

NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR

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Making the pilgrimage

Thousands flock to annual Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration. Page 4



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A processional starts the opening mass Dec. 11 at the annual Our Lady of Guadalupe festival and pilgrimage in Des Plaines.

GO



TOM WITOM/PIONEER PRESS

This season, see what's cooking

Pioneer Press shares 10 of the year's best cookbooks. Page 19

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Hot shooting

Niles West's bench scores 30 points in loss to Evanston. Page 40



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SHOUT OUT

Rick Hanstad, Christmas tree salesman

Will Christmas this year be white or evergreen? Rick Hanstad of Menasha, Wisconsin, is hoping for both at the Christmas tree lot he staffs at Harrer Park in Morton Grove. Hanstad, born on New Year's Eve, says his New Year's resolution is, "to live a good life." Hanstad and his wife Debbie have three adult children and two grandchildren.

Q: We just had the season's first snowfall. Are you dreaming of a white Christmas?

A: Yes. I love snow.

Q: What do you and your family do at Christmas time that is a tradition for you all?

A: We get together, the whole family, and we celebrate Christmas.

Q: If you could for sure have one thing from Santa, what would you ask for?

A: Selling all of my trees!

Q: What do you hope is under the tree for you on Christmas morning?

A: A nice warm pair of gloves. I can always use them.

Q: Why do you like the holiday season?

A: I like the people. I like meeting different people.



KARIE ANGELL LUC/PIONEER PRESS

Rick Hanstad

Q: What's your favorite Christmas tree species?

A: A Frasier fir. They're just beautiful and they last a long time.

—Karie Angell Luc, Pioneer Press

CORRECTIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS

An article on the Lincolnwood Public Library's renovation project in the Dec. 8, 2016, edition incorrectly reported which collection materials were put in storage until the renovation is complete. Not all of the adult materials were put in storage, and some of the popular items are still available. Also, not all of the library's public use computers for adults are gone, as adults may use computers in the youth section until after-school hours when school children come to the library. Patrons with a library card may check out a laptop.

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BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A procession starts the opening mass Dec. 11 at the annual Our Lady of Guadalupe festival and pilgrimage in Des Plaines.

Thousands flock to Guadalupe festival

BY LEE V. GAINES
Pioneer Press

As snow fell steadily outside, Mauro Garcia warmed himself in the concessions tent at the Our Lady of Guadalupe celebration in Des Plaines, preparing for a five-hour walk back to his parish in Chicago.

Garcia was one of tens of thousands who journeyed — many on foot in the near-blizzard conditions — to Des Plaines' Maryville Academy campus, home to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, to mark the annual two-day feast day celebration that opened Dec. 11.

Garcia said he doesn't mind the cold, but he knew some of his fellow congre-

gants would struggle during the snowy trek back to their home parish, Our Lady of Mercy Catholic Church in Albany Park. He said those who falter would be helped along by fellow parishioners, and that's when "your faith really gets tested."

The pilgrimage is a symbol of sacrifice, he said, and "it's a way to pay back for what you've asked for" over the course of the year.

The bad weather did deter some would-be pilgrims, and Garcia said he knows many families who didn't make it out this year to the annual celebration. Those who braved the snow gathered near the outdoor shrine, bundled in heavy coats and blankets

while some of the youngest among the crowd threw snowballs at each other.

Despite the snow, attendance numbers "have been steady," Des Plaines police Chief Bill Kushner said in an email. The feast drew about 300,000 worshippers last year, according to event organizers and police.

The Rev. James Heyd, who delivered an anti-abortion message at Mass on Dec. 11 to the predominantly Latino crowd inside the campus' gym, said he was heartened to see the many worshippers who braved the snow and ice to make it to the shrine.

The annual pilgrimage celebrates the appearance of the Virgin Mary before Juan Diego, an indigenous

Mexican, in 1531. Heyd said the importance of the holiday stems from the unity it inspired between the indigenous population in Mexico and Spanish Catholics.

"The heart of it is maternal love. (Our Lady of Guadalupe) has a great love and care for her people," he said. Today, Heyd said, the Des Plaines celebration is an important symbol of the unity that exists between Catholics in the U.S. and Mexico.

Despite some of the anti-immigrant rhetoric espoused by President-elect Donald Trump during the campaign and his promise to build a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, Heyd said he believes unity will persist regardless of the

coming presidential administration.

Officials announced they had increased security for this year's festival.

Wheeling resident Aide Acosta said the annual pilgrimage is symbolic of the immigrant experience. Acosta, who has attended the Des Plaines celebration annually for the past four years, said worshippers were encouraged during the event's opening Mass to pray for the country's immigrants and especially those who are undocumented.

She said the post-election era brings with it "new, different layers of challenges for the immigrant community."

Acosta was joined Dec. 11

by her husband and her mother-in-law, Glenview resident Mary Lou Leal, who said it was her first time attending the celebration. Leal said her favorite part of the religious event was witnessing thousands of people come together "from all walks of life."

"Seeing all these families, young and old, it's very impressive they'd come out in this weather," she said. "It just goes to show you the love they have for Our Lady."

At the shrine about 5 a.m. Dec. 12, Chicago's archbishop, Cardinal Blase Cupich, celebrated Mass in Spanish.

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

Lincolnwood gets monitors for O'Hare noise analysis

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

The Chicago Department of Aviation has agreed to give Lincolnwood a temporary noise monitor that village officials say will help determine whether airplane noise from O'Hare Airport is loud enough to qualify for noise mitigation programs.

Securing the noise monitor came after months of Lincolnwood Mayor Jerry Turry lobbying for the device at the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission. He represents the village at ONCC monthly meetings.

Lincolnwood became the 56th member of the ONCC, an inter-governmental agency that works to reduce aircraft noise, when the village joined in 2015, according to village officials.

The monitor, which Village Manager Tim Wiberg said was set up on the roof of the village hall building during the first week of December, will record three months of data, which will then be used by authorities to evaluate the intensity of the noise from the single runway that impacts Lincolnwood.

Noise data recorded by the permanent monitors set up in other communities along flight path zones is sent to the Chicago Department of Aviation's Airport Noise Management System, which is connected directly to the Federal Aviation Administration's air traffic control radar, according to Chicago's aviation department.

Because Lincolnwood lies outside of the FAA's O'Hare Modernization Program Build-Out Noise Contour map, residents of the village are not eligible for sound-insulation programs, according to Owen Kilmer, spokesman for the Chicago Department of Aviation.

The map defines the highest-impacted towns near the airport where average sound levels have been recorded at 65 decibels or

more.

"Sound insulation is based on potential noise impact in the future, and noise monitors measure noise in the present," Kilmer said. "If someone is eligible for insulation it's because they live within the 65 decibel noise contour and they'll experience noise going forward."

The two permanent noise monitors located closest to Lincolnwood, both located within Chicago city limits, recorded noise levels of just under 60 decibels in September 2016, the most recent month for which data from the Chicago Department of Aviation was available.

"Sound insulation is based on potential noise impact in the future, and noise monitors measure noise in the present."

— Owen Kilmer, spokesman for the Chicago Department of Aviation

"I don't think we'll rise to the noise levels reported in some other communities, but we'll see," Turry said. "I think (the monitor) gives us the opportunity for definitive data to show us how affected our village is, and that's important because people get it in their heads that the noise is more problematic today than it was five years ago."

One of O'Hare's east-west runways — located on the far north side of the airport — takes approaching planes on a path that leads directly over Lincolnwood along Pratt Avenue, according to a map of O'Hare Runways from the Chicago Department

of Aviation.

On average, 178 planes land on the runway each day during the hours of 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., while the runway averages four nighttime daily arrivals, which are measured between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., according to the September "Airport Noise Management System" monthly report issued by CDA.

The report shows that more than 2,000 noise complaints in September came from within Lincolnwood limits.

By comparison, Morton Grove had just three complaints in September and 508 were logged that month for Skokie, the report showed.

Niles has had more than 10,000 noise complaints, but the report noted that 9470 of those came from a single address.

According to the report, most complaints are filed online and over half of them are related to aircraft noise.

Lincolnwood resident Brad Fox represents the village in the Fair Allocation in Runways Coalition, a group of suburban communities and elected officials fighting airplane noise.

Fox, a 25-year Lincolnwood resident, was pleased to learn the village has finally receiving a noise monitor, and said he hoped the data would bring long-awaited attention to the high levels of airplane noise he said negatively impact quality of life for Lincolnwood residents.

He said its convenient to live near the airport. But, he said, the city of Chicago gets all the money from the airport, while the suburbs have to deal with the noise.

"I think (the noise monitor) will help bring confirmation that we have a terrible noise problem over our heads almost daily, despite being (a few) miles away from the airport.

Natalie Hayes is a freelancer.

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Study: Relax rules of road for bikes

'Idaho stop' isn't a safety hazard, researchers say



MARY WISNIEWSKI
Getting Around

This won't surprise anybody who has driven through a Chicago intersection, but not all cyclists obey stop signs and lights.

Maybe they shouldn't always have to, suggests a new study from DePaul University.

State law requires bicyclists to follow the same rules as motorists, but the laws are not strictly followed or enforced. A study released Monday by DePaul's Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development found that just 1 cyclist in 25 comes to a complete stop at stop signs, and 2 out of 3 go through red lights when there's no cross traffic.

The study proposes that Illinois cities consider changing their laws and allowing cyclists to treat stop signs as yield signs, and some red lights as stop signs, thus permitting cyclists to maintain their momentum. It's known as the "Idaho stop" for a 1982 law in that state.

"It legalizes something that people see as common sense," said Ken McLeod, state and policy manager for the League of American Bicyclists, a nonprofit advocacy group. "Legalizing the stop reflects that bicyclists already have a sense of self-preservation and will be safe when they approach intersections."

The Idaho stop recommendation was part of a larger study that looked at the popularity of cycling in the Chicago area, including



PHIL VELASQUEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A cyclist crosses an intersection Friday. The 1982 Idaho stop rule allows cyclists to treat stop signs as yields.

the efficiency of cycling compared with other ways to get around. The study recommends that given the growth of cycling, policymakers must realize that improving infrastructure with more bike lanes is not enough, and they must think about better ways to manage bike traffic.

"It's tough to step up enforcement without aligning the rules with reality," said study co-author Joseph Schwieterman. The study suggests that permitting the Idaho stop in certain circumstances would free up police to deal with more flagrant violations.

The Idaho stop recognizes that sometimes it is safer for a cyclist to get out in front of traffic so he or she can be seen, rather than waiting obediently at the light and risk getting smacked by right-turning traffic when the light goes green.

The report pointed to a

2007 London study that found that female cyclists were much more likely to be killed by trucks than men. The study suggested that female cyclists are more vulnerable because they are more likely to obey red traffic lights. By going through a red light, men were less likely to be caught in truck drivers' blind spots, the London study found.

Of the six cyclist deaths in Chicago this year, three were women killed by trucks making turns.

Jim Merrell, of the Active Transportation Alliance, said the advocacy group favors updating policies to keep people safe and to "reflect the way people are actually moving around the city, and that includes the Idaho stop." He noted that the Idaho stop is about yielding and slowing down, not about blowing through a stop sign without paying attention.

Bureau findings.

One reason people bike is its speed and convenience compared with other modes of transportation. The DePaul study compared the duration of a bike trip with taking the CTA or UberPool, a ride-sharing service, to the same location.

Looking at 45 North Side trips of at least 3.5 miles, the DePaul study found that the average bike ride took 40:51 minutes, about 10 minutes faster than the average 51:04 minutes for a CTA trip and just 2 1/2 minutes slower than an UberPool ride.

Bikes did especially well in neighborhood-to-neighborhood trips, at an average of 28:11 minutes, compared with 52:05 for the CTA and 31:37 for UberPool. A total of 61 percent of the total miles biked made use of a shared or protected bike lane or off-street trail, such as The 606 on the Northwest Side.

The results showed that while bicycles are slower than motor vehicles, they are more predictable. Bus and ride-share vehicles have to stop more and are more affected by factors like traffic congestion.

Changing behavior

To address the problem of unsafe cycling, the study proposed lowering fines for cyclists who commit minor traffic violations and instead offering "diversion programs" such as traffic safety classes as an alternative.

Traffic fines for cyclists range from \$50 to \$200, though relatively few tickets are issued. Chicago Police Department records obtained through the Freedom of Information Act show that 3,301 citations were issued in 2015, or about nine tickets per day, mostly for riding on sidewalks. That's down from a high of 4,706 in 2014 and

up from 2,293 in 2013.

There already is a kind of diversion program in the outreach events held by the city's "Bicycling Ambassadors," said program manager Charlie Short.

On 66 occasions this past year, volunteer police officers and bicycling ambassadors were posted at crash-prone street corners to stop cyclists and motorists if they do something wrong, and explain why a targeted behavior is unsafe, Short said. Tickets are not usually issued.

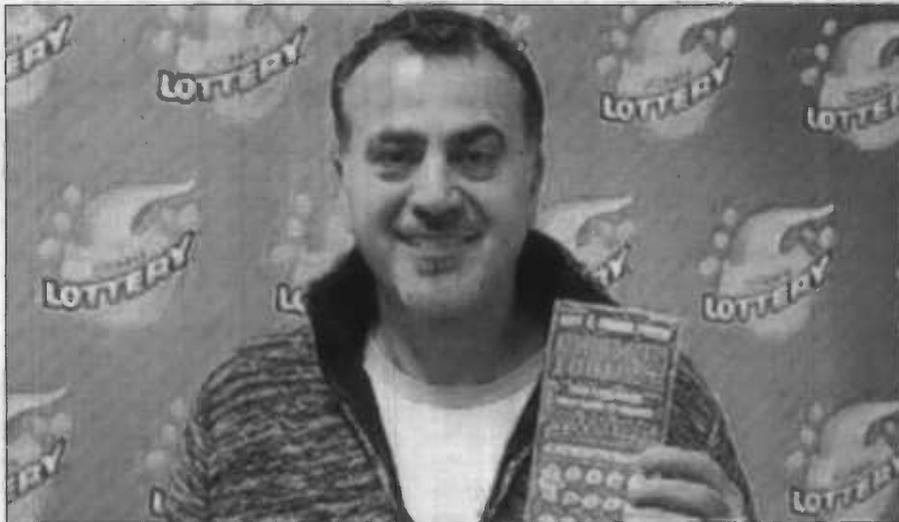
Short could not comment on the Idaho stop idea but noted that sometimes bicyclists make choices they think make them safer but can lead to other dangers. He said some cyclists and motorists don't know the rules of the road, others don't care and some are just doing what everyone else is doing. Short said education discourages unsafe behavior, which drops on corners where outreach events are held.

Michael Keating, a lawyer who specializes in bike accidents, said the region also has a problem with cars not stopping at stop signs, which creates a greater danger to the public than bikes not stopping. He said police need to take a close look at enforcement for all vehicles.

Keating said bicyclists also have to remember that they have responsibilities as well as rights, and the recklessness of some creates problems for everyone. He thinks cycling rules and safety should be taught in driver's ed classes.

"You have to give respect to get respect," Keating said. "I'm sometimes concerned that cyclists that act as scofflaws aren't giving the respect, so the ones who do adhere to the rules of the road don't get that respect in return."

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ILLINOIS LOTTERY

Skokie resident Ray Hermez won \$1 million on the Illinois Lottery's Fabulous Fortune instant lottery ticket, the state agency announced Dec. 6.

Skokie man wins \$1M on instant lottery ticket

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

A 14-year Skokie resident is \$1 million richer after winning the Illinois Lottery's Fabulous Fortune game on a ticket he purchased at a Skokie gas station, the Illinois Lottery reported Dec. 6.

Ray Hermez, 48, purchased the ticket at Shell,

located 5132 Dempster St., but used a penny to scratch off the winner while at his home, he told state lottery officials.

"I plan to use this money to help my family," Hermez was quoted as saying in a news release issued by the Illinois Lottery.

By purchasing the winning ticket at the Skokie

Shell station, the retailer receives a bonus of \$10,000 — equal to one percent of the prize amount, lottery officials said.

Fabulous Fortune is a \$20 instant ticket game that offered four top prizes of \$4 million each and eight prizes of \$1 million each.

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Hershey's closing Michigan Ave. store

BY LAUREN ZUMBACH
Chicago Tribune

There will be one less spot to sate a chocolate craving on the Magnificent Mile next year: Hershey's is closing its Chicago flagship.

Hershey's Chocolate World Chicago, just off North Michigan Avenue behind the old Chicago Water Tower, will close in January, Hershey's spokeswoman Anna Lingeris said Dec. 12. The exact date has not been set. When the interactive candy store, where visitors can make a candy mix as a Hershey's "factory worker" or have a photo printed on a candy bar wrapper, opened in Chicago in 2005, it was

Hershey's second outpost outside its headquarters in Hershey, Pa.

Hershey's is focusing on bigger stores "that allow for more experiential interactions between our consumers and our beloved and iconic brands," Lingeris said in an email.

A West Coast flagship that opened in Las Vegas in 2014 is more than 13,000 square feet — more than three times the size of the Chicago store. Hershey also is moving its Chocolate World store in New York's Times Square to a nearby location that's triple the size late next year.

Although there are no plans to relocate in Chicago, Hershey's hasn't ruled out

returning, Lingeris said.

Hershey's exit will add another empty storefront to the northern stretch of North Michigan Avenue, which had nearly 197,000 square feet of real estate sitting vacant as of July, or about 6 percent of all Michigan Avenue retail space between the Chicago River and Oak Street, according to real estate firm CBRE. That doesn't include stores widely expected to come on the market, such as the Apple Store's space at 679 N. Michigan Ave., which Apple will leave for a new flagship along the Chicago River that is under construction.

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POLICE REPORT

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

BURGLARY

■ A residence in the 8200 block of Elizabeth Avenue was reportedly burglarized on Nov. 28. A resident said about \$100 in cash was stolen, police said.

■ A residence in the 8800 block of Cumberland Avenue was forcibly entered on Nov. 29 and a box of jewelry was stolen, police said. Pry marks were also discovered on another nearby residence and the residents reported that the front and rear doorknobs had been broken as well, though no entry was gained, police said.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

■ A 50-year-old Chicago man was cited for disorderly conduct, following too closely and improper

overtaking after he allegedly had a verbal altercation with another driver Nov. 30 at Greenwood Avenue and Golf Road. Police said the man was angry that the other driver was traveling at the speed limit on northbound Greenwood.

DRUG POSSESSION

■ A 19-year-old man and a 20-year-old man, both of Niles, were each ticketed for possession of marijuana Nov. 30 after police responded to a call of a suspicious car parked in the 6400 block of Howard Street.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

■ A woman told police that she discovered the driver's side of her car had been keyed while she was inside a store in the 5700-block of Touhy Avenue Nov. 28. According to police, the woman said that prior to the incident, she had cut off another driver who was waiting for a parking spot.

PUBLIC INTOXICATION

■ A 52-year-old woman from Des Plaines was ticketed for public intoxication Nov. 28 after police and paramedics were called to the area of Greenwood Avenue and Church Street.

THEFT

■ Batzorig Altangerel, 46, of the 5000 block Greenwood Street, Skokie, was charged with retail theft on Nov. 29 after police said Altangerel stole two packages of meat from a store in the 8900 block of Milwaukee Avenue by concealing them inside an elastic back brace he was wearing under his jacket. Altangerel is expected to appear in court Jan. 13.

■ Tina Piatkowski, 41, of the 900 block of North Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge, was charged with felony retail theft Nov. 28 following an incident at a retailer in the 200 block of Golf Mill Center. Accord-

ing to police, Piatkowski was accused of switching prices on two vacuum cleaners and paying a much lower amount for the items. Piatkowski is scheduled to appear in court Dec. 16.

■ A 63-year-old man told police he was contacted Nov. 25 by a man claiming to be with a loan company who offered him a loan of \$5,000. Police said the victim provided the caller with his personal information and sent him \$665 worth of gift cards as "insurance" payments for the loan before he suspected he was the victim of a scam. A police investigation is pending.

■ A vehicle was reported stolen Nov. 30 while it was parked in the 7800 block of Nordica Avenue.

■ An American flag attached to the outside of an establishment in the 6800 block of North Milwaukee Avenue was reported stolen on Nov. 30, police said.

Woman arrested in Alaska accused of theft

By GENEVIEVE BOOKWALTER
Pioneer Press

A Chicago woman accused of stealing more than \$357,000 from her former employer in Niles was arrested in Alaska on Nov. 30, police said.

Tatiana Lopez, 49, of Chicago, is being held at Lemon Creek Correctional Center in Juneau, Alaska, according to officials there, after being arrested on an out-of-state warrant. She is being held without bail in Alaska on felony charges of theft, continuing financial crimes and forgery, according to officials at the Cook County state's attorney's office.

Deputy Chief Vince Genualdi of the Niles Police Department said authorities believe Lopez stole \$357,256.77 from Connois-

seur Wines between 2009 and 2011, when she was an employee there. A 2011 police report listed her name as Tatiana Auson. The missing funds were discovered when the owner realized that "his company profits were down," Genualdi said. Upon further investigation, Genualdi said the owner found "numerous checks made out to one of his ex-employees."

"She was signing the owner's signature on the checks," Genualdi said.

About 95 unauthorized checks were written between August 2009 and August 2011, when Lopez left her job "for personal reasons," Genualdi said. The money was discovered missing in November 2011, Genualdi said.

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'Nightmare' superbug cases rise in Illinois

Up to half of its infected victims can die from it

By **ROBERT MCCOPPIN**
Chicago Tribune

Cases of a dangerous superbug increased 27 percent last year in a region surrounding Chicago, a new survey shows, but incidents were down in the city, and officials say they are making strides in containing the contagion.

The state survey counted medical patients who tested positive for a germ known as CRE, short for carbapenem-resistant Enterobacteriaceae, which withstands many of the strongest antibiotics. It generally strikes at health-care facilities, often among the elderly and people who have serious illnesses or have had invasive medical procedures.

CRE is relatively rare, but the director of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has called it a "nightmare bacteria" because it spreads easily, in some cases is impossible to cure and can kill up to half of its infected victims. That's why the CDC is trying to stop its spread before it becomes more common.

The Chicago area, which in 2013 was the site of one of the largest outbreaks of CRE in the nation, has since become a leading model for how to limit the spread of the deadly infections, said Dr. Alexander Kallen, a CDC epidemiologist.

"Illinois is one of, if not the, national leader in these kind of prevention efforts," Kallen said. "They've done incredible work and been an example to other states."

Foremost among the state's efforts was a program that cut CRE rates in half at four long-term acute care hospitals. The CDC awarded a \$10 million grant this summer to Rush



JOSE M. OSORIO/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

University Medical Center in Chicago and the Cook County Health and Hospitals System to build on that success, and the program is being expanded to more facilities, officials said.

Federal officials estimate there are 9,000 cases of CRE a year, and 600 deaths, but those are very general estimates based on small samples.

Through the Detect and Protect program implemented in Illinois and 28 other states, the CDC is providing funding so that all state labs can detect various strains of CRE and report more precise data in the next year.

CRE was first reported in the United States in

2001, but concern about it rose after an outbreak in 2013 infected at least 39 patients at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, killing two. Authorities traced the cause to duodenoscopes, instruments inserted through the mouth to probe and clear blockages in the digestive system.

Officials found that the scopes were very difficult to clean following standard procedures, so Lutheran General began sterilizing the instruments with a gas that's toxic to the bacteria. Since then, hospital officials said, they have had no further cases related to the outbreak strain, and have worked with a state CRE

task force to address the issue.

In 2014, the state instituted a registry of extremely drug-resistant organisms like CRE that tracks all positive lab tests for the germs. About 120 health-care facilities participated in the registry as of last year, allowing them to receive alerts when an infected patient is transferred in.

Statewide, the number of cases increased about 7 percent last year to 1,585, according to Illinois Department of Public Health figures. The state does not track outcomes of those cases, so it's not known how many patients died. Some may carry the bacter-

ia but are not infected and have no symptoms.

The 27 percent increase, from 2014 to 2015, came from a region surrounding Chicago that includes suburban Cook County, the collar counties and adjacent rural counties. The number of reported cases increased from 579 to 737.

Those increases may in part be the result of better reporting, with more facilities improving their identification and tracking of such bugs, said Melaney Arnold, a spokeswoman for the state public health department. The rate of cases overall remained about the same.

The state is helping hospitals to institute CDC

guidelines to prevent the spread of the organism. That includes identifying high-risk patients, testing them and isolating them from other patients if necessary. Basic infection control precautions include having workers wear gowns and gloves and bathing patients in a 2 percent solution of antiseptic to reduce any bacteria on their skin.

One of the foremost authorities on CRE, Dr. Mary Hayden, of Rush, is co-principal investigator of the Chicago Prevention and Intervention Epicenter, which helps guide health-care facilities on how to prevent CRE. She said the group plans to expand its interventions in about 15 long-term acute care facilities, where the problem is most common, and 24 acute care hospitals.

"CRE patients tend to be some of the sickest of the sick," Hayden said. "They might have stayed in the intensive care unit for months trying to wean off a ventilator, or have really severe wounds that need months to heal."

It's especially important to keep the infection away from vulnerable patients, including those with weakened immune systems such as chemotherapy patients and bone marrow transplant recipients.

At the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Chicago, another important part of the prevention program is antibiotic stewardship, Dr. Susan Bleasdale said. That means using the drugs only when necessary and only for as long as necessary to discourage the growth of resistant bacteria.

The biggest challenge, she said, is treating patients who can't be cured by antibiotics that have stopped the spread of so many diseases in the past century.

"It's difficult, it's complicated," she said of such cases. "It's frustrating."

Surgeon general warns of e-cigarette risks

Nicotine addiction may result from use by teenagers

By TONY BRISCOE AND JOHN KEILMAN
Chicago Tribune

The growing use of e-cigarettes by American teens "has the potential to create a whole new generation of kids who are addicted to nicotine," the U.S. surgeon general warned Dec. 8.

In a new report in which he cast "vaping" as an emerging public health threat for young people, Surgeon General Vivek Murthy said more research is needed into the effects of e-cigarettes but added that they aren't harmless and too many teens are using them.

Federal figures made public Dec. 8 show that last year 16 percent of high

school students — even some of whom said they've never smoked a conventional cigarette — reported at least some use of e-cigarettes.

The statistics on "vaping" mark a threefold increase among the age group since 2013, and e-cigarette use is higher among high school students than adults, according to the report.

While not all e-cigarettes contain nicotine, Murthy's report says, e-cigarettes can include harmful ingredients like diacetyl, a chemical flavorant linked to serious lung disease, or heavy metals, including lead.

If e-cigarettes drive users to other tobacco products, "then we are going to be moving backward instead of forward," Murthy told The Associated Press.

Battery-powered e-cigarettes turn liquid nicotine

into an inhalable vapor without the harmful tar generated by regular cigarettes. Vaping was first pushed as safer for current smokers. There's no scientific consensus on the risks or advantages of vaping, including how it affects the likelihood of someone either picking up regular tobacco products or kicking the habit.

But Victoria Vasconcellos, president of Smoke-Free Alternatives Trade Association of Illinois, called Murthy's analysis "shameful," saying it failed to look at the broader landscape of smoking among adolescents.

