

NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR



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nilesheraldspectator.com

Looking back at 2016

A glance at the stories that shaped the past year, including a local nominee to the U.S. Supreme Court. Pages 4-5



NANCY STONE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

In this May 29 photo, Niles West principal Jason Ness, right, presents Judge Merrick Garland with a jersey sporting his name. President Barack Obama nominated Merrick to replace the late Justice Antonin Scalia on the U.S. Supreme Court.

LIVING

Love to last you a lifetime

Columnist Jackie Pilossoph offers her take on the skills needed to sustain a happy marriage. Inside



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GO



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Best meals 2016

50 Chicago-area chefs name the best thing they ate this year. Page 17

OPINION

Blaser: Put Ill. students first

State educators have some big challenges in getting children to perform at grade level and preparing them for success in college and beyond. Page 14

SPORTS



TIM BOYLE/PIONEER PRESS

Year in review

Area high school athletic directors reflect on 2016, look ahead to 2017. Page 36



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SHOUT OUT

Joe Bruntmyer, Morton Grove Park District recreation superintendent

Joe Bruntmyer, superintendent of recreation for the Morton Grove Park District, says he isn't one to drop the ball. Bruntmyer, of Round Lake, has been on the job for seven months, after coming to Morton Grove's park district from the Vernon Hills Park District, where he spent more than 13 years supervising athletics. The husband and father of three likes hockey and football, he says.

Q: What do you like about Morton Grove?

A: I love the community and the people. I have a great staff I work with.

Q: Do you have a New Year's resolution for 2017?

A: I usually don't make New Year's resolutions. But if I had to make one, it would be to continue to grow as a professional, husband and father.

Q: What's a goal for 2017 that you'd like to share with your children?

A: I want them to be active. I try to teach them manners and respect



Joe Bruntmyer

KARIE ANGELL LUC/PIONEER PRESS

for other people.

A: What's the snapshot of the message that people are sharing with you about 2017?

A: Definitely peace, kindness and unity.

Q: What is there to do at the Morton Grove Park District?

A: There are always fun opportunities. For 2017, we have some fun and amazing programs and events that make it affordable for families to spend quality time together.

— Karie Angell Luc, Pioneer Press

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DECEMBER 29TH, 2016 THRU JANUARY 4TH, 2017

A look at 2016 in Niles, Lincolnwood and Morton Grove

Supreme Court nominee, gun shop, Purple Hotel among most-read local stories

BY GENEVIEVE BOOKWALTER
Pioneer Press

A local nominee to the United States Supreme Court, the future of the former Purple Hotel site and a controversial proposed gun shop and range in Niles were some of the best-read stories of 2016 in Niles, Lincolnwood and Morton Grove.

Niles West High School graduate nominated for U.S. Supreme Court

President Barack Obama in March nominated Niles West High School graduate and former Lincolnwood resident Merrick Garland for the post on the United States Supreme Court left vacant by the death of Justice Antonin Scalia.

The current federal appeals court judge graduated as valedictorian, served as head of the student council and boasted an array of academic honors when he finished high school in the late 1960s.

Former classmates and neighbors remembered Garland with pride, calling him a "role model" and "a down-to-earth, humble and sweet person."

They described him as brilliant, kind, popular and successful at whatever he tried.

That ongoing success might not stretch to a tenure on the Supreme Court, though. Senate Republicans have refused to hold a hearing for Garland.

With a Republican president elected in November, the hearings might never happen.



ERIN CHAN DING/PIONEER PRESS FILE

Protesters against a proposed gun range gather outside Niles Village Hall. In 2016, a judge dismissed a lawsuit filed by a local organization that some of the protesters are part of. The organization did not want the gun range to move into its location at 6143 Howard St.

Case dismissed against Niles gun shop, range

A judge in February dismissed an amended lawsuit trying to stop a proposed gun shop and range from opening in Niles.

The suit was filed by gun-control advocacy group People for a Safer Society, arguing the spot on Howard Street was near five schools and not an appropriate

place to sell and shoot weapons.

The company 6143 Howard Partners was issued a building permit in January to open the Sportsman's Club and Firearms Training at 6143 Howard St.

The suit was initially filed in October 2014 and sought to annul a special-use permit for the gun shop and bar other gun-related businesses from opening there.

That suit was dismissed and the group filed an amended complaint in July 2015. The judge in February



MICHAEL TERCHA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE FILE

Lincolnwood's Purple Hotel, which used to stand at 4500 W. Touhy Ave., was demolished in 2013. In 2016, village officials rejected a development project at this site.

said he was swayed by the defendants' argument that the plaintiffs did not have proper standing to file the case as they did not own property adjoining or adjacent to the property under dispute.

Controversy continues around ex-Purple Hotel site

The dusty, barren land that once held the Purple Hotel is

still vacant as Lincolnwood officials work with developers on possible alternatives for the site.

Executives from Chicago real estate investment firm Kaufman Jacobs stormed out of a Lincolnwood Village Board meeting in September, after officials criticized their redevelopment proposal.

Meanwhile village leaders say

Turn to 2016, Next Page

Lincolnwood finance director: Town's 2017 levy in line with recent previous years

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

Lincolnwood trustees approved an increased property tax levy of less than one percent at a recent village board meeting.

The village's finance director, Robert Merkel, said the increase, which would be effective for 2017, represents about \$38,000 in new annual revenue for Lincolnwood.

The 2016 tax levy of roughly \$5.5 million covers about \$2.7 million in general fund revenue, over \$1.7 million in police pension contributions, and \$1 million for the Parks and Recreation Department, which encompasses special recreation programs, officials said.

Lincolnwood, which is unique in that it does not have a park district, includes funding for its park

programs in its levy. Other communities that have park districts often tax residents separately for those services.

During the past three years, the average tax increase on the portion of a resident's tax bill that is paid to the village has remained at about 1 percent, Merkel said.

Natalie Hayes is a freelancer.

A look at 2016 in Niles, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove

2016, from Previous Page

that they are looking for a development plan with the right mix of retail and commercial space with the residential units needed to ensure foot traffic.

Lincolnwood doesn't have a downtown and village officials have eyed the land for a possible town center.

Original plans, proposed by Skokie real estate developer North Capital Group, ultimately failed to gain traction.

But the new proposal in September was not the right one, village leaders said.

That plan included a 200-unit apartment complex, 10,000 square feet of retail space and a 200-room hotel on the 8.5-acre lot at Lincoln and Touhy avenues.

Village leaders wondered if the retail space would contribute enough money to the tax base and voiced concern that the hotel did not have a banquet center, among other comments from officials.

Niles senior living facility accused of allowing harassment

A Niles woman in July sued the senior living facility where she lived after allegedly suffering harassment over her sexual orientation from staff and other residents.

Lambda Legal filed the case on behalf of Marsha Wetzel against Glen Saint Andrew Living Community and its administrators. The case was filed in U.S. District Court in Chicago and alleged violations under the U.S. Fair Housing Act and state Human Rights Act.

Lambda Legal is a national legal group focused on LGBT advocacy, litigation and policy work, according to its website.

The complaint alleged that Wetzel was subjected to "persistent verbal harassment, threats, intimidation and three separate assaults, at the hands of other residents" and called "countless homophobic slurs."

Morton Grove CEO joins Lady Gaga on stage

Julie Smolyansky, CEO of Morton Grove-based Life-way Foods, stood with pop singer Lady Gaga and a number of other sexual assault survivors on stage at the Oscars in March.

Gaga invited survivors of rape and sexual assault to join her as she performed "Til It Happens to You." She wrote the song with Diane Warren for "The Hunting Ground," a documentary about sexual assault on college campuses. It was nominated for best original song.

Smolyansky, a survivor of sexual assault, was executive producer of "The Hunting Ground."

She said she has served as an advocate for victims since she was a teenager. As a student at Niles North High School, Smolyansky helped shape curriculum to address violence in the dating scene around Chicago.

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Morton Grove to pump more into pensions with 2017 fiscal budget

By **BRIAN L. COX**
Pioneer Press

Morton Grove's \$65 million budget for fiscal year 2017 does not include a property tax increase, but the village will still contribute an appreciable amount to its various pension funds, officials said.

"It looks excellent," Trustee Ed Ramos said about the village's spending plan.

Trustees voted unanimously at its meeting earlier this month to pass the budget, which is 2.8 percent more than the 2016 budget, said Village Administrator Ralph Czerwinski.

"It's a stable, service-ori-

ented budget," he said. "It's consistent with prior levels of service that focuses on pension funding, economic development support and measured enhancements to support service delivery."

Hanna Sullivan, the village's finance director, credited village staff with helping ensure the new budget does not include a tax hike in the village's portion of the property tax levy.

"We're lucky that our department heads are very onboard with what we're trying to do," Sullivan said. "It makes the process a lot easier because really you're combining all these separate budgets

into one large document."

The single largest village expense continues to be the police department, with its \$10.4 million budget for FY '17. That amount is a 3.5 percent increase — or \$242,686 — over the current one, Czerwinski said.

"They provide a high level of contemporary service and there is cost associated with the level of service," Czerwinski said about MGPD. "It is not an inexpensive service to provide."

The fire department's \$8.3 million budget is the village's second largest department expense, followed by public works budget at \$2.5 million,

Czerwinski said.

The budget, approved Dec. 12, also includes spending on capital projects like road paving, water main replacement, and even money for economic development.

"We can always see room for improvement from an economic development standpoint and that's why we're constantly looking at that area," Czerwinski said. "We see many of the sites in the village that have been dormant for a while having a higher level of interest."

Brian L. Cox is a freelancer

POLICE BLOTTER

Morton Grove

CRIMINAL DAMAGE

■ Javier J. Torres Jr., 25, of the 9100 block of National Avenue, was charged Dec. 13 with criminal damage at his residence. Torres is expected to appear in court Jan. 19.

DUI

■ Stacy Moorman, 37, of the 7700 block of North Nordica Avenue, Niles, was charged Dec. 16 with driving under the influence of alcohol on Dempster Street and Waukegan Road. Police said Moorman's vehicle struck a median and she allegedly failed sobriety tests. Moorman is scheduled to appear in court Jan. 4.

DRUGS

■ Omar M. Okab, 19, of the 5500 block of Lincoln Avenue, was cited Dec. 19 for possession of marijuana on South Park Avenue and West Frontage Road. Police said Okab was stopped for a traffic violation and was allegedly found to be in possession of marijuana.

WARRANT

■ Chrystal L. Floyd, 37, of the 9300 block of Shermer Road,

was arrested Dec. 20 on an outstanding warrant out of Wheeling.

Lincolnwood

DUI

■ Juan Martinez-Ramirez, 45, of the 7900 block of Kedvale Avenue, Skokie, was charged Dec. 17 with driving under the influence of alcohol in the 6600 block of McCormick Boulevard. Police said Martinez-Ramirez was pulled over after an officer observed his vehicle crossing the traffic divider lanes, and Martinez-Ramirez allegedly failed sobriety tests. Police said 10 open beers were found in the back seat of his vehicle and in the front passenger seat. Martinez-Ramirez was also cited for illegal transportation of alcohol and improper lane use.

THEFT

■ Someone broke into a 2013 Jeep Wrangler that was parked in the 6900 block of McCormick Boulevard and removed a stereo/navigation system from the dashboard, police said. The theft was reported on Dec. 18.

■ A purse was reported stolen from a vehicle parked in the

3300 block of West Touhy on Dec. 16. The owner of the vehicle told police the purse had been left on the front passenger side seat. The front passenger side window was broken, police said.

■ An insurance card was reported stolen from a vehicle parked in the 6400 block of Leroy Avenue. The owner of the vehicle reported the theft on Dec. 17, and told police the contents of the glove compartment was scattered around the vehicle.

Niles

BATTERY

■ Vasyl Yalovitskyi, 24, of the 2800 block of North McVicker, Chicago, was charged with battery on Dec. 10 after police said he punched an employee of a bar in the 6900 block of Milwaukee Avenue. The alleged attack was captured on video, police said. Yalovitskyi is scheduled to appear in court was given a Jan. 6 court date.

BURGLARY

■ Jewelry and other items were reported stolen from a house in the 8300 block of Olcott Avenue during a burgla-

ry that occurred Dec. 9.

■ Jewelry was stolen during the burglary of an apartment in the 9100 block of Cumberland Avenue Dec. 9; police said.

■ A resident of the 7300 block of Waukegan Road reported finding pry marks on the door to resident's apartment unit and on the door to the apartment building on Dec. 10. Nothing was reported stolen from the apartment, police said.

DUI

■ Carlos Carrillo-Ortiz, 29, of the 3100 block of Patton, Des Plaines, was charged with driving under the influence on the night of Dec. 10 after police reportedly found him unconscious in the driver's seat of his running car, which was stopped in a parking lot on the 6600 block of Touhy Avenue. Police said his car was seen driving west in the eastbound lanes of Touhy Avenue prior to him pulling over in the parking lot.

WARRANT

■ Milan Konstantinov, 72, of the 8100 block of Dempster Street, Niles, was taken into custody on a warrant for retail theft on Dec. 9, police said.

Burt's Place may open by end of January, new owners say

By **LOUISA CHU**
Chicago Tribune

Burt's Place, home of the iconic caramelized crust created by late pizza master Burt Katz, may reopen by the end of January, starting with a friends-and-family soft opening, said new co-owner and protegee Jerry Petrow.

An open-to-the-public date will depend on final inspections, Petrow said.

Petrow and business partner John Munao bought the Morton Grove business, building and recipes from Katz, who personally chose and trained his successors before his death in April. Katz's pizza style may be familiar to Pequod's customers; he founded the original Pequod's in Morton Grove in 1971, operating it until 1985.

Katz famously required pizzas preordered because he was the sole pizza-maker and had one oven. The updated Burt's Place will have two ovens; whether preordering will be required is still TBD.

"We're stacking the two identical ovens now," said Petrow by phone. "You have to be very gentle and very strong at the same time."

Other big changes: There will now be two pizza-makers; both Petrow and business partner John Munao will make pies. Plus they're adding a small bar with three taps to the back of the dining room. "Just three or four seats," said Petrow, in a small room they discovered when they moved the oven to pour a new kitchen floor.

A beer garden will open "at the first sign of spring" he added.

But regulars will find the original booths and tables, as well as the International House of Pancakes plates that Katz and his wife Sharon used to serve generations of pizza fans. "We salvaged as many plates as we could," said Petrow. "I think we have 30 of them."

And the big question: What about the pizza? "The pizza-making is going very well," said Petrow. "If we can just fire up these ovens in the next couple of days, we hope that's the last time we ever have to shut them down completely again."

For fans who've been wondering about the delays, Petrow said a lot of work has gone into the gut rehab, requiring numerous inspections and approvals. In another unforeseen complication, the partners had to apply for a new business license because they've been closed so long.

"It's more than me and John just making dough balls," said Petrow, laughing.

Burt's Place, 8541 Ferris Ave., Morton Grove, 847-965-7997.

Donations boost nonprofits hurt by state budget logjam

BY GENEVIEVE BOOKWALTER
Pioneer Press

Donations and interest have been up this year at two of the bigger nonprofit organizations that focus on women's issues in the near north suburbs.

Instead of celebrating, leaders are grappling with an Illinois budget impasse that has created a hole in their budgets bigger than what an uptick in donations can fill.

"People are very interested in helping out, and that's very heartwarming and rewarding," said Denice Wolf Markham, executive director of Life Span, a center to help victims of domestic violence, with offices in Des Plaines and Chicago. She said many people especially have asked about helping immigrant women and children.

"All that is extremely helpful," Markham said, "but no, it doesn't help us with our budget issue."

At issue is the lack of an Illinois state budget for the past 18 months, as legislators in Springfield remain gridlocked. While the budget is held up, Illinois generally is not paying bills for social services that the state typically funds. Nor is

Illinois distributing much of the federal money and grants that are given to the state as a clearinghouse, nonprofit officials said.

At Life Span, Markham said, the state has reneged on a signed contract to provide social services, leaving the organization short about \$400,000 to pay for services already provided. That's about 70 percent of the center's budget to provide counseling. Life Span serves about 3,000 women and children annually, officials there said.

Those problems are also affecting other nonprofit groups around Chicago and the state, said Jack Kaplan, director of public policy and advocacy for United Way of Metropolitan Chicago.

Anecdotally, individual donations are largely up among groups that help those in need, Kaplan said. He will know more specific numbers after the end of the year. But, "no way they can, in any way, make up the hole made by the state right now," he said.

In addition, the state's budget stalemate puts increasing pressure on individuals who can give, Kaplan said, and ratchets up competition between services for the available dollars.

At YWCA Evanston/North Shore, President and

CEO Karen Singer said donations are noticeably up since Donald Trump won November's presidential election. For some who felt helpless after Hillary Clinton's loss, it was a way to make an impact right away in causes they cared about, she said.

Clinton's candidacy elevated the conversation of violence against women to a national stage, Singer said.

"Immediately after the election people went online" and donated, Singer said. She will have a total amount after the end of the year.

Singer said the YWCA in February plans to open a new long-term housing center for women in need in Evanston. Staff next year is expanding their financial literacy programs for women, among other services.

She said 2017 could be difficult. The YWCA depends on state and federal dollars to fund more than 20 percent of its budget, with a large portion coming from the state.

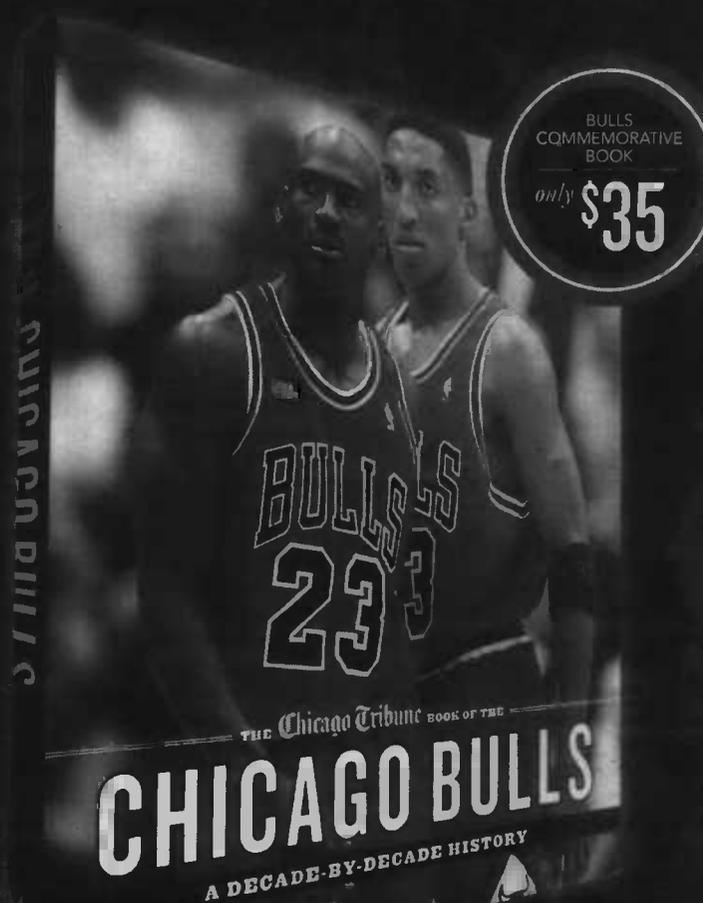
"I think it's going to be a challenging year," Singer said. "I think we all have to remain engaged in protecting rights: women's rights, racial rights, civil rights."

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Lincolnwood police, trustees to consider more cameras around town

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

A spike in burglaries this year as reported by Lincolnwood police is prompting village officials to consider installing surveillance cameras to monitor some public areas.

Compared with the past five years when the village averaged 61 residential and commercial burglaries per year, 66 homes and businesses were burglarized during the first 11 months of 2016, according to a report from Lincolnwood Police Chief Bob LaMantia.

Vehicular burglaries have also seen an increase this year, with 68 reported to police between January and November compared with the five-year average of 62, according to the report LaMantia presented to village trustees during a committee of the whole meeting

earlier this month.

"Burglaries are up this year, no doubt about it, but there's an increase all across the suburbs," LaMantia said. "Residential burglaries are of the greatest concern because it's an invasion of personal space — even if you're not home when it happens you still feel violated."

LaMantia said police have been working to curtail the crimes, including assembling a task force to collaborate with other area police departments.

The conversation about how to address the rising burglary rates continued on Dec. 20, when LaMantia and trustees weighed the pros and cons of adding additional cameras to the village's existing public video surveillance system.

The 70 cameras currently in operation are used mostly to monitor village-

owned properties like the police department and public works building, the report indicated.

Additionally, cameras are commonly used in North Shore area communities to monitor places like parks, train stations and village buildings like police and fire departments, according to a study LaMantia presented that shows eight nearby communities use public surveillance in various ways.

If village officials support a plan to add more cameras in Lincolnwood, they would be installed on public streets, officials said.

Pinpointing the right locations would be challenging, police said, because a map of burglaries reported this year that was prepared by the police department shows crime is spread out rather evenly across the community without a con-

centration in any particular area.

Citing a report from the Urban Institute's Justice Policy Center that analyzes the effectiveness of public surveillance systems, LaMantia said placing cameras in high-visibility areas in public locations — particularly in densely-populated areas that experience high rates of violent crime — can be an effective deterrent to criminals.

Despite the uptick in burglaries, however, the most serious types of violent crime, as categorized by the FBI Uniform Crime Report, such as murder, sexual assault, battery and robbery, remain uncommon in Lincolnwood.

The Urban Institute's report described the decision to install public cameras as a "significant undertaking" that requires "administrators and jurisdictions to

confront both financial and political challenges."

The report notes that surveillance systems have been a successful tool in reducing crime in some major cities, but advises municipalities to consider potential pitfalls and to review how surveillance systems have fared in other towns with similar demographics, population sizes and crime rates before deciding to invest the time and funding in a camera system.

LaMantia listed high costs, including the additional manpower that would be needed to monitor the footage, as potential negatives.

"A lot of people watch 'CSI' and other (crime) shows, and while they're very entertaining, it's actually much, much more labor intensive than you think to monitor these cameras," he said. "You can record data

for 24 hours, and if you know a suspect passed through the location, you have to review 24 hours worth of data to retrieve that data."

Communitywide acceptance of being watched publicly was another factor police advised village officials to consider.

"I'm in favor of having the cameras near the school district and in parks, but if there's one across the street pointing right into my living room — that I might not be OK with," Trustee Jesal Patel said.

Lincolnwood trustees tabled the discussion to the next committee of the whole meeting scheduled for January.

Then, LaMantia is expected to make a recommendation to postpone the decision for at least a year.

Natalie Hayes is a freelancer.

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Three school board candidates married to D64 teachers

Marital status could potentially result in legal issues, official says

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Three candidates running for the Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 Board of Education could have some big decisions to make regarding their participation in the next teachers contract negotiations if they are elected in April.

The candidates are each married to District 64 teachers whose salaries, benefits and other employment-related issues are covered under a contract that is developed between members of the school board and teachers union.

Personnel-related expenses make up the bulk of the district's budget.

Candidate Greg Bublitz, himself the director of student services in neighboring East Maine School District 63, is the husband of Kirsten Bublitz, a special education teacher at Carpenter School. Candidate Norman Dziejdzic Jr. is married to Sonja Dziejdzic, an art teacher at Emerson Middle School. Candidate Michael Schaab is the husband of Caroline Schaab, a fourth-grade teacher at Field School.

Patricia Whitten, chairwoman of the Illinois Council of School Attorneys Executive Committee, said it is not a legal conflict of interest for school board

members to be married to an employee of the district they serve.

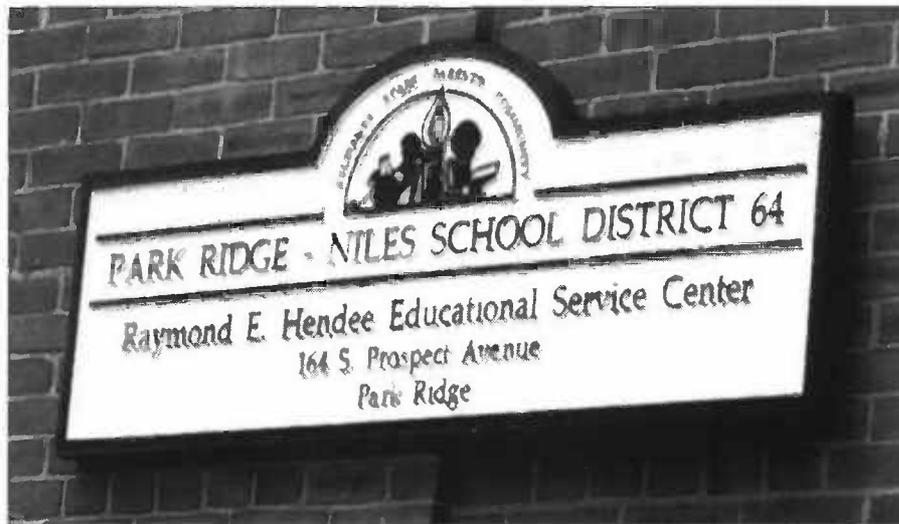
But, when it comes to contract talks and approvals, they may want to take a step back, she said.

"Even though something is not illegal, many people may look questionably on it," Whitten said. "We usually advise school board members in that position to abstain from voting on the teachers union contract."

As far as negotiations go, board members married to teachers could potentially face a legal challenge from taxpayers if they are perceived as advocating in favor of contract terms, Whitten said.

The advice of the Illinois Council of School Attorneys committee is that board members with relatives working for the school district abstain from contract talks and casting a vote on the final contract, she said.

The Code of Conduct for school board members, adopted by the board of directors of the Illinois Association of School Boards in 1976, states that board members "will avoid any conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety which could result from [the] position, and will not use [their] board membership for personal gain or publicity."



JENNIFER JOHNSON/PIONEER PRESS

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 headquarters, 164 S. Prospect Ave.

Ben Silver, an attorney with the Elmhurst-based Citizen Advocacy Center, a government monitoring agency, agreed that membership on a school board itself is not a conflict of interest for district spouses, but "when it comes to negotiating contracts, that's when we get into a tricky situation."

"Usually, the board member will recuse themselves when they are negotiating or voting on a contract," Silver said. "The problem is, if there are three board members [with spouses covered under the contract], you'll have a substantial part of the board not voting."

The current contract with the Park Ridge Education Association extends through mid-2020, putting

negotiations and possible ratification of a subsequent teachers contract within the four-year terms of candidates elected in April 2017. The school board consists of seven members.

Bublitz said he would abstain from teacher contract negotiations and voting on the contract if he is elected.

"Not every board member will be on the negotiating team anyway, so it's not like there will be a lack of representation on the board," Bublitz said. "And in voting, my first inclination would be to recuse myself ... That would be my commitment."

Schaab said he "probably would have to recuse myself" from negotiations and voting, but wanted to study the legalities more.

Dziejdzic said he does not plan to recuse himself from negotiations or voting if he is elected.

