality. Outposts like CB2 and World Market often have

faux-fur blankets for less.

Arrange candles in clusters.

Candleholders, votives or even simple white pillar candles in various sizes grouped in clusters make a home feel cozier by creating a warm ambience. They are the ultimate mood setter, and they're inexpensive.

Stack books on books.

Books can be purchased en masse without breaking the bank and lend your space the collected feel of a library. Hit up garage and estate sales in your area, and keep in mind that many local schools often hold book sales around the holidays, during which old hardcover books can be snatched up in dollar bins.

Poufs are preferred.

Moroccan and similar poufs are far less expensive seating options than chairs and sofas, and they project a laid-back and inviting vibe. The cushy pieces close to the ground beckon guests to gather around for a relaxing affair, versus the harder lines of more traditional seating options.

Dark paint creates depth and drama.

A can of paint is one of

the most cost-savvy ways to transform a room.

Though white walls have their place, the airy Scandinavian look isn't the warmest aesthetic. Instead, deep dark colors like black, slate gray, green, burgundy and navy — together with layered textures like faux fur and velvet — evoke the feeling of a cozy hideaway. Try painting your white room, or even just your trim or fireplace, in a dark tone for winter.

Art adds personality.

You know what doesn't scream cozy? Sparse walls. Nothing makes a home feel more lived-in and personal than walls covered in a collection of art and photographs. Thankfully it's easy to cover your surroundings with interesting visuals without spending much; try scouring flea markets for old movie posters or searching online sources for inexpensive art.

Embrace wood accents.

Wooden pieces, such as footstools, benches or side tables, evoke the feeling of a ski lodge. If wood pieces aren't in your budget, a basket or pile of artfully arranged chopped wood feels just as impactful, even if you don't have a fireplace.

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

Thursday, Dec. 8

14th Annual Winter Arts and Crafts Expo: This event features works by 140 artists and includes original, handmade works of jewelry, ceramics, fiber, metal, glass, painting, photography, mixed media and more. All proceeds from the Expo benefit the ongoing exhibition, education, and outreach programs at the Art Center. 10 a.m. daily, Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-5300

Tseng Kwong Chi: Performing for the Camera: Tseng Kwong Chi produced a large body of witty, playful, performance-based photography that both captured the pivotal downtown Manhattan art and club scenes of the 1980s and reflected the increasingly globalized movement of people across nations and continents. "Tseng Kwong Chi: Performing for the Camera" is the first major solo museum exhibition of his works. 10 a.m. Thursday-Sunday, Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, 40 Arts Cir Drive, Evanston, free, 847-491-4000

"Years of Living Dangerously" Watch Party: If you are looking to take action on climate change, come join in watching and discussing an episode from the National Geographic series "Years of Living Dangerously." Please RSVP to: evanstoncitizensclimatelobby.org if attending. 7 p.m. Thursday, Creative Coworking, 922 Davis St., Evanston, free

Wonderland Express at Chicago Botanic Garden: Chicago Botanic Garden hosts its annual Wonderland Express presented by ComEd, with 750,000 lights illuminating the entrance of this 100 percent LED exhibition. Tour the magical landscape of model railroads winding through Chicago landmarks. 10 a.m. daily, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, \$11-\$13, 847-835-5440

"The Hunter and The Bear": 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Friday, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Sunday, 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Writers Theatre, 325 Tudor Court, Glencoe, \$35-\$80, 847-242-6000

Holiday Store at The Grove: Escape the mall and find the holiday spirit at The Grove. Discover unique gift items for all those special people on your list, including personalized ornaments, home accessories, gifts and crafts. Pro-

ceeds from the sale benefit The Grove. 10 a.m. Thursday-Sunday and 10 a.m. Wednesday, The Grove, 1421 Milwaukee Ave., Glenview, free, 847-299-6096

Thursday Morning with Mrs. Schmitt Ages 2 and Adult: Mrs. Schmitt brings her stories and fun to the library for those aged two and up with an adult, so just drop in. 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Much Ado about Mysteries: The discussion topic is Holiday Crime: More Than Just Mistletoe Mysteries. 7 p.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Niles Songwriters: Local songwriters meet on the second Thursday of the month at the library's Lower Level to discuss their craft and play their music. Acoustic instruments are welcome. 7 p.m. Thursday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Age of the Dinosaurs: Dinosaurs are flying, swimming and running into-Northbrook Court this holiday season! Located on the second floor across from the AMC movie theater above the children's play area, Age of the Dinosaurs transports visitors of all ages to the prehistoric glory days of the dinosaurs, when they ruled the world before going extinct. 10 a.m. daily, Northbrook Court, 2171 Northbrook Court, Northbrook, \$6 at the door

Storytime for Twos with adult: Stories and songs specially chosen for 2-year-olds and an adult. Siblings are welcome. 9:30 a.m. Thursday and 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

Busy Bees Playgroup: Join us for a story, a song, and lots of playtime for kids newly born to age 4. Siblings welcome. 11 a.m. Thursday, Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

Storytime for Threes with adult: Stories, songs and fun for 3-year-olds. Siblings are welcome. 10:15 a.m. Thursday and 10:15 a.m. Wednesday, Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

Park Ridge Toastmasters Meeting: This is the Park Ridge Toastmasters bi-weekly meeting. All are welcome to join for impromptu speaking, prepared speeches, jokes and much more. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, First United Methodist

Church, 418 Touhy Ave., Park Ridge, free, 224-715-5128

Karaoke Thursdays: Enjoy some great pizza and sing a tune or two. 7 p.m. Thursday, Perry's Pizza and Ribs, 711 Devon Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-823-4422

Santa HQ at Fashion Outlets of Chicago: Fashion Outlets of Chicago has partnered with HGTV to introduce Santa HQ: a thoroughly modern, extraordinarily experiential visit with Santa for shoppers to enjoy this holiday season. The new Santa HQ invites families to experience the wonder of Santa's workshop utilizing digital tools to offer an augmented reality environment and a new and enhanced social media experience. 11 a.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. Friday-Sunday and 11 a.m. Monday-Wednesday, Fashion Outlets of Chicago, 5220 Fashion Outlets Way, Rosemont, \$34.99, 847-928-7500

Brush with Nature 2016 Exhibition: Come to enjoy the artworks on display. Local artists include: Adrienne Aaronson, Stephanie Rose Bird, Tiger Lily Cross, Jan Flapan, Steve Johnson, Mary Longe, Debra Nichols, Fred Polito, Naomi Pollak, Amanda Roman and Ray Vlcek. 8 a.m. daily, Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, free, 847-674-1500

"Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley": 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday, 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Sunday and 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, \$30-\$81, 847-673-6300

Friday, Dec. 9

Shame Resilience Hiding in Plain Sight: Mental health professionals can attend this conference where they learn how shame plays a powerful role in people's views of themselves, how it contributes to addictions and self-destructive behaviors, and how therapists can help their patients deal more effectively with shame. 8 a.m. Friday, Yellowbrick, 1560 Sherman Ave., Evanston, free, 866-364-2300

"Joseph's Gift" A Christmas Chamber Opera: This is the world premiere of an opera filled with beautiful music and memorable tunes for the whole family. This is a retelling of the Christmas story from Joseph's point of view. It is sung in English with super titles, with a cast of over 30 singers, a 20 piece professional orchestra, costumes, sets and lighting. 7:30 p.m. Friday, 7:30 p.m.

Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday, St Matthews Episcopal Church, 2120 Lincoln St., Evanston, \$25-50 adults, \$15 students 12 and under; group rates available, 847-869-9447

Piccolo Theatre "The Snow Queen": Best friends Kai and Gerda are separated by the enchanted broken mirror of the fierce Snow Queen. With colorful comrades Erick, Derick and Dame Grandmother, the shy Gerda must find the hero within as she quests across a wintry wonderland to save Kai, facing trolls, pesky snowflakes and other magical obstacles. 7:30 p.m. Friday, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Piccolo Theatre, 600 Main St., Evanston, \$10-\$25, 847-424-0089

Chicago Master Singers Christmas Concert: Chicago Master Singers' Christmas concert features the Ars Viva Brass ensemble with harp. 7:30 p.m. Friday and 7 p.m. Sunday, Techny Towers, 2001 Waukegan Road, Northbrook, \$15-\$48, 877-825-5267

Picasso and Paris - A Salon with Gertrude Stein: For forty years, Gertrude Stein's Left Bank home was a Saturday evening gathering place in 1920s Paris for expatriate American artists and writers, most notably Pablo Picasso. Entree into the Stein salon was much sought after, and Gertrude Stein became mentor, critic and guru to many. Betsey Means portrays this fascinating woman. 1 p.m. Friday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, \$12 NSSC members: \$15 non-member, 847-784-6030

Holiday Open House: Join us for our Annual Holiday Open House Tasting featuring 15 plus wines to try on Friday and Saturday. Wine, snacks, raffles, sales and more. 5:30 p.m. Friday and 2 p.m. Saturday, WineStyles Park Ridge, 105 South Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, free, 847-518-9463

Crafternoons for All Ages: Come make a craft in the children's department! Drop in anytime between 4 and 5 p.m. 4 p.m. Friday, Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

The Hip Hop Nutcracker: A combination of Tchaikovsky's "Nutcracker" and a DJ with spot-on dance moves. 7:30 p.m. Friday, Rosemont Theater, 5400 North River Road, Rosemont, \$55+

Saturday, Dec. 10

Family Concert: Duke It Out! This-

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"Nutcracker" performance pairs the classical (Tchaikovsky) and jazz (Duke Ellington/Billy Strayhorn) versions of the holiday favorite. 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$7

Willard Elementary School Annual Craft Fair: Willard Elementary School hosts its annual Kids' Holiday Craft Fair featuring a variety of handmade crafts, holiday decorations and unique items of all kinds. 9 a.m. Saturday, Willard Elementary School, 2700 Hurd Ave., Evanston, free, 847-733-2100

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 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, \$3 kids, \$5 adults, 847-475-1030

Holiday Open House: This family friendly event at their new location in Evanston at Little Beans Cafe offers: family photo shoots, holiday hula hooping, crafts, block building with Lux Blox, storytelling, indoor snowball throwing, ice fishing, karaoke and so much more. 4 p.m. Saturday, Little Beans Evanston, 430 Asbury Ave., Evanston, free, 847-807-3731

Toot Toot North Shore and Western Model Railroad Club: Don't miss the Community Room's annual transformation into a model railroad paradise. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Plan on just dropping in. 9 a.m. Saturday and 1 p.m. Sunday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Breakfast with Santa: Santa Claus is stopping by to enjoy breakfast with you and your family! New this year: carving station, side dishes and dessert table. \$19.95 per adult includes a complimentary mimosa (plus tax and gratuity), \$11.95 per children 13 and under. Children under 2 years are free. Space is limited. Call The Cafe to make your reservation. 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Saturday and 9 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Sunday, The Cafe at Glenview Park Golf Club, 800 Shermer Road, Glenview, \$11.95 to \$19.95 plus, 847-657-3200

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

Ugly Christmas Sweater Party: Grades 6-12 teens dress up in holiday style and design glitter felt Christmas sweater ornaments and feast on holiday treats. 2 p.m. Saturday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Breakfast With Santa: Enjoy a scrumptious breakfast buffet at All-gauer's on the Riverfront's annual Breakfast With Santa. Kids are able to decorate their own holiday cookies and meet Santa Claus! Make reservations by calling for one of the Saturday morning seatings. 8:30 a.m. Saturday, Hilton Northbrook Hotel, 2855 Milwaukee Ave., Northbrook, \$12.95, 847-664-7999