"Perhaps the most glaring point missed though is that with this increase in vapor product use, youth smoking rates are at all-time lows," said Vasconcellos.

She said the numbers show "vapor products are proving to be a stepping

stone away" from traditional cigarettes.

"It continues to amaze and disappoint me that those we look to for public health continue to mislead the public about vapor products armed only with unscientific fear-mongering, and this misinformation is coming from the highest of levels," she said.

For decades, public health officials have crusaded against smoking and in recent years have made major strides, bringing cigarette smoking among high school students to the lowest levels since the National Youth Risk Behavior Survey began in 1991, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration finalized a rule to regulate e-cigarettes and prohibited their sale to mi-

nors, though Illinois and other states already had such bans in place.

Illinois went further this year by prohibiting those under 18 from possessing e-cigarettes, just as they are not allowed to have regular cigarettes or other tobacco.

Violators can be fined up to \$100 for repeated offenses and be subject to up to 30 hours of community service.

Some communities have tried to curb the risk even more by adding e-cigarettes to their smoke-free ordinances, making it unlawful to vape anywhere smoking is prohibited.

Chicago has also imposed a tax on "liquid nicotine products," a move one alderman said was meant primarily to make e-cigarettes too expensive for young people.

The new FDA rules also, for the first time, will require makers of nicotine-emitting

devices to begin submitting their ingredients for regulators to review.

The vaping industry argues the regulations will wipe out small companies in favor of more harmful products, and likely will lobby the incoming Trump administration to undo the rules.

The spike in e-cigarette use among young people comes as no surprise to James Martinez, a spokesman for the American Lung Association of the Upper Midwest, who pointed to industry marketing aimed at younger people.

"It's Big Tobacco up to their old tricks," Martinez said.

"E-cigarettes weren't regulated until a year ago. ... Before that, a 13-year-old or 12-year-old could buy an e-cigarette."

Associated Press contributed.

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KARIE ANGELL LUC/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive on a fire truck at the Lincolnwood Village Promenade for the annual holiday lights event Dec. 5.

Santa rolls into lights festival on fire engine

By **KARIE ANGELL LUC**
Pioneer Press

Santa and Mrs. Claus arrived at the Lincolnwood Village Promenade Dec. 5 waving at fans from atop a fire truck.

Sirens heralded the famous couple's arrival to the fourth annual Lincolnwood holiday lights event.

Santa and Mrs. Claus took photos with families, and children visited with Santa and told him what they hoped to have under the tree Christmas morning.

A choral group from Lincoln Hall Middle School performed holiday selections.

"It's fun and nice being asked to be a part of a community event," said Erin Egan, music teacher at the middle school. "They're (the group of eighth graders) getting a kick out of it."

Earlier, with a countdown, Lincolnwood Mayor Gerald Turry turned on the lights and illuminated several trees in the promenade near Village Hall.

"There's nothing like this time of year," Turry said. "It's a fabulous time of the year."

Karie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.



Eighth graders from a choral ensemble at Lincoln Hall Middle School perform Dec. 5.

Winnetka employees, families greet Commissioner's Trophy

BY KATHY ROUTLIFFE
Pioneer Press

Until this year, Chicago Cubs fans were long-suffering and perpetually hopeful, but 2016 brought an end to the wait, transforming them into a pack of gloriously happy devotees.

So when the World Series trophy came to the Winnetka Fire Station on Dec. 10, the sea of blue and red jackets, T-shirts and caps on village employees and their families was unsurprising. That the long line of fans waiting to have their picture taken with the Commissioner's Trophy should also include the occasional puppy might have been, however, a little more unexpected.

That one of those puppies represented one young Cubs fan's bet with her mother seemed somehow appropriate to the Cubs' magnificently surreal baseball year.

Julia Kreis, the 17-year-old daughter of Winnetka police Chief Patrick Kreis, cradled 4-

month-old Willson — who is named for Cubs player Willson Contreras — in her arms as she explained the story.

"I made a bet with my mom when I was 5. I wanted a puppy, and she said I could have one when the Cubs won the World Series," Julia said, holding Willson, who was decked out in a tiny Cubs neckerchief.

"I thought it was a safe bet," mom Jacki Kreis said with a laugh. Neither she nor Julia's father minded making good on the bet, they said: They are all dedicated Cubs fans who'd celebrated as a family the night of Game Seven.

Susan Ripka, wife of Deputy Fire Chief John Ripka, held her own young puppy, Sherlock, as she talked about growing up on the North Side of Chicago, in a neighborhood where from her front yard she could watch Cubs players heading to Wrigley Field on game days.

"My mother was a die-hard Cubs fan since 1945, and she reared us right. Mom took us to

see Cubs games, back when you could wake up on Saturday, pack a thermos and say, 'Who wants to go to the game?' and you could be sure of getting in," Ripka recalled.

When the Cubs clinched, "I cried like a baby. I didn't think I'd be that way, but it was on behalf of my mom, who couldn't be here to see it," she said. Then, looking at her daughters, Rachel and Hannah, she said, "I'm glad to see that being a Cubs fan is going to be fun for my kids now."

Across the room, Justin Berkowsky, fire Chief Alan Berkowsky's son, was wearing the Cubs jacket he first wore when he was 7 years old. It rode a little high on his 32-year-old torso, but showcased his team loyalty.

"I like to think I'm a pretty big Cubs fan," he said.

Winnetka Village Trustee Chris Rintz was also at the fire station to see the trophy. He had been going to Cubs games for 51 years and said having to "wait until next year" never got any easier. This year, he said, he felt different on

opening day.

"It was their lineup," he said.

Nearby, Village Manager Robert Bahan wore his father's Cubs hat as he talked about years past, taking in afternoon games with fellow employees at a previous job, pooling money to buy tickets and sit in the bleachers. Bahan could still remember his first Cubs Game.

"I was five, and I saw them in St. Louis. They played the Cardinals," he said.

After the heartbreak of 1984 and Leon Durham's glove, he stopped rooting for the team, Bahan said, but he soon returned to the fold.

The Dec. 10 visit was arranged thanks to Crane Kenney, a Winnetka resident and the Cubs' president of business operations, Kreis said.

"He contacted village staff and said he'd like to share his time with the trophy with the village's first responders, which is great. And not only the first responders, but our Public Works staff, our



KEVIN TANAKA/PIONEER PRESS

Nicki and Ewan Walton, of Palatine, view the Chicago Cubs World Series trophy, known as the Commissioner's Trophy.

village staff, everyone who works so hard to make the village the great place it is," Kreis said. "This has just been fantastic for everyone."

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11:00 p.m. Solemn Mass of Christmas
{Preceded by a special program at 10:30 p.m.}

Sunday, December 25th
Christmas Day
8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.
No 7 p.m. today

Sunday, January 1st
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<p>Christmas Eve Saturday, December 24</p> <p>3:00 p.m. in the Gym <i>Family Mass with Children's Pageant & Choir</i></p> <hr/> <p>3:00 p.m. in Church</p> <hr/> <p>5:00 p.m. in the Gym <i>Family Mass with Teen Ensemble</i></p> <hr/> <p>5:00 p.m. in Church</p> <hr/> <p>8:00 p.m. in Church</p> <hr/> <p>Midnight in Church <i>Festival Choir will sing</i></p>	<p>Christmas Day Sunday, December 25</p> <p>7:30, 9:30, 11:00 a.m. in Church</p> <hr/> <p>12:30 p.m. in Church</p>
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NEWS

Suburbs look to opt out of county sick time law

Minimum wage measure also sparks concern

BY KATE THAYER
Chicago Tribune

Cook County's looming minimum wage hike and paid sick time law have sparked the perpetual debates about whether such mandates help workers or hamstring employers and threaten jobs.

Now at least one community is doing more than debating — it has opted out. And other suburbs could follow suit.

In October, the Cook County Board passed two laws to mirror measures in Chicago: One allows employees, with a few exceptions, to accrue up to five days of paid sick time each year; the other increases the minimum wage, in increments, to \$13 an hour by 2020.

Supporters said workers should be able to make a living wage, and shouldn't have to choose between earning a day's pay and taking care of themselves or a family member, yet about 40 percent of private sector workers do not currently have paid sick time benefits.

Particularly in suburbs that border collar counties, some local officials are worried the mandates will put undue strain on employers or could dissuade new businesses from setting up shop. Some critics argue such workplace policies should be left up to business owners.

The new laws take effect July 1, but any municipality can opt out at any time, regardless of whether it has home-rule authority, according to county and local officials.

"As a border community, it hurts our businesses," said Jim Schwantz, mayor of Palatine, which borders

Lake County. "I think it's an overreach by the (Cook County Board)."

After inquiries from elected officials and the business community, the Palatine Village Council is expected to take up the question early next year of opting out of one or both of the pay measures, Village Manager Reid Ottesen said.

"Our concern is trying to do something at the local level. All (the ordinances are) doing is unbalancing the playing field," Ottesen said. "You're going to have businesses ... go (across the county line) to Lake Zurich. Why go to Palatine?"

"You have to choose between making a day's wage and taking care of ... your health? That's an unfair choice, an unnecessary choice."

— Adam Kader, worker center director with Arise Chicago

He added that the issue "needs to be addressed at a statewide level, not a county level."

That lack of uniformity is why Barrington officials just last month opted out of the new laws — apparently the first community to do so.

Village President Karen Darch said officials were concerned because the village straddles the Cook-Lake county line, which runs right through the community's downtown business district.

"We acted immediately," she said. "We want a level playing field. We would

have had one side of the street playing by one set of rules, and the other side playing by another. We don't want to have two sets of rules for businesses in our community."

Elgin Mayor David Kaptain said he plans to bring the issue to the City Council at some point before the new laws take effect. About a third of Elgin is in Cook County; the rest is in Kane.

Kaptain said he shares the concerns of other border towns about the effect of more than one set of rules for businesses.

Northwestern University law professor Nadav Shoked, who specializes in local government laws, said county regulations typically only govern unincorporated areas, so it's not surprising that municipalities are already looking at opting out of the new Cook County laws.

Generally speaking, he said, a municipal ordinance trumps a county law when it comes to issues like minimum wage.

Shoked added, "these things tend to have a domino effect. If one (town) opts out, the one next door does."

Cook County Commissioner Timothy Schneider, a Republican from Bartlett, voted against the sick pay and minimum wage increase laws after hearing from businesses in his northwest suburban district, which includes part of Barrington. He said he's heard from officials in other suburbs he represents and believes most will follow Barrington's lead and opt out.

Other suburban Republican commissioners who voted against the measure say most of the municipalities they represent want to opt out, but fear political payback.

"I would say that a ma-

Turn to Law, Next Page

Suburbs look to opt out of sick time, minimum wage laws

Law, from Previous Page

majority would prefer to opt out, but there's a genuine fear among community leaders of retribution from the county," he said.

Commissioner Gregg Goslin of Glenview, whose district includes parts of the northern and northwest suburbs near the county border, described a "genuine fear" among local leaders that, if they reject the pay initiatives, the county might reduce funding of county roads that run through their towns.

"Whether that's real or perceived is another story," he conceded.

Commissioner Sean Morrison of Palos Park represents a district that runs from Des Plaines in the north all the way south to Orland Park. He said most of the officials in the suburbs he represents have

expressed an interest in opting out, but he won't name them, and added they too fear the loss of funds for local roads.

Still, Morrison said "I have a suspicion that a great many of (suburbs) will (opt out). In late winter, early spring, you might see villages doing it."

Morrison points out the concern in his district stems from the effect several county initiatives, like tax increases, have had on business near the border.

"It's noticeable in the last eight to 10 years. It's starting to become retail deserts along the border," he said. "This patchwork creates an unfair business advantage. It's terrible policy."

Suzanne Corr, president of the Barrington Area Chamber of Commerce, said her members wrote letters to county and village

board members in opposition to the new laws, expressing that same concern about a patchwork of laws. Because Barrington sits in two counties, her local business community was troubled about having two different sets of rules for employers, she said.

"It would put our community and our businesses at a complete disadvantage," she said. "You become acutely aware of how decisions like that are going to affect your community when you have a dividing line down the middle."

Corr also said county laws designed to mirror standards in Chicago might not work in outlying suburban areas.

"It appears Cook County follows the Chicago lead," she said. "There's just different dynamics going on in suburban communities. Particularly in our commu-

nity, we can see the differences, and we have to respond to the differences to create a level playing field."

Doug McAllister, owner of Douglas Automotive on the Cook County side of Barrington, said he's glad the village took such swift action opting out.

He also has locations in Crystal Lake and Fox River Grove, outside of Cook County.

"It would've been a challenge for me to have different pay scales for the same job," he said, adding that "the whole premise ... just annoys me because I take good care of my people. (The County Board) needs to do what government is supposed to do and let businesses do what they're supposed to do."

McAllister said he doesn't need a sick day mandate to offer his em-

ployees attractive benefits and the opportunity to stay home if they need to for themselves or their family.

The cost of the minimum wage increase on McAllister's business also could've forced him to cease a part-time program he has for young employees.

"What they were asking for, that would've been a problem and might've limited my ability to mentor young guys who are looking to get into this business," he said.

Adam Kader, worker center director with Arise Chicago, an organization that supports workers' rights, said suburbs that opt out are doing a disservice to those who work in their communities. The group plans to speak out to elected officials, as it did at a recent Palatine Village Council meeting, to urge

them to keep the county's sick time law in place.

"We feel strongly that this is a well-rounded policy," Kader said, pointing out similar laws in New York City, Los Angeles and other major cities. "You have to choose between making a day's wage and taking care of ... your health? That's an unfair choice, an unnecessary choice. There's a growing recognition that this is unacceptable. It's a basic protection all workers should have."

At the federal level, President-elect Donald Trump's pick for labor secretary, fast-food executive Andy Puzder, has reportedly been critical of a push for a \$15-an-hour minimum wage and other mandated worker protections.

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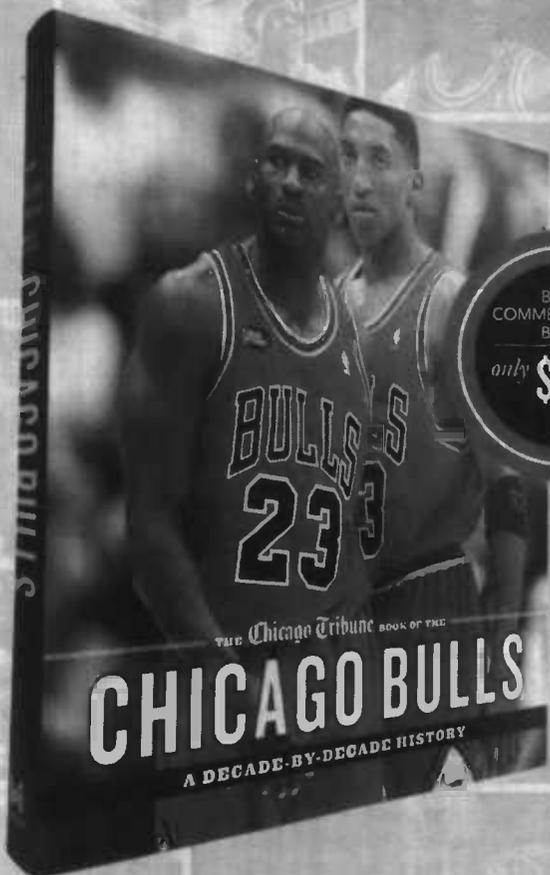
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Retailers look to phones to cut checkout lines

By LAUREN ZUMBACH
Chicago Tribune

Self-checkout is supposed to be a time-saver.

But that's before you're admonished about an "unexpected item in bagging area." Or before you struggle to pick precisely which barcode-free apples are in your cart — Honeycrisp or Gala? Regular or organic? Or before you accidentally hit the button to pay with credit when you meant debit.

By the time you trudge off in search of human help, the reward for attempting to avoid the regular checkout line is an even longer checkout process.

For years, the theoretically appealing but too-often irritating self-checkout experience hasn't changed much. But now that many customers shop with smartphones, retailers are trying to speed the process with technology that can cut down the time spent waiting in line, while helping stores cut labor costs or free up cashiers for other tasks.

Since October, all Sam's Club stores have offered a smartphone app, Scan & Go, which lets customers scan items as they shop and pay on their phone, skipping the physical checkout counter entirely. An earlier version let customers scan as they shopped but still required payment at a traditional self-checkout machine.

Steve Hyzny, of Brookfield, downloaded the app and tried it for the first time recently at a Hodgkins Sam's Club. He's wary of apps that want to store his credit card info but said scanning was straightforward and sped up his trip.

"It's almost too easy," Hyzny said.

Likewise, when Amazon's Seattle grocery store, Amazon Go, opens to the public next year, shoppers will bypass checkout lanes altogether, automatically



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Customer Steve Hyzny of Brookfield uses the new Scan & Go app on his cellphone while shopping at the Sam's Club in Hodgkins on Dec. 7.

charging their purchases to their Amazon account.

Amazon has shared few details about how the technology will work, beyond that it can track when items are removed from shelves using some of the same technology that powers self-driving cars. Even so, retail industry observers expect Amazon will be the company that takes the concept forward.

Unlike traditional self-checkout, Amazon Go isn't asking customers to take on the cashier's role, using similar equipment, but getting rid of checkout altogether, said Neil Stern, senior partner at Chicago-based retail consulting firm McMillan-

Doolittle.

To use Scan & Go, at Sam's Club, a customer uses his or her smartphone camera to scan each item's barcode as the shopper adds it to the cart. After a customer pays through the app, an employee at the exit scans a barcode the app displays on the customer's phone that will show the employee a list of items paid for, to check against the contents of the cart.

"Retail is still very much that legacy retail business of manpower and people putting things on shelves. While self-checkout is a step in the right direction, Amazon Go feels like a giant leap forward," said Tom

Caporaso, CEO of e-commerce technology company Clarus Commerce.

Until recently, convenience shops and grocery stores were more worried about services like in-store pickup than better self-checkout, said Wes Schroll, CEO of Madison, Wis.-based mobile shopping company Fetch Rewards. Its Shop Fetch app will be in 110 stores by January, including several in the Midwest.

Customers use that smartphone app to scan items as they add them to a shopping cart, and the app totals purchases and displays discounts and nutrition information. Shop

Fetch still requires users to pay at a traditional register but transmits purchase information to the cashier to speed the process, Schroll said.

Since the Amazon Go announcement, Schroll said interest in the company's technology has increased.

Self-checkout isn't a new idea, but less-than-seamless technology may have been holding it back, said Stern, who described Amazon's system as a "game-changer" if it works as promised and if customers get on board with a new way of shopping.

"Before, it might have been something nice to play around with. Now it's something they have to take

seriously," he said.

More efficient checkout also means stores will need fewer checkout lanes, freeing up space for more inventory, and potentially fewer employees.

If Scan & Go takes off, cashiers might be able to spend more time doing other customer service tasks, but Sam's Club has no plans to eliminate traditional checkout counters, Sam's Club spokeswoman Dianna Gee said. The warehouse club is keeping its self-checkout registers too.

"We want people to get in and out of the club however they want," Gee said.

lzumbach@chicagotribune.com

Have you had your Christmas fight yet?



PAUL SASSONE

Have you had the fight yet? You know, the Christmas fight.

What the Christmas fight is about varies from family to family. For some it's the long-simmering resentment that boils over every Christmas because one brother didn't get as good a bike 30 years ago.

Or, perhaps the fight is about how much to spend for presents.

And, maybe the fight erupts while trimming the tree:

"It's not straight."

"Yes, it is."

"No, it's not."

"I wish we hadn't even gotten a tree."

"Me, too."

"Fine!"

"Fine!"

One potential apocalypse can break out when trying to decide where to spend Christmas.

You probably want to spend Christmas with your family. After all, they are who you grew up with. They are the people with whom you share your most precious Christmas memories. It's only natural you want to be with them on Christmas.

Unfortunately, your spouse feels the same way about his or her family. And that's only natural, too.

Solving this one requires the diplomatic skills of a secretary of state.

You can propose to alternate families - this Christmas with my family, next Christmas with yours. Trouble is that when next year rolls around the person whose turn it is not to be with his or her family had such a good time last year that he/she doesn't want to alternate.



BILL HOGAN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A reminder from Pioneer Press columnist Paul Sassone: When Christmas fights break out, there is always egg nog to ease the conflict.

One potential apocalypse can break out when trying to decide where to spend Christmas.

Or, you can try to see both families, one on Christmas Eve, the other on Christmas Day.

Trouble here is that the Christmas eve partner always feels short-changed. Oh, sure, Christmas Eve is sort of Christmas. But only Christmas Day is

Christmas:

"Christmas eve is Christmas."

"No, it's not."

"Yes, it is."

"Then why don't we go see your family on Christmas Eve, huh?"

The fact is there are no easy answers to all the problems that can arise surrounding Christmas. All you can do, I guess, is remember and appreciate who you are spending Christmas with.

And, have an egg nog.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Holidays remind us we can always be better

The holidays are upon us and, like everything in America these days, there is more to divide us than there is that unites us.



RANDY BLASER

For instance: Do you dare say Merry Christmas, or is it just Happy Holidays?

Used to be, we all thought the same about these things.

Oh, Americans are still doing the same sorts of tasks this time of year as those Americans of old used to do. People are decorating their homes with thousands of twinkling lights. Americans are decorating the tree. Americans are out shopping as if the national life somehow depends on us spending more money on more things than ever in the history of the world.

And we are all trying to solve two other age-old questions - Christmas Eve or Christmas Day and with which family?

But the big issue isn't what we are doing, since we all do the same sort of things as the Americans of long ago.

The question is: Why do we do it?

Why do we decorate and light up the neighborhood?

Why do we bring a live tree into the house and turn it into a fire hazard?

Why do we enjoy looking at decorations, and greeting strangers we bump into on the street with a cheerful nod?

Why do we shop 'til we drop?

Why gather with friends and family who are near to us?

Tradition? Habit? If that's all it is, then no wonder so many Americans feel empty and sad and lonely this time of year.

But there is a reason for all these things that we do. And this is it: Deep down, we know we can be better.

Deep down, we know the way

we behave the rest of the year - clawing to the top, keeping up with the Joneses, trying so hard to get ahead - leaves little to feel good about.

So we know there must be more to this mundane struggle to survive. What is it?

We are called to be better than what we are.

Here it is, the coldest, darkest time of the year, a dark night of the soul, if you will, and we look to celebrate.

We look to celebrate not what we are, but what we could be. It is the promise that we were made for a reason. And that reason is to be kinder to each other, and to share more and to give more and love more.

Those who are Christian celebrate the coming of the Savior. So one must ask: To save us from what?

Isn't it obvious? To save us from ourselves. To save us from ourselves and to remind us that there is more to life than struggle, more than pain, and more than hurt.

What if every day was Christmas?

What if every day you looked forward not for what you could receive, as if you were a child, but for what you could give?

So while you're decorating, trimming the tree, writing the cards, and shopping 'til you drop, remember why you do it. Don't just do it because it is a habit. Give it meaning.

Call it Christ. Call it Emanuel. Call it Christmas spirit. Whatever.

Just remember there is more to life than drudge and work and habit. We are meant for more than that. There is joy, generosity, good cheer and love.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.



JEFF KRAGE/PIONEER PRESS

Christmas cards line the shelves in stores.

Social media now encroaches on Christmas card tradition

One particularly unnerving day over Thanksgiving break, I observed and realized with a sinking feeling how much our phones have overrun and re-shaped family life.

My husband just gave his old phone to our 12-year-old daughter, who is the last of the six of us to get a smartphone. Over Thanksgiving weekend, I found myself sniping at her to put it away, and then realized, with her rebuttal that “everyone here is doing the same thing,” that we are all, indeed, spending too much time with our heads down, engrossed on another plane of reality.

When we went out to dinner, I issued a no-phone directive and then had to restrain myself from pulling out my own phone to snap a family picture. On Thanksgiving night, some of us were in the TV room after dinner, ostensibly watching left-over football and the Charlie Brown Thanksgiving special, but really spending more time checking Instagram, Snapchat and Facebook. The same was true at bedtime: the eerie glow of the phone was matched only by the eerie silence in the house.

Now, it seems, social media has encroached on



LYNN PETRAK

one of the things I love most about the holidays: Christmas cards.

I’m not getting as many Christmas cards this year, even from people who have been sending photo cards and greeting cards for decades. I attribute much of it to the fact that Facebook, Instagram and other forms of social media have largely taken the place of the annual Christmas card photo: Not only do I know what my friends’ kids look like, I’ve seen them on the slopes, at the beach, on the first day of school, Halloween and Thanksgiving morning at a 5K or just after Thanksgiving dinner.

I really do hope Christmas cards don’t go the way of other forms of written correspondence, like personal letters or even newsletters from schools. There’s something about seeing the familiar handwriting, along with the faces and smiles, of people from all parts of your life show up in a holiday card. Like many people, I hang up our cards for much of

December and into early January, and even save some cards from close friends and family to store in a big bin.

When sending Christmas cards, too, there is a ritual that is both soothing and spirited. You look through your address book, seeing the march of time reflected in crossed-out addresses, the addition of new family members or, on the flip side, the realization that some people on your list are no longer among the living. As you write out addresses, maybe you, like me, think of memories linked to that particular person or family, like a college spring break trip, high school dance, bunco group or raucous family holidays.

There might be a temptation, in this era of instant photos and messaging, to skip the Christmas card mailing this year and then likely, forever. I doubt my own kids will send cards like I do when they’re adults.

I hope not, though, because there’s nothing like going to the mailbox, sliding open envelopes and being reminded that seasons’ greetings are the gladdest of tidings. Bing Crosby couldn’t dream of a white Christmas with every status update he wrote, right?

Please don’t buy my kids gifts

NICOLE RADZISZEWSKI
Mama’s Gotta Move

I grew up in a family where gift giving dominated Christmas. Every year, my mom shopped for every cousin in my enormous extended family – 18 of them on her side alone. For each of my two siblings and me, she would start with just a few gifts, but then inevitably this number would grow. And grow. And grow. I have memories of her rushing to the store days before Christmas to find another toy for my brother so she could even out the amount she spent on gifts for each of us.

I’m not gonna lie. I loved it. What kid wouldn’t? And I’m also not going to say it took away from the true meaning of Christmas. In fact, at age 10, I still believed Santa made it to every house in the world on Christmas Eve because Jesus could give Santa powers to do anything. So one might expect I would raise my kids in the same gift-giving spirit. But I’m not ... or at least, I’m trying not to. It’s not just because my kids don’t need more “stuff” (although this is part of it). It’s not because I think gifts take away from the meaning of Christmas (though I certainly see how this can happen). It’s not just because my kids were acting particularly bratty the day I started writing this. It’s because my kids don’t actually want anything.

And here’s where you tell me I’m nuts. Of course, every kid cares about gifts, right? I mean, no kid would ever turn down an opportunity for more presents on Christmas morning.