"That's been deemed to not be a conflict of interest," he said, adding that collective bargaining covers a large group of people, not just one individual.

"If there's some legal decision to the contrary, then I'd follow the law," Dziejdzic said.

Dziejdzic and Schaab said they were not asked by the teachers union to run for the school board.

In 2015, when Bublitz last ran for the District 64 board, the PREA president at the time said that Bublitz was a candidate union members had reached out to about running.

Silver acknowledged that, as a matter of law,

spouses voting on teacher contracts "is a pretty gray area right now," as the courts have not had many opportunities to weigh in.

"In the past, these members have recused themselves [from voting] in any instance that I've seen," Silver said.

Ultimately, it is up to voters to decide who they want representing them on their local school board, Silver said.

"To me, the really important thing here is that the voters know exactly what's going on and they have full information," he said. "These candidates should explain that they have spouses who are teachers and explain how they are going to handle these situations."

In addition to contracts, the board of education has also voted on disciplinary measures for teachers.

Other candidates running for four, four-year seats on the District 64 board in April are Rick Biagi, an attorney and current member of the Park Ridge Park Board; Larry Ryles, a Park Ridge mayoral candidate in 2013; Eastman Tiu, a teacher at Willowbrook High School in Villa Park; Alfred Sanchez; and Monica Wojnicki, a Franklin School PTO member and former adjunct professor of health careers at Harper College in Palatine.

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Niles West students honored with fine arts awards



JIM SZCZEPANIAK/NILES TOWNSHIP HIGH SCHOOL DISTRICT 219 PHOTOS

Niles West High School student Gabby Ubaldo, center in the left photo, and Niles West High School senior Jimbo Pestano, center in the right photo, both received a Fine and Applied Arts award during the Dec. 13 Niles Township High School District 219 board of education meeting. Ubaldo is pictured with members of the NTHS School District 219 board of education. Pestano is pictured with his mother and members of the board of education.

COUNTRY FINANCIAL

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NEWS

Judge Cleary appointed to subcircuit that includes Niles, Morton Grove

Pioneer Press Staff Report

The Illinois Supreme Court appointed a Glenview resident to fill a Cook County Circuit Court judicial vacancy, according to a news release from the state's highest court.

Gerald V. Cleary, who currently serves as a Cook County Circuit Court judge in the First Municipal District, was tapped to fill the vacancy in the 10th Subcircuit that came about after Judge Donald J. Suriano retired Nov. 2. Cleary's appointment comes after being recommended by Ill. Supreme Court Justice Mary Jane Theis, according to the release.

The 10th Subcircuit includes parts of the city of Chicago, Niles and Morton Grove. Cleary has overseen

jury and bench trials in civil matters "and has received stellar reviews from his superiors and colleagues on the bench," the release states.

Cleary took over the post on Nov. 3 and will serve as until December 2018, following the General Election that year, according to the news release.

Before he was a judge, Cleary was a civil trial attorney who litigated commercial and civil disputes for health care providers, insurance companies, municipalities, businesses, aviation and trucking carriers for over a quarter-century, according to the release.

In addition to tackling



Judge Gerald V. Cleary

hundreds of mediations and arbitrations, Cleary also successfully litigated 25 cases to jury verdict, the release states.

Cleary has spent his entire legal career in Cook County and was a founding partner at business and litigation services firm Smith Amundsen, and most recently at his own law firm of Pappas O'Connor — which specializes in corporate, labor, municipal and education law, according to the firm's website.

Cleary received his law degree from the Loyola University School of Law in Chicago and was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1989.

Cleary received his law degree from the Loyola University School of Law in Chicago and was admitted to the Illinois Bar in 1989.

Park Ridge welcomes Pickwick

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Park Ridge's new Pickwick Restaurant is up and running.

With a new logo, paint and booths, the restaurant opened Dec. 19 at 1 S. Prospect Ave. — home to the old Pickwick Restaurant and, more recently, The Pick.

"It feels great," owner Dino Sarantopoulos said of finally being in business after several months of preparations.

The menu features appetizers like a hummus plate, cheese quesadillas and chicken tenders; five different kinds of salads; sandwiches ranging from the "Ridger's" Signature Burger — with cheddar, bacon, red onion, mushrooms and thousand island dressing —



JENNIFER JOHNSON/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

The new Pickwick Restaurant is now open at 1 S. Prospect Ave. in Park Ridge.

to a patty melt, panini, Reuben and corned beef on rye; and dinner entrees that include sirloin steak, London broil, chopped steak, chicken, charbroiled salmon and beer-battered cod.

The ground beef used for burgers comes from grass-

fed cows, and chickens are raised without antibiotics and with a vegetarian diet, the menu says. The Pickwick Restaurant's hours are 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. seven days a week, Sarantopoulos said.

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Skokie's oldest church to mark 150 years

St. Peter's sits across from Village Hall

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

Church leaders said the 150th anniversary of St. Peter's United Church of Christ was too big to mark with just one celebration, so there will be a yearlong one.

No church in the area has been operating for so long, according to church leaders who will mark 2017 with monthly special anniversary events.

"It's a huge milestone. It's a testament to the people throughout the decades and generations," said the Rev. Richard Lanford, pastor of the church, who has his own milestone coming up. He will soon be celebrating 25 years with the church.

Some people get the longest-standing church in Skokie confused with the other, more visible St. Peter's Church in the heart of downtown Skokie.

St. Peter's United Church of Christ, as opposed to St. Peter's Catholic Church, is the one across from the library and Village Hall, the one that has been serving its members for coming up on 150 years, leaders there say.

"It's an honor to serve here and it's an honor to have been serving here this long," Lanford said. "We have a great and active group of people here. We always have."

According to the church's own history, St. Peter's was established May 5, 1867, as St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church by German immigrant farmers.

"It is the first church organized in what was then called Niles Center," reads a church history document. Niles Center preceded the name Skokie.

The first building was dedicated in 1868, a church cemetery was then bought



KEVIN TANAKA/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

St. Peter's United Church of Christ in Skokie will celebrate its 150th anniversary with programs and activities scheduled throughout 2017.

in 1880.

That building was severely damaged by lightning in 1901, and the current building — which houses the sanctuary, Memorial Room and two towers — was built and dedicated in 1903, according to documents chronicling the church's history.

Barbara Todd, a church member since 1958, said she was "born into it" and her husband was raised in this church, she said.

"When I married him, this came with it," she said. "I was grateful for it."

Todd said she was a play director at Highland Park High School just before she joined the church. Since the church has an active youth membership, she said, Todd was able to bring that experience with her to St. Peter's.

"I started doing plays here with teenagers," she said.

Church leaders say there are some 130 members in the church, down from a peak of around 200 after World War II.

Jennifer Schneider, a 15-year-member of the church,

said one reason for the church's longevity is its ability to adapt and its inclusiveness.

"United Church of Christ is a denomination that is open and welcoming to everyone and anyone," she said.

The church looks durable despite being around for so long. Leaders say a significant renovation in 1981 helped keep the church moving forward.

"The building helps," Schneider said. "People come and see the sanctuary and love it, and they want to



The Rev. Richard Lanford, pastor of St. Peter's United Church of Christ, in Skokie, believes the church's baptismal font is from the early 1900s. The current church was built and dedicated in 1903.



The stained glass windows at St. Peter's United are a celebrated part of the church's history.

be here."

Located on an upper floor, the sanctuary is surrounded by historic stained-glass windows that allow for the streaming of sunlight.

During the life of the church, the population around it has moved from predominantly Christian to Jewish until Skokie became

one of the most ethnically diverse villages in the state.

Regardless of these demographic changes, leaders say, the church has always worked well with other religious institutions and welcomed people of different backgrounds.

Todd said in the nearly 60 years she has been a member there have been only four ministers.

"That says something about this church," she said.

The church anniversary kickoff event Jan. 1 is open only to members and friends, but following will be a monthly lineup of activities through the whole year including a May 6 anniversary celebration and spaghetti dinner.

"We're still here despite everything," Schneider said. "We want to use every opportunity at our disposal to remind people and show people what we're about. I can't think of a better reason to do it than 150 years in one spot."

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Top New Year's resolutions are too self-centered

Notice anything unusual about these?

They are the top 5 New Year's resolutions, as reported by the Nielsen research firm. They are:

1. Stay fit and healthy
2. Lose weight
3. Spend less, save more
4. Enjoy life to the fullest
5. Spend more time with family

All of these resolution are "me" centered, things I can do for myself to make my life better, more enjoyable.

What's missing from this list are resolutions to help other people. There are millions of people who are homeless, abused, poor, hungry, sick, infirm.

It's just strange – and



PAUL SASSONE

kind of depressing – that we are starting the new year with thoughts only of ourselves.

It would be nice if at least one of the actions we contemplate doing in the new year was helping to better someone else's life.

That helping others, people in need, is not one of our top New Year's resolutions might be a symptom of where we are heading as a country and as a people.

A lot has been written about America becoming a nation of exclusionary groups, of tribes. We define who is in our tribe. Those we decide are outside our tribe are bad, not worthy of our concern or assistance or even tolerance.

Our tribe has no use for this or that religion, this or that race, this or that ethnicity.

The results of the November election only confirm this observation. We Americans prided ourselves on being a home for people of many religions, races and ethnicities. America was where the poor and persecuted could come for refuge and life.

Now, we are going to



MICHAEL SCHMIDT/PIONEER PRESS

Darcey Petrus, 15, of Hawthorn Woods (left) and Tara Gaffney, 15, of Long Grove push boxes of donated items from the St. Francis De Sales Church in Lake Zurich up the sidewalk to be loaded onto a truck headed for Our Lady of Tepeyac Church in Chicago.

build walls. Now we are deporting those who seek refuge.

The new year seems to promise these tribal tendencies – these "I'm OK

you're not" attitudes and actions will increase.

Perhaps the No. 1 resolution Americans should make for the new year is that we will not let our

country devolve into a collection of hostile tribes, but remain a United States.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Immediate action needed to put Illinois students first



RANDY BLASER

A new report on the state of public school children in Illinois ought to raise the eyebrows of anyone who cares about education and the future of Illinois.

The issue: State educators have some big challenges in getting school children to perform at grade level and prepared to achieve in college and beyond.

And I don't see anyone doing much about it beyond nibbling at the edges. It is

definitely not the statewide priority it should be.

The sad facts are outlined in a new report called "Every Student Counts," put together by the advocacy group Advance Illinois. That's a nice title for a report and a beautiful sentiment, but as I have written about many times, not every student counts in Illinois.

The main issue facing the state is that in 43 percent of the public school districts serving Illinois children, more than half of the students come from low-income households.

But it is worse than that. The Illinois state school report card tells us that just under half, or 49.9 percent, of all children attending public school in Illinois are

low income.

I have no desire to make a judgment about children from low-income households. All Illinois children deserve a quality, free public education.

But research shows that it costs more to educate children from low-income households compared to their more affluent peers. Also, these same children start school behind their more affluent peers.

That can only be expected, when parents are financially stressed just to keep things together. They might not have the time or energy or resources to devote to preparing their children for school as other families do.

The report also finds that

fewer children have access to early childhood education programs that can put them on more equal footing with their more affluent peers when they start school. Sadly, there is only enough funding to serve 80 percent of the students in need, and the number of available seats for low-income 3- and 4-year-olds varies in different parts of the state. In Cook County, where the need is great, there are 8,000 fewer seats available than eligible children.

In addition to the income gap among Illinois school children, there are also achievement gaps between low income and other students. Only 20 percent of low-income 4th-graders,

for example, are achieving at grade level, some 35 percentage points behind their peers.

The sad results are that fewer low-income students are adequately prepared to go on to college and be successful in college compared to their wealthier peers. And those who do go on to college are less likely to gain a degree.

In short, Illinois schools are failing our most vulnerable students. Most likely, our schools are ill-prepared to handle the task before them, when half the students are from low-income households and 43 percent of school districts across the state have a majority of low-income students.

Does the state have a responsibility to spend more money and time for these children?

I think the answer is obvious. You bet it does.

A quality education for children is the one way we can ensure that the luck of the draw of birth is not destiny for a child. A free, quality public education can lift a child to success. That's the promise of America, isn't it?

And if Illinois does not provide quality public education, what does that foretell about the future health of this state?

It's not good. We need to take action now.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

The one resolution we all should make: put health before fitness



NICOLE RADZISZEWSKI
Mama's Gotta Move

I'm never really ready for New Year's resolutions. The concept usually sneaks up on me, somewhere between my kids' bouts with the stomach flu and my nibbling through leftover Christmas cookies.

Then every year on Dec. 30, I proclaim, "New year, new me! I'm so excited to wake up on Jan. 1 and start my new lifestyle of clean eating and KonMari organizing and drinking more water than coffee."

Ha. Actually, I'd like to shout, "Shame on you fitness industry and Pinterest people for bombarding me with photos of bikini models and vertically folded clothes! Let me be at peace with my winter weight and messy house!

But, alas, I've been around long enough to know that resolutions are a big thing for many people. And I understand the urge to start the year with a fresh start, a change in habits, a shift in priorities.

Fitness-wise, you might be considering joining a gym, starting a new diet, training for your first 5K, or simply continuing to chug along with your workout regimen. I'd like to make just one request:

Put health before "fitness."

Before you dive wholeheartedly into your New Year's fitness agenda and a "no excuses" mentality, consider whether your actions are in the best in-



DENYS BUCKSTEN/NEWS-SUN

Yoga instructor Jacquelyn Cotey gets into her own workout on Dec. 31, 2015, at FitNation In Gurnee.

terest of your overall health.

When you're deciding whether to get up at 5 a.m. to work out, and you're sleep-deprived and fighting a cold, put health before fitness.

When you're opting between yoga and the treadmill, and deep down you know you need to breathe and stretch more than you need another run, put health before fitness.

When you claim you don't have time to see a physical therapist about the leaking that happens when you jump, but somehow you find the time to do CrossFit, put health before fitness.

When you find yourself struggling with signs of depression, anxiety or stress and you attempt to bury them in exercise addiction, put health before fitness.

When you're considering a restrictive diet to get the weight off, put health before fitness.

When your knee is killing you, but you have the urge to run just one more mile, put health before

fitness.

I know every one of these women. I've been most of these women. So often we know our decisions are not in our bodies' best interest, yet we continue to exploit our health in the name of "fitness."

In the long run, it catches up to us. The pursuit of an aesthetic, of physical strength, of a constant flow of endorphins, of a PR (personal record), of the image of being fit. None of these matter if our health is in question: If we're injured, fatigued, depressed, undernourished, anxious, sick or on the verge of one or more of these.

So by all means, go ahead and start fresh with your fitness goals. Challenge yourself. Lose the excuses. But be honest about what your body really needs this year. Put health first.

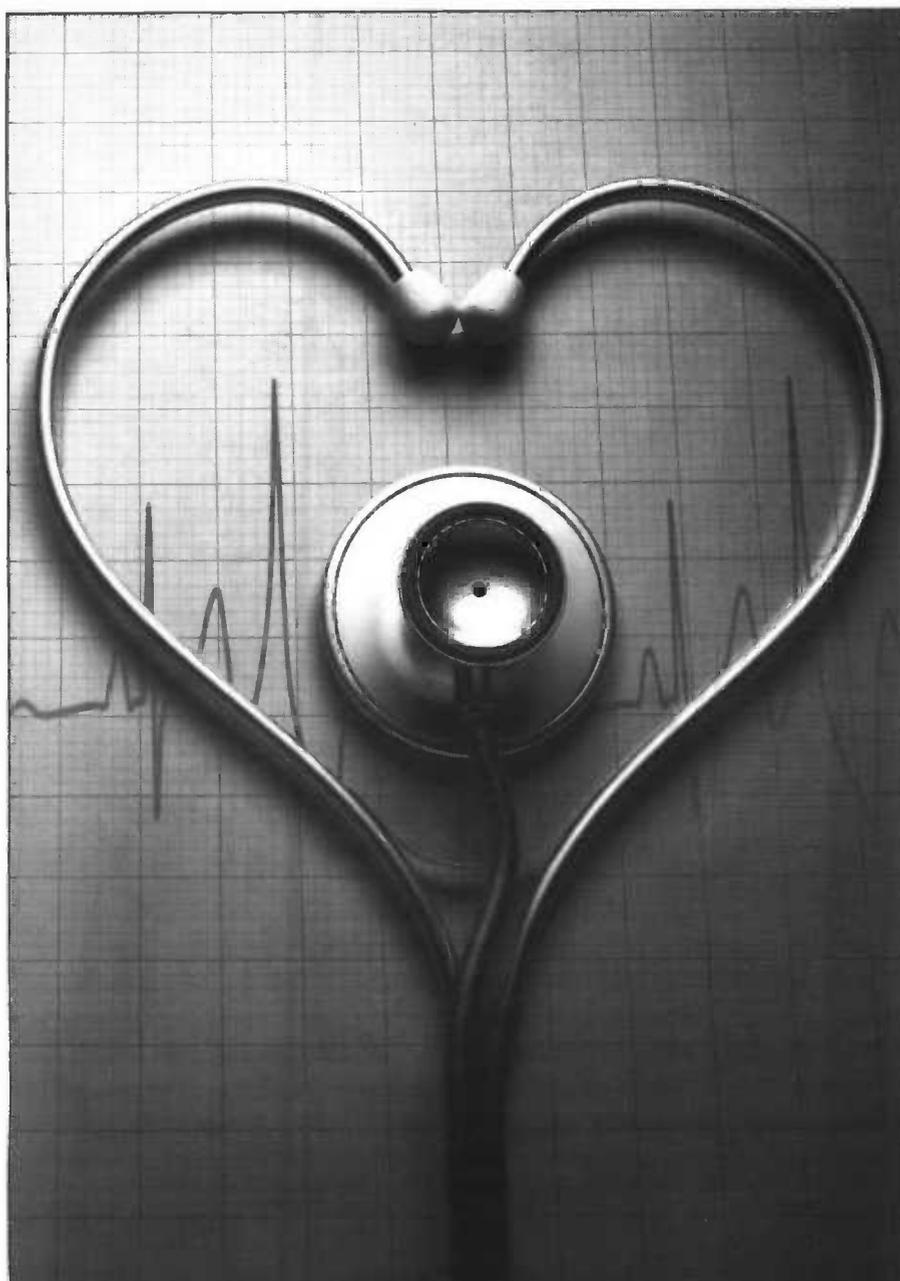
Nicole Radziszewski is a freelance columnist. She lives in River Forest and is a certified personal trainer and mother of two. Check Nicole out on Facebook at Facebook.com/mamas-gottamove.

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OPINION

12 requests of the Christmas season



ERIC SCOTT

In this season of giving, I thought I'd put a little spin on "The Twelve Days of Christmas" and put in a dozen requests that I'd like to see happen in the new year and beyond. Some of you may have similar thoughts on these "asks" and others might think otherwise. Well, here we go ...

1. If you choose to do your own TV or radio commercials, please stop yelling at all of us! Yes, we can hear you just fine in our living rooms and cars. You see, it's called a microphone.

2. When driving at night, do not flip on your high beams to see better in traffic - particularly if you're driving right behind another car or coming the other way on a 2-lane road. I know you can now see us better, but we can't see anything.

3. An office etiquette tip here: If there are assorted bakery goodies for everyone on the break room table, it is not, I repeat, not OK for you to rip off the top half of the muffin for yourself and leave the bottom chunk in the wrapper for the next visitor. C'mon, who does that? We all want the muffin top, just take the whole thing.

4. And now a message to certain football game broadcast color commentators: You are not getting paid by the word! It is not necessary to fill in every waking second between plays with "analysis." Don't spend four times longer than the actual time it took for the two-yard run into a gigantic defensive tackle.



BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

When there are a dozen or more people in line behind you at Starbucks, it's important to keep things moving and save your questions about the calorie count of the newest sandwich for a future visit.

5. If you are in front of the line at Starbucks during the morning rush with 17 people behind you, it is not OK to start asking about the fat content of the breakfast sandwiches. For the sake of your health and our patience, it's quick order - quick out!

6. I have only one Facebook etiquette request. Yes, it's really great that you're at a nice restaurant or a fantastic vacation resort, but please stop posting photos of all your meals before consuming. We'll take your word for it, the menu is really good.

7. Speaking of restaurants, when you're at an "order at the counter" emporium and you ask for a cup for water instead of ordering a fountain drink - just fill the cup with water! First, if you want a real drink, just pay for it. Second, am I the only one filling the cup with water along with two lemon wedges and a packet of sugar for lemonade on the fly?

8. And hey, as long as we're talking about popular lunch places ... You are allowed only one up-sell when I'm ordering at your sandwich specialty place. If you insist on always asking if I want to add chicken to an all-veggie and humus Mediterranean

sandwich, then you don't get to ask if I also want a shake or soup with that.

9. I can do an entirely separate column about cellphone use in public, but will limit it to one request here. Please end your in-store cellphone conversation before you get to the check-out counter. You come off as rude and completely obnoxious to everyone you're trying to ignore - when you're really bringing more attention to yourself.

10. After 2 months, you have to take your commercial off the air before it becomes physically irritating to watch. For example, the birds flying into the open apartment window at the end of the car commercial doesn't get any funnier when watching it for the 487th time.

11. Please, please, please stop driving with small dogs on your lap!

12. And finally, one grammar request. We need a wholesale review of when to use "is" and "are." It's not, "There's tons of stuff here," or "There is a million reasons to like this list." However, there are a million reasons why it's good to correctly talk about more than one thing.

Eric Scott is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

'The best thing I ate this year'

Area chefs share favorites of 2016

BY VERONICA HINKE
Pioneer Press

What happens when you ask 50 Chicago-area food pros to name the best thing they ate this year? You end up with a list of must-try places to keep you busy tasting all through next year. We checked in with some of Chicago's top chefs to get the scoop and we promise you'll be checking this list twice — and likely a few more times after that.

Greg Biggers

Executive Chef, Sofitel Chicago Magnificent Mile and Cafe des Architectes In Chicago

Best meal: Smoked Oyster Chowder

Restaurant: Fat Rice, 2957 W. Diversey Parkway, Chicago; www.EatFatRice.com

The skinny: "The oysters were plump and smoked flawlessly. The potatoes were cooked to perfection and the broth was super delicious with just a hint of spicy to get the blood moving."

Patrick Rhea

Owner, Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket In Willowbrook

Best meal: Perry's Famous Pork Chop

Restaurant: Perry's Steakhouse and Grille, 5 Oakbrook Center, Oak Brook; www.PerrysSteakhouse.com

The skinny: "It's this seven-finger pork chop that has been cured, roasted, smoked and then glazed, caramelized and carved tableside. It's magnificent! The eyelash or the lip of this monstrous chop is the absolute best part. And then there are the bones. Meaty, tender and succulent it is all that you can do to finish these bones. Then you still have the loin, which always goes home with me. This chop paired with the warm spinach and bacon salad and the sweet sriracha Brussels sprouts and you have a meal fit for a king."

Erling Wu-Bower

Chef de Cuisine, Nico Osteria In Chicago

Best meal: Pineapple Aguachile

Restaurant: Lena Brava, 900 W. Randolph St., Chicago; www.RickBayless.com/restaurants/lena-brava/

The skinny: "Course after course was a shocker, but the pineapple was the star. When it comes out, you kinda think, 'Come on, pineapple?' but then you eat it and just realize that you are in the hands of someone



ERIN HOOLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The pineapple aguachile dish at Rick Bayless' Lena Brava restaurant was a favorite dish of local chefs this year.

way cooler than you, and you stop asking questions and just enjoy."

Ryan Pfeiffer

Chef de Cuisine, Blackbird In Chicago

Best meal: Dungeness Crab

Restaurant: Smyth, 177 N. Ada St., Chicago; www.SmythAndTheLoyalist.com/Smyth

The skinny: "I've had many excellent meals this year, so it is hard to choose just one. One that comes to mind was at Smyth — Dungeness crab with foie gras poached in seawater with scrambled kani miso. I have never had poached foie gras, nor have I even thought about it. John Shields and Nick Romero are doing some seriously awesome things at Smyth."

Julie Warpinski

Chef de Cuisine, Big Star In Chicago

Best meal: Roasted Turnips

Restaurant: Bad Hunter, 802 W. Randolph St., Chicago; www.BadHunter.com

The skinny: "Dan (Snowden) is a great friend and amazing chef. My entire meal was delicious, but the real stand out was the roasted turnips dish with sesame, shoyu butter and crispy bacon-radish croutons. Dan managed to turn a not-so-popular vegetable into a dish people crave and want to order."

Paul Virant

Executive Chef and Owner, Vle Restaurant In Western Springs, Perennial Virant In Chicago and Vistro In Hinsdale

Best meal: The house-made plin filled with la tur, with a sauce of butter and thyme

Restaurant: Osteria Langhe, 2824 W. Armitage Ave., Chicago; www.OsteriaLanghe.com

The skinny: "La Tur cheese is a cow, sheep and goats milk cheese that is like Brie from the Piedmont region. It is rich and creamy with just the right amount of tang. This created a perfect filling for a sublime hand-pinched ravioli with just butter and fresh thyme."

Perry Hendrix

Chef de Cuisine, avec In Chicago

Best meal: Pastrami Trout, Kimchi Schmear, Fennel Salad

Restaurant: Snaggletooth, 2819 N. Southport Ave., Chicago; www.SnaggletoothChicago.com

The skinny: "It's what bagels, lox and cream cheese wants to be when it grows up. Can't go wrong with any of the seriously delicious cured fish — the best I've had."

Fabio Viviani

Executive Chef, Siena Tavern In Chicago

Best meal: Bao to the Pork sandwich

Restaurant: Pork & Mindy's, 1623 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago; www.PorkAndMindys.com

The skinny: "I tell you, the man (Jeff Mauro) gets it right when making sandwiches. He takes pork shoulder and tops off the sandwich with ingredients like cucumber and jalapeno relish and mixes it with an Asian plum sauce on a bao bun. Plus, you must add a side of tots."

Rick Bayless

Chef, Frontera Restaurants

Best meal: All of the pasta dishes

Restaurant: Monteverde, 1020 W. Madison St., Chicago; www.MonteverdeChicago.com

The skinny: "For me, homemade pasta is dreamy. Cook it with love, and serve it in a super-cool setting, and you have some of Chicago's greatest Italian dishes."

Rob Sidor

Executive Chef, Bohemian House In Chicago

Best meal: Quail Egg Raviolo with Parmesan Cream and Truffle

Restaurant: Schwa, 1466 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago; www.SchwaRestaurant.com

The skinny: "The single bite that really left me wanting more was the Quail Egg Raviolo at Schwa. It's super decadent, flawlessly executed, and the egg bursts perfectly on your palate. I could have eaten a hundred more."