Pound and Ounce Pop-Up Dinner Series: These intimate events accommodate 24 guests per seating. During each dining experience, guests are treated to six seasonally driven courses made with the highest quality meats and hyper-local produce. In addition, guests can expect a fun, casual atmosphere and lots of interaction with Sean Hofherr and Chef Bisioulis. Cost: \$75 per person, inclusive of tax and gratuity. 7 p.m. Saturday, Hofherr Meat Co., 300 N Happ Road, Northfield, \$75, 847-441-6328

Second Saturday Storytime for All Ages: Stories and crafts for the whole family. 10 a.m. Saturday, Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

B96 Jingle Bash: Britney Spears: This event also features The Chain-smokers and Shawn Mendes. 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Allstate Arena, 6920 Mannheim Road, Rosemont, \$70-\$175, 847-635-6601

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

Wintertanz: Beit Musica (House of Music) at Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah, will hold its premier event-Wintertanz, a Jewish dance party for all ages with the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band. Cash bar available. 7 p.m. Saturday, Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah, 3220 Big Tree Lane, Wilmette, Suggested donation \$18, 847-256-1213

Coriolis a cappella Concert Winnetka: Coriolis presents its 30th anniversary holiday concerts. Join in for festive melodies and lush harmonies, including a cappella settings by Bach, Burt, Biebl,

Applebaum, Lauridsen, Poulenc, Sweelinck and more. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Christ Church Winnetka, 784 Sheridan Road, Winnetka, \$25; Youth \$10, 847-869-6884

Sunday, Dec. 11

Music Institute Chorale Concert: Curtains Up: Enjoy a celebration of music of the stage in collaboration with the voice faculty of Music Institute of Chicago and the Chicago Children's Choir. 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Nichols Concert Hall, Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston, Adults: \$15; Seniors: \$10; Students: \$7, 847-905-1500

Holiday Baroque: Rembrandt's annual Holiday Baroque concert is a Chicago tradition that truly signals the beginning of the holiday season. The members of Rembrandt perform beautiful baroque music, including Corelli's Christmas Concerto, a Bach cantata featuring the sparkling artistry of soprano Josefien Stoppelenburg and Bach's Italian Concerto, performed by renowned harpsichordist David Schrader. 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Alice Millar Chapel, Northwestern University, 1870 Sheridan Road, Evanston, \$38 General; \$10 Student, 872-395-1754

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

Winter Wonderland Train Ride: Board the Winter Wonderland Train bound for the Libertyville Train Station. Along the way, enjoy reading a holiday story. Once in Libertyville, savor a meal at Egg Harbor Cafe. Santa joins the group on the way back to Glenview and he has a special gift for each child. Register at glenviewparks.org. 1:14 p.m. Sunday, North Glenview Metra Train Station, 3000 Old Willow Road, Glenview, \$27-\$41

Critic's Choice: "My King": After a serious skiing accident a woman begins the difficult process of healing her body and her turbulent relationship with her husband. 2 p.m. Sunday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

A Hidden History of Dickens' "A Christmas Carol": Find out all about this Yule time favorite as we host author Rochelle Pennington for a fascinating discussion of the Victorian classic, in the

Morton Grove Historical Museum Education Center. Call to reserve a seat or for more information. 2 p.m. Sunday, Morton Grove Historical Museum, 6148 Dempster St., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-0203

Second Sunday Family Specials: Damen Avenue Puppets: Interactive puppets will perform beloved childhood tales with the audience joining in. Join us for the Tortoise and the Hare, the Three Little Pigs, and more. 2 p.m. Sunday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Fine Arts Fall Tutti Chamber Orchestra: The Tutti Chamber Orchestra performs traditional repertoire as well as new arrangements which focus on eastern European repertoire, striving to present programs which appeal to the widest possible audience. 2 p.m. Sunday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

St. Norbert Cookie Walk: St. Norbert Women's Council hosts their annual Cookie Walk, where guests may purchase a box to fill with homemade holiday cookies and treats. The Cookie walk takes place in Grace Hall at St. Norbert. 8:30 a.m. Sunday, St. Norbert, 1809 Walters Ave., Northbrook, free, 847-272-7090

Author Irina Reyn at Bernard Weinger JCC in Northbrook: In celebration of Jewish Book Month, hear award-winning author Irina Reyn. This year's selection is Reyn's new book, "The Imperial Wife." 10 a.m. Sunday, Bernard Weinger JCC, 300 Revere Dr., Northbrook, \$5, 312-322-1756

Second Sunday Community Breakfast: Everyone is invited to join us for food, conversation, and fun. Eggs, casseroles, fruits and the baked goods you crave will be there. 9 a.m. Sunday, St. Giles Episcopal Church, 3025 Walters Ave., Northbrook, free, 847-262-6622

An Advent Christmas Musical Extravaganza: One Tree Many Branches Concert Series presents A Light Still Shines. Come and enjoy this Advent musical presentation featuring our adult and children's choruses combined with full orchestra, narration, dance, story telling and image, complete with Saint Lucia Festival! 4:30 p.m. Sunday, Lutheran Church of the Ascension, 460 Sunset Ridge Road, Northfield, free, 847-446-8335

Melkin Puppet Theatre: Join in a special puppet show production of beloved stories, "The Shoemaker and the Elves" and "The Night Before Christmas," followed by a meet and

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greet with the puppets! There is a \$3 fee per person for non-Park Ridge Library cardholders. 2 p.m. Sunday, Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

Trans-Infinity Orchestra: 5 p.m. Sunday, Joe's Live Rosemont, 5441 Park Place, Rosemont, \$12+

Annual Christmas Concert I Heard the Bells: This year's WPC traditional-concert is entitled, "I Heard the Bells." It pays homage to the beloved poem written by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow in the middle of the Civil War. The afternoon provides music and joy to a world still in need of "peace on earth, goodwill to all." Childcare is provided. 4 p.m. Sunday, Winnetka Presbyterian Church, 1255 Willow Road, Winnetka, free, 847-446-7777

Monday, Dec. 12

Digital Demos in the Lobby: Ask the experts about the Library's digital ebook, audiobook, magazine, movie, TV show, and music collections. Also, learn how to download items to your mobile device from hoopla, MyMediaMall, and Zinio. 2 p.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Mindfulness and Mental Health: NAMI Cook County North Suburban is hosting a Public Education program on Mindfulness. Learn how Mindfulness can contribute to managing and recovering from a mental health condition. 3:30 p.m. Monday, Midwest Palliative & Hospice Care Center, 2050 Claire Court, Glenview, free, 847-716-2252

Adult Book Discussion: This book discussion at the Lincolnwood Community Center, features "My Brilliant Friend" by Elena Ferrante. 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.

World of Yiddish Adult Lecture Series Program: Join Stewart Figa in a three-part lecture series on Yiddish appreciation. Yiddish songs, poetry, literature, history, lore and more are discussed at each session. 7 p.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-

965-4220

MGPL Kids: Monday Morning Playgroup: Drop-in play time for preschoolers with a parent or caregiver to introduce young children to the library in a low-key, unstructured session. 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

Virgin of Guadalupe Bilingual Eucharist: Bilingual Eucharist to celebrate the feast of the Virgin of Guadalupe. A casual reception follows. 7 p.m. Monday, St. Giles Episcopal Church, 3025 Walters Ave., Northbrook, free, 847-272-6622

Science vs. Religion is Not What It Used to Be: Rabbi Bronstein explores the ideas such as the conflict between the scientific account of Evolution versus the Biblical story of Creation going back to the 19th century. 10 a.m. Monday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, \$19 NSSC members; \$25 non-members, 847-784-6030

Teddy Bear Time for Ages 12-24 months with adult: Stories, songs and fingerplays for children from 12 through 24 months with an adult. Siblings are welcome. 9:30 a.m. Monday and 11 a.m. Tuesday, Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

Free Walking Clinic: Learn to get the most benefit out of walking as exercise in Gillson Park. A certified, personal trainer teaches the class, which includes a warm-up, stretching, inclines, steps, balance and coordination. All fitness levels welcome. 5:30 p.m. Monday, Gillson Park, Lake Ave & Michigan Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-251-6834

Tuesday, Dec. 13

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

Santa's Magical Trolley Express: Enjoy a trolley ride while listening to

Mrs. Claus read the classic Christmas story, "The Polar Express." Be greeted at the North Pole with songs & games by the elves, cookies and cocoa with Mrs. Claus, and a special personal visit with Santa. 10 a.m., 11 a.m., noon, 1 p.m., 2 p.m., 3:30 p.m., 4:30 p.m., 5:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Little Beans Cafe, 430 Asbury Ave., Evanston, \$55; Free for infants under 12 months, 847-807-3731

Baby Signs for Birth to Age 3: Pre-readers learn sign language with their families through new vocabulary, songs, and play activities. This is led by Jamie Stevens, ASL interpreter and certified Baby Signs instructor. Please register at glenviewpl.org/register or call. 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

All That Glitters Is Silver and Gold: Ever wonder what your old coins or gold and silver jewelry are worth? Whether you are planning on gifting your collections or trading items in for extra cash, expert Dave Ekstrom offers advice on collecting and valuing items. Bring in one coin and a gold or silver piece for a free appraisal. Please register at glenviewpl.org/register or call. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

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

Beginning Square Dance Classes: Have fun and learn to square dance. No experience necessary. No partner required. Dress casually. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, free first lesson; Registration for 9-week session \$46/\$54., 847-724-5670

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

The Fracking Controversy: Hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking," has been created to release vast reserves of natural gas deep within rock formations, involving deep wells and explosive charges that break up the rocks releasing the gas. Why fracking? Why is it such a complicated economic and geo-

political issue? Jim Kenny explores this discussion. 1 p.m. Tuesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, \$12 NSSC members; \$15 non-member, 847-784-6030

Storytime for Fours and Fives: Join in this storytime, but please, no adults or siblings. 10:15 a.m. Tuesday, Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

Baby Bounce Storytime for Birth to 12 months with adult: Join in this storytime, which is just for babies! Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes and a playtime at the end! Doors open at 9 a.m. and siblings are welcome. 9:15 a.m. Tuesday, Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

Lehrhaus Confirmation Class: Post-Bar/Bat Mitzvah teenagers are invited to participate in this program which teaches young people how to utilize Jewish resources when faced with making a decision. This is a fascinating three-year program. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Ezra Habonim, The Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, \$420 for entire year plus book fees, 847-675-4141

LinkedIn 1: Hands-on workshop to learn website navigation, profile construction, and settings management. To register for Career Moves workshops, visit https://jvschicago-syhum.formstack.com/forms/career_identity. 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Goldie Bachmann Luftig Building, 5150 Golf Road, Skokie, Workshop Fees: Career Moves clients: \$10 per workshop and non-clients: \$20 per workshop, 847-745-5460

Great Books Discussion Group: Meets on the second Tuesday of each 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, Dec. 14

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.,

Turn to Calendar, Next Page

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Evanston, free, 847-448-8610

SAT or ACT? Choosing the Right Test: C2 Education explains the differences between SAT and ACT tests and how the new Illinois rule affects students. Register at glenviewpl.org/register or call. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