But here’s the thing: If not for the adults in their lives prodding my kids to



CHICAGO PARK DISTRICT

Children take in the scene at Lincoln Park Conservatory in Chicago last December. Columnist Nicole Radziszewski says more experience/learning-based gifts can be better than conventional material gifts for her children.

tell them what they want for Christmas, my kids wouldn’t even think about making lists. If no one ever placed a Toys “R” Us ad in front of them, they would have no idea what Legos they were missing. If not for commercials between Christmas movies showcasing the latest Nerf guns, they wouldn’t have visions of the Mega Zombie Elite Striker Missile dancing through their little heads. I know the feeling when you truly want a gift and believe it will add to the joy in your life. I also know the feeling when you have to think hard to come up with something you would like (wedding registry, anyone?). It’s not a feeling I’d like my kids to become comfortable with. It’s a feeling that drives a constant state of want – a constant checking in with what one has and what is out there to get.

And it’s unnecessary. My boys are ages 5 and 2 right now. They are enthralled by the idea of Santa and his reindeer. They love making decorations and ornaments to give to relatives. They love dancing to Christmas music in the kitchen. They are excited about baking and decorating cookies. They like snuggling up and watching Christmas movies. Everything about the season is magical to them.

And I’m pretty sure that if all of this remained and on Christmas morning there were just one or two presents under the tree, they would still be full of joy. (Anyone remember the people of Whoville in “The Grinch”?)

But I know there will still be prodding, asking for lists and requesting which characters my kids like and which Legos they “need.” Aunts and uncles and grandparents will want to know what to buy. Here’s what you can do:

- Show them that you love them through experience-based gifts.
- Donate money to a worthy cause in their name, and then make them a part of it.
- Pay for a specialty class or activity that’s outside their usual extracurricular routine and that they’ve always wanted to try.
- Purchase a membership to a local museum, zoo, aquarium, nature center, etc. Make this gift even better by chaperoning the first visit.
- Subscribe to a magazine or monthly craft/activity kit in their name.
- And finally, give a gift for the whole family: A sleepover (free babysitting) at your house.

Nicole Radziszewski is a freelance columnist.

GIFTS FOR FOODIES

A batch of the year's best cookbooks

BY TOM WITOM
Pioneer Press

Once more, publishers have served a tasty smorgasbord of new cookbooks. The 2016 mix includes something for everyone, from novices to seasoned chefs.

Readers will encounter must-try chocolate recipes and healthy made-from-scratch breads to versatile vegetarian dishes in this sampling of the year's noteworthy cookbooks.

"BUTTER CELEBRATES!"
(ALFRED A. KNOPF)

Baker Rosie Daykin focuses her second cookbook on major holidays (Christmas, Hanukkah, Easter) and special occasions (the arrival of a baby or a new neighbor). More than 100 recipes are presented, including seductive French macaroons, butterscotch walnut pie and chocolate hazelnut rugelach.

"SOUS VIDE AT HOME" (TEN SPEED PRESS)

Sous vide is slowly entering the mainstream as portable and affordable equipment becomes available. Lisa Q. Fetterman's book helps give home cooks the

necessary footing to understand and embrace the technology. Cooks can rejoice in the tenderness they can achieve by using a precise temperature-controlled water bath, whether they are making stout-glazed short ribs or halibut tostadas.

"BIG AMERICAN COOKBOOK"
(GRAND CENTRAL LIFE & STYLE)

Mario Batali traveled across America to compile a memorable collection of 250 regional favorites that together define the country's melting pot heritage, including a recipe for Chicago-style deep dish pizza. Batali also showcases specific barbeque styles from Texas, Kansas City, Memphis and the Carolinas. Check out variations of chowder along the northeastern seaboard, spicy Gulf Coast gumbo and berry pies of the Pacific Northwest.

"COOKING SOLO: THE FUN OF COOKING FOR YOURSELF"
(HOUGHTON MIFFLIN HARCOURT)

Klancy Miller, a New York-based food writer and pastry chef, directs attention to the multitude of American adults living alone by choice and enjoying the freedom



TOM WITOM/PIONEER PRESS

Ten of the year's best cookbooks from Cuban cooking to sous vide.

to fend for themselves in the kitchen yet also looking for ways to savor fresh and creative food. The 100 or so approachable recipes in her book cover the gamut from a casual breakfast or dinner and packing a work lunch to planning a fancy brunch.

"A RECIPE FOR COOKING"
(WILLIAM MORROW)

Just in time for the holidays, Cal Peternell's insightful new cookbook is designed for cooks who want to go beyond the basics. Peternell, a veteran chef at the acclaimed Chez Panisse in San Francisco, follows the seasons as it offers a game plan for every aspect of a meal.

"ICUBAI: RECIPES AND STORIES FROM THE CUBAN KITCHEN" (TEN SPEED PRESS)

Chicago-based food writer

Jody Eddy, stylist Andrea Kuhn and photographer Dan Goldberg combined their skills to create an intimate closeup of Cuba. The trio share 75 approachable recipes such as Cuban-style fried chicken, squid ink empanadas and mojito cake.

"THERE'S ALWAYS ROOM FOR CHOCOLATE: RECIPES FROM BROOKLYN'S THE CHOCOLATE ROOM" (RIZZOLI)

Chocolate cuatro leches cake is one of several showstoppers in this enlightening new cookbook by Naomi Josepher, Jon Payson and Georgia Freedman. The recipe starts as the traditional tres leches version — a chocolate sponge cake soaked with a mix of condensed milk, evaporated milk and heavy cream. Then it's topped with sweet, caramelized

dulce leche, the fourth "milk."

"THE VEGETABLE BUTCHER"
(WORKMAN)

Cooks who turn to Cara Mangini's inspired cookbook will find discussions on ways to pick, prep, slice, dice and cook veggies. The volume presents itself as a practical reference that offers more than 150 step-by-step recipes.

"THE ENCHILADA QUEEN COOKBOOK" (ST. MARTIN'S PRESS)

In her new cookbook, restaurateur Sylvia Casares shares 80 recipes for enchiladas, fajitas, tamales and other classic dishes from Texas-Mexico border towns. Readers will find instructions on how to prepare the author's Holy Trinity spice paste and observe a demonstration of Casares's Texas Two-Step tortilla marinating technique to flavor and soften corn tortillas.

"THE NEW HEALTHY BREAD IN FIVE MINUTES A DAY"
(THOMAS DUNNE BOOKS)

Dr. Jeff Hartzberg and Zoe Franco, pastry chef and baker, build on the popularity of their earlier book ("Healthy Bread in Five minutes a Day") with a revised and updated version. It incorporates several new photos and 33 new recipes.

Also worth a look: "One Pan, Two Plates: Vegetarian Suppers" (Chronicle); "Juice Manifesto" (Chronicle); "Apertivo: The Cocktail Culture of Italy" (Rizzoli International); "100 Days of Real Food: Fast & Fabulous" (William Morrow); "The Clever Cookbook" (Page Street).

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**Thursday, December 29
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**MORRIS DAY
AND THE TIME**

"Jungle Love," "The Bird"
and "Jerk Out"

**Friday, January 20
7:30 PM**



The State Ballet Theatre of Russia's

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**Saturday, January 28
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EVENTS

Ideas for New Year's Eve

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Pioneer Press

Sure, you could sit home watching the ball drop in Times Square on TV, but if you're looking to get out and about, here are some entertaining ideas for how to spend New Year's Eve.

DOWNSIZED NEW YEAR'S

If you can't make it to the real Time Square this year, check out the miniature version at Itty Bitty New Year from 10 a.m. to noon Dec. 29 at Skokie Park District's Exploritorium Children's Museum and Oakton Community Center. Activities include a DJ and a countdown-to-noon balloon drop. Tickets are \$10 for resident children, \$13 for non-residents, and \$2 for adults. Call 847-674-1500 or go to www.skokieparks.org.

FAMILY-FRIENDLY NEW YEAR'S

The annual family-friendly New Year's Eve Celebration returns from 5 to 8 p.m. Dec. 31 at the Centennial Fitness Center, 1515 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge. Activities for ages 2 and up include dinner and dessert, live entertainment, inflatables, a tot play area, miniature golf and a closing countdown. Tickets are \$18 for all. Children must be accompanied by an adult and registration is required. Call 847-692-5129 or go to www.prparks.org.

FIRST NIGHT FUN

Dozens of shows in eight venues will fill downtown Evanston with poems, stories, comedy, music, dancing and even circus acts as First Night Evanston kicks off 2017. Family-friendly events will be held in the afternoon (in addition to a teen improv troupe and a teen battle of the bands in the evening). Other featured acts include Stewart Figa (and his Fifty Shades of Yiddish), Second



EDWARD MARSHALL PHOTO

The hours for Frozemont Skating In the Park at MB Financial Park at Rosemont will be extended from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. on New Year's Eve.

City Improv, Corky Siegel and Chamber Blues, circus artists from Actors Gymnasium, R&B singer Gerald McClendon and violinist Rob Flax performing until midnight. There will also be food trucks. Tickets are \$20 for adults (\$25 on Dec. 31) or \$10 for kids 9 and older. A \$100 premium ticket guarantees front row seating at all shows. For more information, go to www.firstnightevanston.org.

JAZZY COMEDY NEW YEAR'S

Singer/comedienne Carla Gordon and comic Wayne Mell host a comedy lineup featuring Jan Slavin, Pam Peterson, Bernie Rice, Judy Rossignulo-Rice, Debra Criche Mell and Bob Moreen from 8 to 9:30 p.m. Dec. 31 in the Skokie Theatre. With a jazz trio and Times Square-style ball drop as a bonus. Complimentary appetizers and a champagne toast are included. Tickets are \$30. Call 847-677-7761 or go to www.skokietheatre.com.

WIP IT GOOD

The Work In Progress Theater, meant to be a local

theater featuring all forms of comedy, hasn't forgotten the young-uns while planning its holiday celebrations. Its Kid's New Year's Eve party runs from 3 to 5:30 p.m. Dec. 31 in the WIP Theatre, 6670 N. Northwest Highway, Chicago. Activities include games, karaoke, food, prizes and a climactic balloon drop. Admission is \$15 (no charge for adults). The WIP also hosts a grown-up party from 9 p.m. to midnight featuring comic Kristen Toomey, a cash bar, catering by Firewater Saloon and a champagne toast at midnight. Admission is \$50. For more information, call 312-725-9327 or go to www.wiptheater.com.

NEW YEAR'S ON ICE

Frozemont Skating in the Park returns to the Chicago Wolves Ice Rink through Jan. 2 at MB Financial Park, 5501 Park Place, Rosemont — with extended holiday hours from 11 a.m. to 1 a.m. New Year's Eve. Admission to the outdoor rink is free; skate rental is \$8. For more information, go to www.rosemont.com.

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MOVIES

Box set gift ideas from 'Carol Burnett' to 'Johnny Carson'

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Pioneer Press

With all the digital streaming services available, it might seem there's not much in the way of DVD or Blu-ray gift sets to get excited about this year when it comes to holiday shopping.

Fortunately, though, you can still find quality TV and movies on disc for just about anyone on your list. Such as these below.

THE BOURNE ULTIMATE COLLECTION

This Universal Pictures Home Entertainment gift set packages all five Jason Bourne movies starring Matt Damon as the tormented super-spy, including this year's comeback in "Jason Bourne."

That's in addition to deluxe editions of each film and a generous selection of extras.

THE CAROL BURNETT SHOW: THE LOST EPISODES

Showcasing the early years of the TV classic "The Carol Burnett Show," this spectacular collector's set features 45 episodes from the first five seasons, which were never re-broadcast and remained in the Burnett vault until now.

This value-packed, 22-disc Time-Life box set features not only the long-unseen episodes, but more than 20 hours of bonus programming, including a backstage tour with Burnett and the cast.

HEE HAW: THE COLLECTOR'S EDITION

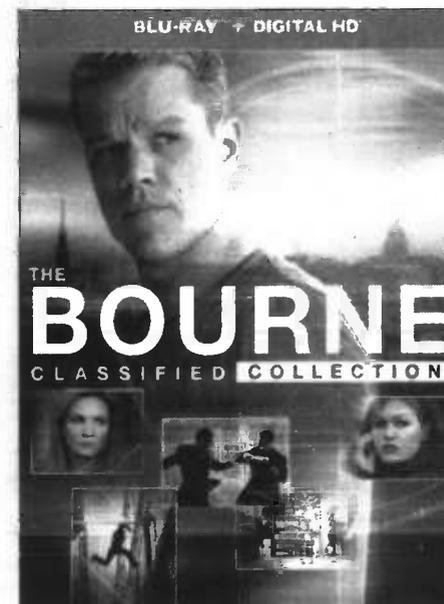
Beginning in 1969 as an unlikely summer replacement series for "The Smothers Brothers Comedy Hour," this knee-slappin' hoedown of a show went on to last 23 seasons — and this 14-disc collector's set from Time-Life captures more than 21 hours of its hee-hawing highlights.

Co-hosted by country stars Buck Owens and Roy Clark and featuring cornpone comedy by regulars including Minnie Pearl, Grandpa Jones and Archie Campbell, "Hee Haw" also racked up countless stellar musical moments.

MOTOWN 25 COLLECTOR'S SET

Anyone old enough to have seen the classic "Motown 25" TV special when it aired May 16, 1983, no doubt recalls marveling at Michael Jackson's dance moves, including his six-second, mind-blowing "moonwalk."

This dazzling box set from Time-Life features every moment of the celebration of the legendary record label (plus an additional 20 minutes not aired in the original broadcast) including reunions by the Supremes and the Miracles, a battle-



UNIVERSAL PICTURES HOME ENTERTAINMENT

"The Bourne Collection" features all five Jason Bourne movies starring Matt Damon.

of-the-bands between The Temptations and the Four Tops and additional performances by Stevie Wonder, The Jackson 5, Marvin Gaye and Diana Ross.

OPRY VIDEO CLASSICS COLLECTOR'S SET

A treasure trove of performances from the grand palace of country music. This 16-disc box set from Time-Life is the most comprehensive collection of live music from the stage of Nashville's Grand Ole Opry, featuring '50s, '60s and '70s country legends such as Johnny Cash, Porter Wagoner, Patsy Cline, Ernest Tubb, Willie Nelson, Loretta Lynn, Dolly Parton, Tammy Wynette, Conway Twitty and Waylon Jennings.

SONY PICTURES ANIMATION GIFT SET

An abundance of some of Sony's best animated family adventures are offered in this set, featuring 10 films, going as far back as 2006's "Open Season," all the way up to last year's "Hotel Transylvania 2," plus "Cloudy with a Chance of Meatballs," the original "Hotel Transylvania," "Arthur Christmas" and more.

THE TONIGHT SHOW STARRING JOHNNY CARSON: VAULT SERIES

The 12-disc deluxe edition of the "Vault Series" includes 24 complete shows (out of roughly 4,000 airing during Carson's 30-year reign), including the original commercials. In addition, the box set includes more than four hours of bonus clips.

Living

Thursday, December 15, 2016



Ask the Doctors:
Taking aspirin may decrease chances of heart attack Page 12

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THANASIS ZOVOILIS/GETTY



Quick sizzle vs. slow warming

Is friends-first approach or instant torrid desire the all-important key to a lasting relationship? Page 3

Make your holiday chocolate dreams come true

By Judy Buchenot
The Courier-News

About 25 years ago, Roselle resident Pam Vieau took at class on how to make a chocolate box with a chocolate bow just for fun.

"It turned out really well and I thought, 'That's cool. I want to do more of this,'" she said. Then came a trip to Paris where Vieau visited some of the world's finest chocolate shops and learned about a chef in New Jersey who taught classes. Her sweet journey continued as she took classes from the chef in New Jersey and just about any other class she could find. Vieau began making her own chocolate creations and teaching classes at Wilton Enterprises, Triton College and other locations.

She then was approached by an Elk Grove Village company who hired her to do research and development for new confectionery mixtures. "I kept learning new things about nut pastes, flavor profiles — I still am learning new things because new things keep happening," Vieau said.

Although she enjoyed the various challenges of teaching and developing sweets for others, Vieau decided it was time to establish her own candy company and founded Chocolate Inspirations about 10 years ago. About 70 percent of her business is for companies that want chocolate client gifts and 30 percent is wholesale and online chocolate orders. As a talented chocolate artist, she has filled orders for all sorts of things from a life-sized gilded chocolate shoe to a three-dimensional turkey.

One of her biggest challenges was for a client in New York. "This woman was hosting a knock-your-socks-off New Year's Eve Party. She wanted to give everyone a jeweled chocolate crown filled with truffles. There was 1½ pounds



JUDY BUCHENOT/COURIER-NEWS

Pam Vieau pipes ganache onto various cookies to turn them into holiday treats.

of chocolate in each crown and a pound of truffles inside each crown. She wanted 150 of them." Vieau brought in helpers to create a crown assembly line to complete the order. "Then we had to figure out how to ship them. The crown had delicate points on it so it was not an easy task," she said.

Fortunately, Vieau has been blessed with daughter Marcy Goetz, who has been willing to step in to help her mom with challenges involving packaging. "I am sales and marketing," said Goetz, who lives in Medinah. "I will do anything but the making. She does all of the chocolate." Goetz cleverly came up with a way to safely package and ship the crowns which arrived safely and delighted all of the party guests.

Vieau has 30 different

Pam's Culinary Cue

To make truffles a uniform size, pour the ganache into a shallow pan. Refrigerate until firm. Then cut into equal squares. Roll each square into a ball to make the truffle.

products and does custom orders for weddings, events and corporate clients. One of her most innovative products is her line of vegan confections, which has been popular. Her newest product is Elmore Squirtle, a square caramel and pecan filled chocolate. "Elmore is a turtle who is square instead of round. The idea is to celebrate being different. We plan to donate a percentage of sales to anti-bullying campaigns," said

Vieau. Her biggest seller is her English toffee, but she has numerous artisan chocolate varieties from Italian orange to bourbon black tea.

In this season of dancing sugarplums, Vieau shares a few tips about adding chocolate to holiday treats. Her first caution is to realize that chocolate chips are not ideal for candy making. She suggests looking for higher quality chocolate which can be found at Trader Joe's, Whole Foods or on the internet. "Look at the ingredients. If cocoa butter is not the first or second ingredient listed, use a different chocolate," she said.

A good quality ganache can be the start of all sorts of easy-to-make holiday treats according to Vieau.

"Ganache is great for dipping strawberries or fruits because it will keep for a few days in the refrigerator," she said. The rich chocolate mixture can be used to sandwich together or fill store-bought cookies and turn them into confections. Ganache can be used to fill mini tart shells for a rich, bite-sized dessert. It can also be used to make truffles by just chilling it and rolling it into balls. "You can add finely crushed cookies to the ganache to give it texture when making truffles," she said. Traditionally, truffles are rolled in cocoa powder but they can also be rolled in nuts or other coatings. She shares a simple recipe for ganache for holiday treat making.

For a more sophisticated sweet treat, Vieau has developed a salted chocolate champagne caramel sweet shot. She shares the recipe which is easy to make. Vieau will be participating in the holiday market at Oakbrook Center in Oak Brook on Dec. 16-18. Her other products can be found at www.chocolateinspirations.com.

Judy Buchenot is a freelance writer.

Holiday Chocolate Ganache

- 12 ounces quality chocolate
- 3 tablespoons butter at room temperature
- 1¼ cups heavy (whipping) cream
- 2 tablespoons light corn syrup
- 2 tablespoons vanilla or favorite liqueur

1. Break chocolate into chunks and place in a food processor. Pulse several times to break chocolate into smaller pieces. Add butter to processor. Set aside.
2. Place heavy cream and corn syrup in sauce pan and heat until just boiling. Pour hot cream mixture through a sieve over chocolate and butter in food processor. Process mixture till the mixture is smooth and "satiny" with no lumps. Scrape down sides of processor.
3. Add vanilla or liqueur. Process till blended. Use ganache in several ways:

■ **Chocolate dipped strawberries:** Let ganache cool to 86 degrees. Dip clean, dry strawberries into ganache, and place on parchment sheet. Can be rolled in crushed cookies or nuts if desired.

■ **Ganache Sandwich Cookies:** Make or purchase your favorite firm holiday cookies. Sandwich two cookies together with ganache.

■ **Panettone with ganache:** Slice panettone into thirds, pipe ganache on each layer. Drizzle top lightly with ganache.

■ **Chocolate tarts:** Pour or pipe ganache into tart shells. Let stand at room temperature to set for two hours or refrigerate for 1 hour. Garnish as desired.

■ **Truffles:** Refrigerate mixture until firm. Roll pieces into balls and coat with cocoa, nuts or toppings.

Salted chocolate champagne caramel sweet shots

- 13 ounces caramel sauce
- 6 ounces champagne, divided
- ½ teaspoon sea salt
- 4.5 ounces milk or dark chocolate — chopped raspberries (optional) chocolate cups (optional)

1. Pour caramel sauce into a microwaveable bowl. Pour 3 ounces of champagne into the bowl. Heat mixture for 1 minute in microwave.
2. Add chocolate and sea salt. Stir until thoroughly melted and emulsified. Add remaining three ounces of champagne and stir until thoroughly emulsified.
3. Serve in shot glasses or chocolate cups. If desired, place a raspberry in each cup before filling. If using chocolate cups, mixture must not be warmer than 88 degrees. Can be made with sparkling cider or grape juice in place of the champagne. Sweet shots chocolate liqueur cups are available at Chocolate Inspirations website.

Quick sizzle vs. slow warming

Is friends-first approach or instant torrid lust the all-important key to a lasting relationship?

By Leslie Mann | Chicago Tribune

Who is more likely to remain together: The couple who were friends before they became romantic or the couple who sizzled from day one?

Janet Nast, 58, and Tom Carter, 66, of Bremerton, Wash., vote “friends first.” Well before they married in 2003, they were strictly friends — as in separate booths at their favorite fast-food restaurant.

When Nast told Carter she was always there at 1 p.m., you could set your clock by his arrival, she said. “Not with tires squealing or dust-a-flying,” she said, but “cool and calm as a cowboy.” Every weekday for two years, she with a chicken sandwich, he with an iced tea, they chatted about everything from kids to cars.

“He was married, and I was going through my ‘I hate men,’ post-divorce phase, so we were just friends, and every topic was safe,” Nast said.

Convinced she would never find the man of her dreams, Nast drafted a “perfect husband list,” then shared it with Carter. He kept mum that he was divorcing. Too bad, he said years later, because the list described him to a tee, except he couldn’t dance.

It wasn’t until Nast recruited Carter, then a telephone company lineman, to help her move one weekend that they finally shared a kiss and became “more than just friends,” she said.

Now, their marriage is built on “honesty and trust” they achieved through friendship, Nast said. Add the magic that occurs whenever their eyes lock, she said, and their marriage is a keeper.

Couples like Danica, 31, and Brian Keefe, 35, on the other hand, were shot by Cupid’s arrow on day one, then built friendship from there.

Sure, she admired his athletic skills the first time she saw Brian playing in an Ultimate Frisbee tournament, Keefe recalled. But she also was smitten by his stride with confidence.

“You could tell people looked up to him,” she said. She didn’t meet him until a year later, in 2007, at a Frisbee party. Her intui-

tion was correct, and the attraction was mutual. “Afterward, we went to his house and made out — a lot,” she said.

After driving back and forth from her campus to his house, until she graduated from college, she knew she would spend her life with him, Danica Keefe said.

They married in 2010, had a son and settled in South Bend, Ind., where he’s a supervisor for a home improvement retailer and she’s a therapist for autistic children.

“Whether it’s trying for a new job or training for a competition, we support each other,” Danica Keefe said. “I couldn’t be with a man who doesn’t do that.”

Now, the sparks are still there, but there are days when their 3-year-old drains them of energy, she said. Then, she said, the friendship part of the marriage rules. “You have to be nurturing,” she said. “You’re tired, too, but you have to just try.”

In the end, “it’s not so much which comes first — love/lust or friendship/trust — as long as you have both,” said Lonnie Barbach, a San Francisco clinical psychologist and content director for relationship game app Happy Couple.

Before you rush to the altar, “take your time to get to know each other,” Barbach said. “After about nine months, you’ve talked about the big things like values, and you’ve seen the little things that annoy your partner. You wouldn’t believe how many people bring up that toilet paper thing, for example — one person hangs it ‘over’ and one hangs it ‘under.’”

Listen to what your close friends say about your new love, said Kelly Roberts, marriage and



UWE UMSTAETTER/CULTURA RF

family therapist and assistant professor of educational psychology at the University of North Texas. “They’re risking their friendship with you by telling you if they don’t like him,” she said.

Know your partner long enough to see him or her through some tough times, Roberts added.

Tyler McCarl, 25, an accountant, married his childhood friend, publicist Megan Susterich, 25, in 2015, so he knew she was unflappable. After all, she handled an eighth-grade breakup with finesse, when McCarl talked Susterich’s then-boyfriend into breaking up with her so he could ask her out.

The grown-up Susterich proved to be equally steadfast only a few hours into their marriage, when the Grand Rapids, Mich., couple were in a car accident on their way to their honeymoon. “Megan handled it,”

McCarl said.

One of the reasons Denver children’s musician Cory Cullinan, 46, fell for his college classmate Janette Sampson, 46, was the way she overcame obstacles.

“She demonstrates more grit and character every day than the rest of us do in a week,” Cullinan said of his wife, who is legally blind. At the same time, he said, “she is ridiculously, lovingly supportive (of me)” and juggles parenting their kids with her job as an intellectual property development manager.

Cullinan recalls the day he made the friends-to-lovers transition.

“When the 1989 Loma Prieta earthquake happened, Janette didn’t come to work, so I rode my bike out to her dorm to make sure she was OK,” said Cullinan, who lived in a dorm where Sampson worked. “The conversation was

something like, ‘You OK?’ ‘Yeah.’ ‘You OK?’ ‘OK, bye.’ On my way back, I thought, something’s not right. I have a girlfriend back home, and I just rode all the way out here to make sure Janette was OK.” Two months later, the Cullinans were an item.

While Cullinan describes the transition as smooth, many couples recall the day they “fell” in love, as though a cliff was nearby. It’s no wonder, Roberts said, because falling in love is an “amazingly complex” phenomenon.

It’s so complex, in fact, it’s an evergreen topic in scriptwriting.

If you go by Hollywood’s storylines, “relationships are stronger when they have friendships as their core starting points,” said Elizabeth Coffman, associate professor of film at Loyola University Chicago.

Leslie Mann is a freelancer.

PETS/ANIMALS

MY PET WORLD

The best way to clean up after your dog

By Marc Morrone
Tribune Content Agency

Q: We have four large dogs and cleaning up after they have done their business is an issue. Currently, we use bags to clean up after them in the yard and during walks. But then we place those bags in the garbage and off to the landfill they go. We are hoping you can offer a greener solution as to what to do with all their poop. Any suggestions would be most appreciated. Thanks so much.
— Mario Campo, Chicago, IL

A: This is what I did myself when I had a houseful of eight large dogs. I created a "dog potty" in my backyard that is basically a large square gravel bed that I trained my dogs to relieve themselves on. Next to this spot I buried one of those Doggie Dooley's, which is basically a bottomless trash can that is buried in the ground with a tight fitting lid. Every day I just picked up the poop off the gravel and drop it in the Doggie Dooley, where it disappears into the depths of the ground. To me this seems like the greenest solution.

