Celebrating young artists

Niles West art show features work by area students. Page 6

Enjoy a one-day cassoulet recipe

Trimming a weeklong cooking process into a single afternoon is a challenge, Melissa Elsmo writes, but she was pleasantly surprised by the results of her effort to streamline this hearty French casserole. Inside

Cars are rolling into town

A look at what to expect and the hottest cars at the 2017 Chicago Auto Show. Page 23

OPINION

TV icon offered her wisdom to all of us

An icon for young women hoping to strike out on their own, Mary Tyler Moore also taught her male viewers to value the intelligence and independence of the women in their lives, writes Randy Blaser. Page 19

SPORTS

High gear

Niles North’s speed, pressure too much for Maine South. Page 43
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Moe Vela, former White House official


Q: What were some of your roles at the White House?
A: I served during the Obama administration as chief financial officer and senior adviser on Latino affairs in the office of Vice President Joe Biden, the vice president of the United States.

Q: What is your book about?
A: I served during the Clinton administration as chief financial officer and senior adviser on Latino affairs in the office of Vice President Al Gore, and later during the Obama administration as director of administration for Joe Biden, the vice president of the United States.

Q: What is the key to being a good public speaker?
A: Always speak from your heart. If you keep it real, and you're open, and you're genuine, and you truly, truly love, I don't care what anybody tells you, you'll succeed. There's two keys — genuine authenticity and humor. If you make somebody laugh, at that moment you actually love each other.

— Staff report
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Art by 20 Lincoln Junior High School students exhibited

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

Artwork by 20 Lincoln Junior High School students was among those selected this year as part of the Niles West Art Show, school officials announced.

The 7th- and 8th-graders' work was on display Jan. 31 in the auditorium-turned-art gallery at Niles West High School.

Other works by students from other Niles Township High School District 219 feeder schools were also on display for the 11th annual event.

"This night is so special because we get to celebrate our young artists and get to share what we've been doing at the schools around the different districts in the area," said Donna Lurie, art teacher at Culver School in Niles.

A tissue paper collage by Aubrey Nguyen, 12, a 7th-grader at Fairview South School District 72 in Skokie, was among the estimated 100 pieces of art featured at the show.

It took her about two weeks to complete the piece she calls "Glowing Nature's Perspective," a two-dimensional work with blues and greens in a dreamlike landscape.

Nguyen said her work exhibits influences of Dutch artist Vincent Van Gogh.

"Van Gogh inspires me because he paints a lot of things that involve nature and makes them beautiful and realistic," she said.

Other student artists came from such schools as Lincoln Hall Middle School of Lincolnwood School District 74 and Park View School of Morton Grove School District 70.

"I'm tremendously proud. I couldn't be more proud," said Katherine Chung, art teacher at Fairview South.

"I think they speak from the heart," Chung said, describing the motivation behind the works. "They're really hardworking kids, and it's wonderful to recognize them."

The gallery setting created at the high school was actually the second floor open mezzanine over the school's main entrance.

The setup allowed families and their student artists to access multiple levels and tour classroom art spaces featuring rooms with digital art, photography, theater, molding and classic painting.

The evening concluded with a student recognition ceremony.

"We love getting everyone together (and) doing a group show, I think it's great," said Barb Wismer, art teacher with the Niles West fine and applied arts department at Niles West.

"We want to honor students who really put forth the time and effort and the parents who support their children in art endeavors," Wismer said.

Karie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter.
Local police departments train for opioid overdose

BY LEE V. GAINE
Pioneer Press

Police officers in the region are increasingly joining the number of first responders being outfitted with and trained to use an opioid antidote, all in an effort to save more lives in some drug overdose incidents, officials say.

Niles and Lincolnwood firefighters have already been using substances like Narcan, a brand name for the substance naloxone, which is used to counteract the effects of opiate drugs like heroin. Police in those towns are in the process of being equipped with the substance too.