"Young Frankenstein": This is a part of the Library's Classics on Wednesday Film Series. 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Is the World Economy Facing Global Contraction?: The decline of economic growth rates in many countries seems to indicate long-term contraction. China, sub-Saharan Africa, and parts of South America now are facing a decline in rates of growth, and the U.S., Japan, and Western Europe growth can be described as anemic. Peter Hudis explores the extent to which growth rates are declining as well as the reasons for it. 1 p.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, \$10 NSSC member; \$13 non-mem-

ber, 847-784-6030

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

Park Ridge Fly Tying Club Meetings: Chicago Fly Fishers Club meet at 7 p.m. Wednesdays, from October through May. An experienced demonstrator does demonstrations of fly tying, with members tying the same pattern using tools and materials provided by the club. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Park Ridge Community Church, 100 S Courtland Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-823-3164

Pokemon Club Grades K-6: Bring your own cards and meet up with fellow Pokemon fans. 4:15 p.m. Wednesday, Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

Twenty-first Star Chapter NSDAR

December Meeting 2016: The Twenty-first Star Chapter of the NSDAR holds their luncheon, served at noon with a meeting and program to follow. The Maine South Vocal Jazz Ensemble presents a program entitled "Christmas in Song." Contact Second Vice Regent Dorothy Wilson at 847-328-6946 for further details. 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Park Ridge Country Club, 636 North Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, \$22, 847-328-6946

Monthly Networking Holiday Luncheon: Join the Park Ridge Chamber for our Annual Holiday Luncheon at Capital Grille. 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Capital Grille, 5340 N. River Road, Rosemont, \$25 member, \$30 prospective member, 847-825-3121

Kiss FM Jingle Ball: This event features performances by Ariana Grande, Ellie Goulding, and the Backstreet Boys. 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Allstate Arena, 6920 Mannheim Road, Rosemont, \$30-\$115, 847-635-6601

Networking: An interactive workshop for you to learn and practice networking techniques that expand your job search capabilities including how to develop "elevator speeches", and how to design handbills. To register for Career Moves

workshops, visit https://jvschicago-syhum.formstack.com/forms/career_identity. 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Goldie Bachmann Luftig Building, 5150 Golf Road, Skokie, Workshop fees: Career Moves clients: \$10 per workshop and non-clients: \$20 per workshop, 847-745-5460

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. 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, First Congregational Church of Wilmette, 1125 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-251-6660

Wednesday Night Church Activities: Their Wednesday night all-church family nights begin with dinner at 5:45 p.m., followed by singing and skits for all ages together. Afterward, youth programs and adult studies are broken out by age. 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, Winnetka Covenant Church, 1200 Hibbard Road, Wilmette, \$5-\$12, 847-446-4300

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NOW PLAYING

**"Moana" ★★★**

PG, 1:53, animated

Featuring songs by "Hamilton" creator Lin-Manuel Miranda, the animated musical adventure "Moana" is bright, busy, enjoyable and progressive without being insufferable. Moana, voiced by Hawaiian actress Auli'i Cravalho, is the daughter of a Pacific Islands chieftain. She must get in touch with her seafaring ancestry and leave her island, Motunui, on a long journey. After a brush with death, she washes ashore on a small island where she meets the

Polynesian demigod Maui, voiced by Dwayne Johnson. The score's signature power ballad, "How Far I'll Go," may well take its rightful place alongside "Frozen's" big hit, "Let It Go," in the female-empowerment earworm department. I prefer Miranda's contribution; like the rest of "Moana," it works. — *Michael Phillips*

**"Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" ★★★**

PG-13, 2:13, action/adventure

In handsome, generally diverting fashion, "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," directed by Potter alum David Yates and adapted by J. K. Rowling from her 2001 book, takes us not to Hogwarts but to 1920s America. Eddie Redmayne plays shy, sweet Newt Scamander, a "magizoologist" by training and a Hogwarts-bred wizard who devotes his life to the collection, care and feeding of a wide variety of beasties. Potter fans will likely

enjoy this first of a planned quintet of "Fantastic Beasts" outings. — *M.P.*

**"Doctor Strange" ★★★**

PG-13, 1:55, action/adventure

"Doctor Strange," starring Benedict Cumberbatch as a neurosurgeon who learns to bend time, space and his workaholic, narcissistic ways, can't escape all its Marvel Universe corporate imperatives and generic third-act battles for control of the planet. But you know? This latest in the ever-broadening Marvel movie landscape is fun. For an effects-laden franchise launch it's light on its feet, pretty stylish, and full of tasty, classy performers enlivening

the dull bits. I wish Rachel McAdams had a couple more scenes as Strange's fellow doctor, but some of her screen time, no doubt, went instead to sight gags featuring the Cloak of Levitation. That cloak is a pleasure, a supporting player of wit and distinction, emblematic of the best of "Doctor Strange." — *M.P.*

**"Allied" ★★**

R, 2:04, drama

In the swank but waxy World War II-era Robert Zemeckis film "Allied," starring Brad Pitt and Marion Cotillard, we're in the land of patently artificial intrigue, as opposed to fakery trying to be, in any sense, real. The two pose as French wife and husband, infiltrating Vichy high society. Mission: to kill a top-ranking German ambassador and then go their separate ways. The Casablanca rooftop conversations between Max (Pitt) and Marianne (Cotillard)

lay the groundwork for a slow-burning romance. But the matches are damp: Pitt does not hold up his 50 percent. — *M.P.*

**"Arrival" ★★★**

PG-13, 1:56, sci-fi

The alien spacecraft in "Arrival" arrive by the dozen, looking like the latest in KitchenAid gadgetry writ large. Director Denis Villeneuve is one sleek craftsman: every subtle camera crawl, each darkness-shrouded visual composition conspires to unsettle us and hold us in a state of dread or wonder, without being cheap about it. Louise (Amy Adams), a linguistics professor, is brought in to translate the otherworldly beeps and pops and guttural

soundings emitted by the inhabitants of the spacecraft. "Arrival" will cast a spell on some while merely discombobulating others. — *M.P.*

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CENTRAL SUBURBAN LANDMARK

CSL gains ground during impressive 2016 season

BY STEVE REAVEN
Pioneer Press

Central Suburban League comrades Maine South and Vernon Hills ended the 2016 football season doing what every school in Illinois dreams of: Playing on Thanksgiving weekend for a chance at a state title.

The Hawks added another chapter to their illustrious tradition on Nov. 26 by snapping defending champion Loyola's 30-game win streak with a 27-17 victory in the Class 8A final at Memorial Stadium in Champaign.

First-time finalist and CSL North newcomer Vernon Hills wasn't as fortunate, losing a 62-48 shootout to Peoria in the Class 5A final earlier that day.

Despite the Cougars' loss, the two title-game appearances capped a season in which the CSL arguably performed at a higher level from top to bottom than at any other time in recent memory.

"We had a good — not great — regular season, but we were able to get hot at the right time," Maine South coach Dave Inserra said. "The combination of tough competition and really good coaching in the league helped put us in position to have success in the playoffs."

The numbers back up Inserra's intuition.

Never before had two CSL teams played for state titles during the same season. In all, seven of the league's 12 programs qualified for the playoffs, with Glenbrook North (9-2) and New Trier (8-3) also winning at least one postseason game.

Only four of the 12 CSL teams won fewer games this season than in 2015. Of those four, two teams (New Trier and Deerfield) still



JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Maine South players celebrate their win against Loyola in the Class 8A title game on Nov. 26 in Champaign. The Hawks rebounded after their 77-game CSL South win streak ended against New Trier. Vernon Hills also represented the CSL in a state title game.

made it back to the playoffs.

Perhaps no piece of data speaks louder to the conference's overall strength than the fact that neither Maine South nor Vernon Hills won a division title.

"I think a big reason (for success) is the coaching turnover," said New Trier coach Brian Doll, who just finished his third year leading his alma mater. "Some new head coaches have come in, like at Maine West and Highland Park, and they've brought new ideas and beliefs. There's always a natural surge of energy when that happens."

The Trevians have indeed experienced a considerable uptick under Doll. They've won an average of nine games per season since 2014. Before Doll took over the program, New Trier had only one nine-win season from 1997-2013.

New Trier also snapped

Maine South's remarkable 77-game CSL South win streak this fall.

Second-year Highland Park coach Joe Horeni orchestrated a jump from three wins in 2015 to a 7-3 finish this season. The Giants tied with Glenbrook North atop the CSL North, though the Spartans owned the head-to-head tiebreaker.

And Jason Kradman's reclamation project at perennial cellar dweller Maine West has also shown solid headway. The Warriors (4-5) ended the fall just shy of their first playoff berth since 2002. The Warriors had won only 19 games in the previous 10 years.

Maine West turned heads by knocking off Vernon Hills in Week 6, and the team's respectable 13-0 loss to Rolling Meadows served as the Mustangs' closest game in their undefeated

regular season.

"The first thing we focused on was completely changing the culture and getting kids to buy in," Kradman said. "It takes time, though. We had a senior-laden team, but we're excited about a lot of the guys coming back, and the younger classes have become invested in the future."

In addition to new blood on the sidelines, there appear to be other factors at play in the CSL's potency. One obvious change was the addition of Vernon Hills, a relatively new school with a burgeoning program, and the subtraction of Waukegan, which has never won a playoff game and has one postseason appearance in the last 21 years.

Several coaches pointed to long-standing or improving youth programs in their

respective areas that provide a healthy pipeline of talent.

Longtime Glenbrook North coach Bob Pieper took this premise one step further, citing parents as playing key roles in helping fortify the commitment often demanded of players. Pieper also noted the importance of finding well-rounded athletes.

"College coaches want to see you playing multiple sports," he said. "There's a lot of research saying that specialization doesn't work anymore."

The first year of the Central Suburban League's two-year contract for non-conference games with the Mid-Suburban League also garnered positive feedback. Among the reasons this benefited the CSL was that teams no longer had to count on conference cross-over games for nonconfer-

ence wins. Under the previous arrangement, each CSL South win would also be a CSL North loss, and vice versa.

And while no single ingredient stands solely responsible for the league's widespread gains, one component is indisputable: Success helps breed success.

"It's important for us to capitalize on the run we had, especially in the community," Vernon Hills coach Bill Bellecomo said. "Our younger guys had five extra weeks of practice (during the playoffs), plus they experienced some big-game atmospheres. They'll be a big part of the sustained success we hope to develop."

Steve Reaven is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @Pioneer_Press

Senior guard Stritzel helps lead Notre Dame past Loyola

BY JAKUB RUDNIK
Pioneer Press

In Notre Dame's first four boys basketball games, senior shooting guard Matt Stritzel was the Dons' offensive star, averaging 22.3 points and scoring at least 25 in three games. But in their fifth game, against Loyola on Friday at UIC Pavilion in the Chicago Elite Classic, he scored two points and struggled to find his rhythm. However, Stritzel made perhaps the biggest play of the game on the other end of the court.

The Dons led by two with seconds remaining as Loyola senior Ramar Evans brought the ball up court. Stritzel defended him. As the clock ticked below three seconds, Evans tried to cross over, but Stritzel stripped it, taking the ball away and running out the clock as Notre Dame won 44-42 in overtime.