However, I must confess that when I took my dogs for walks through the neighborhood I just bagged it and tossed it in a garbage can. The bulk of poop bags sold these days in pet stores are considered to be biodegradable and do break down in time but some take longer than others. The bags made of corn are more ex-

pensive but do break down the fastest. With small dogs, most owners use Wee-Wee pads indoors then just flush the poop in the toilet, which is a fine solution.

One thing that everyone seems to be in agreement with is that dog poop should never be composted and used as fertilizer for vegetables meant for human consumption as there may be pathogens in the dog poop that we do not need in our vegetable gardens. The heat generated in your average compost pile is not enough to kill all pathogens, such as E-coli.

Q: There is a cat lady on our block that feeds the stray cats in the neighborhood and it seems like it attracts raccoons to our block. My question is if I have to worry about my Yorkie as we let her out into the yard at night and some of these raccoons are three times her size. I was wondering if we have to worry that one of them would hurt her one night?

— Samantha Miller, Orlando, FL

A: If you asked me this question two months ago I would have said a raccoon that is well-fed on cat food would most likely not bother with a dog — even a little dog like you have. Coyotes are the ones who cause major drama with household pets. I always assumed raccoons were not motivated enough to hurt pets.

However, I just went through a horrible experience that changed my mind about what raccoons are



MICHAEL CLINCHY PHOTO

This raccoon is not afraid of predators — and that's a bad thing.

capable of. For 15 years we had a pet Tasmanian Black Swan that lived freely in our backyard — her name was Giselle and she hated me but was devoted to my wife.

She was a huge bird and when she was mad at me she could hit me with her wings so hard that I would be knocked down. She would chase and terrorize all our dogs and cats. We had a little straw filled shed that had an open door where she slept at night and there never was a problem with raccoons — they never bothered her in all these years.

We have a neighbor that feed stray cats, as well and the resident raccoons are so well fed that they do not even bother with opening

the trash cans anymore. We also have no coyotes in this area.

However, the other night poor Giselle was killed by a raccoon and I have no idea why or how it happened — it was a fierce battle judging by what I saw in the morning. I never would have thought a raccoon could overpower such a strong bird like a Black Swan. I cannot figure out why a raccoon would bother her when there were bowls of cat food left out by my neighbor only 50 feet away.

So my point is to never underestimate what a raccoon can do — be sure your dog is vaccinated for rabies and keep flood lights lit in your backyard when the little dog

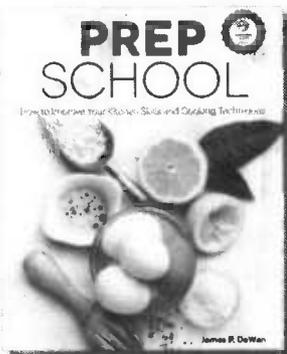
is out at night. You have to be pro-active rather than reactive.

Q: We have a ferret and a Pomeranian and they are great friends. The ferret does go to the dog's dish and helps himself to the kibble when he has the opportunity. We were wondering if this is OK for him? — Eva Smith, Evanston, IL

A: A small amount of dog kibble here and there is not going to hurt a ferret, but do not let the ferret eat so much that it's appetite gets satiated. If you do, it might not eat as much of its own food that it normally would. Ferrets need a lot more protein and fat than dogs do and too much dog food can skew the ferrets metabolism out of balance.

Another issue is their teeth. Ferrets have very thin teeth that break easily, which is why kibble made for ferrets is soft and easy to break up. Crunching on hard dog kibble can cause a ferret to break off one of their eyeteeth and when this happens a nasty abscess can develop in the mouth, so this situation is one you need to monitor.

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. You can contact him at pexperts2@aol.com; please include your name, city and state.



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Glenview installs new meters, complaints flow

Following receipt of their November water bills, I received the below complaints from four Glenview residents.

Complaint 1: Since the installation of new water meters by the village of Glenview, my water bills have just about quadrupled. This last cycle my bill was over \$500 for normal usage.

Complaint 2: (My last water) bill nearly DOUBLED. I live alone, shower at my health club, don't have a sprinkler system, wash my few dishes and do a small amount of laundry. I am totally baffled how my bill was so different after the water meter changed. I can't understand the village's response that I have a leaky toilet, and I was getting free water previously.

Complaint 3: Our water bill was over three times the (previous) amount. We just got our bill and were blown away by the total. Crazy.

Complaint 4: If we assume that we used to get 'free' water, and the new water meters are measuring correctly and everyone's bills are going to double, why should the village get to keep all that extra revenue? Should the village be making a profit?

Their costs have not gone up 100 percent. In general, if villages achieve efficiencies and corresponding cost reductions, then those savings should be passed on to the residents

... To get some answers, I reached out to Don Owen, Glenview's deputy village manager. He in turn arranged a conference call that included himself, Director of Administrative Services Amy Ahner, and Deputy Director of Administrative Services Nick Santoro.

Owen began the call by saying "We've gone basically from the stone age to the space age when it comes to (water meter) technology and efficiency."

He explained that prior to beginning the change-out to Sensus iPerl smart water meters in September 2015, the village did a study to determine the efficiency of the old, analog meters and determined that, on average, they were reading about 88 percent accurate.

"There were some cases where people's



CATHY CUNNINGHAM
Help Squad

water meters were almost failing completely, where they were being charged for something like 14 percent of their water usage," Owen said.

Owen went on to explain that Glenview's water system is an enterprise system, meaning the village pays for

what it uses, and the cost of buying water is spread over all rate payers. If someone receives water they didn't pay for, other residents incur the cost.

Owen told me village administrators anticipated there would be "some big increases" when all 16,000 meters were switched out, but indicated the village would "have the data to back things up."

When I asked if Glenview residents were informed they could potentially see significantly higher bills due to replacing failing meters, Owen responded: "I don't think we wanted to focus on that side of it as much. We explained what was happening and why we were doing it. The benefits to the customer include being able to go in

and look on a daily basis" at a household's water usage.

To that point, Santoro informed me that in October, 56 residential accounts were notified by the village of leaks.

"If a report shows that a resident is using 10 gallons an hour in the middle of the night, that indicates they may have a leak," he said. "At that point we offer to send Public Works out for a free leak check."

At the moment, the only way residents can obtain their usage data is by visiting or calling the village's resolution center at 847-724-3112. But by the end of 2017, individuals should be able to access that information online.

Concluded Owen: "We want residents to reach out and talk to us because we will figure it out ... In almost every case we can laser in on what the issue is."

Need help?

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

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

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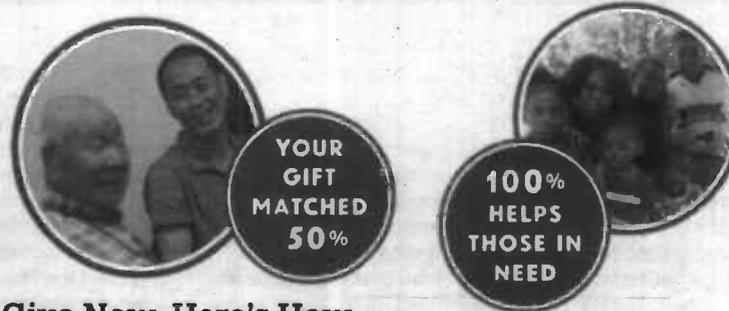
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BOOKS

Longing for the wisdom of the ages



H. ARMSTRONG ROBERTS/GETTY

By John Warner
Chicago Tribune

According to researchers publishing in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*, between the years 2000 and 2012 the incidence of dementia in the United States has dropped.

This is the best news I've heard in a long time. Now 46, I am fully grappling with the fact that I am past the midpoint of my life span on the actuarial tables and increasingly wondering what may await me in my later years.

I tell myself that I'll be able to deal with whatever physical maladies may come my way as long as a decent share of my marbles remains in my possession. We know that reading helps, but I'm hoping that the real fountain of youth may be found in writing.

Books by mature writers may also have the potential to reveal a little wisdom that I might be able to use as I grow older. Somehow my mother (age withheld, at her request) manages to get smarter every year. When I was 15, I was sure she was the dumbest, meanest person on Earth.

Cubs fans reveling in their World Series victory may have come across an appreciation in *The New Yorker* from the "poet laureate of baseball," Roger Angell, who is 96 years old and first contributed to the magazine in 1944. Ninety-six, and still writing with beauty and elegance as seen in a collection of his essays, "This Old Man." What is it like to write from the perspective of living your 10th decade? Angell shows us.

Margaret Atwood once said, "I believe that everyone else my age is an adult, whereas I am merely in disguise." Recently turned 77, Ms. Atwood has published more than 50 books of fiction, nonfiction and poetry. Five of those have come since she turned 70. Perhaps her most famous book, "The Handmaid's Tale," is a speculative fiction about an

authoritarian United States. You can decide for yourself if it resembles anything in current events.

The best anti-aging type of writing may be comedy. Have you seen 94-year-old Carl Reiner or 90-year-old Mel Brooks lately? These guys are amazing: funny, sharp, alive.

Norman Lear, one of Brooks' and Reiner's contemporaries and friends, provided the television backdrop for much of my youth. "All in the Family," "The Jeffersons," "Sanford and Son," "One Day at a Time" and "Good Times" probably did more to shape my worldview than anything other than books and my parents.

"Even This I Get to Experience," Lear's memoir written as he turned 90, captures a man and an era that now seem impossibly distant, an exemplar of the Greatest Generation who enlisted after Pearl Harbor and came home determined to live the values he volunteered to defend.

The inside stories of those classic shows are great and juicy, but the more remarkable parts of the book are about Lear himself. His father was a thief and a bigot of the Archie Bunker variety. Lear became a man who challenged conventions on race and class. Later in life, he purchased and put on tour a copy of the Declaration of Independence as a way to remind everyone what's worth fighting for.

What emerges in Lear's writing is a man who is bent on exploring things he believes to be true, whether that be his father's nature, the culture we live in or his own shortcomings as a boss, husband or father.

It's not only writing that helps these writers thrive into their old age. These are people who see life as not just a journey but also a quest where the goal is to know a little bit more each day.

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 Sot-Weed Factor" by John Barth
2. "Sixty Stories" by Donald Barthelme
3. "Although of Course You End Up Becoming Yourself" by David Lipsky
4. "The Moviegoer" by Walker Percy
5. "Suttree" by Cormac McCarthy
Elijah P., Park Ridge

The list is speaking my language. Someone's been dipping into the tasty postmodern waters. For Elijah, a writer working in that vein but also doing his own thing for contemporary times, "Wittgenstein Jr." by Lars Iyer.

1. "Saint Anything" by Sarah Dessen
2. "The Raven Boys" by Maggie Stiefvater
3. "The Rest of Us Just Live Here" by Patrick Ness
4. "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr
5. "The Mothers" by Brit Bennett
Lisa T., West Lafayette, Ind.

I think Lisa will enjoy the combo of speculative fiction and emotional character journey in Karen Thompson Walker's "The Age of Miracles."

1. "Euphoria" by Lily King
2. "Paris" by Edward Rutherford
3. "Brooklyn" by Colm Toibin
4. "Don't Let's Go to the Dogs Tonight" by Alexandra Fuller
5. "Behind the Beautiful Forevers" by Katherine Boo
Nancy T., Myrtle Beach, S.C.

Elizabeth Gilbert's sprawling novel about a curious and ambitious woman of the 19th century who wants to understand a world that seems so hostile to her, "The Signature of All Things" feels like it might be a good fit.

What should you read?

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



puzzle island

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12/11

FUNNY BUSINESS: Explained at 107 Down

BY FRED PISCOP | EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN
(stanxwords.com)

Across

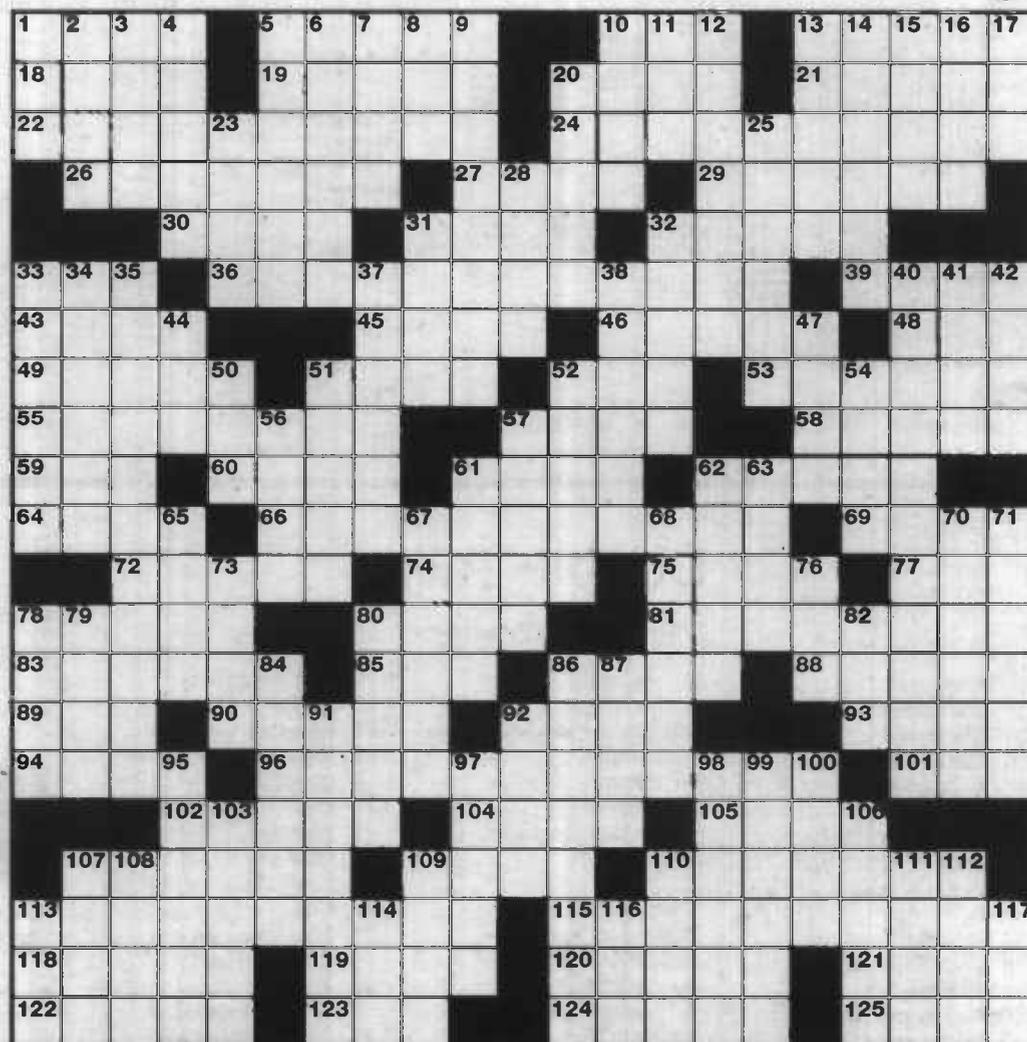
- 1 Merit badge holder
5 Construction girder
10 Corp. boss
13 Singer LaBelle
18 Scandinavian capital
19 Jazz ensemble
20 Delhi dress
21 Fictional Freme
22 Forced into sea service
24 Largest living fish
26 Olympics dueler
27 Lively spirit
29 Cola quantities
30 Pub missile
31 Jogging pace
32 Committed to carrying out
33 Raven's sound
36 Synagogue celebration
39 Shell game
43 Sore spot
45 Course for a horse
46 Bake-sale offerings
48 Spectrum slice
49 Venue for a play
51 Hockey great Gordie
52 Get-up-and-go
53 Take back, as testimony
55 Place for a brake job
57 Overfill
58 Launches a tirade
59 Despot's word
60 Ax or awl
61 Prefix for hero
62 Ferber novel
64 Burger topper
66 Honolulu-based detective

Down

- 69 Hornets' home
72 Nescafé rival
74 Sight from Salzburg
75 *Grapes of Wrath* character
77 TMC sister channel
78 Houston ballplayer
80 *Peter Pan* pirate
81 Traveling circus, e.g.
83 Big name in harmonicás
85 Sweetie
86 Caddy beverages
88 Rickety auto
89 Phrase indicating emulation
90 Clear wrap
92 Cupid alias
93 October birthstone
94 Dramatist Henley
96 Fit well together
101 UFO fliers
102 — Malvinas (the Falklands)
104 Heavy burden
105 Entry point
107 Group of seven
109 Cheese sold in cylinders
110 Mulls over
113 Patriot of 1776
115 Six-legged indoor pest
118 Vast disarray
119 Symbols of sturdiness
120 Personnel official
121 Very dry
122 Author Ellison
123 What Teslas run without
124 Get cracking
125 Amounts risked

Down

- 1 Distress call
2 Big Apple's Arthur — Stadium
3 Sharp rebuke
4 Perfected
5 Suzuki of baseball
6 Talks big
7 Send out
8 Prez on a five
9 Middle-of-the-road
10 Lyricist Sammy
11 Prominent period
12 Pipeline problem
13 Marinara alternative
14 2004 Olympics city
15 "— she blows!"
16 Road covers
17 Press coverage
20 Mown strip
23 Get ready, with "up"
25 This or that
28 Tax write-off
31 Defrost
32 Rickman's *Harry Potter* role
33 Cellist from Spain
34 Not made up
35 Query re a UFO, perhaps
37 To-do
38 Acid in vinegar
40 Morph
41 Female in the family
42 National League East team
44 Braggart's overabundance
47 Person from Belgrade
50 Ft. Myers clock setting



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

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- 51 To-do
52 Noggin tops
54 Son in Genesis 4
56 Get fast cash for
57 Take potshots
61 Patriot of 1775
62 Benefits
63 From here — (henceforth)
64 Roomy sleeve
65 Give a heads-up to
67 Quimby of kid-lit
68 Embers
70 Tried to attain
71 Sauna supplies
73 Turndowns
76 Space saving abbr.
78 Moby Dick pursuer
79 Arch support
80 Persian rulers
82 "No seats" sign
84 Roomy sleeve
86 Significant successes
87 Geological time periods
91 Tough-to-pass driver
92 Name on 62 Across' cover
95 Rap music
97 Junction points
98 Rabid fan
99 Random scribbling, for example
100 Wonderland bird
103 Hidden supply
106 Get-well program
107 Theme of the puzzle
108 Space saving abbr.
109 Reindeer cousins
110 Prefix meaning "ancillary"
111 In very short supply
112 Irked state
113 ATM maker
114 Travel-clock battery, often
116 Creative success
117 NFL successes

Quote-Acrossic

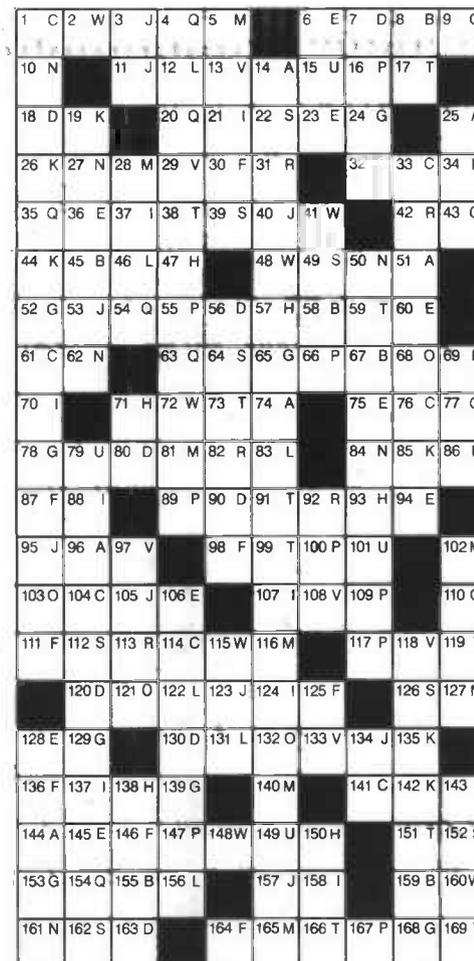
1. Define clues, writing in Words column over numbered dashes.
2. Transfer letters to numbered squares in diagram.
3. When pattern is completed, quotation can be read left to right. The first letters of the filled-in words reading down form an acrostic yielding the speaker's name and the topic of the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

Clues.

Words

- A. 17th century musical drama 51 96 74 144 25 14
- B. Whim 8 67 159 45 58 86 155
- C. Greenbacks 114 33 61 1 141 104 76
- D. Guts or nerve 7 90 130 80 120 18 56 163
- E. Gymnastic event: 2 wds. 145 106 69 75 94 128 6 36 23 60
- F. Balance sheet item 164 111 87 125 136 146 30 98
- G. Very, very speedy 139 24 65 129 32 168 9 153 78 52
- H. New and exciting 93 57 71 47 150 138
- I. Inspiring or permeating 137 88 158 37 70 107 21 124
- J. East Timor achievement 40 11 123 143 105 134 95 157 53 3

- K. Awesome hyph. 142 85 19 135 44 26
- L. Hanker 122 46 12 131 156 83
- M. Malcontent 28 165 5 81 140 102 116
- N. 'Caruso of Rock' 50 161 84 127 27 62 10
- O. Star of the North 110 103 132 43 121 68
- P. Serious business: 2 wds. 89 16 117 100 34 147 167 66 55 109
- Q. Expand, fuse 4 54 63 77 20 35 154
- R. Star, e.g. 42 31 82 113 92
- S. Stevenson's second running mate 162 152 126 39 64 112 22 49
- J. Devoted couple 59 99 151 166 91 73 38 119 17
- U. Left-most Aleutian 15 79 101 149
- V. Wise 97 29 13 133 169 118 108
- W. Scurry: with "it" 72 148 115 48 2 160 41



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

By Robert O'Neill.
Edited by Linda and Charles Preston.
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Double Talk

BY CHARLES PRESTON

Across

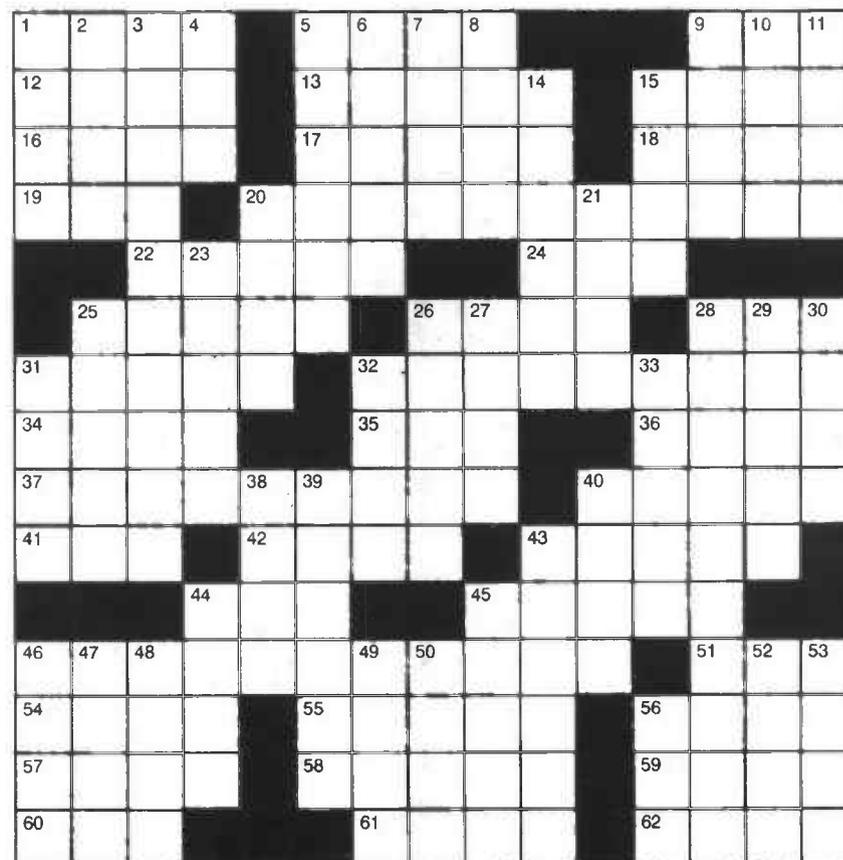
- 1 Nymph who loved Narcissus
- 5 Church council
- 9 Nice friend
- 12 Avoid
- 13 Make corrections
- 15 Jack Hörner's find
- 16 Form of address for a sovereign
- 17 Piebald
- 18 Speech disorder
- 19 Finish
- 20 Confection flavor
- 22 Irish literary great
- 24 Mist
- 25 Type size
- 26 Versifier
- 28 Harridan
- 31 Entertain
- 32 Pine
- 34 Trim
- 35 Natural resource
- 36 Entertainer Adams
- 37 Incessantly
- 40 Licit
- 41 Word with break, dream. or light
- 42 Westernmost of the Aleutians.

- 43 Animate
- 44 ___ rule
- 45 Starchy foodstuff from orchids
- 46 Basic
- 51 Choose
- 54 At the top: prefix
- 55 Ghostly
- 56 Scent
- 57 Ode
- 58 Closes securely
- 59 Chills and fever
- 60 Indefinite amount
- 61 Units of measure
- 62 Gala party

Down

- 1 Being: L.
- 2 Place for a Van Dyke
- 3 Barrel organ
- 4 Unit
- 5 Public opinion
- 6 Leaves out
- 7 Portable shelter
- 8 Against
- 9 Came to earth
- 10 Essential
- 11 Kaffir warriors
- 14 Took off, as a hat
- 15 Stopper

- 20 London gallery
- 21 Method of learning
- 23 Artist's tripod
- 25 Iowa town noted for cooperatives
- 26 French soldier
- 27 Merely
- 28 Olio
- 29 Kind of flu
- 30 Celt
- 31 Mimicked
- 32 Put up a sign
- 33 Female ruff
- 38 Uncomplicated
- 39 Raised platforms
- 40 Aloe
- 43 Most recent
- 44 Unit in physics
- 45 Fence crossing
- 46 California city
- 47 Religious painting
- 48 Playing card
- 49 Navigation hazard
- 50 ___ caelestes: divine wrath
- 52 Sulk
- 53 Arboretum specimen
- 56 Dolt.



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

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Last-minute holiday shopping tips

Holiday shopping season typically begins the day after Thanksgiving and extends all the way to Christmas Eve. While that's a considerable amount of time for shoppers to find gifts for everyone on their shopping list, many people will still find themselves putting holiday shopping off until the last minute.

In certain ways, last-minute holiday shopping is easier than ever. Thanks to online retailers who can ship products overnight, men and women who delay their holiday shopping have more options at their disposal than they did before the arrival of the Internet. And unlike the days of yore when the best deals were largely exclusive to Black Friday, some shoppers find that competition between online retailers and traditional brick-and-mortar stores is so great that deals can be found regardless of when they begin shopping. But while waiting until the last minute to begin holiday shopping may not be as risky as it used to be, shoppers may still benefit by sticking to certain strategies so they can find the perfect gifts without breaking the bank.