Sarah Grueneberg

Chef/Partner, Monteverde Restaurant In Chicago and Pastificio In Highwood

Best meal: Buttered Pipe Pasta & Clams, Green Chili Ragout, assorted limes

Restaurant: Roister, 951 W. Fulton Market, Chicago; www.RoisterRestaurant.com

The skinny: "The texture of this dish is amazing! When they finish the pasta, they toss in finger lime and tobiko, which adds pops of texture and a fresh zing of lime."

Mark Hellyar

Chef/Partner, Momotaro In Chicago

Best meal: Tasting menu

Restaurant: Boka, 1729 N. Halsted St., Chicago; www.BokaChicago.com

The skinny: "Overall, my best meal of 2016 was a tasting menu over the summer from Chef Lee Wolen at Boka where every dish always delivers. My favorite Boka dish is basically any variation of duck they are serving. Lee is passionate about his duck so there is no going wrong with this choice."

Turn to Chefs, Page 18

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Chefs, from Page 17

Gene Kato

Chef/Owner, Sumi Robata Bar
in Chicago

Best meal: Kalbi —
Korean Barbequed Beef
Short Ribs

Restaurant: Cho Sun
OK Restaurant, 4200 N.
Lincoln Ave., Chicago;
www.ChoSunOKRestau-
rant.com

The skinny: "Perfect
balance of sweet, savory,
salty and tender. One of
my first meals in Chicago
16 years ago and has re-
mained consistent
through the years."

Bill Kim

Chef, Urbanbelly, BellyQ, Belly
Shack in Chicago

Best meal: Bolognese Pasta

Restaurant: Giant, 3209 W. Armitage
Ave., Chicago; www.GiantRestaurant.com

The skinny: "It's always a humble pasta
dish that wins me over. And, that's just what
happened during my meal at Giant. Chef
Jason Vincent's menu hits every note of
taste, texture and flavors and the Bolognese
course was exceptional! Rustic, rich and
perfectly cooked handmade pasta shells.
The portion size is just right, leaving you
room to work your way through the rest of
his exciting menu."

Leonard Hollander

Chef/Partner, Arbor in Chicago

Best meal: Chicken Pad Thai, Medium
Spicy

Restaurant: Thai Aree House, 3592 N.
Milwaukee Ave., Chicago

The skinny: "It was the first dish that my
2-year-old son ever ordered in a restaurant
on his own, and it was a complete grand
slam. Just the right savory-ness, along with
sweet, smoky, and perfectly cooked noodles.
He ate most of it with chopsticks, with a
couple of breaks to dance out his excite-
ment in the aisle. I'm excited to share this
one, one of my true faves!"

Fabio Capparelli

Executive Chef, Rosebud Restaurants

Best meal: Cebiche Tanta

Restaurant: Tanta Chicago, 118 W.
Grand Ave., Chicago; www.TantaChicago-
.com

The skinny: "My wife and I went to
Tanta Chicago for our anniversary. This
Peruvian restaurant really knows how to
make the flavor and culture of Peru come
alive. The Cebiche Tanta has scallops and
shrimp with a creamy rocoto-aji amarillo
sauce. The citrus taste was very balanced
along with the spices. The flavors of this



REBECCA ZUCKEMAN PHOTO

Rebecca Zuckerman, pastry
chef at Seven Lions in Chi-
cago and Terra & Vine in
Evanston said the best
thing she ate this year was
the cassoulet at Maude's
Liquor Bar.

meal are right on with what
you would eat in Peru."

Michael Ciapciak

Owner, Bang Bang Pie & Biscuits in
Chicago

Best meal: Small plates
(oysters, Bing Bread, sesame
leaves) and whatever the
banchan or pickles of the
week happen to be

Restaurant: Parachute
Restaurant, 3500 N. Elston
Ave., Chicago; www.Parachu-
teRestaurant.com

The skinny: "I likely visit-
ed Parachute the most out of
any of my favorite restaurants
in 2016 (Giant, La Sirena
Clandestina, Mott Street,
Coalfire, Lula Cafe, Honey
Butter Fried Chicken) and
under many different cir-
cumstances. Every visit pro-

vided something new and fresh and crave-
able, but I never failed to start with the
decadent Bing Bread with sour cream but-
ter; the crispy sesame leaves; bright oysters
and the insane pickles or banchan which
tend to vary every visit. Though it is a na-
tionally recognized restaurant that is de-
serving of every accolade it has received, it
is not too far from my home and for that
reason acts as a neighborhood spot. The
team is super welcoming and knowledge-
able and the food is innovative and new yet
somehow comforting and familiar at the
same time."

John Coletta

Executive Chef/Managing Partner, Quartino Risto-
rante & Wine Bar in Chicago

Best meal: Bucatini Carbonara

Restaurant: Nonnina, 340 N. Clark St.,
Chicago; www.NonninaChicago.com

The skinny: "This pasta preparation was
perfectly executed. The flavors were vi-
brant, fresh and crisp. The simplicity of this
dish is often over looked and rarely ex-
ecuted to this level. The pasta was perfectly
made and cooked to the al dente stage and
then tossed with pancetta, Protected Desig-
nation of Origin (DOP) pecorino, freshly
ground black pepper and topped with an
organic egg yolk."

Gale Gand

Pastry Chef/Partner, Tru, maker of Gale's Root Beer

Best meal: Linguine and clams

Restaurant: Miramar Bistro, 301 Wau-
kegan Ave., Highland; www.Miramar-
Bistro.com

The skinny: "Chef Gabe Viti's is the most
delicious version of linguine and clams I've
ever had and I've had a lot of them. His has
fresh little neck clams just popped open,
wilted spinach, and roasted grape tomatoes,

Turn to *Chefs*, Page 19

Chefs, from Page 18

and perfectly cooked el dente handmade linguine, along with a garlic-y broth that should be sopped up with his stellar artisan bread basket selection. It's served in an iron casserole and is just a special occasion when it hits the table. Have it with a glass of chilled rose. I keep going back for it year and after year."

Louie Alexakis

Chef/Owner, Avll Restaurant and Rotisserie In Winnetka

Best meal: Chopped Brisket Sandwich, Hand-cut Fries, Peach Cobbler
Restaurant: Smoque BBQ, 3800 N. Pulaski Road, Chicago; www.SmoqueBBQ.com

The skinny: "BBQ is my go-to comfort food. Brisket done right is a perfect blend of tastes and textures. Smoque is my usual quick stop when I am heading to the city. If food was something you wore, it's like an old flannel shirt or a warm blanket. Add the hand-cut fries and peach cobbler and all I need is a fireplace and a good book."

Margarita Challenger

Executive Chef/Owner, Guana-Juato Contemporary Mexican & Tequila Bar in Glencoe

Best meal: Chengdu Dan Dan Noodle Soup and Shrimp and Chive Dumpling

Restaurant: Katy's Dumpling House, 665 N. Cass Ave., Westmont; www.KatysDumpling.com

The skinny: "The Dan Dan soup is absolutely delicious. The noodles are homemade and they are tasty without being salty. The Spicy Stir Fry Noodles are great too. It's like going to my friend's Chinese home for soup. It's a small mom and pop shop but every time I've been there, it's been packed. The locals obviously know where to find great Chinese."

Rebecca Zuckerman

Pastry Chef, Seven Lions In Chicago and Terra & Vine In Evanston

Best meal: Cassoulet
Restaurant: Maude's Liquor Bar, 840 W. Randolph St., Chicago; www.MaudesLiquorBar.com

The skinny: "This was by far my favorite thing that I ate this year, and possibly over the past few years, because of how comforting it is. It is a traditional French dish that consists of a rich white bean stew, with

tomatoes, carrots, bacon, pork belly, garlic sausage, duck confit and bone marrow all topped with toasty, sourdough bread-crumbs. So yes, it is a little gluttonous, but we're going into the cold season so I feel a little better about indulging!"

Michael Lachowicz

Chef, Restaurant Michael and George Trois In Winnetka

Best meal: Assorted charcuterie platter
Restaurant: Owen & Engine, 2700 N. Western Ave., Chicago; www.OwenAndEngine.com

The skinny: "Made me feel like I was back in Lyon! Beautiful textures in the forcemeats and delicious house-made accompaniments including pickled onions and perfect crusty bread. Exceptional technique and flavor."

Angelyne Canicosa

Pastry Chef, Vie In Western Springs and Vistro In Hinsdale

Best meal: Crispy pata (pork shank), beef kare kare (peanut and oxtail stew), chicken inasal (calamansi, soy and vinegar marinated, coal-grilled chicken) and more.

Restaurant: Kawayan, 4859 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago

The skinny: "I chose this meal because it's truly authentic Filipino home-style cooking. It's not fussy or trying to be anything that it really isn't. Rich flavors are complemented by bright acidity. Everything is so well-balanced and satisfying. The dishes at Ka-

wayan remind me of my grandmother's cooking and also of the simple roadside eateries you can find everywhere in the Philippines."

Brian Huston

Chef, Boltwood In Evanston

Best meal: Corned Beef Hash
Restaurant: Tre Kronor, 3258 W. Foster Ave., Chicago; www.TreKronorRestaurant.com

The skinny: "My wife, Chrissy, and I go to Tre on Monday mornings when Boltwood is closed. I've had the corned beef hash twice over the last year so I can say it's consistent and well-seasoned. The potatoes are diced fine so you could eat them with a spoon. I get it with eggs over easy and I squeeze the ceremonial orange twist over the plate to give it a little acid. I'd be hard pressed to find a better breakfast in Chicago."



GUANAJUATO

Margarita Challenger, Executive Chef/Owner of Guana-Juato Contemporary Mexican & Tequila Bar in Glencoe holds up a bowl of noodles at Katy's Dumpling House in Westmont.

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GLENVIEW PARK DISTRICT

A countdown and balloon drop will end a New Year's Eve Party for kids Dec. 31 in Glenview.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Games, activities, balloon drop ring in the new year

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

New Year's comes 12 hours early at the Glenview Park District's Noon Year's Eve Party, 10:30 a.m.-noon Dec. 31 at Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., with activities for kids of all ages.

"In our main gym, we're going to have a couple of inflatables in one part of the gym," said Jill Bruns, manager of programs. "In another part, we'll have crafts, coloring, tattoos and face painting. In another section, we'll have a tot area for ages 4 and below where we'll have a tot inflatable, scooters, carnival games and balls."

From 10:30-noon, a DJ will play music and lead activities in the lobby.

"We'll have some handouts, including hats and noisemakers," Bruns reported. "At 11:45, we'll start moving everybody down to the main lobby. We will do the countdown at noon and then there will be a big balloon drop."

The cost is \$10 per child. Kids must be accompanied

by a parent.

For details, call 847-724-5670 or go to www.glenviewparks.org.

Bright way to mark the day

Families are encouraged to wear neon or bright white to a NEON Noon Year's Eve, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Dec. 31 at Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. The glow-in-the-dark event will include a countdown to noon.

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

Chill thrill

All ages are invited to brave the weather at an Arctic Blast Dash, 9:30-11:30 a.m. Jan. 7 outside Centennial Fitness Center, 1515 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge. Therapeutic massages will be offered during and after the free dash. Following the event, enjoy hot tea or hot chocolate inside the Fitness Center.

For details, call 847-692-5129 or go to

www.prparks.org.

Hap-Pea New Year

The LMNO Peas are back in a new book by Keith Baker, "Hap-Pea All Year." Kids will hear the story and do activities related to the book during a special story-time, 11 a.m. Dec. 31 at Barnes and Noble, 55 Old Orchard Center, Skokie.

For details, call 847-676-2230 or go to www.barnesandnoble.com.

Party hearty

...at the Kohl Children's Museum's New Year's Eve Bash, 8:30-11 a.m. or 12:30-3 p.m. Dec. 31 at 2100 Patriot Blvd., Glenview. Wendy & DB will perform and there will be a DJ, hat making, family photos, free hair styling from KidSnips and a Times Square-style confetti drop. Tickets are \$32 per person; \$22 for members; children under 12 months are free.

For details, call 847-832-6600 or go to www.kohlchildrensmuseum.org.

Living

Thursday, December 29, 2016

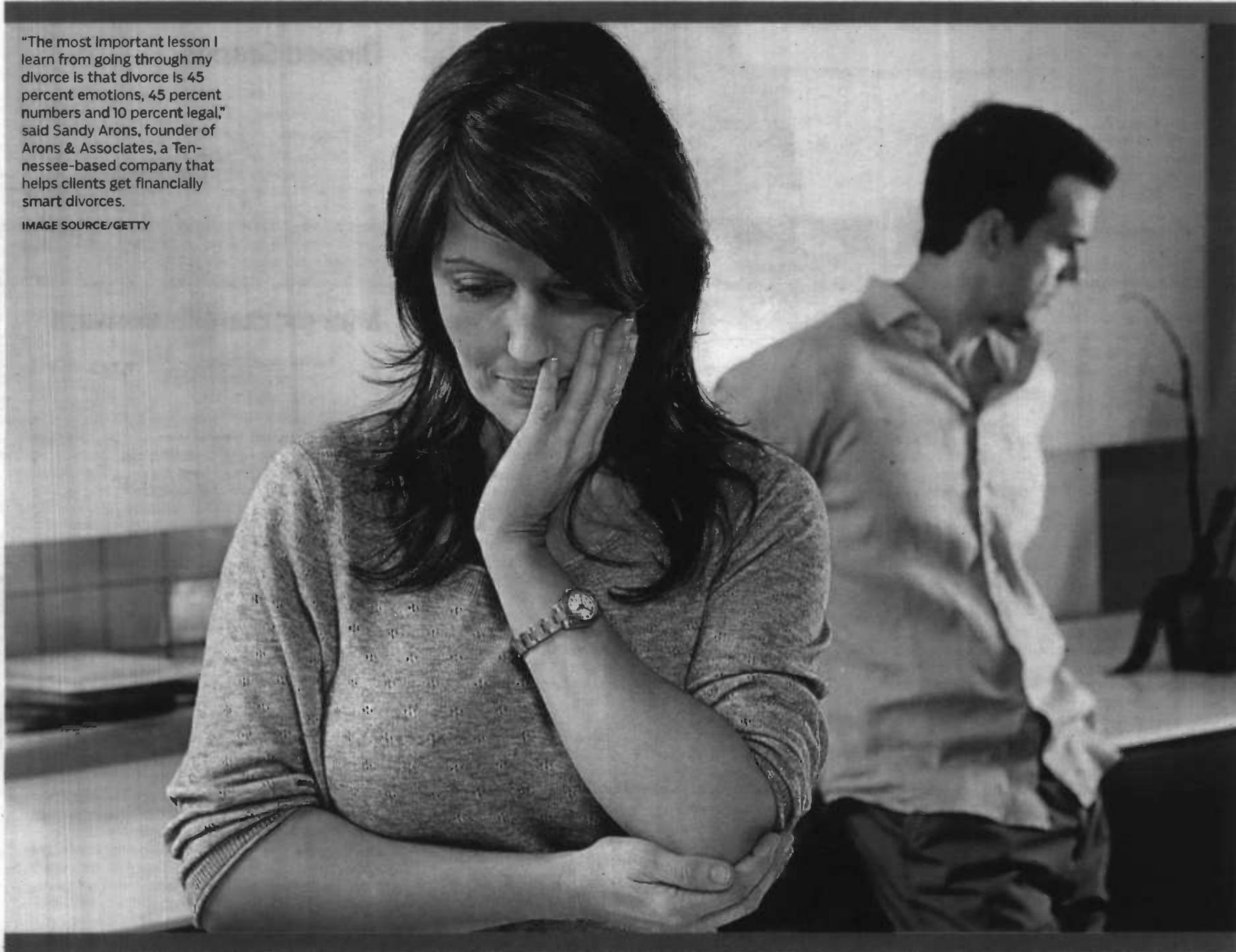


2

**Help squad:
Experts'
post-holiday
bargin-hunting
tips** Page 5

"The most important lesson I learn from going through my divorce is that divorce is 45 percent emotions, 45 percent numbers and 10 percent legal," said Sandy Arons, founder of Arons & Associates, a Tennessee-based company that helps clients get financially smart divorces.

IMAGE SOURCE/GETTY



Quelling separation anxiety

Divorce advice
from people who
survived Page 3

SUBURBAN COOKS

Tips for hosting a low-stress New Year's party

By Judy Buchenot
Naperville Sun

Now that Christmas is over, it's time to get ready to welcome the New Year.

Mandy Giba is a professional corporate events planner that has a few suggestions for putting together a New Year's Eve party. One of the first steps is to create a guest list.

"Don't invite more people than you have room for," she said. "And don't invite your friend's ex or anything like that. Don't let your guests bring random friends either."

Parties need food and beverages, but they don't need to be overwhelming.

"I like simple," said Giba, who grew up in Aurora but now lives in Chicago. Instead of setting up an elaborate bar, she prefers to make what she calls "large format cocktails."

This is a cocktail mix made up by the quart rather than in individual servings. "This way you don't have to spend the evening being a bartender," she said.

She likes to serve the large format cocktail in a big clear glass pitcher or in a glass beverage server with a spigot. "I look on Pinterest for cocktail recipes," she said. "I did one for a holiday party recently that was Prosecco, cranberry juice and triple sec that was really good."

To be sure that her guests don't overdo it, she chooses glasses that hold about six ounces.

Today's partygoers are into light appetizers, Giba said.

"Plan on about five to six appetizers per guest. I usually do half hot appetizers and half cold. If you don't want to be an active hostess during the party, go with all cold. I put out little dessert plates and napkins. I avoid appetizers that require any sort of silverware. Everything should be



JUDY BUCHENOT/NAPERVILLE SUN

Mandy Giba lines a cookie sheet with waxed paper to bake tiropita, a simple appetizer that can be made in advance.

bite-sized with a conveniently placed toothpick," she said. Slow cookers are ideal for keeping hot appetizers like meatballs warm during a party.

"When you are picking out appetizers, you need to include some vegan options these days," said Giba. "Be sure there is a vegetable or fruit option for people who prefer that."

One popular appetizer option is to serve variations on bruschetta, Giba said.

"You start with a regular bruschetta but then add something different like grilled chicken or salmon," she said. "This works well because it's a very approachable new food. Foodies like to try new things but nothing too scary or unfamiliar. If they recognize the bruschetta, then they will be willing to try the variation. If something is too unfamiliar like octopus, people won't eat it."

When setting up for a party, Giba likes to put up a "fun wall. I pick a wall and put up streamers and banners that say Happy New

Year so it is like an impromptu photo booth. People like to take pictures at parties and it is fun to have a place to do that."

Music is another important element. "I like to start the evening with some old-school music like Dean Martin and then allow my guests to pick what to listen to later on," she said.

Party hats, poppers, balloons and other party extras are fun additions. "The sillier the better," Giba said.

During the party, Giba likes to pull out some games. "Cards Against Humanity is fun and so is Heads Up!, which is a game that is an app on your phone. Anything to get everyone talking and having fun will work."

Giba reminds party hosts to "be flexible. It's a party, after all." Don't become stressed if a tray of mini quiches gets too brown or someone spills a drink or the ice runs out early. A party does not have to be perfect to be fun.

New Year's Eve parties can be exhausting since

they need to last at least until midnight, Giba said. "If it gets to be really late and you want people to leave, just tell them. If you think it might be a problem, a good way to avoid this is to start the party at your house and plan to go to a nearby bar for the countdown to midnight. Then everyone is at the bar celebrating and you can go home when you feel ready to go and they can go home when they want to go home."

A final word of caution about New Year's Eve from Giba concerns drinking and driving. "Some people collect car keys upon arrival and only give them back to people who aren't drunk. Don't let people drive drunk. Either call Uber to get them home or let them stay the night."

One of Giba's favorite party appetizers are dipped grapes. "They taste like little caramel apples and are so addictive," she said. She shares the recipe along with two of her other favorites for others to try this New Year's Eve.

Giba's Culinary Cue

When serving a drink from a large glass container with a spigot, an attractive idea is to put sliced fruit inside the container. However, use fruit that floats and doesn't break apart or the fruit bits will clog up the spigot.

Dipped Grapes

- 16 ounces vanilla CandiQuik coating
- 1-2 pounds green grapes
- 1 cup crushed peanuts

1. Remove grapes from the stems, wash and allow to dry completely. Melt candy coating. Place a toothpick in each grape. Hold toothpick to dip grapes in the candy coating until covered, roll in peanuts and place on waxed paper to harden. For a variation, use red grapes dipped in chocolate coating and sprinkle lightly with sea salt.

Mini mozzarella skewers

- 1 cup balsamic vinegar
- 1 pound mozzarella pearls
- 2 pints cherry tomatoes
- 20 fresh basil leaves

1. Place balsamic vinegar in a saucepan and simmer until reduced by half. Allow to cool. Drain pearls. Wash and drain tomatoes. Wash and cut basil leaves into thirds. Skewer one mozzarella pearl, one tomato and one basil leaf piece on a toothpick. Lay on a platter. Repeat until platter is full. Drizzle with balsamic vinegar reduction when ready to serve.

Tiropita

- 3/4 pound feta
- 1/4 pound smooth ricotta
- 3 eggs
- 1 pound filo dough, #4 thin sheets
- 3/4 cup butter, melted

1. Mix together feta, ricotta and eggs until fairly smooth. Set aside. Remove all the sheets of filo dough from the package. Cut into long, 4-inch strips.

2. Take one sheet and brush with melted butter. Lay a second sheet on top and brush with butter. Keep remaining sheets covered so they do not dry out. Place a tablespoon of filling in one corner. Fold corner across to make a small triangle. Continue folding side to side triangle to the end of the strip. Brush with butter and place on a cookie sheet lined with waxed paper. Continue until all filling is gone. Tiropita can be made a day ahead and covered and refrigerated until ready to use.

3. Bake at 400 degrees for about 20 minutes or until golden brown. For variety, mix in a pound of cooked and drained spinach with the cheeses. Leftover filling is delicious mixed in with scrambled eggs the next morning.

Quelling separation anxiety

Divorce advice from real people who survived

By Danielle Braff
Chicago Tribune

When you're getting married, you usually have months to plan, along with a partner and plenty of wedding magazines to help.

But divorce is a lonely place, with room for one plus an attorney who charges per minute. So we rounded up divorce advice from real people who have been there, done that — and made it through to the other side, better than ever.

Here's some advice that your lawyer may not have told you.

Document everything: If you need to go to court to seek out any damages or restitution, it's essential to provide backup to support the case, said Sheri Silver, a New York-based blogger. Silver suggested saving all emails and bills. "It couldn't be easier these days to keep a file on your computer that is designated for this, and the earlier you get into the habit of doing it, the better off you'll be in the event that you have to produce any evidence of some kind," Silver said.

Get financial disclosures: You'll need this as early as possible to make the divorce go quickly and smoothly, Silver said. While you may be tempted to do this yourself, hand control of it over to your lawyer because it removes you from the stress and trauma of the proceedings, Silver said.

"Doing it yourself is not always productive," she said.



CULTURA RF

Find a therapist: "The most important lesson I learned from going through my divorce is that divorce is 45 percent emotions, 45 percent numbers and 10 percent legal," said Sandy Arons, founder of Arons & Associates, a Tennessee-based company that helps clients get financially smart divorces. "My therapist was essential to manage the emotional roller coaster." While friends and family were helpful, Arons said that having an objective third person provided clarity.

Give a price to everything: Since divorce is a numbers game, Arons spent time figuring out the value of her house, the Blue Book value for the cars, the amount of mortgage left on her home, the bank accounts, the amount left in their retirement accounts and student loans, and more.

"Gathering these numbers for all your assets and debts is necessary, so your attorney can give you meaningful legal advice," Arons said.

And since she did her own research and

gathering, she avoided the very expensive formal discovery process, felt more confident and was able to have productive and efficient conversations with her attorney.

Think before getting an attorney: There are some divorces that aren't going to end up in litigation, said Liza Feiler, founder of Divorce Concierge Group, a Washington, D.C.-based organization that helps newly divorced people navigate their way to independence. "When you're finding an attorney, you need to figure out early on if you're going to end up litigating, and if you are, you need to find an attorney who has a fantastic reputation winning their cases in litigation, which is different than doing something that's more cut and dry," Feiler said. "So first, you really need to figure out how this all is going to play out."

Don't make a rash decision: It's important not to make decisions based on emotions, said Jackie Pilossoph, creator of

Divorced Girl Smiling, a divorce support website, and a freelance columnist who writes the weekly advice and dating column "Love Essentially." "When you make an impulsive decision, you suffer the consequences of saying or doing something you might not have done had you given it more thought," said Pilossoph. The consequences could play out in the courtroom if you send an email in the heat of the moment and your soon-to-be-ex-spouse forwards the angry email to his or her lawyer who routes it to the judge, who decides that you're unfit to parent your children. Instead of making that impulsive decision, Pilossoph suggested venting to friends or family, exercising, meditating or journaling.

Understand the fine print: "When I got divorced, I did not know what I was doing legally because I had never heard any of the terms. I trusted my attorney and did what he said instead of empowering myself, learning the terminology

and making a decision based on his advice and my own knowledge," Pilossoph said. The result: You could sign something unknowingly that could make your soon-to-be-ex-spouse upset, which could make the divorce more unpleasant than it needs to be, she said. Your divorce attorney is trying to get you the best outcome but doesn't necessarily know the private agreements made between you. "I have a master's degree, but I don't have an understanding of the law," Pilossoph said, suggesting that you ask your attorney plenty of questions before signing anything. Ask him what everything means in common terms and what it will mean for you.

Engage in good coping mechanisms: When you go through a divorce, you aren't you. "You're a different personality: emotional, frightened, depressed, short-tempered," Pilossoph said. While a glass or five of wine may look tempting at this time, you should avoid alcohol until you go back to being you, because you need to stay away from this and other things that could add to your depression, Pilossoph said, adding that when people are going through a divorce, they're vulnerable to addiction. Better coping mechanisms would include therapy, exercise, a new hobby or anything that would benefit you in a positive way. Avoid jumping into a new relationship right away, drugs, alcohol and giving up on life, Pilossoph said.

Hold it in: As much as you're hurting, your kids are hurting just as much or worse, Pilossoph said. "They shouldn't be your therapist," she said. "Talk

about it in front of your girlfriend, not in front of your kids."

Stay on speaking terms: When you have children, you still need to have a partnership with your spouse; it just needs to be a different type of relationship, Feiler said. "You have to figure out how to communicate and have a working relationship," she said.

Outsource: There are businesses out there that make the transition smoother — beyond your attorney — that help you figure out what steps to take, said Feiler, who started one of these companies herself after her own divorce. "I realized how much in need I was, and I didn't want people to feel as lost as I was," she said. If your spouse was the person who handled the bills, the paperwork and the organizing of your daily schedule, then find an assistant or even a local college student who can help with this to make the transition smoother until you get back on your feet, Feiler said.

Her company, Divorce Concierge Group, helps with everything from finding health insurance to selecting a real estate agent, an accountant, a new school for the kids and more. "When I created this four years ago, there was nothing like this out there, but in the last four to five years, they've become a little more available," Feiler said. You can see if there's one in your area simply by Googling your state and "divorce concierge" or asking your attorney if he or she knows of anyone who can help.