"Yeah, I was struggling, the way they guarded me and stuff," said Stritzel, a Norwood Park resident. "I was trying to help out in any way I could, and (the steal) was that way I guess."

Size advantage

Notre Dame coach Tom Les told his team before the game, and throughout it, to pound the ball inside, and for good reason. Then Dons had the four tallest players in the game, and frequently used lineups with three players listed 6-foot-5 or taller.

Those four — seniors Sean Johnson (6-9), Jeameril Wilson (6-6) and Chris Heinichen (6-5), and junior Dusan Mahorcic (6-8) — accounted for 26 of the Dons' 44 points. Heinichen, who scored 11 points, was particularly effective. He scored in a variety of ways: putting back rebounds, finishing an up-and-under layup and knocking down a face-up jumper.

"It came down to toughness," said Heinichen, an Edison Park resident. "They're physical down low, but I thought we out-toughed them down low. I thought we were tough and able to get some boards that way."

Evans remains aggressive

Evans is a three-year starter for the Ramblers and a top returning player. Despite giving up size all game long, the Division-II Maryville (St. Louis) recruit repeatedly drove into the paint and attacked the basket.

"Them being bigger than us, (we were) getting into the paint and using a jump stop and a pump fake," said Evans, who lives in Rogers Park. "Sometimes, I'll admit to it, I kind of took it to the big guys and they kind of beat it up or I threw up some garbage and nothing happened. But when we all went up aggressive and strong we got the (basket)."

Evans finished with a team-high 12 points. His aggressiveness inside got him seven shots at the line, where he knocked down four.

Lynch shines on defense

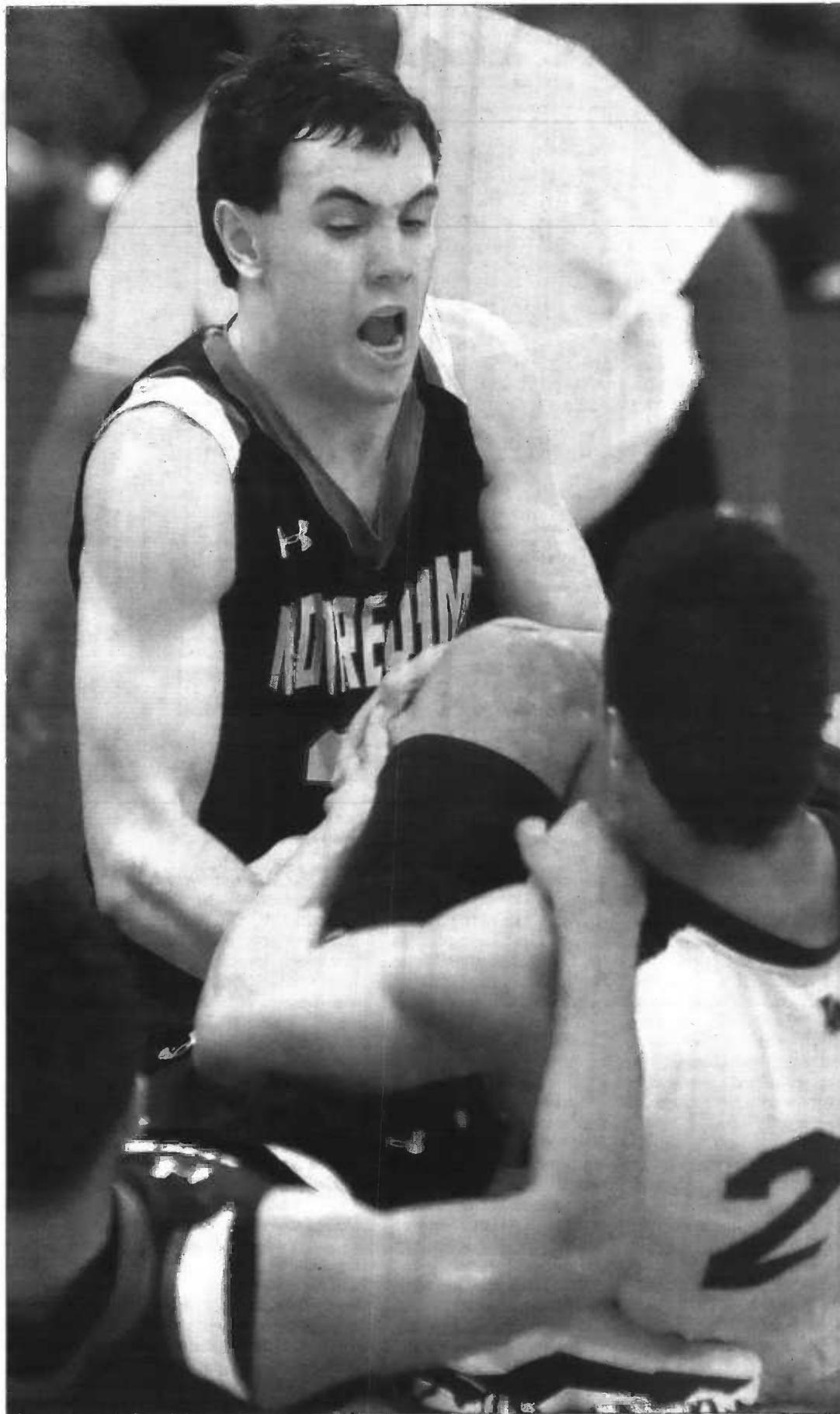
Loyola senior guard Matt Lynch announced earlier this week on Twitter that he had committed to play basketball at St. Norbert, a Division III school in De Pere, Wis. Against Notre Dame, he demonstrated the type of player the Green Knights will be getting.

Lynch took a charge in the second quarter, he dove to the floor twice for steals in the third and he was second in scoring for the Ramblers with 10 points. He, along with senior guard Jack Martinus, guarded Stritzel and held him 20 points below his average. Stritzel finished 1-for-7 with four turnovers.

"I think defensively our guys did a really good job with a game plan, like a really good job. It took a lot of individual effort to shut down Stritzel," Loyola coach Tom Livatino said. "Matt and Jack did an excellent job on him."

Jakub Rudnik is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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BRIAN O'MAHONEY/PIONEER PRESS

Notre Dame's Matt Stritzel, rear, and Loyola's Ramar Evans (25) fight for a loose ball during the fourth quarter of Friday evening's game at the Chicago Elite Classic. Notre Dame won the game 44-42 in overtime.

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Firearms, Antiques & Collectibles: Swiss 1931 Slide Bolt Rifle 7.5 caliber military with bayonet, Swiss Carbine Rifle Serial No. 57592, NR Davis & Sons side by side 12ga shotgun, Mosin Nagant No. 112995 1905 Elevated sight bolt action, Mosin Nagant 1944 67514 bolt action with elevated sight, Turkish Mauser Rifle 1943 AS FA ANK ARA, K Kale 8mm bolt action elevated sight, Italian carcano bolt action B9375 Terni 6.5mm, Mosin Nagant New England Westinghouse 1915 801236 SA Bolt action rifle with elevated sight, British 303 Enfield No. 4MKI Long Branch rifle 1945 with bayonet, Czechoslovakian SKA Mauser bolt action rifle with elevated sight, No 583 P, Spanish Mauser with sword crest, 7.92 W3472 Bolt action rifle with elevated sight, Harrison Richards Mod 700 22 Wm RF Semi automatic rifle with weaver scope, Martini Henry Rifle single shot lever action with elevated sight and bayonet, Swiss bayonet, AK47 Bayonet, British Enfield bayonet, SKS bayonet, Chinese SKS bayonet, Mauser bayonet, M1 Garand bayonet, US Marine bayonet, Civil War bayonet, Various assortment of other bayonets (some Swiss and French), Sword with Scabbard, Percussion side by side black powder rabbit ear, Percussion single shotgun, percussion Baltimore rifle with double trigger, percussion Joseph Golcher rabbit ear db1 barrel rifle with engraved dog and bird brass curve but plate, Percussion side by side shotgun, rolling block large bore Merwin & Bray rifle AGTS/NEW YORK ballards pat. Nov 6 1861, Bolt action rifle - military, Flint lock blunderbuss by Conway - Manchester, Flintlock rifle - ornate stock - engraved receiver, trap door rifle elevated sight, US Springfield 45/70 Rifle, Percussion Rifle engraved double trigger with curved butt plate, Percussion rifle with engraved ducks on receiver with heavy octagon barrel smallest pistol n the world - Xythos Automatic Patent - made in Austria - with 3 boxes on ammo, Swiss army helmet, Russian army helmet, Various other Army Helmets, German M42 Machine gun belt, Oak Mantle clock along with various other clocks, Rupp Mfg Corvette Chevy Jr Go-Kart, 1972 Honda CL 175 Motorcycle (4155 miles), cast iron fire hydrant, bottom plow, steel wheel barrow, wood extension ladder, fishing poles, old bottler, old oil cans, iron bell, iron trivets, iron baker motel keys tags, whiskey jug, cell tester, 18 drawer metal organizers, 2 milk cans, red dy heater, 2 saddles, galvanized boiler with lid, wire baskets, wood wagon jack dryer rack, scrub board, 2 man saws, wood planters, concrete planters, wood wringer, eveners, old gas cans, oak wood buck board wagon, iron ware, knick knacks, plant stand, art work - oil painting, metal organizers, pickle forks.

Tools: 2 walk behind cultivators, aluminum flag/light pole, steel lawn roller, 4.5/2 MTD Snow blower, 220 snow buster, 8 HP gas engine, steel cables, seed cleaner, single axle trailer, gas rototiller, Webber grill, torch cart, lawn furniture, concrete planters, galvanized tubs, electric heater, wheel barrow, bug zapper, 3 boxes of golf balls, small air compressor, Ryobi miter saw, gas cans, shovels, hardware, hand power tools, pull type spreader, belt sander, impact router, grinder, saws, auto ramps, craftsman 10" table saw, roller feed, hydraulic cylinder, 2 pieces rolling tool chest, autumn/ oxy torch set, 4 double stack locker cabinet, work benches, drill press, craftsman socket set, snap on - socket set, SK sockets, mack sockets, swivel sockets, belt/disc sanders, craftsman pedestal grinder, Snap-On, Craftsman, SK Mack open end box end wrench sets, screw driver sets, assortment of pliers, punch & chisel sets, tap & die sets, pipe cutters, c-clamps, hammers and mauls, ratchet wrenches, mac air impact, BID Impact, Ingersoll Impact, Chilton auto manuals, coolers, shop lights.

Household: Oak TV stand and end tables, lamp tables, pic book shelves, French provincial writing desk, bookcase cabinet, China 12 place set ABAD china rose pattern, glassware, collectibles. Beautiful full dining room set - Table & Leaf, china cabinet, 6 cane & upholstered chairs, pitcher and bowl with stand, modern household furniture, refrigerator dishes - Pyrex, linens, quilts, bedding, small kitchen appliances, and cookware, cutlery, ss ware, vases, wood butter churn, Christmas ornaments and decorations, small display case, set luggage, 2 piece hutch, oak roll top desk with drawers & pigeon holes, vintage Remington type writer, old typewriter, blanket trunk, 2 Gone with the Wind lamps, child rocker, 2 antique cedar chests, 2 rockers, large charter oak ornate cast iron wood stove, tea cart, drop leaf table, 45 records, fire place tools, basket popcorn maker, Breyer horses, rug beaters, beehive smoker, graniteware, scrubber, iron, glass fire extinguisher, parlor stove, baseball gloves, 2 mechanical carousel figurines, tool painted, saw blades, coal bucket, wood churn, dolls in box, bell collection, Christmas village, maple rocker, oil lamps, 2 tractor lamps, 2 sets of golf clubs, oil lamps, with shade, gray granite coffee pot, coal bucket, 78 records, 45 records.