Stay within your budget

Even last-minute shoppers have holiday shopping budgets. But it can be harder for last-minute shoppers to stick to their budgets because they have less time to comparison shop and hunt for deals. As the holiday shopping season winds down, resist the temptation to go over budget. If a gift you had in mind is available but more than you can spend, look for something else. Overspending on holiday shopping in December is a recipe for debt in January, and no shopper wants to begin the new year weighed down by consumer debt.

Shop local

National chains and big box retailers are renowned for rolling out great deals during the holiday season, but such stores may have very limited or unimpressive inventory left by the time last-minute shoppers begin shopping. Local retailers are often incapable of slashing prices as significantly as their larger competitors, and that may mean they have more extensive inventories available throughout the holiday shopping season. In addition, shoppers who stick with local retailers won't have to pay shipping costs to ensure items arrive on time.

Shop during off-peak hours

Shopping during off-peak hours can help last-minute shoppers make efficient use of the limited time they have to buy gifts for their loved ones. Visit stores early in the morning or late at night, or schedule a midweek afternoon shopping trip so you aren't spending what little time you have left waiting on lines or hunting for parking.

Give something less traditional

Holiday gifts need not come from stores. Rather than spending their time shopping for gifts for loved ones who seemingly have it all, last-minute shoppers can give the gift of a donation in their loved one's name. Last-minute shoppers who want to give something more tangible can create a homemade gift that's both unique and heartfelt. If your DIY skills are lacking, give a loved one the gift of a night out on the town at your expense.

Shoppers who wait until the end of the holiday shopping season to begin their searches for holiday gifts can still find great gifts without going broke.





How to find great gifts for the family handyman

For those people who don't know a box cutter from a box saw, shopping for men and women who like to get their hands dirty around the house can be a difficult task.

Home improvement projects are complex undertakings that often involve the use of complex tools, and novices may be lost in the proverbial woods as they look for gifts for their loved ones who can't wait to swing hammers around the house.

Though there's always an element of risk when shopping for gifts for loved ones, the following hints might help shoppers with no knowledge of home improvement projects find gifts that will please their favorite handyman.

Take inventory of his or her existing tools

When shopping for the DIY enthusiast in your family, try to take inventory of his or her tool chest before beginning your search. Make note of any tools that look new, checking those off your shopping list, and any that look like they need replacing. Use your phone to photograph any unfamiliar tools that you might want to replace so you know what to look for when visiting the hardware store.

Think of what your relative likes to do most

The family handyman may have a particular area of home improvement expertise or something he or she is especially passionate about. Does your loved one prefer to work in the garden? Is he into woodworking and making decorative items for the house? Think of what he or she likes to do most and then look for something that will make that hobby more enjoyable. While multipurpose tools might make for welcome gifts, something more specific to his or her particular passion may make an even better gift.

Think outside the (tool) box

While new tools might make a handyman's day, they are not the only items that make great DIY gifts. Consider enrolling your loved one in an advanced class so he or she can learn more about a favorite hobby. Or gift a magazine subscription so he or she can stay abreast of the latest DIY trends and topics. Such gifts are great options for shoppers hesitant to purchase potentially costly tools that may or may not be hits with their relatives.

Speak with a professional

If you can't access your loved one's



workshop or simply don't know what he or she might want, ask a local contractor for gift recommendations. For example, a carpenter might know just what will elicit a smile from woodworking enthusiasts, while landscapers might be able to suggest items for gardening or lawn care enthusiasts. Advancements are always being made in the home improvement industry, and those people who make their living in that

industry might be great resources as you try to find the go-to gift for your loved one.

Finding a gift for the family handyman might be difficult for shoppers with no DIY experience of their own. But a little forethought and perhaps some professional assistance can be just what shoppers need to find gifts their loved ones will cherish for years to come.

How to save money on mobile devices this holiday season

The holiday season is a great time to indulge loved ones or yourself with a mobile device upgrade. However, keep in mind that a high-quality device doesn't necessarily need to be brand new, particularly if you are on a budget.

These days, refurbished devices can provide an affordable, high-quality alternative to a new device that sells at a premium. While there is a myth that most refurbished devices were broken or had problems, this is a misconception. Many such mobile phones, tablets and accessories come from trade-in and upgrade programs, where owners sent in perfectly good devices so they can get newer models.

Indeed, such trade-ins and sales are on the rise and the market for acquiring a

previously owned device is getting easier to navigate.

Whether traded-in or repaired, refurbished phones and devices from reputable sources can be trusted to be in full functional condition. For example, those from MyWit on eBay undergo an extensive 65-point inspection of cosmetic, functional and radio frequency (RF) performance to ensure 100 percent functionality. Tests verify that every possible function that a customer can use (camera, audio, SIM, WiFi, Bluetooth, etc.) is in excellent working order and RF tests ensure wireless devices deliver a consistent quality of connection and do not drop available signals.

A previously owned device is also a smart option for the eco-conscious, extending the life of devices and reducing

electronic waste — which can be particularly damaging.

This holiday season, consider a great cost-saving secret on mobile upgrades, replacements, and tech gifts. Being willing to forgo the newest models can stretch your holiday budget further without sacrificing on quality.

StatePoint



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LAST-MINUTE GIFT GUIDE CHICAGO TRIBUNE MEDIA GROUP

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Last-Minute GIFT GUIDE

Gift ideas for last-minute shoppers

Early bird shoppers may purchase and even wrap gifts before December, but eleventh-hour shoppers may need some help come the holiday season.

For those last-minute folks, there still are plenty of ways to ensure your shopping list is checked off. The following gifts are quick to purchase and can still make for thoughtful presents.

Liquor or wine basket: Prepackaged spirits often come with decorative glasses and other accoutrements for entertaining. What's more, they're convenient to purchase if you're on a time crunch.

Fueling station gift card: Drivers will appreciate a gift card to their favorite fueling station. Such cards suit anyone who has a car and frequently travels or commutes.

Food basket: A visit to the supermarket or a convenience center can yield many tasty finds that can be packaged together into a gift basket. Pair foods with a gift card to that retailer.

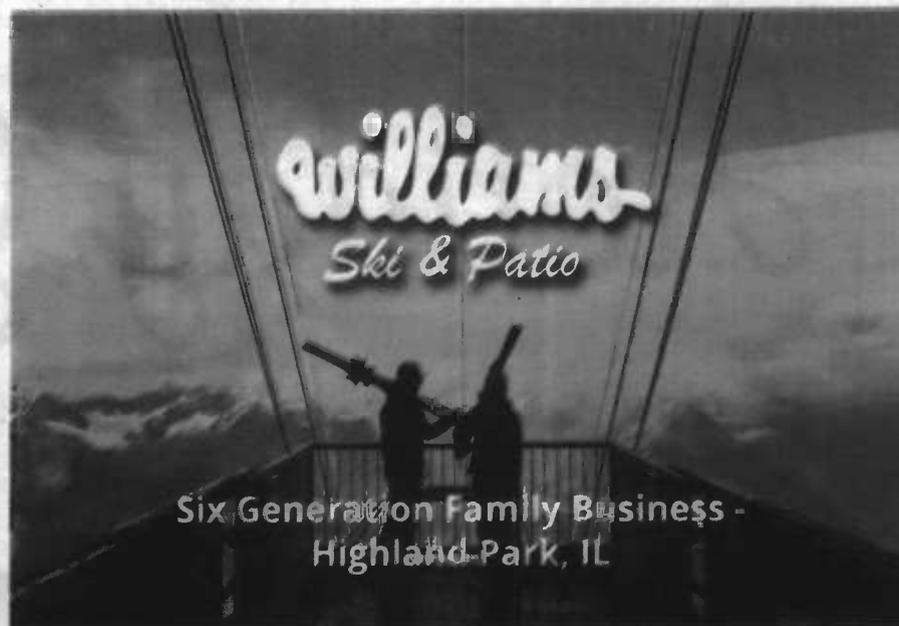
Streaming service: Offer to treat a loved



Give a food or liquor basket.

one to a month or two of their favorite streaming television or movie service. If they already have streaming subscriptions, offer to cover the cost of the subscription for a few months.

Premade gifts: Don't overlook your local pharmacy as a place to find convenient gifts. Look for unique items in the seasonal aisle, where you might be able to find stocking-stuffer toiletries or cosmetic gifts that suit several people on your shopping list.



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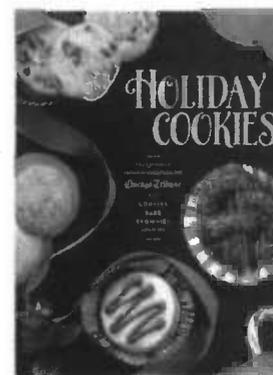
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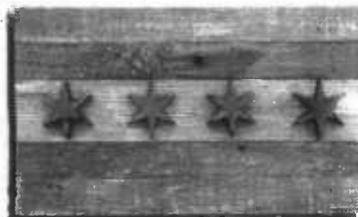
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Lend Me Your Ears

BY JEFFREY WECHSLER

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

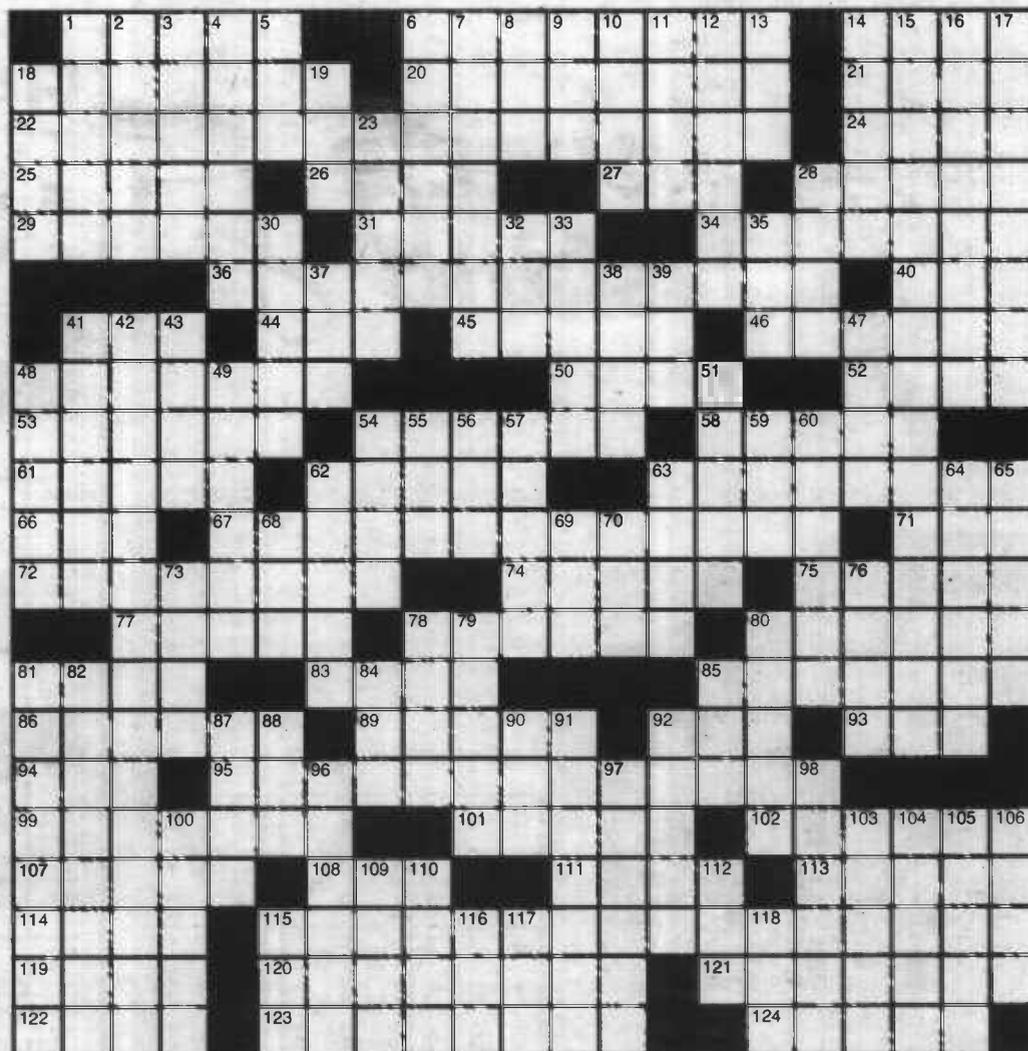
- 1 "That's a ___"
 6 Brie-ripening agent
 14 SASEs, e.g.
 18 Skulking milieu, with "the"
 20 Considering identical
 21 Aviation prefix
 22 Candy served on a corporate blimp?
 24 "Better Call ___"
 25 Fine netting
 26 Discipline that often emphasizes breathing
 27 LAX report
 28 "Rigoletto" composer
 29 Uses a rudder
 31 "Say it soft and it's almost like praying" song
 34 "Success!"
 36 Often censored musical groups?
 40 Former NBA exec Jackson
 41 Network with its HQ in Ottawa
 44 Very long time
 45 City on the Ohio and Erie Canal
 46 Put into words
 48 Harvest units
 50 Airline with blue-striped jets
 52 Get bluffed out, say
 53 Biblical landing site
 54 ___ agent
 58 Disengaged
 61 Element #5
 62 Quotable late athlete
 63 "In spades!"
 66 Label for the Swedish duo Roxette
 67 Rather uninspired cocktail?
 71 Suffix with concert
 72 Prom limo, e.g.
 74 Alberto VO5 competitor
 75 Barcelona bar fare
 77 Fancy dos
 78 Rusty nail liquor
 80 Ancient warship with two decks of oars
 81 Connect with the space station
 83 Eucalyptus, for one
 85 Bucket list list
 86 Ready to mate
 89 2005 "Survivor" island
 92 Nemo's realm

Down

- 93 High-speed letters
 94 Stroke from Venus?
 95 What happens at the southern terminus of Interstate 65?
 99 Relevant
 101 Iraqi port
 102 Fluid transfer tool
 107 Jones with nine Grammys
 108 Ring legend
 111 Italian man
 113 Sycophant
 114 "Amores" author
 115 Pair of lustrous Kleenex?
 119 Oracle
 120 Thwart bigtime
 121 Take umbrage
 122 Celtic language
 123 Landscape ruin
 124 Prepare for a dubbing

Across

- 43 LBJ biographer Robert ___
 47 Natural emollient
 48 Napoleonic Wars weapon
 49 Property destroyer
 51 Ophthalmologist's procedure
 54 Cook, as scallops
 55 Make the wrong move
 56 Overreact to spilt milk
 57 Film series
 Vietnam veteran
 59 Vietnam Veterans Memorial designer
 60 Canal problem?
 62 Creature
 63 Bite result, often
 64 Cookware coating
 65 Gift from a lover
 68 45 rpm record pioneer
 69 Busts and such
 70 ___ room
 73 Receipts
 76 Parched
 78 Salmon predator
 79 "E! News" subject
 80 Salmon predators
 81 Evaluate symptoms
 82 Superficial look
 84 Venerable N.Y. tech school
 85 Busting org.
 87 Eastern nursemaid
 88 Cargo measure
 90 Gp. following gas prices
 91 Rapid increase
 92 Of ill repute
 96 Leave town for a bit
 97 "1984" working class
 98 Audits a course, say
 100 Familia member
 103 Western sheriff's aid
 104 ___ cuisine
 105 1961 Newbery Medal winner
 Scott ___
 106 Where KO means Coca-Cola
 109 Brain segment
 110 106-Down debuts
 112 Gambling option in many sts.
 115 "The Waste Land" monogram
 116 DDE's command
 117 River within Switzerland
 118 Drive up the wall



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.

QTIEYU
 □ □ □ □ □ □

FIRPYU
 ○ ○ ○ □ □ □

VOITEM
 ○ ○ □ □ □ □

FETARH
 ○ □ □ □ □ □

DYOLIB
 □ □ □ □ □ □

GACNEH
 □ □ □ □ □ □



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

12/11

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**



Last week's answers appear on the next page

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8 ways to avoid being a bad Santa this holiday season

This is right around the time of year when the holiday shopping list starts becoming a priority. Pondering what to buy for teachers, the kids, your in-laws, your spouse and even your great aunt can leave you feeling stressed and overwhelmed, both financially and emotionally.



JACKIE PILOSSOPH
Love Essentially

But there's something I want to address. I know the holidays represent the season of giving, and acts of giving, kindness and thoughtfulness are always beautiful to see. But sometimes I notice people give, give, give, and they neglect someone they shouldn't: themselves.

I've seen it in both men and women. They are so focused on making sure others are happy that they forget they are important, too. They leave themselves off of their holiday shopping list, and in my opinion that makes someone a bad Santa.

Let me start with an example: my mom. A giver to the core, I have childhood memories of this dear, sweet woman scurrying around the kitchen every holiday making sure each guest had a full plate of food and something to drink. She ignored the fact that maybe she deserved to sit, relax and indulge herself.

The same concept can be applied to holiday shopping. Have you ever been out looking for gifts for others and you see something you want, but you don't buy it because you think to yourself, "I'm not here for me?" If you answered yes, you might be a bad Santa. Why? Because you deserve a gift, too. You can still be a giver and also give to yourself.

Here are 8 things you should consider putting under your tree this year that are just for you:

1. Physical wellness Physical health and taking care of your body is the most important thing you can give yourself. Don't hit the gym because you think you need to lose weight, but rather go there for its countless other health benefits. Also, many people don't realize the importance of vitamins and supplements, especially as we age. Yes, they can be costly, but they can make a huge difference in how your body feels. Lastly, don't be afraid to buy and eat organic foods. Don't you deserve fresh and chemical-free foods from time to time? Yes.

2. Emotional wellness Managing stress and anxiety is crucial to good quality of life. If you feel you need some emotional help, get it. Consider seeing a therapist or

practicing yoga and/or meditation for stress relief. A happy, calm, grounded person is a better parent and spouse, is more productive at work and gets more joy and fulfillment out of day-to-day life.

3. Faith Spirituality isn't the same as religion. Even if you aren't in a house of worship, God is listening. Talk to Him. It might provide inner peace and hope.

4. A material item you want Next time you are holiday shopping and you see a pair of boots you want, try them on.

5. Belief in yourself With overwhelming stress, it might be easy to forget how strong and capable you are in so many ways. Take a minute every day to look in the mirror and trust your abilities.

6. Gratitude Feeling and expressing gratitude can reduce stress and make you feel more relaxed. It also fosters a positive mental attitude.

7. Courage Life can be scary, but there is nothing better than getting out of your comfort zone at times, taking chances and seeing them pay off. Be your own cheerleader and watch all of the wonderful things that happen.

8. Self-love Perhaps the culmination of all of these gifts is self-love. Learning to accept who you are, forgiving yourself for your mistakes and allowing yourself to see your inner beauty all foster peace and happiness.

Does focusing on yourself mean you are selfish? Yes and no. The definition of selfish is "looking after your own desires." How is that a bad thing? Selfish only becomes bad if you begin to neglect others and put yourself first at all times. And being a little bit selfish makes people less resentful, and can cause them to be more giving to others.

So, don't be a bad Santa! Embrace this season of giving by being a good Santa, who not only knows who's been bad or good, but who knows that you've been good for goodness sake!

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist for Chicago Tribune Media Group. She is also the creator of her divorce support website, www.divorcedgirlsmiling.com

Pilossoph lives in Chicago with her two children.

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HEALTH



STEVE TAYLOR/STONE

Aspirin decreases blood clotting within the vascular system by not allowing platelets to adhere to each other.

ASK THE DOCTORS

Taking aspirin may decrease chances of heart attack

By Dr. Robert Ashley
Ask the Doctors

Dear Doctor: If you don't have risk factors for having a heart attack, should you be taking aspirin every day?

Dear Reader: Let's consider the risk factors, how aspirin works and the numbers. The risk factors for having a heart attack include diabetes, high blood pressure, smoking, high LDL cholesterol (the so-called "bad" cholesterol) and age.

Aspirin decreases blood clotting within the vascular system by not allowing platelets to adhere to each other.

This effect can be shown even with low-dose, or 81-milligram, aspirin, also known as baby aspirin. Daily use of standard aspirin has been shown to significantly benefit those who are having a heart attack and those who have had a heart attack in the past. For people who have a history of heart attacks, taking a low-dose aspirin will decrease the chance of having another heart attack by 20 percent.

However, if you're a

40-year-old who has never had a heart attack and has none of the above risk factors, your chance of having a heart attack is low. For you, aspirin will have little benefit, and may cause more harm due to increased chances of bleeding in the stomach and a small increased risk of bleeding in the brain.

If you're a 55-year-old who has good blood pressure, low cholesterol and does not have a significant smoking history, your risk is also low, so again there is little benefit to aspirin compared to its risk.

If you're 65 without risk factors, aspirin might reduce the risk of a heart attack, but that risk reduction is offset by the increased risk of bleeding in the stomach. These gastric bleeds that happen with aspirin use can be severe and can lead to a need for blood transfusions. They can even cause death.

If further risk factors beside age are added, then the benefits of aspirin increase. So a 55-year-old with diabetes who smokes cigarettes would clearly benefit by taking a daily baby aspirin. This benefit outweighs the risk of a

stomach bleed and the risk of bleeding in the brain.

More interesting — for some people, anyway — is that much of the mortality benefit seen with long-term aspirin use may be in decreasing colon cancer, not in its reduction of heart attack. People who take low-dose aspirin for more than 10 years can reduce the risk of colon cancer by 20 to 40 percent, studies have shown.

The mortality benefits associated with aspirin may be more strongly linked to a decrease in colon cancer than to a decrease in heart attacks.

The bottom line: If you have low risk for a heart attack or have no family history of colon cancer, aspirin offers little benefit.

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

Cocoa flavanols possible tool to fight heart disease

By Joe Graedon
and Teresa Graedon
King Features Syndicate

Q: A friend told me she dropped her cholesterol 30 points by taking the natural supplement CocoaVia. My husband, an internist, said supplements that lower cholesterol may not lower the risk for heart disease. Are there any studies regarding this supplement?

A: Your husband is right that not everything that lowers cholesterol actually prevents heart disease. Despite this, the Food and Drug Administration has approved cholesterol-lowering drugs such as alirocumab (Praluent) on the basis of their ability to lower lipids like LDL cholesterol, although they have not yet been shown to reduce heart disease.

There is reason to expect that cocoa flavanols will be helpful. A recent review found that cocoa-flavanol intake improved insulin sensitivity and blood lipids such as cholesterol, triglycerides and HDL cholesterol (*Journal of Nutrition*, November 2016).

There is a major study underway to determine whether CocoaVia standardized cocoa flavanols can reduce heart attacks and strokes. It is called COSMOS (Cocoa Supplement and Multivitamin Outcomes Study). We will let our readers know the results when the trial is completed.

Q: Does turmeric have valid medicinal properties? My son-in-law was told he needed a hip replacement, but turmeric cured his symptoms.

A: The National Library of Medicine (www.pubmed.gov) contains thousands of research articles on turmeric or its active



KAREN TAPIA ANDERSEN/LOS ANGELES TIMES

A study seeks to determine if CocoaVia standardized cocoa flavanols can reduce heart attacks and strokes.

ingredient curcumin. That's because there is intense interest in the medicinal properties of this Indian spice.

Curcumin is being studied for its activity against psoriasis, diabetes, Alzheimer's disease and a range of cancers. All of this research is being conducted in animal models, but the anti-inflammatory activity of curcumin has been shown to help nasal congestion in humans (*Annals of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology* online, Oct. 24, 2016). It also has been shown to help knee pain due to arthritis when taken as a supplement (*Nutrition Journal*, Jan. 5, 2016).

You can learn more about the health benefits of this and many other culinary spices from our brand-new book, "Spice Up Your Health: How Everyday Kitchen Herbs and Spices Can Lengthen and Strengthen Your Life." It is available at www.peoplespharmacy.com.

Q: I have vertical ridges on almost all my fingernails. Do you know what causes this?

A: Although they are annoying, vertical (longitu-

dinal)-ridges on the fingernails do not appear to be dangerous. These ridges are frequently attributed to aging. Occasionally vertically ridged nails also are brittle. Anemia and atherosclerosis may sometimes be the cause (*Canadian Family Physician*, February 2011).

You should ask your doctor if you need supplements of iron or B vitamins to correct anemia. A few small studies have suggested that taking biotin (2.5 mg/day) can help correct the ridging and fragility (*Journal of Drugs in Dermatology*, August 2007).

One reader reported: "A dermatologist told me to take biotin for my nails when they were splitting and cracking. I started taking a daily supplement of biotin, and my nails improved greatly within three months. My son, who is a pharmacist, recommended a product containing biotin, calcium and phosphorus; my nails are strong and ridge-free."

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

OFF THE VINE

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Pair your holiday with wine that shines

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Making spirits, and meals, bright

Strategies to give your table settings a seasonal glow

By Kaitlin Wright

The Orange County Register

Most days of the year, setting the dinner table can feel like a chore. Plate, fork, knife, folded napkin, repeat. But, on special occasions, tablescapes create atmosphere, ushering in feelings of pomp and circumstance.

From “elegant” to “rustic,” table settings have themes, many inspired by blog posts, Instagram photos and Pinterest pins. Prepping for the holidays has become an art form with sectors of the industry devoted entirely to entertaining at home. Interior designer Amber Case, of Tustin, Calif., focuses almost exclusively on tables, mantels and Christmas trees.

“I love going into a home and creating a new ambience by adding something to what is there,” said Case. “It’s like putting the cherry and sprinkles on top of an already special event.”

Here’s advice from Case and Danielle Mitchell, the merchandising, design and website manager at La Tavola Fine Linen Rental in Newport Beach, Calif., on how to pull together a festive table.

Their recommendations for colors, patterns and centerpieces will help give your dining room a holiday glow.

Find an inspiration piece

“Go through your holiday decor and grab one or two items that catch your eye,” Case says. “Once you have chosen a piece, note the colors and textures and decide if the piece is more traditional or more contemporary. From there, you can incorporate similar colors and textures that all relate to your ‘inspo’ item.”

Play with color

“There is a wide range of colors that can evoke a holiday feel to your table, from rich jewel tones to crisp winter whites and



JONNY VALIANT PHOTO

Bold colors and patterns can add flair to your table. This festive holiday table setting features Juliska china.

glittering metallics,” Mitchell says. “Our Velvet line is perfect for the holidays or our Sequins linens add a special sparkle to the table. While red is the traditional statement-making holiday color, and always a great option, you can also combine more unexpected colors like pale pink and a deeper olive green for a fun twist. For a more modern feel, try using all white and black with accents of silver and gold; or for more of a vintage look try combining aqua and silver. It’s also fun to add natural elements like mini Christmas trees to keep the table feeling festive and add that pop of green.”

Set the stage

“You can use books, gift boxes, shoeboxes and other household items to create layers and add height to the center of your table,” Case says. “Cover these

items with fabric, a table runner or another linen and then use the various heights to artfully display your statement pieces.”

Say ‘yes’ to patterns

“Patterns can be subdued and minimal or steal the show,” Mitchell says. “Tone-on-tone designs are a great way to bring pattern to a table if you tend to shy away from bold colors but want to add more visual interest to your tablescape. If you’re ready for a bold statement, picking a more graphic pattern linen is a great way to show your personality and add drama to the table. To decorate, try choosing one color from your pattern of choice and repeat those colors in your table-top decor. A classic holiday plaid or stripes can be an effortless way to incorporate a print, or if you’re feeling hesitant about patterns, try using a solid color linen with a

printed napkin and plate.”

