

# NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR



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Thursday, December 22, 2016

nilesheraldspectator.com

## Dam removal stalls

Illinois budget impasse means projects on rivers come to halt. **Page 4**



GENEVIEVE BOOKWALTER/PIONEER PRESS

The Tam O'Shanter Dam in Niles is slated for removal. Funding to remove it, however, is being held up by the current state budget crisis, and a date to demolish the dam has not been set.

### LIVING

## Shakshuka to freakshakes: What to eat in the new year

Looking to the latest culinary achievements around the nation for inspiration, Melissa Elsmo dusts off her crystal ball to predict the likely food trends of 2017, including female brewers, the rise of Filipino food, doner kebab, freakshakes and shakshuka. **Inside**



MELISSA ELSMO/PIONEER PRESS

### GO



NETFLIX

## Top TV

A look at 10 of the best TV shows of 2016 from a Cold War spy drama to a sci-fi summer sensation. **Page 22**

OPINION DEC 22 2016

## Christmas tells a story of hope

The birth of Jesus teaches that all people are invited to take part in something wonderful, writes Randy Blaser. But only if we agree to our role in the process. **Page 19**

### SPORTS



MARK KODIAK UKENA/PIONEER PRESS

## Decisions, decisions

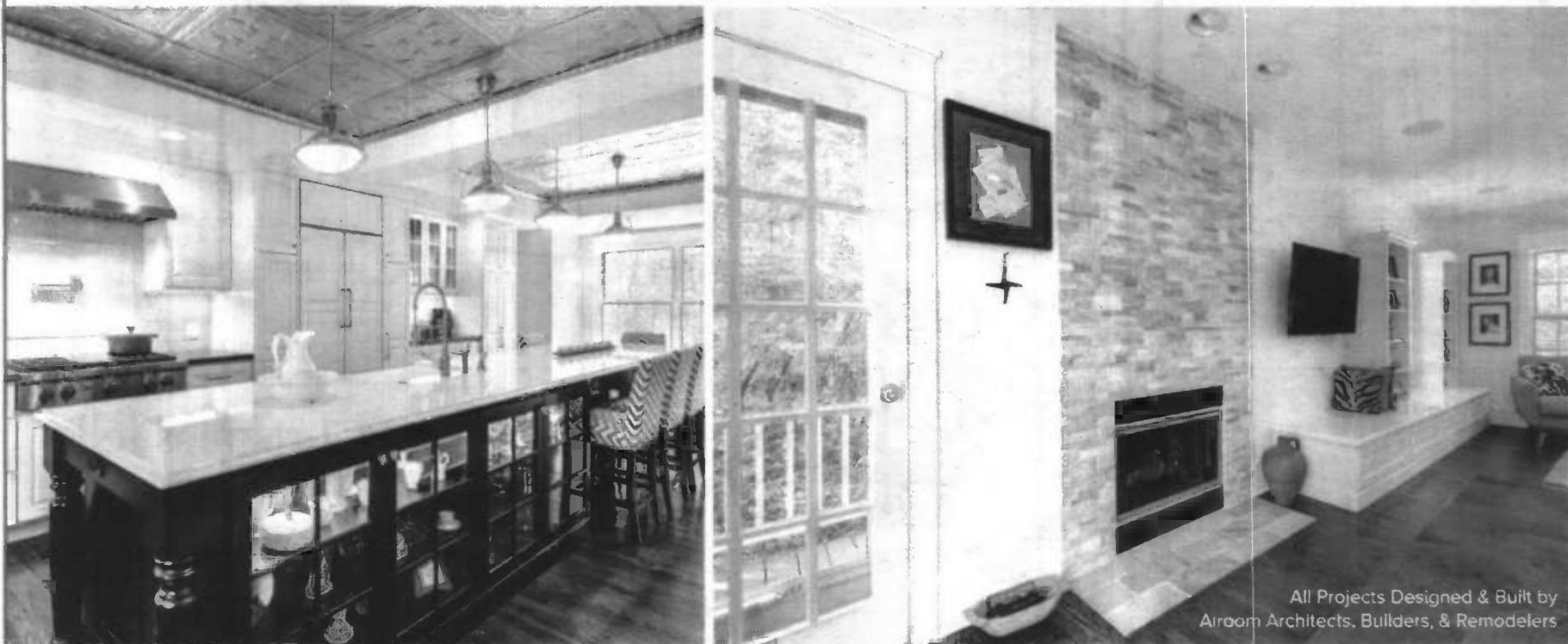
High school football players peruse options at Libertyville college fair. **Page 41**

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## SHOUT OUT

# Lincolnwood park district's Katie Gamroth

Katie Gamroth of Mundelein likes to wrap herself (and gifts) in holiday spirit. Gamroth, superintendent of recreation for the village of Lincolnwood's Parks and Recreation Department, was in a festive mood recently and spoke about the holiday season.

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

**A: Yes. I love the snow. I'm a skier and I like to snowmobile.**

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

**A: Santa wraps the doorway and the kids run through the gift wrap (to get to the Christmas presents).**

**Q: What's your favorite holiday wrapping paper design?**

**A: I like snowflakes and all sorts of colors.**



KARIE ANGELL LUC/PIIONEER PRESS

Katie Gamroth believes everyone deserves a good holiday.

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

**A: A snowmobile helmet with hot pink (coloring). Super girlie.**

**Q: Do you make New Year's resolutions?**

**A: I have not made a New Year's resolution. I don't make them because I don't stick to them.**

**Q: Why do you like**

**the holiday season?**

**A: I love spending time with family. I love the all-around good cheer.**

—Karie Angell Luc,  
Pioneer Press

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# River dam removal efforts stall

Lack of state budget keeps project on hold

BY GENEVIEVE BOOKWALTER  
Pioneer Press

Efforts to restore the Des Plaines and North Branch of the Chicago rivers to a more free-flowing state have been held up as money to pay for dam removal is stalled with the Illinois state budget.

Nearly a dozen dams once pooled water along the Des Plaines River from Chicago to Wisconsin. All but two of those scheduled to be removed have been torn down, officials said. Two also remain to be torn down on the North Branch.

But a date to resume dam demolition has not been set.

"It's all dependent on funding. Whenever we get a capital bill with money," said Rick Gosch, division manager with the Office of Water Resources in the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. "We have no idea when that might happen."

The dams remaining on the Des Plaines River include Touhy Avenue Dam near Park Ridge and Dam No. 4 near Rosemont. Removal of the eight Des Plaines River dams in Cook County was estimated to cost \$6 million in 2012.

On the North Branch of the Chicago River, only one of the three dams scheduled to be removed in Cook County has actually come down: the Winnetka Road Dam in Winnetka, according to state officials. The other two, at Tam O'Shanter Golf Course in Niles and Chick Evans Golf Course in Morton Grove, still await funding, officials said. One more won't be torn down but waits to be reconfigured to allow better passage for fish and people.

Work on the four North Branch dams in Cook County was estimated in



GENEVIEVE BOOKWALTER/PIONEER PRESS

The Tam O'Shanter Dam in Niles sits on the North Branch of the Chicago River. Removal of the dam is currently held up by the state budget crisis.

2012 to cost \$3.5 million, according to state figures.

Now officials are looking for ways to get the dam removal work done in-house, thus saving state money on contractors, Gosch and others said.

The removal is important, supporters say, because removing dams helps fish and other critters as the river returns to its normal path. It ensures a smoother ride for canoeists, kayakers and others traveling on the river, and provides a safer environment for those who might take a dangerous fall over a dam or get caught under the churn of water.

Many of the dams were built in the 1920s and '30s for farm irrigation or as fords to cross the river, according to Chicago Tribune reports. Others helped mask the smell of raw sewage, which emitted less of an odor as it decomposed in the waters' depths. Still others were built merely for aesthetics.

Work to remove small dams often involves heavy equipment tearing down a structure all at once or in stages, depending on the water sediment flow, according to the nonprofit group American Rivers.

As the dams come down,

fish and other aquatic wildlife are quick to return, said Steve Pescitelli, stream specialist with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Six weeks after the former Hoffman Dam in Riverside was removed from the Des Plaines River in 2012, the number of fish species found upstream doubled from 12 to 24, Pescitelli said. After a dam removal, the total number of fish usually "goes up by a factor of six."

Among other improvements, the Des Plaines River is seeing a return of channel catfish and sucker-

fish species, Pescitelli said, which could not swim over the dam.

"We were finding them and the fishermen were catching them too," he said.

At Tam O'Shanter Golf Course in Niles, superintendent Jim Stoneberg said he's been waiting for work to begin on removing the dam that sits behind warehouses and distribution centers off Howard Street.

"It was all planned for removal last winter," Stoneberg said. "But about a month before they were going to start, we got a call."

The river provides a bit of tranquility as it flows be-

hind the bustle of nearby businesses. The dam pools water used to irrigate the golf course, Stoneberg said, and state officials assured him that he still will receive the water he needs to keep grass growing once the dam is torn down.

Stoneberg said he supports removing the Tam O'Shanter Dam and remembered his grandfather catching walleye in the North Branch of the Chicago River.

"Those days are long gone," Stoneberg said.

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## Two years later, village officials to decide fate of flag display

Some Lincolnwood residents spoke out against trademark of diversity month

BY NATALIE HAYES  
Pioneer Press

Lincolnwood's Human Relations Commission has decided the village should reinstate its annual Lincoln Avenue flag display—the trademark of the town's long-running diversity month—two years after village officials suspended it indefinitely.

The village board overhauled the tradition of displaying the flags of more than 60 countries every August along one of its busiest thoroughfares after the display came under scrutiny in the summer of 2014. Then, residents packed into village hall for a public hearing, with many decrying the Palestinian flag's presence among other countries'.

The majority of residents and officials who have publicly spoken out against the flag display, including Village Trustee Ron Cope, have said that anger and resentment now overshadow the original intent of Diversity Month—to celebrate the many cultural backgrounds of the people of Lincolnwood.

"I'm opposed because I believe it has done nothing but invoke hostility," Cope said while speaking as an audience member at the Dec. 12 meeting at village hall. "Two years ago at a meeting at village hall, the mayor called for people to come forward to speak in favor or against it, and ultimately it came down to one flag—the PLO."

Commissioners voted 6-1 to allow the village board to come up with new regulations to allow the flag display to continue.

Rebecca Kohn, chair of

the commission, abstained from the vote.

The controversy started with a handful of people who police Chief Bob LaMantia said called the police department in August 2014 to ask the village to take down the Palestinian flag.

The complaints about the flag snowballed, prompting Lincolnwood Mayor Jerry Turry to call a special meeting to address the issue.

The meeting grew so heated at one point that the mayor threatened to kick out one person who shouted "terrorists" toward one side of the room where a group of people wearing Muslim attire was sitting. Others who spoke at the meeting said the Palestinian flag was being unfairly singled out.

Despite what transpired that night, Lincolnwood kept Palestine's flag flying along with the others until the display was taken down at the end of August 2014 when Diversity Month came to a close.

The flags never returned the following year. A street-light replacement project planned for the stretch of Lincoln Avenue where the flags would usually hang was the village's explanation for not having the flags in 2015, but officials declined then to say whether the tradition would be retired permanently.

The Human Relations Commission—a volunteer-based advisory board formed by the village—tested out new events to celebrate diversity this past year, including a gathering of religious leaders at the Community Center in September called "Coffee with the Clergy" and a cultural dance event at Proesel Park the month prior.

Even as commissioners attempted to highlight the town's diversity throughout the year instead of having

the flag display be the focal point, members of the village board ultimately asked the commissioners to come up with a recommendation to either discontinue the tradition or to send the flag issue back to the village board.

"If it continues, there will have to be some policies in place to make sure the village isn't exposed to inappropriate flags," LaMantia said, referring to a future decision trustees could make following the Human Relations Commission's decision.

Lincolnwood resident Dale Wickum, who spoke in favor of reinstating the flags at the Human Relations Commission meeting, said the Palestinian flag shouldn't have been singled out.

"The diversity of Lincolnwood is why we moved here in the first place," Wickum said. "What kind of public perception are we sending by taking the flags away? That Lincolnwood will buckle under the demands made by a small group of people?"

His wife, Nancy, agreed.

"Having the flags on Lincoln Avenue is a beautiful thing that gives people a sense of pride," she said.

The Human Relations Commission started the flag tradition 12 years ago by allowing residents of the village to buy flags representing their cultural heritage. The display grew larger each year as more residents bought flags.

Many residents have since begun to wonder what happened to the flags they purchased, Trustee Craig Klatzco said at the commission meeting.

The next step is for the village board to consider at its Jan. 7 meeting a new policy to regulate the flag display, according to LaMantia.

Natalie Hayes is a freelancer.

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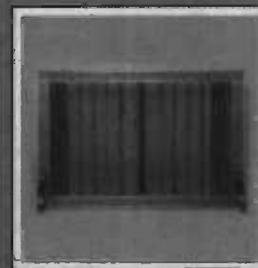
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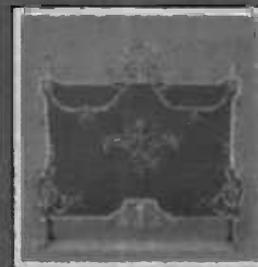
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# Self-storage, warehouses banned in some areas

Lincolnwood trustees act to limit businesses on main roads that don't generate sales tax revenue

By **NATALIE HAYES**  
Pioneer Press

The village of Lincolnwood has addressed concerns about businesses that don't generate sales taxes crowding the town's commercial areas by adopting an ordinance to prohibit some of them from opening along main arterial roadways.

At a Village Board meeting held earlier this month, trustees unanimously approved an amendment to the village's zoning code that bans self-storage facilities and warehouses from opening new facilities within commercial zon-

ing districts.

Lincolnwood's proximity to Chicago and quick access to major highways makes the town a desirable locale for the three public storage companies that currently operate in the community, according to village officials. At least one self-storage operator earlier this year had been eyeing an open property on one of the village's main commercial streets, prompting the village to consider implementing a ban, said Steve McNellis, community development director of Lincolnwood.

Because storage facilities don't contribute to the village's pot of

sales tax revenue and generally aren't "aesthetically pleasing" the village would rather reserve arterial roadways for other types of businesses, he said.

The zoning change approved at the Dec. 6 meeting means self-storage companies won't be able to open within the two types of zoning districts where those types of businesses have historically been allowed — areas zoned for manufacturing/business and office uses, according to the amendment.

The village had been considering a zoning change for the past five months. The approval of the ordinance follows a moratorium on storage facilities the Village Board approved in July to allow village staff time to review related

zoning regulations in nearby towns and to allow the Plan Commission time to come up with recommendations on how to proceed, officials said.

Out of the eight nearby towns the village looked at, only Wilmette maintains an all-out ban on storage facilities, while other communities allow them in at least one zoning district, according to a report from McNellis.

"In most of the (nearby) communities, (storage facilities) are in industrial hubs, in areas that are completely disconnected from the major commercial corridor or commercial downtown, but that's a different story in Lincolnwood where the (manufacturing) districts are adjacent to the commercial areas."

Unlike Lincolnwood's neighbors, McNellis said, the areas of town where storage facilities are permitted are sometimes "right in the middle" of the commercial zoning districts, he said.

Lincolnwood's newly-adopted restrictions target open commercial space along West Touhy, West Devon, North Lincoln and North Cicero avenues.

Lincolnwood's trio of storage facilities are 90 percent full, according to village officials, and paid a combined \$267,680 in property taxes in 2014 — with 10 percent of that amount going to the municipality, according to information provided by the village.

*Natalie Hayes is a freelancer.*

## Morton Grove adopts rules, application process for massage establishments

By **BRIAN L. COX**  
Pioneer Press

Morton Grove is beefing up the way it regulates massage therapy establishments including fingerprinting and photographing applicants, and collecting an annual application fee — among other changes.

Village Board members voted unanimously at their Dec. 12 meeting to adopt the new regulations, which officials said are intended to give the village better oversight of massage therapy establishments.

"The regulation of massage establishments is a matter of growing importance to public health safety and the welfare of residents," said Trustee Bill Grear. "And is intended to prevent the spread of diseases through unsanitary practices and ... abate nuisances and unlawful activity."

The new ordinance states how anyone interested in opening a massage therapy establishments applies for an application, what happens in the application process, the

level of licensure needed and business hours of operation. It also requires that a masseuse licensed by the state be on-site, Village Administrator Ralph Czerwinski said.

"It delineates those things because the state of Illinois currently licenses the massage therapists but doesn't say how that massage therapist application is applied inside the business, so there is a gap," Czerwinski said. "This is somewhat of a specialized business and we wanted to make sure that the state-licensed massage therapist was applying that properly inside the facility."

The ordinance says applicants must pay a \$1,000 application fee and must also pay \$500 to cover the cost of processing applicants' fingerprinting and photographs.

Czerwinski said there are four massage therapy establishments in the village and that another application is pending. He explained that none of the current ones are suspected of anything inappropriate, but the village just wants to proactively have

measures in place.

"There should be rules because it protects the community and provides a healthy and appropriate environment," he said.

He said Morton Grove started partnering with Glenview earlier this year to have Glenview health inspectors inspect Morton Grove food and restaurant facilities and said the same practice will be extended to massage therapy establishments.

"We're using Glenview on a per inspection basis to do our sanitation inspections for restaurants and health facilities, so why not have a same or similar process (with massage therapy establishments) so the inspectors are doing it all the same way," the village administrator said.

He also said Morton Grove reviewed similar ordinances in Skokie, Lincolnwood, Wilmette and other nearby communities before drafting the Morton Grove ordinance.

The ordinance also outlines how licenses can be revoked.

*Brian L. Cox is a freelancer*

## Some Lincolnwood residents to allow streetlights to be installed on their property

By **NATALIE HAYES**  
Pioneer Press

Residents along a stretch of Touhy Avenue have signed off on allowing the village of Lincolnwood to install light poles on their property, fulfilling a state requirement for a special project.

The village is preparing to install new streetlights along Touhy between Hamlin Avenue west to Cicero Avenue as part of a five-year, \$5 million streetlight replacement plan. Some private property owners in the affected areas had to agree to allow the light poles to be installed on their properties so the village could adhere to Illinois Department of Transportation rules.

IDOT requires street lights to be placed a certain distance away from the curb in order to reduce the likelihood of a vehicle striking a pole during an accident. The section of Touhy where the streetlights will be installed lacks sufficient space in the public right-of-way to accommodate the installations, village officials said.

As a result, the village has requested utility easements from six

property owners along Touhy to meet the IDOT requirements.

The easement agreements, approved as part of the Village Board's Dec. 6 consent agenda, give the village the right to install, operate and maintain the street lights on private property.

"IDOT has very specific requirements for how streetlights are installed on their rights-of-way," said Tim Wiberg, the village manager. "All property owners have been notified and they signed the requisite easement documents."

The phased streetlight replacement plan was launched in 2007 with the goal to replace and add streetlights along several arterial roadways in Lincolnwood in order to meet current safety standards. The affected roads include Touhy, Lincoln, Cicero, Pratt, Devon, Crawford and McCormick avenues, village documents indicate.

Aside from Touhy, the remaining parts of the project are scheduled for 2018 and include Devon west of Lincoln and Lincoln, north of Touhy.

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

## Lincolnwood's Turry seeking 4th term, but has challenger

Will be opposed by trustee with public safety concern

BY NATALIE HAYES  
Pioneer Press

Lincolnwood Mayor Jerry Turry announced his bid for re-election to a fourth term three months ago, and had no apparent challengers, until now.

A year into his first term as trustee, Barry Bass has announced his decision to leave his seat on the board next year to run as an independent candidate for mayor in the April 2017 election.

Concerns about an increase in burglaries and robberies reported in Lincolnwood during the past few months were listed as a top reason for his decision to run. The village should do more to help the Police Department fight crime, he said.

"Now that we have these two beautiful bike paths open, there are even more opportunities for crime," Bass said.

"We need a mayor with a holistic vision to dig in and improve the services the village provides to its residents," he added.

If elected to another

term, Turry would become the second-longest serving mayor in Lincolnwood behind Henry Proesel, who was the first mayor of Lincolnwood and served 46 years in the position.

Turry was first elected mayor in 2005.

He ran in that election and subsequent elections with the backing of some of the same residents who again are supporting him in 2017, he said.

"I feel good, I'm healthy and I'm ready to run one more time because I'm committed to this town," Turry said in September when he announced his re-election intent. He is part of a slate known as the Alliance Party.

Bass' run for mayor creates a fourth opening on the six-member Lincolnwood Board of Trustees next year. Trustees Ron Cope and Craig Klatzco both confirmed they will seek re-election as part of Turry's Alliance Party slate, and Trustee Larry Elster has not said whether he plans to seek re-election.

Attempts to reach Elster, who will mark his 20th year on the board next year, were unsuccessful.

When Elster ran in the 2013 election, he was the sole candidate in the five-

person Independent Party slate to secure a seat.

Whether he would align with a party this year if he decides to run again is unknown.

The only new face to enter next year's trustee race so far is Georjean Hlepas-Nickell.

After leaving the School District 74 Board of Education in 2015, Hlepas-Nickell has decided to run as an independent candidate for the Village Board. Hlepas-Nickell, who serves on the village's Traffic Commission, also served on Lincolnwood's Beautification Commission.

An active volunteer, Hlepas-Nickell was the recipient of the 2014 Madeleine Grant Volunteer of the Year award, an honor named for a former mayor who passed away while in office in 2000 and is remembered mostly for her dedication to volunteerism.

Dec. 19 was the filing deadline to seek to get on the spring ballot.

An official list of all candidates seeking office is expected to be available in late December or early January, according to Frank Herrera, a spokesman for the County Clerk's office.

Natalie Hayes is a freelancer.

## Des Plaines man sues McDonald's franchisee over value meal prices

BY SAMANTHA BOMKAMP  
Chicago Tribune

A Des Plaines man has filed a lawsuit against a local McDonald's franchisee, alleging the restaurant operator engaged in deceptive business practices because "Extra Value Meals" cost more than the items ordered separately.

James Gertie claims that Karis Management Co., of Des Plaines, which operates about 10 locations in the area, charges \$5.49 for two cheeseburgers, medium fries and a medium fountain drink when purchased individually, but the value meal costs \$5.90. Gertie bought the two cheeseburger value meal at five McDonald's locations across Des Plaines

and Niles operated by the franchisee in October and November, according to the lawsuit.

The lawsuit, filed last week in Cook County Circuit Court, seeks class-action status.

A Karis representative declined to comment.

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## IDOT employees punished for false reports

Two supervisors and four drivers were fired

BY MARY WISNIEWSKI  
Chicago Tribune

Six Illinois Department of Transportation employees were fired and eight more were disciplined this year after a state investigation discovered that Emergency Traffic Patrol drivers had filed hundreds of false reports about helping stranded motorists on Chicago-area expressways.

The investigation of IDOT's Emergency Traffic Patrol Division by the executive inspector general's office ran from 2012 to 2016. The probe concluded that several IDOT drivers made up reports about helping motorists to make it look like they were doing

more work than they were, the inspector general's report said. In other cases, the drivers recorded inaccurate information in reports about people they actually had assisted.

One of the drivers who was fired, John Shealey, repeatedly filed reports using false license plate numbers, the report said. Shealey could not be reached for comment. The inspector general's report was completed in January but not made public until Friday, after disciplinary measures were taken.

The report found that the drivers were pressured to perform a certain number of driver assists per day, and that program supervisors failed to ensure the work was being done honestly. It also found that Emergency Traffic Patrol managers "either knew of or suspected the reporting

of false assists by drivers but did nothing about it, or chose to purposefully insulate themselves from the knowledge of this systematic problem."

Two supervisors and four drivers were fired. Two other supervisors received 15-day suspensions, and six drivers received 10-day suspensions, according to a Sept. 28 letter from Bruce Harmening, chief of IDOT's Bureau of Investigations and Compliance in the Office of Finance and Administration. The inspector general's office included the letter in documents it released on Dec. 16.

Harmening told Hickey in an Aug. 11 letter that Emergency Traffic Patrol management had implemented controls to prevent fraudulent reporting by drivers and that all drivers had been retrained. Emer-

gency Traffic Patrol officers are supposed to assist stranded drivers on state highways. Shealey had been investigated by IDOT auditors for filing false reports and was suspended for 10 days in 2012.

A supervisor who was fired, Zenon McHugh, admitted to investigators that he had heard "shop talk" among drivers about falsifying assist reports but had not inquired about them.

McHugh could not be reached for comment. But IDOT later issued a statement: "The inspector general investigation was ongoing when the new administration arrived. Once we had the results, (IDOT) began to take immediate action and worked independently to institute several changes to ensure that this never happens again..."

[mwisniewski@chicagotribune.com](mailto:mwisniewski@chicagotribune.com)

## Northbrook police: Dog awakes residents, who hear thieves at work

BY IRV LEAVITT  
Pioneer Press

Northbrook residents reported burglaries of six cars in the same neighborhood early on Dec. 10, including one case where residents heard the thieves bustling around inside their attached garage.

In that incident, residents of the 1400 block of Juli-Lyn Lane were awakened by their dog barking at about 2:30 a.m., and they soon heard people inside the garage. One of the residents told police they banged on the connecting door, and the people inside fled. Responding police officers found two unlocked cars in the garage had been burglarized. They said they found a garage door remote control unit in

the driveway, and speculated that thieves had found it and used it to open the garage door.

While investigating the case, officers reported noticing a garage door open in the nearby 4200 block of Walters Avenue. They found the vehicle inside had been burglarized. The homeowner reported that a garage door had been left open and the car unlocked. Credit cards left in the car were stolen. Police also found that three vehicles left in a driveway in the 3900 block of Walters were burglarized. The glove compartments of a 1996 Saab, 2004 Honda Odyssey and a 2004 Chevrolet van were all ransacked, but nothing appeared missing.

[ileavitt@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:ileavitt@pioneerlocal.com)



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11:00 p.m. Solemn Mass of Christmas

{Preceded by a special program at 10:30 p.m.}

**Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas Day**

8:00, 9:30 and 11:00 a.m.

No 7 p.m. today

**Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>**

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**Christmas Eve**

Saturday, December 24

3:00 p.m. in the Gym

Family Mass with Children's  
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3:00 p.m. in Church

5:00 p.m. In the Gym

Family Mass with Teen Ensemble

5:00 p.m. in Church

8:00 p.m. in Church

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Sunday, December 25

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# Skokie cops host holiday shopping event with area school children

Police union's third annual event renamed Cops and Kids

BY LEE V. GAINES  
Pioneer Press

Dozens of children accompanied by Skokie police officers in navy blue Santa hats loaded up Walmart shopping carts with holiday gifts for themselves and their families as part of an annual charitable event held recently.

The shopping sprees marked the third annual Cops and Kids event hosted by the Skokie Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 68 at the Touhy Avenue Walmart. Skokie's FOP raised more than \$6,000 to fund the event and about 75 children participated, according to Skokie Officer Damon Nikolopoulos. From mid-morning to mid-afternoon elementary-school-aged children zipped around the store with police officers in tow.

Skokie Officers Steve Bush and Terrence Alexander founded the annual tradition three years ago under the moniker "Shop With a Cop." The name recently changed because someone in another state held a copyright on the phrase, according to Nikolopoulos.

The event was renamed "Cops and Kids," and Skokie's FOP copyrighted the new moniker to prevent a similar issue from cropping up in the future, he said.

"It brings tears to your eyes. It's priceless. It's something we're glad we're able to do," Alexander said.

Officials at 10 elementary schools in Skokie School District 68, Skokie/Morton Grove School District 69, Fairview South School District 72, East Prairie School District 73, Skokie School District 73.5 and Evanston/Skokie School District 65 and five private schools

were asked by the event organizers to pick one "well-deserving" child in each grade from 1st through 5th to participate in Cops and Kids, Alexander said. Bush said they leave it up to the school districts to decide which children should participate because they know the kids and their needs best.

Children are paired with police officers to shop for items the child and his or her family needs or wants, Bush said. This year, the children were allowed to select up to \$100 worth of items, and 35 Skokie Police Department employees volunteered to shop with the

**"This is probably one of the most heartwarming experiences I've personally been involved with."**

—Anthony Scarpelli,  
Skokie police chief

kids and help them wrap the gifts they selected, Alexander said.

Ten-year-old Skokie resident Aaron Thach came to Cops and Kids with his mother and two brothers. A 5th-grader at Fairview South Elementary School, Thach said he didn't want to spoil the Christmas Day surprise by telling his brothers what he picked out for them. He said the experience made him "excited" for the holiday.

Thach's mother, Solakhena Meng, said the boys' father passed away last year and this event "is something that helps them feel loved and cared for."

Police departments around the country host similar donation-based events and Bush said he was inspired to host one in Skokie as a means to give back to the community and especially its younger residents. After nearly two decades of serving as a school resource officer, Alexander said he was encouraged to establish the annual tradition to deepen the connection between police officers and children in the community.

Alexander and Bush said they solicit individuals and businesses throughout the year for contributions. Walmart provides designated checkout lanes for the event, refreshments for parents and a space for the adults to congregate while they wait for the children to finish shopping, Bush said.

The officers said the event has grown to include more children every year. The community has been supportive of this event and parents have told teachers and principals at their schools that the extra help and gifts during the holiday seasons have made the season a happier one for their families, Bush said.

Skokie police Chief Anthony Scarpelli said some children shop for canned foods, light bulbs and warm clothing for relatives instead of toys for themselves. Officers often have to persuade the kids to treat themselves to something too, he said.

"I've been with the department for 35 years and this is probably one of the most heartwarming experiences I've personally been involved with," Scarpelli said.

Lee V. Gaines is a freelancer.



SKOKIE POLICE DEPARTMENT PHOTOS

Skokie police Deputy Chief Brian Baker, above, and Officer Brad Vos, below, were among the department's personnel who volunteered Dec. 17 to do some holiday shopping at a local Walmart with children from area schools as part of the Cops and Kids program.