Coins: 1831 Liberty 1 cent, (3) 2006 Flying Eagle \$5 gold coin - uncirculated, 1934-D Liberty Dime, 1924-S Liberty Dime, 1925-D Liberty Dime, (2) 1925 Liberty Dimes, (3) 1925 Liberty Dimes, 1916-D Liberty Quarter, 1883-V Nickel, 1898 Indian Penny, 1987 standing Liberty Dollar, 1922 Liberty Piece Dollar, 1881 Silver Dollar Liberty, (3) 2009 Liberty Dollar Standing, 2005 Liberty Standing Silver Dollar, 2006 Liberty Standing Silver Dollar, 2000 Sacagawea dollar in case, 1964 Kennedy Half Dollar Key ring, 1995 Liberty Half Dollar, (32) Morgan Silver Dollars - 1900, 1889, 1896, 1897, 1885, 1921, 1887, 1898, 1886, 1889, 1883, 1886, 1896, 1881, 1885, 1882, 1889, 1900, 1884, 1921, 1884, 1885, 1882, 1900, 1994, 1921, 1884, 1885, 1882, 1900, 1879, 1896, 1886, 1921, 1898, 1921, 1821, 1913-1940, (13) 1940s, 1950s, 1960s Canadian Dimes, (16) Canadian Quarters, 1950, 62, 64, 61, 45, 60, 60, 62, 58, 65, 68, 68, 49, 60, 64, (5) Liberty Standing Dollars, (6) Benjamin Franklin Half Dollars 1954, 52, 58, 62, 54, 62, United States Proof Sets Uncirculated - (10) Blue Case - 1970, (1) Blue Case 1971, (2) Black Case 1974, (7) Black case 1975, (4) Maroon Case, 1985, (4) Envelope 1962, (4) Envelope 1971, (2) Envelope 1984, (5) Indian Head Nickels, 175 Quarters - 1930s, 40s, 50s, 60s, Pre-64, (4) 1979 1/2 Dollars, (27) 1964 Kennedy half dollars, (3) 1965 Kennedy half Dollars, (45) 1967 Kennedy half Dollars, (25) 1968, (25) 1968, (4) 1969, (10) 1983, (4) Nickels 1941, 43, 43, 52, (12) Pennies 1940s, 50s, 70s, (90) Liberty Dimes, (210) Liberty Dimes, Very Large Collection of Roosevelt Dimes, Liberty Dime and wheat penny, (22) paper Dollars - Foreign, (2) 1983 World Columbian Exposition October 9th 1893 Chicago Day, Manhattan Day October 21 1893, Korun Czech - 100, The British Caribbean Territories 1962, The National Bank Van Belgie - 1000, South African reserve Bank - 10, Lire Cinquemila 5000, Ceska Narodni Banks 200, Various foreign currency, (2) 10000 Lire Decimila Banca D'Italia, Czechoslovakian Desat Korun - 10, Lire Cinquemila - 5000, (7) Lire Mille Banca D'Italia - 1000, (2) Pet Korun Czechoslovakian - 5, Tri Koruny Czechoslovakia - 3, Various foreign coins, lg penny 1929, (16) South African coins, 31 - Foreign Coins, 15 - Foreign coins, 1/2 penny, 1945 lg penny, Large Copper palc full of change - 70 lbs. of money.

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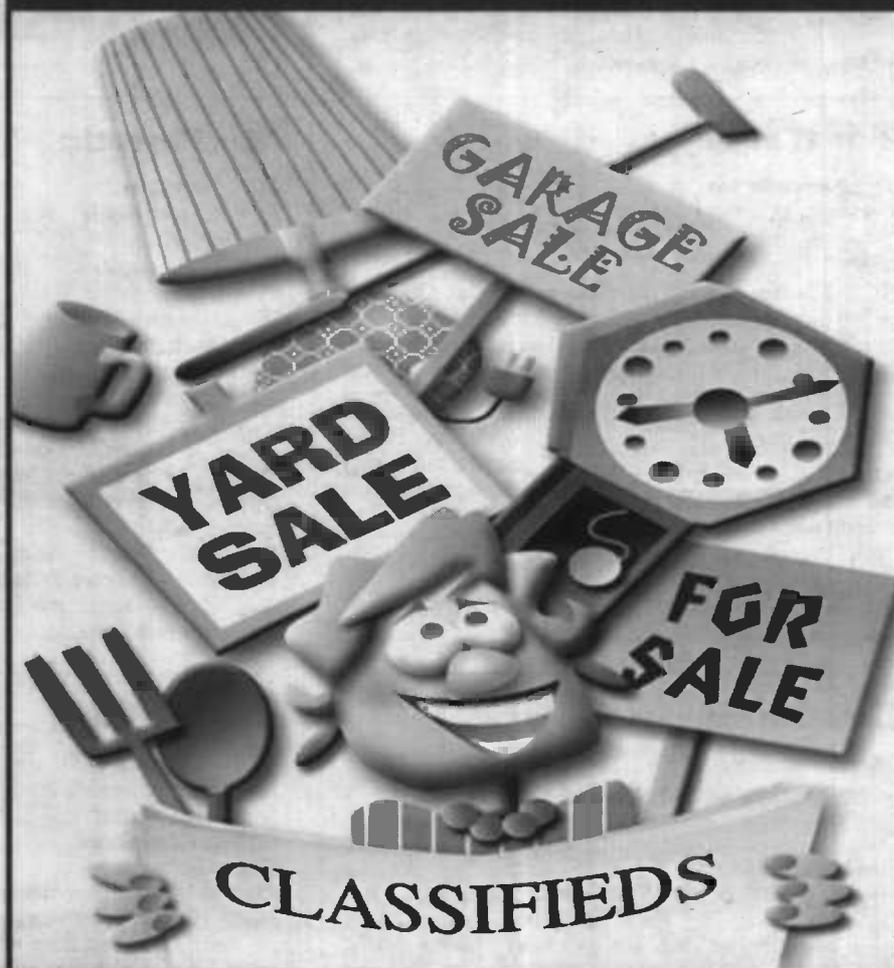
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2016 ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM DEFENSE

BY BOB NARANG | Pioneer Press

Jackson Perkins

DE, Barrington, Sr.

Key stats: 12 tackles for loss, 2 sacks, forced fumble, fumble recovery, punt block

College: Navy

Town: Barrington

Pivotal point: During his sophomore year, Perkins had trouble choosing which sport — football or basketball — to concentrate on for his final two years. After receiving little playing time on the varsity basketball team, he shifted his focus toward the gridiron. “I just realized I liked the whole team thing in football,” Perkins said. “I liked working with a whole team, the brotherhood and bonds you make.”

Opposing player I most respect: Zach Oles, Palatine quarterback.

Fun fact: “Fishing and hunting is what I like to do,” Perkins said. “Football and basketball season runs at the wrong time because I like deer and duck hunting.”

Ryan O'Malley

DT, Libertyville, Sr.

Key stats: 38 tackles, 9 sacks

College: Army

Town: Libertyville

Pivotal point: During his sophomore year, O'Malley played defensive end but was moved to defensive tackle for his junior season. “I finally realized how much effort, dedication and hard work that go into the game when I started my junior year,” he said. “We had a very good team, and not many juniors were starting. To play with all these guys and play up with the older guys who were taking it so seriously from Week 1, switching positions and being able to start opened up my eyes and was a turning point in my career.”

Opposing player I most respect: DeAndre Green, Zion-Benton quarterback/athlete.

Fun fact: O'Malley enjoys fishing. “I go to local ponds and lakes a lot,” he said.

Christian Sampleton

DE/LB Nazareth, Sr.

Key stats: 64 tackles, 2 sacks, 11 tackles for a loss, fumble recovery

College: Yale

Town: Plainfield

Pivotal point: Before Sampleton's sophomore year, Nazareth coach Tim Racki asked the then-safety to move to defensive end. He was a key player during Nazareth's run to consecutive state titles in 2014 and 2015. “I ended up starting that (sophomore) season and had played the position when I was little,” Sampleton said. “But Coach Racki brought that back out of me.”

Opposing player I most respect: Marist linebacker Micah Awodiran.

Fun fact: His cousin, Flozell Adams, used to play for the Dallas Cowboys. Adams, a Proviso West grad, was a five-time Pro Bowler at offensive tackle.

Jack Sanborn

MLB, Lake Zurich, Jr.

Key stats: 77 tackles, 14 tackles for loss, 2 passes defended

College: Undecided

Town: Deer Park

Pivotal point: A former two-way standout on the lower levels who played running back, Sanborn elected to shift his focus to playing only defense. Now one of the top juniors in the state, Sanborn is an elite linebacker. “I realized that defense is a lot more funner than offense,” he said. “You are more free to play the game. I played offense all the way up through seventh-grade year but fell in love with defense in eighth grade.”

Opposing player I most respect: Aidan O'Connell, Stevenson quarterback.

Fun fact: He has a small pet turtle called Scoots. “He's small, but it can fly,” Sanborn said.

Max Rosenthal

MLB, New Trier, Sr.

Key stats: 69 tackles, 3 tackles for loss, fumble recovery, pass deflection

College: Undecided

Town: Glencoe

Pivotal point: Rosenthal was moved up to the varsity after Week 2 of his sophomore season. “That's when me and my family realized this football thing was pretty big and not what we expected, in a good way,” he said. “We reevaluated everything and thought maybe this could be as big as baseball.” Rosenthal was a catcher for the Trevians as a sophomore and junior.

Opposing player I most respect: Zach Oles, Palatine quarterback.

Fun fact: Despite being an accomplished athlete, Rosenthal just recently learned how to ride a bicycle. “My friends taught me how to ride a bicycle in my freshman year,” he said.

Deontae Curry

LB, Hinsdale South, Sr.

Key stats: 71 tackles, 20 tackles for loss, sack, 2 fumble recoveries, blocked PAT

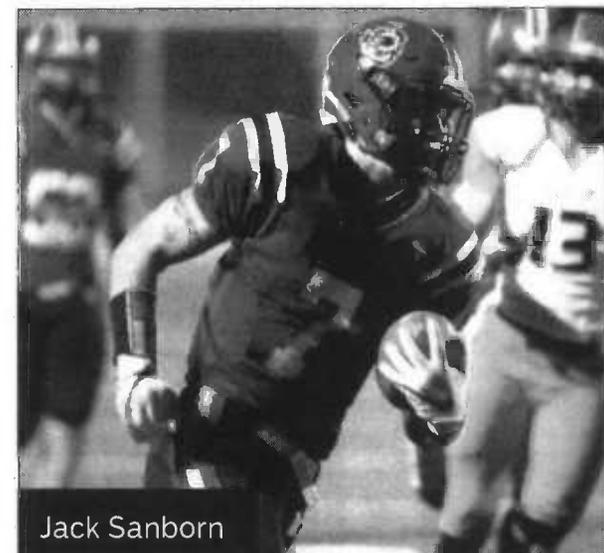
College: Undecided

Town: Bolingbrook

Pivotal point: After his first game of his sophomore season, Curry was moved up to the varsity. “That made me more confident than what I was before,” he said. “I knew I had to play harder because the guys were bigger and faster than me.” He played a key part in helping Hinsdale South advance to the Class 7A semifinals last season.