As of September 2015, state law requires each state agency or local municipality with either fire or police personnel to have the opioid antidote and train officers and firefighters on how to administer it. However, more towns are having both first responders carry the substance. The Niles and Lincolnwood police departments are able to get the antidote through a grant established by Cook County Commissioner Sean Morrison, R-17th District, in partnership with the Orland Fire Protection District, which is in his area. Morrison said he felt it was important that both police and fire personnel carry the opioid antidote because beat officers often arrive on the scene of a potential overdose before fire personnel and a swift response matters when it comes to treating overdose victims.

"We get representatives from each law enforcement entity. We train them and they train their personnel," Morrison said.

His grant provides Evzio, a brand name for a naloxone auto-injector device, to police departments. So far, Niles and Lincolnwood are among the 51 law enforcement agencies in the county to get a grant.

Starting Jan. 23, all of Lincolnwood Police Department's 33 sworn personnel went through a two-day training on how to use the devices from another officer who was trained through the grant program, according to Deputy Chief John Walsh.

The police department received 10 Evzio packs, or 20 doses of the opiate antidote, which is enough to equip every squad car on duty with one, he said.

Each Evzio pack contains two auto-injectors equipped with an audio component that provides voice instructions. Each pack retails for approximately $3,600, Morrison explained. They have a one-year shelf life and the commissioner acknowledges that his grant may not be able to cover future costs of the antidote. And cost is an issue for police departments like Lincolnwood's, the deputy chief said.

"It could become an expensive enterprise and it's unfunded by state law," Walsh said.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 711 people in Illinois died from a heroin-related overdose in 2014 compared to 844 deaths state-wide in 2015, which amounts to a nearly 20 percent increase in fatalities in one year. Numbers for 2016 have yet to be released.

Locally, overdose-related 911 calls have increased, police and fire department data shows. Opioid-related deaths, especially from heroin, have been on the rise.

In 2013, Niles saw one opioid overdose-related death. But last year there were three, according to information from the Cook County Medical Examiner's Office. Morton Grove had a similar jump in cases, going from 0 in 2013 and 2014 to three in 2015.

Morton Grove police Cmdr. Paul Yaras said his department has opted so far not to participate in the grant program partly due to the cost of the devices. Though the grant would provide the substance to the department for now, Yaras said that long term the village would be on the hook to pay for it.

He added, however, that "when you're talking about human life, you can't look at dollars and cents."

Yaras said opiate and heroin use in the village "isn't exactly widespread" and the municipality's fire department already carries opioid antidotes and responds quickly to calls.

Lee V. Gaines is a freelance reporter.
'Coming Together' focuses Chinese culture

Programming slated to run from February to April

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

The village of Skokie and Niles Township are preparing for one of the annual celebrations of diversity culture, an event packed with activities that this year will highlight China.

"Coming Together" kicks off Feb. 11 with song, dance, martial arts and more at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts.

From there, more than 50 programs, including author visits, discussions, film, music, history and more are scheduled into April at various venues throughout the township, including at the Lincolnwood and Morton Grove public libraries and both Niles North and West high schools.

"We chose the Chinese this year because they are an unbelievably industrious, valuable part of our community," said Susan Van Dusen, wife of the Skokie mayor. "Doctors, shop owners, teachers — everyone works so hard. When we got together to plan our program, there was not a moment's hesitation. Almost immediately, the community had brought together a program of the likes we have not seen."

Susan Van Dusen was one of the original five women who created Coming Together as an extension of Skokie's annual Festival of Cultures, she said, and remains on the organizing committee.

A schedule of events can be found at www.comingtogether.in and free booklets on the series are available at the Skokie Public Library. In addition to the activities, Coming Together is promoting four books related to the Chinese culture, written by Chinese authors.

Lucille Louie was one of the speakers at a news conference Jan. 25 on Coming Together in Skokie and Niles Township. More than 50 programs on the culture of China have been scheduled from Feb. 11 into April.

"It seems every year, the committee, a year ahead of time, figures out what is going to be in the news a year from now."