# D219 drops Columbus Day for more 'indigenous' recognition

Indians dropped as Niles West mascot in 2000 in favor of Wolves

By BRIAN L. COX  
Pioneer Press

Niles Township High School District 219 has joined a growing list of school districts, municipalities and states across the country that are changing course on what is now called Columbus Day and replacing it with "Indigenous People's Day."

The NTHS District 219 Board of Education voted unanimously during its Dec. 13 meeting to drop the day, which is recognized in the month of October, from the school calendar.

"We heard from students, and they were voicing their support for this type of change," Superin-

tendent Steven Isoye told the school board. "Both campuses have provided you with letters of support from their students governments."

The change will take place starting in the 2017-18 school year. Indigenous People's Day recognizes all people native to North America and complements the school district's diverse student body, said Anne Roloff, Dist. 219 assistant superintendent of curriculum and instruction.

"As we see our communities continually becoming more diverse we want to be sensitive to the needs of our community members and also be realistic about what history has taught us and knowing that Columbus may not have been ... he was certainly controversial," Roloff said, referring to the fact that many historians say that explorer

Christopher Columbus, for whom the holiday is named, did not discover North America after all. "We feel that celebrating ID day, who are the people who lived here prior to Columbus, is a much better and much more appropriate celebration of our communities."

In 2000, Niles West High School changed its school mascot from Indians to Wolves because it was thought that the school's Indian mascot was offensive to indigenous populations, officials said. They also said the district is in line with various cities and states nationwide that have made a switch to Indigenous People's Day, citing the fact that native people were here long before Columbus.

"We felt it would be a much better way to celebrate the legacy of the indigenous people who live



BRIAN L. COX/PIONEER PRESS

Anne Roloff

in the Americas," Roloff said. "We will also be emphasizing this in the freshman modern world history course, U.S. history courses and other courses."

School board members also approved a slew of new courses

that will be offered next year, including an advance placement 3-D design class, a yearlong college level art course that focuses on three-dimensional design curriculum through the production of ceramics, sculpture and mixed media sculpture.

Additionally, other new courses approved include Asian-American studies, advance placement Spanish culture and literature and others in manufacturing, advanced math and sciences, welding and jazz band.

Roloff said the courses were selected by the district's Curriculum Standards for School Improvement program, which included getting input from students and parents.

"We absolutely listen to them," she said. "They provide a unique perspective that we often miss as educators: the student experience in the classroom. We really appreciate what the students share with us as well as what the parents have to say."

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

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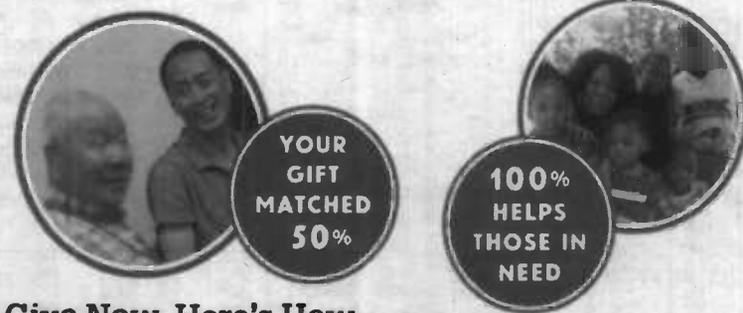
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The following items were taken from Niles, Morton Grove and Lincolnwood police department reports. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt. Only a court of law can make that determination.

## Niles

### BATTERY

■ Linu Alexander, 37, of the 9200 block of Luna Avenue, Morton Grove, was charged with battery, criminal damage to property and unlawful use of a weapon on Dec. 1. According to police, a customer at a store in the 9000 block of Golf Road said he was attacked by Alexander, a store employee, after the alleged victim objected to the price of some merchandise and left it behind without buying it. Alexander is scheduled to appear in court Jan. 3.

### BURGLARY TO VEHICLE

■ A tablet computer was reported stolen Dec. 4 from a car parked in a lot in the 5700 block of Touhy Avenue. Police said there were no signs of forced entry.

### DUI

■ Paige Gutzman, 20, of the 25600 block of Mat Court, Channahon, was charged with driving under the influence on Dec. 1 after Gutzman was reportedly involved in a crash at Harlem Avenue and Oakton Street. Gutzman is scheduled to appear in court Jan. 3.

■ Ching Lee, 42, of the 9200 block of Hamilton Court, unincorporated

Maine Township, was charged with driving under the influence and leaving the scene of an accident on Dec. 4. Police said Lee was involved in a hit-and-run crash in the 9000 block of Milwaukee Avenue. Lee is scheduled to appear in court Jan. 6.

### PROPERTY DAMAGE

■ Christmas light wires were reportedly cut Dec. 1 outside a home in the 8700 block of Elmore Street.

### PUBLIC INTOXICATION

■ Police on Dec. 4 were called to a restaurant in the 9000 block of Golf Road for a report of an intoxicated man throwing items around. Police ticketed the man for public intoxication. A worker at a bar in the 9100 block of Golf Road was also cited with over-serving the man earlier, police said.

### RETAIL THEFT

■ Manuela Szunkler, 35, of the 6000 block of West Belmont, Chicago, was charged with retail theft Dec. 7 after allegedly stealing merchandise valued at \$287 from a store in the 200 block of Golf Mill Center. Szunkler is scheduled to appear in court Jan. 13.

### THEFT

■ Eighteen boxes of ceramic tile, valued at \$1,000, were reported stolen Dec. 1 from a job site in the 7400 block of Waukegan Road.

■ A wallet and a purse were reported stolen Dec. 1 from a restaurant in the 8800 block of Dempster Street. Police said several credit

cards were used before the theft was discovered and reported.

■ On Dec. 3, a man reportedly removed a \$660 smartphone from a case, replaced it with another phone and left a store in the 7800 block of Milwaukee Avenue without paying.

■ On Dec. 7, a man tried to get change for a counterfeit \$20 bill at a restaurant in the 7000 block of Dempster Street, police said. He reportedly left the area when an employee began checking the bill.

## Morton Grove

### ATTEMPTED THEFT

■ A Morton Grove resident on Dec. 14 reported seeing two men attempt to remove the tires from the resident's vehicle parked in the 9400 block of Merrill Avenue. The men fled when the resident walked outside, police said.

### BATTERY

■ Emilio E. Alvarez, 29, of the 1400 block of Hoffman Avenue, Park Ridge, was charged with battery Dec. 7 following an incident in the 6100 block of Capulina Avenue. Police said Alvarez chased a juvenile and grabbed the juvenile's sweatshirt, causing a red mark on his neck. Alvarez is scheduled to appear in court Jan. 4.

### BURGLARY

■ Two homes in the 5400 block of Warren Street were burglarized Dec. 5, police said. Items reported missing from the homes include jewelry, a camera, keys, a

television and private documents, police said.

### DRUGS

■ Irfam A. Noormohammad, 33, of the 7300 block of Foster Avenue, Morton Grove, was cited with possession of drug paraphernalia Dec. 8 in the 6000 block of Dempster Street. Police said Noormohammad was stopped for a traffic violation and officers found a device used to smoke marijuana in his vehicle.

■ Jamal N. Elyafi, 19, of the 7000 block of West Greenleaf Avenue, Niles, was cited Dec. 8 with possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia on Dempster Street and Merrill Avenue. Elyafi was stopped for a traffic violation, and marijuana and a smoking device were found in his vehicle, police said.

■ Robert C. Hackin, 32, of the 200 block of 7th Street, Wheeling, was cited Dec. 8 with possession of marijuana in the 9300 block of Oak Park Avenue.

■ Tony Dankha, 24, of the 5100 block of North Central Park Avenue, Chicago, was cited Dec. 9 with possession of drug paraphernalia at Central and Greenwood avenues. Police said Dankha was stopped for a traffic violation, and officers found marijuana in his vehicle.

### HIT AND RUN

■ Hardy L. Petrick, 68, of the 8200 block of North Oconto Avenue, Niles, was charged Dec. 3 with leaving the scene of an accident in the 8900 block of Harlem Avenue. Police said Petrick struck a parked car as the driver was sitting inside it.

The driver allegedly asked Petrick to pull over, but, police said, Petrick drove off. Petrick is scheduled to appear in court Jan. 9.

### THEFT

■ Jockess M. Miller, 25, of the 4800 block of South Seeley Avenue, Chicago, was charged Dec. 6 with theft by deception following an incident at a retail establishment in the 6300 block of Oakton Street. Police said Miller bought items using counterfeit \$100 bills. Miller is scheduled to appear in court Jan. 24.

■ A drill and 15 spools of copper were reported stolen from a construction site in the 9100 block of Waukegan Avenue Dec. 9.

■ A grill was reported stolen from the backyard of a residence in the 9100 block of Waukegan Road on Dec. 8.

## Lincolnwood

### DRUGS

■ Andrew J. Rivera, 23, of the 6000 block of North Kilpatrick Avenue, Chicago, was cited Dec. 10 with possession of marijuana and drug paraphernalia in the 4600 block of Devon Avenue. Police said Rivera was pulled over for speeding and when police asked if he had anything illegal in the vehicle Rivera allegedly said he had a "bowl," a device used to smoke marijuana. Police searched his vehicle and allegedly found the paraphernalia with burnt marijuana residue inside.

■ Gerardo Esparza-Velasco, 21, of the 3900 block of

North Saint Louis Avenue, Chicago, was cited Dec. 7 with possession of marijuana in the 6700 block of Monticello Avenue. Police said three small bags containing 5.65 grams of marijuana were found in Esparza-Velasco's vehicle.

### DUI

■ Andrew Sang Han, 23, of the 360 block of Vita Drive, Wheeling, was charged Dec. 4 with driving under the influence of alcohol in the 4000 block of Pratt Avenue. Police said Han was found sleeping behind the wheel of his vehicle and Han allegedly failed sobriety tests.

■ Ricardo Sanchez-Vanegas, 22, of the 4800 block of North Lawndale Avenue, Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence of alcohol Nov. 28 in the 4000 block of Touhy Avenue. Police said Sanchez-Vanegas was driving with a flat tire, and failed sobriety tests after an officer pulled him over. Sanchez-Vanegas was also cited with driving an unsafe vehicle and driving without insurance.

### THEFT

■ A package was reported stolen Dec. 6 from a residence in the 3500 block of Pratt Avenue. The package, which police said was taken from the front doorstep, contained merchandise worth \$438.

■ Catalytic converters were reported stolen from two vehicles on Dec. 7, police said. The vehicles were parked in the 4400 block of Greenleaf Avenue and the 7300 block of Kolmar Avenue.

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# State agencies to act on drug interactions

## Rauner orders greater accountability actions

BY RAY LONG  
AND SAM ROE  
Chicago Tribune

Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner has ordered state agencies to examine how to bolster accountability at drugstores and protect the public's health following a Tribune investigation that found pharmacists failed half of the time to warn about dangerous drug interactions.

The Republican governor's move came as the longtime Democratic chair of an Illinois House health-care committee began crafting legislation on Dec. 19 to set minimum staffing levels at pharmacies to prevent pharmacists from racing through prescriptions like an "assembly line."

The newspaper, in stories published online Dec. 15 and in print Dec. 18, found that 52 percent of 255 pharmacies tested by reporters sold risky drug pairs without mentioning the potential for harmful or even fatal interactions.

"The Tribune's investigation revealed a troubling potential that some pharmacists are not complying with state law," Rauner's office said in a statement. "The governor has asked state agencies to investigate what additional action, if any, could be taken either administratively or through legislation to hold wrongdoers accountable and protect public health."

Drug interactions, in which one drug alters the effect of another, have been

a major public health problem for years, but little progress has been made in reducing the risks.

Rep. Mary Flowers, D-Chicago, called for the minimum staffing levels as part of a multipronged bill she hopes will overhaul how pharmacies, the last line of defense for patients seeking safe medications, handle prescriptions.

The Tribune report "really opened my eyes, and I'm sure it has opened up a lot of people's eyes," she said.

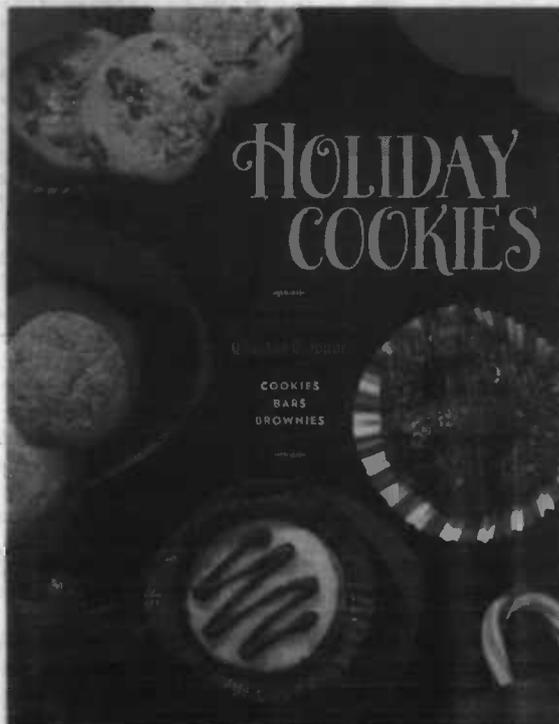
Flowers, who chairs the Health Care Availability and Accessibility Committee, said she would seek in the new legislative session starting in January to have

Turn to Drugs, Next Page



PHIL VELASQUEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Gov. Bruce Rauner on Dec. 19 asked state agencies to study ways to improve accountability at pharmacies following a Chicago Tribune investigation on local drugstores' high failure rate in advising their customers of bad drug combinations.



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## NEWS

## State law requires checks on prescriptions

Drugs, from Previous Page

pharmacists file reports with the state when doctors prescribe medications that are risky when taken together, to require pharmacy computers to clearly define the most dangerous interactions and to require doctors to tell patients when the medicine combination needs to be changed.

She also wants signs prominently posted at pharmacies that provide a state hotline number for patients to call if a pharmacist failed to catch a bad drug interaction or if a pharmacist fails to tell a patient about the potential for a major drug interaction. In addition, Flowers said she wants to study whether standards are strong enough for pharmacy technicians in Illinois.

The Tribune testing represents the largest and most comprehensive study of its kind. In response to the findings, three of America's biggest pharmacy chains — CVS, Walgreens and Wal-Mart — said they would take steps to improve patient safety at stores nationwide. In the Tribune tests, CVS failed 63 percent of the time, Wal-Mart 43 percent of the time and Walgreens 30 percent of the time.

Flowers said in an interview that she feared the speed required for pharmacists to keep up with their workloads may cause “repercussions.”

“Just like a person speeding up and down the highway, sooner or later there’s going to be crash,” she said. “They’re moving way too fast.”

In Illinois, pharmacists who detect a serious interaction are supposed to contact the prescribing doctor to see if the order is correct or if an alternative therapy is available, according to the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. Pharmacists



PHIL VELASQUEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

State Rep. Mary Flowers directs questions at Michael McCotter and James Dimas.

then should alert the patient.

But in the Tribune tests, many pharmacies dispensed dangerous drug pairs without verbally warning the tester or attempting to contact the doctor about the potential interaction.

Illinois law also requires pharmacies to conduct several drug safety checks on prescriptions, including whether the dose is reasonable and whether the medication might interact with other drugs the patient is taking. Yet the Tribune found that pharmacists rarely asked what other medications testers were using.

And though Illinois requires pharmacies to “offer to counsel” patients on all prescriptions, pharmacists throughout the industry often address this requirement by having technicians ask patients at checkout, “Do you have any questions for the pharmacist today?” or sometimes simply, “Any questions?” Some states require actual counseling, at least on a first-time medication.

State Rep. Lou Lang, D-Skokie, said in an interview that he has met with union members who have expressed concerns about the number of hours pharma-

cists are often required to work and that they wanted to cut hours in order to minimize the chances of errors.

“We want to make sure that people that are filling prescriptions are well-rested and well-treated and not filling prescriptions at a time that they are doing so to the detriment of public safety,” Lang said. “For instance, we don’t allow pilots to fly more than a certain number of hours a day or a week because we want them well and alert because they are flying precious cargo — human beings — in those planes.”

Despite the ongoing difficulties in state budget negotiations, Rauner said his administration would “look forward to working with members of the General Assembly on a bipartisan basis to explore all options” to see what can be done to prevent dangerous drug interactions.

Carmen Catizone, executive director of the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy, previously told the Tribune he would like to see all states require pharmacists to provide counseling about first-time medications and changes of doses.

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# Lake military families treated to holiday meals

BY YADIRA SANCHEZ OLSON  
News-Sun

The holiday spirit of giving was alive and well Dec. 14 at the Forest City Community Center in Great Lakes, as an annual event providing meals for military families returned to the housing community for service personnel.

During Operation Homefront's Holiday Meals for Military program, 200 families at the North Chicago base were treated to a variety of gifts that were handed to them at different stations, but not before a heartfelt thank you was said with a smile by volunteers.

The event saw small and large families in groups come inside from the bitter cold with their little ones ready to eat cookies and make crafts. And to see Santa, who was on hand lending an ear to their Christmas wishes.

Most families pre-registered for the event, which provided to-go bags of nonperishable food items that included drinks, meals and



MARK KODIAK UKENA/NEWS-SUN PHOTOS

Christlna Davis, of Great Lakes, with her sons, Zach, 5, left, and Alex, 10, sign a card Dec. 14 thanking Operation Homefront.

breakfast treats, as well as coupons redeemable for perishable groceries necessary for a full holiday meal.

In hopes of making the military families' holiday season just a little bit brighter and provide them with

a sense of community, a number of organizations and businesses, both local and international, partnered for the occasion.

Chicago-based Beam Suntory and Waukegan's Wal-Mart are the two major sponsors of the pro-

gram.

On Dec. 14, 9-year-old Devin Wilburn excitedly grabbed a bag of marshmallows he saw peeking out of the filled-to-the-brim bag of food his dad was carrying.

"We really appreciate this. This helps us save money that we can maybe spend on their presents," said Devin's mom, Sheena.

Aside from the meals, cleaning supplies donated by the Procter & Gamble and age-appropriate school kits provided by the Back 2 School Illinois organization were distributed.

For mother of four Jill Eaton, the program was a nice way to kick off the season of giving.

"It's awesome that people do this for us," Eaton said, while her 6-year-old daughter, Gwyn, chomped on the last part of a candy cane and played with her "Support the Troops" necklace that was provided by a volunteer and hung around her neck by her mom.

The Holiday Meals for Military program began for Thanksgiving

2009 as the result of a chance encounter in a New York supermarket by Libertyville resident Ken Ruff, vice president of national accounts on-premise at Beam Suntory, and the wife of a soldier who couldn't afford a small piece of meat and a few other groceries.

Ruff said he paid the \$12 worth of the groceries then, and since that time, the holiday meals program has grown from initially providing 500 meal kits to military families to providing more than 10,000 this holiday season, across the world.

On Dec. 14, Ruff was there with his daughter, helping other volunteers carry bags to the families' vehicles.

"Every event is different, but it's always about the families," he said.

Events like the one at Great Lakes take place each year during Operation Homefront's "Giving Strength" campaign during the first two weeks in December.

*Yadira Sanchez Olson is a freelance reporter for the News-Sun.*

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# Hairstylists must watch for domestic violence

New Illinois law requires staff training

By **VIKKI ORTIZ HEALY**  
Chicago Tribune

In 13 years as a professional hairstylist, Christine Walker has listened to clients vent about all sorts of personal drama: work stress, trouble with teenagers, extramarital affairs.

But starting Jan. 1, Walker, who works at Belle De Jour Salon in Lemont, will be required by law to have special training on how to handle conversations about domestic violence and sexual assault.

Under the new measure signed into law by Gov. Bruce Rauner last summer, the state's 88,000 licensed beauty professionals must take an hourlong course designed to teach them to recognize signs of domestic violence and ways to address it. Stylists will be required to complete the course while applying for a new license, and then as an additional hour added to the 14 hours of continuing education required for license renewal every two years.

The law includes barbers, cosmetologists, aestheticians, hair braiders and nail technicians and will be enforced by the Department of Financial and Professional Regulation.

Illinois is the first state to adopt such a mandate, according to Illinois state Rep. Fran Hurley, who sponsored the bill that led to an amendment in the Barber, Cosmetology, Esthetics, Hair Braiding and Nail Technology Act of 1985. Hurley and other legislators worked closely with Chicago Says No More, a non-profit organization that works to combat domestic violence and sexual assault, to develop the law.

"There's an openness, a



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Stylist Christine Walker cuts the hair of customer Tom Shearer at the Belle De Jour shop in Lemont Dec. 16. On Jan. 1, all Illinois hairstylists will be required to be trained in domestic violence support and response under an amendment to an existing law.

freeness, a relationship that lasts years or decades between the client and the cosmetologist," Hurley said. "They're in a position to see something that may or may not be right."

Although the measure does not require stylists to report incidents to authorities, advocates hope the training will ultimately help lower incidents of domestic violence by making more people conscious of the problem, and offering victims one more place they can turn for help, especially when many do not seek help from authorities, said Kristie Paskvan, founder of Chicago Says No More.

According to the Illinois Criminal Justice Informa-

tion Authority, 103,546 domestic violence offenses were reported to law enforcement in Illinois in 2015. That's up from 99,795 offenses reported the year before.

And from July 1, 2015, to this past June, there were 49 domestic violence-related deaths in Illinois, including three children, according to the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

By learning signs of domestic abuse, statistics about its prevalence and the resources available, hairstylists and other cosmetologists will be able to help victims trying to navigate difficult and sometimes dangerous situations, Paskvan said. The group also is

considering future efforts to have other occupations, such as bartenders, included in domestic violence training.

"This is a person who is literally grooming you, so it's a relationship that's kind of special," Paskvan said. "Just getting people the information gives them a different perspective."

But not all hairstylists are eager to have the added responsibility.

Analie Papageorge, owner of the Steven Papageorge Salon and Beauty Academy in Evanston, said the training puts enormous pressure on stylists, who did not get into their line of business to be on the lookout for crime.

"You could make or break somebody's family," she said. "It's heavy on the heart."

Charles Ifergan, owner of three salons in the Chicago area, said he, too, was concerned about the added responsibility being required of his 120 employees. Ifergan, a veteran stylist, said relationships between stylists and clients have evolved over the decades. In the 1960s, '70s and '80s, clients came once a week to have their hair blown out. Today, clients and stylists may see each other only once every few months because people tend to care for their own hair at home, he said.

"You do not have the in-depth relationship that

we used to have," Ifergan said. "It's hard for me to believe that a client would report (domestic violence) to a junior stylist."

But Walker, the hairstylist in Lemont, said she could see why a hairstylist could be an ideal person to turn to during domestic violence situations. While a victim may not feel comfortable turning to a close friend, he or she may feel safe sharing with someone more removed from the situation.

"We always say we're not just hairdressers," she said. "We're your therapist, sometimes your doctor; we have a lot of different hats."

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# Hope makes the story of Christmas holy



RANDY BLASER

A lot of Christmas stories get told this time of year.

There is the classic tale of jolly old St. Nick and his eight tiny reindeer in "A Visit from St. Nicholas."

There's Ralph and new classic story of his desire to get a Red Ryder BB gun for Christmas in the simply named "A Christmas Story."

Of course, "A Christmas Carol," which tells how Ebenezer Scrooge has a change of heart, is nearly everyone's favorite. Not only does it give us the

word that is synonymous with miserly, but also most of the other holiday traditions we enjoy this time of year.

Those stories are entertaining and informative. Scrooge tells us redemption is possible, while Ralphie teaches us that our heart's desire is not always what we really want or need, and jolly old St. Nick? Well, there is nothing like the wonder of a child this time of year, is there?

But it is good to go back to our roots for when it all began. Yes, I'm talking about the original Christmas.

And whether you take it as Gospel as the coming of the Christ, or just an ancient story that teaches a lesson, as any other myth, it

is worth examining as Christmas Day approaches.

There are many aspects of the original story to examine. There's the journey of the Magi, who come to worship the infant king. There's the story of the slaughter of the Innocents when Herod learns the new king is to be born in Bethlehem. And there is the part of the story where Mary and Joseph cannot find any room at the inn.

But the part of the story I like to review is the part played by the real main character of the whole thing. That would be Mary, the young girl who becomes the mother of Jesus.

Everything starts with Mary. She is the essential person in the story who makes everything happen.

Without Mary, there's no tale to tell.

So let's take a look at our main character.

Mary is a teenager, an unwed mother to be. In our day and time, there are a lot of people who can identify with that. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, there were 249,078 babies born to teenage mothers in 2014.

Mary learns of her situation from a messenger of the Lord, who outlines the entire plan for her. She's to have a son and name him Jesus and, well you know the rest.

But there is key scene we need to remember. It's how Mary responds to the news.

She is deeply troubled, the scripture tells us. Who wouldn't be?

She's a kid, just a teenager. She's not married yet, just engaged. Pregnancy at this point in her life will lead to shame, ridicule, probably divorce and poverty. She'll be an outcast in a community with no safety nets for outcasts.

It's a lot to ask. No. When you think about it, it is everything to ask.

Nothing in our story can happen unless Mary agrees. So how does she respond to this request to suffer, to venture into the unknown of ridicule and shame, in other words, a whole world of trouble?

"May it be to me as you have said."

Mary says yes.

I sometimes like to wonder if there were other girls up for the role, other young

women who might have said, "No way," or "I don't think so," to this news of supernatural intervention in human affairs.

But Mary said yes.

I like to think that's what makes it holy. Not that God did something wonderful or caused a miracle. He can do that anytime. He's God.

No, the holy part is that a human being, and therefore all the rest of us human beings, are invited to participate in the whole deal.

Nothing will happen unless we agree to our role. And some of us, like Mary, say, "Yes," to an idea that make no sense.

Yes, that's the holy part. Merry Christmas.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

# What are your Christmas tree traditions?



PAUL SASSONE

We disagree.

If it were up to me, nothing new would be hung on our Christmas tree. I like ornaments that have been with me many and many a Christmas. If I could have the same Christmas tree year after year after year, I would.

My wife — who also loves our old Christmas ornaments — is more reasonable. There should be room on the tree for both new and old ornaments, she believes.

Hence, we have more up-to-date ornaments — pickles and tigers and Santas and birds and airplanes and flowers and other things that weren't consid-

ered as Christmas tree ornaments when I was a kid.

And back then was the real Christmas. Don't you agree?

Round.

Back then most Christmas tree ornaments were round. Round glass balls. Some ornaments were in the shape of ice sickles or teardrops.

Bells, too. Ornaments could look like bells.

I have several of each in my collection. And I make sure they go on the tree first and in a prominent place.

One of my favorites is a blue plastic bell. Close examination of the bell's surface reveals a crusty white substance. This is the residue of the year my mother decided to flock our Christmas tree.

Flocked trees were all the rage back then. But flocked trees were expensive. So, my mother bought

*I like ornaments that have been with me many and many a Christmas. If I could have the same Christmas tree year after year after year, I would.*

a couple of cans of Flock-o — or whatever it was called — and sprayed the whole tree. The spray hardened into a dull white crust that permanently adhered to some ornaments — the bell and a small green wreath I also still have.

The pride of my ancient ornament collection is a small red leather-like boot. It's kind of dried out. But there is a space for an inscription near the top of the boot. And in my Aunt Mary's small, precise handwriting you can see she inscribed "Baby Paul's First Christmas."

Now, that's tradition! Well, that's my tradition,

anyway.

And that boot always gets pride of place on the tree. My wife understands what it means to me, how it is a tangible, evocative object that recalls for me a time and place and people gone but joyfully remembered.

My wife hangs some of her family's ornaments near my boot. I'm glad they are round glass ornaments.

Well, that's my Christmas tree.

I hope yours is loaded with tradition and good memories, too.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.



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OPINION

# Finding comfort in a blended holiday



PAT LENHOFF

The holiday bonanza soon kicks off, bringing with it joyful and diverse celebrations in homes across the country.

Christmas Eve coincides with the first night of Chanukah. It will be the first time in my 43 years of practicing Judaism that I can recall that happening. Then we have Christmas Day, followed by Kwanzaa and finally the start of the new year. Homes around the globe will glow with the lights of the menorah, Christmas tree and the Kwanzaa candelabra, all at the same time.

In our family, I volunteered to play host for the Chanukah/Christmas Eve gathering. I've had some fun trying to play off the restaurant craze of fusion dishes as I try to figure out how to combine latkes and kugel with some of our family's traditional Christmas favorites. Those dishes include my grandmother's whipped red Jello fluff and my great-aunt's creamy chicken noodle dish.

Even ham was up for consideration, but the prospect of serving ham on a Jewish holiday became a bit unsettling despite the fact that a good ham sandwich is enjoyed by most Lenhoffs on any other day. I opted for the works-with-everything turkey option.

The dictionary definition of "fusion" says it's a means of merging diverse, distinct, or separate elements into a unified whole. Perhaps that is what those cutting-edge chefs do when practicing fusion cuisine. But my purpose for



MARK UKENA/PIONEER PRESS

Families gather around the Vernon Hills holiday displays during a lighting ceremony on Nov. 26.

creating the evening's menu is not to blend those different holiday elements into a muddled unidentifiable mess. Rather, it's to allow each dish to shine on its own, all the while sharing the same table together in a heartwarming example of how to retain individuality but coexist happily.

It could be said that vision is sappy and sophomoric. Maybe a bit Pollyanna-ish. What does food have to do with peaceful human coexistence anyway? To me, it's a fitting metaphor for what I've been blessed to experience in my own family, and how much I wish the same for other families who share blended backgrounds.

It's elementary to what is needed for understanding and mutual respect, both for our differences and our similarities. It is especially needed in these confrontational times after an election that often brought out the worst in both our candidates and some of our citizens. It's time to step back and embrace life's special celebra-

tions that can both heal and provide inspiration.

The story of the sacred oil miraculously lasting eight days, which is symbolized by the menorah lights at Chanukah, is a proud reminder of how Jews over millennia have withstood persecution. In that same part of the world about 2,000 years ago, a small Jewish baby was born and changed the course of the world, whether as a savior or as a charismatic prophet depending on your religious beliefs.