Danielle Braff is a freelancer.

PETS/ANIMALS

MY PET WORLD

Will tooth extraction help a dog with poor teeth?

By Marc Morrone
Tribune Content Agency

Q: Please help! We love your column and need advice. Our 10-year-old dachshund has always had terrible teeth and no matter what we did (brushing, scaling at the vets, special oral sprays) nothing seemed to fix the situation and now it seems that she is in a lot of distress and is pawing at her mouth and drooling. Our vet says she needs to have every tooth extracted and this horrifies us. We wanted to know if you could advise us on any alternate solutions?

— Grace Walton, Macon, GA

A: I appreciate your kind words about me, but I am not worthy of your adulation in this matter as I am not a vet. I never went to college and I am lucky that I qualify for a library card.

However, I have had a lot of dogs with chronic dental problems pass through my hands in the last half-century and a few of them needed to have total extractions of every tooth in their mouths. I was always amazed at how happy the dogs were after the surgery. In just a few days, the dogs were happier and healthier than they were before the extraction.

Obviously a dog that does not have any more teeth cannot eat dry kibble, but they do just fine on canned food and they do not even realize their teeth are gone.

So if your vet prescribed this

procedure for your dog then it is in the best interest of you and your dog. Plus, the dog will have a better quality of life as a result.

Q: I have a red betta fish named George that has been living in a little 2 gallon tank on my desk at work for the last month. I have some live plants in the tank and he has built a bubble nest around the stems that poke up out of the water. He really seems to be fixated on this nest and is always adding more bubbles to it. I was wondering if I should get him a female betta as a mate so he can make use of the nest. I know the males fight but I would imagine they do not fight with the females.

— Robert Miller, Baltimore, MD

A: You would think that getting your fish a mate would be a good thing to do but it would actually make the situation quite complicated.

First of all, the males do fight with the females. A male betta wants nothing to do with a female unless she is full of eggs and ready to breed. In that case, he would entice the female to the bubble nest and embrace her in order to stimulate her to lay the eggs that he fertilizes as she produces them. He would then grab each egg in his mouth and place them in the bubble nest with great care and deliberation. When the eggs are all laid and placed in the nest his romantic thoughts are over. The male fish would chase the



BRIAN NGUYEN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

If a dog needs all its teeth extracted, it will have better quality of life after the procedure.

female one away and kill her unless you take her out of the tank and put her in one of her own.

So now you have two tanks on your desk with a fish in each one. Then after the eggs hatch you have a lot more drama on your hands as the babies are very small and need a specially prepared food — not the betta pellets you are feeding the father.

In a few days the babies are old enough to swim on their own and then the happy little family is finished as now the dad wants nothing to do with them and does his best to drive them out of his territory and there are only so many places for a fish to hide in a 2 gallon aquarium.

My advice is that if it ain't broke then don't fix it. George

will be quite happy tending to his bubble nest and most likely has no idea he is missing out on anything at all in life.

Q: My cat must be part monkey because he uses his paws like hands and will pick up his food in one paw and eat it off his paw. He is 2 years old and we always thought his behavior was cute but he seems to have developed a taste for running water and he learned to pull the lever on our kitchen sink faucet to turn the water on and drinks as it is running. However he does not turn the water off and during the day if he does it then it is running for hours. We got him one of those drinking fountains for cats that always have water circulating

and put it on our counter next to the sink but he prefers the sink water and still turns on the faucet. Can you advise us if there is any way to teach him not to do it?

— Cindy Ortiz, Orlando, FL

A: This is one of those situations where the pet wins by default. You cannot do anything in the way of training the cat not to do this unless you were around it all day monitoring the situation.

I never had a cat do this but I did have a dog that learned to turn the hose spigots on outside by actually turning the handle with her mouth so that she could play in the water. Of course she did not turn off the water so we ended up with a flood in the backyard all the time.

In the end I had to have a plumber come over and change all the hose spigots to the type that you open up with a key.

So you may have to pay a visit to a plumbing supply store and get a new faucet. Once your monkey cat figures out it is game over, he will resign himself to drinking out of the fountain that you provided.

Marc Morrone has kept almost every kind of animal as a pet for the last half-century and he is happy to share his knowledge with others. Although he cannot answer every question, he will publish many of those that have a general interest. You can contact him at petsxperts2@aol.com; please include your name, city and state.

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Experts' post-holiday bargain-hunting tips

If you still have a little money in your pocket after Christmas — or you simply can't resist a deal — here are some creative suggestions I received from three deal-seeking experts on where to find the best post-holiday bargains.

Erin Huffstetler, editor, My Frugal Home

Lots of foods — nuts, cereals, candies, cookies — get put in special packaging for the holidays. Stores will be eager to move these items out quickly after, so watch for deep discounts. Trawl the grocery aisles for foods in holiday packaging, then use a price scanner to see if they've been marked down. Also, watch for holiday baking supplies, like chocolate chips and baking chocolate, to go on clearance.

Include thrift stores in your after-Christmas deal hunt. They get inundated with donations at the end of the year. This makes them a treasure trove in January.

If you're looking for a deal on a computer or any other big-ticket electronic item, check the open-box section at

electronic and big-box stores in January. They might be selling returned items at a significant discount. Some retailers, like Best Buy and Amazon, even have an open-box or warehouse section on their websites.

Look for items that can be used for other occasions. Solid-colored wrapping paper can be used at any time, and many holiday gift sets can become birthday gifts, if you just take them out of their holiday packaging. When you see red decorations and party supplies, stock up for Valentine's Day, and when you see green decorations and party supplies, stock up for St. Patrick's Day.

Lauren Lyons Cole, money editor, Consumer Reports

Make sure to look at a store's online sales as well as its in-store sales because they're not always the same. You might get a deeper discount on a store's website. When you find an item, always do a quick search



CATHY CUNNINGHAM
Help Squad

to see if you can find it cheaper online.

If you do locate a cheaper online price — whether with that merchant or another — don't be afraid to ask for a price match. Almost across the board, stores will price match because they want your

business.

The day or two after Christmas is when you are going to see the deepest discounts because that's when people are returning gifts they don't want. Stores don't want you to walk out with cash, they want you to walk out with another product, hence the steep markdowns.

The Consumer Electronics Show takes place in early January every year. A lot of new products, like TVs and Apple Watches, are introduced at this conference, so around that same time, you'll start to see discounts on what will soon be the older models.

In addition to the obvious Christmas decorations and winter clothes, bath scales

also wind up being a good post-holiday buy. (Who knew?!)

Benjamin Glaser, features editor, DealNews

Clothing dominates after-Christmas sales, and that includes high-end designers. Winter apparel has to be cleared out to make way for spring lines.

Deals on activewear will be even better, as they benefit from both after-Christmas sales and fitness-related New Year's resolutions. Pair these with discounted weights and workout machines as sporting goods stores compete for shoppers aiming to get healthy in 2017.

Of course, the best time to buy Christmas decorations is Dec. 26. Pick up discounted decor like lawn inflatables and other trimmings at Home Depot, Crate & Barrel and J.C. Penney.

Need help? Send your questions, complaints, injustices and column ideas to helpsquad@pioneerlocal.com.

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist.

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LOGAN FAERBER/IMAGEZOO

2 books to mark a bewildering year

By John Warner
Chicago Tribune

It is hard to imagine a stranger year than 2016. Who would believe 2016 if you'd described it to someone before it happened? What does fiction have to say when our nonfiction world feels so surreal? I intend for my annual Biblioracle Book Awards to be fun, a celebration of my favorite reads of the year in all of their individual, idiosyncratic glory. Last week, in Part 1 of the awards, I managed the task, but in preparing Part 2, my enthusiasm broke down. At this moment, I am hardened, bound to get a more serious point across.

I have only one award left to give before we turn the page on 2016: The Biblioracle Book of the Year. This time, it's a tie between "High Dive" by Jonathan Lee and "The Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead.



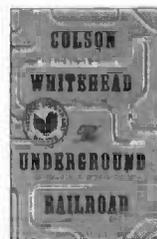
I have written about my admiration for both these books previously, but looking at them in the context of this very strange year, and a forbidding 2017, I see these novels as not merely good, but vital. These are works that may help us see more clearly as we navigate through our cultural turbulence.

"High Dive" is the overtly political novel of the two, as it explores the events surrounding a real-life assassination attempt on Margaret Thatcher at a Brighton resort

hotel in 1984. Lee invents around the history, conjuring Dan, a young IRA operative who's tasked with planting the bomb meant to kill the prime minister. As the book unfolds, Lee shows us what drives their plot: the discontent and dislocation of people without economic hope, and who are demon-

ized and attacked by their neighbors. The Irish "Troubles" are not directly analogous to U.S. politics, but the urge toward violence and hatred toward others with whom we should share so much feels freshly relevant.

"The Underground Railroad" is Whitehead's reckoning with our country's original sin, one we continue to pay for, but also one too many refuse to believe remains a stain on our ideals.



As we follow our heroine, the runaway Cora, journeying toward freedom, we see the violence visited on black bodies in the name of righteousness, a legacy that continues to this day.

But it is Whitehead's story of Ridgeway, the slave catcher, that should most unsettle us. The son of a blacksmith, Ridgeway finds his purpose. His father "made tools"; the son "retrieved them." Ridgeway becomes a man who owns "three fine coats" and laments when he can't use violence to practice his trade. Finding Cora, the daughter of a previous slave who escaped him, becomes his obsession and his undoing. In denying the humanity of others, he destroys his own.

We have been failing to see all citizens as fully human since our earliest days. We have elected a man who appealed to and emboldened the worst elements of our society. His victory is part of a continuum, not a sudden reversal of progress.

Perhaps these books can help us see more clearly the damage we collectively carry.

John Warner's 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've read.

1. "Rabbit at Rest" by John Updike
2. "The Nix" by Nathan Hill
3. "Lonesome Dove" by Larry McMurtry
4. "Straight Man" by Richard Russo
5. "Atlas Obscura: An Explorer's Guide to the World's Hidden Wonders" by Joshua Foer, Dylan Thuras and Ella Morton
— Jack P., Chicago

"Atlas Obscura" would get my "coffee-table book of the year" award. In the other books, I see an impulse toward characters wrestling with different approaches to manhood as well as a bent toward comedy, which brings to mind the very funny and profane "Home Land" by Sam Lipsyte.

1. "Truly Madly Guilty" by Liane Moriarty
2. "The Girl on the Train" by Paula Hawkins
3. "Night School" by Lee Child
4. "The Andy Cohen Diaries" by Andy Cohen
5. "11/22/63" by Stephen King
— Laura P., Chicago

Can't do much better for suspense than Tana French's Dublin Murder Squad series. "The Trespasser" is the latest installment.

1. "Commonwealth" by Ann Patchett
2. "When Breath Becomes Air" by Paul Kalanithi
3. "The Giver" by Lois Lowry
4. "Lab Girl" by Hope Jahren
5. "State of Wonder" by Ann Patchett
— Lisa T., Naperville

For my last recommendation of 2016, I'm going with a novel that asks us to consider questions of faith and life's meaning. I found it to be a balm. "Gilead" by Marilynne Robinson.

What should you read?

For a recommendation, send a list of the last five books you read to printersrow@chicagotribune.com. Write "Biblioracle" in the subject line.



puzzle island

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

12/25

CHRISTMAS CAROLS: And Karol, Caroline, etc.

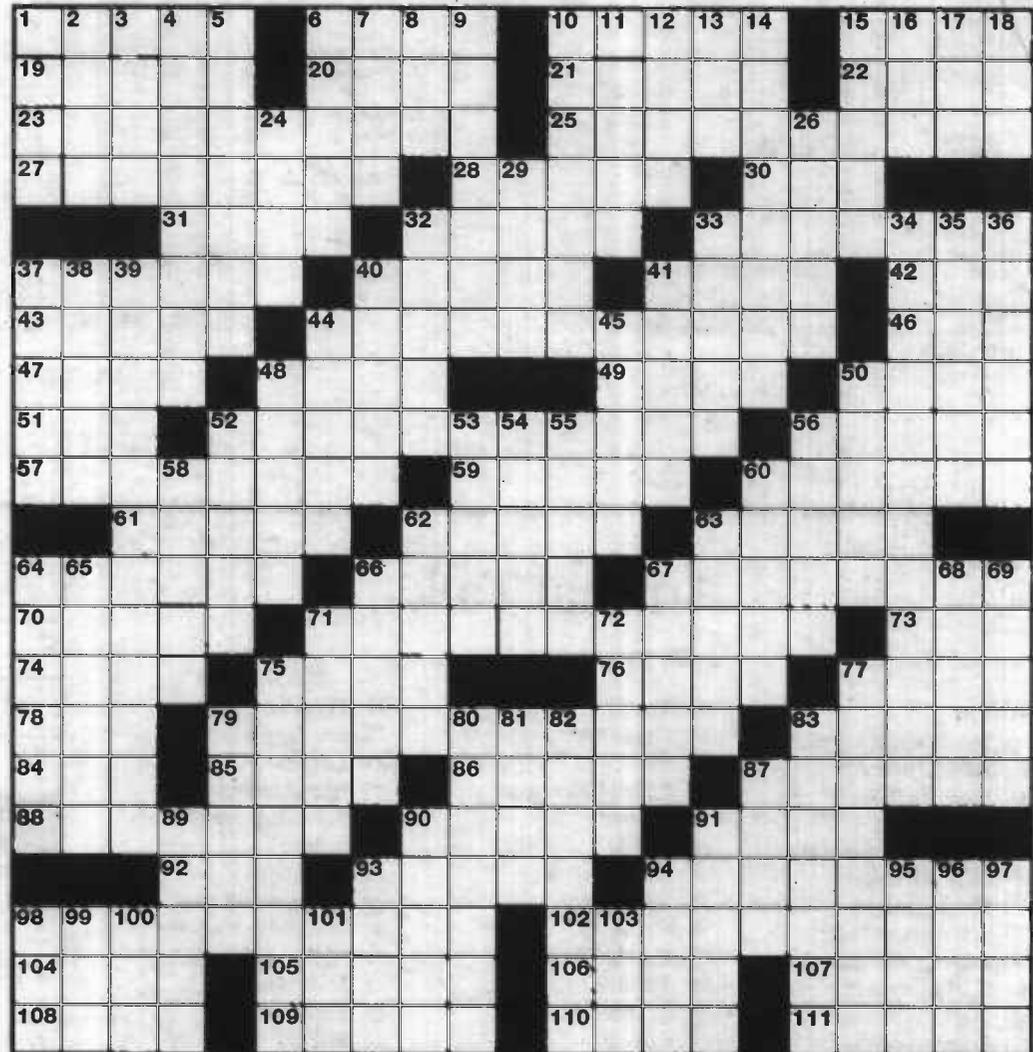
By S.N. | EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN
(stanxwords.com)

Across

- 1 Ethereal instruments
6 Minor falling-out
10 Very cold
15 Statistical collection
19 Second word of *Gone With the Wind*
20 Cantina order
21 In unison
22 Uttered
23 Carole who cowrote "Nobody Does It Better"
25 What the Carolina Hurricanes won in 2006
27 Something in the way
28 Command to a canine
30 Robin Hood beverage
31 Mideast airline
32 *Jurassic World* menaces
33 *Sunset Boulevard* star
37 Wrongdoer
40 Keel over
41 As compared to
42 Distinctive period
43 Lasso loop
44 Two-time honor for Joyce Carol Oates
46 Pal of Frodo
47 Concerning
48 One of Canada's First Nations
49 A bit
50 Social outing
51 Barbecue spot
52 Sitcom where Carroll O'Connor was Helen Hunt's dad
56 Bit of hearsay
57 Vessel to sail on or drink from
59 Dress carefully
60 Ones in a hurry
61 One of a carol's 11
62 Tilted
63 Job bonuses
64 Not as fresh
66 *The Very Hungry Caterpillar* author
67 Evade
70 Steps off
71 Singer of Carole King's "You've Got a Friend"
73 Old-school cheer
74 In the course of
75 *— en scène* (stage setting)
76 Golf course teachers
77 Kilo- times 1,000
78 UK defence arm
79 A *Christmas Carol* clerk
83 Bakers' implements
84 Yale student
85 Brainchild
86 Educator
87 Chin adornment
88 Slices of a century
90 Gave seconds to
91 Hoodlum
92 Direction opposite *norte*
93 Christmas VIP
94 Flute, for instance
98 Karol Wojtyla's better-known name
102 Half of a Lewis Carroll twosome
104 Desert plant
105 Believe in
106 No longer happening
107 Pompeo of *Grey's Anatomy*
108 Keg contents
109 Felipe VI, to his subjects
110 Performs hip-hop
111 Classic Christmas gifts for kids

Down

- 1 "Knight of the road"
2 Ishmael's captain
3 Tampa Bay baseballers
4 False show
5 Mrs. Smith's rival
6 Procrastinate
7 Signal via beeper
8 One-spot
9 Act of twisting
10 Historical French region
11 Bass-baritone Simon
12 Rich soil
13 Cozy retreat
14 Where Biden was senator
15 Senior member
16 Shape of a rainbow
17 Sigma follower
18 Chalet spot
24 Lasting mark
26 Spiral-horned antelope
29 "Coming — going out?"
32 Twerp
33 SeaWorld orca
34 Where Caroll Spinney has been a Bird and a Grouch
35 Spellbinding speaker
36 Finger pointers
37 Uses scissors
38 Greek column type
39 Where the Caroline Islands are



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

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- 40 Use scissors
41 *— the aisle* (theater ticket request)
44 Purchase authorization
45 Up to now
48 Weaver in rattan
50 Stoops suddenly
52 Is downcast
53 *— citato* (footnote phrase)
54 Range of Russia
55 Religious doctrine
56 Not as prevalent
58 No longer squeaking
60 Second attempts
62 Debussy piece
63 Tom Hanks, in *Sully*
64 Didn't mind donating
65 Burrito alternative
66 *Julius Caesar* conspirator
67 Aleppo's land
68 Bird on the back of a buck
69 Transitional period
71 Conforms (with)
72 Greenhouse pest
75 Become less intense
77 Have good intentions
79 Raise the price of, at auction
80 User-friendly feature
81 Ex-president who swore in Hoover
82 Roddenberry, re *Star Trek*
83 Some balloon animals
87 "I approve!"
89 Seven-Emmy actor
90 Move higher
91 Attendees
93 Speak unclearly
94 Shed tears
95 At leisure
96 Can't do without
97 Cozy retreats
98 Fast punch
99 World Cup cheer
100 Cultivating tool
101 Web page ID
103 St. since 1863

Quote-Acrossic

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

Clues	Words
A. Like hard work	93 129 115 55 40 153 7 18 161
B. Memorable cooking: hyph.	101 136 69 118 87 41 56 147
C. Add	96 45 127 57 24 113
D. Leather strap	58 51 154 9 75
E. A leaving out	141 43 8 112 150 21 160 80
F. Babbled: 2 wds.	143 26 97 88 61
G. Light bulb idea	52 103 124 82 63 1 46
H. Political pardon	67 144 100 29 53 15 126
I. Past comedy show: hyph.	68 77 138 28 105 149 37
J. Be careful: 3 wds.	11 128 33 50 25 148 108 2 78
	66 117 162 92

K. Next: 2 wds.	134 74 91 104 59 36 27
L. Chinese favorite: 2 wds.	132 65 3 102 125 146
M. Most: 2 wds.	64 49 145 5 14 85 157 83 121 23
N. Appearing guilty	30 34 158 120 95 73 54 48
O. Near Jaffa	110 44 90 70 20 60 119
P. Bouncy exercise: 2 wds.	130 142 116 76 99 151 62
	135 12 107 137 6
Q. Race tracks' shapes	16 38 163 139 86
R. Remove help	123 155 98 79 109
S. Filled with disgust	71 35 22 114 140 156 94 10
T. It makes good news?: 2 wds.	164 81 32 111 47 17
U. Greedy	4 159 131 19 39
	84 31 152 89 122
V. Tart	133 106 72 165 42 13

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

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By Pat Bitterman. Edited by Linda and Charles Preston. © 2016 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

Animal Talk

BY CHARLES PRESTON

Across

- Tea or apple carrier
- Street, in Seville
- Issue forth
- Regan's dad
- Long, and namesakes
- Like Mr. Apley
- Met highlight
- Franklin or Maude
- Bauxite and galena
- U. of Michigan player
- Docks
- Jason's vessel
- Express disapproval
- Suggested umbrella
- Sham
- What the Knave of Hearts did
- Spa adjunct
- Something to lend
- Containers
- Fetters
- *spumante*
- Lodge member
- Very wet
- A Shaw
- Missouri college
- Furze

Down

- Feline feature
- Dynamics preceder
- Complain bitterly
- Hardships
- Fee
- TV adjunct
- Slant
- Old —, CT
- Curvy letter
- Abelard's lady, in Soho
- Hoaxes
- Way, for Cato
- Hardy girl

- Perry's creator
- Cordage fiber
- Layers
- Elevator shoe?
- Formal evening dress
- Aches
- Mr. Vallee
- Composer Erik
- Pennsylvania port
- Agnes and Joan, e.g.
- Indicator
- South African
- Halted
- Eschew
- First-rate
- Somewhat ill
- Blèw
- At — ends
- Projected Pelion topper
- Bellow
- John Irving protagonist
- Woodwind
- Late Belgradian
- Verve
- Hide
- Thos. Dorsey's brother

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

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Holiday Doings

BY NORA PEARLSTONE

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

This grid's gray squares form a holiday image. Treat them like black squares when solving.

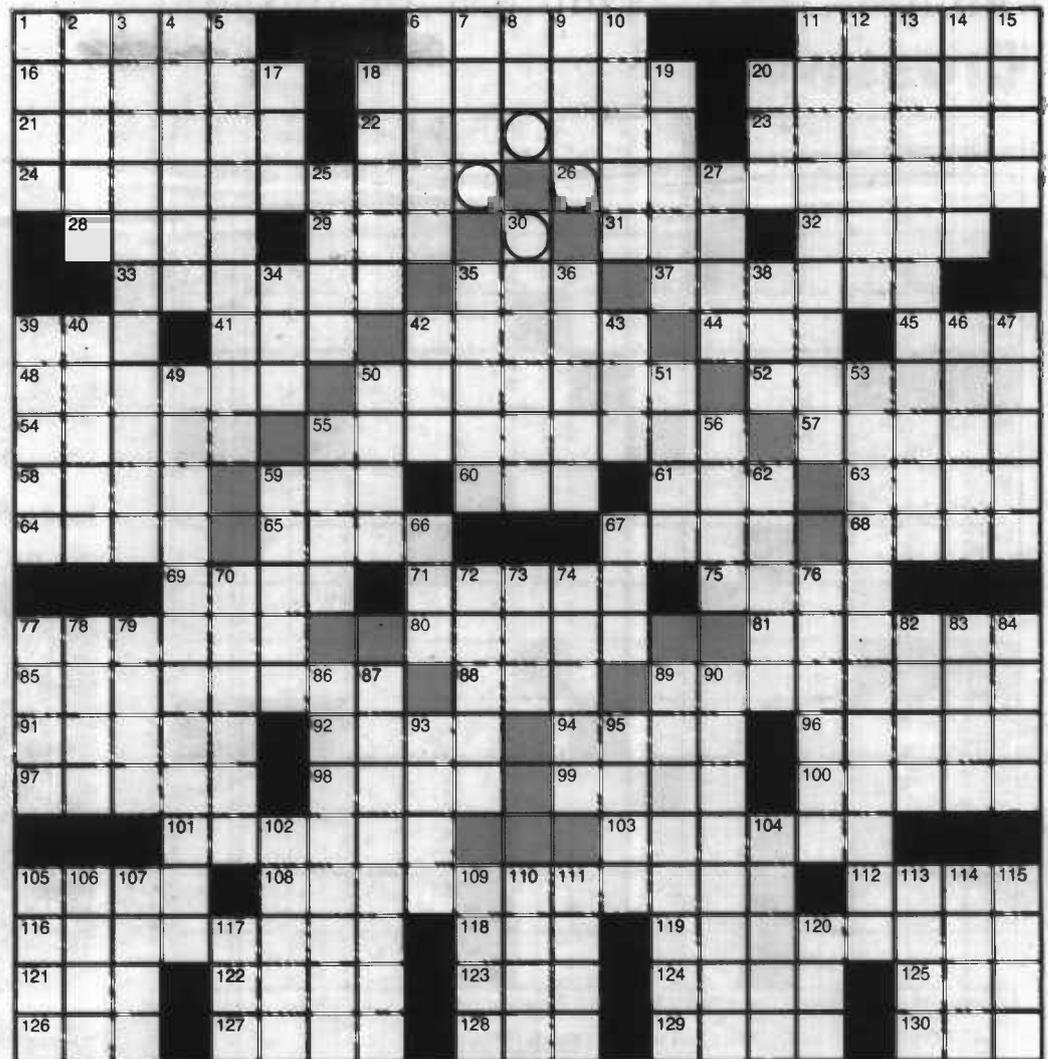
Across

- 1 WWII investment
6 Sri Lankan language
11 It may be seen to the left of venous
16 Quashed
18 Psyched
20 Frightened
21 Frightens
22 Bagfuls for 24-Across
23 Poet Levertov
24 His personal Canadian postal code is HO HO HO
26 With 71-Across, holiday classic
28 Kiss and caress, in Kent
29 Cousin of the Vulcan mind meld
31 It's bonded in bales
32 Etta of old comics
33 Word before and after "is"
35 Concert shirt
37 Indiana county or its seat
39 L.A.'s ___ Center
41 Shine, in ads
42 Do-it-yourself mover
44 Columnist Hentoff
45 UV index monitor
48 Prepared with mixed vegetables, in Chinese cooking
50 Ivy support
52 Parish leader
54 Wide-eyed look
55 Seasonal hangings
57 It might accompany a "meh"
58 Hot-and-cold fits
59 Cartoon shopkeeper
60 Old map abbr.
61 Monthly payment that's often more than the prin.
63 Sleek, in car talk
64 Capitol feature
65 Meat department buy
67 Song from Carmen
68 Last ones to deal with
69 Impact sound
71 See 26-Across
75 Longtime rival of Tiger
77 Longhorn rivals

- 80 Climber's target
81 Futile
85 Team for 24-Across
88 Sharable PC file.
89 Things to open
91 Fort near Fayetteville
92 ___ bonding
94 Tan relative
96 Descriptively named support
97 From that time
98 They often include ages
99 Maneuverability
100 Speak
101 Embellishes
103 UPS carton phrase
105 "Bearing gifts, we traverse ___"
108 Sets on tracks
112 Prettify with paper
116 Sweet-scented flower
118 Cry of revelation
119 Resonant barbershop sound
121 ___ out a living
122 Bank deposit
123 Type of garden
124 ___-bitty
125 Trouble
126 Narc's employer
127 Narc's assignment
128 To this time
129 Julia's "Ocean's Twelve" role
130 Rev (up)

Down

- 1 Spacewalks, briefly
2 Lugosi and Karolyi
3 Classic 71-Across
4 Popular virus remedy
5 Rabble-rouser
6 Jam on the road
7 Dance and drama
8 Got together
9 Concept
10 Sudden move
11 Winter pastime gear
12 City on the Loire
13 Attend to a holiday symbol
14 Found a new table for
15 Picnic drinks
17 U.S. Army medal
18 Instant
19 "Nonsense!"
20 Star Wars initials
25 Small construction piece
27 NFL coach Rex
30 Bailiwicks
34 German university city
35 A.L. West team, familiarly
36 "Elements of Algebra" author
38 Prevent
39 Syrian leader
40 Expenses
42 Caterer's vessel
43 Author Yutang
46 Really comes down
47 One may end in "ese"
49 Holiday mailing
50 Indisputable
51 Slowly emerge from sleep
53 Title annual holiday character since 1965
55 Slanted page?
56 Barbershop sound
59 Mistreatment
62 Sierra Nevada vacation mecca
66 TV monitor
67 E.T. from Melmac
70 Equivocated
72 Suisse peaks
73 Relieved
74 Bid
76 "Whew!"
77 Some Wall St. traders
78 English singer Halliwell
79 Composer ___ Carlo Menotti
82 Draft category
83 "Right now!"
84 Salinger title choir singer
86 Gets mixed up in
87 Outdoor event contingency
89 Outlaw
90 Ponder
93 Drop in the stadium
95 Toledo thing
102 ___ vincit amor
104 Classroom exchanges
105 Allowed to ripen, as cheddar
106 Art expert's discovery
107 Bailiwick
109 Likely to loaf
110 What you once were?
111 Carry on.
113 Where no one can sit in front of you
114 Tiny bit
115 Single animal-shaped candy?
117 PC backup key
120 Mac OS part: Abbr.