— Mayor George Van Dusen

Coming Together has previously celebrated the Latino, Korean, Greek, Filipino and other cultures.

The focus on China and the Chinese culture also comes as the new U.S. president has made controversial and challenging remarks about China's economic relationship with the United States.

However, Coming Together organizers say that timing is coincidental.

"This year, the committee once again has been very prescient," Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen said Jan. 25 at a news conference introducing the eighth annual Coming Together program.

"It seems every year, the committee, a year ahead of time, figures out what is going to be in the news a year from now," the mayor, who also teaches history at Oakton Community College, said the subject of China has been "a little difficult at times, difficult for Westerners to get a grasp of quite often."

"You might be aware there have been times when we have tried to meld the Chinese culture and their innovations with Western Civilization," he said.

According to the 2010 U.S. Census Bureau, nearly 40 percent of the population in Skokie is non-white and more than 25 percent Asian. The Asian population grew by more than 4 percent from the 2000 Census, which listed the Chi-
Four books have been selected this year as the centerpiece of Coming Together in Skokie and Niles Township. The books, which include two graphic novels, celebrate the Chinese culture. The six-week Coming Together program will include author visits.

Four books chosen to celebrate Chinese culture

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

Every installment of Coming Together in Skokie and Niles Township, no matter what culture is chosen for the intensive six-week focus, includes a selection of books, the organizers say.

Coming Together was created with the idea of literature being its centerpiece every year, organizers say.

Skokie Public Library Director Richard Kong last week introduced the four books chosen by theComing Together committee for this year's celebration of the Chinese culture. The books cover all age ranges, and Coming Together programming will include many book discussions and even author visits at locations throughout Niles Township.

The library last year won a $5,000 grant from the American Library Association for the 2015 Coming Together program on race. Kong said some of the funds have been pumped back into this year's Coming Together to support programming, including visits by authors.

"American Born Chinese" by Gene Luen Yang is the main book selected for the program this year, Kong said. A graphic novel, the book won an American Library Association award for literature for young adults and other awards as well as being a National Book Award finalist, he said.

"This is a coming-of-age tale, and it tells the story of three different characters," Kong said. "It paints a picture of cultural identity and self-acceptance."

Kong called Yang "a well-known author and illustrator" and said he recently received a Genius Award from the MacArthur Foundation.

"The Shadow Hero," another graphic novel written by Yang, but with a different illustrator, was also chosen by the committee.

"It's a classic superhero graphic novel, but it also mixes in elements of Chinese mythology and history," Kong said. The story revives the 1940s character of the Green Turtle, widely believed to be the first Asian-American superhero, he said.

"Where the Mountain Meets the Moon" by Grace Lin, tells of Min Lee, a desperately poor Chinese girl, Kong said.

"(She's) inspired by her father's storytelling to find an all-powerful man of the moon to change her family's fortune," Kong said. The story is interspersed with a kind of fairy tale.

"Ugly Vegetables," also by Lin and written for kids, is the author's debut picture book, according to Kong. The story tells of a young Chinese-American girl whose mother plants a garden in their backyard. The girl questions why the vegetables look a little different than pretty flowers in other gardens, Kong said.

"It's a very touching story about one's learning about and appreciating one's culture and identity," he said.

Kong called the selected books this year "an integral piece of the experience we're trying to create."

"There's something powerful that happens when a community reads together," he said.
The following items were taken from the Niles Police Department reports. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt.

**BURGLARY**
- An attempt was made to enter a business in the 9100 block of Milwaukee Avenue between Jan. 13 and 14, police said.
- A house in the 8000 block of Wisner Street was discovered burglarized Jan. 18, police said.

**BURGLARY TO VEHICLE**
- A purse was reported stolen from a car parked in the 8200 block of Touhy Avenue Jan. 19.
- A woman told police her smartphone, valued at $700, was stolen from her locked car while parked in the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue Jan. 19.