Kwanzaa, a newer holiday, allows Americans of African descent to reintroduce some of the rituals from a rich history that was stolen from them hundreds of years ago. It's a blessing that all three of these special holidays will be celebrated together this year.

Happy Chanukah, Merry Christmas and Happy Kwanzaa!

Pat Lenhoff is a freelance columnist and can be reached at [view-fromvh@yahoo.com](mailto:view-fromvh@yahoo.com).

# Books to put under the Christmas tree



**SARA CLARKSON**  
Dateline

I wasn't old enough to understand the significance of Bruce Springsteen's powerful song and album "Born to Run" in 1975, but he was certainly part of my playlist by the time "Born in the USA" came out. Imagine my surprise one day when I was loudly humming along to "Born in the USA" and one of my kids said, dumbstruck, "You know Bruce Springsteen?"

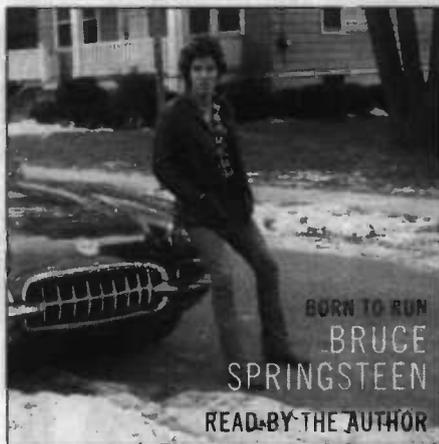
Heck yeah. Of course his eponymous autobiography "Born to Run" is already wrapped and under the tree addressed to my husband from SC (Santa Claus, but go ahead and compare those initials to my own).

I like Bruce Springsteen, but my husband is a huge fan of Springsteen's energy, honesty and integrity as well as of the story his songs tell. All of those qualities are evident in his autobiography, too. Before wrapping it, I carefully flipped through the book and then several hours later put the paper on it. It is going to be good, and the critics have generally loved it.

I have "Hillbilly Elegy: A Memoir of Family and Culture in Crisis" by J.D. Vance for my mother who is interested in all things political and sociological. Vance and his family hail from Kentucky, a town called Jackson in the Appalachian Mountains, though he grew up in Middletown, Ohio. Poor, like generations before him, he sought to improve his lot and enlisted in the Marines after high school and later ended up going to Ohio State University before earning his law degree from Yale. His memoir is engaging and informative, and his point of view valuable in a time of increasing divide between the haves and the have-nots.

For my youngest sister who likes Russia and only wants to read fiction, I am getting "A Gentleman in Moscow: A Novel" by Amor Towles. Towles' first published novel was "The Rules of Civility" in 2011, and while I thought it was going to be a philosophical etiquette book, it was instead a page-turning novel of manners and social achievement in 1930s New York City.

Towles' newest work is set in The Metropol Hotel, a luxurious beacon in 1922 Russia. There Count Alexander Ilyich Rostov is essentially under house arrest and comes to rely on a girl named Nina



PR NEWSWIRE

Bruce Springsteen narrates the audio book edition of his memoir "Born to Run."

who has a skeleton key to the all the hotel rooms. The novel has been compared to a cross between "The Grand Budapest Hotel" and "Eloise." Sounds like good winter reading.

Pay attention Santa, I have my own list. Please bring me "Born a Crime: Stories from a South African Childhood" by Trevor Noah. Noah replaced Jon Stewart on The Daily Show, so right off the bat Noah has a point of view, and just as I like Stewart's wit and acuity, Noah has his own biting wit and acuity. I particularly like the fact that he is a foreigner commenting on what he sees here in the U.S.

As someone who lived outside the United States for nine years, I appreciate an outsider's point of view, especially from someone who was raised in "post-Apartheid" South Africa. He still grew up amid a kind of racism we can't even imagine, and I rather like his outrage.

I also admit to liking his South African "accent," and in his memoir he talks about how and why his mom emphasized how important it was to for Noah not just to learn to speak English but to speak it correctly, eloquently and with distinction. Language would be a tool for his advancement. That is not something we — in our Blue Ribbon School district and access to books and media — think about often.

I have also asked Santa Claus for "Commonwealth" by Ann Patchett. "Bel Canto," one of her earlier novels, is one of my top 20 books, so anything Patchett writes from to essays to soup labels is something I am going to read. Patchett can tell a story and create compelling characters, and I believe that is what happens in this story of a family and its relationships over time.

Bibliophile or not, God bless us, every one!

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# The Top 10 TV shows of 2016

From paranoid androids in 'Westworld' to doubting spies in 'The Americans'

BY JENNIFER THOMAS  
Pioneer Press

There are more TV shows than ever before and no shortage of moving, funny, adventurous shows to choose from in 2016. Here are 10 of the year's best.

**10. "The Girlfriend Experience" (Starz)** — Very few female characters are allowed to be the way law-student-turned-escort Christine (Riley Keough) is allowed to be. She is detached, unsentimental, ruthlessly practical, occasionally arrogant, but also naive at times. The most alive Christine seems is when she's playing the part of the girlfriend for pay. It's a role she plays so well that you wonder if one of the things she likes about being an escort, aside from the money and freedom, is that it lets her explore intimacy and connections without commitment. "The Girlfriend Experience" is part character study and part thriller and best experienced as a binge watch.

**9. "The Night Of" (HBO)** — The first episode of "The Night Of" was one of the best episodes of TV this year. It immediately put us in the passenger seat of a runaway train that starts when quiet, college student Naz (Riz Ahmed) begins the night by taking his father's cab to go to a party and ends it being accused of murder. The investigation into the murder of the woman he meets isn't really the show's strong suit; much more fascinating is seeing how the descent into the justice system changes Naz, how the odds are stacked against him and strong work from his unlikely lawyer John (John Turturro).

**8. "This Is Us" (NBC)** — "This is Us," is a show that felt lived-in immediately. Almost all of the major relationships — whether between siblings, husband and wife or parent and child — felt very believable. The show also has an interesting structure, weaving in and out of the past and present in the lives of a couple and their three children — twins and an abandoned baby they adopted who was born on the same day. And it explores some very relatable storylines — general ones like jealousy and making up for lost time to specific ones like being an adopted child, especially a black child adopted into a white family.

**7. "Stranger Things" (Netflix)** — "Stranger Things" is a warm hug of nostal-



Sarah Paulson and Sterling K. Brown in "The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story."

gia. It accurately evokes the feel of 1980s pop culture from Spielberg's "E.T." to Stephen King's "Firestarter," but also feels new. The show nailed the compelling mixture of tropes found in so many '80s movies — a group of tried and true young friends battling a monster seemingly greater than themselves, a washed up law enforcement agent who gets the chance to turn it all around, a fierce mother who will fight for her child no matter how crazy it makes her seem, an evil corporation concerned solely with results and a young girl with special abilities who is willing to sacrifice herself to save them all. "Stranger Things" is a clear cut, feel-good battle of good versus evil.

**6. "Atlanta" (FX)** — The basic premise of "Atlanta" is very much reality based — 20-something Earn (Donald Glover, also the show's creator), is smart, but somewhat aimless, and he's trying to get back on his feet and provide for his daughter by managing the career of his rapper cousin Alfred, stage name Paper Boi. But then each episode is tweaked to bring in some-

thing wacky and usually very funny. Some episodes are fairly straight forward and portray Earn's struggles to make money or his on again/off again Vanessa (Zazie Beetz) trying to decide if she's living up to her own potential to the excellent Brian Tryee Henry as Alfred/Paper Boi, who makes use of his intimidating appearance, but is also genuinely saddened when people see him as a thug. If "Atlanta" can be compared to any show, it might be "Seinfeld." But whereas Seinfeld satirized the absurd by treating it with sincerity, "Atlanta" uses absurdity to satirize the serious.

**5. "Westworld" (HBO)** — Who wouldn't want to explore an enormous Wild West-themed park populated by lifelike androids who exist to draw guests into choose-your-own-adventure storylines from hunting down fugitives to joining a pack of bank robbers? Of course, "Westworld" is really more about the dark side of human nature, which means a whole lot of the guests seem to simply prefer shooting, stabbing and having sex

with the hosts. That's partly intentional since our sympathies are clearly meant to align with the robots and not the human guests or employees, both of whom who are disappointingly underdeveloped. The robots, though, are fascinating, especially the growingly self-aware rancher's daughter Dolores (Evan Rachel Wood) and the brothel madam Mae (Thandie Newton).

**4. "The Americans" (FX)** — "The Americans" is a rare show that gets better every season. The motives of undercover Russian spies Phillip and Elizabeth living in 1980s America were pretty opaque initially, but as the show has gone on, they've given us more insight into how and why they were recruited and their doubts. But "The Americans" doesn't water down Phillip and Elizabeth's actions to make them totally sympathetic. They still do horrible things that have horrible consequences for innocent people, this season more so than ever, including for their teenage daughter. Which leads the two to ques-

Turn to Shows, Page 23



GUY D'ALEMA/AP

Donald Glover and Keith Standfield in "Atlanta."

**Shows, from Page 22**

tion even more whether the ends truly justify the means. "The Americans" might be set in the 1980s, but it keeps on being relevant with insights into radicalization, terrorism, and, ahem, relations with Russia.

3. "Game of Thrones" (HBO) — For the first time this year, "Game of Thrones" the TV show advanced beyond the material laid out in "Game of Thrones" the book series. The shows creators know from author George R.R. Martin how the book series will end, but having more freedom to tell their TV story really seemed to get things moving this season. No more characters spinning their wheels in remote places far from the action. Part of the appeal of "Game of Thrones" is how wonderfully it balances devastation, delayed gratification and sweet, sweet revenge. Season 6 lacked some of the gut-punch shocks of seasons past, but it also paid off big dividends from the look at Hodor's surprising and heartbreaking backstory to a few truly reprehensible characters getting their glorious comeuppance. And now the remaining players in the fight for the Iron Throne are on course for what is sure to be a spectacular political collision.

2. "The People v. O.J. Simpson: American Crime Story" (FX) — With a pretty incredible cast — especially Sarah Paulson as Marcia Clark, Sterling K. Brown as Christopher Darden and Courtney B. Vance as Johnnie Cochran — the series was an entertaining and addicting look into the mountain of evidence collected against O.J. Simpson, how it was deflected or injected by the prosecutors and defenders, and what was going on in the minds of the jury and America at large.

And although we all knew going in how the trial ended, "The People v. O.J. Simpson" somehow still played out like a thriller where the verdict could go either way.

1. "Better Call Saul" (AMC) — "Better Call Saul" is deeply funny, dark, clever, heartwarming and heartbreaking. Ethics-challenged lawyer Saul Goodman was a hilarious character in the "Breaking Bad" universe, but I never would have guessed at the depths capable of his backstory and how much I would come to love the man born as Jimmy McGill (Bob Odenkirk). The second season was a smartly plotted story of Jimmy constantly fighting to be seen as legitimate, but also recognizing his greatest talent is in playing the con man. And while the stone-faced McGuyver-of-hitmen Mike Ehrmantraut (Jonathan Banks), played out a story more in keeping of the "Breaking Bad" roots, it worked well within the "Saul" universe. On the Jimmy front, this year's story was almost all domestic, with a clever battle of wills between Jimmy and his brother Chuck (Michael McKean), who has let his frustration at watching Jimmy cut corners consume him. The fourth major player was Jimmy's friend and sometime love interest, the loyal and level-headed Kim (Rhea Seehorn) who, like Jimmy, often feels she's not being recognized. The character of Kim and Seehorn's portrayal was a huge asset to the show this season. Her struggle in a mostly male-dominated law firm, her need to work harder than everyone else to get thrown scraps and her brief power rush when she plays along with one of Jimmy's cons made her vulnerable and relatable. There's an undercurrent of sadness about the show knowing the fates of a couple of its characters, but for now, at least, "Better Call Saul" still has hope.

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### THEATER

# Counting down the best of Chicago theater in 2016

BY CHRIS JONES  
Chicago Tribune

In Chicago theater, 2016 was the year of "Hamilton." But that high-profile attraction landed at a moment of rich, diverse and emotional exploration. Here are my 10 best shows of the year, followed by 10 more that should have made the list.

**1. "The Sign in Sidney Brustein's Window," Goodman Theatre:** Director Anne Kauffman reminded us that Lorraine Hansberry's genius was far more pervasive than just "A Raisin in the Sun" in this astonishingly prescient 1964 drama set in Greenwich Village as America was on the cusp of change.

**2. "Hamilton," PrivateBank Theatre:** No production in living memory has arrived in Chicago with the level of anticipation of the first post-Broadway production of the most successful musical in a generation. Lead producer Jeffrey Seller and his creative team did not disappoint, offering a dynamic and dedicated company that throws itself into Lin-Manuel Miranda's extraordinary piece.

**3. "The Flick," Steppenwolf Theatre Company:** Director Dexter Bullard's textured production of Annie Baker's existentialist exploration of the ennui of millennial underemployment was far and away the best work at the Wolf in 2016.

**4. "Hand to God," Victory Gardens Theater:** Thanks in no small measure to a stunning performance from Alex Weisman, director Gary Griffin's production set in a church youth group eschewed the excess of the original production in favor of a closely observed study of ordinary Americans struggling with insecurities and loneliness.



JOAN MARCUS PHOTO

The Chicago company of Lin-Manuel Miranda's "Hamilton," opened Oct. 19 at the PrivateBank Theatre with Chris De'Sean Lee as Marquis de Lafayette/Thomas Jefferson.

**5. "West Side Story," Paramount Theatre, Aurora:** Director Jim Corti's "West Side Story" was as stark and overtly expressionistic a take on this iconic 1950s musical as I've seen, coming with a deep undercurrent of sadness, a sense that we all were watching the early days of gang violence in America that just a generation or two later, would consume our city with the death of young people.

**6. "United Flight 232," House Theatre of Chicago:** The gifted artist Vanessa Stalling took a non-fiction work and created a deeply emotional and laser-focused play. "United Flight 232" served as a truly beautiful tribute to those who died in that United Airlines plane crash on Sept. 11.

**7. "Man of La Mancha," Marriott Theatre:** A radical and progressive reinterpretation, director Nick Bowling's production was unlike any previous production of the perennially challenging musical, especially in its treatment of Dulcinea, played, with spectacular ferocity, by Danni Smith.

**8. "Mary Page Marlowe," Steppenwolf Theatre Company:** Tracy Letts' strikingly loving new play took an ordinary American

woman and ennobled her by serving up this Mary Page Marlowe to seven distinguished actresses.

**9. "King Lear," Belarus Free Theatre:** The actors from Belarus who risk everything for their art are frequent visitors to Chicago Shakespeare Theater. But none of their work here has exceeded the force of this extraordinary "King Lear," seen through the lens of an oppressive dictatorship.

**10. "Learning Curve," Albany Park Theatre Project and Third Rail Projects:** "Learning Curve," a show that occupied a real, shuttered school, did more to impress upon adults the importance of public education than all the TED Talks and policy statements in the world.

Ten more: "The Burials," Steppenwolf For Young Audiences; "Byhalia, Mississippi," New Colony / Definition Theatre Company; "Company," Writers Theatre; "Dreamgirls," Porchlight Music Theatre; "Life Sucks," Lookingglass Theatre; "London Wall," Griffin Theatre; "Merchant of Venice," Shakespeare's Globe; "Sender," A Red Orchid Theatre; "A Small Oak Tree Runs Red," Congo Square Theater; "Thaddeus and Slocum," Lookingglass Theatre.

# Living

Thursday, December 22, 2016



**Mel's kitchen: From shakshuka to freakshakes predicting the biggest food trends of 2017** Page 3

NO

## 4 things to know about depression

Symptom checklists often leave out a few of the nasty little surprises that this jerk of an illness has in store for you Page 14



LINA AIDUKAITE/MOMENT

## SUBURBAN COOKS



JUDY BUCHENOT/NAPERVILLE SUN

Eowyn Eichorst watches as Braelen Cooke, Laney Janusauskas, Isaac Janusauskas and Bethany Muehsler assemble ingredients for soup mix.

## Kid-assembled soup mix a thoughtful gift

By Judy Buchenot  
Naperville Sun

With Christmas just a few days away, most everyone is scrambling to get those last few hard-to-find gifts for folks like the kids' teachers and your great-aunt who has everything. The gift should be thoughtful yet affordable.

The Hannah Circle, a women's group at Wesley United Methodist Church in Naperville, has a great suggestion that is family friendly and useful.

It all started when the group wanted to do a fundraiser at the church that would involve their children.

"Someone suggested soup mixes in a jar and so we came up with two recipes that were easy enough for kids to put together," said Melissa Muehsler, church member and Naperville resident.

The group bought the ingredients and then set up an assembly line with each ingredient in a separate bowl. Children were assigned to each bowl and were shown how to measure ingredients to go into the jar. Each jar was fitted with a funnel. After a few tries with various funnels, it was obvious that the widemouth canning funnel was easier to use than a narrow funnel. Within 20 minutes, the team of children made a dozen jars of soup mix.

Quart and pint canning jars were used to

### Melissa and Angie's Culinary Cue

Although very young children can help make these mixes, adult supervision is important. Be sure to have an adult with each young child to make sure the right amounts make it into the jar. Sometimes young children are having so much fun that they are tempted to add more than is needed in the recipe.

hold the mixes, but any clean jar that is the right size and has a lid can be used.

"I don't know why exactly but it's just fun," said 8-year-old Isaac Janusauskas as he waited for his turn to add his ingredient. "It's like doing a whole bunch of teamwork."

The group chose two different soup recipes. One was for Hearty Friendship Soup that makes a family-sized batch of soup. It requires some additional ingredients to be added to the mix. The second soup was a potato soup that is scooped out for an individual serving and requires only boiling water to complete.

"It is more of an instant soup than the friendship soup," said church member Angie Janusauskas, of Naperville. The group added the potato soup ingredients to the jar and then shook it up to mix them. "It might have been easier to mix the ingredients in a

bowl and then pour it into the jar, though," Janusauskas said.

Since they were making multiple jars of soup, the women bought most ingredients in bulk. "The hardest thing to find in bulk was the beef bouillon granules," Muehsler said. "The small jars of bouillon are expensive and there isn't much in them. We need to find somewhere that sells it in bigger amounts in the future."

When the soup was completed, Muehsler cut 7-inch squares of fabric to decorate the lids. She used a rubber band to hold the fabric to the lid and then covered the rubber band with ribbon. Instructions for the soup were printed out and tied on with the ribbon.

"We put together 18 jars of each kind of soup and sold them all the first Sunday," Janusauskas said. "So we ended up making a dozen more of each kind and we sold most of those." The group sold the Hearty Friendship Soup for \$10 a jar and the Potato Soup for \$8.

"My kids and I are making several jars for teacher gifts," added Janusauskas. "It's a fun project to do together and it is more meaningful for the kids to give a gift that they made themselves. It is so much better than having them give something to the teacher that their mom bought and wrapped."

Judy Buchenot is a freelance writer.

## Hearty Friendship Soup

- 1/2 cup dried split peas
- 1/4 cup beef bouillon granules
- 1/4 cup pearl barley
- 1/2 cup lentils
- 1/4 cup dried onion flakes
- 1 tablespoon dried Italian seasoning
- 1/2 cup uncooked long-grain white rice
- 1 cup uncooked rotini

1. In a 1 quart jar, layer the split peas, bouillon, barley, lentils, onion flakes, Italian seasoning and rice. Put pasta in a plastic bag and place in jar. Put lid on jar to seal.

2. Create a label for the jar with the following:

Additional ingredients for soup:

- 1 pound ground beef or turkey
- 14 ounces diced tomatoes
- Pepper and garlic powder to taste

To prepare soup: Remove pasta and set aside. In a large pot over medium heat, brown meat with pepper and garlic. Drain. Add diced tomatoes, three quarts of water and soup mix. Bring to a boil, then reduce heat to low. Cover and simmer for 45 minutes. Stir in the pasta, cover and simmer 15 to 20 minutes more. Soup is ready to enjoy.

## Potato Soup

- 1 3/4 cups instant mashed potato flakes
- 1 1/2 cups dry milk powder
- 1 tablespoon chicken bouillon granules
- 2 teaspoons dried minced onion
- 1 teaspoon dried parsley
- 1/4 teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon dried thyme
- 1/8 teaspoon ground turmeric
- 3 tablespoons bacon bits
- 3 tablespoons chives

1. Combine potato flakes, dry milk, bouillon, onion, parsley, pepper, thyme, turmeric, bacon bits and chives in a bowl. Gently stir to mix. Divide in half and place in two pint jars.

2. Attach the following instructions: To serve, place 1/2 cup soup mix in bowl. Stir in 3/4 cup boiling water until smooth. To make a thinner soup, add more water.

# Shakshuka to freakshakes

Predicting the biggest food trends of 2017



MELISSA ELSMO  
Out of Mel's Kitchen

It's that time once again — I've gazed into my culinary crystal ball in search of discovering the hottest food trends for 2017. Obviously I have no guarantee if I'm on the right track, but I have high hopes I'll be proven right over the next 12 months. Look for my 2016 trends of fried chicken sandwiches and Korean Gochujang to continue growing in popularity in the New Year, but leave a little room in your belly for gluttonous freakshakes, lovely Filipino lumpia rolls and an Israeli inspired brunch dish. While you're at it, you can help prove me right by dining-in at your local butcher shop and washing your meal down with something other than soda...preferably a tasty beer brewed by a woman!

**The root to leaf movement:** Just like the beloved meat-focused nose-to-tail movement, waste-conscious cooks are embracing whole vegetable cookery. Root to leaf eating forces cooks to make use of delicate herb flowers, tough vegetable stalks and often discarded leafy greens like beet, carrot and turnip tops. While this financially sound and environmentally friendly practice is already favored by restaurant chefs, look for recipes geared

toward home cooks to make the most of vegetables in 2017.

**Female brewers:** Brewing didn't become the male-dominated industry it is today until the start of the industrial revolution in the late 1700s. Long before our image of a beer-maker became a bearded, flannel-clad, boot-wearing hipster-dude, women brewed beer as part of their daily chores. The craft beer movement, with its array of brew styles and complex flavor profiles, is drawing more women into the field. Look for female brewers to gain more recognition than ever in 2017.

**Keep your fork:** The stuffy formality of fine dining will relax even more in the new year. Look for restaurants to suggest you hang onto your fork between courses by offering a place for you to rest it on the table. Tiles, wooden boards, small dishes or proper fork rests will keep your used silverware from touching the table after use.

**Butcher to table:** Knowing your butcher is even more important as less familiar meats like goat and rabbit gain popularity. To help carnivores navigate the world of meat look for savvy butchers to create welcoming and delicious dine-in experiences in their shop.

**Doner kebab:** First served in Turkey, Doner kebab is a well-known German street food and beloved late night snack. Similar to yogurt,

kebab sandwiches feature beef, chicken or lamb spiced with loads of salt, cinnamon and cumin. Shaved from rotating spits, the meat is piled on flat bread before being garnished with sauces, lettuce and tomato. Look for kebab shops to pop up in 2017.

**The rise of Filipino cuisine:** This lesser-known Asian cuisine is gaining in popularity. Filipino dishes are a blissful marriage of Chinese, Spanish, Mexican and even American influences. Look for heavily marinated pork dishes cooked in adobo, flavorful garlic rice, ube (purple yam) and lumpia (spring rolls) to tantalize your taste buds in 2017.

**Freakshakes:** These crazy milkshakes of Australian origin are getting loads of attention in London at the moment. Topped off with cookies, brownies, sprinkles and fruit, I predict these elaborately garnished super messy milkshakes will make big waves in the United States in 2017.

**Down with soda:** 2016 marked a 30-year low in soft drink sales nationally, and in November Cook County passed a new tax on sugared beverages including soda. Health-aware consumers will continue to snub sugary pop in exchange for fruity agua fresca and carbonated water alternatives.

**Shakshuka:** Israeli brunch



MELISSA ELSMO/PIONEER PRESS

A freakshake takes a shake to epic proportions. In this case one made with bananas and peanut butter and skewered bacon, mini cupcakes, peanut butter cookies and brownies.

fare at its best. I've had this Middle Eastern egg dish on my trends radar for a couple of years now, and I think it's bound to make a breakthrough in 2017. Eggs gently poached in a robustly flavored tomato sauce beckons restaurant chefs and home cooks alike

to create their own riffs on this breakfast dish.

**Turmeric 2.0:** Spices contain essential oils, antioxidants, minerals and vitamins that are essential for overall wellness. Look for health-conscious foodies to tip their hat to

turmeric as they begin exploring the health benefits of other spices. My money is on the rise of cardamom (potassium rich), fenugreek (respiratory health) and mace (mood booster) as natural flavor boosters with notable health benefits.

# PETS/ANIMALS

## MY PET WORLD

# How to get cat to use litter box

By Marc Morrone  
Tribune Content Agency

**Q: A few months ago my 4-year-old cat started pooping in my bathtub. She continued to pee in her litter box. When we blocked off the tub she continued to poop on the floor next to the tub. She still continues to pee in the box, which we keep clean. I would prefer not to change her litter brand due to asthma. We currently use feline pine, which can easily be cleaned up and dumped in the toilet. Her litter box is lined and we've done nothing to change anything we've used. Other than diapers or potty training, do you have any suggestions? Thank you. — Sharon Wilson, Chicago, IL**

**A:** Well if it is your destiny to have an issue like this with your cat, then a pooping issue on washable surfaces is a lot easier to deal with those cats that choose to pee on the furniture.

At any rate, for whatever reason, she does not want to poop in the litter box. This is quite clear. Most cats prefer to bury their waste so that other cats do not know they have been in that area, but this behavior is instinctive, so most domestic cats may not feel this way.

So the best advice I can give to you is to re-create the bathtub for her to poop in but have things under your own terms. Continue to keep the bathroom door closed and put a litter box right next to

the one now that she pees in but instead of litter just try lining it with a flat sheet of newspaper or a puppy wee-wee pad.

Most likely when she goes to the litter box to pee she will explore the new box next to it with a smooth surface in it like she prefers now and most likely she will take advantage of it to poop in. Then you can just dispose of the paper and line it with a new sheet for the next time.

This may not be the answer that you wanted to hear but compromise is still better than losing, and cats rarely lose, so it must be you that compromises.

**Q: We have a mini-dachshund that is now 2 years old, and he is the best dog in the world except when we try to cut his nails. As soon as he sees the clippers in our hands he runs and if we confront him he turns into a snarling wolf and he has no hesitation in biting us when he is in this red zone. We tried to put a muzzle on him and then come out with the clippers, but he fought the muzzle so hard that he got his foot stuck in the strap and broke his dewclaw off, and there was blood everywhere. His nails grow very quickly and they curl around into circles and cannot be comfortable for him. We were wondering if you had any tips that we could use to make the situation easier.**

— Gary Sims, St. Paul, MN

**A:** This is not an easy question

to answer. Cutting the nails of a dog that does not like the process is sort of like music — there is music that is good, and there is music that is not good, and it is hard to describe what you can do to make the music that is not good, better.

Either you can cut a dog's nails or you cannot, and it sounds like you cannot in this case. I doubt I can tell you what to do to make the situation better under the circumstances and a dachshund is one of those breeds of dogs that do need frequent nail cutting.

Of course if you had nothing to do all day, you could train the dog with positive reinforcement training methods to happily accept nail trimming. However it can take weeks and weeks of training to do this, but any animal can be trained to do anything as long as the animal understands that whatever it is that you are training it to do is in its best interest or has some kind of tangible reward.

In your case I can advise you, but I cannot really answer your question. I do not think there are any tips I can give to you to make such a job on a dog that is so afraid easier on both you. There just are not enough hours in the day, and the dog is too set in his ways. If he were younger or a bit less dramatic than the situation would be different.

The best advice I can give you is to just wave the white flag of defeat and take the dog to a groomer or your vet and have the job done professionally. It will



CBS4DENVER.COM

Quaker parrots can experience color mutations. When a mutation in the genes of the bird removes the yellow color, the result is a blue bird.

cost money to do this but in the end it will be easier on both of you.

**Q: There are flocks of wild quaker parrots in our park and we enjoy watching them. Last month we noticed an all blue quaker parrot flying in the group and then when we went back a few days later the bird was not longer to be seen. How does a blue bird appear in a group of green ones and what could have happened to it?**

— James Prince-Westport, Connecticut

**A:** What you saw is a color mutation — the color green is a combination of the primary colors blue and yellow, and when a mutation in the genes of the bird removes the yellow color, then you get a blue bird. Conversely if the mutation removes the blue

color, then you get a yellow bird.

What actually happened to the bird I cannot say — a mutation like that in a wild population usually does not survive as the blue bird stands out in the flock of green ones and attracts the attention of predators, such as hawks who can zero in on and catch it easier than if it was chasing the green ones.

The domesticated quaker parrots that we keep as pets are bred in the blue colors as well as yellow, white and combinations of these colors, but those birds are bred in controlled settings, thus not subject to natural selection as the bird that you saw was.

*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. Contact him at [petxperts2@aol.com](mailto:petxperts2@aol.com).*

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# Customer finds she can't use service pact

Dear Help Squad,  
On Nov. 15, 2015, I purchased a NordicTrack treadmill at the Sears store in Niles. The sales clerk suggested I also buy the Sears protection plan, which would give me an annual maintenance checkup and repair coverage for five years. I paid the additional \$274.99.

The week of Nov. 7, 2016, I tried many times to schedule my annual maintenance appointment but all I got was endless telephone holds and referrals to other numbers. The only person I managed to speak with told me Sears no longer did protection plans for treadmills. The sales clerk who initially tried to help said the store was still selling the protection plans.

On Nov. 15, 2016, I went to the Niles Sears store and asked a clerk in the treadmill department to schedule the appointment for me. He tried but had the same experience as I, so he called his supervisor. The supervisor spent over an hour trying to reach someone to make the appointment. She also tried to get me a refund. After being at the store for over an hour and a half, the supervisor told me she

would call me by Nov. 18 to let me know whether I would get a refund or the appointment would be scheduled. She did not call so I tried calling her. No one answered, so I left a message on the store's general line. I got no response. I also sent her an email, which received no response.