Add natural elements

“When making your centerpiece, don’t be afraid to use items from your yard,” Case says. “Pine cones, twigs, branches, sprigs of greenery, even fruits and vegetables. Classic red apples with lush garland can go a long way. Pomegranates and pine cones combined with jewel tones add a sense of luxury.”

Make it personal

“Adding in antique pieces or using family china or heirlooms on the table can instantly make it feel more homey and personal,” Mitchell says. “Family favorite holiday decorations can translate into decor or you can fill small picture frames with family photos and display them on the table.”



TNS

Play with color when designing your table setting. While red is the traditional holiday color, also consider aqua, silver or green.



JOHN SHIPKA PHOTOS

Brick home in Hinsdale: \$849.9K

ADDRESS: 33 Thurlow St. in Hinsdale
 ASKING PRICE: \$849,900
 Listed on Nov. 29, 2016

This 4-bedroom home with 4.5 baths is completely renovated and includes a new humidifier, 2 zones climate control and a new water heater. New high-end kitchen cabinets custom made by Romar cabinets and all-new stainless steel appliances. Hardwood floors, first-floor laundry, completely renovated bathrooms, finished lower level and 10-foot ceilings throughout the house. Walk to train, town, and school location.

Agent: Linda Feinstein of Re/Max Signature Homes, 630-319-0352

At press time, this home was still for sale.



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FAMILY FRIENDLY

Devonshire Dance Ensemble presents classic 'Cinderella'

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

A rags-to-riches story will unfold to Prokofiev's gorgeous music when Devonshire Dance Ensemble presents "Cinderella," 7 p.m. Dec. 17 and 3 p.m. Dec. 18 at Devonshire Center, 4400 Greenwood, Skokie. The show features 14 dancers, ages 8-15.

"This is the classical version of the ballet, not the Disney version, but everybody loves 'Cinderella,'" said Caryn Watson, cultural arts supervisor for the Skokie Park District.

"It's the same basic tale of a young girl abused by her stepmother and stepsisters until a little magic helps change her life.

"We haven't revealed to anybody except to Cinderella what her costume is," Watson confided.

The dancers have been rehearsing since mid-September.

"The girls have worked really hard all season to put this together," Watson said.

Watson declared this show is good for all ages, saying that it offers the message that, "Anything is possible if you believe."

Tickets are \$5.

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

Dreamy production

Clara's adventures are enacted by Robert Crown Community Center ice skating school students and competitive figure skaters during the 42nd Annual "The Nutcracker on Ice," 7:30 p.m. Dec. 16; 2:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Dec. 17; and 2:30 p.m. Dec. 18 at 1701 Main St., Evanston. The show features hundreds of skaters of all ages. Tickets are \$9; \$10 for reserved seating.



DEVONSHIRE DANCE ENSEMBLE PHOTO

Young dancers, ages 8-15, will dance "Cinderella" at Skokie's Devonshire Cultural Center Dec. 17 and 18.

For details, call 847-448-8258 or go to www.cityofevanston.org/crown.

Tea for two plus two

You can count on your preschooler having fun at a Mathematics Tea Party, 2-3 p.m. Dec. 18 at Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. There will be songs, stories, numbers and counting at this event for ages 3-5 with a caregiver.

For details, call 847-965-4220 or go to www.mgpl.org.

Splash party

The man of the month will spend time with families at Swim with Santa,

2-3:30 p.m. Dec. 17 at the Centennial Fitness Center Pool, 1515 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge. Everyone will sing holiday songs and play reindeer games. The cost is \$6 for residents; \$9 for nonresidents.

For details, call 847-692-5129 or go to www.prparks.org.

Sounds of the season

Seasonal songs will be sung at the Lincoln Hall Holiday Concert, 2-2:40 p.m. Dec. 18 at Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. The Lincoln Hall Chorale will perform.

For details, call 847-677-5277, ext. 232 or go to www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org.

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Casino Night supports Park Ridge Civic Orchestra

Event: 21st Annual Casino Night

Benefiting: Park Ridge Civic Orchestra

Chair: Pam Benitez

Location: Gene & Georgetti's, Rosemont

Attended: 150

Upcoming: The Founders' Memorial Concert, 7:30 p.m. Feb. 8, at the Pickwick Theatre, 5 S. Prospect, Park Ridge. This concert will honor the late Edgar and Nancy Muenzer, who co-founded Park Ridge Civic Orchestra in 1994.

Website: parkridgecivicorchestra.org



Ray Claes, from left, Doris Renz, Wendy and Owen Hayes, all from Park Ridge

GINA GRILLO/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS



Randy Wear, from left, Gall Kellberg, Don McEachern and Tracy McEachern, all of Park Ridge



Peter Muenzer, from left, Joanne Johnson, floral arrangement for Gala and Board member, James Muenzer, all from Park Ridge



Acting Mayor Marty Malone of Park Ridge, from left, PRCO Music Director Victor Muenzer of Chicago, PRCO Board Member/Allegro Music Center owner Jared Skiba of Park Ridge



LAURA LOCKWOOD ALLWORTH/AVENUES TO INDEPENDENCE PHOTOS

Beth DiMeo, from left, Linda Buggy and Sara McKitrick of Park Ridge

'Spotlight on Wine' raises \$58,000 for Avenues

Event: 12th Annual 'Spotlight on Wine'

Benefiting: Avenues to Independence, Park Ridge

Location: Wintrust Grand Banking Hall, Chicago

Date: Oct. 27

Attended: 250

Raised: \$58,000

Website: avenuestoindependence.org



Peggy Flanagan of Des Plaines from left, Jeanne Doherty of Lake Barrington and Barclay Marcell of Chicago



JOHN J. BEUSSE/ AVENUES TO INDEPENDENCE

Tom Conradi of Park Ridge, left, and Bob Okazaki of Barrington, CEO of Avenues to Independence



JOHN J. BEUSSE/ AVENUES TO INDEPENDENCE

Ron Bjelopetrovich of Park Ridge, right, proudly displays the painting by Avenues' participant Jim Kolassa of Des Plaines, that he won.

Share your event

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



MORTON GROVE

Five-bedroom, three full bath brick design home built in 1959. Master bedroom with newly remodeled bath and whirlpool, recently remodeled basement with full bath and second kitchen, hardwood floors under first floor carpet, double closets in each bedroom, newer A/C and humidifier, new roof in 2006, new windows in 2002, driveway, Trane furnace.

Address: 5825 Reba St.
Price: \$369,000
Schools: Niles West High School
Taxes: \$7,463.39
Agent: Maria Youkhana, Century 21 Marino, Inc



LAKE BLUFF

Renovated five-bedroom, 3.5-bath cape Cod style home. First-floor master with en suite bath and walk-in closet. Family room off kitchen, wood-burning fireplace and stone mantle. New high-end cabinets, stainless steel appliances, large backyard and new patio. New baths, windows, roof, water tank, furnace, A/C, Wi-Fi remote thermostat, refinished hardwood floors, jumbo Samsung washer/dryer, driveway and front porch.

Address: 505 Mawman Ave.
Price: \$679,000
Schools: Lake Forest High School
Taxes: \$12,003.58
Agent: Lauren Mitrick, Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices KoenigRubloff Realty Group



PALATINE

Five-bedroom, three-bath Colonial brick home built in 2002. Recent upgrades include hardwood floors, remodeled kitchen and new roof. First-floor bedroom and full bath. Modern kitchen with granite counters, maple cabinets, an island and stainless appliances. Separate kitchen eating area with sliding doors to a large deck and brick paver patio for entertaining, garage. Hardwood floors on the entire first floor.

Address: 1619 W. North St.
Price: \$535,000
Schools: Palatine High School
Taxes: \$13,879
Agent: Mike Halm, Baird & Warner Palatine



WINNETKA

Five-bedroom, 4.5-bath traditional brick design home built in 1938. Original elements of construction and design have preserved. "Country kitchen" includes large casual dining area, master suite with dressing room and luxury bath. Lower level has rec room and "hobby" rooms. Professionally landscaped property, garage.

Address: 310 Locust Road
Price: \$1,122,000
Schools: New Trier High School
Taxes: \$20,490
Agent: Mary Anne Perrine, Baird & Warner Winnetka

Listings from Homefinder.com

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HOME REMEDIES

Getting the fix down cold for a broken towel warmer

BY JEANNE HUBER

The Washington Post

Q: While remodeling a master bath in 2008, I had a towel warmer installed. About two years ago, it stopped working. I have been unsuccessful in finding someone to repair it. It is a Mr. Steam W510, an electric model. The replacement cost is about \$1,000, so as it stands, I have a very expensive towel rack. I have tried my usual electrician and have looked online for someone who repairs these warmers, to no avail.

A: It's too late to take advantage of the five-year warranty, but you may be able to fix the towel warmer yourself.

Troubleshooting the problem is easy, said Dan Ricardo, who answers technical questions at Mr. Steam, as the company is now called. "The simple question is whether the red light on the wiring box is coming on," he said. "If it is, current is going to the towel warmer." That means the problem has to be the heating element, Ricardo said. You can replace that by ordering Part No. 103963, which costs about \$250, from the Distribution Point (866-837-2550; thedistributionpoint.com). For instructions on how to access the old part and replace it, Ricardo said to call him or one of the other people who answer technical questions at Mr. Steam (800-767-8326; www.mrsteam.com).

If the red light is not on, it means the unit is not getting power, Ricardo said. In that case, the problem is with something other than the towel warmer, such as a wall switch or a programmable timer that controls the unit.



YUNAVAI/ISTOCK

Problems with a towel warmer can mean a faulty heating element or that the unit is not getting any electricity.

Q: I have three engraved brass tables that require a lot of effort to polish. I have used a kit that restores brass and protects it, but it did not last long. I have heard that spraying it with lacquer will protect the brass, but I am not sure what product to use.

A: You're right. Spraying with lacquer is the way to keep brass from tarnishing so quickly. Mohawk's Lacquer for Brass, formerly marketed as Behlen Lacquer for Brass, is designed especially for this use, as the name implies. A 13-ounce spray can costs \$12 at the Woodworkers Club of Rockville, Md. (www.woodcraft.com).

Phillip Pritchard, technical service representative for Mohawk Finishing Products (www.mohawk-finishing.com), said this is a traditional nitrocellulose lacquer formulated with a resin that sticks especially well to brass, as

well as ingredients that help keep brass from tarnishing.

However, Pritchard added that the product isn't marketed as an industrial-quality finish and that the company doesn't guarantee that it will stop tarnish forever. Hardware manufacturers that offer long-term guarantees against tarnishing use a baked-on lacquer finish, which is more durable. "But in an air-dry product, our lacquer is as good as it gets," he said.

If your tables do eventually tarnish after you spray them with lacquer, there's an easy, if smelly and messy, remedy. Use a chemical stripper labeled as effective against lacquer to take off the finish, polish off the tarnish and re-spray.

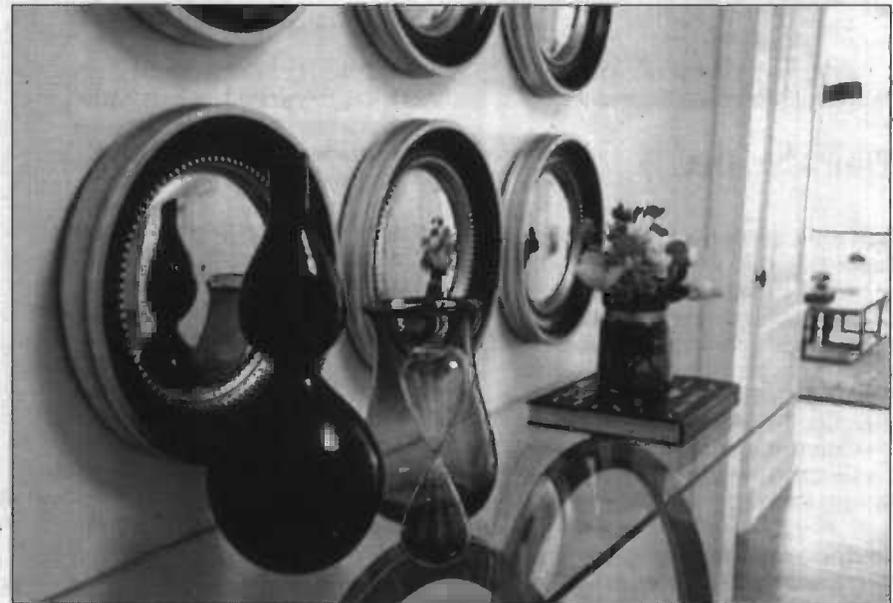
Lacquer for Brass is a solvent-based product, so be sure to read and follow the safety precautions on the label. Work outside, if possible.

ADDRESS	BUYER	SELLER	DATE	PRICE
1110 N Dale Ave, # 21, Arlington Heights	Megan Gojney	Mícheal T Gorney	11-09-16	\$85,000
2418 N Kennicott Dr, # 1B, Arlington Heights	Ofelia Lypak	Judicial Sales Corp	11-10-16	\$90,000
2411 E Olive St, # 1A, Arlington Heights	Timothy J Martin	Robert Stolberg	11-10-16	\$107,500
25 E Palatine Rd, # 112P11, Arlington Heights	Lioudmila Zolotareva & Vladimir Zolotareva	Pat W Burns	11-10-16	\$116,000
514 W Miner St, # 1F, Arlington Heights	Erika Eng & Brian Eng	Dawn M Andrews	11-10-16	\$132,000
1750 S Arlington Heights Rd, # 4B, Arlington Heights	Seth London	Lori L Daniell	11-10-16	\$133,000
366 W Happfield Dr, # 55DL, Arlington Heights	Pamela Paige Salazar	Chicago Acquisition Partners	11-10-16	\$241,000
529 S Prindle Ave, Arlington Heights	Garrett Armour & Charry Armour	Nuvote Asset Management Llc	11-09-16	\$290,000
103 S Evergreen Ave, Arlington Heights	Brian D Smeenge & Sara J Smeenge	Eric E Kirste	11-08-16	\$318,000
611 E Olive St, Arlington Heights	Debra Ann Hacker	Abigail A Zak	11-10-16	\$324,000
1008 N Fernandez Ave, Arlington Heights	Mark A Dahlgren & Lauren M Campbell	Christopher D Wells	11-10-16	\$342,000
1219 W Haven Dr, Arlington Heights	John Krickl & Nancy Krickl	Howard E Firestone	11-10-16	\$465,000
1511 N Beverly Ln, Arlington Heights	Jason Vellookunnel & Dimple Vellookunnel	Donald A Roman	11-10-16	\$605,000
830 Trace Dr, # 207, Buffalo Grove	Chirag Patel & Kiran Patel	William P Black	11-10-16	\$80,000
110 Steeple Dr, # B, Buffalo Grove	Catherine M Hughes	Thompson Trust	10-25-16	\$128,000
1111 Holiday Ln, # 1, Des Plaines	Hatem M Mohsin	Tlr Vi Llc	11-08-16	\$60,000
8998 Kennedy Dr, # 108H, Des Plaines	Mohammed P Quadri & Siraj F Quadri	Mohamed Ghani	11-10-16	\$65,000
9204 Bumble Bee Dr, # 1H, Des Plaines	Teddy Kapogiannis	Mohammed Reza Shams	11-10-16	\$71,000
394 Alles St, # 3B, Des Plaines	Rafal Zakrzewski	Siohban Nakis	11-09-16	\$85,000
9382 Landings Ln, # 303, Des Plaines	George Eisho	Taylor Trust	11-10-16	\$107,500
1702 Mill St, # 301, Des Plaines	Sarah Braas	Jae J Kim	11-10-16	\$148,000
55 S Meyer Ct, Des Plaines	John Kurzawa & Kathy Kurzawa	Linda A Fruhauf	11-10-16	\$215,000
525 Anita St, Des Plaines	Peter Petrov	Marian L Seaholm	11-10-16	\$250,000
51 W Millers Rd, Des Plaines	Jeffrey Loach & Jennifer Wirth	Linda Kemp	11-10-16	\$266,000
682 Meadow Ct, Des Plaines	Gwen D Hammes & Mario E Velarde	Michelle M Stephenson	11-09-16	\$560,000
2764 Hampton Pkwy, # X2, Evanston	Rob J Philippa & Rita M Shitu	Matthew M Kern	11-09-16	\$168,000
1818 Dodge Ave, Evanston	Jose F Moreno Montoya	Third Coast Properties Llc	11-09-16	\$190,000
136 Custer Ave, # 2, Evanston	Tedd Neenan & Elizabeth J Muckley	Lawrence J Smith	11-09-16	\$230,000
1003 Hinman Ave, # 3N, Evanston	Sara Butterfield & Mathieu Walther	Iliia Privine	11-09-16	\$274,000
1515 Greenwood St, Evanston	Allison Harned Hannan	Susan B Johnson	11-10-16	\$282,500
1106 Seward St, # 2W, Evanston	Julie Lesnikowski	Jean Hersey	11-10-16	\$290,000
1635 Church St, Evanston	Rui Lan Qiao Li & Wang Li	Firat Soylu	11-09-16	\$330,000
832 Sherman Ave, Evanston	Roberta L Brennan	Cheryl Lenz Calvo	11-09-16	\$370,000
2708 Central Park Ave, Evanston	Lisa Ngan	Cartus Financial Corp	11-09-16	\$420,000
1615 Cleveland St, Evanston	Adam Boyle & Marie Boyle	Ralph M Beerhorst	11-09-16	\$450,000
1708 Harrison St, Evanston	Zachary I Burdick & Andrea F Burdick	Bryan Taylor Mills	11-09-16	\$580,000
1726 Chancellor St, Evanston	Alexander S Loftus & Erin S Loftus	Valeria Smith	11-09-16	\$654,000
3843 Grace Ln, Glenview	Daniel Zederman & Diana Zederman	Robert L Stahl	11-08-16	\$523,000
1873 Admiral Ct, # 88, Glenview	Jaimin C Patel & Priya A Patel	Moses Myungnam Kim	11-10-16	\$740,000
304 Fernwood Ln, Glenview	Stefan J Medina & Kathryn M Medina	304 Fernwood Llc	11-10-16	\$1,025,000
21114 W Summerfield Ct, Kildeer	Scott G Dessing & Susan B Dessing	Robert F Parisek	10-25-16	\$1,100,000
21414 W Ridge Rd, Lake Zurich	Michael Jackson & Alana Jackson	Adeline Vassallo	10-25-16	\$45,000
165 Finstad Dr, Libertyville	Edna L Thompson	Dawn Brews	10-25-16	\$373,500
1215 Loyola Dr, Libertyville	Neil M Burr & Emma J Burr	Anthony J D Antonio	10-25-16	\$566,500
2050 Trenton Rd, Libertyville	Cory L Kelly & Aimee E Lonigro	Ann Nobis	10-25-16	\$665,000
8620 Waukegan Rd, # 202, Morton Grove	Mudjiati Djainudin	Maria Witko	11-09-16	\$98,000
8650 Ferris Ave, # 204, Morton Grove	Ibrájm Aziz & Biolet Talya	Bmo Harris Bank Na	11-08-16	\$115,000
8300 Callie Ave, # 612, Morton Grove	Tzvetomil Nikolov	Devesh A Desai	11-10-16	\$196,000
5809 Carol Ave, Morton Grove	Jay Chazen & Vy Chazen	Loretta Chazen	11-09-16	\$237,500

ADDRESS	BUYER	SELLER	DATE	PRICE
7840 Linder Ave, Morton Grove	Joseph T Curtis & Kimberly S Pressling	Iris C Garcia	11-08-16	\$415,000
7405 Arcadia St, Morton Grove	Mark A Smith & Jamie Michelin	Jose F Sotelo	11-08-16	\$590,000
1717 W Crystal Ln, # 609, Mount Prospect	Thomas Dinardo	Fannie Mae	11-10-16	\$64,000
1747 W Crystal Ln, # 408, Mount Prospect	Agata M Staniszewska	Emilia Zalejska	11-10-16	\$155,000
104 N Wille St, Mount Prospect	Patrick Sullivan & Ana Lilia Sullivan	Roy R Andersen	11-09-16	\$168,000
1908 E Ivy Ln, Mount Prospect	Adrian Marinescu	Anthony Kardell Estate	11-09-16	\$300,000
1835 E Sitka Ln, Mount Prospect	Yong Llong Chen & Allison S Ma	Susan Mary Kelly	11-10-16	\$390,500
1000 E Ardyce Ln, Mount Prospect	Christopher Zborowski	Carl R Hagland	11-08-16	\$395,000
708 S Glendale Ln, Mount Prospect	Katherine Derfler & Edward Derfler	Agatha Weisser	11-08-16	\$490,000
9701 N Dee Rd, # 5E, Niles	Rana Shaqboua	Catherine A Koziol	11-09-16	\$88,500
9737 N Fox Glen Dr, # 5F, Niles	Grzegorz Wylezek	Krzysztof Sas	11-09-16	\$92,000
8854 N Grace Ave, # 25, Niles	Roman Mathias & Anghelina Mathias	Fannie Mae	11-10-16	\$105,000
7830 N Waukegan Rd, Niles	Sarhat Khoshaba & Najlaa Odsho	Il Red Trading Inc	11-08-16	\$205,000
8346 N Odell Ave, Niles	Kamil Gawel	Karen Masuda	11-09-16	\$245,000
8243 N Merrill St, Niles	Kevin A Ausmer & Bianca I Ausmer	John A Calarco	11-10-16	\$335,000
7250 W Oakton St, Niles	Soonsuk Kim	Mirosława Mailnowska	11-09-16	\$335,000
2411 Brian Dr, Northbrook	Dana Lezak	Gail Abrams	11-08-16	\$500,000
940 Cedar Ln, Northbrook	David J Granat & Lorie Granat	Laura J Senft	11-08-16	\$819,000
192 Lagoon Dr, Northfield	Hyungsig Sonn & Michelle Sonn	Umb Bank Na Trustee	11-09-16	\$235,000
234 Meadowbrook Dr, Northfield	Charles B Hawes	Katz Trust	11-08-16	\$600,000
234 Meadowbrook Dr, Northfield	Charles B Hawes	Katz Trust	11-08-16	\$600,000
225 S Rohlwing Rd, # 610, Palatine	Arturo Ramierz & Dlyana Strundzheva	Todd W Tostlebe	11-08-16	\$78,000
1412 W Sterling Ave, # 103, Palatine	Todd Heini	Judith R Sharp	11-08-16	\$88,000
1100 E Randville Dr, # 112, Palatine	Nicole Dunn & Miladen Kostic	Jermy Campbell	11-10-16	\$111,000
1365 N Sterling Ave, # 208B, Palatine	Jaroslaw Daniel	Christopher Konsur	11-10-16	\$115,000
1314 Inverrary Ln, Palatine	Isaac Villaneda & Janeth Salazar Valenzuela	Fernando C Gutierrez	11-08-16	\$135,000
1182 E Nichols Rd, # 1A, Palatine	Kimberly Cagle	Elina Lansberg	11-10-16	\$150,000
24 W Station St, # 212, Palatine	Mchale S Kima	Amazing Homes Developers Llc	11-08-16	\$170,000
631 N Charter Hall Dr, Palatine	Jay M Renaud & Tracey L Burlan	Daralyn N Pavetto	11-08-16	\$243,000
55 N Middleton Ave, Palatine	Bryan C Sprecher & Erin O'Neill	David B Stratton	11-08-16	\$314,000
983 N Auburn Woods Dr, Palatine	Sally L McDavid	Kenneth J Kosan	11-09-16	\$325,500
435 W Wood St, Palatine	Kathleen A Jaglco	Thomas R Dillon	11-10-16	\$338,000
774 W Evergreen Ct, Palatine	Sivraj Kallappan & Kavitha Subramaniam	Luann G Tenuta	11-10-16	\$449,000
4782 Fairfax Ave, Palatine	Venkatakrishna Pethari & Susmita Bommlireddy	Pasadena Development Partners	11-08-16	\$609,000
209 S Vlna Ave, # 4C, Park Ridge	Margaret Schuetz	Laura Gutting	11-10-16	\$247,500
817 Rowe Ave, Park Ridge	Christine Nolan	Elzbieta Chwaszcinska	11-09-16	\$277,000
2005 S Washington Ave, Park Ridge	Scott Gaughan & Cynthia Gaughan	John B Foley	11-10-16	\$390,000
1317 Good Ave, Park Ridge	Jordan T Haupt & Demi D Haupt	Mariana Kotzeva	11-10-16	\$417,500
1952 De Cook Ave, Park Ridge	John Apel & Dawne Apel	Bohdan Watral	11-10-16	\$500,000
942 E Old Willow Rd, # 103, Prospect Heights	Valentin Pop	Kyle Xinkai Hu	11-08-16	\$88,000
628 E Old Willow Rd, # 184B, Prospect Heights	Jadwiga Marszalek	Kenneth B Westre	11-10-16	\$93,000
207 Royal Ct, Prospect Heights	James Kestler & Jacqueline Kestler	Santander Bank Na	11-09-16	\$485,000
358 Tally Ho Dr, Vernon Hills	Veluswamy Muniswamy & Mnjia Veluswamy	Phillip Reaume	10-25-16	\$442,500
365 Stone Fence Rd, Vernon Hills	Sandeep Makker & Divya Rawal	Cartus Financial Corp	10-25-16	\$542,000
2120 Beaver Creek Dr, Vernon Hills	Radhakrishna Sura & Priyanka Sura	Jeffrey A Ackerman	10-25-16	\$645,000
1610 Tahoe Circle Dr, Wheeling	Laura C Weiskopf	Margaret Bajor	11-09-16	\$178,000
1406 Bayside Dr, Wheeling	Karen Rollins	Tadd J Rollins	11-09-16	\$180,000
157 W Jeffery Ave, Wheeling	Ricardo Robles	Amy Schwalm	11-09-16	\$190,500
128 Glendale St, Wheeling	Maribel Estefania Patino	Steve Kovacs	11-09-16	\$200,000
1625 Sheridan Rd, # 504, Wilmette	Ann Kelleher	Fannie Mae	11-10-16	\$142,000
322 Romona Rd, Wilmette	Alma Dean Kolb	Todd B Atkins	11-10-16	\$455,000
800 Chilton Ln, Wilmette	Linda F Gruenberg	Anne C Brahlin	11-10-16	\$660,000

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

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



TNS PHOTOS

A coffee-table book makes a statement in an entry foyer.

Judging books by the covers: Embrace literature as decor

BY CATHY HOBBS
Tribune News Service

Books: They're worth more than a good story. Long considered treasured household items that are passed among generations, books can serve as valuable testaments of time. Even so, many homeowners may not also realize books can also be decorative elements that can dress shelves, create an interesting tableau and add a pop of color to any space.

The beauty of books is they come in all different shapes, sizes and colors at an affordable price and can help glam up your home.

Try these interesting ways to display books in your space:

1. Always select hardbound books as opposed to paperbacks. Hardbound books won't damage as easily and will feel more luxurious.