Opposing player I most respect: Josh Bean, Hinsdale Central quarterback.

Fun fact: He likes to keep things light-hearted. “I'm a really goofy person,” Curry said. “I always crack jokes on the players and coaches.”



Jack Sanborn

MICHAEL SCHMIDT/PIONEER PRESS



Christian Sampleton

STEVE JOHNSTON/PIONEER PRESS

Ian Swenson

DB, Loyola, Sr.

Key stats: 55 tackles, 3 interceptions, 7 pass breakups

College: Connecticut

Town: Evanston

Pivotal point: Being moved up to varsity for his sophomore year was a key developmental point for Swenson. He found out during the summer before his sophomore season that he would be a key player for Loyola. “I didn't know what to expect and (was) kind of scared to come up,” he said. “The senior defensive backs helped me a lot.”

Opposing player I most respect: Ricky Smalling, Brother Rice wide receiver and Illinois recruit. “Ricky is something else,” Swenson said. “He's very elusive when he gets the ball in space. His releases are unbelievable.”

Fun fact: Swenson is superstitious and follows the same pattern before every game, such as wearing the same shorts. “I follow it the day before every game,” he said.

ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM DEFENSE, CONTINUED

Michael Marchese

DB/S, Stevenson, Sr.

Key stats: 94 tackles, 7 tackles for loss, 3 interceptions, 4 pass breakups, 2 forced fumbles, fumble recovery**College:** Undecided**Town:** Vernon Hills**Pivotal point:** In his freshman year, Marchese was a running back and linebacker. He got switched to wide receiver but didn't embrace the change. "I didn't take the move easily because I played running back my whole life," Marchese said. "But Matt Morrissey (now at Michigan State) played wide receiver and safety then for the varsity team. I knew Matt. I made him my role model because I made that switch. I was a wide receiver and safety like him."**Opposing player I most respect:** Zach Oles, Palatine quarterback.**Fun fact:** "I'm into the draft and into weird stats for the Bears, Blackhawks, Cubs and Bulls," Marchese said.

Charlie Jones

KR/PR, Deerfield, Sr.

Key stats: 6 kickoff returns for 157 yards (26.2 yards per return); 8 punt returns for 79 yards (9.9 yards)**College:** Undecided**Town:** Deerfield**Pivotal point:** Heading into his sophomore year of football, Jones was promoted to the varsity despite only playing one game on the freshman team. He suffered a season-ending injury in Week 1 of his freshman year. He played only two quarters. "I was in the weight room after my freshman season because I wanted to get serious because I missed the year," he said.**Opposing player I most respect:** D.J. Penick, Highland Park running back.**Fun fact:** Jones is one of six children in his family. "It's good to be in a family of six because there's always someone to hang out with, plus we can always play 3-on-3 basketball," he said.

Nick Delporte

SS, Rolling Meadows, Sr.

Key stats: 75 tackles, 5.5 sacks, 8 tackles for loss, 2 fumble recoveries, forced fumble, interception, 2 blocked punts, 3 defensive TDs**College:** Undecided**Town:** Rolling Meadows**Pivotal point:** He was pulled up to varsity as a freshman and scored a rushing touchdown on his first carry. "I almost fell on the 5-yard line on that run," he said. "I was running so fast that I almost lost my feet. That (promotion) showed me I was a lot better than I thought and knew I had to work hard. My sophomore year I realized how good I could be, and that pushed me from then."**Opposing player I most respect:** Jalen Dennis, Wheeling quarterback.**Fun fact:** "I can guarantee that I have the hairiest legs most people have ever seen," Delporte said.

Sean McNulty

K/P/OL/DL, Maine South, Sr.

Key stats: 14-for-18 field goals (long: 40 yards); 65-for-66 PATs. Made both field-goal attempts in Maine South's 27-17 win against Loyola in the Class 8A state final**College:** Undecided**Town:** Park Ridge**Pivotal point:** After solely being a kicker during his sophomore and junior seasons, McNulty played on the offensive and defensive lines, which helped him become a well-rounded player.**Opposing player I most respect:** Joe Spivak, Montini defensive tackle.**Fun fact:** McNulty takes pride being the second-strongest player on the Maine South team. Michigan State recruit Kevin Jarvis, a 6-foot-5, 340-pound left guard, is the strongest player on the Hawks. "Me and him can power-clean the same amount: 290 pounds," said McNulty, who is 6-1 and 211 pounds.

Aaron Woolford

FS, Mundelein, Sr.

Key stats: 64 tackles, 4 interceptions in 8 games**College:** Undecided**Town:** Mundelein**Pivotal point:** Woolford recently realized he should focus more on football than basketball. He became a three-way force on the football field this season, playing running back and returning kicks and punts in addition to his defensive duties. He scored eight offensive touchdowns and had a 90-yard interception return for a TD and a 90-yard kickoff return for a TD. Woolford averaged 140 all-purpose yards per game. "Once I started getting more (recruitment) letters and stuff for football, I knew I had a better future in football," he said.**Opposing player I most respect:** Matt Korinek, Stevenson running back/linebacker.**Fun fact:** "All my fingers are double-jointed, even my thumbs," Woolford said. "I can bend them all pretty much backwards. People get grossed out."

Joshua Maize

DE/LB, Deerfield, Sr.

Key stats: 96 tackles, 8 sacks, 5 tackles for loss, 2 forced fumbles, fumble recovery.**College:** Undecided.**Pivotal point:** After playing two years at Notre Dame, Maize transferred to Deerfield. He had never played linebacker, but Deerfield coach Steve Winiecki suggested the move would show off his speed and athleticism. He played linebacker and defensive end this season. "I credit that switch for making me the player and person I am today," Maize said. "I wouldn't be in this situation without that move."**Opposing player I most respect:** Maine South offensive lineman Kevin Jarvis. "The kid is an animal."**Fun fact:** He's an avid gamer. "Anything sports, but I definitely like 2K Madden. I can play all day, especially on Sundays."

Nick Delporte

TIM BOYLE/PIONEER PRESS



Jacob Keller

JON LANGHAM/PIONEER PRESS

Second team

OFFENSE

Jacob Keller, Fenwick, QB, Sr.
 D.J. Penick, Highland Park, RB, Sr.
 Logan Moews, Barrington, RB, Sr.
 Devonte Dunn, Nazareth, OL/DL, Sr.
 Niko Ivanisevic, Hinsdale Central, OL, Sr.
 Anthony Saro, Notre Dame, OL, Sr.
 Jack Carasotti, Glenbrook South, OL, Sr.
 Charles Schmidt, Libertyville, OL, Jr.
 Matt Abfall, Hersey, WR/DB, Sr.
 David Terrell Jr., Loyola, WR, Sr.
 Drew Winegardner, Vernon Hills, WR/DB, Sr.
 Matt Hellen, Carmel, K/P, Sr.

DEFENSE

Jacob Sicco, Carmel, DL, Sr.
 Ellis Taylor, Fenwick, DE, Sr.
 Elyjah Williams, Evanston, DE, Sr.
 Blake Holley, Barrington, LB, Sr.
 Andrew "Chick" Smith, Vernon Hills, LB, Sr.
 Austin Ruetsche, St. Viator, LB, Sr.
 Thomas Hackett, Notre Dame, LB, Sr.
 Michael Pusateri, Maine South, LB, Sr.
 Zaire Barnes, Carmel, DB, Jr.
 DJ Anderson, Hinsdale South, DB, Sr.
 Jack Hoffman, Maine South, SS, Sr.

DEFENSIVE PLAYER OF THE YEAR

JOSHUA MAIZE

BY BOB NARANG | Pioneer Press

Joshua Maize went from being an unwanted player to a coveted recruit.

The Deerfield defensive end and linebacker is one of the top uncommitted players remaining in Illinois for the Class of 2017.

Two years ago, he was stuck in limbo on the Notre Dame sophomore team.

"I originally planned on transferring my sophomore year from Notre Dame and was supposed to move to Naperville and go to Nequa Valley," Maize said, adding that he instead stayed put and played with the other Dons underclassmen. "It was disappointing watching the varsity struggle (that season) and not being able to contribute and use that year as a learning experience to further my career. It was tough."

After transferring to Deerfield before his junior season, Maize made up for lost time with a dominating two-year stint. Despite playing two defensive positions and left tackle for a string of games, Maize collected 96 tackles, eight sacks, five tackles for loss, forced two fumbles and recovered a fumble this season.

The 6-foot-5, 230-pound Maize, a hybrid player in Deerfield's 3-3-5 defense, was selected as the Pioneer Press All-Area Defensive Player of the Year for the 2016 season.

Maize called his transfer a turning point in his life. He grew up in Deerfield before moving to Chicago. Maize said Deerfield coach Steve Winiiecki and his staff suggested another move soon after his arrival: From defensive end to middle linebacker for his junior season.

"The last two years have been a blessing for me," Maize said. "I had been around the Deerfield community when I was younger, so I was comfortable with it from a social and academic standpoint, but



KEVIN TANAKA/PIONEER PRESS

Deerfield's Joshua Maize (right) tackles Maine South's Fotis Kokosioulis for a loss last season. Opposing teams purposefully avoided running the ball toward Maize this season.

athletically it was something completely new.

"I took changing positions with open arms and had no clue what I was getting into but was able to use my athletic ability, especially with my size, to make a lot of plays in my junior year and draw attention

from some pretty good programs. The Deerfield coaches gave me an opportunity, and I rolled from there."

Maize, a gregarious sort, Winiiecki said, spent most of his 10 games this season "rolling over" running backs and quarterbacks. He

registered 66 solo tackles, and despite switching back and forth between positions depending on matchups, he became a disruptive force that opposing offenses had to account for at all times.

Just ask Vernon Hills, which lost 62-48 to Peoria in the Class 5A state cham-

pionship game. The Cougars averaged 26 points per game this season but managed just 10 points in a last-second win against Deerfield.

That's because Maize, a consensus three-star recruit with 13 offers, registered two sacks and one

tackle on the first series.

"Every Friday night, Josh was at the top of the stat sheet and making plays," Winiiecki said. "We struggled a bit on the offensive side of the ball, and that put our defense in some tough positions. The defense played really well, and Josh was the leader of the defense."

"This year we came up with specific schemes for him, where people had to account for him coming at them from different angles. He had a great game against Vernon Hills."

Maize, who also plays basketball, piled up impressive numbers even though numerous teams avoided running plays in his direction, including Vernon Hills.

"(Vernon Hills) ran away from me, and that made their offense one-dimensional because we knew what side they were going on," Maize said. "My coaches let me put my hand in the dirt a little bit more this year, and I was able to get after the quarterback. That's why I had all the success and accolades to this point, and a huge thank you to Coach Winiiecki and his staff for preparing me for the linebacker position and the next level."

With Indiana, Toledo, Connecticut and Miami (Ohio) among his list of suitors, Maize has numerous options. His combination of size, athleticism, speed and versatility make him an enticing recruit, Winiiecki said.