I realize I am likely out \$274.99, but I am writing because I hope my story will be publicized and other shoppers will not be victimized like I was.

*Elizabeth, Evanston*

Upon Elizabeth sending me her sales paperwork and the Sears manager's business card, I called both numbers on the manager's card and also emailed her directly. Both numbers simply rang and rang with no answer — even when I stated "treadmill" and was transferred to a department line. When I called back and hit zero, it again rang numerous times, then eventually rolled to an unidentified voice-



CATHY CUNNINGHAM  
Help Squad

mail box that informed me no one was available and I should leave a message.

At this point I decided to contact Sears corporate, where I reached out to Dana Shoulders, team manager, regulatory complaints. Shoulders had assisted me with another tricky Sears treadmill situation in October.

Shoulders' assistance was almost immediate. Within 90 minutes, she emailed me to say: "I think we already have an answer on this one. I sent the receipt and everything over to [Icon Health & Fitness, parent company of NordicTrack], ... and it appears Ms. Kinney never registered the machine with them so they didn't have the machine validated. [T]hey were able to update the record and will have someone reach out to Ms. Kinney no later than tomorrow to set up the service call for her."

In an attempt to clarify what might have happened with Elizabeth's protection plan, Shoulders explained the following: Icon is the provider of protection agreements for

all Sears online and in-store purchases of NordicTrack products. However, the same protection plans for Icon's Proform line are provided by Icon when purchased online, and by Sears when purchased in-store. According to Shoulders, Elizabeth was sold the correct protection plan, but was provided the wrong plan documents.

Once this got straightened out, Icon arranged for a service technician to contact Elizabeth for her annual tune-up. Elizabeth said she was given a number to call to schedule all future maintenance and she was also provided the Icon representative's direct line should there be any additional problems.

Her next report: "The NordicTrack serviceman was at my house this morning. Thank you again very much for your assistance!"

**Need help?**

Send your questions, complaints, injustices and column ideas to [HelpSquad@pioneerlocal.com](mailto:HelpSquad@pioneerlocal.com).

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

CN



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# And the Biblio Award goes to ...

By John Warner  
Chicago Tribune

At this point, you've probably read a lot of "Best Books" lists, but this is no "Best Books" lists, it's the Sixth Annual Biblio Awards, in which I idiosyncratically tell you about the books I read that you should also read if you know what's good for you.

As you well know, books are specific and peculiar, so every award is custom-made.

There's too much to discuss for a single column, so I'm going to keep going until the orchestra plays me off the stage.

**Book About Education You Should Read if You Care About Education, Which You Should, Because Education Matters to Everyone:** Four-way tie: "I Love Learning; I Hate School: An Anthropology of College" by Susan D. Blum; "Paying the Price: College Costs, Financial Aid, and the Betrayal of the American Dream" by Sara Goldrick-Rab; "The Great Mistake: How We Wrecked Public Universities and How We Can Fix Them" by Christopher Newfield; and "For White Folks Who Teach in the Hood ... and the Rest of Y'all Too: Reality Pedagogy and Urban Education" by Christopher Emdin. Education is in real trouble, folks, but not the kind of trouble that's often presented by so-called "reformers." In reality, they are the trouble. Collectively, these books show why it's so important to put the public back in public education.

**Book You Shouldn't Read Before Bed Unless You're a Fan of Nightmares:** "Listen to Me" by Hannah Pittard. Builds almost unbearable tension from a single drive through a dark night. Runner-up: "Sweet Lamb of Heaven" by Lydia Millet. Both thriller and horror in one weird, awesome package.

**Book That May Restore Your Faith In Humanity:** "The Nix" by Nathan Hill. Flawed characters, as we all are, but well-meaning in their fumbling toward understanding. May engender a good, cathartic cry. Runner-up: "Dear Fang, With Love" by Rufi Thorpe. A story of a previously absent father trying to do right by his apparently troubled daughter.



IMAGE SOURCE

**Book That Will Shake Your Faith In Humanity:** "Loner" by Teddy Wayne. A portrait of "toxic masculinity" in the form of a Harvard freshman with a dangerous obsession. Runner-up: "Dear Mr. M" by Herman Koch. As with Koch's best-selling sensation "The Dinner," we spend time experiencing the ways people can be cruel to each other. Both books, bracing and vital.

**Book That Will Make You Nostalgic for the '90s:** "Seinfeldia: How a Show About Nothing Changed Everything" by Jennifer Keishin Armstrong. A thorough exploration of the famous sitcom, I dare you to read this without running to the television to find some Seinfeld reruns. Runner-up: "Powerhouse: The Untold Story of Hollywood's Creative Artists Agency" by James Andrew Miller. An oral history of CAA, the most powerful agency in Hollywood, chock-full of anecdotes about stars such as Tom Cruise when they were young and hungry.

**Worst Book by Best Author:** "The Mandibles: A Family, 2029-2047" by Lionel Shriver. Shriver has written some of my favorite books, but this is poorly conceived and even more poorly executed.

**Book That's Quite Long, but Reads Really Quickly:** "The Terranauts" by T.C. Boyle. Boyle's riff on the Biosphere 2 project told from three perspectives — two "terranauts" inside the structure, and one outside — turns into a quasi-potboiler that will have you saying, "No way!" in the best way.

**Book That Will Convince You of the Strange Power of the Teenage Human Female:** "Girls on Fire" by Robin Wasserman. Does what good books can achieve, makes you intimate with something you previously didn't know existed, but instantly believe to be true.

Out of room this week. More thrills, spills and chills to come next time.

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

## Book recommendations from The Biblioracle

John Warner tells you what to read next based on the last five books you read

1. "The Empathy Exams" by Leslie Jamison
2. "The Kite Runner" by Khaled Hosseini
3. "Unbroken" by Laura Hillenbrand
4. "Just Mercy" by Bryan Stevenson
5. "The Road" by Cormac McCarthy  
Anthony P., Chicago

Interesting mix of fiction, narrative non-fiction and essays. For Anthony, I'm recommending a book that is categorized as fiction but actually blends all these things, "The Things They Carried" by Tim O'Brien.

1. "The Complete Maus" by Art Spiegelman
2. "Moonglow" by Michael Chabon
3. "The Great Gatsby" by F. Scott Fitzgerald
4. "The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier & Clay" by Michael Chabon
5. "American Gods" by Neil Gaiman  
London L., Hoffman Estates

I feel like Kurt Vonnegut's "Slaughterhouse Five" is a necessary balm for just about any moment, but a particularly good fit with this list.

1. "The Light Between Oceans" by M.L. Stedman
2. "Me Before You" by Jojo Moyes
3. "In a Dark, Dark Wood" by Ruth Ware
4. "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr
5. "Before the Fall" by Noah Hawley  
Lisa T., Chicago

The first two books on the list have been recently adapted into movies, which brings to mind another book that is now also a movie. I can't say whether Ang Lee's filmed version is any good, but "Billy Lynn's Long Halftime Walk" by Ben Fountain is one of my favorite books of the last 10 years.

## What should you read?

Send a list of your last five books to [printersrow@chicagotribune.com](mailto:printersrow@chicagotribune.com). Write "Biblioracle" in the subject line.



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12/18

## ALL THE TRIMMINGS: Of a timely sort

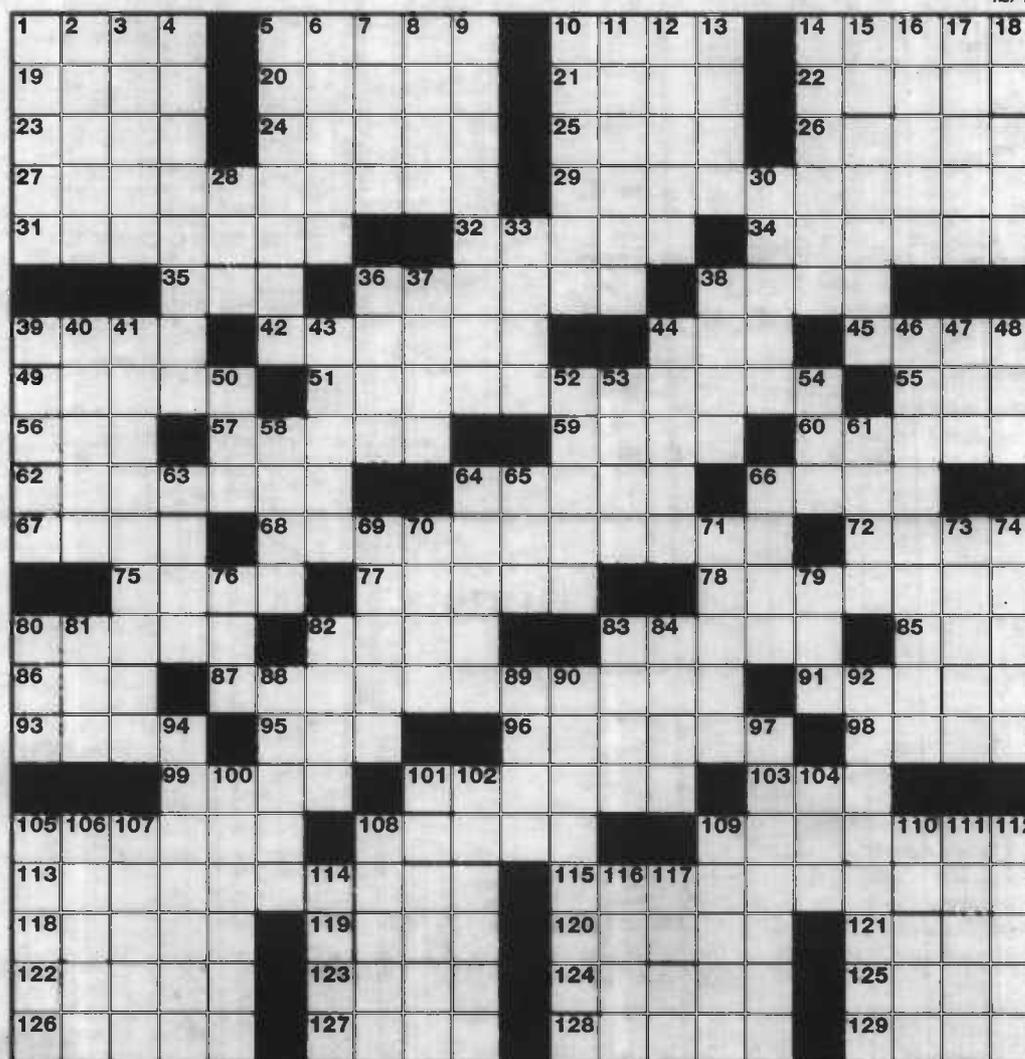
BY GAIL GRABOWSKI | EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN  
(stanxwords.com)

### Across

- 1 Falling-out  
5 Make a mess of  
10 Make a mess of  
14 Aids in a crime  
19 Natural skin soother  
20 Licorice-flavored herb  
21 Cannonballs, for instance  
22 Morocco's capital  
23 Textile factory  
24 — one's time (waited)  
25 Data in coll. transcripts  
26 Playground assertion  
27 Human dynamo  
29 Forcefully attacks  
31 Tortuous journey  
32 Capture  
34 Tried a new hue  
35 Obstinate beast  
36 Camper's stove fuel  
38 Thorn in one's side  
39 Bibliography abbr.  
42 Basement racer, perhaps  
44 Episodic story line  
45 Scored 100% on  
49 — Park (Edison lab site)  
51 Hotel employee  
55 *Aladdin* prince  
56 Sra. Perón's homeland  
57 Tibet's capital  
59 Low-fat  
60 Pulls suddenly  
62 Darkened  
64 Interior design  
66 "Take this"  
67 Rural storehouse  
68 Original locale of Muscle Beach
- 72 Much of the Old World  
75 Centers of activity  
77 Major blood vessel  
78 Rec-room scrape  
80 Yellowish brown  
82 Big brute  
83 Parisian school  
85 One-liner  
86 Parisian "Cool!"  
87 Archer's equipment  
91 Complains, so to speak  
93 Medieval drudge  
95 Finish with  
96 Be sorry about  
98 Telly watcher  
99 Essay page  
101 Church officer  
103 Half a figure eight  
105 Ornamental shrub  
108 Sweater size  
109 Arm art  
113 Hollywood nickname  
115 Talent series once hosted by Ed McMahon  
118 Turn out to be  
119 Not minding one's manners  
120 Sleepyhead in an Everlys tune  
121 Nile queen, for short  
122 Ripply fabric pattern  
123 Isn't oneself  
124 Formally establish  
125 Part of S&L  
126 Range rover  
127 Track event  
128 Many *Hamlet* characters  
129 Ending like -trix

### Down

- 1 Stallone's commando  
2 Homeric epic  
3 Imprudent activity  
4 Blabs  
5 Chatty get-together  
6 Consolidate  
7 Calf-length skirt  
8 Tech support caller  
9 Support for a statue  
10 Loose overcoat  
11 Tennis official  
12 Celebrity's projection  
13 Quick bite  
14 Ascended  
15 "You shouldn't do that"  
16 Fine wood  
17 Fashion sense  
18 Gave up a seat  
28 CIA forerunner  
30 Bingham of *Baywatch*  
33 Antidrug cop  
36 Tourney passes  
37 Golden St. campus  
38 Wheat husk  
39 Cyberzines  
40 Country singer Gibbs  
41 Thin pasta  
43 2009 Peace Nobelist  
44 Video arcade pioneer  
46 Domino product  
47 Beast on Michigan's flag  
48 Belittle, so to speak  
50 Long-established  
52 Big name in wrap  
53 Lowly worker  
54 "Science Guy" of TV  
58 Sound of steam  
61 Syrian — Republic  
63 *The Winds of War* author  
64 Was bold  
65 CPR expert  
66 Transport by truck  
69 Keep bothering  
70 Struggling with choices  
71 *A Beautiful Mind* star  
73 Teheran native  
74 Uneasy feeling  
76 Preschooler's dinner wear  
79 Masterpiece  
80 Bout enders  
81 Color-chart listing  
82 Was indebted to  
83 Hence  
84 Edible ears  
88 New Basketball Hall of Famer  
89 Limp as —  
90 Took a trial break  
92 Stumbling block  
94 "Without a doubt!"  
97 China-shop purchases  
100 Baby bird  
101 Take one's sweet time  
102 Antarctic explorer Shackleton  
104 Canonized *femme*: Abbr.  
105 Parts of mushrooms  
106 Wine grape  
107 Non-studio film  
108 Nephew of Donald Duck  
109 Brief moment  
110 First acrylic fiber  
111 Porthole view  
112 Excelled  
114 Airport shuttle  
116 Sushi staple  
117 Strong — ox



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

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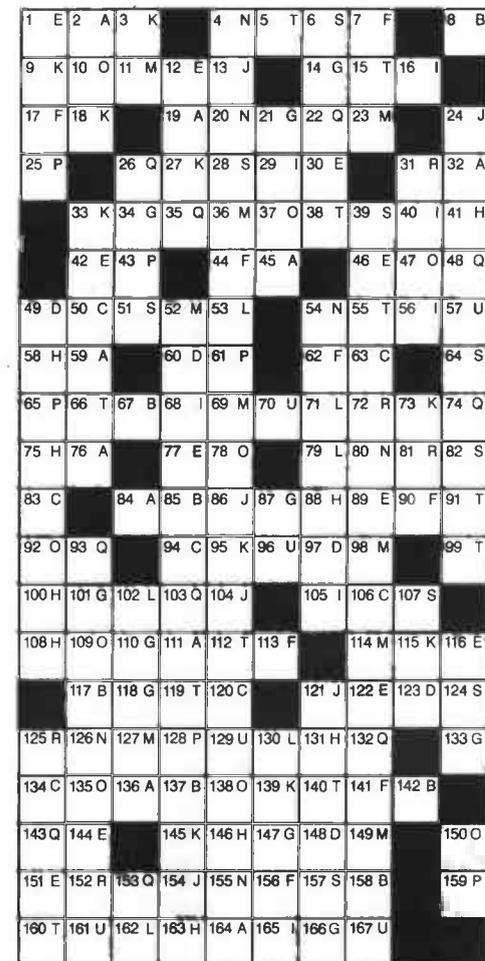
## Quote-Acrostic

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

## Clues

Clues	Words
A. Overly self-involved	59 19 2 84 45 76 32 164 111 136
B. Thins down	158 137 8 85 67 142 117
C. Basic nature	50 106 94 120 134 63 83
D. Carreras or Domingo	123 148 97 60 49
E. Become upset: 2 wds.	1 46 89 12 30 151 77 42 116 122 144
F. Cause of a startling effect: hypn.	17 7 62 156 44 90 141 113
G. Be set for life: 3 wds.	147 14 110 34 21 87 101 118 133 166
H. Power or right	131 100 163 108 75 58 88 146 41
I. Hold back	68 16 56 40 105 165 29

J. Rudder necessity	24 121 154 86 104 13
K. In general: 3 wds.	145 33 73 115 18 3 27 9 139 95
L. Sudan language	53 130 79 71 102 162
M. Total or whole	69 11 98 149 127 23 52 114 36
N. Calder construction	4 20 54 155 126 80
O. Contain	92 10 150 78 47 138 109 135 37
P. Elaborate art style	61 43 159 25 128 65
Q. Casual	74 22 35 153 93 48 103 26 143 132
R. Kind of obedience	72 81 152 31 125
S. Inflections of words	39 51 64 28 107 124 82 6 157
T. Food	66 160 5 15 140 38 99 119 55 112 91
U. Artist's workspace	167 129 161 70 96 57



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

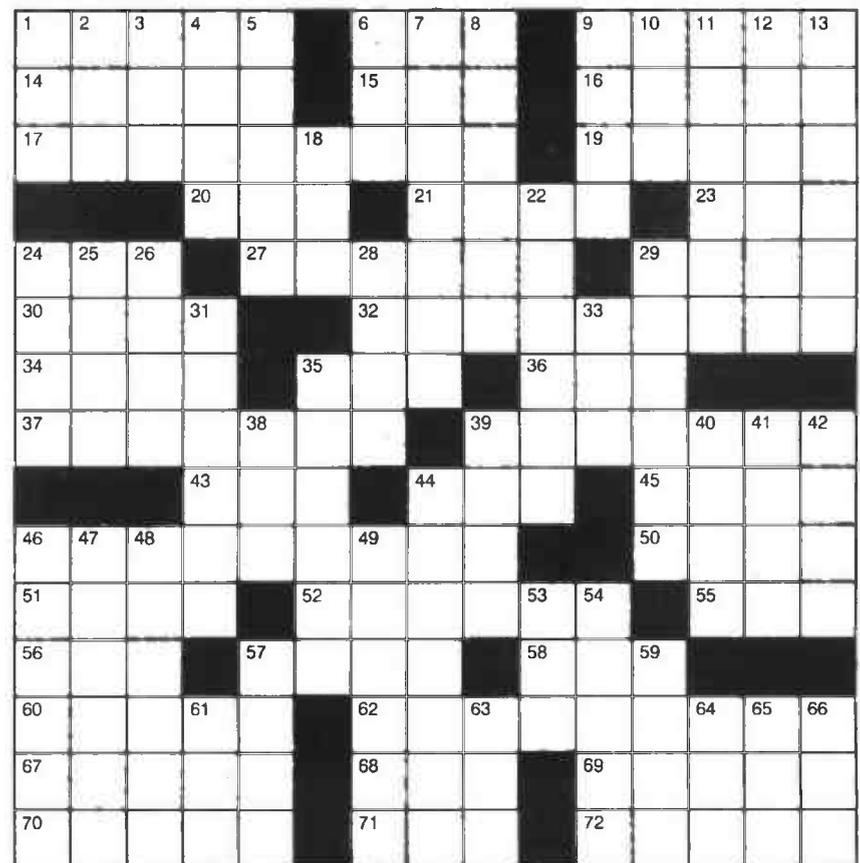
By Erv Kaczmarek.  
Edited by Linda and Charles Preston.  
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## Directions

BY CHARLES PRESTON

## Across

- |  |                                   |  |
|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| 1 Flower part                              | 51 Chooses                        | 13 Famous opener                       |
| 6 American Indian                          | 52 Beasts of burden               | 18 Mineral spring                      |
| 9 Farewells                                | 55 For each                       | 22 Involve                             |
| 14 Worship                                 | 56 Lease                          | 24 Horse breed                         |
| 15 French money                            | 57 Lawrence ___                   | 25 '60s dance craze                    |
| 16 Harden                                  | 58 Inlet                          | 26 Cupid                               |
| 17 Polaris                                 | 60 Behind                         | 28 Baseball nine                       |
| 19 City of Light                           | 62 Resident of Mayfair            | 29 Australian city                     |
| 20 One of the Carolines                    | 67 Prepare for serving            | 31 Active causes                       |
| 21 ___ irae                                | 68 Spain's last queen             | 33 Diamond ___                         |
| 23 That: Sp.                               | 69 Some are from Canada           | 35 Overthrow                           |
| 24 Moslem VIP                              | 70 City on the Rhine              | 38 Burmese knife                       |
| 27 Apportion                               | 71 Small amt.                     | 39 Abyssinian weight                   |
| 29 Appear                                  | 72 Colorado park                  | 40 Abandon                             |
| 30 City of Seven Hills, to her natives     |                                   | 41 Welsh ___ bit                       |
| 32 Old-fashioned tear-jerker               | <b>Down</b>                       | 42 River to the North Sea              |
| 34 All shook up                            | 1 Criticize                       | 44 Calls forth                         |
| 35 Black's partner in the Irish revolution | 2 Tokyo's former name             | 46 Soothe and comfort                  |
| 36 Abet                                    | 3 Rocky pinnacle                  | 47 <i>Norma</i> and <i>Fra Diavolo</i> |
| 37 Ennui                                   | 4 Bohemian                        | 48 Voices                              |
| 39 Place to eliminate: moisture            | 5 <i>The Merry Widow</i> composer | 49 Misguided                           |
| 43 Siesta                                  | 6 Congeal                         | 53 Craft                               |
| 44 Red dye                                 | 7 Type of Louisianan              | 54 Wearying time                       |
| 45 Ages                                    | 8 Doodads and knickknacks         | 57 Small bird                          |
| 46 Lefties                                 | 9 Inside information: pl.         | 59 One's: Scots                        |
| 50 In days of ___                          | 10 Collection of sayings          | 61 ___ <i>atque vale</i>               |
|  | 11 Serving vessel                 | 63 Tree syrup                          |
|  | 12 Originated                     | 64 Gumshoe: abbr.                      |
|  |                                   | 65 Language suffix                     |
|  |                                   | 66 Legal matter                        |



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

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# Pioneer Press Classified

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A Pioneer Press Publication | Thursday, December 22, 2016 CN

## Real Estate



## Pets



## Employment



## Automobiles



## Merchandise



## Business & Service Directory



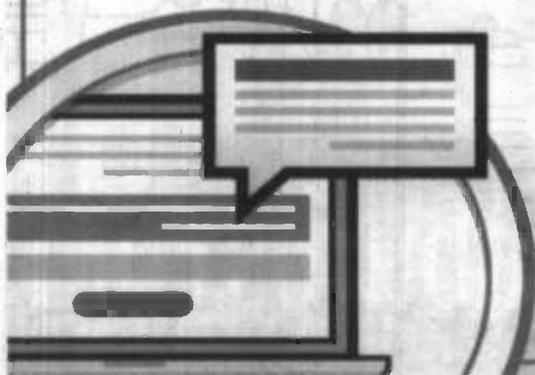
## Garage Sales



## Legal Notices



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## EMPLOYMENT

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**Maintenance Technician** 3597830Northbrook, IL | <https://www.apply2jobs.com/MetalsUSA>

**METALS USA** - Immediate opening. Must have electrical, mechanical abilities and PLC troubleshooting experience. 3+ years of maintenance experience required. Apply online, Requisition FRS1329. Great Compensation and Benefits Package. Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer M/F/D/V

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In addition the Illinois Human Rights Act prohibits discrimination based on age, ancestry, marital status, sexual orientation or unfavorable military discharge.

This paper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. All persons are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised are available on an equal opportunity basis.

If you believe you have been discriminated against in connection with the sale, rental or financing of housing, Call:

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HOPE Fair Housing Center  
630-690-6500

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South Suburban Housing Center  
708-957-4674

North City and Suburbs:  
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of the Northern Suburbs  
847-501-5760

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

General Announcements

\* **ADOPTION:** \* - Adoring Successful Executive & Teacher (will be Stay-Home-Mom) yearn for 1st baby. Expenses paid 1-888-355-5151 \*Laura & John\*

Personals & Prayers

**Affordable Caregiver** - Looking for position to live in 24/7 or come & go. Great price, all Loc's, no fees. Eng speaking w/ret, certified/insured. 708-692-2580

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The search begins here! Many apartment and home hunters check the Classifieds before looking for a new place to live. Advertise your rental units with us to get a jump on the competition! Call 866-399-0537 or visit [placeand.tribunesuburbs.com](http://placeand.tribunesuburbs.com)

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## MERCHANDISE

Auctions

Don't Miss This Sale

**ANTIQUA AUCTION** - Tuesday, Dec. 27, 3:00 - 9:00 PM 7232 N. Western Ave., Chgo.

Huge Glenview Estate & Other Estates & Consignments! Incl: Huge Collection 100's of Ladies' Designer Clothing Items, Designer Purse & Shoes; Ladies' Fur Coats; 2 Ormately Carved Oriental Slantfront Desks; 12 Tall Carved Wood Oriental Dragon Decor; Lg. Lthr-Top Coffee Table w/Carved Figures; Antique Carved Archway; Art Furniture; mid-Cent Modern Furniture; Ed Paschke Sgd. Litho; Cherry Master & Austin Powers Slot Machines; 1960's Rock-Ola Jukebox; Coca-Cola Items; New York Signs; Decor Bronze Nude Figur Lamp; B&G Royal Copenhagen & Other Figurines; Mid-Cent Art Glass; Santa Clara Pottery; Toys; Dolls; Clocks; Stamps; Speakers & Stereo Units; Musical Instruments; Oriental Rugs - Lg. Sm & Runners; Ornate Light Fixtures & Mirrors; Musical Instruments; Jewelry inc. 1.24 Carat Round Loose Diamond; Many Beautiful Gold Rings w/Diamonds & Gemstones; Watches; Silver Jewelry; Costume Jewelry; Curiosities, Box Lots, & More! Appx. 600 Lots, Most sold with No Reserve!

Preview: Mon., Dec. 26, 3:30-7:30 PM & 1 Hour Before Sale. Full Listing, Photos & Video on Sunday at: [www.directauction.com](http://www.directauction.com). Seeking Quality Estates & Consignments for this & Upcoming Auctions! DIRECT AUCTION GALLERIES 773-465-3300

**AUCTION** - State of Illinois Surplus Property Online Auction Equipment, watches, boats, vehicles, knives, jewelry and much more iBid.Illinois.gov

## Auctions

**AUCTION** - New Year's Day Gun Auction January 1st 9:00 am 950 Firearms inc/Colt, Win. S&W, Browning, Military, Antique to NIB 2601 Lake Land Blvd Mattoon, IL Bauer Auction Service, LLC See complete sale bill & 6,000 photos at [www.bauerauction.com](http://www.bauerauction.com)

Wanted to Buy

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**WHEAT CENTS & SILVER COINS** - A & R PENNY SHOP 847-772-2682

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

Residential for Rent

**Beverly Area**  
2 bedroom apartment, hardwood floors, 1st floor, \$850/mo + utilities. 708-448-7521

**Deluxe Garden Apartment**  
4 1/2 rooms, 2 bedrooms, No pets, no smoking, Vicinity Cumberland and Lawrence. 773.887.3871

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Judicial Sales - Real Estate

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY, BUT SOLELY AS TRUSTEE OF THE PRIMESTAR-H FUND I TRUST, Plaintiff,

vs. HARRIS TRUST AND SAVINGS BANK F/K/A HARRIS BANK WINNETKA AS TRUSTEE UNDER TRUST AGREEMENT DATED MARCH 12, 2003 AND KNOWN AS TRUST NO. HTW6056; MONIKA A. GABAL, UNKNOWN OWNERS; NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS, UNKNOWN TENANTS OCCUPANTS AND LEASEHOLDS, Defendants. 11 CH 41495

**NOTICE OF SALE**  
PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the above entitled cause Intercountry Judicial Sales Corporation will on Wednesday, January 4, 2017, at the hour of 11 a.m. in their office at 120 West Madison Street, Suite 718A, Chicago, Illinois, sell to the highest bidder for cash, the following described mortgaged real estate:

P.L.N. 10-33-302-013-0000 and 10-33-302-012-0000. Commonly known as 6715 North Sauganash Avenue, Lincolnwood, IL 60712.

The mortgaged real estate is a single family residence. If the subject mortgaged real estate is a unit of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by subsection (g-1) of Section 18.5 of the Condominium Property Act.

Sale terms: Bidders must present, at the time of sale, a cashier's or certified check for 10% of the successful bid amount. The balance of the successful bid shall be paid within 24 hours, by similar funds. The property will NOT be open for inspection.

For information call Mr. Gary E. Green at Plaintiff's Attorney, Clark Hill P.C., 150 North Michigan Avenue, Chicago, Illinois 60601, (312) 985-5900.

INTERCOUNTRY JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION  
Selling Officer, (312) 444-1122

1708662  
12/8/2016, 12/15/2016, 12/22/2016 4629119

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Judicial Sales - Real Estate

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## LEGALS

Bid Notice

Park Ridge Park District  
LEGAL NOTICE

The Park Ridge Park District is hereby requesting Proposals for Centennial Aquatic Center Concession Services. Particulars of the project and required information to be contained in the Proposals are available at no charge by contacting Maryanne Lucarz of the Park Ridge Park District, by phone at 847.692.3482 or by email at [mlucarz@prparks.org](mailto:mlucarz@prparks.org). Email requests for Proposal Documents shall include name of firm, contact person, mailing address (no PO Boxes), telephone number, and email address.