**DUI**
- A 17-year-old boy from Des Plaines was charged with driving under the influence of drugs and possession of marijuana Jan. 14 after he was reportedly involved in a crash at the corner of Milwaukee and Greenwood avenues. He is scheduled to appear in court Feb. 9.

**PROPERTY DAMAGE**
- Jane Kang, 26, of Glenview, was charged with criminal damage to property, possession of drug paraphernalia Jan. 14. According to police, Kang broke into a display case inside a store in the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue and removed a fitness watch. Kang is set to appear in court Feb. 22.

**PUBLIC INTOXICATION**
- A 45-year-old man from Morton Grove was charged with public intoxication Jan. 16 after he reportedly admitted to police that he was “drunk” in the 8500 block of Golf Road. He was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge.

**THEFT**
- Fifteen wooden pallets were reported stolen from a store in the 8200 block of Golf Road Jan. 17.
- Two women allegedly attempted to steal an estimated $1,300 worth of merchandise from a store in the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue Jan. 19.

**THREAT**
- A Niles woman told police a family member threatened to travel to “blow off her head” if she did not pay money toward a family reunion. Police said the alleged incident occurred in November, but the woman reported it Jan. 16 because she was frightened.

Cops: Driver held without bail after Feb. 1 hit and run

A Des Plaines woman is being held without bail in Cook County Jail after police said she struck three pedestrians in Morton Grove Feb. 1 and left the scene.

Yogini Tailor, 54, was identified as the driver and is charged with leaving the scene of a personal injury accident.

Morton Grove Police caught up with Tailor shortly after she struck a 2-year-old, the child's mother and father, and a house in the 8500 block of Menard Avenue and then drove away, police said.

Police stopped Tailor's vehicle on Dempster Street, officials said.

All three victims were transported from the scene to Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, said Morton Grove police Cmdr. Paul Yaras.

He said the child sustained facial injuries, stayed overnight at the hospital but has been released.

While police describe the mother's injuries as “minor,” Yaras said the father remains in the hospital as of Feb. 3.

"He sustained extensive injuries," including broken legs, Yaras said.

He said the father was dragged during the incident.

“We feel very sympathetic toward this family,” Yaras said.

Tailor has no prior criminal record, Yaras said. But she did not offer police her own explanation of what happened in Wednesday's incident.

The commander said that shortly after police took Tailor into custody, she asked for an interpreter and a lawyer. Tailor speaks Gujarati, one of several languages of India.

“She chose not to be cooperative,” Yaras said.

Tailor is scheduled to appear in court again Feb. 24.

— Staff report
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D64 students take home awards at Olympiad

Annual science event draws 340 to the competition

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

More than 40 students took home awards during Park Ridge-Niles School District 64's annual Science Olympiad, held Feb. 4 at Emerson Middle School.

According to the school district, the event drew about 340 students in grades 3-5 to compete in five different scientific tasks. The tasks included aerodynamics, in which partners design a paper airplane to fly with the greatest accuracy; egg drop, in which a device is made to prevent a raw egg from breaking when dropped from increasing heights; mystery box, where students try to identify the characteristics of an object using senses other than sight; the rubber band catapult, in which students build a catapult to shoot a rubber band at a target and graph their practice results; and structures, which involves the construction of miniature skyscrapers using straws and pins.

"Each event presents a unique science or engineering problem that inspires students to stretch their creativity in unexpected ways," District 64 curriculum specialist Tony Clishem said in a press release from the district.

Winners of the District 64 Science Olympiad in the aerodynamics event were Christian Abdala and Matthew Yadgar of Field School, Gold Medal; and Jake Nelson, Diego Esparza and Henry Sues of Washington School; Ethan Fogarty, Samantha Foggarty and Leo Thompson of Carpenter School; and James MacDougall and Noah Pinoz-Lo of Field School, Bronze Medal.