2. Consider purchasing books on fashion. Fashion books are often reasonably priced and display festive, fun colors as part of their cover art.

3. Shop at flea markets. They are a great source of interesting books and



All-white books placed on a shelf mixed with decorative elements add an element of glam.

publications.

4. Consider a monochromatic theme. Books that are all one color can make a bold statement.

5. Wrap it up! Don't like a book's cover or looking to incorporate a specific pattern or design? Covering books with wrapping or craft paper can be a quick fix.

6. Consider vintage. Vintage books, perhaps even from different decades or in various languages, can be fun conversation pieces.

7. Use plenty of books to dress your shelves. Shelf dressing is a popular tech-

nique in interior design that involves placing items on shelves through the creative use of vignettes. Books are an affordable, colorful and appropriate way to dress one's shelves in a den or living room.

8. Treat books as you would any other accessory. Books can be showpieces in virtually any room of the home, from the living room to a bedroom, den or entry area.

9. Embrace color. While black and white can be an interesting color combination, bold colors can also create an edgy design element.

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

Thursday, Dec. 15

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

Contemporary Native Women Opening Doors to Change: Join the Mitchell Museum for its latest exhibit, "Contemporary Native Women Opening Doors to Change." 10 a.m. Thursday-Saturday, noon Sunday and 10 a.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, \$3 kids, \$5 adults and Tribal members free, 847-475-1030

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. Redeem buy one, get one free admission voucher at the Visitor Center Information Desk. Visit ComEd.com/HolidayLights for special offers. 10 a.m. daily, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glen-coe, \$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. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Writers Theatre, 325 Tudor Court, Glencoe, \$35-\$80, 847-242-6000

Hot Ticket: "Indignation": In 1951 a young Jewish atheist attends college in Ohio, where he clashes with both the school's established social order and his overbearing parents' hopes for his future. At the same time, he falls for an attractive, complicated classmate. 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Wonder Ground Open Lab: Look, touch, tinker, and play with an intriguing array of science-oriented curiosities in this new space designed especially for kids. A drop-in visit is meant to last about 15 minutes. Activities are repeated each week from Tuesday to

Thursday. The Wonder Ground is a STEAM playground for kids. 4 p.m. Thursday and 4 p.m. Tuesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Glenbrook North Winter Concert: This annual concert features songs of the holiday season and include performances by the GBN bands, orchestra and choral groups. The concert will conclude with the tradition of all participants performing "White Christmas". 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Sheely Center for the Performing Arts, 2300 Shermer Road, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6400

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, 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, 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

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

Skating in the Park: The parks' great lawn has been transformed into an NHL-sized, outdoor skating rink where visitors can skate under breathtaking lights for a magical experience this holiday season. Admission to the ice rink is free. Skate rentals are \$8. 4 p.m. Thursday, 4 p.m. Friday, 11 a.m. Saturday, 11 a.m. Sunday and 4 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, MB Financial Park at

Rosemont, 5501 Park Place, Rosemont, free, 847-349-5008

Brush with Nature 2016 Exhibition: Come to enjoy the artworks on display. 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 and 2:30 p.m. Sunday, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, \$30-\$81, 847-673-6300

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. Thursday and 5:30 p.m. Monday, Gillson Park, Lake Avenue & Michigan Avenue, Wilmette, free, 847-251-6834

Friday, Dec. 16

Wilmette Community Band Holiday Concert: The Wilmette Community Band present music of the season including: "The Nutcracker Suite," Elliot Del Borgo's "Christmas Variants," Matt Conaway's "Sparkling Lights," Edwin Franko Goldman's "Christmas March," a caroling sing-a-long, and much more. The concert is free of charge, so bring the entire family! 7:30 p.m. Friday, Trinity Lutheran Church, 3637 Golf Road, Evanston, free

Piccolo Theatre "The Snow Queen": Piccolo's 16th annual Panto brings back the smash hit of 2013! 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

Glenview Ice Center Winter Carnival: The Winter Carnival features daily family public skate sessions, two charity hockey games, hockey/figure skating lessons and much more. Some events are free and several require pre-registration. Pick up a complete schedule at the Glenview Ice Center or online at glenviewicecenter.org. For more information, please call. 9 a.m. Friday-

Wednesday, Glenview Ice Center, 1851 Landwehr Road, Glenview, free, 847-724-5670

Drop-In Craft Make It and Take It: Bring the whole family to make a winter-themed craft. 10 a.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

"Dark Horse": This PG, 2015 film received the British Independent Film Award for Best British Documentary. Just drop in. 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

"The Cricket on the Hearth" by Charles Dickens: The Shakespeare Project of Chicago perform a special holiday edition theatrical reading. It is a heartwarming story of love, trust, selflessness and reunion. 7 p.m. Friday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

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

Shabbat with a Twist: Families with children up to Pre-K may join in for challah making, stories, and songs! Sing songs and hear a story read by the clergy. Then you can twist your own challah with the dough provided and take it home to bake. 11 a.m. Friday, Congregation Beth Shalom, 3433 Walters Ave., Northbrook, free, 847-498-4100

Share The Warmth: Volunteers wanted — join a group of warm, friendly, supportive women (men welcome) to prepare one-of-a-kind fleece blankets for chemo patients. Add a crocheted edge to fleece and send free blankets to new adult chemotherapy patients. A basic crochet stitch can be taught if needed. Bring lunch. Attendees often gather until 2 or 3 p.m. Donations are welcome to this 501(c)3 non-profit organization. 9 a.m. Friday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, free, 847-293-6755

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

Dominoes Tournament: Join us for a

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friendly competition of Dominoes from 1-4 p.m. Register in advance by contacting the Centennial Activity Center, 1 p.m. Friday, Park Ridge Park District-Centennial Activity Center, 100 South Western Ave., Park Ridge, \$2 member, \$3 guest, 847-692-3597

STEAM Starts Ages 2 to 6: Join in the children's department for a self-guided exploration of science, technology, engineering, art, math and, of course, reading! 10 a.m. Friday, Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

Sabbath Dinner and Services: A gala shabbat dinner followed by Friday night services with Cantor Benjamin Warschawski starts at 6:30 p.m. Cantor Warschawski is recognized worldwide for his extraordinary talents in both operatic and cantorial realms. Dinner is catered from the Mizrahi Grill. 6:30 p.m. Friday, Ezra Habonim, The Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, \$22 for adults; \$10 for children; children under age 5 are free, 847-675-4141

Saturday, Dec. 17

Polyglots Toastmasters meeting: Polyglots is the only Toastmasters International Club in the United States that conducts its meetings in German. If you speak German or want to keep it fresh or improve it, visit this club. 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St., Des Plaines, free, 847-827-5551

Overeaters Anonymous: Overeaters Anonymous meets Saturdays. New-comer meeting on the last Saturday of the month. No dues, fees or weigh-ins. For information, call Hannah. 9 a.m. Saturday, St Matthews Episcopal Church, 2120 Lincoln St., Evanston, free, 773-996-0609

Signature Entertainment Presents: LOL Saturday: Adult Comedy every Saturday night hosted by Comedy legends Tony Sculfield and Mark Simmons. 9 p.m. Saturday, Chicago's Home of Chicken & Waffles, 2424 W. Dempster St., Evanston, \$15 adult advance; \$20 at the door, 847-521-6434

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

Coriolls a cappella Concert Evans-ton: 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, Sweetlinck and more. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 939 Hinman Ave., Evanston, \$25; Youth \$10, 847-869-6884

A Toy-ful Celebration Holiday Concert: 23rd annual "A Toy-Ful Celebration Holiday Concert!" to benefit U.S. Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots campaign features the Glenview Concert Band and the GCC Chancel Choir performing holiday favorites of the season. Toys can also be dropped at any of the 5 Glenview Fire Stations. 7 p.m. Saturday, Glenview Community Church, 1000 Elm St., Glenview, free, 847-724-0718

Service Buddies Canes from Chrissy for Grades 1-8: This is an opportunity to earn service hours, by helping to decorate walking canes to be distributed by Canes from Chrissy. Please note: grades 5-8 must arrive at 9:30 a.m. for a briefing. Please register at glenviewpl.org/register or call. 10 a.m. Saturday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Study for Finals at Your Library for Grades 9-12: The meeting rooms are open for individual or group study. Stop by the Information Desk for daily study locations. Noon Saturday, 1 p.m. Sunday and 4 p.m. Monday-Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Petite Dance Recital: This year, Dance Upon a Dream is danced by children 3 to 6 years old in full costume. The program also features guest performances by Center Studio Dance Company and Tap Over 50. Tickets can be purchased at the door the day of the show. 10 a.m. and noon Saturday, Glenview Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, \$5, 847-724-5670

Breakfast with Santa: Santa Claus is stopping by to enjoy breakfast with you and your family! \$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, The Cafe at Glenview Park Golf Club, 800 Shermer Road, Glenview, \$11.95 to \$19.95 plus, 847-657-3200

Anime and Manga Club: Gather with

fellow fans to watch and discuss anime and manga, draw fan art, make cosplay costumes. 2 p.m. Saturday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Anti Aging Educational Seminar: Surgeon and stem cell therapy expert, Dr. Lobe, answers questions about the conflicting information out there on Stem Cell Therapy. Learn about the incredible features and many health applications. Register to the event website, as seating is limited. 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Heal n Cure Suite B, 1122 Willow Road, Northbrook, free, 847-686-4444

William Close and The Earth Harp Collective: Enjoy a special concert from internationally renowned William Close & The Earth Harp Collective. Bring your family and friends for an evening of Christmas songs performed on the earth harp while its illuminated strings are suspended above the audience. Tickets are \$12 and can be purchased at www.WillowCreek.org. Children 2 and under are free. 5 p.m. Saturday, Willow Creek North Shore, 2200 Shermer Road, Northbrook, \$0-\$12

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

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

Season of Light with Megon McDonough: Celebrate the season in song with national recording artist Megon McDonough, backed by the trio of Peter Polzak, Sarah Allen and Bill Harrison. Megon presents an evening of holiday favorites. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Wilmette Theatre, 1122 Central Ave., Wilmette, \$30-\$35, 847-251-7424

Enchanted Christmas concert: A Classical Christmas recital with soprano Mei Mei Gaetz and ensemble at the St Joseph Catholic Church, followed by Christmas carols. Children are welcome. Donations are welcome. 7 p.m. Saturday, St. Joseph Church, 1747 Lake Ave., Wilmette, free, 312-933-2596

TopGolf Cookies and Cocoa with

Santa: Santa Claus is coming to town, and this time he's bringing his own cookies and cocoa. Bring the little ones to get a complimentary photo taken with Santa, and receive a free holiday-themed gift and, of course, cookies and cocoa. 9 a.m. Saturday, TopGolf Wood Dale, 699 W. Thorndale Ave., Wood Dale, free, 630-595-4653

Sunday, Dec. 18

Christmas Pageant: This youth pageant sets Jesus' birth within the bigger picture of history to offer a fresh perspective on the Christmas story. Written and directed by Andrew Biliter (who also serves as Artistic Director of Mudlark Theater) with Sarah Petersen, FCCE Director of Learning and Outreach. All ages are welcome and is open to the public. 10 a.m. Sunday, First Congregational Church of Evanston, 1445 Hinman Ave., Evanston, free

Evanston Children's Choir Holiday Concert 2016: Directors Gary Geiger and Monica Blacconeri lead the entire Evanston Children's Choir, celebrating Christmas, Hanukkah and Kwanzaa in typical ECC style. Limited free parking available behind the chapel for the less-mobile. Plentiful, inexpensive parking is available nearby at the Church Street Self Park. 3 p.m. Sunday, Alice Millar Chapel, Northwestern University, 1870 Sheridan Road, Evanston, free, 847-491-7256

Olde English Christmas Service of Nine Lessons & Carols: Join for us for an Olde English Christmas Service of Nine Lessons & Carols at the Levere Memorial Temple, SAE Fraternity. Hosted by the Anglican Church of Christ the King. 10 a.m. Sunday, Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity - Northwestern University, 2325 Sheridan Road, Evanston, free, 847-440-5610

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

Deck The Halls with Festive Holiday Music: Tempest Winds, a woodwind trio of flute, clarinet and bassoon, present a holiday program to celebrate the season. Get ready for familiar seasonal favorites and don't forget to sing along! Please register at glenviewpl.org/register or call. 2 p.m. Sunday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Lincoln Hall Holiday Concert: Get in the holiday spirit with an afternoon of seasonal tunes performed by Lincoln Hall Chorale! 2 p.m. Sunday, Lincoln-

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wood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Diva Montell: 2 p.m. Sunday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Children's Hanukkah Party at Skokie Synagogue: This is a fun party for the kids — Hanukkah time at Ezra-Habonim, sponsored by the synagogue's Men's Club. The party is open to everyone. Highlighting the morning: Magician Randy Bernstein performs sleight-of-hand and feats of magic delighting young and old, alike! 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Ezra Habonim, The Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, free, 847-675-4141

Tidings of Tap! Chicago Tap Theatre (CTT) bring audiences live music, a touch of magic and boundless energy with the return of their annual Tidings of Tap!, a warm and wondrous celebration of tap dance and the winter holidays. 3 p.m. Sunday, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, \$24-\$40, 773-655-1175

Prairie Brass Band: This music is directed by Mary Gingrich, who also provides much music for this morning worship: prelude of Christmas medleys, a narrated setting of the story of "Good King Wenceslas," other carols of the season and then a mini-concert following worship to accompany the fellowship time. 10:45 a.m. Sunday, Winnetka Covenant Church, 1200 Hibbard Road, Wilmette, free, 847-446-4300

Monday, Dec. 19

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

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

Learn To Be A Shark: Come to the North Shore's only coworking space and entrepreneur incubator. Vcapital speakers Ryan Kole and Jim Vaughan explain how to invest in early and mid stage companies, joining investor networks and be a part of venture funds. 6:30 p.m. Monday, Callan Building, 1939 Waukegan Road, Glenview, free, 847-414-7342

Yarn Gang: Kids in grades 1 and up are invited to try their hand at knitting, crocheting or other yarn crafts. 4 p.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

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

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

Finals Study Cafe: Stop by the Baxter Room and Teen Space to find dedicated spaces for high school students to prepare for finals. You can even consult your teen librarian for research and review help. 4:30 p.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Yoga for Kids: Stretch, Bend, Breathe: Kids ages 4 through 8 can learn yoga poses and breathing techniques and feel relaxed and energized afterward. There is no experience needed. Bring a large bath towel or yoga mat and wear comfortable clothes. Parents need to stay in the room with children through 2nd-graders. 4:30 p.m. Monday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Holiday Sing-a-Long! Register in advance for this Holiday Sing-a-long with the Uketoones as they take the stage and play some of your holiday favorites. The S.T.A.R. Tappers and the always graceful tai chi class will also show their holiday performances. 1:30 p.m. Monday, Park Ridge Park District — Centennial Activity Center, 100 South Western Ave., Park Ridge, \$1 member, \$2 guest, 847-692-3597

Community Carol Sing CSO Trombonist Vernon and Friends: Chicago Symphony trombonist Charlie Vernon and his conductor/vocalist wife Alison lead superb musicians in this annual concert of holiday brass and vocal music. Alison directs audience caroling accompanied by a 50-voice choir and organ. All the musicians donate their time and talents, and the entry donations benefit the Greater Chicago Food Depository. 7 p.m. Monday, Trinity United Methodist Church, 1024 Lake

Ave., Wilmette, \$20 donation, 847-251-7333

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

Kidzone Winter Break Academy: TopGolf's Winter Break Academy is an exciting four-day program that offers junior golfers everything they need to learn about golf: on chipping, putting and full swing, also the rules and etiquette. Each Academy is designed and taught by Golf Teaching Professionals. 9 a.m. Monday-Wednesday, TopGolf Wood Dale, 699 W. Thorndale Ave., Wood Dale, \$99, 630-595-4653

Tuesday, Dec. 20

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 and 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

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

Financial Planning Appointments: Schedule a free one-hour consultation with a Certified Financial Planner. Call 847-729-7500, ext. 7700 or visit the Reference Services Desk to register. 9 a.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Power Employment Workshop: Discover proven strategies to land a job, as Illinois WorkNet Center speakers share what's working and what's not in today's job market. Visit worknetccc.com to register. 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glen-

view Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

CJE Senior Life Counseling Appointments: Thirty-minute appointments are available for counseling on selecting appropriate retirement benefits, picking the right health insurance and Medicare programs, determining housing needs, and identifying supportive resources. For more information and to make an appointment, call Kathy Gaeding at CJE SeniorLife, (773) 508-1054. 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Beginning Square Dance Classes: Have fun and learn to square dance; beginner lessons are sponsored by the Glenview Square Dance Club and Glenview Park District. 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

Adult Graphic Novel Discussion: This month, the group discusses "Old Man Logan" by Mark Millar. Copies are available for checkout at the Reader Services desk. If you would prefer to own a copy of this title, contact North Shore Comics and ask about their special discount for participants. 7 p.m. Tuesday, North Shore Comics, 3155 Dundee Road, Northbrook, free, 847-480-1996

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 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

Interviewing: An interactive workshop for you to gain the knowledge and confidence necessary to enter an interview fully prepared, dressed appropriately and ready to engage in an effective conversation with the interviewer. To register for Career Moves workshops, visit https://jvschicago-syhum.formstack.com/forms/career_identity. 1 p.m. Tuesday, Goldie Bachmann Luftig Building, 5150 Golf Road, Skokie, Work-

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shop fees: Career Moves clients: \$10 per workshop and non-clients: \$20 per workshop, 847-745-5460

Wednesday, Dec. 21

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

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

Musicians open mic: Kids open Mic 6:30-7:30 p.m.; adults 7:30-11p.m. Bring your instruments and bring your friends. 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, The Rock House, 1742 Glenview Road, Glenview, free

All Things Spanish: Native and non-native Spanish speakers are invited to

join the fun while practicing language skills by reading a short story, watching a film and more. Contact cramirez@glenviewpl.org for more details. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

"Love Actually": Take an afternoon break from shopping madness to join us for this modern holiday classic. R, 2003. 2 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

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

"Stir Crazy": This is 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

Knitting Studio and Workshop: Each Wednesday afternoon, Certified Knitting Instructor Mary Staackmann pro-

vides 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

Holiday Bingo & Pizza: Register in advance at the Centennial Activity Center, to treat yourself to hot slices of Spuntino cheese, sausage, and veggie pizza. Afterward, play several games of bingo in your ugliest Holiday Sweater to win prizes. 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Park Ridge Park District- Centennial Activity Center, 100 South Western Ave., Park Ridge, \$8 member, \$10 guest, 847-692-3597

Senior High Youth Group: For all youth grades 9 to 12 to enjoy fun and friendship while engaging in meaningful discussions and service learning opportunities. The evening starts with a tasty dinner. 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. Then, afterward, youth programs and adult studies are broken out by age. Dinner cost is \$5 per adult, \$3.50 for children 5-12, under five are free. A family pays a maximum of \$12. 5:45 p.m. Wednesday, Winnetka Covenant Church, 1200 Hibbard Road, Wilmette, \$5-\$12, 847-446-4300

World War II Veterans' Roundtable: Vets gather for lively conversation and coffee. Newcomers are welcome. 10 a.m. Wednesday, Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free

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COUNTRY FINANCIAL

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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, enjoyable and progressive without being insufferable. Moana, voiced by actress Auli'i Cravalho, is the daughter of a Pacific Islands chief-tain. She must get in touch with her seafaring ancestry and leave on a long journey. After a brush with death, she washes ashore on a small island and meets 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, costumed like the winner of a Jazz Age "Doctor Who" contest, 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.

**"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 in "Arrival" conspires to unsettle us and hold us in a state of dread or wonder.

Louise (Amy Adams), a linguistics professor, is brought in to translate the otherworldly beeps and pops and guttural some- things emitted by the inhabitants of the spacecraft. "Arrival" will cast a spell on some, while merely discombobulating others. Right there, I'd say that indicates it's worth seeing. — M.P.

**"Allied" ★★**

R, 2:04, drama

In the swank but waxy new World War II-era, Robert Zemeckis film "Allied" starring Brad Pitt and Marlon 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. The conversations between Max (Pitt) and Marianne (Cotillard) lay the groundwork for a slow-burning

romance, but the matches are damp. In a movie built around two characters, Pitt does not hold up his 50 percent. He struggles to engage with the material, and the audience, I suspect, may struggle too. — M.P.

**"Doctor Strange" ★★★**

PG-13, 1:55, action/adventure

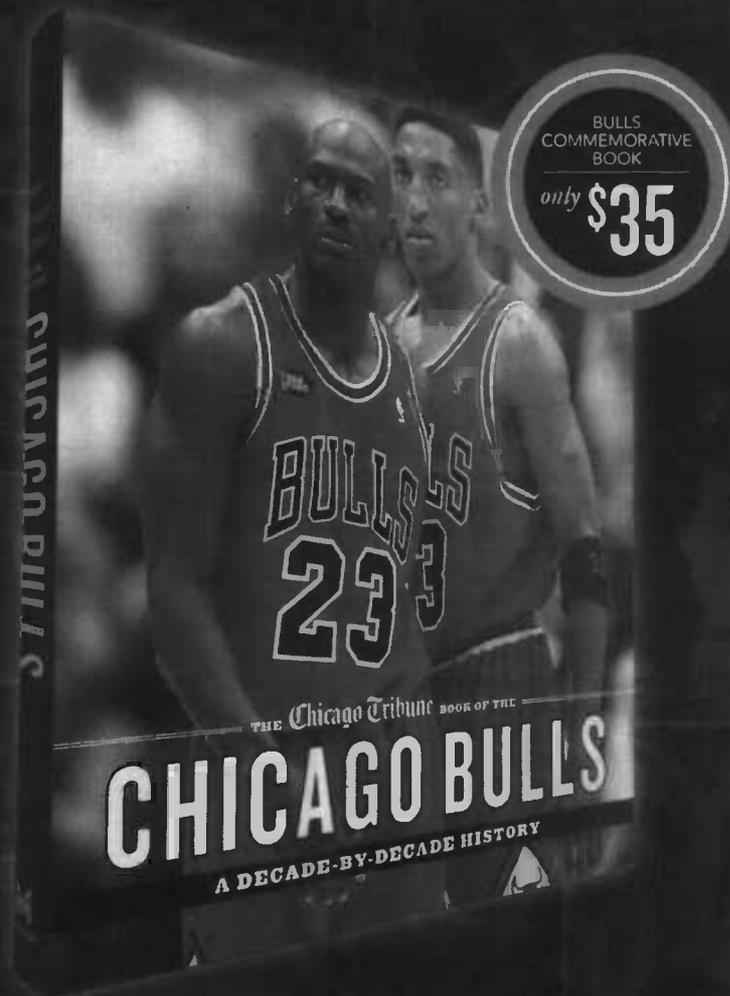
"Doctor Strange," starring Benedict Cumberbatch as a neurosurgeon who learns to bend time, space and his narcissistic ways, can't escape all its Marvel corporate imperatives and generic third-act battles for control of the planet. But this latest in the Marvel landscape is fun, light on its feet, pretty stylish and full of classy performers enlivening the dull bits. I wish Rachel McAdams had more scenes as Strange's fellow doctor, but

some of her screen time, no doubt, went to slight gags featuring the Cloak of Levitation, a supporting player of wit and distinction, emblematic of the best of "Doctor Strange." — M.P.

Chicago Tribune

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Death Notices

Anderson, Robert L.

Robert L. Anderson, age 100, formerly of Skokie. Beloved husband of the late Vera E., nee Johnson; dear father of Tom (Susan) and Kathy (Alan) Schmuttenmaer; loving grandfather of five; cherished great-grandfather of six; fond brother of the late John and Irving. Visitation was Sunday, December 11, 2016, at **HABEN Funeral Home & Crematory**, Skokie. Funeral Service was Monday, December 12, at Edison Park Lutheran Church, Chicago. Interment followed in Ridgewood Cemetery, Des Plaines. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Edison Park Lutheran Church Foundation, 6626 N. Oliphant Ave., Chicago, IL, 60631 or to the Scholarship Fund of the Independent Order of Svithiod, 5518 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago, IL, 60630. Funeral info: 847.673.6111 or www.habenfuneral.com.



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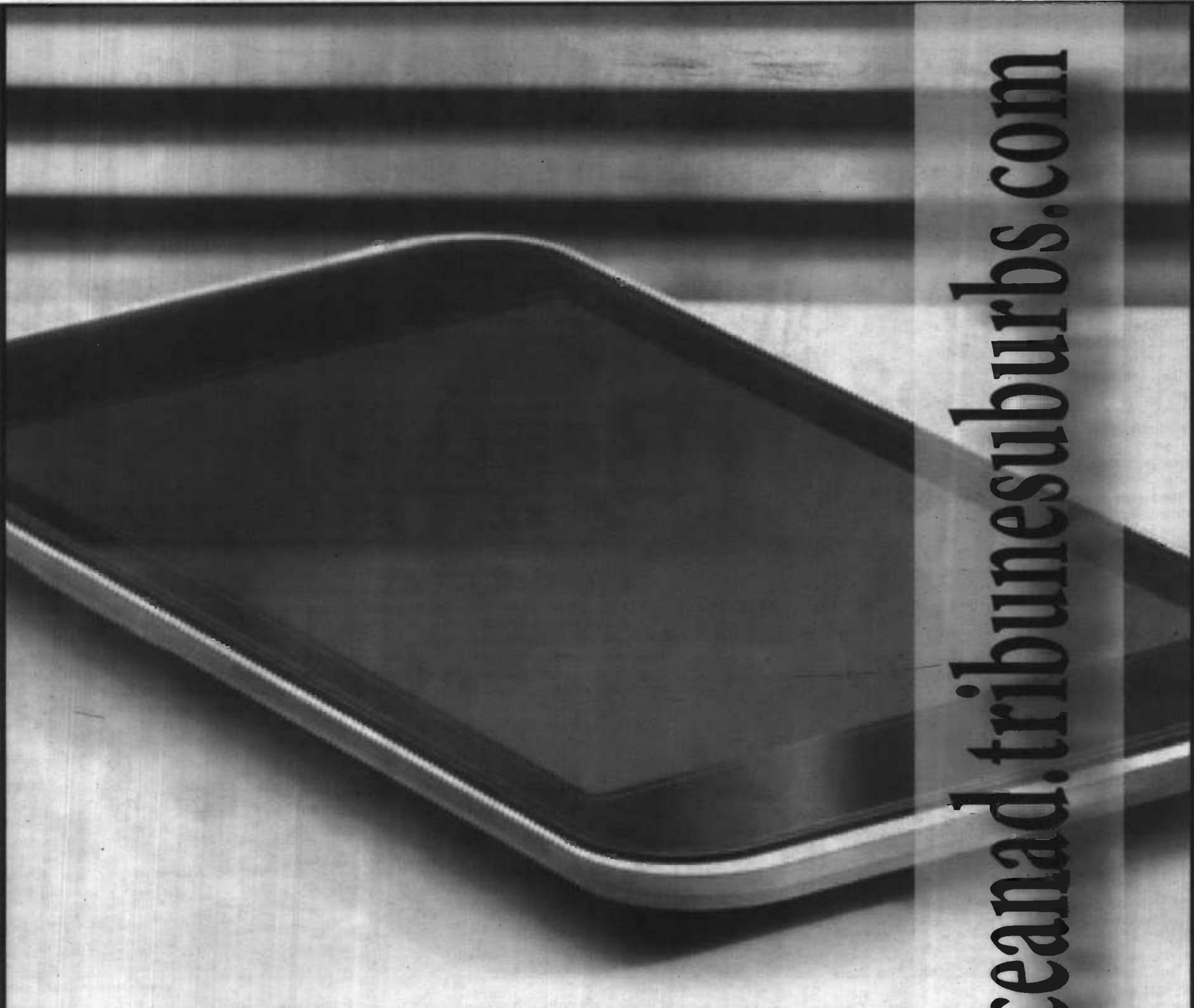
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Niles North's Prosper-Kanam faces pivotal offseason

BY BRETT CHRISTIE
Pioneer Press

Bruno Prosper-Kanam said he was Niles North's fourth-string running back in 2015 and then he entered the offseason competing for the starting role with three others. Vikings coach Mike Garoppolo said that Prosper-Kanam had separated himself by mid-July to earn the starting nod.