All responses to Request for Proposals shall be due at the Park Ridge Park District, Wohler's Hall, Attention: Maryanne Lucarz, 733 N. Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge, Illinois 60068, no later than Thursday, January 12, 2017 at Noon.

Board of Park Commissioners  
Jim Phillips, President  
12/22/2016 4665430

SELL, SELL, SELL

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Placing an ad in the classifieds is the most cost-effective way to sell your home, car or valuables! Call 866-399-0537 or go online to [placeand.tribunesuburbs.com](http://placeand.tribunesuburbs.com) to place your advertisement.

## Foreclosures

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS

North Shore Trust and Savings vs. Denest Pompilus, Rosa Marie Pompilus, Unknown Owners and Parties Interested in or in actual possession of said land or lots, Defendants, Case No. 2016-CH-15879. The requisite affidavit for publication having been filed, notice is hereby given you, Defendants and Unknown Owners and Parties Interested in or in actual possession of said land or lots that the said suit has been commenced in the Circuit Court of Cook, Illinois by the said plaintiff against you and other defendants, praying for the foreclosure of a certain Mortgage conveying the premises described as follows, 10-WIT LOT 369 AND THE SOUTH 1/2 OF LOT 368 IN SWENSON BROTHERS THIRD ADDITION TO COLLEGE HILL ADDITION TO EVANSTON, BEING A SUBDIVISION OF LOT 4 IN ASSESSOR'S DIVISION OF THE SOUTHEAST 1/4 OF SECTION 14, TOWNSHIP 41 NORTH, RANGE 13, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, PERMANENT INDEX NUMBER: 10-14-422-023. Commonly known as: 8818 Forestview Road, Skokie, IL 60076. Now, therefore, unless you, Defendants and Unknown Owners and Non-Record Claimants, file your answer to the complaint in said suit or otherwise make your appearance therein, in the office of the Clerk of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, on or before January 31, 2017, default may be entered against you at any time after that day and a Judgment entered in accordance with the prayer of said Complaint. This is an attempt to collect a debt pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Dated December 7, 2016. THADDEUS M. BOND, JR. & ASSOCIATES P.C., 708 Florsheim Drive, Suite 10, Libertyville, IL 60048. Telephone: (847)599-9101, Attorney for Plaintiff. 12/21/16, 12/22/2016 4644481

# ILLINOIS CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING NETWORK

## AUCTION

New Year's Day  
Gun Auction

January 1st 9:00am.

950 Firearms inc/ Colt, Win. S&W, Browning, Military, Antique to NIB 2601 Lake Land Blvd. Mattoon, IL Bauer Auction Service, LLC.

See complete sale bill & 6,000 photos at [www.bauerauction.com](http://www.bauerauction.com)

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Legal Notices

**IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS, PROBATE DIVISION**  
**IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF**

Name: Sarah Gil  
 Address: 6429 N. Oxford  
 City, State, Zip: Chicago, IL 60631  
 Date and Place of Death: October 5, 2006, Chicago, Illinois

**PUBLICATION NOTICE**  
**INDEPENDENT ADMINISTRATION TO: HEIRS**

CASE NO.: 2016 P00 6189  
 1. Notice is hereby given of the death of SARAH Gil, who died on October 5, 2006, a resident of Chicago, Illinois.

2. The Representative for the estate is: Rudolph Gil, Jr.

3. The Attorney for the estate James A. Marino, 5521 North Cumberland #1109, Chicago, Illinois 60656, 773-775-0707

On November 15, 2016, an order appointing the Representative was entered.

Within forty-two (42) days after the effective date of the original Order Admitting the Will to Probate, you may file a petition with the Court to require proof of the validity of the Will by testimony or witnesses to the Will in open Court, or other evidence, as provided in Article VI 5/6-21 (755 ILCS 5/6/21).

Within six (6) months after the effective date of the original Order Admitting the Will to Probate, you may file a petition with the Court to contest the validity of the Will as provided under Article VIII 5/8-1 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/8-1).

The estate will be administered without Court supervision unless an interested party terminates independent supervision administration by filing a petition to terminate under Article XXVIII 5/28-4 of the Probate Act (755 ILCS 5/28-4).

12/15, 12/22, 12/29/2016  
 4638168

Legal Notices

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
**THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF MORTON GROVE FOR 2017 WILL BE HELD AT VARIOUS TIMES AND LOCATIONS AS LISTED**

	Time	Dates	Location
Advisory Commission on Aging	1:00 pm	2nd Tuesday every month	Civic Center
Appearance Review Commission	7:00 pm	1st Monday of every month	Council Chambers
Board of Environmental Health	7:00 pm	1st Tuesday (every other month beginning in February)	Scanlon Conference Room
Cable & Telecommunications Comm.	7:30 pm	Varies	Scanlon Conference Room
Community Relations Commission	6:30 pm	2nd Tuesday (every month)	Scanlon Conference Room
Economic Development Commission	5:30 pm	Varies	Scanlon Conference Room
Finance Advisory Commission	7:00 pm	Varies	Scanlon Conference Room
Fire and Police Commission	1:00 pm	4th Tuesday every month	Fire Station #4
Fire Pension Board	8:00 am	Quarterly - varies	Fire Station #4
Foreign Fire Tax Board	8:00 am	Quarterly - varies	Fire Station #4
Natural Resource Commission	6:00 pm	Varies	Scanlon Conference Room
Plan Commission	7:30 pm	3rd Monday every month	Council Chambers
Police Pension Board	4:00 pm	Quarterly - varies	Police Station
Special Events Commission	6:30pm	3rd Tuesday on odd months	Public Works, 7840 Nagle
Traffic Safety Commission	7:00 pm	1st Thursday every month	Council Chambers
Zoning Board of Appeals	7:30 pm	3rd Monday every month	Council Chambers

To ensure full accessibility and equal participation for all interested citizens, individuals with disabilities who plan to attend and who require certain accommodations in order to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of these facilities, are requested to contact Susan or Marlene (847/470-5220) promptly to allow the Village to make reasonable accommodations;

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

**LEGAL NOTICE**

**THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF MORTON GROVE FOR 2017 WILL BE HELD ON THE SECOND AND FOURTH MONDAY OF THE MONTH AT THE RICHARD T. FLICKINGER MUNICIPAL CENTER 6101 CAPULINA AVENUE, MORTON GROVE, ILLINOIS**

All Village board meetings begin at 6:00 pm with the first hour reserved for closed "Executive Sessions", if needed. The remainder (public portion) of the meetings shall begin at 7:00 pm in the Council Chambers. The 2017 meeting schedule is as follows:

January 9	July 10
January 23	July 24
February 13	August 14
February 27	August 28
March 13	September 11
March 27	September 25
April 10	October 9
April 24	October 23
May 8	November 13
May 22	November 27
June 12	December 11
June 26	December 25 (cancelled)

To ensure full accessibility and equal participation for all interested citizens, individuals with disabilities who plan to attend and who require certain accommodations in order to observe and/or participate in this meeting, or who have questions regarding the accessibility of these facilities, are requested to contact Susan or Marlene (847/470-5220) promptly to allow the Village to make reasonable accommodations.  
 12/22/2016 4653391

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Public Hearings

**LEGAL NOTICE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Planning and Zoning Commission on Tuesday, January 10, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of Park Ridge City Hall, 505 Butler Place, Park Ridge, Illinois, when the following matter will be considered:

Zoning Case Number 17-01-SU:

Application by Jeffrey Heiza for a special use to allow for the operation of a professional office (ground floor) in the B-4, Uptown Business District, Uptown-Core Sub-District, including any exceptions from Zoning Ordinance requirements, in accordance with the requirements of Sections 4.6 of the Zoning Ordinance of the City of Park Ridge, at the following property:

132 South Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge, IL 60068

All persons interested in the above described matter are invited to attend and will be heard. The case file for this matter is available for review in the Department of Community Preservation and Development in City Hall.

Joe Baldi, Chairman  
 Planning and Zoning Commission  
 12/22/2016 4665683

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Public Notices

**Legal Notice**  
**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AUDIT REPORT FOR THE NORWOOD PARK FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT**

The Norwood Park Fire Protection District, Cook County, Illinois, hereby provides public notice that an audit of its funds for the fiscal year beginning on July 1, 2015 and ending on June 30, 2016 was prepared by our auditors Knutte and Associates of Darien, Illinois. The FY2015-2016 audit has been or will be filed with the County Clerk of Cook County in accordance with 30 ILCS 15/0.01 et seq. The entire audit report and the annual statement of receipts and disbursements are available for public inspection at the Norwood Park Fire Protection District Fire Station located at 7447 W. Lawrence Ave. Harwood Heights, IL 60706. Lawrence Avenue, Harwood Heights, Illinois 60706 from 8:00 a.m. through 4:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

/s/ Andrew Skyba  
 Secretary, Board of Trustees  
 Norwood Park Fire Protection District  
 12/22/2016 4656418

**Public Notice**  
 If you live in Niles Township and have a child in grades K-8 who is home-schooled or attends a private school and you are concerned about their educational growth and development, please contact Niles Township District for Special Education, Tarin Kendrick, Executive Director, PH: 847-965-9040, 8701 Menard, Morton Grove, IL 60053.  
 12/22/16 4663765

**TO PLACE AN AD ONLINE GO TO:**

[placeanad.tribunesuburbs.com](http://placeanad.tribunesuburbs.com)

# Hanging Around in the Dark

BY ED SESSA

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

## Across

- 1 Disguised, for short  
6 "I see"  
10 Pipe material  
13 Ham's response  
18 Terrible turnout  
19 Spice holders  
21 Yoko from Tokyo  
22 Often harmful bacteria  
23 Auto suspension component  
24 Dresses down  
26 Type of air passage  
27 Like "Et tu, Brute?"  
29 Close  
31 NYC dance company  
32 Garden plot  
33 Explorer Ponce  
35 Demagogue, e.g.  
36 Liquid measures  
38 Eponymous electrical units  
39 Tease  
40 Decisive parts of some NFL games  
41 Floor in la maison  
42 Color named for a flower  
43 Louts  
45 Space fillers?  
47 Track official  
50 — nerve  
54 Some audio books  
57 Korean imports  
58 "Baseball is — percent mental. The other half is physical": Yogi Berra  
59 Caribbean destination  
60 Lascivious look  
62 '40s Giant manager  
63 — sketch  
64 "Mercury" coins  
65 Where Tibet is  
66 U.S. global monitor  
67 Fried rice veggie  
68 Hunk's pride  
71 Young —: political reformer  
72 Turtle of comics and film  
74 Mouthy munchkins  
76 The Rams of the Atlantic 10 Conf.  
77 Author Wiesel  
78 Gather bit by bit  
79 Lacrosse position  
80 Half-moon tide  
82 Skin coloring, briefly?  
83 Raw fish dish  
84 Capriciously, with "on"  
85 Aphrodite's love  
87 One way to sit

- 89 Clothing store section  
91 Poitier title role  
95 Shapiro of NPR  
98 Consumed  
99 "Oh gee"

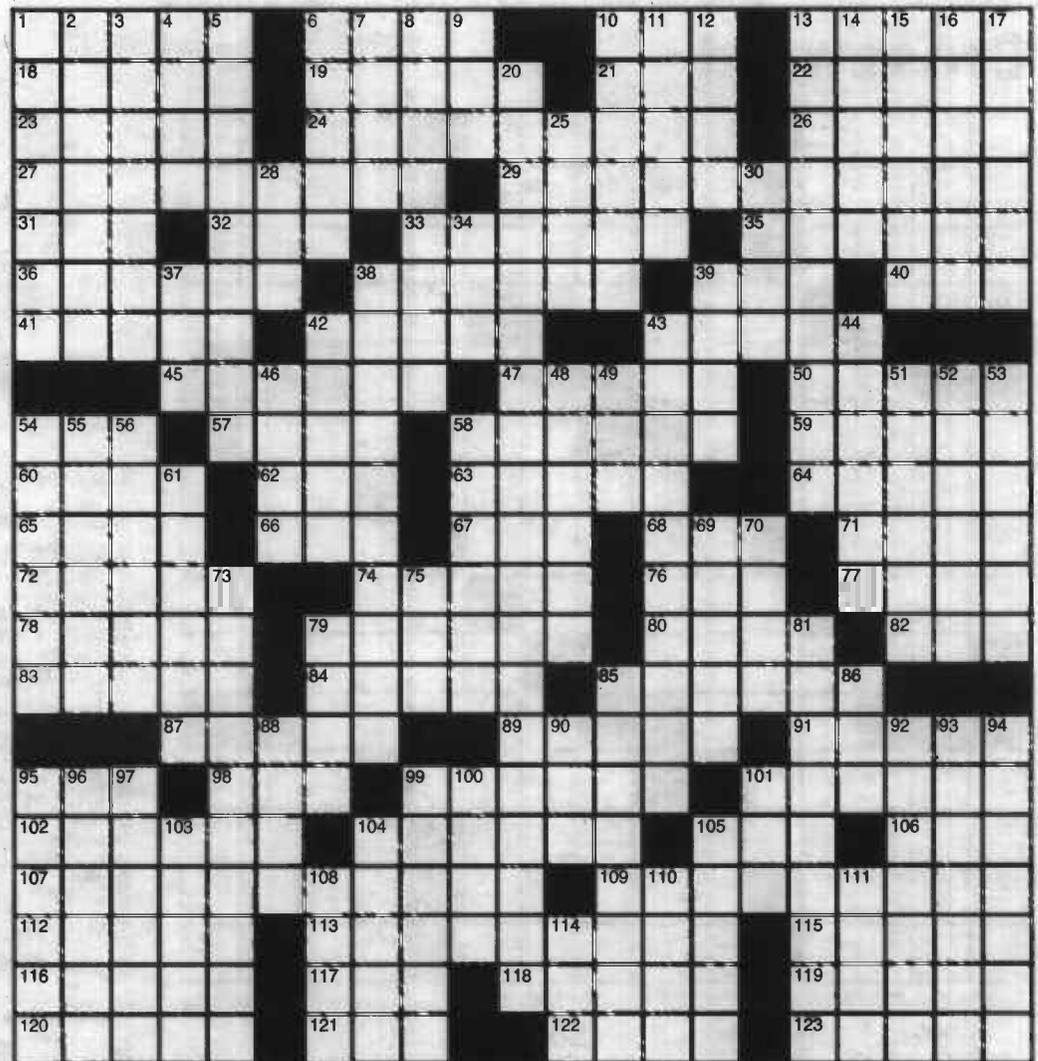
- 101 Big name in gaming  
102 Strauss waltz subject  
104 Portraitist Charles and his artist sons  
105 Mars or Venus  
106 Residential ending  
107 Title awarded only once to a New Englander (Connecticut, 1933)  
109 Last check, maybe  
112 "Wicked Game" singer Chris  
113 Shoulder neighbor  
115 Knighted composer  
116 Hint of color  
117 DDE's VP  
118 122-Across user  
119 Vibrant  
120 Scornful look  
121 Distress letters  
122 Lock fixers  
123 Alice's workplace

## Down

- 1 Like architectural drawings  
2 \*Lots opposite  
3 Big name in civil rights  
4 Burden  
5 \*Be blessed by Lady Luck  
6 Like the flight of a boomerang  
7 "Very funny"  
8 Muckrakers' subjects  
9 Thumbs-ups  
10 "All that is or ever was or ever will be": Sagan  
11 Result of a leadoff single  
12 Order  
13 \*Traveled to Europe, say  
14 Former TWA owner  
15 Get fewer votes than  
16 Red choice  
17 Edmonton skaters  
20 Rock formations that often meet in dark places, as illustrated here  
25 TV classic "— Three Lives"  
28 Court matter

- 30 Little pigs, e.g.

- 34 Hurler's stat  
37 Future tweeter  
38 \*Annual  
39 2016 FedExCup winner McIlroy  
42 Trials for aspiring D.A.'s  
43 \*Go all in  
44 Lemon-lime drink  
46 "The Da Vinci Code" priory  
48 To be safe  
49 "Doesn't do much for me"  
51 Chaotic situation  
52 Spanish airline  
53 Vampire's daybed  
54 Alarm sounds  
55 Arnaz-Ball collaboration  
56 Fishing nets  
58 Sherpa, usually  
61 Indian dignitaries  
69 Former Uh-Oh! cookies, now called Golden  
70 Sigourney's "Gorillas in the Mist" role  
73 \*\*"Sweet Love" R&B singer  
75 Stadium cheer  
79 Strong wind  
81 \*Middle Eastern staple  
85 Marketing of pieces?  
86 Title in a Poitier title  
88 Tabloid twosome  
90 Spleen  
92 Earn  
93 Hangout for the Dark Knight, and for creatures in the answers to starred clues  
94 More diaphanous  
95 Comes clean about  
96 Fruit in a Poitier title  
97 Half-baked  
99 Condescends  
100 Per person  
101 Charlemagne's domain: Abbr.  
103 Grammar subject  
104 First-class  
105 Places to raise dough  
108 Does as humans do?  
110 Carbon compound  
111 "— want for Christmas ..."  
114 Fall behind



Last week's answers appear on the next page

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## Jumble

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



PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW



This week's answers appear on the next page

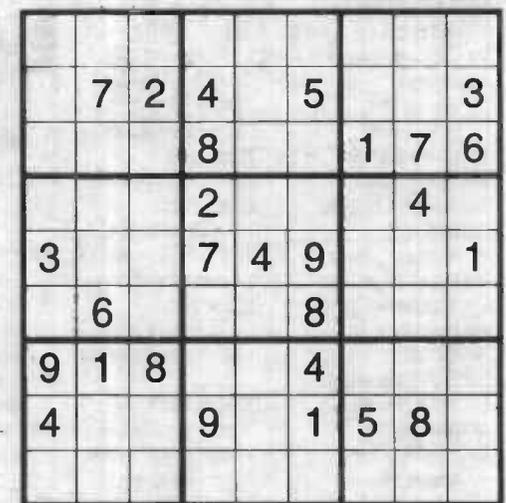
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2016 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

## Sudoku

12/18

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

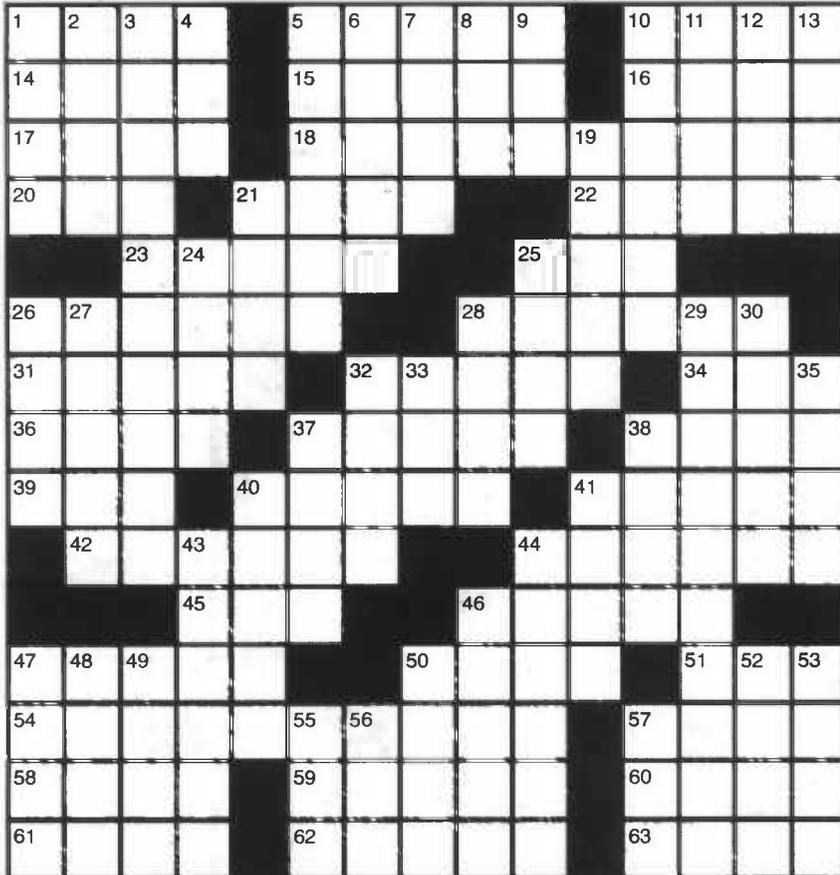
Level: **1 2 3 4**



Last week's answers appear on the next page

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# Crossword



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

12/21/16

## ACROSS

- 1 Deuce or king  
5 Like seawater  
10 Japanese wrestling form  
14 Finished; done  
15 Transparent  
16 Strong \_\_ ox  
17 \_\_-livered; cowardly  
18 Sounds familiar  
20 ...FDR, HST, \_\_, JFK, LBJ...  
21 Car from Italy  
22 Divine  
23 Accepted standards  
25 Cereal grain  
26 Short rest  
28 Takes off a jar cap  
31 Narrow street  
32 Inexperienced  
34 Fraternity letter  
36 Reclines  
37 Courted  
38 Daytime serial  
39 16-oz. weights  
40 Makes tea  
41 Shortcoming  
42 Magazine editions  
44 Isn't certain  
45 \_\_ Lizzie; Model T  
46 Money, slangily

47 Kareem \_\_ - Jabbar

- 50 Invoice  
51 Give a name to  
54 Bum  
57 Additional amount  
58 Deceased  
59 Reed or Fargo  
60 Small pitchers  
61 Nimble  
62 \_\_ from; talk out of  
63 Worry

## DOWN

- 1 Weather word  
2 Zealous  
3 Refusing to quit  
4 Parched  
5 Pinch pennies  
6 Assumed name  
7 Church season  
8 Children's running game  
9 2017 and others: abbr.  
10 Wooden shoes  
11 Not brand new  
12 Shopping center  
13 Exclusively  
19 Once more  
21 Ravel at the edges  
24 Individuals  
25 Ran up a tab

## Solutions



- 26 \_\_ for; summon  
27 Excuse  
28 Golfer's pegs  
29 Middle Ages folksinger  
30 Commandment verb  
32 Leaves  
33 Argument  
35 \_\_ for; chooses  
37 Songbird  
38 Novelist Bellow  
40 Erect  
41 Hoodwink  
43 Built to last  
44 Cost of some lottery tickets  
46 "Winnie-the-Pooh" author  
47 No ifs, \_\_ or buts  
48 Alarm clock sound, often  
49 Precious  
50 Crooked  
52 Strong yearning  
53 Finest  
55 Peculiar  
56 Misery  
57 Initials for actor Fox



# puzzle island solutions

## Last week's crosswords

### "FUNNY BUSINESS"

SASH IBEAM CEO PATTI  
OSLO COMBO SARI ETHAN  
SHANGHAIED WHALESHARK  
EPEEIST ELAN LITERS  
DART TROT SETON  
CAW ROSH HANAH SCAM  
ACHE OATS CAKES HUE  
STAGE HOWE PEP RECANT  
AUTOSHOP SATE RANTS  
LAW TOOL ANTI SOBIG  
SLAW CHARLIECHAN NEST  
SANKA ALPS OKIE SHO  
ASTRO SMEE TENTSHOW  
HOHNER HON TEAS CRATE  
ALA SARAN EROS OPAL  
BETH GOHANDINHAND ETS  
ISLAS ONUS DOOR  
HEPTAD EDAM PONDERERS  
NATHANHALE PHARAOHANT  
CHAOS OAKS HIRER ARID  
RALPH GAS START BETS

### "Double Talk"

ECHO ROTA AMI  
SHUN EMEND PLUM  
SIRE PINTO LISP  
END TUTTIFRUTTI  
YEATS FOG  
AGATE POET HAG  
AMUSE PONDEROSA  
PARE OIL EDIE  
ENDLESSLY LEGAL  
DAY ATTU LIVEN  
ASA SALEP  
NITTYGRITTY OPT  
ACRO EERIE ODOR  
POEM SEALS AGUE  
ANY FEET FETE

### "Lend Me Your Ears"

SHAME BACTERIA ENCS  
SHADOWS EQUATING AERO  
GOODYEAR GUMDROPS SAUL  
TULLE YOGA ETA VERDI  
STEERS MARIA TMADEIT  
SWEARINGBANDS STU  
CBC EON AKRON STATED  
SHEAVES ELAL LOSE  
ARARAT SECRET ALOOP  
BORON BERRA ISITEVER  
EMI DREARY MARTINI INO  
RENTACAR BRECK TAPAS  
GALAS SCOTCH BIHEME  
DOCK TREE DESIRES  
INHEAT PALAU SEA DSL  
ACE MOBILEA PEARS  
GERMANE BASRA SIPHON  
NORAH ALT UOMO TOADY  
OVID TWOPPEARLYTTSUES  
SEER SABOTAGE BRISTLE  
ERSE EYESORES KNEEL

## Last week's Quote-Acrossic

(Katy) MCLAUGHLIN: (The) BACON BACKLASH: Today bacon appears in every upscale restaurant course from cocktails to cupcakes. This veritable bacon bubble has lost bacon its novelty and coated fine dining with a ubiquitous veneer of porky grease.

## Last week's Sudoku

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

## This week's Jumble

ALWAYS UPHILL VERIFY  
GENTLE INCOME KIDDED

The difference between the dark side of the moon and the light side is —

LIKE NIGHT AND DAY

chicago  
tribune.com  
/games

Interactive puzzles and games

# Creators of card game think vulnerability is sexy

The word vulnerability has somewhat of a negative connotation. That said, as a relationship expert, I find the word to be one of my favorites. Why? Because I believe the best romantic relationships are those in which both partners have the courage to show vulnerability. It is then that they are sharing their authentic selves, which results in a deeper, stronger and more meaningful connection.

So when I received an email advertising T-shirts and a card game called "Vulnerability Is Sexy," I was curious and wanted to learn more. Vulnerability is sexy? Isn't that kind of an oxymoron? Vulnerability can be scary and uncomfortable and awkward. How is that sexy?

Those are the questions that led me to call and talk with Corey Blake, founder and CEO of Round Table Companies, his Highland Park-based creative branding and publishing company that produces the newly launched Vulnerability Is Sexy products.

Blake, who started the company 10 years ago, said his products were born out of a need not just for couples, but for company employees and people in business to engage with each other more and connect on a more meaningful level, which in turn leads to more opportunity and potential for success in the workplace.

"We are all carrying these vulnerabilities, these things we are hiding from one another because we are afraid of judgment or because we are afraid someone will reject us if we share those. We see that as a darkness or a weakness, so our default is to remain disengaged," Blake said. "Vulnerability is an invitation to really be with each other, fully present without judgment and just to listen. Not to rescue or solve or fix anything, but to be with you while you share. If we can be in that space regularly, life is very different."

Vulnerability Is Sexy, which is meant to be played with two to 14 players for about an hour, consists of 150 questions (one question on each card). The questions, which were created by Blake and his team members, are broken down into three categories: "break the ice," "get vulnerable" and "laugh a little." Players can choose just how vulnerable they want to



JACKIE PILOSSOPH  
Love Essentially

**"Vulnerability is an invitation to really be with each other, fully present without judgment and just to listen."**

— Corey Blake, founder of Round Table Companies

get.

Questions include: "What was your personality like as a child?" "When have you felt the most alone?" "What's the biggest mistake you've ever made in a romantic relationship?" and "What would cause you to immediately grab hand sanitizer?"

"What we are seeing happen is, people belly laugh together, they cry together and they feel connected and close to those they are playing with," said Blake, who said he tested the game out on dozens of audiences before launching it. "There is an appreciation for each other, respect, likability and lovability. It helps you

determine who you are aligned with and who gets each other. So for a business, it is huge because it helps people attract relationships that will be the best fit."

Blake, who has been married for 11 years, said Vulnerability Is Sexy is also designed for playing in a family setting, at girl's nights out, and of course in romantic relationships.

I decided to play Vulnerability Is Sexy with my pre-teenage daughter and teenage son during dinner a few nights ago. After initially hearing, "Mom, why are you making us do this?" several times, both ended up enjoying the experience and so did I. The game fostered lots of sentimental memories, giggling and laughter, and also sparked special conversations that would not have otherwise taken place.

Playing the game made me realize that vulnerability is scary for kids, too, and that maybe opening up and sharing during childhood could cause people to take more risks as adults when it comes to vulnerability.

Being vulnerable means really putting yourself out there when you're unsure of how others will react. Is that easy to do? Hell no, but the payback can be amazing. If you have the guts to share your authentic self and you receive acceptance or respect or admiration from the people or person with whom you shared, you will not only feel immensely validated, but truly connected. I think that's pretty sexy.

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist.

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&  
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## HEALTH

## ASK THE DOCTORS

## Yearly mammograms aren't necessary for all women

By Dr. Robert Ashley  
Ask the Doctors

**Dear Doctor: Do I really need a yearly mammogram?**

Dear Reader: This might be hard to accept, but if you're a woman at low to average risk of breast cancer, you probably don't need a yearly mammogram. That's not to say we shouldn't give mammograms their due.

Mammograms can reduce deaths from breast cancer, and they're an important reason why breast cancer death rates have decreased over the last 40 years in this country. Studies have found a decreased death rate from breast cancer among women who have had mammograms compared to those who didn't.

Now let's look at just how much benefit. The public health advocacy group the U.S. Preventive Services Task Force calculated that, if 10,000 women between the ages of 39 and 49 had regular mammograms for 10 years, it would prevent three breast cancer deaths. For the same number of women between the ages of 50 and 59, there would be eight fewer breast cancer deaths. And for women between 60 and 69, there would be 21 fewer breast cancer deaths over that 10-year time period.