Winners of the egg drop event were Dominic Mazurek, Julius Gillani, Owen Kirpanos, Nick Hachigian and Liza Jolineau of Washington School, Gold Medal; and Hannah Meza and Antonio Silva of Field School, Silver Medal; and Star Elarde and JacoLoPiccolo of Field School, Bronze Medal.

In the structures event, winners were Nicole Scimeca, Tiffany Wu and Bridget Woods of Roosevelt School, Gold Medal; Amelia Aguila of Carpenter School, Silver Medal; and Nyan Downing and Brianna Giustino of Washington School and Alena Goodwin, Sammy Alleje and Maddie Brady of Roosevelt School, Bronze Medal.

Winners of the rubber band catapult were Cole Henderson and Mason Par of Field School, Gold Medal; Ryan Estes and Jake Glover of Roosevelt School, Silver Medal; and Star Elarde and Rami Schirazi of Washington School, Bronze Medal.

Winners of the mystery box event were Kiran Singh and Ravi Sunkara of Washington School, Gold Medal; Sophia Dai and Amelia Aguila of Carpenter School, Silver Medal; and Nyan Downing and Brianna Giustino of Washington School and Alena Goodwin, Sammy Alleje and Maddie Brady of Roosevelt School, Bronze Medal.

KEVIN TANAKA/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

Austin Rajchei and Georgio Tsiplanitis of Roosevelt School adjust their egg-catching device at the District 64 Science Olympiad at Emerson Middle School in Niles Feb. 4.

Sophia and Ava Nigro of Franklin School, test their egg-catching device.
Young book lovers pack library for literary event

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

The Evanston Public Library turned into a literary hot spot on Jan. 29 for several youth who participated in the library's middle school literature festival featuring discussions on book writing, publishing and more.

Authors of books written with the tweens and teens in mind were on hand to discuss their respective works and the journey they took from penning to publishing.

The event was free and, organizers said, well-attended.

"The purpose of all of this really is the fact that kids need to be able to see, experience, talk to (and) interview authors and people who write for a living," said Amy Odwarka, festival spokeswoman and a librarian at Haven Middle School in Evanston/Skokie School District 65. The school district, along with the Evanston Public Library and The Book Stall, sponsored the three-hour event.

"Kids who want to become writers need to have these kinds of experiences and this is one of the ways we can offer that to them," Odwarka said about the discussions and other activities.

The youth heard from more than a dozen authors of young adult books who talked about how they got started as an author. Some of them were on-site at the library while others talked via videoconferencing.

Among those participating were novelists Mike Gross of Oak Park and Barbara Binns of Arlington Heights.

"I wrote in secret because my father is Chinese and he insisted that I become a doctor, lawyer or engineer," said Crystal Chan of Chicago, whose debut novel "Bird" was published by Atheneum Books for Young Readers. "When I told him I wanted to be a writer, he was like, freaked out," Chan said.

The youth had the opportunity to get autographs and take home a "swag bag" of books and handouts.

It's really an amazing opportunity for the kids," Odwarka said.

Karie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter.

Samantha David, 11, of Villa Park, was among the middle schoolers who attended a young adult literary festival Jan. 29 at the Evanston Public Library.
Just in time for Valentine's Day, the Lincolnwood Park District's daddy-daughter dance event on Feb. 3 lived up to its theme of "let love glow."

Dozens of father and daughter pairs filled Monastero's Ristorante, on Devon Avenue in Chicago, where they were served a buffet dinner, took to the dance floor as a DJ pumped popular tunes and struck poses in a photo booth.

"We absolutely love this event," said Linda Vering, community outreach and marketing coordinator with the Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation Department, which hosted the event. "It's so sweet to see the girls dressing up to have a date with their dads, and to see the huge smiles on their faces as they arrive."

Dads were decked out in suits — with at least one even seen sporting a tuxedo — and the girls, who ranged in age from 5 to 14, were outfitted in party wear.

The evening's sponsor, Physicians Immediate Care, presented each girl with a carnation as she arrived, which added "a really nice touch," Vering said.