"He can stay at his weight right now and get stronger and play at linebacker or defensive end, or he can play bigger and thicker and move to tackle," he said. "He has the frame. He has a huge upside."

Bob Narang is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

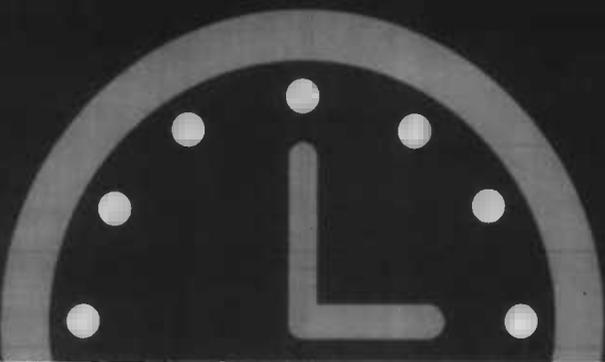
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Offensive Player of the Year

JAKE MARWEDE

By **RICH MAYOR**
Pioneer Press

Jake Marwede wanted to play quarterback.

He was in eighth grade, and his parents were sitting down with Loyola football coach John Holecek to discuss a plan for the promising prospect. Holecek said he "had heard the legend of Marwede — always the biggest kid but played quarterback." However, he hadn't seen Marwede play. Holecek agreed to give Marwede a shot at quarterback.

After two seasons of middling success, and with senior Emmett Clifford named the starter going into the 2015 season, Marwede had a decision to make. He knew that it was important for recruiting purposes to stand out on game film as a junior. So that summer, he dabbled with the idea of catching passes rather than throwing them, and the 6-foot-6, 240-pounder agreed to switch to a tight end/receiver/Wildcat quarterback role.

Holecek called Marwede "a once-in-a-lifetime kind of kid," so the coaching staff was confident the position switch would pay off. For Marwede, it was a tougher adjustment.

"It was a difficult transition, obviously training your whole life as a quarterback and then deciding to make the switch," Marwede said. "One hundred percent quarterback one day, the next a tight end or wide receiver. The coaches and teammates just helped so much, giving me confidence and walking me through it, whether it be helping my tech-

nique, route-running, getting footwork adjusted. It was a tough period, but they made it better."

After his senior season — in which he led Loyola to a 13-1 record and a second straight Class 8A title-game berth — Marwede was named the Pioneer Press All-Area Offensive Player of the Year. He had 68 carries for 341 yards and 15 touchdowns as a Wildcat quarterback and 42 catches for 569 yards and six touchdowns lined up wide as a tight end or receiver.

"He's been our go-to guy all year. We use (Marwede) everywhere," quarterback Tommy Herion said of the Duke recruit. "I know he'll continue to do great things in college. He's going to have a long career in football."

Asked how he'd scheme against Marwede, the defensive-minded Holecek broke down the challenges.

"You really have to double him. You have to worry about him over the top, and also underneath, because he's faster than most people and bigger than everybody," Holecek said. "When you move him in the backfield, you know he's going to fall forward for a yard. It seemed like he was unstoppable. Honestly, he's just one of those nightmares you can't really scheme for."

Marwede's effectiveness trickled into his teammates' heads, as they knew their big playmaker could be counted on no matter where he lined up. After years of watching him thrive in myriad positions — once "a young quarterback who could run around kids and truck kids," as senior offensive

lineman Jack Badovinac described him — teammates knew one thing for sure: When it mattered, you could count on Marwede.

"The clutch factor? He has it," Badovinac said. "You put him in at third-and-short or fourth-and-short, or on the goal line, and you could always bank on him getting a few yards or a touchdown for you."

"And he works so hard. He's a great role model, too. A great leader. You can trust his play."

Marwede, a three-star recruit and the No. 6 overall prospect in Illinois according to 247Sports, had offers from a handful of perennial powers, including Alabama and Ohio State. Holecek said he understands the choice to attend Duke may not make much sense to those on the outside looking in, but the coach said Marwede was diligent during the process. Holecek and Marwede both believe that if Marwede wants to play at the next level and performs in Durham, N.C., he'll have as good of a chance to make the NFL coming from there as anywhere else.

"Duke uses their tight ends, and since he's a prized recruit, he'll be on the field earlier," Holecek said. "The head coach, David Cutcliffe, obviously has a deserved reputation as an offensive mastermind. The family did their homework, they researched all of that and then went to visit all of these places. He was really comfortable with Duke, so nobody can ever really question his decision because they did everything they should do."

One thing Marwede must do is



BRIAN O'MAHONEY/PIONEER PRESS

Jake Marwede pulls in a pass against Maine South on Sept. 3. Marwede had scholarship offers from Alabama and Ohio State but instead elected to play at Duke.

refine his play at tight end. Marwede is behind the learning curve because he's been playing the role for only two seasons. And he wasn't often asked to block this year.

Holecek referenced "the nuances, the little shakes, the tiny fakes at the top of routes" that Marwede will learn as his career goes on. And Marwede knows he has a lot to learn.

"Since I'm new to the position, it's really going to come down to repetitions," he said. "Working on my in-line blocking, just sharpening my routes, working on my hands. Making sure I've got all the right technique, making sure all the reps are 100 percent right and going full-speed. That's really all you can control."

Marwede has had a number of turning points at Loyola, but Holecek recalled one moment in particular from this summer. Holecek, a former NFL linebacker and All-Big Ten player at Illinois, was coaching the defense as usual,

but even he couldn't help peeking out the corner of his eye at the offensive drills happening a few yards away.

"I'd see (Marwede) make catches, reaching out of bounds by 2 yards and he's still stabbing the ball with his giant hands," Holecek said. "We nicknamed him 'Hamburger Helper Hands,' because of those giant white gloves that would come out of nowhere."

Those giant gloves and Marwede's ideal size and speed should serve him well in college.

And, perhaps, in the professional ranks after that.

"I compare him to a thoroughbred," Holecek said. "He's just a different animal. Compared to kids in high school, he's just bigger and faster. He's got unbelievable hands. You can tell he's just a complete football player."

Rich Mayor is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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2016 ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM | OFFENSE

BY RICH MAYOR | Pioneer Press



Fotis Kokosioulis

BRADLEY LEEB/AP

Aidan O'Connell

QB, Stevenson, Sr.

Key stats: 2,741 yards passing, 26 TD, 7 INT, 62-percent completion rate**College:** Undecided**Town:** Long Grove**Pivotal point:** Before his junior season, O'Connell injured his knee and thought it would keep him out for both the football and basketball seasons. Instead, he had surgery and was back in five weeks. That season, starter Jack Sorenson was injured on the first offensive play. O'Connell slid into duty, throwing for 120 yards and two touchdowns in the second half of a 26-24 victory at Palatine. O'Connell was a reserve for much of last season, but emerged as a strong starter this year.**Opposing player I most respect:** Zach Oles, Palatine quarterback. "I've known Zach for a while and respect everything he's done," O'Connell said. "I wish the best for him in his future."**Fun fact:** O'Connell said he is obsessed with dogs, and his family has a Greater Swiss Mountain Dog named Duchess. "I spend a lot of time looking at pictures of dogs, talking about dogs, stuff like that," he said.

Henry Marchese

JOE SHUMAN/PIONEER PRESS

Fotis Kokosioulis

RB, Maine South, Jr.

Key stats: 188 carries, 1,464 yards, 25 total TD (21 rushing)**College:** Undecided**Town:** Park Ridge**Pivotal point:** As a sophomore, Kokosioulis took time to adjust to the speed of the varsity game. But in Week 1 against Montini this season, he broke out — 20 carries, 183 yards, two touchdowns — and gained complete confidence in himself on the varsity level. "I worked hard in the offseason because obviously playing as a sophomore, I knew I'd be counted on even more as a junior," he said. "And that's what happened."**Opposing player I most respect:** Anthony Romano, Loyola linebacker.**Fun fact:** Kokosioulis was born in Park Ridge but moved to Katy, Texas, which is near Houston, when he was 6 years old. He and his dad moved back to Park Ridge before his freshman year at Maine South. "Obviously the competition is crazy there," he said. "I played against a pretty high level (in Texas), and it helped me figure out my game and prepare me for high school."

Cole Kmet

TRACY ALLEN/PIONEER PRESS

Jordan Rowell

RB, IC Catholic, Sr.

Key stats: 179 carries, 2,295 yards, 38 TD (rushing); 32 catches, 543 yards, 5 TD (receiving)**College:** Undecided**Town:** Chicago**Pivotal point:** Rowell remembers playing at Aurora Central as a sophomore in a down season for IC Catholic. The Chargers were 4-0 at the time. "In the middle of the game, we were down by a touchdown, and it basically came to me that I wasn't ready to lose or go down without a fight," he said. He ran for three touchdowns, including the 41-yard game-winner with 38.9 seconds left. IC Catholic won 30-23. "It was that night when I knew I could take over a game. That's when I knew I could be a pretty good football player."**Opposing player I most respect:** Sean Cooke, Glenbard South running back. "We've had some one-on-one battles on the field," Rowell said. "I'd like to say it was a stalemate; he might say different."**Fun fact:** "I'm a nerd for video games and Captain America," Rowell said.

Henry Marchese

WR, Stevenson, Sr.

Key stats: 63 catches, 1,052 yards, 16 TD**College:** Undecided**Town:** Vernon Hills**Pivotal point:** In the second round of the 2014 Class 8A playoffs, Stevenson defeated Loyola 24-21 in Lincolnshire. In that game, Marchese caught a 39-yard jump ball for a touchdown. It would be the second of the sophomore's two catches on the day and showed he could excel on a big stage. "There was a lot on the line," he said. "There were a ton of people lining the fences for that game, and having that big moment was definitely a turning point and one of the best moments of my high school football career."**Opposing player I most respect:** Kalil Pimpleton, Muskegon (Mich.) quarterback. "He's a D-I guy and just a class act," Marchese said. "Even after we beat them this year, he came up to some of us and congratulated us. He wasn't mopey about it. He obviously was upset but didn't show it. I respect guys like that."**Fun fact:** Marchese has a twin brother named Michael, who was named to the Pioneer Press All-Area Defense First Team.

Mike O'Laughlin

WR, Fenwick, Jr.

Key stats: 54 catches, 939 yards, 8 TD**College:** Undecided**Town:** Glen Ellyn**Pivotal point:** O'Laughlin said he felt as if he had two turning points. One was this past summer, during which he grew 2 inches (to 6-foot-5) and felt himself becoming both stronger and more explosive. Then, in Week 1 this season against defending Class 4A champion Phillips, he had seven catches for 176 yards and two touchdowns, adding a touchdown pass for good measure. "After that, I realized that I can do this," he said. "I was still a little iffy before the summer as far as what I could do in college, but when I started picking it up in football, I knew that was something I could keep doing."**Opposing player I most respect:** Mitch West, Montini defensive back.**Fun fact:** As far as sports, O'Laughlin limits himself to nothing. He'll play golf, tennis, pingpong, paddle ball. "Pretty much anything will a ball, really," he said. "I'll at least try it."

Cole Kmet

TE, St. Viator, Sr.