In short, the overall death rates were not significantly different between those women who had mammograms and those who didn't. This has especially been shown in studies in Canada and Sweden that compared the impact of annual mammograms with yearly breast exams from a health professional. In a 22-year Canadian study of 89,000 women, no difference in death rate was seen



FUSE

Patients should discuss the risks and benefits of mammograms with their doctors.

among women who had regular mammograms compared to those who had yearly breast exams with a health professional. This may point more to the importance of getting a yearly breast exam than the benefit of getting a mammogram.

Mammograms also have downsides. A primary one is that they have many false positives, leading to more imaging, breast biopsies and significant anxiety for patients.

That's not to say mammograms aren't useful. They do find breast cancers. But doctors and their patients need to discuss their risks and their benefits.

If you're a woman who has a mother or a sister with breast cancer, or if you have the BRCA1 or BRCA2 gene mutation that increases breast cancer risk, then a yearly mammogram after the age of 40 is a good idea.

If you have a combination of risk factors — such as having had your first baby after the age of 30, having later-onset menopause or having had an earlier onset of menstruation — then a mammogram is likely a good idea.

However, if you're at average risk of breast can-

cer and between the ages of 40 and 49, there is only a small statistical benefit in having a mammogram, which should be balanced with the risks of testing.

If you are between the ages of 50 and 69, the benefit of a mammogram may overcome risk. At that age, you should get a mammogram every two years.

If you're older than 70, keep in mind that breast cancer rates increase up to the age of 80, so the screening could have a benefit. But that benefit must be weighed against the likelihood of dying from something else. Here again, the recommendation is for a mammogram every two years, but you should discuss your individual needs with your doctor.

Breast cancer screening is still evolving. In time, the recommendations may change yet again.

*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](mailto: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

## Oxygen lifts headaches, but Medicare won't pay

By Joe Graedon  
and Teresa Graedon  
King Features Syndicate

**Q: My husband was diagnosed with cluster headaches in 1999, a few months after receiving a pacemaker. The first eight years, he tried 31 different prescriptions, and nothing worked.**

**Finally, a doctor prescribed oxygen, and it was such a relief. Until then, he was suffering three headaches a day for months on end. He also lived on Excedrin Migraine, around 10 pills a day. Breathing oxygen provided relief within minutes.**

**He retired in March 2015, and Medicare refuses to pay for oxygen for headaches. His cluster headaches are back. A neurologist prescribed prednisone, but the effect is only temporary. They will come back.**

**Unfortunately, Social Security does not stretch far enough to afford the oxygen on our own. He will have to go back to Excedrin again.**

A: Oxygen inhalation is considered a first-line treatment for cluster headaches by the American Headache Society (Headache, July/August 2016). It is outrageous that Medicare does not cover this evidence-based treatment. Your husband's doctor should appeal this unscientific decision.

In the meantime, your husband should be cautious about consuming so much Excedrin Migraine. The makers of Excedrin Migraine warn people: "Do not take more than 2 caplets in 24 hours unless directed by a doctor."

**Q: My wife had sleep problems for years and started taking Tylenol**



PEOPLEIMAGES/DIGITAL VISION

Oxygen inhalation is considered a first-line treatment for cluster headaches by the American Headache Society.

**PM every night (for the diphenhydramine). Over time, she began experiencing memory loss, enough that it affected her work and home life. After reading one of your columns this year, we connected the dots, and she abandoned the sleep aid. It is about six months later, and she feels that she has nearly entirely recovered her mental acuity. I'm writing to express our thanks.**

A: Diphenhydramine is a sedating antihistamine that is found in almost all over-the-counter "PM" pain relievers. It also is found in some OTC sleeping pills and allergy drugs like Benadryl.

A recent review of sleep medicines for older adults concluded: "Diphenhydramine should be avoided in the elderly" (Clinical Therapeutics online, Oct. 14, 2016). The authors note: "Grogginess, drowsiness, confusion and memory loss have been well described with use of diphenhydramine. Community-dwelling older adults were shown to have reduced alertness, diminished memory task performance and impaired episodic memory with diphenhydramine."

DPH, like many other

drugs, affects brain function through the neurochemical acetylcholine. You can learn about other medications that contribute to confusion and memory loss in our Guide to Drugs and Older People. Anyone who would like a copy, please send \$3 in check or money order with a long (No. 10), stamped (68 cents), self-addressed envelope to: Graedons' People's Pharmacy, No. O-85, P.O. Box 52027, Durham, NC 27717-2027. It also can be downloaded for \$2 from our website: [www.peoplespharmacy.com](http://www.peoplespharmacy.com).

**Q: Using old-fashioned Listerine for my itchy scalp worked wonders. Thank you for writing about this remedy.**

A: The original maker of Listerine used to advertise its product for "infectious dandruff." While the Food and Drug Administration no longer allows this claim, the ingredients in Listerine do have antifungal activity.

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



# OFF THE VINE

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Celebrate the holidays with wine: [chicagotribune.com/offthevine](http://chicagotribune.com/offthevine)

# 4 things to know about depression

By Nicholas Padiak  
Chicago Tribune

Let's just get this out of the way up top: I have depression.

That doesn't mean that I'm weeping inconsolably as I write this. Or that I need an emergency visit from Clarence Odbody, AS2. And it doesn't mean that I'm just a sad guy.

It means that I have a diagnosable illness recognized by the medical profession and the National Institute of Mental Health that affects my life every day, just as it does about 350 million other people in the world, according to the World Health Organization.

There are handy guides all over the internet that provide checklists of symptoms. Here's a little taste of what NIMH lists on its website [www.nimh.nih.gov](http://www.nimh.nih.gov):

- Persistent sad, anxious or "empty" mood.
- Feelings of hopelessness or pessimism.
- Feelings of guilt, worthlessness or helplessness.

The list goes on, and it's very helpful.

But here's the thing about those symptom checklists: They leave out a few of the nasty little surprises that this jerk of an illness has in store for you.

I'm here to tell you a few things about depression that you may not realize.

## 1. You're not the only one.

We all like to think that no one has ever felt the way we've felt in the history of the world, even though if you watch any John Hughes movie, you'll find that this is not the case.

And this is definitely what people struggling with depression think.

When you're depressed, you feel unbelievably terrible. You might not want to get out of bed. You might have a tough time concentrating. You might not want to eat. You might feel restless. You may even have actual, physical aches and pains. Surely, no one could have ever felt as low and empty as you do now, right?

Your situation; your pain, is not unique.

This is a good thing. Because doctors can diagnose and treat an illness that they've seen before.

## 2. Nondepressed people really don't understand.

Friends and family members who have never grappled with depression will find it tough to understand what you're going through.

Some people might try to empathize and help, which is great. Other people might think they're being helpful by saying things like "Get over it" or "Just buck up." Heck, even the great Lloyd Dobler told his obviously depressed sister to "decide to be in a good mood and be in a good mood."

The point is that you're likely surrounded by a lot of people who have no idea what you're going through.

When 350 million people have an illness, though, you also are likely surrounded by at least a few people who do know what you're going through.

You can talk to someone who understands. You can find online depression support groups. You can talk with a therapist. And then, when you're feeling better, you can offer your help to someone else.

## 3. Your depression is smarter than you.

Anything you try to come up with to outwit depression, that little jerk comes back with something cleverer.

"I'm going to make a list of the good things in my life," you say.

"I really like my job."

Yeah, but it doesn't pay enough to cover all that student loan debt.

"I have a spouse/partner/family who really loves me." Oh, gimme a break. Remember that big fight you had last week? This is the beginning of the end, and you know it.

The bright side: With therapy, self-care and, maybe, medication, you can start outwitting that little voice until eventually you drown it out.

## 4. Every day is a struggle.

If you don't fight back against your depression — actively fight back every day — then it will sneak up and punch you in the back of the head.

"But I'm cured," you say. "I went through therapy, and I'm feeling better." That's great, but your depression isn't cured; it's just in remission.

Because that little jerk never really goes away. And, honestly, this is the worst and most, well, depressing part of depression. You may have locked him up, but he's got a rock hammer, pressure and time, and eventually he will tunnel his way back into your consciousness ... unless you keep fighting him.

Your therapist can recommend daily habits and tasks to help with your symptoms.

For example:

- Actively taking notice of the things that you're



WESTEND61

There are handy lists all over the internet about depression. But symptom checklists leave out a few of the nasty little surprises that this jerk of an illness has in store for you.

grateful for.

- Keeping a journal of your emotions and activities.

- Meditating.

- Exercising.

- Spending time with friends.

In the end, depression really sucks. But I hope these little heads-ups will

help you as you step into the ring to fight it.

*Nicholas Padiak is a freelancer.*



VHT STUDIOS PHOTOS



# Georgian-style mansion in Glencoe: \$4,595,000

ADDRESS: 443 Sheridan Road in Glencoe

ASKING PRICE: \$4,595,000

Listed on Nov. 17, 2016

The Pabst Manor is a gated residence that features large rooms, rich architectural details and a classic floor plan designed for both large scale entertaining and intimate family gatherings. The property spans more than 2 acres and includes a pool, spa and sport court. The home includes eight bedrooms and 8.4 baths, a sweeping staircase, living room, formal dining room, commercial-grade kitchen and restored walnut library. The lower level has a theater, barber shop and original Pabst bar. Property also includes a large, renovated coach house; four-car heated garage with wash station; and elevator.

Agent: Wendy Friedlich of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage's Glencoe office, 312-618-5751

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

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## Chicago Tribune

PRESENTS



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FDR AND BEYOND:  
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## FAMILY FRIENDLY

# Ring in the new year with as a family in Park Ridge

BY MYRNA PETLICKI  
Pioneer Press

Everybody has fun at the Park District of Park Ridge's annual New Year's Eve Celebration. "It's not just a mom and dad with their children," said recreation supervisor Mary Bart. "We have grandmas, grandpas, aunts and uncles."

This year's event is 5-8 p.m. Dec. 31 at Centennial Fitness Center, 1515 W. Touhy Ave.

"We have all kinds of inflatables, bounce houses, mini golf," Bart said. "We'll have a photographer taking family photos so they can have a remembrance of their wonderful evening."

The band 45rpm will perform.

There's also a "fabulous dinner," Bart reported. "We've got a huge assortment of food." That includes chicken, Italian sausage, meatballs, pasta with Alfredo sauce, mostaccioli, and mini hotdogs and chips, plus a dessert buffet.

"At 8 o'clock we do a balloon drop with confetti canons, party hats and blowers," Bart said. "The whole family can ring in the New Year together."

The cost is \$18 per person. Reservations are required by Dec. 23.

For details, call 847-692-5127 or go to [www.prparks.org](http://www.prparks.org).

## Tiny tot time

The littlest revelers will be found at Itty Bitty New Year, 10 a.m.-noon Dec. 29 at the Exploritorium, 4701 Oakton St. Skokie. There will be a DJ, games, prizes, crafts, family entertainment and a countdown and balloon drop at noon. The cost is \$13 for resident children; \$16 for nonresident children; \$2 for ages 16 and over.

For details, call 847-674-



PARK DISTRICT OF PARK RIDGE

Every member of the family will have a great time at the Park District of Park Ridge's annual New Year's Eve Celebration 5-8 p.m. Dec. 31 at Centennial Fitness Center, 1515 W. Touhy Ave.

1500, ext. 2700 or go to [www.skokieparks.org/exploritorium](http://www.skokieparks.org/exploritorium).

## Free to learn

Children and students can visit the Illinois Holocaust Museum & Educational Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, for free during Winter Break at the Museum, through Jan. 2. There will be family activities all day. Kids 8-12 will learn how to defend others in the Harvey L. Miller Family Youth Exhibition. For details, call 847-967-4889 or go to [www.ilholocaustmuseum.org](http://www.ilholocaustmuseum.org).

## Shedding light on Kwanzaa

The first day of Kwanzaa will be celebrated at 11 a.m.

Dec. 26 at Fountain Square, Davis Street between Orrington and Sherman avenues, in downtown Evanston. The Kinara will be lit and the Seven Principles of Kwanzaa will be recited. There will also be music and singing.

For details, call 847-448-8254 or go to [www.cityofevanston.org](http://www.cityofevanston.org).

## Set sail

The third installment in "The Chronicles of Narnia" series will be shown at 1 p.m. Dec. 28 at Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St. You don't have to have seen the earlier installments to enjoy "The Voyage of the Dawn Treader."

For details, call 847-663-1234 or go to [www.nileslibrary.org](http://www.nileslibrary.org).

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trbcht-129712

## FALL FETE RAISES \$224,000 FOR LAWRENCE HALL



RAMZI DREESSEN/LAWRENCE HALL

David Dickow and Katrin Eisenberg of Park Ridge, from left, MaryBeth Cvengros, Maura Koutoujlan, artist Marketa Sivek, Beth Clark and Beth Treacy were among 340 guests at the Fall Fete benefiting Lawrence Hall, a children and family service agency in Chicago on Sept. 24. The event, held at Zhou B Art Center, Chicago, raised \$224,000 to fund the agency's services. More at [www.lawrenchall.org](http://www.lawrenchall.org).

## ELVIS TRIBUTE SHOW AT NORTH SHORE CENTER



"The closest thing to the King" Shawn Klush will be one of the headliners in the Elvis Tribute Artist Spectacular, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 5 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. He'll be joined by Cody Ray Slaughter and Ryan Pelton in a celebration of the King's 82nd birthday. Special guests DJ Fontana and Elvis' back-up singers, the Sweet Inspirations, all accompanied by the Fabulous Ambassadors Band. Tickets are \$22-\$51. Call 847-673-6300 or see [www.northshorecenter.org](http://www.northshorecenter.org).

NORTH SHORE CENTER

## GALA RAISES \$36,000 FOR REMBRANDT MUSICIANS



GINA GRILLO/PIONEER PRESS

Pianist Yana Reznik of Chicago, from left, Carol Cook, Rembrandt violinist, of Chicago, and Rembrandt violinists John and Karyn Macfarlane of Niles were among 86 music aficionados at the Benefit Gala and Auction supporting the Rembrandt Chamber Musicians held Oct. 30 at Sunset Ridge Country Club, Northfield. The Gala also honored Steve Robinson, retired Executive Vice President and General Manager of WFMT, and raised \$36,000 to support the ensemble. More at [www.rembrandtchamberplayers.org](http://www.rembrandtchamberplayers.org).

## MIC WANTS KIDS TO FIDDLE AROUND



DUPAGE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVES

Kids can try out violins or any of a number of real instruments during the Music Institute of Chicago's Musical Petting Zoo and Registration Days in January. The events are free and open to the public. Families will also learn about options for lessons and classes. Petting Zoo days will be: 2 p.m. Jan. 8, at the Evanston East Campus, 1490 Chicago Ave.; 2 p.m. Jan. 21 at the Highland Park Library, 494 Laurel Ave. and 2 p.m. Jan. 22 at the Winnetka Campus, 300 Green Bay Road. More at [www.musicinst.org](http://www.musicinst.org).

## Share your event

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

**SKOKIE**

Three-bedroom, two-bath ranch built in 1956 on double lot. Open floor plan for living and dining rooms, hardwood floors under carpeting. Two baths with one being a shared master bath with separate shower stall, ceiling fans, sprinkler system, gas line grill and flood-control system. Landscaped yard with patio and greenery.

**Address:** 8548 Central Park Ave.  
**Price:** \$274,000  
**Schools:** Niles North High School  
**Taxes:** \$7,656  
**Agent:** Judy Reich, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Edgebrook

**WHEELING**

Three-bedroom, two-bath, custom-built ranch built in 1989. Bay window in living room, new stainless steel appliances, new flooring and lighting. Full basement has nine-foot ceilings. Professionally landscaped property, handicapped accessible with wheelchair ramp in garage for no stair entry.

**Address:** 803 Reef Court  
**Price:** \$314,999  
**Schools:** Wheeling High School  
**Taxes:** \$2,734  
**Agent:** Connie Hoos, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

**LAKE ZURICH**

Four-bedroom, 2.5-bath traditional design home built in 1991. Finished basement, marble flooring, two-story foyer. Formal dining area and living room with plush carpet, den, family room with floor to ceiling windows, fireplace and bar area, second-floor master suite with vaulted ceilings, walk-in closet and a private bath. Finished basement, newly/fully fenced yard.

**Address:** 1257 William Drive  
**Price:** \$475,000  
**Schools:** Lake Zurich High School  
**Taxes:** \$13,521.33  
**Agent:** Jane Lee, RE/MAX Top Performers

**HIGHLAND PARK**

Five-bedroom, four-bath home built in 1924. Open floor plan, master bedroom, hardwood floors. Mud room connects to two-car garage. Original fireplace separates living room and office. Wooden staircase, bedrooms have natural light, private entrance to bonus room.

**Address:** 1940 Elmwood Drive  
**Price:** \$825,000  
**Schools:** Highland Park High School  
**Taxes:** \$13,006  
**Agent:** Carol Ring, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Glencoe

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# Some holiday multitasking with 2 friendly modernists

BY CINDY DAMPIER  
Chicago Tribune

Sure, lines to see Santa are long, and getting a perfect gift for your cousin is tricky, but nothing triggers more anxiety come holiday time than the thought of guests.

Which is why we've collected a little hosting advice from the founders of Blu Dot ([www.bludot.com](http://www.bludot.com)), John Christakos and Maurice Blanks.

"We're the friendly modernists," says Christakos.

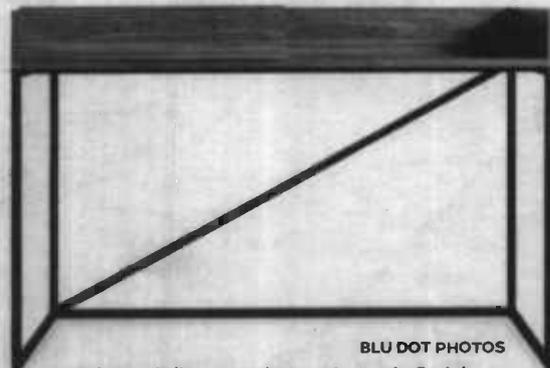
Blu Dot prides itself on a minimalist look, married to total practicality. That's precisely the sort of thing you might need if holiday visitors are bearing down on your place. So here's a plan, courtesy of two smart, design-minded furniture guys.

First, take a breath. Next, take a drink. (We say opt for whiskey.) Third, consider these simple ideas.

**Grab a few little friends:** Small ottomans, stools or benches can be useful in many spots around the house — in a mudroom or hallway for pulling on shoes, at the foot of a bed or next to a cozy chair as a place to set your drink. They can serve as extra seating when the house fills up with people.

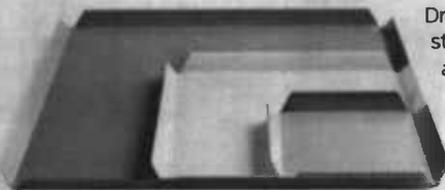
"These are nice things in a bedroom or hallway that you can pull out and bring to the living room," says Christakos. "They're presentable, but when you're done you can stick them back in the mudroom or bedroom, wherever. You don't want to buy something that's just for the holidays."

You may already own pieces like this. If not, Blu Dot's Hecks ottomans are a good example — they can be grouped to make a large ottoman, double as seating or coffee table, and be topped with a tray to create



BLU DOT PHOTOS

With its sliding wood top, Blu Dot's Swish Console Desk allows you to easily hide your documents or laptop before guests arrive.



Drop these stylish trays on an ottoman or coffee table and top with decor or drinks.

a stable surface. Which comes in handy "when you have the big crowds and everybody's eating in their laps," says Blanks.

**Set the table:** When it comes to multitaskers, no piece of furniture holds a candle to the dining room table. Christakos and Blanks say the simpler the table, the better your house will function.

"Suppose you're having all these family members for dinner," says Blanks, "and the other 364 days you're not having anyone over, but you want to have that table be functional."

A table with simple lines can transition into a workspace and be paired with different seating, like dining chairs or a task chair.

**Think clean thoughts:** Blanks, who likes the idea of being able to tuck away necessary clutter such as bills and your laptop, points to Blu Dot's Swish Console Desk as a solution, with a wood top that slides closed to hide your daily mess.

Emptying a drawer near your bill-paying spot or adding a good-looking,

lidded storage box can also create a clutter-hiding space. Sweep papers and laptop inside when the doorbell rings.

**Try some trays:** If you're looking to make really small, smart changes, consider a stylish, hard-working tray. Drop it on an ottoman or coffee table, and it becomes a quick way to serve food and drink. Left near the front door, a tray becomes a target for keys or mail and can be whisked out of sight when company's coming.

Sitting on a kitchen counter, a tray can make the cheese and crackers look like a well-planned appetizer, or corral the DIY cocktail station. Propped against the backsplash, trays can double as artwork (Blu Dot's nifty set of 100% Trays can be rearranged into color-blocked configurations of your choosing, Christakos notes).

And, last but not least, since they're basically flat, trays make a great gift that tucks into a suitcase. Now that's multitasking.

[cdampier@chicagotribune.com](mailto:cdampier@chicagotribune.com)

ADDRESS	BUYER	SELLER	DATE	PRICE
819 E Miner St, # 1B, Arlington Heights	Egle Bartkiene	Michael J Chamberlai Estate	11-16-16	\$75,000
2424 E Oakton St, # 1E, Arlington Heights	Lawrence N La Rocco	Cirrus Investments Group Llc	11-14-16	\$85,000
815 S Dwyer Ave, # E, Arlington Heights	Nazar Halambets	Fannie Mae	11-14-16	\$110,000
2403 E Brandenberry Ct, # 1D, Arlington Heights	Pamela Domas	First Arm Investment Group Inc	11-14-16	\$112,500
1627 N Windsor Dr, # 308, Arlington Heights	Agnieszka Jureczko	Florence Nuebling	11-15-16	\$125,000
535 S Cleveland Ave, # 207, Arlington Heights	Stanislaw Zalewski	Teresa Myslinski	11-15-16	\$143,000
1408 W Crane St, # 7, Arlington Heights	Pavlo Mazurenko	1287 Lp	11-15-16	\$165,000
1375 S Old Wilke Rd, Arlington Heights	John P Vaccaro	Regina J Heiderman	11-17-16	\$184,000
3924 Newport Way, Arlington Heights	Robert A Steinbach & Jennelyn Javier	Kathleen A Traynor	11-16-16	\$215,500
718 E Euclid Ave, Arlington Heights	Mark D Shepley Jr & Ellen T Shepley	Michael Nowakowski	11-16-16	\$285,000
1004 N Kennicott Ave, Arlington Heights	John H Sherrier & Colleen B Sherrier	Caleb Adreani	11-17-16	\$300,000
1703 N Mitchell Ave, Arlington Heights	Robert Krupa & Anna Dumelle	North Shore Holdings Ltd	11-16-16	\$300,000
1620 N Chestnut Ave, Arlington Heights	Linda S Bearden	Joshua D Duplantier	11-14-16	\$310,000
216 N Haddow Ave, Arlington Heights	Keith Halvorsen & Lisa Halvorsen	Laurel M Buechner	11-17-16	\$310,000
102 Sigwalt St, Arlington Heights	Cameron R Trail & Colleen K Trail	Claire Blaha	11-16-16	\$334,000
1103 E Euclid Ave, Arlington Heights	Paul Duchek & Susan Duchek	Lucille J Gallagher Estate	11-15-16	\$337,500
2 W Euclid Ave, Arlington Heights	Jose Tovar & Miriam Tovar	Timothy H Dunlevy	11-17-16	\$364,000
1605 E Fleming Dr S, Arlington Heights	Jeffrey D Greenberg & Margaret Lear	Robert J Raucci	11-14-16	\$370,000
307 S Rammer Ave, Arlington Heights	Joshua Duplantier & Laura Duplantier	Michael Robert Mcnutt	11-14-16	\$380,000
807 W White Oak St, Arlington Heights	Daanish Syed & Sumaira Shemaan	Lucy Turaka	11-15-16	\$385,000
1807 E Crabtree Dr, Arlington Heights	Sharhel Dekelaita & Dana Dekelaita	Trinity Investments Inc	11-15-16	\$400,000
44 N Vail Ave, # 203, Arlington Heights	Neelkanth S Chaubal	Lori Ann Adams	11-16-16	\$430,000
2610 N Brighton Pl, Arlington Heights	David Ramsey & Linda Ramsey	Hummingbird Az Llc	11-14-16	\$465,000
1307 E Waverly Pl, Arlington Heights	Keith Brennan & Donna Brennan	Louis Vena	11-15-16	\$525,000
1206 Churchill Ct, Buffalo Grove	Ira Schoenburg	S David H Pawlan	11-08-16	\$132,000
140 Manchester Dr, # 307, Buffalo Grove	Alex Glukhovskiy & Mark D Glukhovskiy	Udell Trust	10-31-16	\$180,000
372 Satinwood Ter, # 197 3, Buffalo Grove	Leonard Zlatnikov & Ruslan Kaplan	Intercounty Judicial Sales Co	10-28-16	\$192,500
415 Woodbury Rd, # 405, Buffalo Grove	Yesha Patel & Vipulkumar Patel	Ury Backiev	10-27-16	\$221,000
409 Hazelwood Ter, Buffalo Grove	Sudheer Kumar Gajula & Lalithadevi Gajula	Andre H Ramirez	10-31-16	\$245,000
1203 Larraway Dr, Buffalo Grove	Bing Mao & Yir3 Huang	National Residential Nominee S	11-08-16	\$363,000
980 Knollwood Dr, Buffalo Grove	Nitin Sudaki Dharrao	Gennady Gertsman	10-27-16	\$370,000
350 Satinwood Ct N, Buffalo Grove	Donald D Braun & Juan Braun	Anne Clark	10-28-16	\$400,000
86 Manchester Dr, Buffalo Grove	Taskin Kose & Ciler Seda Rose	Gregory Wood	10-26-16	\$405,000
1139 Lockwood Ct E, Buffalo Grove	Christopher M Scott & Jodi B Scott	Anthony S Balter	11-08-16	\$428,000
2007 Tree Farm Ct, Buffalo Grove	Andrew Ellis & Peggy Ellis	Deutsche Bank Natl Tr Co Ttee	11-08-16	\$462,500
1609 Newgate Ct, Buffalo Grove	Jill Donovan	Andrew Vincent Ellis	10-31-16	\$470,000
750 Pearson St, # 309, Des Plaines	Andriji Dobrianski	Kevin Tyschper	11-17-16	\$71,000
650 Murray Ln, # 115, Des Plaines	Waldemar J Luczak	Candace Tabor	11-17-16	\$86,000
1222 Brown St, # 1W, Des Plaines	Maria Skaarbrevik	Bari 3 Llc	11-17-16	\$90,000
677 S River Rd, # 1D, Des Plaines	Lisa Brinkerhoff	Michael P Massari	11-15-16	\$91,500
1062 Greenview Ave, Des Plaines	Katarzyna Korask Midor & Michol P Midor	Jbmm Investment Llc	11-15-16	\$150,000
8908 W Emerson St, Des Plaines	Paulson Thariath	Us Bank Na Trustee	11-16-16	\$167,000
2381 Cedar St, Des Plaines	Jamil A Chimon & Farida A Rowcil	Yolanda C Dorantes	11-14-16	\$195,500
8908 Robin Dr, Des Plaines	Mayra L Monterroso	Mirjana Hervoic Estate	11-15-16	\$212,000
909 S 2nd Ave, Des Plaines	Paul A Raimondi & Maryellen M Rafalski	Mark A Shekerjian	11-15-16	\$220,000
770 Pearson St, # 310, Des Plaines	Eugenia Wuczynski	Nicole Schaefer	11-14-16	\$225,000
620 Van Buren Ave, Des Plaines	Julio Gaona	Laxmi M Patel	11-15-16	\$230,000