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.

KOICOE
GNINEE
RONPEV
FUNGLE
HGLNET
SDOTEM



PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW

○ ○ ○ ○ ○ THE ○ ○ ○ ○ ○

This week's answers appear on the next page

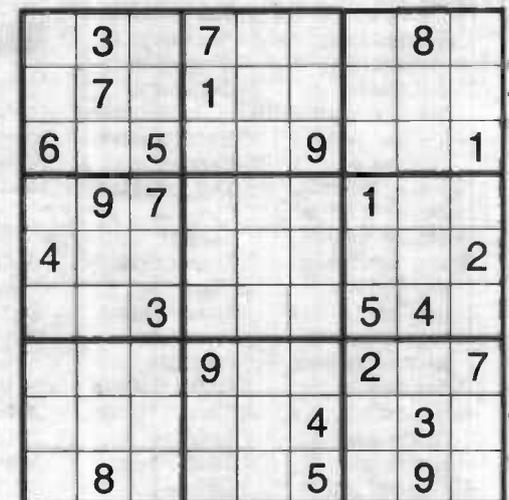
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Sudoku

12/25

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

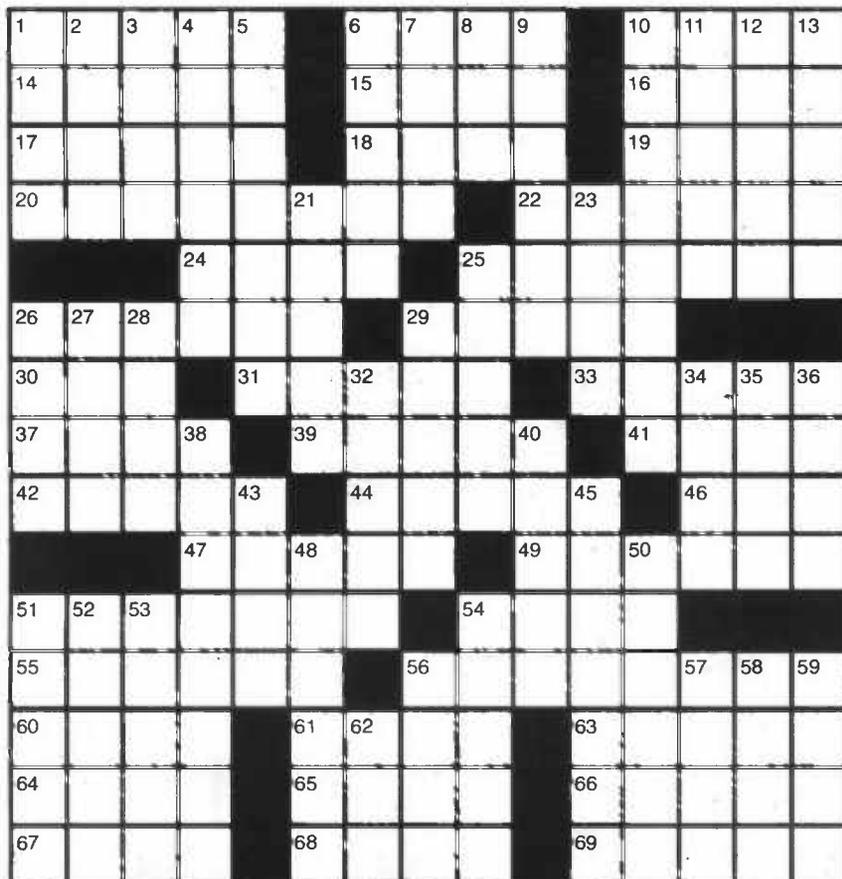
Level: **1 2 3 4**



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Crossword



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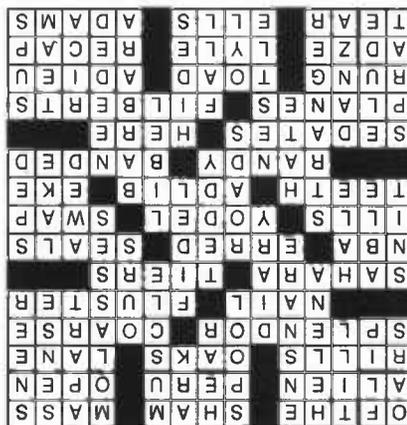
12/28/16

ACROSS

- 1 Out ___ blue; unexpectedly
6 Bogus; artificial
10 Tumor
14 Planetary visitor
15 Nation in South America
16 Not closed
17 Small brooks
18 Acorn droppers
19 "Penny ___"; Beatles song
20 Magnificence
22 Sandpaper package word
24 ___-biter; very close race
25 Rattle; befuddle
26 Desert in Africa
29 Bleacher levels
30 Org. for Pacers and Pistons
31 Goofed
33 Mammals with webbed flippers
37 Troubles
39 Song of an Alpine goatherd
41 Exchange
42 Canines and molars
44 Speak without preparation
46 ___ out a living; get by

- 47 Quaid or Travis
49 ___ together; joined forces
51 Puts to sleep before surgery
54 In this place
55 Airport arrivals
56 Hazelnuts
60 Ladder piece
61 Bumpy-skinned amphibian
63 French farewell
64 Sculpting tool
65 Singer Lovett
66 Summary
67 ___ to bits; shred
68 Building wings
69 Last name for 2 U.S. presidents

Solutions



DOWN

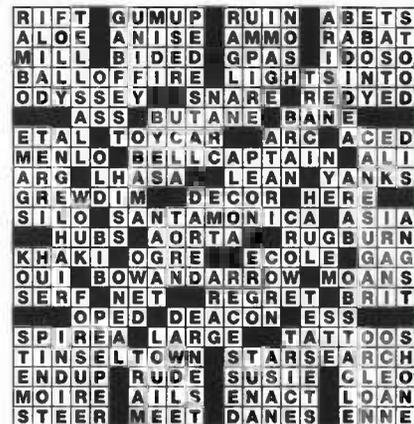
- 1 Rowers' needs
2 Turn over
3 Cash register
4 Capital of Montana
5 Catch in a trap
6 Thread holder
7 Listen
8 Noah's boat
9 Biceps or triceps
10 Ingredient in gingersnaps
11 ___ from; besides
12 In a ___; sort of
13 Contemptuous look
21 Journal
23 "___ is not to reason why..."
25 Mr. Castro
26 In a ___; sulky
27 Capable
28 Vigorous
29 Child's bear
32 Highways
34 Amazed
35 Titicaca or Erie
36 Ran fast
38 Unfamiliar one
40 Written slander
43 Abhor
45 Bush or Eden
48 Settle snugly
50 Required
51 Fat-shunner of nursery rhyme
52 Steer clear of
53 Actor Tony
54 Conceals
56 Autumn
57 Costa ___
58 Mets or Jets
59 Has dinner
62 Popeye's Olive



puzzle island solutions

Last week's crosswords

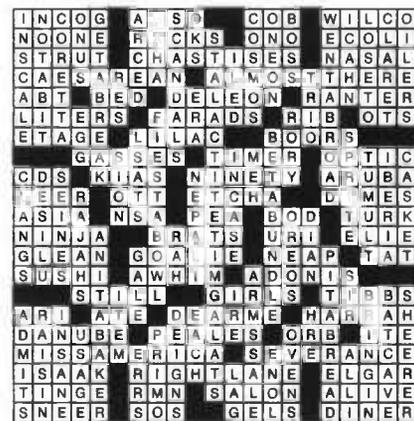
"ALL THE TRIMMINGS"



"Directions"



"Hanging Around in the Dark"



Last week's Quote-Acrossic

EDITH WHARTON: AMERICANS: How much longer are we going to think it necessary to be "American" before (or in contradiction to) being cultivated, being humane and having the same intellectual discipline as other civilized countries?

Last week's Sudoku

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

This week's Jumble

COOKIE PROVEN LENGTH
ENGINE ENGULF MODEST

He gave them the handmade clock at that moment because there was —

NO TIME LIKE
THE PRESENT

chicago
tribune.com
/games

Interactive
puzzles and
games

3 things that sustain a happy marriage

I figured out a long time ago that it is impossible to know from the outside looking in what someone else's marriage is really like. Some couples I have met over the years appear really happy together while others might seem icy toward each other. There are couples that bicker a lot, couples that appear to be passionate for one another, couples that seem like best friends, couples that seem disconnected, couples that seem business-like, and of course couples that seem picture perfect.



JACKIE PILOSSOPH
Love Essentially

I have seen marriages I thought were blissfully happy end in divorce. I have known couples that made me wonder how the heck they ended up together who are still going strong after decades. All this has made me realize no one except for the two people in the marriage know why it works or why it doesn't. And, those two people are the only two people who matter in this regard. As a divorced woman, I can offer what I have learned about what makes a marriage work, both because of my failed marriage, as well as my romantic relationships that have followed.

Most people assume the biggest element needed to stay together is love. I could not disagree more. Is love important? Of course. But, there are three things I believe trump love when it comes to the success of a marriage or long-term relationship:

1. Trust

In truly grounded relationships, neither person is insecure about the other person's commitment. Both people have faith they can rely on the other. They believe in each other professionally, as well in the other's ability to make good decisions and maintain high standards and values. The couple acts as a team, and each is confident that the other has his or her back.

2. Respect

It is very difficult to love someone if you lack respect for that person. On the other hand, if you admire your spouse professionally and personally, and you have an appreciation for the way he or she chooses to live life, it drives attraction, passion and an interest in staying connected. Ask yourself, Do I value my spouse? Am I proud of him or her? Do I have a high opinion of him or her? If you answered yes to these, I would guess you and your spouse are

pretty darn happy together.

3. Likability

Perhaps the most important aspect of being happy in a relationship is liking your spouse. People think they are supposed to get married to someone they

truly love. While I agree loving your spouse is important, liking the person is 10 times more essential to a solid marriage. Liking someone means wanting to spend a lot of time with them, having similar interests, thinking alike most of the time, being on the same page, enjoying one another's company, feeling at ease with one another and realizing that person brings out the best in you — that you actually like yourself when you are with that person.

Love and passion and sex and caring about someone are all important in sustaining a happy marriage. However, trust, respect and likability mean so much more because they equate to an authentic connection. In fact, trust, respect and likability are what drive love and passion and sex. When you trust, respect and like someone, love becomes the byproduct and you want to love them with all of your heart.

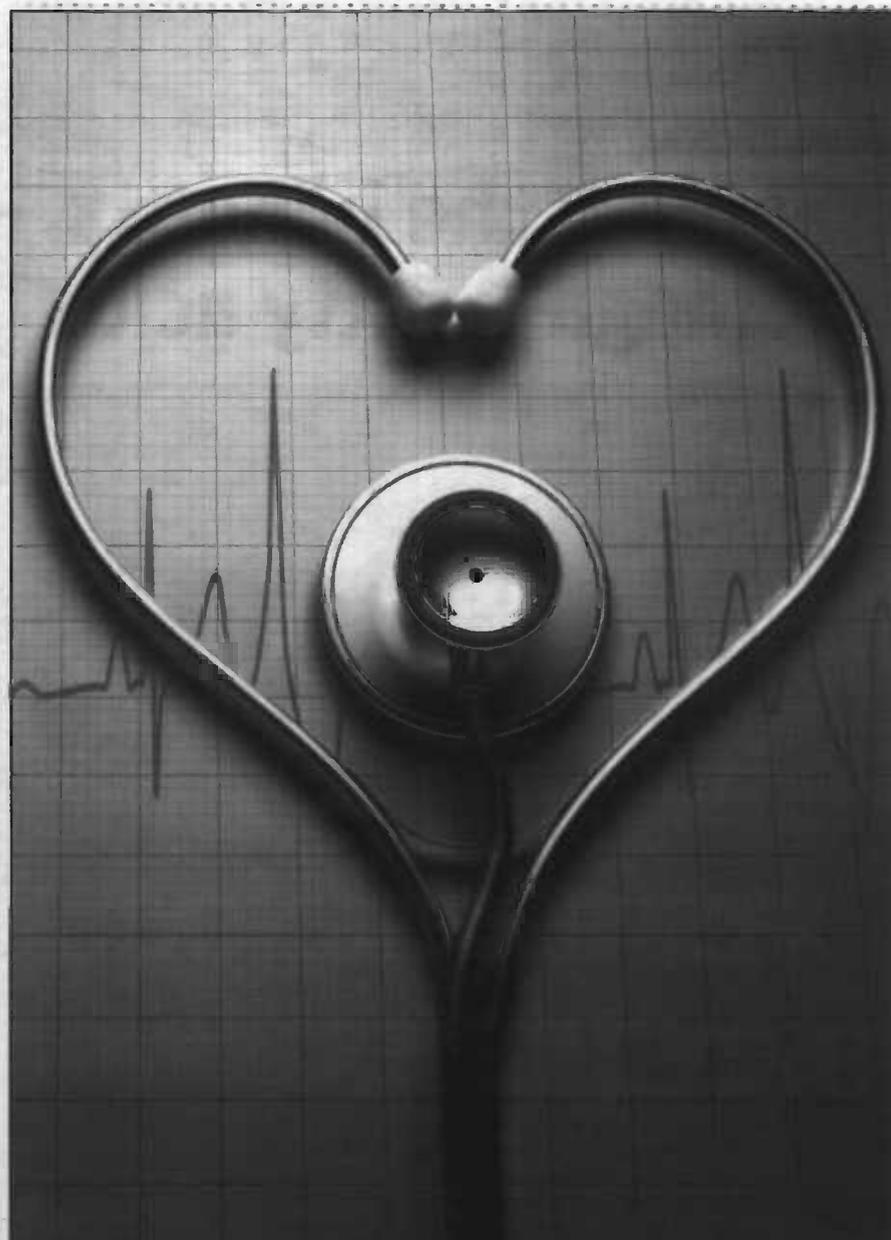
If you feel you are lacking trust or respect or likability you once had in your relationship, it is not impossible to get those feelings back. Therapy, open communication and most importantly the desire to get the relationship back on track can all serve as paths to reconnecting and developing a better relationship than ever.

Here is a great example of how trust, respect and likability have sustained long-term love. Over a decade ago when I first moved here, I happened to notice a married couple with two young children. They were swimming in our community pool, and hugging and kissing and laughing together. They seemed so happy and in love at the time.

Since then, the family has become good friends of mine. The parents appear to be more in love than ever. I asked them both: "What are three things that sustain happiness in a marriage?" I wanted to see if they shared my philosophy and if they would say "Trust, respect and likability."

The wife's answer was, "true love, togetherness, passion, patience, communication and friendship." The husband's answer: "Three things? My wife, my wife, my wife."

Jackie Pilosoph is a freelance columnist.



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HEALTH

ASK THE DOCTORS

Weighing the benefits of omega-3 fatty acids

By Dr. Robert Ashley
Ask the Doctors

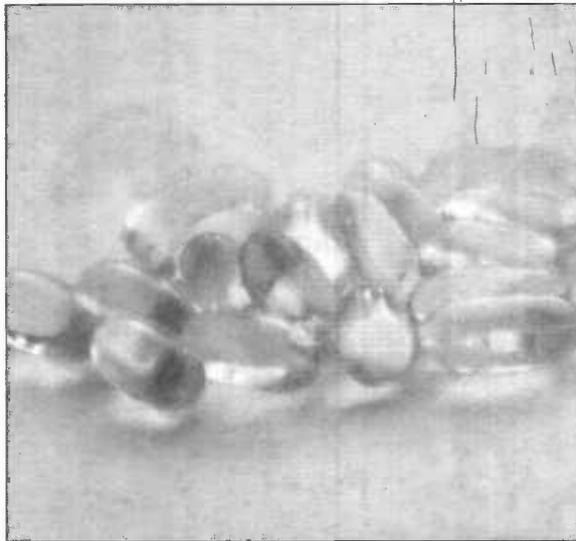
Dear Doctor: I have been taking fish oil capsules daily over the last five years. Is there any benefit in doing this?

Dear Reader: The short answer is "maybe." Scientists have shown that societies with higher fish intake have lower rates of heart disease. The belief is that this benefit comes from fish oil. Fish oil contains substances known as long-chain fatty acids (omega-3 fatty acids), specifically DHA, DPA and EPA, with many health benefits. These fatty acids help lower blood triglyceride levels; lower blood pressure (by 1.5 to 4 points); and have an ability to help the heart relax so that blood flows more easily into its chambers. Furthermore, the omega-3 fatty acids in fish oil have also been linked to a slightly slower heart rate and to a decrease in inflammation.

Small studies have shown that fish oil may be linked to a slight reduction in the formation of plaque in the arteries that supply the heart, but evidence of its ability to reduce the rates of heart attack hasn't been as robust or as statistically significant.

One fish oil finding that was indeed statistically significant was from a large study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* in 2006. That study linked fish oil intake of 250 milligrams per day to a 36 percent reduction in rates of sudden cardiac death. That amount — 250 mg of fish oil — equals 1 to 2 servings of fish per week.

One other property that fish oil may have is an



RYAN RAYBURN/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Some examples of the fish oil products which contain omega-3 fatty acids that Dr. Judy Bowman of Pfeiffer Treatment Center in Warrenville has been recommending to her patients, including heart attack survivors.

ability to reduce electrical excitability of the heart. That reduced excitability may decrease the heart's chances of going into an abnormal rhythm, which can lead to death. Furthermore, among people who have had a heart attack, 1 gram of fish oil per day has been linked to a significant decrease in death rates. The benefits of fish oil have been seen as early as four months after a heart attack and even as late as 36 months after a heart attack. Again, this appears to be related to fish oil's potential protective effect against abnormal heart rhythms after a heart attack.

Fish oil hasn't been shown to decrease the chance of a stroke. Nor has it been shown to decrease the risk or incidence of cancer. In fact, some studies have shown a correlation between fish oil and prostate cancer, but other studies have failed to support that connection.

In summary, fish oil

does appear to decrease the chance of sudden cardiac death, but you don't need to take capsules to see this benefit. Eating fish twice a week can do that.

Before you turn to eating tuna fish from a can, keep in mind that tuna has much less omega-3 fatty acids than Atlantic salmon, mackerel or herring. If you don't care for fish, taking 1 gram of a fish oil supplement twice a week will likely yield a benefit. If you've had a heart attack, consider taking 1 gram of fish oil a day.

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

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

PEOPLE'S PHARMACY PRESCRIPTIONS AND HOME REMEDIES

Home remedies may provide relief for ugly, itchy warts

By Joe Graedon
and Teresa Graedon
King Features Syndicate

Q: My 6-year-old granddaughter has warts. The doctor said to leave them alone, as they will go away in a year or two.

The problem is they spread, maybe because they blister and scab. Is there anything we can use to rid her of these ugly, itchy warts?

A: The doctor is right that warts often go away on their own, especially in children. Most people don't want to wait a couple of years, though.

Here are some of our favorite wart remedies:

- Cut a piece of banana peel the size of the wart and tape it over the wart, with the fleshy inner side of the peel on the skin. Change it daily.
- Apply a few drops of castor oil to the wart, cover with a bandage and reapply daily.
- Cover the warts with duct tape cut to size. Replace the duct tape after several days.
- Rub the warts with lemon juice or vinegar several times a day.

If all else fails, ask the doctor if it would be OK to use cimetidine (Tagamet). One mother reported that her 7-year-old son suffered with more than 20 warts for over two years. Nothing worked. Then she gave him Tagamet twice a day. Within a month, most of the warts were gone.

Q: Here's a random and weird home remedy for migraine hangover (which is a horrid feeling after a bad migraine): Try ice-cold Coke and chocolate. I watched my mom do this after her migraines, and now I do it after mine.



DAMIAN GRETKA/ISTOCK

Warts often go away on their own, but various home remedies purportedly help to get rid of them.

A: Migraine hangover has a technical name: postdrome. It is the last phase of a severe migraine.

The usual recommendations are rest and hydration. Many people also indulge in comfort food. We guess the combination of caffeine and sugar from your Coke and chocolate provide the pick-me-up you describe. Some migraines find, however, that chocolate triggers migraines.

Q: I cannot understand why health professionals refuse to consider home remedies. It's all about chemistry, be it developed in the lab or in the form of a home remedy.

Mustard is made up of chemicals, as is a pill from Pfizer. Does it matter whether the chemical comes from the pill or the condiment?

I guess our medical schools are the problem. They teach doctors how to practice medicine, and vitamins, herbs and home remedies are not part of the curriculum.

One thought: Be careful about encouraging doctors to accept home remedies. If they did, the price of prescription mustard might go up to

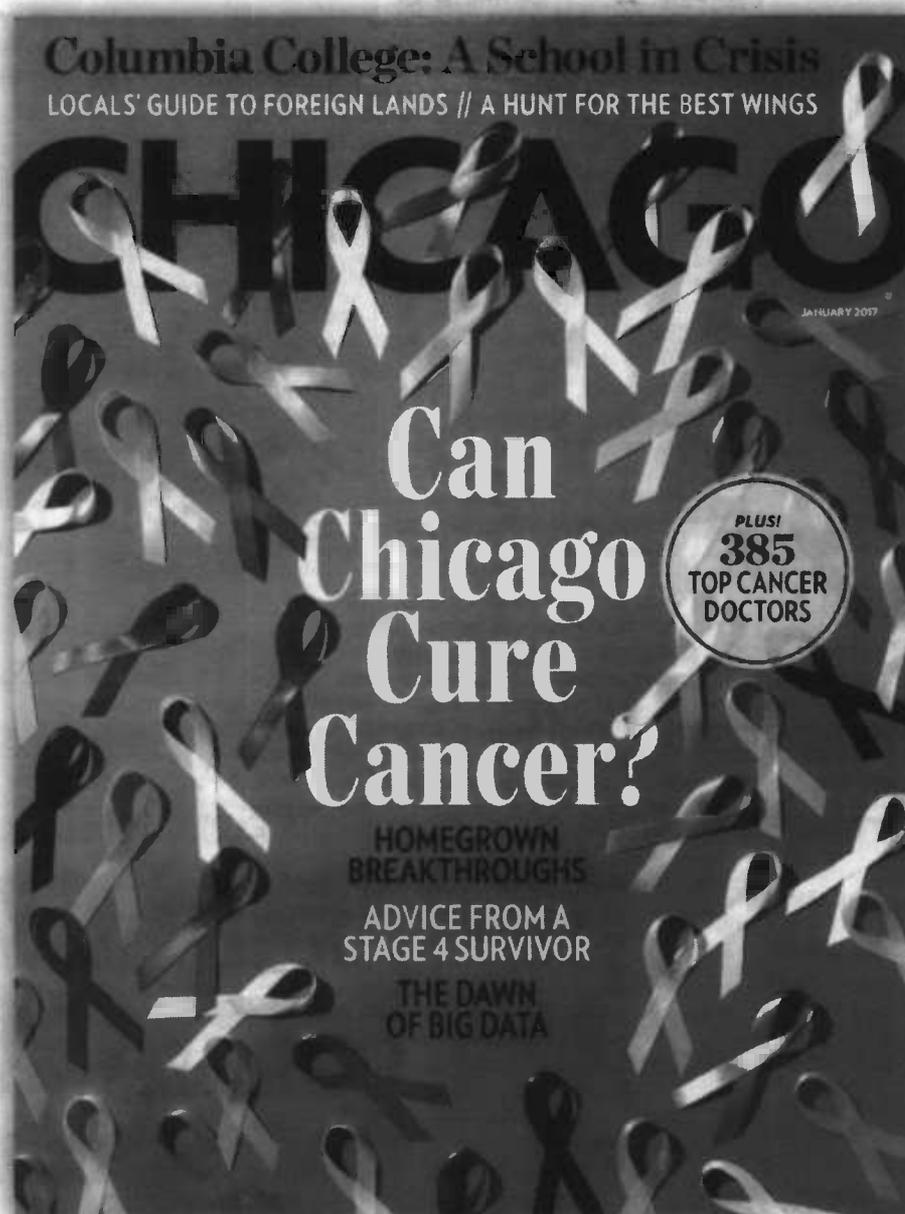
\$100 a bottle.

A: Doctors and other health professionals like scientific explanation for why a remedy would work. They also prefer placebo-controlled trials. Since drug companies rarely profit from home remedies, they have no incentive to conduct research.

That said, there often are plausible explanations for home remedies. Once in a while, there are even studies. We have collected hundreds of home remedies, along with such evidence we could find to back them up, in our book "The People's Pharmacy Quick and Handy Home Remedies." Anyone who would like a copy may send a check for \$21 to: Graedons' People's Pharmacy, Dept. Q&H, P.O. Box 52027, Durham, NC 27717-2027. It is available online at www.peoplespharmacy.com.

An example is the use of tart cherries to ease the pain and inflammation of gout. One study showed tart cherries lower levels of uric acid, which contributes to a gout attack.

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



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Add style with trendy tile

By Lindsey M. Roberts
The Washington Post

It's time to take a look at tile. While a full-kitchen remodel might set you back a few years of savings, a smart mini-rehab might involve only painting cabinets, replacing appliances and installing a stunning tile backsplash or flooring.