Key stats: 48 catches, 773 yards, 4 TD (1 rushing); 32 tackles, 4 sacks**College:** Notre Dame**Town:** Lake Barrington**Pivotal point:** During Kmet's sophomore season, St. Viator defeated Marian Central 49-32. Kmet caught a 43-yard touchdown and remembers that performance being a jumping-off point. He was molded by the seniors that season and became a leader for the Lions his final two years. "I really looked up to those seniors, they helped make me become the player I am," Kmet said. "They gave me the feedback, told me I could do whatever I wanted if I really worked at it. So at that point, the end of my sophomore year, is when things took off a bit."**Opposing player I most respect:** Julian Love, former Nazareth running back now at Notre Dame.**Fun fact:** "Fishing and bowling are the two main things I really like," Kmet said. "If someone ever wants to challenge me in anything, I usually take them to the bowling alley. I'm pretty good."

FIRST TEAM OFFENSE, CONT'D

Kevin Jarvis

OL, Maine South, Sr.

Key stats: Ranked as a four-star player by 247Sports.com, No. 4 overall prospect in Illinois

College: Michigan State

Town: Park Ridge

Pivotal point: Jarvis remembers Week 1 of his junior season as a great performance. Jarvis had always been confident in his ability, but wasn't sure what would come of it in terms of on-field production. That changed on Aug. 28, 2015, in a 20-17 loss at eventual unbeaten state-champion Montini. "I had a huge block, drove the kid like 30 yards and pancaked him," Jarvis said. "And after that, it made sense to me. If I played hard, worked hard and trained well, I could do that almost every play. If I focused, I could take this far."

Opposing player I most respect: Joe Spivak, Montini defensive tackle. "He's tough, hard-working, very good. I have a lot of respect for him," Jarvis said.

Fun fact: Jarvis grew up in Chicago near the intersection of Harlem Avenue and Addison Street. "I'm always thinking about where I'm from during the games," Jarvis said.

Jack Badovinac

OL, Loyola, Sr.

College: Colgate

Town: Wilmette

Pivotal point: Some college coaches were concerned about Badovinac's lack of height or general size, skeptical he would hold up in major Division I competition. "Throughout the offseason, Coach (John) Holeczek would tell me every coach he saw loved my highlight tape," Badovinac said. "I never knew how close I was to getting a scholarship, but apparently all the coaches liked my film. Some of them even showed their players my technique, I guess." The 6-foot-2, 280-pounder took the criticism in stride and realized there was nothing he could do about his height. He was an anchor for a Ramblers team that won 27 of 28 games the past two seasons, including last season's Class 8A title.

Opposing player I most respect: Brendan O'Hara, former Providence linebacker now at Penn.

Fun fact: Badovinac loves to go paintballing. When his family lived in Barrington, he and his brother would play at Paintball Explosion in East Dundee.

Nick Bart

OL, Barrington, Sr.

College: Undecided

Town: South Barrington

Pivotal point: At the end of his junior season, Bart started having consistent contact with college recruiters. The attention opened the eyes of the 6-foot-3, 290-pound guard and caused him to increase his focus on the next level. "You're almost in awe at the attention at first, it takes you a few weeks to realize it," Bart said. "And then it's nice because of all the hard work you put in and how well you're doing, it's nice to get recognition for that and fuels you going forward." Bart improved on his game this season and was again named All-Mid-Suburban League. He's listed as a two-star recruit on 247Sports.com and the No. 78 overall recruit in Illinois.

Opposing player I most respect: Will and Matt McCabe, Fremd defensive linemen. Matt graduated last season, but Will has continued to create havoc for opposing linemen.

Fun fact: Bart is an avid fisherman, a love caught from his grandfather.

Tyler Jost

OL, Libertyville, Sr.

College: Undecided

Town: Libertyville

Pivotal point: "It's kind of a fantasy, a fantasy world, to play college football," Jost said. "I never saw it as a reality. And then when schools started contacting me and I started getting mail, things changed." That was at the end of Jost's junior season, when the attention solidified his belief that he could really play. The 6-foot-6, 280-pound offensive tackle is ranked as a three-star recruit by 247Sports.com and comes in at No. 39 in the Illinois rankings. Jost, who decommitted from Iowa State on Nov. 17 after being asked to enroll in January 2018, is actively courting additional offers after another successful season.

Opposing player I most respect: Jack Sanborn, Lake Zurich linebacker.

Fun fact: Jost has a musical side to him and is currently in Libertyville's concert choir. His ability hasn't stretched to the soloist level just yet, but the lineman is excited to perform in the school's Christmas concert.

Jake Marwede

TE, Loyola, Sr.

Key stats: 68 carries, 341 yards, 15 TD; 42 catches, 569 yards, 6 TD

College: Duke

Town: Lake Forest

Pivotal point: Marwede switched from quarterback to tight end before his junior season. See All-Area Offensive Player of the Year story to read more.

Player I most respect: Graham Repp, Loyola linebacker. Marwede has played with Repp since eighth grade and credited him with making the tight end a better all-around player. "How hard he works, how great his technique is day-in and day-out, no matter what it is," Marwede said. "He's always helped me get better. He's been hard on me sometimes, lightened up other times, but he's been a great guy to have around."

Fun fact: Marwede considers himself to be an "avid angler." His fishing love and desire to spend time on the water was planted and developed by his father, uncle and grandfather. "We're a fishing family," he said. "A bunch of outdoorsmen."

Jack Pruban

K, Prospect, Sr.

Key stats: 6-for-9 on FGs, long was 54 yards, 19-for-19 on PATs, 25 touchbacks on 34 kickoffs

College: Undecided

Town: Arlington Heights

Pivotal point: Pruban outperformed his personal expectations in his sophomore season. He was beginning to see national interest after being ranked on recruiting sites. "Going into my junior year, I really started to take kicking seriously," he said. "I realized that if I started truly dedicating myself to this, I could turn it into something special." He missed most of his junior year with a broken (non-kicking) left leg, which stunted his progress. Pruban remains in talks with Drake, Iowa, Indiana, Northern Iowa and South Dakota, and said he expects to attend one of the five next year.

Opposing player I most respect: Asher O'Hara, Rolling Meadows quarterback.

Fun fact: Pruban often bakes bread. "My parents always bought really terrible bread around the house to force me to eat healthy, and I got sick of it. So I kinda just started making bread," he said, laughing.



Nick Bart

NIC SUMMERS/PIONEER PRESS



Jack Badovinac

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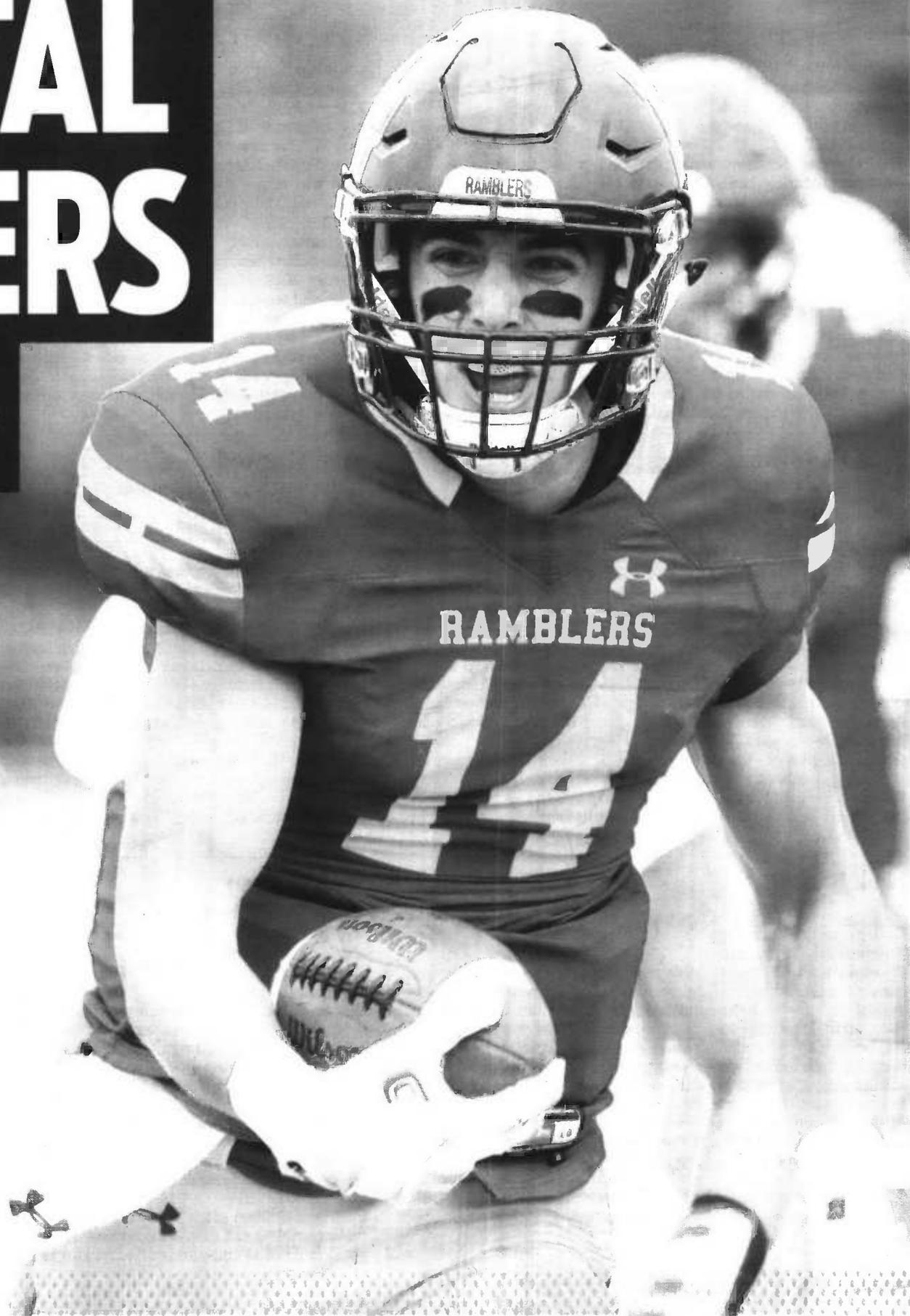


Kevin Jarvis

PATRICK GORSKI / CHICAGO TRIBUNE

PIVOTAL PLAYERS

Pioneer Press selects its All-Area Football offense and defense. Inside



Loyola's Jake Marwede runs to the end zone against Providence on Oct. 15. Marwede thrived as a tight end despite only playing the position for two seasons.

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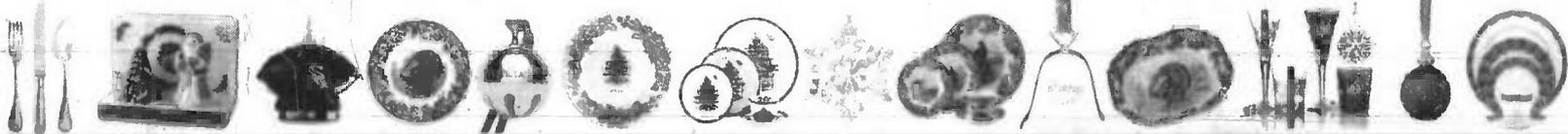
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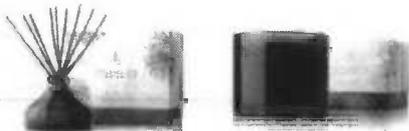


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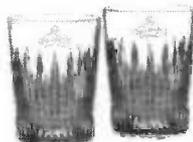
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