ADDRESS	BUYER	SELLER	DATE	PRICE
747 S 5th Ave, Des Plaines	Nora V Quindao	Nicholas Ulbert	11-14-16	\$235,000
1084 W Grant Dr, Des Plaines	Dale M Strzyz	Mario Ganchovski	11-17-16	\$249,000
2880 Eisenhower Dr, Des Plaines	Elizabeth McDonough & Francis P Dimuzio	Eugene Navarrete	11-15-16	\$272,000
648 Polynesian Dr, Des Plaines	Sabu Thomas & Susama Thomas	Vincent M Manzella	11-15-16	\$280,000
179 W Millers Rd, Des Plaines	Sunny Patel & Sunitia I Patel	Salvation Army	11-15-16	\$290,000
1959 Birch St, Des Plaines	Hani Rihani & Samar Rihani	Right Residential II Fund I	11-15-16	\$357,500
133 Ashland Ave, Des Plaines	Michael D Mulhern & Meghan G Mulhern	Us Bank Na Trustee	11-17-16	\$507,500
2301 Central St, # 2E, Evanston	Marlath P Trainor	Mark L Horwitz	11-15-16	\$105,000
422 Keeney St, Evanston	Srikant Reganti	Intercounty Judicial Sales Co	11-17-16	\$110,500
1615 Monroe St, # 3S, Evanston	Danielle L Schaefer	Robert A Ship	11-14-16	\$129,000
3500 Church St, # 314, Evanston	Teresita C Juan	Nilda Gomez	11-16-16	\$158,000
732 Hinman Ave, # 3E, Evanston	Givi Peradze	Alliance For Revitalized Commu	11-16-16	\$168,000
2216 Lake St, Evanston	Janella T Hardin	Donald M Edens Estate	11-16-16	\$175,000
1222 Chicago Ave, # 701, Evanston	Alice Chrostowski	Lisa K Alworth	11-14-16	\$205,000
400 Main St, # 5C, Evanston	Yelena Dligach	Jian Wang	11-17-16	\$222,000
2008 Lake St, Evanston	Karla Tennes Koziura & Sebastian Koziura	Joy Doby Langford	11-15-16	\$230,000
1748 Brown Ave, Evanston	Jose Alfredo Alanis & Cetucla Perez	City Capital Holdings Llc	11-17-16	\$240,000
832 Forest Ave, Evanston	Amy Walker	Aaron Roger Maat	11-14-16	\$255,000
1830 Ridge Ave, # 403, Evanston	Gabrielle C Hagele	Jeffery Johnson	11-16-16	\$267,500
104 South Blvd, # A, Evanston	Donald Sobczak & Susan Sobczak	Lallene J Rector	11-16-16	\$271,000
2129 Dobson St, Evanston	Jill Kostel	Suzanne Claussen	11-16-16	\$295,000
2665 Hillside Ln, Evanston	Andrew Lerchen & Melonie F Lerchen	James R Steman	11-17-16	\$420,000
2415 Noyes St, Evanston	Richard A Lehner & Grace G Lehner	Susan D Schultz	11-17-16	\$425,000
2721 Simpson St, Evanston	Henry Thompson & Elizabeth Thompson	Robert Killian	11-16-16	\$518,000
2519 Sherman Ave, Evanston	Carter Howard	Roger F Cain	11-16-16	\$660,000
1633 Asbury Ave, Evanston	Melissa Berler & Katherine L Stuckemeyer	Robert L Toton	11-15-16	\$865,000
8440 Callie Ave, # 304, Morton Grove	Sung Han Han & Jennifer Kil	Afshin Asadnejad	11-17-16	\$210,000
8300 Concord Dr, # 603, Morton Grove	Gerry Noorts & Mary Lou Noorts	Zhuzhong Cao	11-16-16	\$245,000
7209 Lyons St, Morton Grove	Marc Lyngge & Voula Kakaletis	Imes T Donos	11-15-16	\$268,000
7412 Arcadia St, Morton Grove	Jehangir Suriya	Hall Trust	11-17-16	\$275,000
7502 Arcadia St, Morton Grove	Erwin Janush & Caryn Mullaney	Sur Investment Group Inc	11-14-16	\$410,000
8315 Gross Point Rd, Morton Grove	Wasay Zabih & Zakia Naderi	Mumtaz A Khan	11-16-16	\$505,000
9408 Neenah Ave, Morton Grove	Ketan Mehta & Kirti K Metha	Brandon Schwartz	11-14-16	\$520,000
9128 W Terrace Dr, # 5L, Niles	Kassandra Crespo	Liubove Sivolova	11-14-16	\$98,500
8815 W Golf Rd, # 3D, Niles	Dennis Memedovski	Midwest Investment Group Llc	11-16-16	\$118,000
8801 W Golf Rd, # 11, Niles	Hermenegildo P Sales & Marina Y Sales	Christopher Schmidt	11-16-16	\$148,000
6755 N Milwaukee Ave, # 310, Niles	Karoly Varga & Christina Varga	Edwin J Bielski	11-14-16	\$186,000
8239 N New England Ave, Niles	Sam W Korel & Atra Ishaya	See Hyon Kwon	11-17-16	\$220,000
8201 N Milwaukee Ave, Niles	Robert Eshaq	Dinzburg Trust	11-16-16	\$238,000
8022 N Ottawa Ave, Niles	Roman Alvarado & June E Alvarado	Right Residential II Fund Llc	11-15-16	\$380,000
6952 N Lexington Ln, Niles	Mark S Mitchell & Dawn M Mitchell	Cynthia J Taheny	11-17-16	\$622,000
635 Parkwood Ave, Park Ridge	Ivelina Ivanova	Judicial Sales Corp	11-15-16	\$234,000
1731 Pavilion Way, # 503, Park Ridge	Daniel L Mortland & Mary K Mortland	Karim Poonja	11-16-16	\$236,500
905 Goodwin Dr, Park Ridge	Oscar Salas Castillo	Kamran Lawrence	11-14-16	\$257,000
417 N Northwest Hwy, Park Ridge	Marek Spirczak	Wells Fargo Bank Trustee	11-16-16	\$340,000
303 S Northwest Hwy, # 2, Park Ridge	Jeffrey Brian Cook & Carrie Gene Cook	Brighton Mews Ventures Llc	11-15-16	\$515,000
1122 S Western Ave, Park Ridge	Leonard Randazzo	Edmund Claussen	11-14-16	\$522,500
732 Ottawa Ave, Park Ridge	William Patrick Mcgeean Jr	Pennymac Corp	11-17-16	\$575,000
116 N Prospect Ave, Park Ridge	Frank J Sensenbrenner III & Margaret Ryznar	Josephine Nowak	11-14-16	\$647,000
425 S Home Ave, Park Ridge	David Gwyer & Tiffany Gwyer	Clear Vue Oppoutunity Xxii Llc	11-15-16	\$712,000
46 Meacham Ave, Park Ridge	David Kirk & Joni Kirk	Hinkley Park Development Llc	11-15-16	\$733,500
501 S Chester Ave, Park Ridge	Terrence P Bannon & Barbara A Kilian	James Coakely	11-14-16	\$980,000

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



KOHLER

Fireclay is used often to create farmhouse or apron-style kitchen sinks.

## HOME REMEDIES

# Durable, versatile option for kitchen sinks: fireclay

BY ED DEL GRANDE  
Tribune News Service

**Q: I have been looking into kitchen sinks, and fireclay kitchen sinks keep popping up. What exactly is a fireclay kitchen sink, and can you tell me a little more about them?**

**A:** Two very popular choices for kitchen sinks are cast iron and stainless steel. But there are other very good material choices for kitchen sinks out there, and fireclay is one of them. Basically it's a heavy-duty ceramic product where the clay and glaze are fired together at very high temperatures and fuse together.

Fireclay is used often to create farmhouse or apron-style kitchen sinks because of its beauty and versatility. Because it is a very durable clay product,

textured designs can be embedded in the kitchen sink as well to create a strong artistic impression.

**Q: I plan on remodeling my bathroom and want to install very elegant plumbing fixtures. Also, I want to conserve water and plan on installing a very efficient toilet.**

**For my bathroom faucets, I really want a classic look. Do they make high-efficiency faucets available in classic styles?**

**A:** In today's green building market, just because you want to save water does not mean that you have to sacrifice good looks.

Many of today's high-efficiency toilets, shower heads and faucets include many different styles to choose from. Styles are

available from contemporary to nostalgic, and even though the styles can be very different, the water-saving goals are the same.

FYI, standard faucets usually use 2.2 gallons per minute. If you want to upgrade to a water-saving faucet, look for a model that uses 1.2 gallons per minute. In many cases you may even find a standard faucet you like, and by simply changing to a high-efficiency aerator, you can save water.

Bottom line: Today's water-saving faucets perform better than ever and are overflowing with style.

*Master contractor/plumber Ed Del Grande is the author of the book "Ed Del Grande's House Call."*

*Distributed by Tribune Content Agency*

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

## Thursday, Dec. 22

**Photos wanted for art project in Des Plaines:** The public is invited to participate in a community photo project in Des Plaines called "On the Street Where You Live, Work, and Play." Submit photos of your house, favorite building, or other interesting structure located in Des Plaines. Community members can upload as many as three photos to [desplainsmemory.org](http://desplainsmemory.org). Once uploaded, the photos are posted online. Photos can also be scanned at the History Center if needed. 10 a.m. daily, Des Plaines History Center, 781 Pearson St., Des Plaines, free, 847-391-5399

**Connecting Cultures: 40 Years at the Mitchell Museum:** The latest exhibit unveiled is: "Connecting Cultures: 40 Years at the Mitchell Museum." The exhibit celebrates four decades of thought-provoking exhibits, lectures, and performances through photographs and memorabilia. There is also a dazzling display of 45 objects donated by key collectors and Native artists who have presented at the museum. 10 a.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. Friday and 10 a.m. Monday-Wednesday, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, \$3 children, seniors; \$5 adults; Tribal Members Free, 847-475-1030

**Contemporary Native Women Opening Doors to Change:** Join the Mitchell Museum for the opening of its latest exhibit, "Contemporary Native Women Opening Doors to Change." 10 a.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. Friday and 10 a.m. Monday-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](http://ComEd.com/HolidayLights) for special offers. 10 a.m. daily except for Christmas Day, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, \$11-\$13, 847-835-5440

**The Hunter and The Bear:** 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, 7:30 p.m. Fridays, 7:30 p.m.

Tuesdays and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays, Writers Theatre, 325 Tudor Court, Glencoe, \$35-\$80, 847-242-6000

**Holiday Store at The Grove:** Escape the mall and find the holiday spirit at The Grove. Discover unique gift items for all those special people on your list, including personalized ornaments, home accessories, gifts and crafts. Proceeds from the sale benefit The Grove. 10 a.m. Thursday and 10 a.m. Friday, The Grove, 1421 Milwaukee Ave., Glenview, free, 847-299-6096

**Glenview Ice Center Winter Carnival:** The times vary through Sunday, Jan. 8 at Glenview Ice Center, for The Winter Carnival which 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 after Thanksgiving at the Glenview Ice Center or online at [glenviewicecenter.org](http://glenviewicecenter.org). For more information, please call 9 a.m. daily, Glenview Ice Center, 1851 Landwehr Road, Glenview, free, 847-724-5670

**Parkinson Wellness Recovery Brain-Body Training:** Parkinson Wellness Recovery/PWR is Parkinson-specific exercise, scientifically designed to target symptoms of PD. It includes boxing training for endurance, agility and stability. The instructor is Drew Surinsky, is an exercise physiologist. 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. Thursdays, 1 p.m. Fridays, 1 p.m. Monday and 9 a.m. and 10 a.m. Tuesday, Glenview Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, \$12-\$17, 847-502-0630

**Winter Art Show Call for Student Submissions:** Artwork submissions are being accepted through Jan. 25 for this Winter Art Show in February. All students who participated in a Park Center Visual Arts Class for fall or winter sessions are eligible to submit one of their favorite pieces for the show. For more information please see your instructor. The Winter Art Show preview night for family and friends is Friday, Feb. 3 from 6-8 p.m. Art will be on display and open to the public throughout February. Noon daily, Glenview Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, free, 847-724-5670

**Be A Santa To A Senior with Home Instead Senior Care:** This season, many area seniors who are alone or impoverished will receive some holiday cheer thanks to the Be a Santa to a Senior program sponsored by Home Instead Senior Care-Northbrook. Choose an ornament, buy the items listed and return them unwrapped by Dec. 23. 6 a.m. Thursday and 6 a.m. Friday, The

Abington of Glenview, 3901 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-418-3300

**A Podcast Listening Party:** Come hear some of the podcasts that are capturing the imaginations of listeners everywhere — The Moth, Serial, Fresh Air, Reply All, The New Yorker Radio Hour, or Wormwood: A Serialized Mystery to name a few. After listening to one 30-minute podcast, discuss the show and talk about similar podcasts you can try. 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. Thursdays and 4 p.m. Tuesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

**Age of the Dinosaurs:** Incredibly lifelike moving and roaring exhibits feature heartwarming scenes of Jurassic family life. Interactive remote control a robotic skeleton, build a dinosaur, dig for fossils and more. 10 a.m. daily except for Christmas Day, Northbrook Court, 2036 Northbrook Ct, Northbrook, \$6 general admission, 847-612-7861

**Karaoke Thursdays:** Enjoy some great pizza and sing a tune or two. 7 p.m. Thursdays, 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 and 10 a.m. Saturday, Fashion Outlets of Chicago, 5220 Fashion Outlets Way, Rosemont, \$34.99, 847-928-7500

**Skating in the Park:** The park's 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. Thursdays, 4 p.m. Fridays, 11 a.m. and 4 p.m. Saturdays and 11 a.m. Monday-Wednesday, MB Financial Park at Rosemont, 5501 Park Place, Rosemont, free,

847-349-5008

**Free Menorah Lighting Kit Available:** Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie is again providing free menorah lighting kits for this Hanukkah season. To receive your kit, call or contact us via the website. 9 a.m. daily, Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie, 4059 Dempster St., Skokie, free, 847-677-1770

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

**LinkedIn 2:** A hands-on workshop for participants with 50 percent or more profile completion that describes the more advanced uses including networking, researching companies, and applying for jobs. To register for Career Moves workshops, visit [https://jvschicago-syhum.formstack.com/forms/career\\_identity](https://jvschicago-syhum.formstack.com/forms/career_identity). 1 p.m. Thursday, Goldie Bachmann Luftig Building, 5150 Golf Road, Skokie, Workshop fees: Career Moves clients: \$10 per workshop and non-clients: \$20 per workshop, 847-745-5460

**Wilmette Public Library Fiber Group:** Join us as we knit, crochet, needlepoint or any type of fiber art. We share ideas, have knit-alongs, group projects and occasional lessons. New members welcome. 10 a.m. Thursdays, Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-859-6356

**2017-2018 Connecting Kids Preschool Openings:** This high-quality community preschool provides for children with special needs, as well as for typically developing children, to prepare children for District 39 kindergarten classrooms. Reserve a spot for your child in next fall's 3-, 4- or 5-year-old classes. Call Julie Pease, Early Childhood Coordinator, at 847-256-0211 extension 6463, or visit the school district website to download a registration form under the "parents" tab. 8:50 a.m. daily, Romona Elementary School, 600 Romona Road, Wilmette, call Early Childhood Coordinator, 847-256-0211

**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

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levels welcome. 5:30 p.m. Thursdays and 5:30 p.m. Monday, Gillson Park, Lake Ave & Michigan Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-251-6834

**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. Thursday and 9 a.m. Monday-Dec. 29, TopGolf Wood Dale, 699 W. Thorn-dale Ave., Wood Dale, \$99, 630-595-4653

## Friday, Dec. 23

**Friday Night Meltdowns:** This is a great night out for teens to join in an awesome skate and dance party! A DJ plays today's hits and disco lighting shines on the ice throughout the night. Call for more information. 8:15 p.m. Fridays, Glenview Ice Center, 1851 Landwehr Road, Glenview, \$8 per person; \$4 for rental skates, 847-724-5670

**Freezin' Fridays During Winter Carnival:** Drop the kids off and finish your holiday shopping while they play broomball, ice skate, make craft projects and meet new friends. Lunch is provided. Walk-ins are welcome on a space available basis for \$60 per child. Free-zin' Fridays is part of the Winter Carnival. 9 a.m. Fridays, Glenview Ice Center, 1851 Landwehr Road, Glenview, \$60, 847-724-5670

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

**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. Fridays, 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. Fridays, Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-692-5127

**7th Heaven/Hillbilly Rockstarz:** 9 p.m. Friday, Joe's Live Rosemont, 5441 Park Place, Rosemont, \$10; 21 and over

**Trans-Siberian Orchestra:** 8 p.m. Friday, Allstate Arena, 6920 Mannheim Road, Rosemont, \$46.50+, 847-635-6601

## Saturday, Dec. 24

**Christmas Eve Service with Choir and Orchestra:** Your family is invited to celebrate Christmas in a warm, traditional setting filled with carols and candlelight, choir and orchestra. 5 p.m. Saturday, First Congregational Church of Evanston, 1445 Hinman Ave., Evanston, free

**Christmas Eve Worship:** Join for worship on Christmas Eve at 4 p.m., 6 p.m. and 9 p.m. as the children offer a Christmas pageant at the early service and each child receives a gift at the early service. All worship services include brass and choirs, candles and communion. The nursery is available for each service and all are welcome. 4 p.m. Saturday, Lutheran Church of the Ascension, 460 Sunset Ridge Road, Northfield, free, 847-446-8335

**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.

**Christmas Eve Early Service:** This family-friendly Christmas Eve service is open and welcoming to all ages. Join us as the children participate in the telling of the Christmas story. 4 p.m. Saturday, Winnetka Covenant Church, 1200 Hibbard Road, Wilmette, free, 847-446-4300

**Candlelight Christmas Eve Service:** This traditional candlelight Christmas Eve service features the choir and the wonderful gifts of guitarist Jack Cimo. 10:30 p.m. Saturday, Winnetka Covenant Church, 1200 Hibbard Road, Wilmette, free, 847-446-4300

**Christmas Eve Dinner at Restaurant Michael:** Christmas Eve features three entree selections including the roast cheateaubriand of beef tenderloin with chive-scented potato croquettes, vegetable bouquetiere and "eggless" bearnaise as well as several first course selections.

A deposit of \$19 per guest is charged upon securing your reservation. 4 p.m. Saturday, Restaurant Michael, 64 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, \$69 per guest, 847-441-3100.

## Sunday, Dec. 25

**Christmas Day at Di Pescara:** Treat yourself to a festive meal, featuring Di Pescara's cold water twin lobster tail-special, served with house-made Mac and Cheese. The regular menu is also available. Noon Sunday, Di Pescara, 2124 Northbrook Court, Northbrook, \$32.95; Regular Menu Pricing Varies, 847-498-4321

**Allgauer's Christmas Champagne Brunch:** Gather with friends and family for Allgauer's spectacular, award-winning Christmas Champagne Brunch featuring over 100 decadent items ranging from unlimited Bubbly Champagne and Mimosas! 10 a.m. Sunday, Hilton Northbrook Hotel, 2855 Milwaukee Ave., Northbrook, \$40 adults; \$18 children 4-10 years, 847-664-7999

**Hanukkah Wonderland at Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie:** Your family will enjoy activities and crafts including time-tested favorites and exciting new ones: dreidel bounce, baby/toddler zone, face paint, make your own doughnuts, Hanukkah loom, duct tape crafts, wood etching, take a picture with Judah Maccabee, dreidel crafts, making cards for Israel, Hanukkah gelt, live presentations and more. Reserve in advance via the website. 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie, 4059 Dempster St., Skokie, Admission is \$10 in advance, and \$12 at the door., 847-677-1770

## Monday, Dec. 26

**"Die Fledermaus (The Bat)":** One of music theater's most beloved works is Johann Strauss' ode to champagne and indiscretion. Husband and wife meet at a party neither is supposed to be attending — and he unwittingly woos his disguised mate. 2 p.m. Monday, 8 p.m. Dec. 29, 8 p.m. Dec. 31 and 2 p.m. Jan. 1, Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson St., Evanston, \$34-\$96, 847-920-5360

**Alliance Francaise Cafe Conversation Apero:** Meet fellow Francophones for mid-evening conversations, in French. Order your vin, biere, cafe, the charcuterie, fromage, ou patisserie and find this group in the main seating area. Facilitated by one or more of the native-speaking or fluent-speaking AF leaders. Listening in French is encouraged, and all levels are welcome. RSVP to alliancefn@yahoo.com four or more days beforehand. No membership required

for newcomers. 7 p.m. Monday, The Glenview Grind, 1837 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-328-9516

**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

**Hanukkah Booth at Westfield Old Orchard:** Show your Jewish pride. Visit the Hanukkah booth at Westfield Old Orchard Mall. Enjoy Hanukkah activities, entertainment, kosher refreshments, Jewish holiday spirit and lighting of the Menorah. 10 a.m. Monday-Jan. 1, Westfield Old Orchard, 4999 Old Orchard Center, Skokie, free, 847-677-1770

## Tuesday, Dec. 27

**Rotary Club of Evanston Lighthouse:** 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

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

**Master Class: Fabric/Rope Drop Analysis:** Designed for the intermediate student, this workshop with Charlie Faraday provides an introduction to the study of drops on fabric or rope. Why drops work, how they work, and what can go wrong are studied in detail. 9 a.m. Tuesday-Dec. 30, Actors Gymnasium, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, \$50, 847-328-2795

**Tuesday Morning Music:** Garden visitors can enjoy free hour-long meditative musical performances on Tuesday mornings in the McGinley Pavilion overlooking Evening Island. Music varies from string quartets to Native American flutes, and are focused towards an older crowd. After the concert, visitors can board a 25-minute narrated tour on the Bright Encounters Tour, a close-up view of the gardens on

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the main island, or the Grand Tram Tour, an overview of the Garden's history and highlights. Tram tickets may be purchased in the Heritage Garden or any ticket location. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, free, 847-835-5440

**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](http://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

**Life Transitions Group:** A support group for men and women who have been widowed for one to four years. The group is volunteer-facilitated and held on the fourth Tuesday of each month. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Park Ridge Nonprofit Center, 720 Garden St., Park Ridge, \$5 per session, 847-720-4170

**Join Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie Chanukah Lounge:** This annual Hanukkah event is for adults. Enjoy the Chanukah Lounge with Mystery Dinner entertainment — a relaxed atmosphere with an open bar and delicious dinner stations! Participate in a live mystery and piece together the clues to solve the crime with lots of good laughs with friends, new and old. At the door is \$25 adult; \$48 couple. Advanced reservations via the website are \$22 adult; \$42 couple. Reserve at: [www.SkokieChabad.org/chanukah](http://www.SkokieChabad.org/chanukah) 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie, 4059 Dempster St., Skokie, Advanced \$22 adult; \$42 couple, 847-677-1770

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

## Wednesday, Dec. 28

**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

**Drop-In Movie:** Enjoy a family movie on the big (Library) screen. 3 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

**"Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory":** This is part of the Library's Classics on Wednesday Film Series. In December, join in for the films of Gene Wilder. 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 provides personalized instruction, answers any questions about knitting, and perhaps gets you started on a new project. Bring your supplies or project in progress. Brush up on your skills, learn new techniques, or just spend an afternoon knitting with others. 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, free, 847-784-6060

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

**"Elf" - An Interactive Holiday Movie Experience:** The audience participates in this awesome interactive movie experience. Rated: PG. 2 p.m. Wednesday, Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

**Public Menorah Lighting:** Come celebrate Chanukah with Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie for our yearly outdoor

menorah lighting! Join us for the lighting ceremony, and for delicious doughnuts, hot chocolate and latkes for all free of charge. 6 p.m. Wednesday, Skokie's Site of Civic Pride at Krier Plaza, 5127 Oakton St., Skokie, free, 847-677-1770

## Thursday, Dec. 29

**Evanston Encore Chorale Holiday Concert:** This public performance presented by The Encore group offers holiday music, including familiar carols, Christmas spirituals, the world premiere of a new Hanukkah piece by artistic director Jonathan Miller and a rollicking Puerto Rican holiday favorite. Amy Wurtz is the accompanist. 3 p.m. Dec. 29, Three Crowns Park Retirement Home, 2323 McDaniel Ave., Evanston, free, 847-328-8700

**Super Silly Dance Party Ages 2 and up with Adult:** Bring your best moves and dancing shoes. Be ready to burn up loads of extra energy by dancing. This is followed by enjoying hot chocolate and treats. Please register at [glenviewpl.org/register](http://glenviewpl.org/register) or call. 6:30 p.m. Dec. 29, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Hot Cocoa In a Cone for Ages 13-18:** Warm up on a cold winter day! Use cocoa, marshmallows, chocolate chips and sprinkles to make a tasty hot cocoa in a cone creation and decorate your own recipe tag. The perfect gift — or simply treat yourself. Please register at [glenviewpl.org/register](http://glenviewpl.org/register) or call. 2 p.m. Dec. 29, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

## Friday, Dec. 30

**Teen Advisory Board VolunTEEN Opportunity Grades 9-12:** If you have an interest in teen services at the Library and would like to help plan programs, discuss books that you love, and have fun brainstorming with your peers and Library staff, join in a TAB meeting. Share your ideas! For December's meeting, please bring a book you have been reading that you would like to share with the group. Service points are awarded and pizza is served. Register at [glenviewpl.org/register](http://glenviewpl.org/register) or call. 5 p.m. Dec. 30, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Hogwarts Potions for Grades 3-6:** Is it magic? Is it science? Join us as we investigate to find out. Rest assured, Professor Snape won't be leading the program. (This is Harry Potter-related, if you did not know.) Please register at [glenviewpl.org/register](http://glenviewpl.org/register) or 847-729-

7500. 2 p.m. Dec. 30, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Reaction NYE 2016:** Dec. 30 lineup: Flume, Anderson .Paak and the Free Nationals, Dillon Francis, Danny Brown, Mr. Carmack, Noname, Kweku Collins and many more. The Dec. 31 Lineup: Zeds Dead, Gucci Mane, Tchami, Manic Focus, Bondax, Smino, Emily Nichols and many more. 5 p.m. Dec. 30 and 5 p.m. Dec. 31, Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 North River Road, Rosemont, \$69 plus, 312-833-9331

## Saturday, Dec. 31

**Family New Year's Eve Party:** Join in a fun event for everyone in the family, on and off the ice! Some activities include: Balloon Twister from 5:50-7 p.m. and a New Year's Eve Kiddie Toast at 7 p.m. New Year's Freeze is part of the Winter Carnival. 5 p.m. Dec. 31, Glenview Ice Center, 1851 Landwehr Road, Glenview, \$8 admit; plus skate rental \$4, 847-724-5670

**Wendy and DB at New Year's Eve Bash:** Wendy & DB love to get kids singing, wiggling, jumping, dancing and just having a great time! This performance is part of Kohl Children's Museum's New Year's Eve Bash, which also features family activities and fun like a giant confetti drop. \$32 per person, \$22 for members, \$5 early bird discount if purchased before Dec. 24. 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Dec. 31, Kohl Children's Museum, 2100 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, \$32; \$22 members; \$5 early bird discount, 847-832-6600

**Happy Noon Year's Eve Party:** If you can't make it until midnight, come celebrate the "Noon Year" instead! Enjoy bouncy inflatables, a creative craft area, fun face painting and an open play area in the main gym. End the morning's festivities with a massive balloon drop in the main lobby at noon! This is for children ages 3-9 years and a parent does not need to register but must accompany their child to this event. 10:30 a.m. Dec. 31, Glenview Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, \$10 per child, 847-724-5670

**New Year's Eve Solree:** Bring in the New Year during lunchtime with your friends and neighbors. Attend this great event and enjoy an upscale menu, champagne toast and musical entertainment of the Falconaires. 12:15 p.m. Dec. 31, The East Wing Glenview Senior Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, \$29; \$35 for non-members, 847-724-5670

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# WILD ALASKA ESCAPE



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- Join a rugged, world-class hike up Mount Riley to soak up epic views
- Bike the edge of a glacial lake in Haines, the "Adventure Capital of Alaska"
- Raise a pint of craft ale with the locals in one of Haines' small town bars
- Visit a preserve that's home to the world's highest concentration of bald eagles
- Encounter tribal culture in the ancient Chilkat Tlingit village of Klukwan
- Search for breaching humpbacks, pods of orcas, foraging bears and bald eagles

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**Ring in the New Year at Pinstripes Northbrook:** Enjoy champagne, music, bocce, bowling and two balloon drops (including one at 8 p.m. for children) to ring in the new year. 7 p.m. Dec. 31, Pinstripes, 1150 Willow Road, Northbrook, No cover; menu items vary, 847-480-2323

**Noon Year's Eve Celebration for All Ages:** Join the library staff for a New Year's celebration where attendees count down to noon! The event offers: crafts, games and fun that culminates in a dance party/balloon drop at high noon. Registration is required. 11 a.m. Dec. 31, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

**Hilton Northbrook's New Year's Eve Gala:** Party all weekend! This New Year's Eve gala package includes: butler-passed hors d'oeuvres, decadent four course dinner, five-hour open bar and champagne toast at midnight, party hats and favors, dancing with an elite DJ, deluxe overnight accommodations, full use of fitness center, indoor pool, whirlpool and sauna and late check-out of 2 p.m. 7:30 p.m. Dec. 31, Hilton Northbrook Hotel, 2855 Milwaukee Ave.,

Northbrook, Package \$375 per couple, 847-509-7072

**New Year's Eve with Bub City and Joe's Live:** Feast on Bub City's Southern BBQ dinner buffet, enjoy tasty premium libations and dig into a late-night breakfast all while taking in a Joe's Live performance of Rod Tuffcurls and the Bench Press. Bonus: There will be a confetti blast at midnight and revelers' NYE tickets are good for \$10 off brunch the next day at Bub City. 9 p.m. Dec. 31, Bub City, 5441 Park Place, Rosemont, Menu Pricing Varies, 847-261-0399

**New Year's Eve at Hofbrauhaus Chicago:** To ring in the New Year, Hofbrauhaus Chicago hosts two New Year's Eve celebrations at their Haus from 2 p.m. until 2 a.m. Hofbrauhaus Chicago presents a family friendly "Munich-style" celebration with a magic show. At 5 p.m. there will be a toast to Germany's New Year with a complimentary glass of champagne or sparkling wine for the little ones and a parade. At the stroke of midnight there will be a champagne prost for 2017 along with a spectacular fireworks display. 2 p.m. Dec. 31, Hofbrauhaus Chicago, 5500 Park Place, Rosemont, free, 847-671-2739

**Ring in the New Year with Jeff Dunham:** Comic/Ventriloquist Jeff Dunham, along with his cast of hilarious characters have embarked on the second leg of their "Perfectly Unbalanced" International Tour. The show is packed with new surprises and old favorites. 3 p.m. Dec. 31, Allstate Arena, 6920 Mannheim Road, Rosemont, free, 800-745-3000

**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. Dec. 31, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, free, 847-967-4800

**Restaurant Michael's New Year's Eve Celebration:** The New Year's Eve dinner will feature three entree selections including the roasted filet of beef tenderloin and truffle mousse "en brioche" with a pinot noir sauce as well as several first course selections including the seared medallion and strudel of foie gras. 5 p.m. Dec. 31, Restaurant Michael, 64 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, \$89, 847-441-3100

**New Year's Eve at Topgolf:** Join

in this New Year's Eve night of fun and an abundant amount of glow sticks and other glow-y things. Reserve an all-inclusive bay package for your group that includes party favors and unlimited Topgolf from 9 p.m. to close. Pricing and packages may vary by location. 9 p.m. Dec. 31, TopGolf Wood Dale, 699 W. Thorndale Ave., Wood Dale, \$175-\$375, 630-595-4653

## Sunday, Jan. 1

**Skate in the New Year - Public Ice Skating Session:** Skate with the Ice Queen at Glenview Ice Center. Come to the public session of ice skating, as part of Glenview Ice Center's annual Winter Carnival. 1 p.m. Jan. 1, Glenview Ice Center, 1851 Landwehr Road, Glenview, various, 847-724-2800

**New Year's Day Brunch at Pinstripes Northbrook:** Enjoy a decadent brunch, including kids' options and a chocolate fountain, to bring in the new year. 9:30 a.m. Jan. 1, Pinstripes, 1150 Willow Road, Northbrook, \$30 per person for adults; \$15 for kids 6-12; free for kids 5 and under, 847-480-2323

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## NOW PLAYING

**"Moana" ★★★**

PG, 1:53, animated

Featuring songs by "Hamilton" creator Lin-Manuel Miranda, the new animated musical adventure "Moana" is bright, busy, enjoyable and progressive without being insufferable. Moana, voiced by Hawaiian actress Auli'i Cravalho, is the daughter of a Pacific Islands chieftain, who leaves her island on a long journey. After a brush with death, she washes ashore on a small island where she meets the Polynesian demigod Maui, voiced by Dwayne

Johnson. The score's signature power ballad, "How Far I'll Go," may well take its rightful place alongside "Frozen's" big hit, "Let It Go," in the female-empowerment earworm department. I prefer Miranda's contribution; like the rest of "Moana," it works. — *Michael Phillips*

**"Office Christmas Party" ★★ 1/2**

R, 1:45, comedy

When it comes to big, brassy studio comedies, a filmmaker can do worse than to gather the brightest, funniest stars, situate them in an odd yet relatable situation and let 'em rip. That's what directors Josh Gordon and Will Speck do with "Office Christmas Party," the delightfully debauched holiday desecration. Working from a screenplay credited to no less than six writers, the greatest strength of "Office Christmas Party" is its

casting. If you've got fabulous weirdos Kate McKinnon and T.J. Miller in lead roles, there are bound to be more than enough laughs. "Office Christmas Party" delights in a grotesque carnival of the worst behavior and still has its heart firmly in the right place. — *Katie Walsh*

**"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 beasts. 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, without being cheap about it. Louise (Amy Adams), a linguistics professor, is brought in to translate the otherworldly beeps and

pops and guttural somethings emitted by the inhabitants of the spacecraft. Shot by cinematographer Bradford Young, "Arrival" will cast a spell on some while merely discombobulating others. Right there, I'd say that indicates it's worth seeing. — *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 movie landscape is fun, light on its feet, pretty stylish and full of tasty, classy performers enlivening the dull bits. I wish Rachel McAdams had additional scenes, but some of

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

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### Death Notices

#### Chambers, Charlotte R.

(nee Menkick) Formerly of Park Ridge, IL. Died peacefully with George, her beloved husband of 67 years, at her side in Shorewood, WI on Dec. 6, 2016 at age 88. Cherished mother of Eileen (Syd) Rosenberg, Gregory (Boon Ai) Chambers, Claudia (John) Glenn, Peter (Janice) Chambers, and Robert (Monica) Chambers. Loving grandmother of Matthew and Christopher Rosenberg, Elise Poole and Daniel Glenn, Sean Chambers, Nate Chambers, Simran, Meera, and Priya Chambers. Dear great-grandmother to Evan and Mia Rosenberg, and Fiona Poole.