"Tile is an easier splurge," said designer Kelly Emerson of Maryland's Aidan Design. "Tile is hundreds of dollars; very rarely is it thousands of dollars."

And tile trends tend to hang around for a while, so you can feel good about getting your money's worth. Today, they reflect larger design trends — such as graphic patterns — as well as advanced technology, which is letting individual tiles get bigger and thinner without compromising their strength.

We spoke with Emerson, Samantha Klickna of Case Design/Remodeling and DeeDee Gundberg, director of product development for Ann Sacks, to determine which trends are worth following.

Wooden wonders: "Wood planks are trending because they are durable, maintenance-free alternatives to wood," Klickna said. "They add depth and dimension to any space. They also give you the opportunity to have a wood effect in a wet area: bathrooms."

Emerson likes the Weathered Wood field tile in a large hex (\$741 per square foot, www.architecturalceramics.com). With a wood look, she said, "you can choose a matte or a polish to change the vibe of the tile. It might have a rustic appearance, but if you select a polished finish and apply it to a wall, it becomes a very polished look."

There are many varieties of woodlike finishes available today. The Tile Shop's 8-by-24-inch Fronda Perla faux-wood tile (\$4.99 per square foot, www.tileshop.com) has a rustic look.



PRATT & LARSON

Pratt & Larson's Textured Field tile is a subway tile with a twist for \$37.50 per square foot.

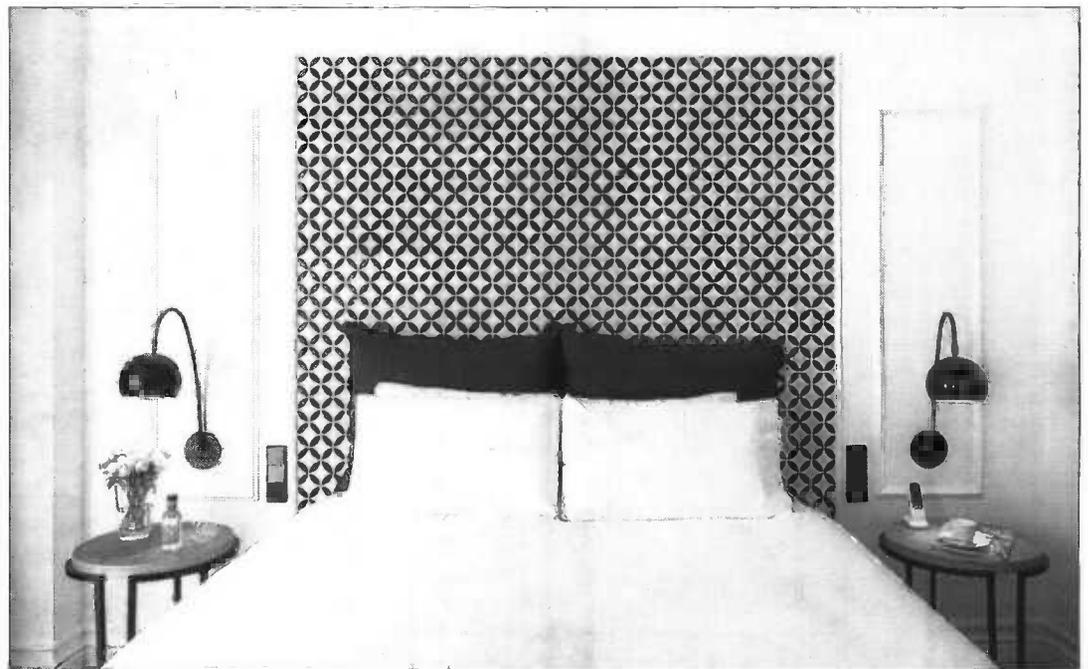
Huge hexagons: Gundberg has been watching tile companies come out with larger sizes of the classic hexagon shape each year. At first, 16 by 16 inches was the new size. Then it was 18 by 18 or 24 by 24, she said. Recently, she has seen tile as big as 45 by 45. "It just keeps getting bigger and bigger," she said. Much of this is driven by technological advances allowing for thinner, larger tile.

Traditional hex tile is beautiful but replicable. Popham Design's Hex Artichoke (\$29 per square foot, www.annsacks.com), however, is at once funky, modern, retro, graphic and classy.

Saigon Hexagon by Artistic Tile is Emerson's pick for a fun, large hexagonal tile (\$11 per square foot, www.artistictile.com). It's inspired by the French Provincial style and comes in three patterns and three muted colors.

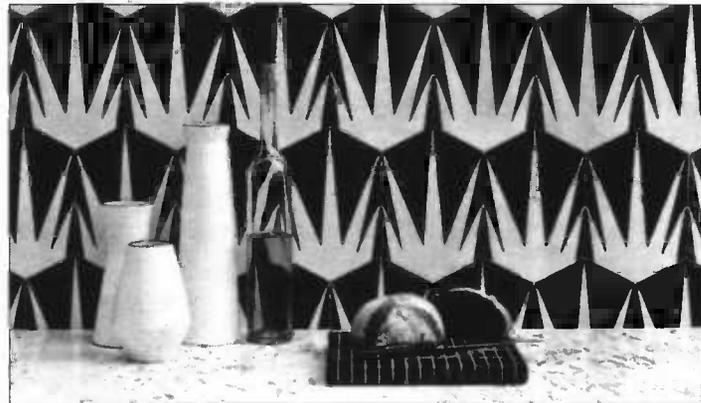
Chic cement: There is a general trend toward organic materials in the design industry, Gundberg said. That includes oxidized metals, chunky ceramics, textiles, natural woods — and, in a big way, cement tile. "This is purely about the aesthetic and the materiality of concrete," she said.

Cle Tile is known for its artisanal encaustic cement tiles as well as its collaborations with designers. The 8-by-8-inch Star



OVERSTOCK

Amlo Circle handmade cement and granite tile offers a Moroccan pattern for about \$20 per square foot.



POPHAM DESIGN

Popham Design's Hex Artichoke, a hexagon tile, is simultaneously funky, modern, retro, graphic and classy, for \$29 per square foot.

Bright in Kelly green (\$14.49 per square foot, www.cletile.com) marries traditional and modern. "Look at the space as a whole and make sure that you're not going overboard on color and pattern," Klickna said. "It's OK to be bold with one or two of your selections, but it has to be in moderation."

Subway with a twist: Subway tiles are as classic as you get. But homeowners and designers are getting adventurous, choosing long, exaggerated sizes or colored tiles. They're even choosing contrasting grout, something that used to be a no-no but that Gundberg is seeing more often.

Subway tile comes at all price

points too — from simple, white porcelain for \$2 or \$3 a square foot to high-end glass or hand-glazed styles. Arrange a simple, budget-friendly option in a herringbone pattern with contrasting grout to give it a higher-end look.

"Undulating and surface-textured ceramics will never go out of style," Emerson said. She likes Pratt & Larson's Textured Field tile (\$37.50 per square foot, www.prattandlarson.com).

Shades of blue: Everything from deep navy to blue-greens such as peacock is trending.

Klickna and Emerson use Walker Zanger's Cafe tiles (from

\$9.85 per square foot, www.walkertzanger.com), which come in three field sizes, four trim sizes and eight colors, in their projects. The tile is handmade for the Los Angeles company.

"Tile is something that the homeowner can appreciate and something that a guest can appreciate. It brings warmth into a space," Emerson said. Merola Tile's Hybrid Blue (\$5.60 per square foot, www.homedepot.com), at 7 3/4 by 23 1/2 inches, has a bold, geometric pattern in muted colors.

Patterns with pizzazz: "You expect your furniture to be the statement or the paint color, but you don't as often see decorative, stunning tile as the center of the room," Gundberg said. "When it's done in the right way, it's really effective."

And nothing stands out more than a strong pattern. Gundberg is primarily seeing big, bold patterns inspired by Moroccan and French designs moving from backsplash mosaics to the floor.

Moroccan patterns can be found at high and low prices. Overstock's Amlo Circle handmade cement and granite floor and wall tile is \$104.99 for a pack of 12 8-by-8-inch tiles (about \$20 per square foot, www.overstock.com).

Lindsey M. Roberts is a freelancer.



VHT STUDIOS PHOTOS



North Barrington home overlooking lake: \$2M

ADDRESS: 158 Wynstone Dr. in North Barrington

ASKING PRICE: \$1,995,000

Listed on Nov. 8, 2016

Entertainment-focused home overlooking Dog Bone Lake, 14th Green and vistas of two additional holes. Features include hand scraped hardwood, limestone, cherry-paneled library with limestone fireplace, Downsview cabinetry and gourmet appliances. The master bedroom includes a luxurious spa bath. Upper and lower deck and patio, in-ground pool and four-car garage.

Agent: Christie Baines of Jameson Sotheby's Intl Realty, 847-875-8049



At press time, this home was still for sale.

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Chicago Tribune

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Rutgers University
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11:25AM - 1:00PM

**FDR AND BEYOND:
The American Century**

Jeremi Suri
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FRIENDS OF MARLENE HELPS SUPPORT CANCER PATIENTS



LEE A. LITAS/PIONEER PRESS

Catherine Dunlap of Old Norwood Park, host committee member, left, and Francine Pepitone of Chicago, co-founder, were among 135 attendees at the Fall Fundraiser hosted on Nov. 9 by Friends of Marlene that will aid all patients served by the Supportive Oncology Program at the Robert H. Lurie Comprehensive Cancer Center of Northwestern University. The event, held in the Harris Family Atrium of Prentice Women's Hospital, Chicago, raised \$25,000 for oncology patient services. More at friendsofmarlene.org.

BLACKHAWKS HOST BLOOD DRIVE



/DAVE SILBAR

Adam Oates of Morton Grove, right, was among the donors who came out to the Blackhawks / LifeSource Blood Drive at the Westin O'Hare in Rosemont on Dec. 10. His kids Corey and Haley joined him for a photo with Blackhawks mascot Tommy Hawk. More on blood donation at lifesource.org.

OAKTON'S EMPTY BOWLS RAISES \$26,000



/OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Guests chose their lunch dishes from a selection of handmade bowls during the Empty Bowls fundraiser on Dec. 3 at Oakton Community College in Des Plaines. The event, sponsored by the Oakton Ceramics Club, raised over \$26,000 for local food pantries. Participants bought their bowls, had them filled with hot soup and enjoyed music by Patchouli. Donations to Empty Bowls will continue to be accepted at oakton.edu/giving by selecting "Donate" and entering "Empty Bowls." More at oakton.edu.

CALABRESE HEADS PUBLICITY CLUB OF CHICAGO



DEB LAWRENCE/PUBLICITY CLUB OF CHICAGO

Dominic Calabrese, right, accepts the Pub Clubber Award from outgoing president Tim Frisbie at the Dec. 14 board meeting of the Publicity Club of Chicago. Calabrese, of Norwood Park, is the new president of the Publicity Club of Chicago, and was honored for contributions to the organization. He is senior vice president of public relations at The Chicago Lighthouse and an adjunct faculty member at Columbia College Chicago.

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

**DES PLAINES**

Three-bedroom, two-bath home built in 1954. Finished basement with second kitchen for possible in-law suite arrangement, white kitchen cabinets/quartz countertops/backsplash with stainless steel appliances. Newer roof, windows, siding. Recessed lighting, hardwood flooring throughout main level, carpet in basement. Fenced in yard with detached garage. NOT in a flood zone.

Address: 2315 Hickory St.

Price: \$324,900

Schools: Maine South High School

Taxes: \$4,244.18

Agent: Suzy Pinal, Jameson Sotheby's International Realty

**GLENVIEW**

Four-bedroom, two-bath colonial tri-level home built in 1953. High-end kitchen with granite counters, espresso cabinets, stainless steel appliances, travertine baths, newer roof and plumbing. Living room fireplace, sunny family room overlooking deck and fenced yard. Hardwood floors, four bedrooms, storage, one-car attached garage. Exterior painted in 2015.

Address: 720 Arbor Lane

Price: \$485,000

Schools: New Trier Township High School Northfield

Taxes: \$7,740

Agent: Ann George, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Winnetka

**WHEELING**

Three-bedrooms, three-bath ranch home built in 1951. Hardwood flooring. Living and dining rooms, family room with wet bar leads out to sun room heated with baseboard heating. Electric awning over deck. Kitchen offers stainless steel appliances and breakfast nook. Laundry room with utility sink and closets, garage.

Address: 57 S. Wolf Road

Price: \$399,900

Schools: Wheeling High School

Taxes: \$8,599.60

Agent: Denise Curry, Baird & Warner Palatine

**WILMETTE**

Four-bedroom, two-bath bank-owned, single-family home with wooden exterior on an 8,800-square-foot lot. Den and unfinished basement with kitchenette. Hardwood floors throughout, yard, fireplace, asphalt roof, garage. Property being sold as-is.

Address: 313 Hibbard Road

Price: \$384,900

Schools: Niles North High School

Taxes: \$8,341

Agent: Ronald Ruby, Weichert, Realtors - First Chicago

Listings from Homefinder.com

COUNTRY FINANCIAL

PRESENTS:

HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE OF THE MONTH

VOTE AT
CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM/ATHLETES



HERO IMAGES

Keep germs at bay by disinfecting faucets, light switches and doorknobs.

HOME REMEDIES

Take a few precautions to ward off colds and flu

By **STEPHANIE FIGY**
Angie's List

In the midst of cold and flu season, you're often greeted with sniffles and sneezes everywhere you go. Washing your hands and stocking up on orange juice are great starting points, but there's more you can do at home to decrease your chances of falling ill. Take these steps to keep yourself and your family in good health.

Disinfect!

Think about what you touch every day and spray those spots with disinfectant. This includes doorknobs and faucet handles. Carefully wipe remote controls and light switches with a disinfectant wipe.

Sanitize products

Ideally, cleaning your home helps to kill germs, but this isn't the case if you're using dirty supplies. Opt for disposable mop pads, or for a greener solution, sanitize mop heads at very high temperatures before reusing them. Wash your dishtowels regularly. University of Florida researchers found that microwaving a wet sponge for two minutes kills or inactivates 99 percent of living pathogens in the sponge.

Wash bedding

Wash your pillowcases and sheets in hot water once a week, and use your hottest dryer setting. Be sure to wash your hands

after dealing with soiled linens. Wash any blankets and furniture covers as well.

Clean office

If your desk is covered in a film of dust and last year's tax files, it's time to purge and disinfect. Don't forget to clean your computer keyboard and any mobile devices, which are the perfect hosts for household germs.

Humidify home

Humidifiers help alleviate dry nasal passages for easier breathing. However, they can breed bacteria, so clean humidifiers regularly or consider natural humidifying techniques.

ADDRESS	BUYER	SELLER	DATE	PRICE
110 N Lincoln Ln, # 3D, Arlington Heights	Shankar Lakshmanan	Morris Kabuage	11-21-16	\$120,000
1322 S New Wilke Rd, # 1 D, Arlington Heights	Jakub M Gerlach	Natalie M Corrado	11-22-16	\$133,000
1204 W Northwest Hwy, Arlington Heights	Naimesh Vpinchandra Shah	Wells Fargo Bank	11-25-16	\$156,000
2654 S Embers Ln, # A, Arlington Heights	Jahongir Y Husanov & Gustiani Husanov	Teodoro Emlano	11-25-16	\$222,000
3208 N Carriageway Dr, Arlington Heights	Murad A Gharibeh	Yao Zhang	10-28-16	\$265,000
3056 N Daniels Ct, Arlington Heights	Jeby Ignatius & Melin Michael	Natalia Polyak	11-21-16	\$283,000
2850 N Greenwood Ave, Arlington Heights	Naresh S Kanyal	Jeffrey D Greenberg	11-23-16	\$285,000
730 S Mitchell Ave, Arlington Heights	Craig Steven Weirich & Jennifer Weirich	Christopher St John	11-23-16	\$315,000
824 N Mitchell Ave, Arlington Heights	Ellen C Pape & Mitchell Maling	Peter G Ross	11-23-16	\$320,000
2736 N Greenwood Ave, Arlington Heights	Yifei Xu & Chi Li	Mikhail Kolodezh	11-22-16	\$321,000
1501 E Euclid Ave, Arlington Heights	Jeffrey J Galgan & Jenniffer Erin Galgan	Andrew J Mays	11-23-16	\$335,000
40 E Euclid Ave, Arlington Heights	Alexander Bell & Amanda Bell	Donald L Raisanen	11-18-16	\$356,500
520 W Hackberry Dr, Arlington Heights	Michael A Juster & Michelle A Juster	Brian Edward Bange	10-31-16	\$359,000
1808 E Darryl Dr, Arlington Heights	Joan M Durlacher	Joseph H Pascucci	11-21-16	\$370,000
224 W Victoria Ln, Arlington Heights	Otto Roeser	Thomas E Hannay	10-28-16	\$390,000
333 S Stratford Rd, Arlington Heights	Danielle Voyles	Polymathic Properties Inc	11-22-16	\$395,000
2212 N Verde Dr, Arlington Heights	Scott J Wallace & Susan M Wallace	Andrew C Binkowski	10-28-16	\$400,000
3228 N Walker Ln W, Arlington Heights	Craig Eric Bagdon & Amy Elaine Frost	David J Rudolph	11-18-16	\$414,000
607 W Burning Tree Ln, Arlington Heights	Jennifer M Mcdermott	Highland Trust	10-28-16	\$415,000
1618 W Waverly Ct, Arlington Heights	Jakub Jablecki & Kinga Jablecki	Linda J Dziubaia	11-21-16	\$421,000
12 N Windsor Dr, Arlington Heights	Omkar Bhatt & Roshni Bhatt	Donald L Best	11-21-16	\$445,000
1014 E Marion St, Arlington Heights	Jack Seamans & Maria Seamans	Kevin White	10-28-16	\$480,000
1816 E Oakton St, Arlington Heights	Glenn R Scheithauer & Melissa L Scheithauer	Jonathan Michael	10-28-16	\$505,000
1131 N Belmont Ave, Arlington Heights	Nicholas Tsagalos & Mila Tsagalos	Nancy L Molnar	11-21-16	\$546,000
175 Lake Blvd, # 325, Buffalo Grove	Nina Manukya & Yelena Manukyan	Sandra L Greenspan	11-21-16	\$130,500
631 Hapsfield Ln, Buffalo Grove	Pamela Callaghan & Richard Callaghan	Judith E Dlugatch	10-31-16	\$132,000
5 Juniper Ct, Buffalo Grove	Daniel Jaquez	James D Healy	11-21-16	\$260,000
9 Whitehall Ct, Buffalo Grove	Matthew A Settler & Ninel Settler	Demetrios C Axarlis	11-25-16	\$340,000
1 Whitehall Ct, Buffalo Grove	Eric S Reckling & Nicole M Reckling	Brian W Henderson	11-18-16	\$385,000
10067 Linda Ln, # 2D, Des Plaines	Maria Drake	Altansukh Nemekh	10-28-16	\$54,000
9453 Bay Colony Dr, # 3E, Des Plaines	Semion Krishtal & Irina Krishtal	Irena Siarecki	11-22-16	\$95,000
943 Walter Ave, Des Plaines	Erik Kim	Richard F Candra II	10-31-16	\$120,000
9332 Landings Ln, # 402, Des Plaines	Elena Cernea	Staska Kocon	10-31-16	\$123,000
428 Oak St, Des Plaines	Corina Fala	Michael C Goggin	11-21-16	\$140,000
9375 Landings Ln, # 504, Des Plaines	Hlna Kansagra & Rajesh Lakhani	Biagio Giovenco	11-23-16	\$143,500
8853 Robin Dr, # E, Des Plaines	Kazi S Ahmed & Nasrin Banu	Instacom Inc	11-25-16	\$161,000
395 Graceland Ave, # 401, Des Plaines	Margaret Chec	Kristen M Almerigi	10-31-16	\$162,000
675 Pearson St, # 302, Des Plaines	Mary Cahill & Timothy D Cahill	Lois G Seizer	11-23-16	\$175,000
1095 E Villa Dr, Des Plaines	James W Dufford & June T Dufford	Mary Geneva Parady	11-21-16	\$175,000
820 Graceland Ave, # 301, Des Plaines	Hsin Ping Chen	Zarko Miscevic	11-18-16	\$200,000
395 Graceland Ave, # 705, Des Plaines	Victoria Hajduk	Monika Bak	11-21-16	\$210,000
1094 Walter Ave, Des Plaines	Allison Slupski	Linda Ferrigni	11-23-16	\$217,000
9109 Barberrry Ln, Des Plaines	Tahir H Farooqi & Arselia Tayyab	Gijo Abraham	11-25-16	\$218,000
2721 Pearle Dr, Des Plaines	Elizabeth V Aouste & Melanie L Quevedo	George A Hayes	10-31-16	\$245,000
1328 S 6th Ave, Des Plaines	Daniel S Gyebi	Michael J Casion	11-25-16	\$248,000

ADDRESS	BUYER	SELLER	DATE	PRICE
566 Ambleside Rd, Des Plaines	Stanislaw Szelewa & Maria Szelewa	Elecita Bargola	10-28-16	\$255,000
710 Kenilworth Ct, Des Plaines	Parth Rawat	Micahel J Krukowski	10-31-16	\$260,000
1692 Buckingham Dr, Des Plaines	Tiruye Gebrehiwot	Us Bank Na	10-28-16	\$262,500
1633 Linden St, Des Plaines	Phillip J Saccente	Mary Ellen Caravello	10-28-16	\$325,000
675 Victoria Rd, Des Plaines	Michael G Kieca	Robert Dagostino	11-22-16	\$375,000
222 Ardmore Rd, Des Plaines	Robert A Nubel	Kimberley Bilotich	10-31-16	\$435,000
301 W Kathleen Dr, Des Plaines	Sunil Varghese & Janet C Joy	John Szymanek	10-28-16	\$500,000
360 Ridge Ave, # 81, Evanston	Steve S Cho	Sharon J Bak	11-22-16	\$96,000
250 Ridge Ave, # 2H, Evanston	Rudy Massouda	David C Bruce	10-28-16	\$130,000
503 Sheridan Rd, # 2B, Evanston	Paul A Stekala	Amanda M Schumacher	11-25-16	\$134,000
1809 Brown Ave, Evanston	Joshua Hartwell & Rhonda Hartwell	Srv Real Estate Development L3	11-22-16	\$161,000
9201 Drake Ave, # 403, Evanston	Kimberly S Tompkins	Chicago Title Land Trust Co	10-31-16	\$165,000
807 Reba Pl, # G, Evanston	Robert Larson & Julie Larson	Jill R Wright	11-21-16	\$165,000
3500 Church St, # 301, Evanston	Delvorne Hicks & Amy E Swift Johnson	Us Bank Na Trustee	11-18-16	\$170,000
534 Michigan Ave, # A2, Evanston	Cindy Brantmeier	Marc Ruppenthal	11-23-16	\$180,000
121 Custer Ave, # 2S, Evanston	Jasmyne Mcdonald	Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp	11-21-16	\$191,000
121 Callan Ave, # 1, Evanston	Sophie Tall	Chuankui Du	11-25-16	\$195,000
1045 Sherman Ave, Evanston	Greg Borkowski	Susan B Ranshava Estate	11-18-16	\$215,000
2133 Oakton St, Evanston	Shmuel Wasserman & Revital Wasserman	Brent Van Der Linde	10-28-16	\$230,000
1140 Pitner Ave, Evanston	Jose F Munoz	Tomas Trust	11-23-16	\$265,000
800 Elgin Rd, # 613, Evanston	Mengzi Guo	Yana Golbin	11-21-16	\$275,000
2025 Sherman Ave, # 506, Evanston	Daniel Lithio & Elizabeth C Lithio	Gerry Melnikov	11-21-16	\$381,000
739 Brummel St, Evanston	Quan Hoang	Deutsche Bank Natl Trt Co Ttee	11-23-16	\$382,000
1640 Maple Ave, # 1301, Evanston	Andrew S Kaplan & Susan R Kaplan	Peter Walton	11-25-16	\$389,000
1209 Central St, # A, Evanston	Thomas Froehle & Mengjuan Li	Mario A Ruggero	10-28-16	\$395,000
1319 Chicago Ave, # 202, Evanston	Emmet Goldberg	Dan Hao	11-21-16	\$398,000
1414 Hinman Ave, # 3C, Evanston	Cheng Yao & Xingyu Xu	Lea N Hellman	10-31-16	\$407,500
1410 Cleveland St, Evanston	Julie Ross	Cameron Silver	11-23-16	\$424,500
2523 Central St, Evanston	Kerrin B Slattery & Matthew J Slattery	John P Lewis	11-25-16	\$475,000
5510 Lincoln Ave, # GB 12, Morton Grove	Donald Narso & Daniel Narso	Valentin Agronik	10-28-16	\$140,000
5501 Lincoln Ave, # 208, Morton Grove	Sergiy Lishchuk	Us Bank Na Trustee	10-28-16	\$156,500
8340 Calle Ave, Morton Grove	Young W Jun & Youngsun P Jun	David K Jong	10-31-16	\$210,000
5412 Monroe St, Morton Grove	Loan Fulea	Andreas M Streit	11-23-16	\$232,000
7034 Beckwith Rd, Morton Grove	Brian Thomas & Tara Mcdermott Thomas	Alex Baciu	10-31-16	\$249,000
8243 Menard Ave, Morton Grove	Freddy Oliver Foronda & Maria Tanya Foronda	Faisal Bawany	11-23-16	\$268,500
7931 Arcadia St, Morton Grove	Aleksandr Semisalov & Yuliya Semisalov	Jane Goldman	10-28-16	\$460,000
9074 W Terrace Dr, # 3C, Niles	German Cadena & Martha Cadena	Elizabeth A Denisiuk	10-28-16	\$91,500
8146 N Cumberland Ave, Niles	Josephine Kifarkis & John Kifarkis	Fannie Mae	10-28-16	\$228,000
9048 N Clifton Ave, Niles	Robert Enwaya & Maryna N Oshana	Aesil Kang	11-23-16	\$230,000
8501 W Madison Dr, Niles	Domenico Viele & Lucrezia Viele	Leona Lealitefa	10-28-16	\$230,000
8259 N Octavia Ave, Niles	Sara Ibrahim	John C Liu	11-18-16	\$380,000
8340 W Clara Ct, Niles	Richard Fahy & Chrisann Fahy	William Sullivan	10-31-16	\$570,000
1731 Pavilion Way, # 504, Park Ridge	Anthony Paradise	Yang Song	10-31-16	\$230,500
1009 S Washington Ave, Park Ridge	Gregory B Brumm	Beverly J Brumm	11-21-16	\$240,000
219 S Vine Ave, # B, Park Ridge	Scott E Tagge & Michelle M Tagge	Susanne H Coriden	11-23-16	\$316,000
1736 Good Ave, Park Ridge	Waseem Rajil & Neha Iqbal	Tadeusz Werner	11-23-16	\$320,000
2507 W Sibley St, Park Ridge	Azar Orucevic & Damir Orucevic	Karen Zybora	10-28-16	\$418,500
301 Edgemont Ln, Park Ridge	Christopher W Woll & Sara E Woll	Nielsen Trust	11-21-16	\$430,000
1808 S Prospect Ave, Park Ridge	Mark A Julias & Sara Sanchez	Jaroslawn Sinila	11-23-16	\$465,000
1740 Potter Rd, Park Ridge	Piotr Adamczewski & Joanna Adamczewski	Mieczyslaw Olszewski	11-21-16	\$490,000
299 S Northwest Hwy, # 6, Park Ridge	William King & Susan K King	Brighton Mews Venture Llc	11-21-16	\$600,000

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

Recliner revamp: Modern versions are sleeker, stylish

BY MEGAN BUERGER
The Washington Post

Say goodbye to the dad chair. Today's recliners are slimmer, smarter and more stylish than ever. Even La-Z-Boy, the 90-year-old brand whose name is synonymous with classic recliners, has updated its product line over the years. In 2010, the company hired Brooke Shields as its celebrity spokeswoman to target women ages 35 to 54 and to distance itself from a decadeslong association with grandpas, couch potatoes and frat boys who love the lever-lifting footrests and roly-poly cushions.