This offseason will be much different for Prosper-Kanam. Now the undisputed guy in the backfield, he seeks to help return Niles North to contender status in 2017 after a 1-8 season. He's also trying to attract interest from college recruiters ahead of his senior season.

Garoppolo said Prosper-Kanam's ability to accomplish the latter rests on his shoulders.

"The sky's the limit for Bruno," Garoppolo said. "He can go as far he wants to take himself. It's going to really depend on himself and how he looks at the offseason and how he wants to prepare for his senior year. He could get plenty of scholarship offers after his senior year. But it really depends on how he wants to look at it and really go about it."

Prosper-Kanam showed his potential in Niles North's 56-42 win over rival Niles West on Oct. 7 when he ran for 298 yards and five touchdowns.

"Just knowing the type of guy that he is and the work that he put in throughout the offseason and into the summer, it was really an exciting thing to see," Garoppolo said of the performance. "Really satisfying as a coach to see your running back really excel the way we knew he could. It was a very awesome feeling for all of us."

While Prosper-Kanam garnered attention for his effort against Niles West, he had already established himself as a viable threat in the run game and he fin-



KEVIN TANAKA/PIONEER PRESS

Niles North's Bruno Prosper-Kanam breaks away from Niles West's Matt Galanopoulos on his way to a 38-yard touchdown on Oct. 7. Prosper-Kanam ran for five touchdowns in the Vikings' 56-42 win.

ished the season with 970 yards rushing and 13 touchdowns.

He accomplished all of that after taking over for Barrington Wade, who was one of the best players in program history and is now playing at Iowa.

"At first it was kind of like a big, scary thing, because look at Barrington. He's a D-I athlete, (6-1), 210. I'm 5-7, 165, so at first, nobody

had faith in me," Prosper-Kanam said. "Last year I was like a fourth-string tailback. But as soon as the season started progressing, the fans saw what I could do and they started having faith in me and started cheering me on and telling me how I'm D-I, how I'm good, how I'm talented. So that's really helped out with me getting better."

While Prosper-Kanam

and Wade possess different body types, they do have similar running styles. Despite Prosper-Kanam's smaller stature, he's more inclined to run through tacklers than around them. And once he does, he possesses the speed to break off the big run.

"He's a very hard-nosed runner, he's downhill and there's not too many old-school running backs like

that," Garoppolo said. "Everyone wants to be very shifty and Bruno doesn't really look to cut, he looks to run you over before he even decides to cut. It's good to see him run hard and getting the yards that he deserves."

While Prosper-Kanam says he didn't necessarily model his running style after Wade, he did pick up a few things from him, in-

cluding some preseason advice.

"Barrington told me to just follow your alignments," Prosper-Kanam said, alluding to run-blocking schemes on each play. "Your alignments are the key to every hole, every touchdown, every yard, it's your alignments."

Brett Christie is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Vikings learn value of defense in pair of losses

BY DAN SHALIN
Pioneer Press

Throughout the school year, Niles North teams have experienced their first taste of the Central Suburban South after the school's athletic program moved from the North division.

While the Vikings boys basketball team regularly had plenty of competition from the likes of Glenbrook North, Highland Park and Deerfield in the CSL North, a move to the CSL South means facing schools with larger enrollments and, often, more height.

In case the smallish Vikings needed a reminder of just what they're up against in the CSL South, the schedule makers had them open conference play against arguably the division's biggest and best teams: Evanston and New Trier.

"It's a baptism by fire," said Niles North coach Glenn Olson, who coached in the CSL North for nine years, spending two years in charge at Maine East before coming to Niles North ahead of the 2009-10 season.

While the Vikings lost 70-56 at Evanston on Dec. 2, Niles North turned in a much stronger effort in a 57-55 home loss to New Trier on Friday in Skokie. The Vikings (4-3, 0-2) had chances to tie or take the lead in the game's final 8 seconds.

"It was one of our better games that we ever played," said Niles North junior guard Damaria Franklin, a Skokie resident. "We played better defense versus New Trier than we did against Evanston and we shared the ball more."

Franklin tied for team-high scoring honors with 18

points against the Trevians.

Without a player over 6-foot-4, Niles North opened conference play against an Evanston team featuring a 6-6 point guard, two 6-4 wings and a 6-6 center. New Trier took that to another level with 6-8 and 6-9 post players. The Vikings visit Maine South on Friday, and the Hawks feature a 6-4 guard and a pair of 6-7 frontcourt players.

"Size does make a difference in basketball. There is no NBA team that starts five 6-3 guys," Olson said. "We're not going to grow overnight, so that's why we have to rely so much on disrupting the other team's offense, turning teams over, making them a little uncomfortable. Kids are finally starting to see that, 'Hey, if we do this, if we play embarrassingly hard, we give ourselves a chance.'"

Olson added: "We didn't do that against Evanston. We played on our heels. (The New Trier game) wasn't perfect, but I feel we took a step in the right direction."

Olson said having a difficult early-conference schedule has highlighted some of the areas in which the team needs to improve. The coach said film study has been valuable in correcting those mistakes.

"Playing against Evanston there were certain things exposed about our team, and the same on Friday versus New Trier," Olson said. "Now it's on us as a coaching staff and players to respond to those lessons and get better."

At one point in the week leading up to the New Trier game, Olson showed his current squad the first half of Niles North's 2015 Class 4A regional semifinal game



ERIC P. DAVIS/PIONEER PRESS

In this Jan. 8 photo, Niles North's Jamal Stephenson puts up a shot as Deerfield's Jordan Baum attempts to block it in Skokie.

against Zion-Benton, a game in which the Vikings' 73-68 victory was later overturned because Niles North had an ineligible player.

But the video served as a

reminder of just how hard the 2015 team battled.

"I think (seeing that game) helped us, just seeing how those guys competed, what they did and what we should be doing," said jun-

ior Jamal Stephenson, a Skokie resident who was a freshman on that team. "The Evanston game hurt, but seeing that film made us hungrier."

Stephenson scored 18

points against New Trier, all in the first half.

Dan Shalin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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KEVIN TANAKA/PIONEER PRESS

Meet your December winner!

Natalia Pehar, Niles West sophomore

Pehar, an outside hitter, helped the Niles West girls volleyball team finish fourth at the Class 4A state tournament. In the state semifinals, Pehar recorded a team-high nine kills and added four digs and an ace, but it wasn't enough as the Wolves lost 25-13, 25-15 to Mother McAuley on Nov. 11 in Normal.

CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM/ATHLETES

COLLEGE NOTES

Boudreaux, Smith stand out in Ivy League basketball

BY SAM BRIEF | Pioneer Press

Lake Forest graduate **Evan Boudreaux**, a sophomore forward on the Dartmouth men's basketball team, passed 500 points in his career (through 29 games) in the Big Green's second game of the season against Fairfield with 18 points. Through seven games, Boudreaux, last year's Ivy League Rookie of the Year, led Dartmouth in scoring with 17.0 points per game and led the Ivy League with 8.7 rebounds per game.

Fenwick graduate and Burr Ridge native **Mike Smith**, last season's Pioneer Press Boys Basketball Player of the Year, put up 23 points for the Columbia men's basketball team in a 95-71 loss to Seton Hall on Dec. 1. Smith started in each of the Lions' first seven games, and the freshman point guard was averaging 11.7 points per game on 50.9 percent shooting.

Trio of locals named to D-III All-America soccer teams

Three local graduates were named to the National Soccer Coaches Association of America (NSCAA) Division III men's and women's All-America teams. **Nick Kapetanios**, a Benedictine junior forward from Norridge, was named to the second team after scoring 27 goals on the season, third-best in the nation. **Austin Bitta**, a Carthage senior midfielder from Libertyville, was named to the third team after leading Carthage with 14 goals and 13 assists. Barrington graduate **Mia Calamari** was named to the third team after tallying eight goals and a team-high 12 assists for the University of Chicago.

Louis leads Marquette volleyball to NCAA tourney

Niles North graduate **Taylor Louis**, a redshirt sophomore outside hitter, led the Marquette women's volleyball team to a sixth-consecutive appearance in the NCAA tournament. With 537 kills on the season, Louis not only led the Golden Eagles but also finished second in the Big East. She was named to the All-Big East first team and led Marquette to a 23-9 record. Louis is joined by fellow Skokie native and Niles North graduate **Amanda Green**.

Other notes

Barrington graduate **Emma Barnett**, a sophomore on the women's swimming and diving team at Truman State, was named a Great Lakes Valley Conference Athlete of



MIKE MCLAUGHLIN PHOTO

Fenwick graduate Mike Smith is scoring in double figures early in his Columbia basketball career.

the Week. ... St. Viator graduate and Arlington Heights native **Spencer Moore**, a junior on the Loras men's soccer team, was named to the NSCAA All-North Region first team, while teammate and Maine South graduate **Calvin Miller** was named to the second team. ... Lyons graduate and Burr Ridge native **Kayla Morrissey**, a junior forward at Grinnell, was leading her team in scoring through seven games with 16.1 points per game. Loyola graduate and Wilmette native **Griffin Boehm** is a sophomore forward on the Grinnell men's basketball team that set a single-game Division III record with 54 made free throws in a Nov. 26 victory over Greenville.

Have a suggestion for College Notes? Email Sam Brief at briefsam@gmail.com.

Sam Brief is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.



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Niles West's bench gives team a lift in loss to Evanston

By DAN SHALIN
Pioneer Press

Evanston superstar Nojel Eastern didn't start the Wildkits' game at Niles West on Friday after missing a practice earlier in the week, so it seemed likely the Wildkits' reserves would have the edge.

But in the first half of Evanston's 86-61 victory in Skokie, Niles West's bench exceeded expectations.

Niles West (2-5, 0-2) got 16 of its 22 first-half points from non-starters, and the Wolves had a 16-9 edge in bench points at the break.

Eastern, who entered the game midway through the first quarter, finished with a game-high 21 points. His production helped the Wildkits' bench outscore the Wolves' bench 31-30 for the game. But the play of Niles West's reserves, including senior point guard Don Asuncion (11 points), senior guard John Lazar (9 points) and junior center Nick Zerbinopoulos (5 points), was a bright spot for the hosts.

"(Asuncion) is considered a starter (even though he's the sixth man), and he really plays very well for us. Nick Zerbinopoulos plays inside and plays hard. John Lazar is just a great shooter," Niles West coach Bob Williams said. "I have faith in those kids, they are practicing hard."

Williams also pointed out that senior forward Matt Metz, another key contributor off the bench, played limited minutes in the game after battling pneumonia during the week.

Though some of Niles West's starters had solid second halves, the first unit struggled at the beginning of the game against the Wildkits (who improved to 7-1, 2-0). The

Wolves fell behind 14-2 in the first quarter.

Asuncion referred to the reserves as the team's "energy picker-uppers" and said he realized that was the role they needed to play when they got on the floor against Evanston.

"After a slow start, I talked to the (guys on the) bench, saying, 'We have to come out with the fight that we needed, bring the energy back up,'" said Asuncion, who lives in Skokie. "(The team) had been playing a little bit slow, and I think we needed to pick up the pace and try to compete."

The reserves made their presence felt quickly as Zerbinopoulos hit a basket and then Asuncion added a 3-pointer as the Wolves trailed 20-7 after one quarter.

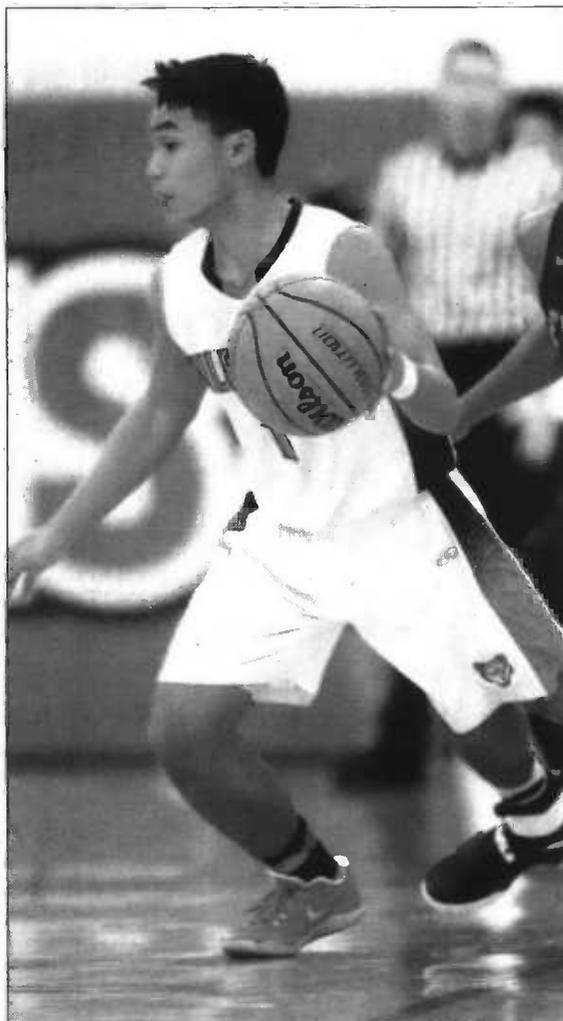
Midway through the second quarter, the 5-foot-9 Asuncion drew a charge on the 6-foot-6 Eastern.

Lazar then put on a long-range shooting exhibition, hitting three straight from behind the arc. Evanston made two free throws during the stretch. Lazar's third 3-pointer was from several feet behind the line.

"Lazar hits big shots for us," Asuncion said. "He's a great shooter off the catch, off the dribble, and we look for him to hit big shots."

Lazar's shooting did not exactly bring Niles West back into the game, it trailed 44-21 at halftime, but it kept the score more respectable.

This was not the first time the 5-foot-9, 145-pound Lazar has gotten hot from behind the arc, and from well-behind the arc at that. His size and deep shooting led one member of the crowd to jokingly call him Stephen



KEVIN TANAKA/PIONEER PRESS

Niles West's Don Asuncion scored 11 points off the bench in the Wolves' 86-61 loss to Evanston on Friday in Skokie.

Curry.

"(Leaving) that spacing (behind the 3-point line), I guess (the other team) underestimates me a little," said Lazar, a resident of Lincolnwood.

Williams said Lazar is an important contributor who is still learning to overcome some of his physical limitations.

"He's diminutive, but he's an excellent shooter," Williams said. "Defensively, he's gotten a lot better. He came in and gave us a real spark for a few minutes (against Evanston). They took advantage of his size on the defensive end, but he's learning to play harder and learning to be a little more physical to make up for that."

Though Niles West starting forward Aaron Flowers, a senior, had just

one point at halftime, he finished with a team-high 13 points and five rebounds. Senior guard Mirsad Mackic added seven points.

Williams said his team took too many chances defensively in the first quarter, which allowed Evanston to score easy baskets and put the game out of reach early.

"Defensively, we tried to do too much, tried to get steals, instead of being patient and playing good, solid team defense," Williams said. "Against a team of that caliber, you end up making a little mistake and it ends up being (an open) 3-pointer or an easy basket."

Dan Shalin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Niles West boys swimming coach suspended

By STEVE SADIN
Pioneer Press

Niles West boys swimming coach Daniel Vander Jeugd was suspended by the school board for one year, including the entire 2016-17 season, for violating a Niles Township High School District 219 rule, but neither the administration nor Vander Jeugd are giving details.

Citing a district policy of not discussing personnel matters, Superintendent Steven Isoye said a rule was broken and that Vander Jeugd remained a teacher at the school. Vander Jeugd is a physical welfare teacher.

"I cannot discuss this because it is a personnel matter," Isoye said.

When asked if Vander Jeugd will coach the team next season, Isoye said, "As far as I know, yes."

Vander Jeugd also said he was suspended from coaching for a year and admitted breaking a rule. He too gave no details.

"I did it," Vander Jeugd said. "I know it was wrong. These are the consequences. I'll accept the consequences and move on."

Vander Jeugd was suspended from coaching without pay at a special meeting of the school board on Nov. 3, according to Jim Szczepaniak, the district's director of community relations and strategic partnerships.

District 219 Board of Education President Mark Sproat also refused to go into detail about specifics of the broken rule. Sproat said the disciplinary action did not impact Vander Jeugd's position as a teacher.

"He is still a very valued employee," Sproat said. "We are confident of his abilities to provide instruction and supervise students during the school day."

Sproat said more than 100 students signed a petition asking the district to let Vander Jeugd continue to coach the team this season. He added that the board's decision was a difficult one but policies must be enforced.

"When the decision was made it was not an easy decision. There is no one who is happy here. It's unfortunate it happened at the start of the swimming season," Sproat said.

Some students spoke at a Nov. 15 board meeting in support of Vander Jeugd.

"I give them all the respect in the world," Sproat said. "I was so impressed with their ability to get up and speak at the meeting. It is not an easy thing to do. Seeing the passion in those kids and hearing them was very impressive."

One adult who spoke at the meeting was Nathan Cachila. He said in a subsequent interview that he supported Vander Jeugd because he has a son who is a freshman on the varsity swim team and a daughter who has now graduated from Niles West who was in one of the coach's classes. Cachila also is a member of the Lincolnwood School District 74 Board of Education.

"He was a role model to these kids, some now adults," Cachila said. "He not only developed them athletically but made sure they strived academically."

Vander Jeugd joined the Niles West faculty and coaching staff in 2000, Szczepaniak said.

Sproat said Jason Macejak, the Niles West girls swimming coach, is the interim boys swimming coach this season.

Steve Sadin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Maine East senior Apostolou leads inexperienced team

BY BOB NARANG

Pioneer Press

Maine East girls basketball coach Karol Hanusiak affectionately makes note of Angie Apostolou's unofficial title.

Apostolou, a senior guard, embraces her esteemed role: Team Mom

"Angie's the glue that holds the team together, like a mother figure," Hanusiak said. "She's the one that keeps everyone in check."

Apostolou, a 5-foot-2 point guard and two-year

starter, relishes her leadership position on a team in transition.

"I personally like it," she said. "Everyone comes to me for help and I love helping out and being there for my team."

The Blue Demons (2-9) have gotten off to a slow start after losing three key seniors from last season to graduation and four players who would be juniors this season decided not to return.

During the tough opening month of the season, the Blue Demons have leaned on the steadiness and experience of Apostolou.

"So far, our team has kept our energy well," Apostolou said. "We've maintained a positive attitude despite half of our team quitting on us. It was hard for us, but now we are starting back up and it feels good to be all together."

A sharpshooter who can drive to her left or right, Apostolou can provide in-

stant scoring for a team without a low-post threat, Hanusiak said.

"Her talent has always been there, but as she's matured and become a senior, her leadership is coming out," she said. "(Apostolou's) a lot more aggressive on offense and really taking charge and more control in games. Her defense is really good."

Apostolou, a three-year varsity player, is the most experienced player by a wide margin among a host of guards. Her younger sister, Caralina, is a promising sophomore guard.

"They both are outstanding 3-point shooters, just good shooting guards who are good kids who know basketball," Hanusiak said.

Angie Apostolou admitted she would like more wins in her senior season, and would like to avoid games such as Friday's 39-24 loss at Deerfield. The Blue Demons trailed 21-2 after the first quarter.

But she said one of the positives is playing with her sister.

"I love playing with my sister," Angie Apostolou said. "It's been so fun the last two years. Time flies so fast. I'm looking to become more of an assist player for the team this year. To me, points don't matter. I'm looking to step up on defense."

Bob Narang is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @Pioneer_Press

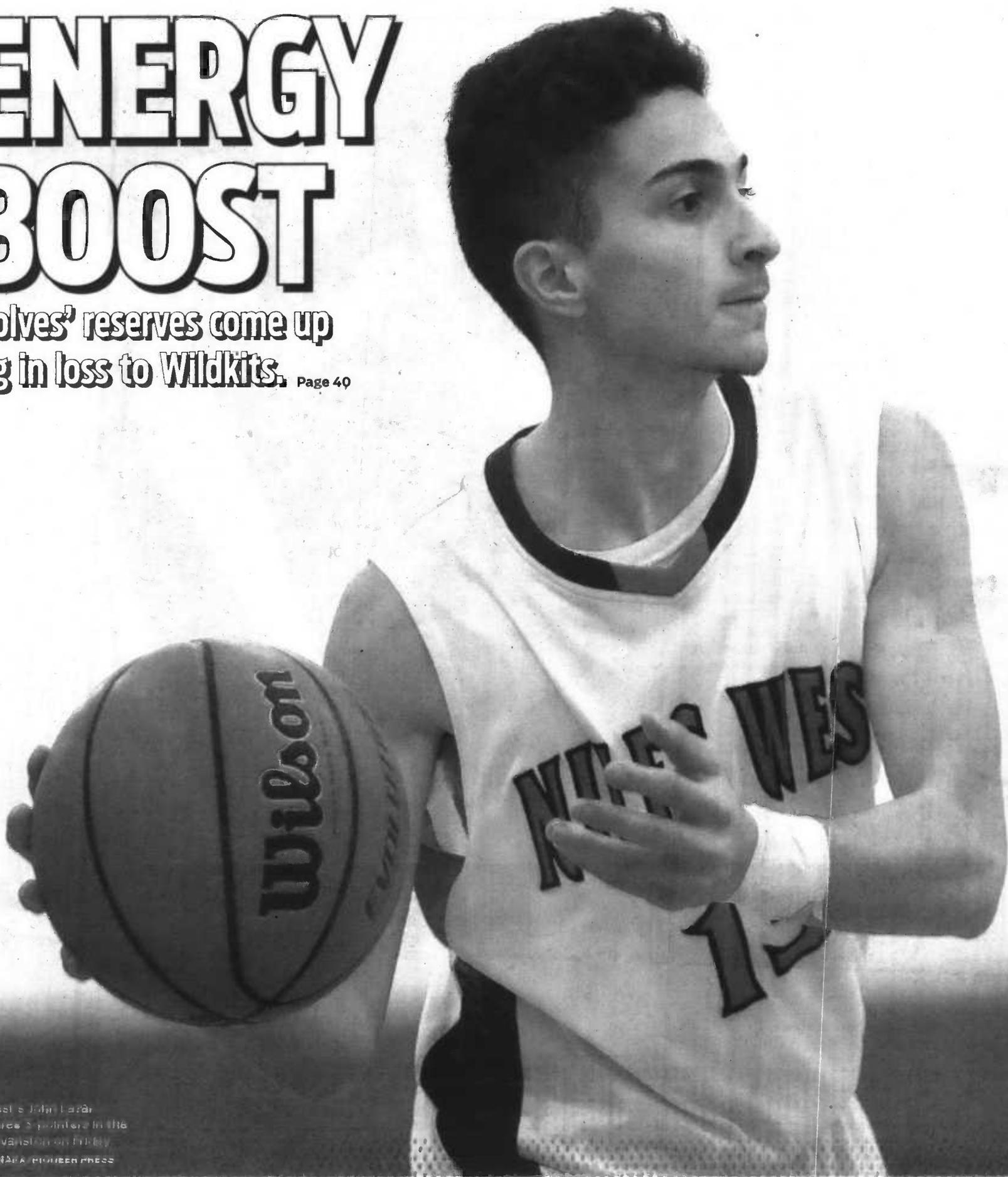


ROB DICKER/PIONEER PRESS

Maine East's Angie Apostolou looks to dribble past Deerfield's Ashley Morgan on Friday.

ENERGY BOOST

Wolves' reserves come up big in loss to Wildkits. **Page 40**



Niles West's John Larar made three 3-pointers in the loss to Evanston on Friday.
BY JIM TARRA/CHICAGO PRESS

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SIMPLY MAGNIFICENT!

Morton Grove...New on the Market! Absolutely the "Finest" Custom Home built 2008. 7 BRS - 6 Baths. Dramatic 2 story entry foyer - Hardwood floors - Formal LR - Separate formal DR - exceptional custom granite island kitchen with adjoining main floor Family Rm w/fireplace + library/sun room. Main floor BR with bath. Exquisite Master BR suite with spa like bath & 2 Walk-in closets. Full finished LL with 2nd kitchen, fireplace & add'l Family Rm/Rec Rm + full bath & separate entrance. Huge yard/patio + deck off kitchen. Oversized 2.5 car garage.....**\$999,000**



HOT OFF THE PRESS!

Morton Grove...First Offer! Rare 5 Bedrooms, 3 Baths in Popular School District 69, Only 2 Blocks to Niles West High School. Master BR with newly remodeled Bath with a whirlpool tub. Huge basement recently remodeled, with a Full Bath and 2nd Kitchen, Ideal for an In-Law Arrangement. Hardwood Floors under carpeting on 1st Floor. Double Closets in each Bedroom. New A/C Unit and Humidifier 2012. New Roof 2006. New Windows 2002. Trane Furnace. Long Driveway. Note: New 16' x 14' Shed in Yard. Super Location near public transportation!.....**\$369,000**



PRICE SLASHED TO SELL!!!

Morton Grove...Great price for this "Morton Woods" 9 room Jacobs Colonial in outstanding location! 4 brs & 3 1/2 baths. Huge room sizes throughout. Large foyer, 23' living rm + 15' separate formal-dining rm. 20' eat in kitchen with loads of cabinets + pantry/utility closets & sliding doors to patio. Main floor family rm w/wet bar, 4 sets of sliding glass doors, pegged hardwood floor, cathedral ceiling & stone FP. Master BR dressing areas, walk in closets, tub & separate shower stall with skylight. Finished bsmt rec rm & 2 other areas. 2 1/2 car attached garage.....**\$469,500**



A TRUE 10+ HOME!

Skokie...Superb 7 room brick Bi-level located in School District #68 & steps from Jane Stenson School!! Newly remodeled throughout! New paint & decorating. Beautiful oak floors in living room, dining room & 3 rooms. Custom Granite kitchen with stainless steel appliances, ceramic tile floor & backsplash, double stainless steel sink, built-in oven & range. 2 newly remodeled baths. Lower level family room. New custom wood grain front entry door leads to large-ceramic tile foyer. New Carrier furnace '07 & new roof '15. Fenced yard with patio.....**\$319,900**