Charlotte was a long-time member of St. Paul of the Cross Parish in Park Ridge, IL, and family, faith and friendship were the guiding principles of her life. She will be deeply mourned and greatly missed.

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated at Holy Family Parish, 4825 N. Wildwood Ave. in Whitefish Bay, WI on Friday, December 16 at 12 noon. Internment took place at Queen of Heaven Cemetery, 1400 S. Wolf Rd. Hillside, IL at 12 noon on Saturday, December 17, 2016. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, P.O. Box 96011, Washington, D.C. 20090-6011. Feerick Funeral Home in Milwaukee, WI is assisting the family, (414)962-8383, [www.feerickfuneralhome.com](http://www.feerickfuneralhome.com)

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# Pitch limits seen as good step, but not solution

Rise of year-round baseball complicates effort to reduce arm injuries

BY DAN SHALIN  
Pioneer Press

On the day the IHSA Board of Directors approved the organization's first baseball pitch-count rules last week, the IHSA executive director seemed to acknowledge that the new legislation alone would not reverse the rise in arm injuries among teenage pitchers.

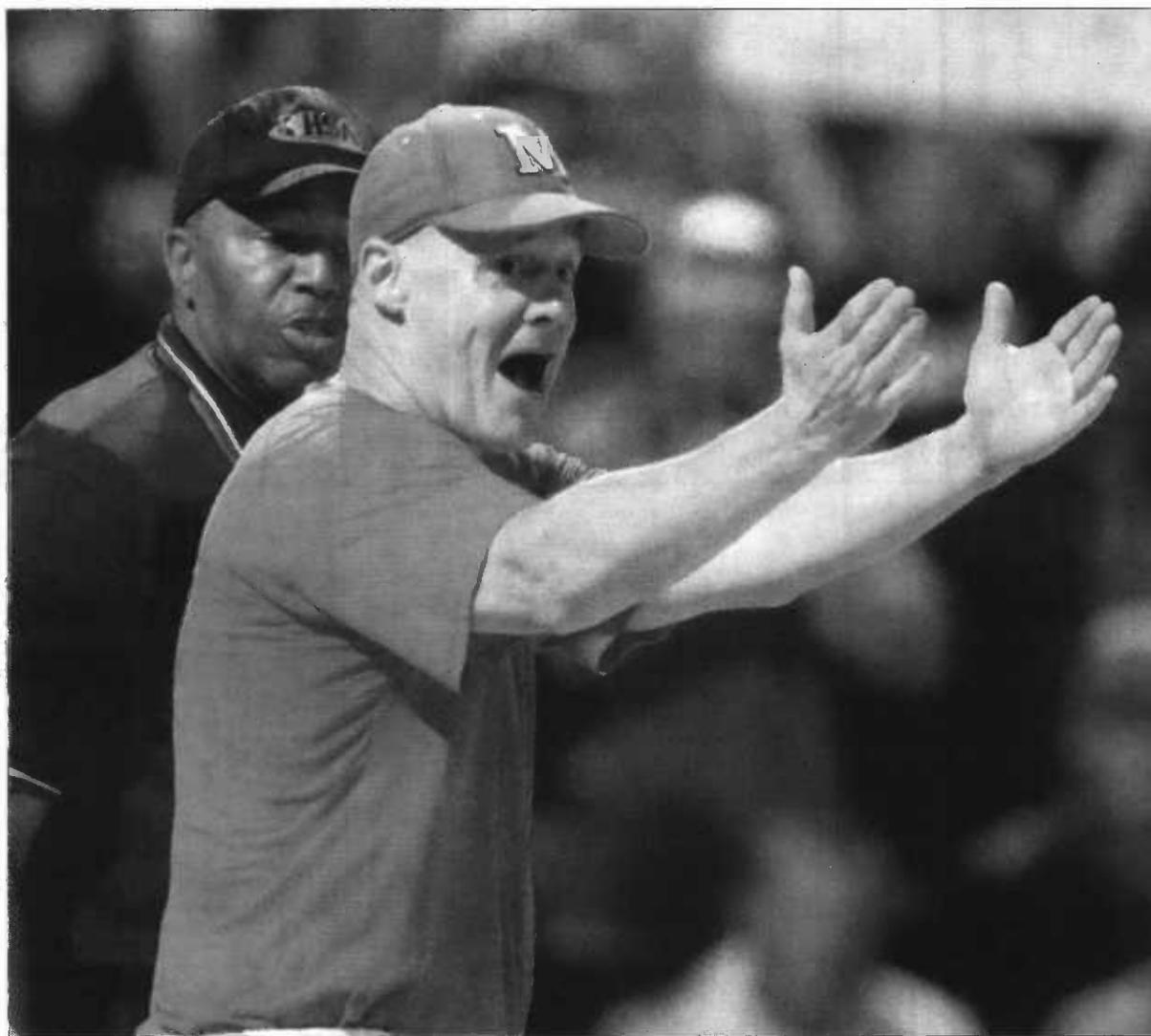
"Ultimately, the high school season encompasses a short window," executive director Craig Anderson said in a statement. "We hope that youth and travel baseball organizations will follow our lead to help protect these pitchers and their arms."

Starting this spring, high school varsity pitchers will be limited to 105 pitches per outing, the IHSA announced on Dec. 12. A pitch limit is now required in every state after a mandate from the National Federation of State High School Associations.

"I think it's a move in the right direction, but it's a small piece of the puzzle," Mundelein baseball coach Todd Parola said.

Increasingly, teenage players not only compete for their high school, but also play on travel teams in the late summer, fall and even winter and also attend college showcases throughout the year in order to face the best competition and catch the eye of college coaches. Often, the talent evaluators at showcases bring out radar guns to measure pitching velocity, which can lead to pitchers extending themselves to the maximum on every throw.

"When I first started, kids threw a lot more pitches and innings (in high school), way more than they



ROB DICKER/PIONEER PRESS

Mundelein baseball coach Todd Parola, who is pictured on June 11 in the Class 4A state championship game, called the 105-pitch limit for varsity pitchers, "a move in the right direction."

should have, and we never had arm injuries," said Parola, who is entering his 23rd season as the head coach at Mundelein. "But kids were done in July and they didn't pick up a ball for six months.

"They'd shut down and give the damage time to recover. That's the bigger issue, these kids don't take time off."

Notre Dame baseball coach Nelson Gord said he cautions his pitchers to choose their offseason activities wisely.

"I don't think anything will stop (year-round baseball), so it has to come down to the players standing up for themselves and families

educating themselves and realizing more is not always better," he said.

Gord, who also is the founder and director of the Illinois Indians travel baseball program, said all high school and club baseball coaches must work together to help ensure the safety of their players.

"There is no reason for high school coaches and travel coaches to point fingers at each other," he said. "Nobody wants to see kids get hurt. We need to work together as a baseball coaching community, not working against each other. Nothing comes of that."

Fifty-seven percent of all Tommy John surgeries per-

formed between 2007-2011 were done on 15- to 19-year-olds, which represented a 9-percent increase per year, according to research presented at the American Orthopaedic Society for Sports Medicine's annual meeting in 2015. The annual growth rate for those surgeries among other age groups was just 4 percent.

Plenty of factors no doubt contribute to these increased numbers, according to Dr. Preston Wolin, director of sports medicine at the Chicago Center for Orthopedics at Weiss Memorial Hospital. He's also the pitching coach at Ida Crown and a member of the IHSA's sports medicine ad-

visory committee.

"But the factors we know about that we can directly correlate (to arm injuries) are exposure and fatigue. We know the more there is overuse, the more there is fatigue and the more there are injuries. There is a direct line," Wolin said.

Billy Laing, a 2009 Lake Forest graduate, said his high school and travel coaches paid close attention to limiting overuse among their pitchers; however, he had Tommy John surgery during his third year at Butler. Laing, who now works in Florida, said he questioned the value of high school players attending so many showcases.

"I think that's a lot of the parents wanting their kids to go to a ton of showcases, half of those are pointless," said Laing, who returned successfully from his surgery to pitch two additional seasons. "A better way to do it is to go to camps at individual colleges. But when it comes down to it, if you're good, you'll get seen. Showcases are more of a money-making thing than anything else."

Wolin said he hopes high school pitch-count rules will help bring more awareness to the overuse issue and eventually play a role in getting high school and club coaches, college scouts, parents and athletes on the same page when it comes to the issue.

"As these rules become part of the high school game, it's going to be harder for a travel coach to say (to a pitcher), 'You can throw more pitches for me (than for high school),' " Wolin said. "Kids are going to say, 'I can't do this in high school,' and parents will say, 'They won't let our son throw this much in high school, why should we do this to our kid?' It will be harder to justify."

Wolin used the example of concussion-awareness to show just how the youth sports culture can evolve.

"When I first started taking care of high school football players, (coaches said) a kid (who got hit in the head) just got his bell rung or got dinged, but I don't see that happening anymore," Wolin said. "The coaches understand about the effect of concussions."

"The fact that we have a process now requiring a protocol following a concussion has had a huge effect on the way the game is played and looked at by everybody: players, coaches, administrators and parents. It's huge."

Dan Shalin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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# READ OPTION

High schoolers connect with D-III, junior colleges at Libertyville football fair

By JON J. KERR  
Pioneer Press

When Anthony Norris Jr. walks into a gymnasium, he's typically clutching a football or basketball. Then he gets to work.

But on the night of Dec. 8, the two-sport Mundelein junior had no intention of working up a sweat when he strolled into the brightly lit gymnasium at Libertyville High School. Instead of throwing a football or shooting a basketball, Norris held a black pen, which he used to fill out questionnaires.

He also answered questions, not about his 40-yard dash time, but about his grade-point average.

"How are you doing in school?" a football coach from Wisconsin-Eau Claire asked Norris.

"Pretty good," Norris said. He has a 3.4 GPA.

"How did you do on the ACT?"

"I haven't taken it yet."

Wisconsin Eau-Claire was one of 21 schools, represented by dozens of coaches, at the Chicagoland College Football Night hosted by Libertyville. Norris and his father, Anthony Norris Sr., spoke with all of the college programs in attendance during the two-and-a-half-hour event.

From the time Anthony Norris Jr. started playing quarterback in seventh grade, he knew he wanted to play college football. Now 6-foot-4 and 215 pounds, Anthony Norris Jr. just completed his first season as the starting quarterback for the Mustangs. Although it will be the fall of 2018 before Anthony Norris Jr. plays college football, he is getting a jump start on his search.

"I just want to play football for as long as I can, at whatever level I can," he said.

That mindset resonates with many local high schoolers, and athletes from the Central Suburban League, Metro Suburban Conference, Mid-Suburban League and North Suburban Conference were among those who flocked to Libertyville.

None of the colleges at the event would be considered household names for the average football fan. Albion, Loras, St. Xavier and Benedictine, for example, are all NCAA Division III or NAIA



MARK KODIAK UKENA/PIONEER PRESS

Mundelein Junior Anthony Norris Jr. (left) and his father, Anthony Sr. (center) talk with Northwestern (Minn.) assistant football coach Matt Moore on Dec. 8 at a college fair at Libertyville.

programs. But with their football seasons over, college coaches switch their focus from Xs and Os to the next class of unheralded recruits.

"I think this kid is a stud," a Coe College defensive assistant coach said to Anthony Norris Jr. while grabbing a brochure off a display table and handing it to the younger Norris. "I'm going to check out your film and be in contact with your dad."

Coe College is located in Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

Just a few feet to the right of the Coe College table stood one for Benedictine, located in Lisle. All head coach Josiah Sears knew about the recruiting class of 2018 is what he's seen on a computer screen. The Libertyville fair offered a chance for Sears to meet players in person and add a personal dynamic to the recruiting process.

"If I speak to them and look at them in the eye and have a positive impact during the conversation, they will remember that," Sears said.

A few minutes later, the Norrises are at another table, this one manned by coaches from Loras, which is in Dubuque, Iowa.

"We have 60 different majors," an offensive assistant coach said. "Do you know what type of field?"

"Something with engineering or political science," the younger Norris said.

The conversations stretched beyond majors and grades. After all, the gymnasium was full of college football coaches, and Anthony Norris Jr. is an aspiring college football player.

An Elmhurst College coach asked Anthony Norris Jr. what position he plays. Upon hearing he played quarterback, the coach asked another question.

"What is your favorite passing concept?"

"Definitely hitches," Anthony Norris Jr. said. "When you can throw a 5-yard out, it's hard to defend."

"So you are a three-step guy? We can do that," the Elmhurst coach said. Anthony Norris Jr. sat at the table and began to fill out a questionnaire.

Anthony Norris Sr. coached his son at the youth level. He likes to talk football, but he likes it more when coaches ask about academics.

"It's always good to hear the coach talk more about the educational offerings, not just the sport," he said. "College football is a way for him to get that professional start."

As the evening came to an end, there were no more forms to fill out. Questions had been asked and answered. The Norrises headed

home with much left to do.

"I have to look through this stuff and email coaches and set up visits," Anthony Norris Jr. said.

But before they left, Anthony Norris Sr. remembered another school on his son's radar. An Ivy League school.

"We got an email this morning from Pennsylvania," Anthony Norris Sr. said. "The email said they have him on their radar and are looking to continue the recruiting process."

"Another one to look at," Anthony Norris Jr. added. "I have to see what schools would be good for me."

Thanks in part to the Libertyville college fair, they'll have plenty of options to consider.

Jon J. Kerr is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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# Notre Dame basketball takes advantage of its size

BY STEVE REAVEN  
Pioneer Press

Notre Dame boys basketball coach Tom Les takes pride in annually rolling out a team that outworks its opponents, excelling in the areas that often don't appear in the box score.

That trademark tenacity remains firmly in place, but the Dons possess another enviable attribute this winter — height.

Depending on matchups, Les often employs a starting five with four players standing at least 6-foot-5. And with the vast majority of its rotation consisting of battle-tested seniors, Notre Dame appears well positioned to achieve its sixth 20-win season in the last seven years.

Controlling the paint has been one of the chief reasons the Dons have won eight of their first nine games. They held the advantage on the glass in each of those outings, including their 72-64 East Suburban Catholic road win over Carmel on Friday.

"It gives us a huge advantage around the basket," Les said. "We normally don't have this type of size, so it's been a little different. It's even allowed us to change the tempo we play at."

Despite the shift in pace, the Dons (8-1, 1-1) are still a far cry from deliberate on offense.

But there is a renewed emphasis on being patient in their half-court sets. That's a sensible approach given the strong likelihood that at least one of Notre Dame's "bigs" will spend most possessions being shadowed by someone several inches shorter.

The senior trio of 6-foot-9 Sean Johnson, 6-6 Jeameril Wilson and 6-5 Chris Heinichen all possess different proficiencies and they're often joined in the lineup by junior Dusan Mahorcic, a 6-8 exchange student from Montenegro.

**"We pound it inside as much as we can, and that leads to a lot of high-percentage shots."**

— Senior forward Chris Heinichen

Wilson, an athletic wing, is perhaps the Dons' best player in the open court. Johnson provides a traditional, back-to-the-basket post player, while Heinichen, who's made almost 70 percent of his shots from the field, is a forward who does a lot of dirty work around the basket.

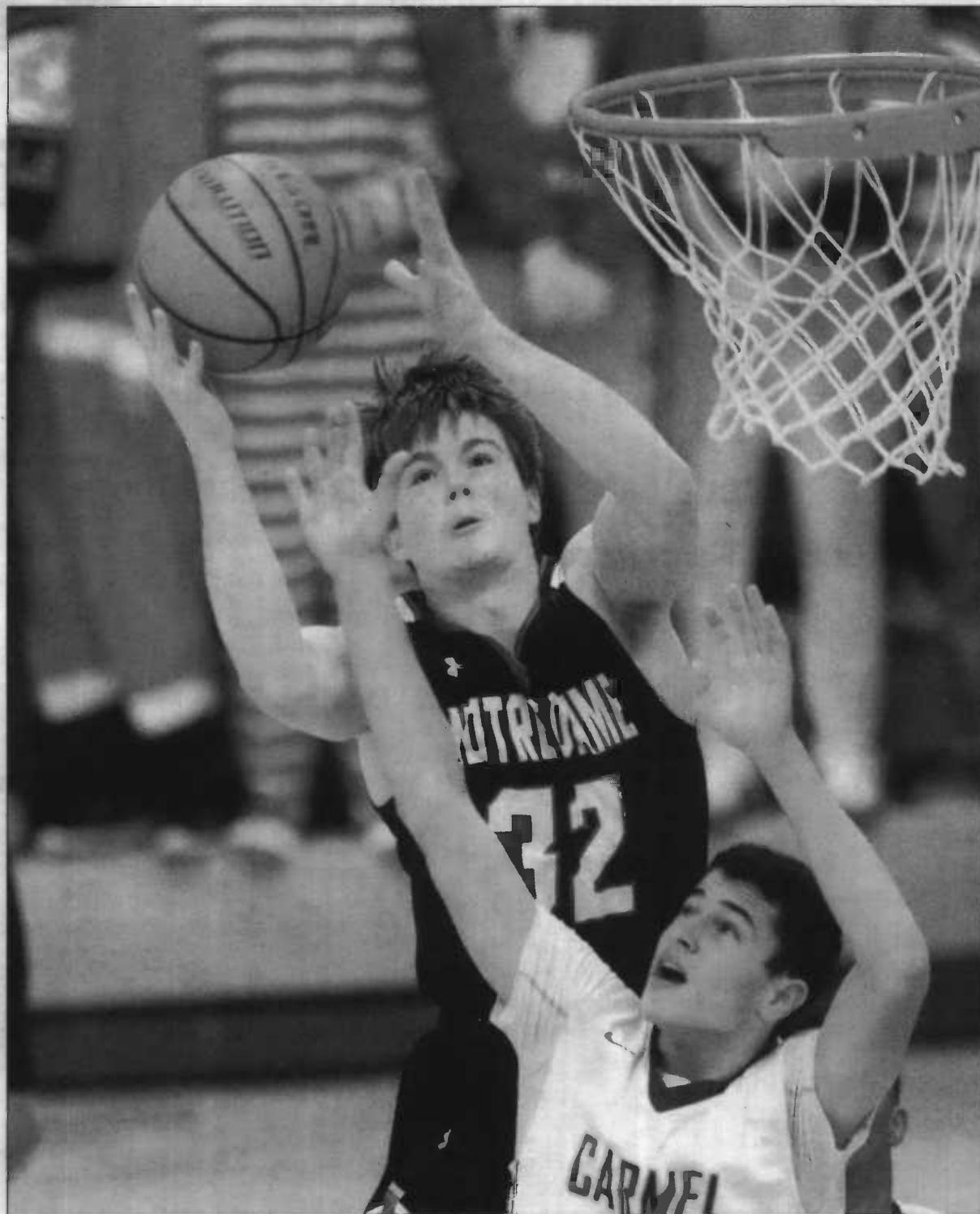
"We pound it inside as much as we can, and that leads to a lot of high-percentage shots," said Heinichen, who resides in Chicago's Edison Park neighborhood. "We still have to give the effort but maybe not as much as other teams because of our size."

In Friday's game, Notre Dame's 50-point second half helped overcome a slow start, which included four missed first-half layups. Led by starting senior guard Matt Stritzel's 20 points, including 16 in the second half, five Dons finished in double figures. Wilson added an 18-point, 11-rebound effort.

"We know we can score at will with our height," said Wilson, a Portage Park resident. "We see the lineups and it's something that coach reminds us about all the time."

Being the taller, more physical team pays dividends for all the Dons on offense, not just the ones who stand at least 6-5.

In half-court situations, with defenders often choosing to pack themselves into the lane, there can be a number of open jump shots for Stritzel, a 6-1 sharpshooter averaging 20 points



ROB DICKER/PIONEER PRESS

Notre Dame's Chris Heinichen (32) grabs a rebound over Carmel's Evan Myers on Friday in Mundelein.

per game.

Even when Stritzel and Malik Jenkins, a 5-10 senior guard who transferred from Evanston, aren't making their outside jumpers, the potential, for extra posses-

sions and put-backs is high.

And even if the Dons don't convert, guarding for additional time is a burden on opponents, which often leads to them becoming worn down late in games.

"Teams double-team down low and that leads to kick-outs to shooters like me," said Stritzel, who resides in Norwood Park. "It's to the point where if teams face-guarded me, we'd just

throw it inside. It's 'pick your poison.'"

Steven Reaven is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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# Xidis makes instant impact for Niles North gymnastics

Freshman raising the bar for Vikings teammates

BY DAN SHALIN  
Pioneer Press

With her solid individual scores and big skills, freshman Zoe Xidis has raised the Niles North girls gymnastics team's overall score and served as motivation for the other Vikings gymnasts.

"I think Zoe coming in has been a big push for the girls," Vikings coach Jacqueline Sanchez said. "With her skills, it's been pushing the girls more to up their game and get those big skills. They want to match her and really pull together and keep increasing our team score."

The Vikings' 132.55-118.50 win over Highland Park on Nov. 29 in the season-opener was, according to Sanchez, Niles North's highest score in four years.

The Vikings have not equaled that score in three subsequent dual meets, most recently a 142.55-126.50 loss to Glenbrook South on Dec. 15, which dropped the Vikings to 2-2.

Sanchez said she believes the team can score 134 or 135 points by the end of the season. Xidis can help the Vikings get there by refining her skills, according to Sanchez.

"Zoe has a lot of potential, so we've been trying to hone her execution and technique, because she has the big skills," Sanchez said.

Xidis agreed she has some work to do when it comes to perfecting her routines.

"I have skills that are bigger than most people (on the team), that are harder, but I'm sloppy and sometimes that's why my execution scores (are lower)," said Xidis, who lives in Morton Grove.

Xidis said studying video of her routines and Sanchez's coaching have helped her identify areas in which

she can clean up her performance.

Another recent addition to the Niles North training regimen has been the use of ankle and wrist weights, which Sanchez said have been helpful in training for all events.

Xidis said she's been using ankle weights in training for parallel bars, which have helped her learn to rotate her hips and keep her feet from hitting the ground.

"Sometimes I touch my feet (on the ground) before I do a skill (on the low bar) and that's a deduction," Xidis said. "The ankle weights work on that and help keep my feet off the floor. I take them off when I do a (full) routine (in practice) and it helps."

Xidis' bar routine was one of Niles North's highlights against Glenbrook South. She avoided touching her feet on the ground and had her best bar routine of the season, according to Sanchez, scoring a team-best 8.40.

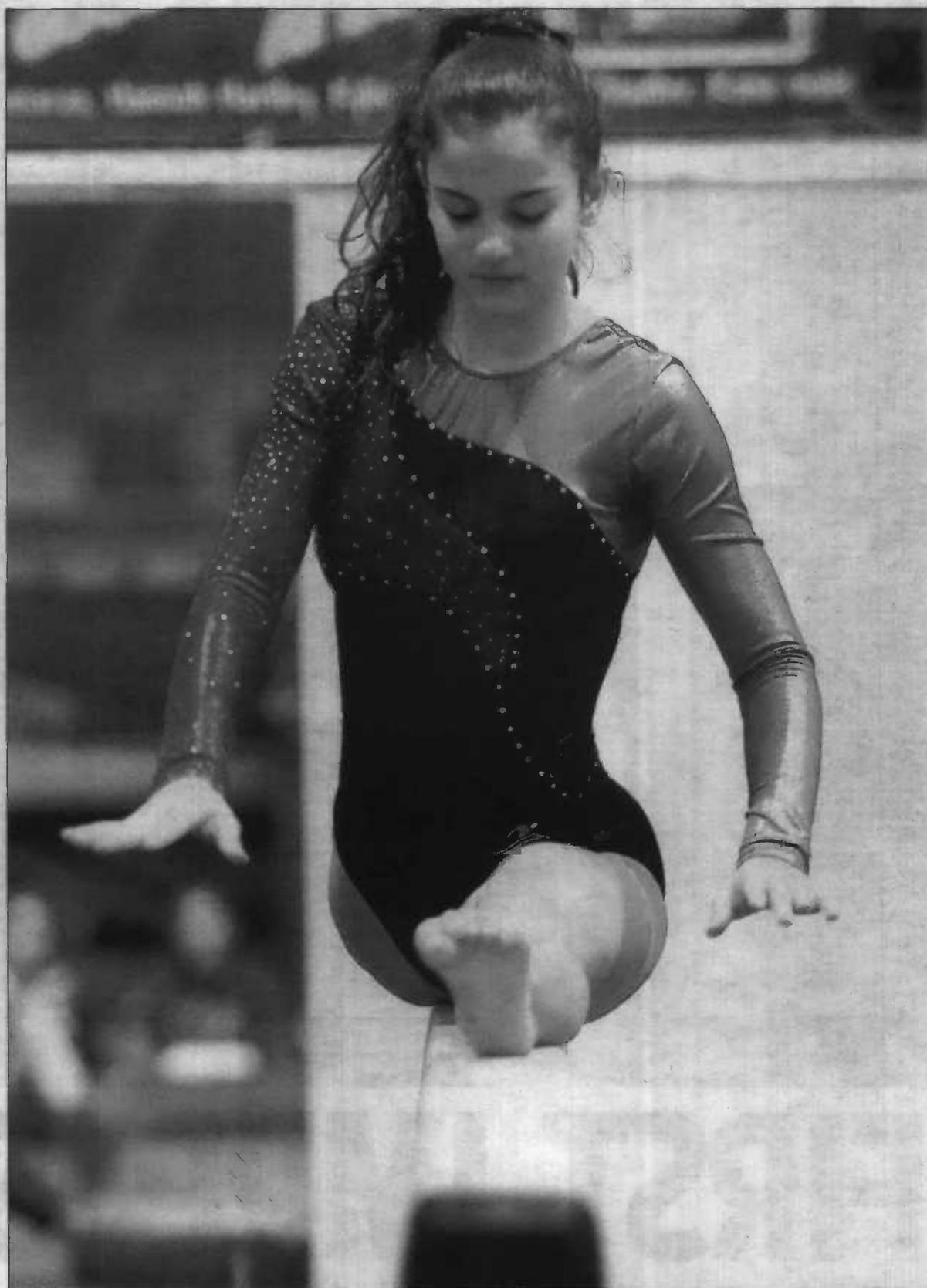
Xidis also led her team on floor exercise (8.85) and tied senior Kaylie VanDoren for the team-best on vault (8.40). Junior Athena Xidis, Zoe's older sister, finished second on the team on floor (8.70) and beat her younger sister on beam (7.40 to 6.70). Kyra VanDoren, Kaylie's twin sister, was the top Vikings gymnast on the latter event (8.40).

Athena Xidis said the Xidis sisters are always cheering for one another.

"I wouldn't say we're competitive against one another," Athena Xidis said. "We're both trying to do our personal bests. I want her to get higher scores (than before) and I'm sure she wants the same for me. We don't pay that much attention to who (gets the better score). We're sisters, so we're always supporting each other."

Dan Shalin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @Pioneer\_Press



ROB DICKER/PIONEER PRESS

Niles North's Zoe Xidis performs on the balance beam on Dec. 15 in Glenview. She scored a 6.70, but Glenbrook South won the dual 142.55-126.50.



High school students and college football coaches interact at a college fair Dec. 8 at Libertyville.  
MARK KODIAK UKENA/PIONEER PRESS

# FIRST IMPRESSIONS

Libertyville college fair gives football players a chance to connect. Page 41

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