"I call it Bubba," Faith Phillips, the company's vice president of retail store experience, said of the iconic chair. "We love Bubba, and we won't stop making Bubba, but we wanted to offer more."

The commercials have been successful: A La-Z-Boy spokeswoman said the company saw three years of double-digit same-store sales growth coinciding with its launch. So last year, the company developed a new retail strategy that puts boutique-style showrooms in cities. About one-third the size of the company's standard stores, the boutiques feature La-Z-Boy's Urban Attitudes collection, which offers contemporary pieces in small footprints, and design consultations. The first showroom opened about a year ago in Washington's Logan Circle neighborhood.

"The idea is to make these stores reflect their communities," Phillips said. "We're considering adding more in other parts of the country, but it has to be the right fit."

Kelly Taylor, an interior designer in Providence, R.I., said the generational divide about recliners is about size — and style.



LA-Z-BOY

La-Z-Boy's Midtown low-profile recliner starts at \$1,199 and is 33 1/2 inches wide.

"Clients who ask for recliners are usually older folks who want a place to kick back and have the space to accommodate a big chair and a big ottoman," she said. "Younger people in their 30s and 40s are all about small spaces, less stuff, cleaner decor. They're cool with the single center ottoman."

They also may not have the "sentimental attachment" to recliners that their parents do, she said, which means brands can't count on that as a draw. But that's perhaps where the strategy behind La-Z-Boy's new showrooms comes into play. By opening up shop in trendy neighborhoods, the company lets customers see firsthand how much recliners have evolved. The Midtown low-profile recliner (from \$1,199, www.la-z-boy.com) is 33 1/2 inches wide and bears little resemblance to earlier counterparts.

Other companies have followed suit and are selling recliners in sleeker silhouettes and modern fabrics. Ikea's Muren recliner (\$299, www.ikea.com) is understated, with a strip of piping on the trim, and could easily be spiced up with a bright throw pillow or fur

throw. Room & Board's Wynton recliner (\$1,799-\$2,699, www.roomandboard.com) is impressively narrow at 30 inches wide.

For a more on-trend design, consider the company's Dalton recliner (\$1,699-\$2,999), which sits on wooden legs (or aluminum, if you prefer) and has a midcentury modern look, or Crate & Barrel's Torino velvet recliner (\$1,499, www.crateandbarrel.com).

Most recliners need at least a foot between the chair and the wall to allow adequate space to recline, but that's changing too. In September, West Elm debuted its first power recliner, the Henry (\$999, www.westelm.com), which glides the seat forward into a horizontal position and lowers the back without significantly changing the chair back's original position.

To keep up with such technical advances, companies are developing battery packs to allow you to float a power recliner in the middle of a room without cords. Needless to say, most modern recliners ditched the lever a long time ago.

"So long as it doesn't scream recliner, I like them," Taylor said. "It's hard to argue with wanting to put your feet up."

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Morton Grove... Spectacular 4 br-2 1/2 bath brick Colonial Built in 2006! Dramatic 2-story foyer. Open kitchen-family rm concept for entertaining plus a separate formal dining room & living room that can be used as a library/office. Gorgeous island kitchen with 42" custom cabinets, stainless steel appliances & Granite countertops. Oak floors throughout, Oak staircase, crown moldings + 2 fireplaces. Master BR with FP, dramatic trayed, walk-in closet, 8' glass door to Juliet balcony & master bath with Jacuzzi + shower. Wood deck + fenced yard. 2 car garage.....**\$569,000**



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Evanston...Character & Charm abounds in this 9 room brick Bungalow with loads of potential! Tons of space with the 3 levels of living space. 5 bedrooms & 3 full baths. First floor features new Maple/Granite kitchen with island & walk-in pantry, separate formal dining room, living room with decorative brick fireplace, hardwood floors, 2 bedrooms & den/office on main level. 2nd floor with family room & 2 additional bedrooms, office/study area. Full bath on each level. Full basement. 3 car brick garage, fenced yard. Great Location!!.....**\$480,000**

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

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 Chanukah piece by artistic director Jonathan Miller, and a rollicking Puerto Rican holiday favorite. Amy Wurtz is the accompanist. 3 p.m. Thursday, Three Crowns Park Retirement Home, 2323 McDaniel Ave., Evanston, free, 847-328-8700.

"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. 8 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson St., Evanston, \$34-\$96, 847-920-5360.

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. Tuesdays-Fridays, Actors Gymnasium, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, \$50, 847-328-2795.

Winter Wonderland Express: Family Hanukkah Celebration: Bring your kids and grandkids to celebrate with the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Not only will you be dancing and singing to a festive hour of Klezmer and Hanukkah-themed music, but you'll also be able to visit to the Wonderland Express exhibit at the Chicago Botanic Gardens. 11 a.m. Thursday, 1 p.m. Thursday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, Advance: member/nonmember: \$17/\$20; Day of: member/nonmember: \$20/\$23. Children 2 and under are free. Standard parking fees apply, 847-835-5440.

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

Glenview Ice Center Winter Carnival: The Winter Carnival at Glenview Ice Center runs through Jan. 8 and 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. For more information, please call. 9 a.m. daily, Glenview Ice Center, 1851 Landwehr Road, Glenview, free, 847-724-5670.

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. Glenview Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, free, 847-724-5670.

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. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234.

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

Age of the Dinosaurs: Located above the children's play area, "Age of the Dinosaurs" features incredibly lifelike moving and roaring exhibits with heart-warming scenes of Jurassic family life. Interactive remote control a robotic skeleton, build a dinosaur, dig for fossils, and more. 10 a.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. Friday, 10 a.m. Saturday, Northbrook Court, 2036 Northbrook Court, 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.

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

Mondays-Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays, 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. Thursday-Saturday, 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, Tiger Lily Cross, Jan Flapan, Steve Johnson, Mary Longe, Debra Nichols, Fred Polito, Naomi Pollak, Amanda Roman and Ray Vlcek. 8 a.m. Thursday-Sunday, Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, free, 847-674-1500.

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. Thursday-Sunday, Westfield Old Orchard, 4999 Old Orchard Center, Skokie, free, 847-677-1770.

Free Walking Clinic: Learn to get the most benefit out of walking as exercise in Gillson Park. A certified, personal trainer teaches the class, which includes a warm-up, stretching, inclines, steps, balance and coordination. All fitness levels welcome. 5:30 p.m. Mondays and Thursdays, 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, TopGolf Wood Dale, 699 W. Thorndale Ave., Wood Dale, \$99, 630-595-4653.

Friday, Dec. 30

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 per-

son; \$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. The fee is \$50 per child if registered by 6 p.m., Friday, Dec. 18. Walk-ins are welcome on a space available basis for \$60 per child. Freezin' Fridays is part of the Winter Carnival. 9 a.m. Friday, Glenview Ice Center, 1851 Landwehr Road, Glenview, \$50 pre-registered, 847-724-5670.

Hogwarts Potlions 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 or 847-729-7500. 2 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

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 at 9 a.m. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-692-5127.

Reaction NYE 2016: Reaction NYE 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. Friday and Saturday, Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road, Rosemont, \$69 plus, 312-833-9331.

Saturday, Dec. 31

Lucinda Williams with her band Bulck 6: 10 p.m. Saturday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$85-\$250, 847-492-8860.

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New Year's Eve with the Jeannie Tanner Quartet: The Jeannie Tanner Quartet performs New Year's Eve at Pete Miller's in Evanston. The music featured includes: jazz standards, the Great American Songbook, Ms. Tanner's original songs and crowd favorites. (The Jeannie Tanner Duo perform 4:30-8 p.m.) For more information, go to www.jeannietanner.com. 4:30 & 9 p.m. Saturday, Pete Miller's Seafood & Prime Steak, 1557 Sherman Ave., Evanston, free, 847-328-0399.

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

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

Animal Arts and Seasonal Stories: "Animal Arts & Seasonal Stories" are recommended for children ages 5 and up, but there is no minimum age requirement. Activities are offered at varying levels of difficulty and interest to engage the entire family. An adult must accompany participants. 10:30 a.m. Saturdays and Sundays, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, \$3 kids, \$5 adults, 847-475-1030.

New Year's Eve Celebration: Celebrate with Roots, Rock and Blues music with the talented and always entertaining Madman Band (10 p.m. to 1 a.m.). Enjoy a free champagne toast at Mid-night, delicious food, fine drinks and great company. A special New Year's Eve Dinner is served from 4 to 10 p.m. and our late night menu will be available until midnight. The bar is open until 2 a.m. No Cover. The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679.

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. Saturday, 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. Saturday, 12:30 p.m. Saturday, 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. Saturday, 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. Saturday, The East Wing Glenview Senior Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, \$29; \$35 for non-members, 847-724-5670.

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. Saturday, Pinstripes, 1150 Willow Road, Northbrook, No cover; menu items vary, 847-480-2323.

Kick Off New Year's Eve Early at Prairie Grass Cafe: Have big plans for New Year's Eve? Come to Prairie Grass Cafe early to start the night out right. Fuel up for NYE festivities with delicious food from its regular a la carte menu from 5 p.m. to 8:30. Learn more about this at the event website. 5 p.m. Saturday, Prairie Grass Cafe, 601 Skokie Blvd., Northbrook, free, 847-205-4433.

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. Saturday, 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 Saturday 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 prosecco for 2017 along with a spectacular fireworks display. 2 p.m. Saturday, 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. Saturday, 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. Saturdays, 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 & Truffle Mousse "En Brioche" with a Pinot Noir Sauce as well as several first course selections including the Seared Medallion & Strudel of Foie Gras. 5 p.m. Saturday, 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. Saturday, TopGolf Wood Dale, 699 W. Thorndale Ave., Wood Dale, \$175-\$375, 630-595-4653.

Sunday, Jan. 1

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

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. Sunday, 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. Sunday, Pinstripes, 1150 Willow Road, Northbrook, \$30 per person for adults; \$15 for kids 6-12; free for kids 5 and under, 847-480-2323.

New Year's Day Champagne Brunch: Celebrate the New Year at Allgauer's spectacular, brunch featuring over 100 decadent items ranging from unlimited champagne and mimosas to chef-carved beef and snow crab legs. 10 a.m. Sunday, Hilton Northbrook Hotel, 2855 Milwaukee Ave., Northbrook, \$40 adults; \$18 children 4-10 years, 847-664-7999.

New Year's Day Service: The Holy Name of our Lord Jesus Christ 10:15 a.m. — Sung Eucharist with hymns and sermon. (Note, no 8:30 a.m. service this day). 10:15 a.m. Sunday, Saint Giles Episcopal Church, 3025 Walters Ave., Northbrook, free, 847-272-6622.

New Year's Day Bub City: Dive into any number of options from our classic Southern menu, like the Fried Chicken & Waffles or Beef Brisket Benedict. The famous build-your-own Bloody Mary Bar will be open, and as always, enjoy the best selection around of country music. 10 a.m. Sunday, Bub City, 5441 Park Place, Rosemont, prices vary, 847-261-0399.

Monday, Jan. 2

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

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

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

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847-929-5102 or visit www.mgpl.org for more information. 10:30 a.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

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

Ballroom Dance Classes: Come enjoy a basic ballroom dance class at 6:45 p.m., and an intermediate class at 7:45 p.m. These classes were formerly held at the Highland Park Moose Lodge which has been sold. 6:45 p.m. Monday, Bernard Weinger JCC, 300 Revere Drive, Northbrook, \$10 per person per class, 847-757-2227.

Money Matters Discussion: The group meets on the first Monday of each month. 10 a.m. Monday, Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-692-3597.

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

Tuesday, Jan. 3

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.

Let's Talk @ Lunch: At this drop-in program, participants can talk through the issue of racism, and practice honest conversation skills by looking at our own experiences in light of what we're learning about how racism affects us all. 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, YoFresh Yogurt Cafe, 635 Chicago Ave., Evanston, free, 847-864-8445.

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.

Niles Metropolitan Chorus J.S. Bach's "St. John Passion": Rehearsal days take place beginning Jan. 3 from 7 to 9 p.m. every week on Tuesdays prior to the performance. Their spring concert of J.S. Bach's "St. John Passion" is

presented on April 2 at 3 p.m. 7 p.m. Tuesday, St. John Brebeuf Parish Church, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., Niles, free, 702-806-8421.

YMCA Summer Camp Job Fair: The North Suburban YMCA, invites current high school seniors and college students to learn about counselor and unit lead positions with the Y's popular summer day camp programs. Meet camp management and submit your application for a summer job you'll love. Download the application at NSYMCA.org. For more information, call. 1 p.m. Tuesday, North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techny Road, Northbrook, free, 847-272-7250.

Winter Break Art Clinic Paint a Ceramic Piece: Take an art break during Winter Break. Drop by the North Suburban YMCA and paint a ceramic piece to take home. All ages are welcome. There are limited quantities available. For more information, call. 11 a.m. Tuesday, North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techny Road, Northbrook, \$10 per piece, 847-272-7250.

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, Jan. 4

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.

Open Mic Night in Evanston: Hosted by Daniel Fiddler. Sign-up begins at 8 p.m. 9 p.m. Wednesday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, no cover, 847-864-1679.

Knitting Circle: If you want to learn to knit or are working on a knitting or crochet project, come drop-in. Share tips, show off your work and converse with fellow needle arts enthusiasts. 11 a.m. Wednesday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277.

Winter Break Art Clinic Canvas Board Painting: Take an art break during Winter Break. Drop by the North

Suburban YMCA and create a canvas board painting with guidance from a Y art instructor. All materials are provided and all ages are welcome. For more information, call. 4 p.m. Wednesday, North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techny Road, Northbrook, \$10 per project, 847-272-7250.

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.

Picture Bingo: School's out, so join us for picture bingo. Learn new words and earn golden tickets for each bingo you receive. Golden tickets will be redeemable for a small prize. 11 a.m. Wednesday, Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123.

Park Ridge Community Emergency Response Team Class: The City of Park Ridge hosts this class Feb. 3 through March 16 on Wednesday nights until approximately 10 p.m. Interested persons should contact Phil Falson, Director Park Ridge CERT, who can be reached at parkridgecert@gmail.com or by calling. 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Park Ridge Public Works Center, 400 Busse Highway, Park Ridge, free, 847-774-4231.

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

Thursday, Jan. 5

Northbrook Symphony Orchestra Pre-Concert Lecture: Musicologist Jim Kendros discusses and performs excerpts from the upcoming concert by the Northbrook Symphony Orchestra in this exclusive talk. 7 p.m. Jan. 5, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224.

German Stammtisch: The group meets on the first and third Thursday of each month in the community center to practice German and learn about Ger-

man culture. For all experience levels, from native speakers to beginners. 1 p.m. Jan. 5, Oakton Park Community Center, 4701 Oakton St., Skokie, free.

Elvis Tribute Artist Spectacular in Skokie: This concert celebrates the music of Elvis Presley era by era, moving from the early rock-a-billy years, through to the closing with the Las Vegas and concert years. It stars: Shawn Klush, Cody Ray Slaughter and Ryan Pelton. With special guests Rick Elvis Saucedo, DJ Fontana, Elvis' original drummer. The Sweet Inspirations, The Blackwood Quartet, The Fabulous Ambassadors. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 5, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, Starting at \$22, 847-673-6300.

Friday, Jan. 6

Eddy "The Chief" Clearwater: 8 p.m. Jan. 6, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$20-\$34, 847-492-8860.

The Village of Glenview: My, How We've Grown: The Village of Glenview was incorporated on June 20, 1899, with a population of 325 adults. Today the Village population exceeds 46,000. How did it change from a farming community to the robust village of today? Join past president and current volunteer librarian Beverly Dawson from the Glenview History Center to learn about the Village's remarkable growth and development. 1 p.m. Jan. 6, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Shabbat B'Yachad Service and Dinner: The dinner is at 6 p.m., family friendly service at 6:45 p.m. Join welcoming Shabbat with music and dance, a Shabbat story, and more. Special blessings for those celebrating birthdays. Bring yourselves, your children, your grandchildren, grandparents, aunts, uncles, friends and neighbors. 6 p.m. Jan. 6, Congregation Beth Shalom, 3433 Walters Ave., Northbrook, \$25 Immediate family; \$10 per adult, 847-498-4100.

Shabbat with a Twist: Join for Shabbat with a Twist, (now twice a month) at 11 a.m. Families with children up to Pre-K join the clergy for challah making, stories, and songs and other fun projects. Children twist their own challah with the dough provided and take it home to bake. All are welcome. 11 a.m. Jan. 6, Congregation Beth Shalom, 3433 Walters Ave., Northbrook, free, 847-498-4100.

Park Ridge Alumnae Panhellenic Club: Join the club for lunch and a "Sweet Treats and Tasting" cooking

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demo. For more information contact Julie Cook at jfcook318@gmail.com. 12:15 p.m. Jan. 6, Park Ridge Country Club, 636 North Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, \$30 per person, includes lunch, 312-343-3495.

Outdoor Winter Classic: Join in on hockey game for youth/amateur player. noon Jan. 6, MB Financial Park at Rosemont, 5501 Park Place, Rosemont, free, 847-349-5554.

Saturday, Jan. 7

Polyglots Toastmasters meeting: If you speak German or want to keep it fresh or improve it, visit this club. This is not a language school, but a place where you can speak and listen to German and, above all, have a good time with those at all levels and ages. Visit their website at www.polyglotstoastmasters.org/ and their meetup at <http://www.meetup.com/Polyglots-Toastmasters-German-speaking/>. Please email andrew.weiler.uiuc@gmail.com for the current location, as sometimes they meet at places other than the Des Plaines Library. 9:30 a.m. Jan. 7, Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood

St., Des Plaines, free, 847-827-5551.

Ezra Furman: 8 p.m. Jan. 7, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$15-\$25, 847-492-8860.

Signature Entertainment Presents: LOL Saturday: Adult Comedy every Saturday night hosted by Comedy legends Tony Sculfield and Mark Simmons. National Headliners with movie and television credits on stage. 9 p.m. Jan. 7, Chicago's Home of Chicken & Waffles, 2424 W. Dempster St., Evanston, \$15 adult advance; \$20 at the door, 847-521-6434.

Restoration Work Day: Help the restoration team remove invasive plants to make way for native prairie grasses. Seasonal activities include brush cutting, weed removal and seed collection. Bring work gloves if you have them. 9 a.m. Jan. 7, Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie/The Tyner Center, 2400 Compass Road, Glenview, free, 847-724-5670.

Snowy Science and Arctic Art with Extraordinary Kids: This is for ages 2 to 6 with family to explore snow, winter, and the Arctic while having fun with art and science. This is co-sponsored by The Glen Town Center. Register at theglentowncenter.com. 10:30 a.m. Jan.

7, The Book Market at Hangar One, 2651 Navy Blvd., Glenview, free, 847-904-7304.

Outdoor Winter Classic: Join in on hockey game for youth/amateur player. Noon Jan. 7, MB Financial Park at Rosemont, 5501 Park Place, Rosemont, free, 847-349-5554.

Sunday, Jan. 8

Music Institute's Instrument Petting Zoo: There is free admission on this Musical Petting Zoos and Registration Day at Evanston East Campus. Come try out the instruments at their musical "petting" zoos. Enjoy discounts, door prizes, demos and more. 2 p.m. Jan. 8, Evanston East Campus, Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston, free, 847-905-1500.

New Orford String Quartet: The New Orford String Quartet perform Claude Debussy's String Quartet in G Minor, Uriel Vanchestein's "Les veuves (The Widows)" and Ludwig van Beethoven's String Quartet No. 12 in E-flat Major. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 8, Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, \$10 -

\$30, 847-467-4000.

Do Not Submit: A Storytelling Open Mic: Local event that is pressure free night for storytellers from zero to decades of experience to connect, share stories, and hone their craft. 5:30 p.m. Jan. 8, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679.

In Good Spirits Chicago's Graceland Cemetery: This is the place for Chicago's Gilded Age movers and shakers to spend eternity. Landscape historian Barbara Geiger explains how this special burial ground came to be, how it relates to the city's history, and how the story of its founding and design unfolded. Co-sponsored by the Glenview Gardeners. Please register at glenviewpl.org/register or by calling. 2 p.m. Jan. 8, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Outdoor Winter Classic: Join in on hockey game for youth/amateur player. Noon Jan. 8, MB Financial Park at Rosemont, 5501 Park Place, Rosemont, free, 847-349-5554.

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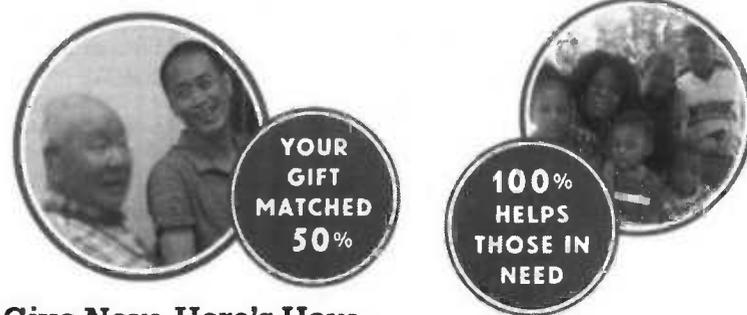
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NOW PLAYING

**"Rogue One: A Star Wars Story" ★★★**

PG-13, 2:13, action/adventure

"Rogue One," the tale of a controversial Death Star and those who loathe it, operates as a prequel to the 1977 movie that became a flexible, malleable religion (with ray guns!) to millions. The new movie is a little bit "Guardians of the Galaxy," a little bit "Dirty Dozen" in its mass wartime slaughter and a pretty good time once it gets going. "Rogue One" takes its name from the U-shaped spaceship whisking Alliance fighters to the tropical

planet Scarif for the big showdown against Empire forces. The movie's pretty violent. Deliberately, director Gareth Edwards' effort is rough around the edges, hectic in its cross-cutting but increasingly effective as kinetic cinema. — *Michael Phillips*

**"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. Moana, voiced by Hawaiian actress Auli'i Cravalho, is the daughter of a Pacific Islands chieftain. She must get in touch with her seafaring ancestry and leave her island, Motunui, on a long journey. After a brush with death, she washes ashore on a small island where she meets the Polynesian demigod Maui, voiced by Dwayne Johnson. The score's signature power ballad, "How Far I'll Go," may well take its rightful place alongside "Frozen's" big hit, "Let It Go," in the female-empowerment earworm department. — *M.P.*

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**"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 exactly what directors Josh Gordon and Will Speck do with "Office Christmas Party," the delightfully debauched holiday desecration we need this year. 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*

**"Collateral Beauty" ★**

PG-13, 1:37, drama

"Collateral Beauty" should win some kind of award for Best Execution of a Truly Dreadful Concept. Chock-a-block with magnetic movie stars, and shot beautifully by talented cinematographer Maryse Alberti, it looks like an important and meaningful film. That's all smoke and mirrors. Will Smith plays Howard, an advertising executive who enters a downward spiral after the death of his child. He attempts to cope with his loss

through angry bicycling and writing letters to love, time and death. For all of its faux-deep gesturing, "Collateral Beauty" is much more shallow nonsense than anything else. — *M.P.*

**"Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" ★★★**

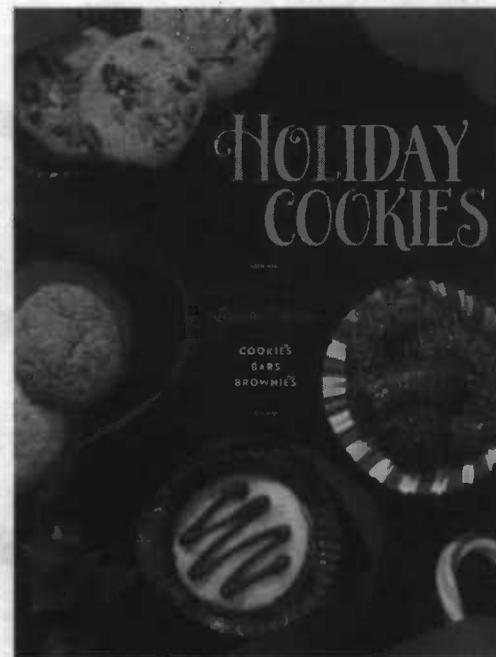
PG-13, 2:13, action/adventure

In handsome, generally diverting fashion, "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them," directed by Potter alum David Yates and adapted by J. K. Rowling from her 2001 book, takes us not to Hogwarts but to 1920s America. Eddie Redmayne, costumed like the winner of a Jazz Age "Doctor Who" contest, plays shy, sweet Newt Scamander, a "magizoologist" by training and a Hogwarts-bred wizard who devotes his life to the collection,

care and feeding of a wide variety of beasties. Potter fans will likely enjoy this first of a planned quintet of "Fantastic Beasts" outings. — *M.P.*

Trib Books

LIBRARY



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

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Death Notices

Breihan, Janet Carol

Janet Carol Breihan, age 77, passed away December 18, 2016. Beloved wife of William; loving mom to Kurt (Debbie), Eric, Joan (Tom) Haas, and David (Lorena); dear grandma to Amy, Nina, Andrew, and Rebecca. Services are private.



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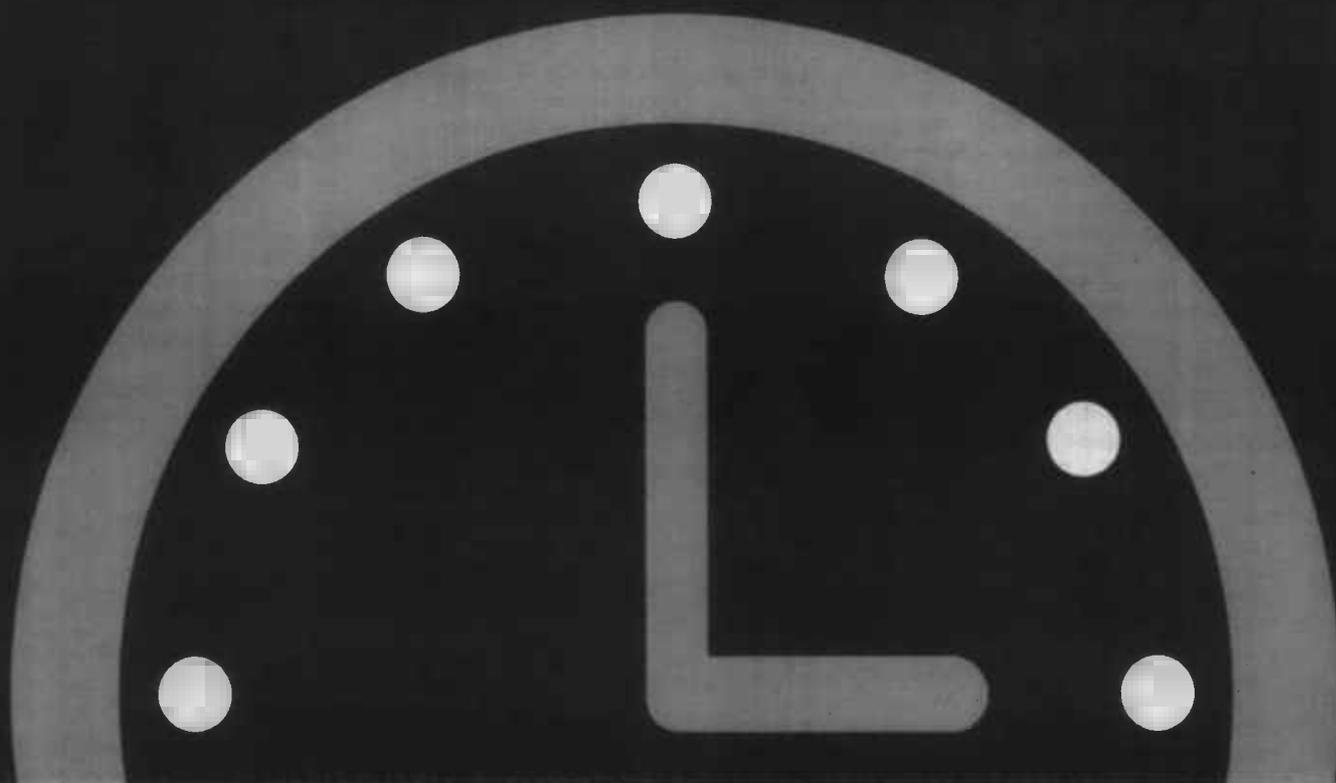
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BY BOB WEBER
Chicago Tribune

Your choices are rear-wheel drive, front-wheel drive, all-wheel drive and four-wheel drive. The only thing these layouts have in common is the word "drive." Which type of driveline layout is best for winter driving?

Rear-wheel drive: Although it is making a comeback, particularly with muscle cars, RWD is the minority. The engine is in the front of the car driving the wheels at the rear. The RWD system is heavier and takes up more space than FWD. The engine usually is installed longitudinally (north-south in car jargon). The transmission is mounted directly behind the engine and a drive shaft couples it to the rear axle where the differential converts the axial rotation and delivers torque to the wheels.

This layout is popular with high-performance cars because the weight distribution is a bit more balanced than front-wheel drive cars, where most of the weight is directly over the drive wheels. Assertive drivers prefer the handling characteristics of RWD, which also can handle more torque.

The major downside of RWD includes poor handling in slippery conditions. Less weight over the drive wheels can make them lose traction and slide sideways. This condition, called oversteer, ultimately can cause the car to spin around. When trying to get out of the slide, the driver may try to correct by steering into the spin. But if not done well, this can make the rear end swing in the opposite direction, causing the car to fishtail back and forth, and be tricky to control.

Front-wheel drive: FWD may be the better choice for most drivers. The motor usually is mounted in a



4WD systems, like those in many Jeep vehicles, are best for off-roading, but winter tires have more of an impact negotiating winter conditions.

transverse orientation (east-west). The rotation of the engine and drive wheels are parallel. The transmission mounts directly to the engine and the differential is combined in the same housing, often called a transaxle. A big advantage is its compact size. FWD systems provide good traction when accelerating in slippery conditions with plenty of weight pressing down on the drive wheels.

It is not without drawbacks. The front wheels must do the all of the work; they provide both turning and acceleration. With most of the mass up front, cornering and performance may suffer in slick conditions. Turning the steering wheel may not provide enough control and the car will try to

continue on a straight path. This is called plowing.

For most motorists, front-wheel drive is a good choice. Unless there is a heavy snowfall, reducing ground clearance, FWD will get you where you need to go on paved roads.

All-wheel drive: All-wheel drive solves some of the issues associated with FWD and RWD cars. Vehicles equipped with all-wheel drive transmit power to all four wheels, or in some cases, to individual wheels. On many cars, minivans and light duty crossover SUVs, all-wheel drive is optional if not standard. Unlike trucks with four-wheel drive, AWD systems need no operator input to function. AWD systems can even bias the power to the front

or rear wheels depending on traction conditions.

AWD is an excellent option for motorists living in the Snow Belt states. All-season tires may be all you need. AWD even improves handling on dry roads, but is not designed to be taken off-road.

The downsides include a poorer fuel economy than FWD cars, mostly due to added weight.

Four-wheel drive: Four-wheel-drive systems are typically found in pickup trucks and SUVs. Unlike automatic AWD systems, the driver must usually select the 4WD mode. Trucks used to have an additional lever to engage the power takeoff in high or low 4WD range. Electric switches now handle the task for operator ease.

4WD systems are good for dealing with very deep snow and for off-road driving. The low range makes it possible to crawl over boulders, up steep hills and through thick mud. Truck-type 4WD is the choice for drivers who live in remote or rural areas where roads are not plowed regularly.

4WD systems basically run in 2WD mode, just as a rear-wheel-drive vehicle. They suffer the same traction issues too. The 4WD function must be disengaged when driving on dry, paved roads as it may damage the 4WD system components.

4WD systems add considerable extra weight, which hurts fuel economy.

Although all-wheel-drive and four-wheel-drive setups may get you

through snow, they will not magically help you stop. Be aware of black ice, especially at intersections where snow and slush are constantly melting and refreezing.

Another misconception is that AWD and 4WD vehicles produce more traction. They don't. They can only supply torque to more of the wheels. Only tires provide traction. And then, only a tiny footprint about the size of a playing card actually touches the ground.

No vehicle, no matter its drive system, will stop better because of it. If you hit the brakes, the drive system is instantly out of the equation. According to experts, this is the most common operator error in winter driving.

Winter tires: Winter tires used to be called snow tires, for a very good reason. Today, winter tires are still a major improvement over regular and even all-season tires. They go beyond improved performance in snow.

Those who live in the South, who find snowfall a novelty, won't need winter tires. Residents of transition states will easily get by with all-season tires. These tires are often designated M+S for mud and snow. Motorists in the Snow Belt would be wise to get winter tires.

Winter tires have a softer rubber compound that remains more pliable providing more grip when cold. The tread blocks also are designed to dig into snow and then spit it back out as the wheels rotate. Then there are the sipes. Sipes are razor-thin slits in the rubber that become thousands of micro-pumps to deliver traction on ice.

There is plenty of winter weather to come and it is not too late to get your winter tires. When you do, make sure to get four tires for maximum safety and performance.

Bob Weber is the Motor-mouth columnist.

MASSIMO CALMONTE/GETTY

Retightening of lug nuts required for new wheels



BOB WEBER
Motormouth

Q: Whenever I have wheel or tire work done, the shop always makes a note on the repair order to return after 50-100 miles to have the lug nuts retightened. Is this necessary or are the tire dealers just covering their butts in case of a screw-up? It is hard to believe that lug nuts properly tightened with a torque wrench would work loose. If they did, why wouldn't they work loose again in the next 50-100 miles? Wouldn't continually checking them be ludicrous?

— S.P., McGraw, N.Y.

A: Only new wheels (or wheel studs) need to be re-torqued once more after 50-100 miles. Compression of the wheel's metal or elongation of the new studs could occur. This would only happen once. By the way, when the nuts are re-torqued, the wheels should be cool and the nuts loosened and then torqued to the manufacturer's specification. As to whether your tire dealer is covering his butt is a question we are not prepared to answer.

Q: I drive a 2013 Mercedes GL350. The SUV requires diesel fuel. You recently referred a reader to www.pure-gas.org to find ethanol-free gasoline. I am looking for pure diesel fuel for my vehicle and cannot find any in my area. I am concerned that the biodiesel available at my local gas stations is damaging my vehicle. Do you know of any stations in my area that provide



ADAM GAULT/OJO IMAGES

Lug nuts on new wheels need to be retightened after 50-100 miles.

pure diesel fuel?

— M.M., Glen Ellyn, Ill.

A: Mercedes-Benz's published statements say, "Diesel fuel with up to B5 biodiesel content according to ULSD (ultra low sulfur diesel) specification ASTM D975 meets Mercedes-Benz approved fuel standards and will not void coverage under the Mercedes-Benz New Vehicle Limited Warranty. Diesel fuels between B6 and B20 or higher pose risks of engine and fuel system damage, and are not approved by Mercedes-Benz. Please refer to the following recommendations to help avoid engine and fuel system damage if you do not have the chance to refuel your vehicle continuously with ULSD, maximum B5: Fuel with biodiesel content greater than 20%, including B100, is not approved by Mercedes-Benz due to the risk of severe engine damage. Any damage caused by the use of such non-approved fuels will not be covered by the Mercedes-Benz New Vehicle Limited Warranty." The TDI Club (www.tdiclub.com) maintains a forum where you will find a link to locations selling nonbiodiesel fuel. Truck stops are also often a

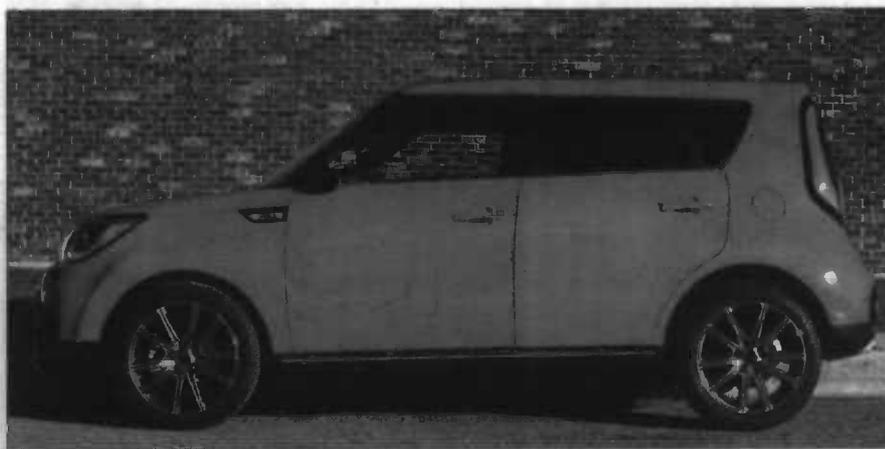
good bet.

Q: I own a 2001 Dodge Ram Van. I have had to change the resistor block that controls the heater and air conditioning blower five times. In all my years of driving, I only had to replace this resistor once, and that was on a 1973 Dodge Dart. The three resistor coils look fine. However, there is another component that is not a resistor and I am wondering if that is what fails. Although it is the same size as a resistor, it does not look like a resistor because there are no colored bands on it. Is this some kind of fuse?

— J.W., Chicago

A: It is a thermal fuse that pops when things get too hot. But the fuse does not blow randomly. The blower motor is probably drawing too much current. Replace the motor the next time you have to replace the blower resistor.

Send questions along with name and town to *Motor-mouth*, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60611 or motor-mouth.trib@verizon.net.



ANDY MIKONIS/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

The 2017 Kia Soul Turbo Exclaim adds another variation to the tall hatch's lineup.

Kia Soul turbo boosts power

BY ANDY MIKONIS
Chicago Tribune

2017 KIA SOUL TURBO EXCLAIM
FWD small wagon

Price as tested:

\$26,770

Base price: \$22,650

Mpg:

26 city, 31 highway

Engine:

1.6-liter turbocharged four cylinder

Transmission:

Seven-speed dual-clutch automatic

Parting shot:

Charming econobox gets a turbo punch

The 2017 Kia Soul Turbo Exclaim adds another variation to the tall hatch's lineup, featuring a new 1.6-liter turbocharged engine and seven-speed dual clutch transmission. For the car spotter's guide it can be distinguished by 18-inch alloy wheels, some red trim and chrome dual exhaust tips.

The Soul Exclaim tester wore its sporty touches well. A snappy "Inferno Red" paint job helped. It is actually a fine metallic, only discernible when the sun hits it straight on.

As its boxy shape implies, the Soul is roomy inside for its small footprint. The optional panoramic sunroof does cut into interior volume a bit, but you won't miss it. You will miss mounting points for a roof rack, however, and \$1,000 from your bank account. Leg room for the front occupants is generous, though at the expense of rear passengers if you roll too far back. In that position, there is enough room to fold down the split rear seat backs for hauling larger items. There's 18.8 cubic feet in the very back with the seats up, with a removable hard cover to keep your cargo concealed. We transported five adults for a short dinner outing, but there were some acrobatics required to find the seat belts.

Niceties on the tester such as heated rear seats are courtesy of this highest trim level, while an extra \$3,000 for the optional technology package will offer some things useful and some silly. Blind spot rear detection is useful, but the illuminated rings on the speakers that you can set for "mood" lighting or to pulse with the music can be silly fun.

The instrument panel is really well-executed. The displays have nice graphics and a soothing font. Plus it all matches, unlike some of the competitors. Hard buttons and one knob for the HVAC are intuitive.

You don't have to go deep into the screens for any commonly used functions.

Under the hood a 1.6-liter four-cylinder produces 201 horsepower, a jump of at least 40 from other Soul engines. It's also the only Soul to get the new seven-speed dual-clutch transmission. This type of transmission can shift more quickly, thereby saving gas by reducing wasted motion of the engine. The dual-clutch does not have the always-engaged sensation of an automatic, though, so there can be a delay when leaving a stop or a slight rollback on incline in the Soul. This powertrain is state-of-art stuff, but some American consumers have had issues with it feeling like a cross between a manual and automatic transmission.

The turbocharger needs the engine to build up some speed before it can do its job of forcing more air in, so add in a helping of turbo lag, and this Soul can feel indecisive when accelerating.

Kia's powertrain technology has been impressive. The ride and handling, not so much. However, the 2017 Soul changes that. It feels solid over bumps. The suspension could be more compliant, but if the compromise is not leaning while cornering, we'll take it.

Andy Mikonis is a freelance writer.

Saying goodbye to 2016, hello to 2017

A look back at the big events in area high school sports

BY DAN SHALIN AND ELI HERSHKOVICH
Pioneer Press

To put the past year of local high school sports in perspective and to get a preview of the new year, Pioneer Press independently interviewed four area athletic directors — Niles West's Kendall Griffin, Niles North's Brett Bildstein, Maine East's Steve Schanz and Notre Dame's Mike Hennessey — and asked them each the same seven questions. Bildstein is in his first academic year with the Vikings. The best answers follow:

Q: What was the highlight for your athletic programs this calendar year?

Griffin: The girls volleyball team making it downstate (in Class 4A) for the first time in history. Their fourth-place finish was their best ever and they had the most wins (28) in program history. We had a sophomore in Natalia Pehar who was all-area and she'll come back to do more big things.

Schanz: It had to be our (varsity) football team winning their first game since 2013 in the first game of the year against Schurz. (Maine East won one game in 2014 via forfeit.) There was a fourth-down play, and our long snapper was hurt. Since we couldn't really punt, we threw just a fly pattern down the sideline. The kid caught it, which pretty much sealed the deal. You could see the team and I cheering for him on the sidelines. I honestly don't think they really knew how to celebrate the win. They didn't really know who to hug or whatever. But it was great to see coach (Scott) Smith's hard work pay off. There's a lot more to measuring success than wins and losses, but I was really hoping they'd get at least a victory this year. When the celebration happened and Smith was doused with water, I literally just took a step back and watched.

Hennessey: The basketball team's run to the (Class 4A) supersectional, and the (supersectional game) at Northwestern. Those kids played some great basketball (during the season) and



ALLEN CUNNINGHAM/NAPERVILLE SUN

Niles West's Amanda Lee putts at the the Class AA girls golf state tournament on Oct. 15.

(coach) Tom Les had them well prepared. That atmosphere at the supersectional was great. Even though they were not able to pull it off (a 65-62 loss to Curie), it was a great scene with so much of our student body there and (getting into the game).

Q: What was one team that stood out in 2016?

Griffin: If you're looking at the spring, it would have to be boys gymnastics, who were 2016 state

champions. They exceeded expectations and made an amazing run and everything came together at the tail end there at Hinsdale Central at the state meet. (Coach) Adrian Batista is a Niles West grad and has had a long time in the program. And we had a state champion in the all-around in Dalai Jamiyankhuu.

Bildstein: The coed varsity cheer team finished third in the IHSA state competitive cheer se-

ries. Having that level of state success is pretty incredible. It's the first time (they've had a top-three finish) and we have a big banner in the gym (commemorating it).

Q: Who was one athlete who surpassed expectations on the field or in the classroom, and why?

Griffin: Well there is Dalai (who has graduated). But if you want to talk about the kids currently with us, football player Matt Galano-

poulos, was a three-time all-conference selection. He was a wide receiver, running back, kick returner, punt returner and defensive back. Golfer Amanda Lee is a great student-athlete. She has great grades and was our first ever qualifier for state in (girls) golf. She finished her career as our most decorated girls golfer ever.

Schanz: There were a couple

Turn to 2016, Next Page

2016, from Previous Page

since two of our own had qualified for the state swim meet in freshman Alyssa Klug and sophomore Anabelle Delgadillo. (Delgadillo) was in the athletes with disabilities one, and Alyssa qualified for the 100 and 50 freestyle. (Klug) was coming back from injury, and we weren't exactly sure if she would qualify or not. She ended up hitting the mark in two events, so that was exciting. Anabelle was in three events. I was up in the rafters and just smiling. That was the first time since I've been here (June 2013) that we've had someone in the state meet. It was also the first time since 2009 that we've had someone qualify, and that was Natalia Bialecka, who's now our assistant coach.

Hennessey: (Current Dayton football player and 2016 graduate) Tim Simon was probably one of the best athletes we've had here at Notre Dame. I'd really rate him in the top 10 (ever). I don't like to say who is better, but he is somebody you'd want everyone else to watch and model themselves after. In (football), he was an all-area selection, an academic all-stater, team MVP and captain. (In baseball), he played center field, pitched, was the leadoff hitter and was a leader just like he had been the previous calendar year for me in football (where he was a wide receiver, defensive back and kicker).

Q: Who was one coach who went above and beyond this year?

Bildstein: Boys soccer coach Filip Cejovic. He's a player-centric coach and they have great team chemistry. The soccer team went and supported just about every other fall sport and (took part) in booster club fundraisers. They are the most engaged team in the school. Aside from that, (Cejovic) is a great motivator and Xs and Os soccer coach. He does all the little things you would want in a coach, and it shows in what his team does for the school.

Schanz: Jeff Bishop has done a great job of getting our (boys) soccer program in a position that is really set up for success in the future. All three levels were very competitive this year, especially our freshmen boys, who only had one loss. We had over 100 kids try out too, so we had to make a lot of cuts this year. That's always heart-breaking, but it's a sign that your program is going in the right direction. Coach Bishop did a great job of working his tail off in

the offseason and during the regular season to really get that program going.

Hennessey: Steve Jankowski is our head tennis coach and (co-head) swimming coach, and he does a great job taking care of both sports. The tennis team is doing as well as they've done in the last 10 or 15 years and that's due to Steve's hard work. With swimming, the numbers we have out there (are impressive) for a school without a pool. You need people like (Jankowski) in the department, they make the whole program vibrant.

Q: Looking back on 2016, is there anything that you wish would have gone differently within the program?

Bildstein: I think the big thing for our coaches has just been an abundance of change. You can't prevent change, but sometimes it's easier when changes are smaller. We got a new principal (James Edwards), new superintendent (Steven Isoye) and new AD (Bildstein arrived late in the summer). Not that those are bad things by any measure, but it's a lot for people to process.

Q: When you look ahead to 2017, what is your athletic program's New Year's resolution?

Griffin: I think at Niles West, we're now at a point where we can expect to compete with anybody in the state. We play in the CSL South, which we feel rivals any conference in the state. We're willing to take on anybody and now going forward (our resolution) is to see that consistent level of excellence. I feel like out of the 28 (sports) programs we have, we're in a place where we can compete in all, and at the highest level in the state. We fully expect to push that envelope.

Schanz: Never be satisfied. We always want to get better. We didn't win a conference championship this year, but by far, it was our best overall athletic year in the standings. We're getting to the point we're competitive in almost every sport now. That's my own mantra too. I want to be a better AD in 2017 and years after. I've also been participating in at least one practice in every sport, like I'm an athlete. In football, I've put all the gear on, and I attempted to do a practice with the girls swimming team. I'm not much of a swimmer, though. To see, firsthand, how hard they work has been an eye-opener for me.

Hennessey: We want to sustain success. In order to do that, we have to work hard. It's easy to say,



DAVID BANKS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Notre Dame's Anthony D'Avanzo blocks Curie's Devin Gage during the Class 4A Northwestern Supersectional.

but not as easy to accomplish. That's why we've been a successful program: Our coaches stress hard work and we talk about it in school on a daily basis with our guys, whether it's in athletics or academics.

Q: What are you most looking forward to about your school's athletics next year?

Bildstein: We have a couple of individuals: (junior) Michelle Bacalla, who finished fourth in the state in (Class AA) tennis and boys diver Max Royzen, who has a chance to do some damage at state (in February). (Royzen) has improved every year as state, going from 10th (as a freshman) to fifth (sophomore) and third (junior).

Team-wise, I would say boys basketball. The team is fairly young, but if we're talking timeline, where will they be by this time next year? It will be fun watching that growth.

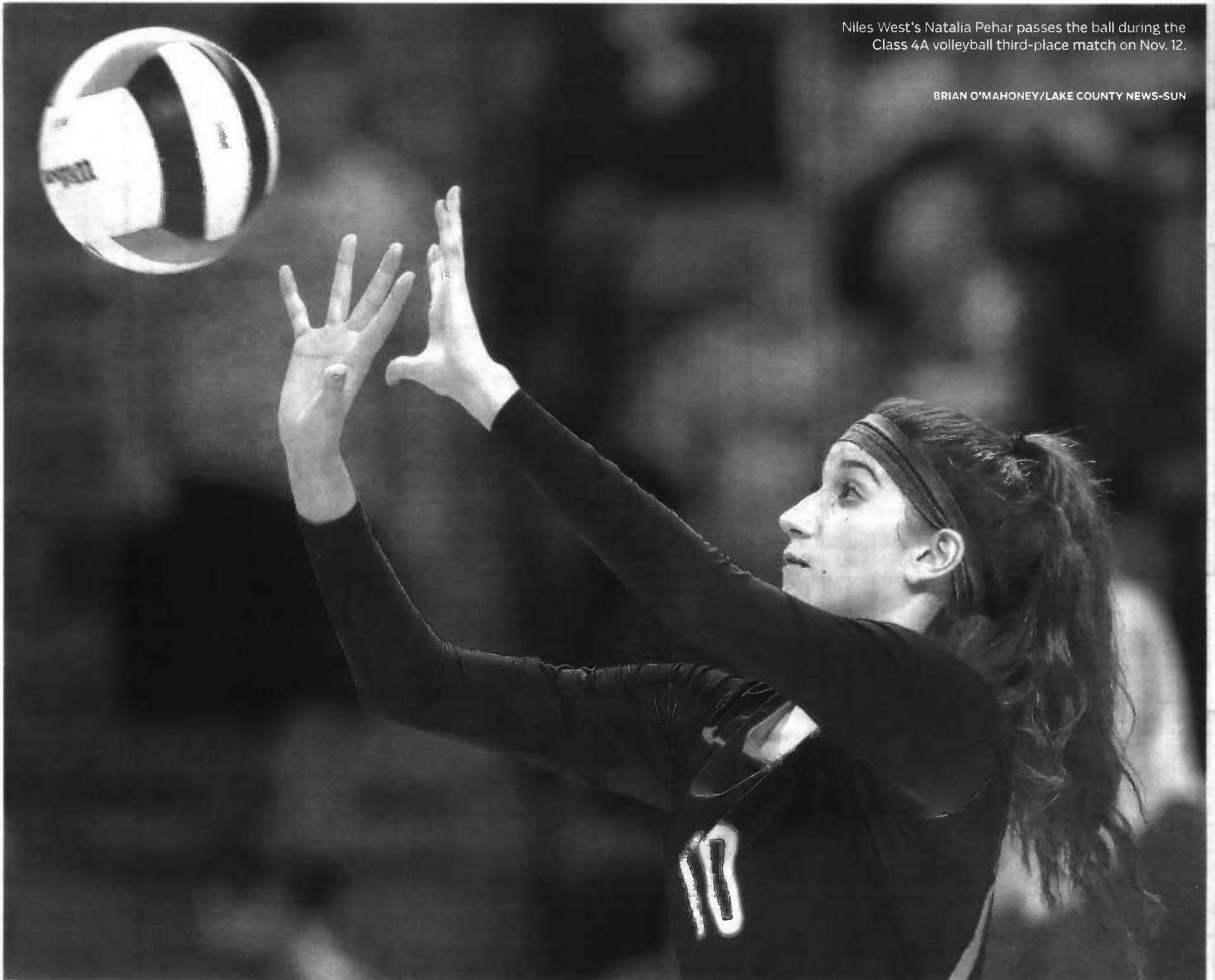
Schanz: We've got some tremendous athletes, who I'm looking forward to seeing in the spring. The incredible Michael Boduch, one of our star volleyball players, will be fun to watch. Antoine Kelly, who's a future star in the making at pitcher for our baseball team, should be good as well. Our softball team is very young, and they're poised to be even better this year. The spring will be a fun time to see a lot of growth in some of our sports that

just wasn't there a number of years ago.

Hennessey: Our soccer team has really (improved) leaps and bounds the last two or three years. (Coach) Mike Smith has great numbers for two straight years and they've won (a game) in the state playoffs. I think it's the program that has made the most significant strides. They have a great staff, many of whom, like (Smith), are alums, and they've come back to help big time.

Dan Shalin and Eli Hershkovich are freelance reporters for Pioneer Press.

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Niles West's Natalia Pehar passes the ball during the Class 4A volleyball third-place match on Nov. 12.

BRIAN O'MAHONEY/LAKE COUNTY NEWS-SUN

A SWEET '16

Area athletic directors recap the year in high schools sports. **Inside**



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