Sohail Rathod of Lincolnwood accompanied his daughters, Zunaira, 10, a fifth-grader, and Fatima, 6, who is in kindergarten.

"Every day is Valentine's Day," Sohail Rathod said with a smile.

Adding to the night was the fact that it was Fatima's birthday, he said.

Zunaira Rathod got a kick out snapping shots in the photo booth.

"Dad, I love you," she said to her father as he posed with his daughters in the photo booth.

This year, Vering said, glow sticks were added to the mix, and most of the girls were all illuminated as they walked around the restaurant and took to the dance floor.

"Those girls just really love to dance," said Ryan Miller, who served as the DJ. "They like keeping their feet moving."

For Lilah Martin, the special occasion was an opportunity for her to whisper in her father's ear.

"I love you," she told her dad, Jim Martin, before skipping off to the dance floor.

Many of the girls expressed how much they liked hanging out with their father at the restaurant.

"I think what I love most about this event is being with my dad," said Lia Christofidis, 11, a Lincoln Hall Middle School sixth-grader.

Karie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter.

Lilah Martin, 7, left, Zunaira Rathod, 10, and Fatima Rathod, 6, all of Lincolnwood, enjoy the photo booth at the Daddy Daughter Dance hosted by the Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation Department Feb. 3 at Monastero's Ristorante in Chicago.

"I love you," she told her dad, Jim Martin, before skipping off to the dance floor.

Many of the girls expressed how much they liked hanging out with their father at the restaurant.

"I think what I love most about this event is being with my dad," said Lia Christofidis, 11, a Lincoln Hall Middle School sixth-grader.

Karie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter.
Gemini school robotics team wins in ‘FIRST’ competition

D63 celebrating unexpected wins by junior high

East Maine School District 63 is celebrating unexpected wins by the school district’s junior high school robotics team, which amassed several awards and a berth to a state competition in the last two months.

A team of nine 7th- and 8th-graders at Gemini Junior High School competed Dec. 10 for the first time in the FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) LEGO League Competition, school officials said in a news release.

As part of the competition, they programmed a robot to complete 13 “missions” according to the news release.

It was supposed to be a chance for the students to gain experience with the competition and be more ready for it the following year, officials said. But the students went on to win several accolades at the competition and a chance to compete in the state competitions that were held Jan. 28 at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, according to the news release.

The Gemini school team – called the Gembots – included Christopher Alexander, Ronnette Bressler, Bushido Ellis, Sarah Hussein, Prapti Patel, Neelish Patel, Hadi Rihawi, Halle Santiago and Hannah Suboni-Kaufman. They competed against 34 other teams at the December event and won the Rookie of the Year award and placed third overall, school officials announced.

At the January competition, they competed against 63 other teams. They didn’t place, but school officials are relishing the Gembots’ efforts.

“These students are a powerhouse of intelligence and design creativity,” said Kathryn Sjoholm, an 8th-grade science teacher who also served as one of three advisers to the team.

“Our future is bright because of these young minds,” she said.

– Staff report

Students on the robotics team — called Gembots — at Gemini Junior High School in Niles won awards and honors in FIRST LEGO competitions held in December 2016 and January 2017.
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NEWS

Evanston, Glencoe police are investigating thefts of high-end vehicles

By Daniel I. Dorfman
Pioneer Press

Police in two North Shore towns are investigating the thefts of luxury cars from two car dealerships, though authorities say it is unclear whether the incidents are related.

Evanston police have released images of three people believed to be involved in a theft at Autobarn Mazda of Evanston in the 1000 block of Chicago Avenue. The incident reportedly occurred just after midnight on Feb. 3 when four BMWs and a Porsche were stolen, according to police Cmdr. Joseph Dugan.

Dugan said officers responded to a report of a possible argument in an alley adjacent to the car dealership.

Responding officers noticed a glass door broken on the north side of the dealership building and an office was ransacked, police said.

"They also saw one of the overhead bay doors open," Dugan said. "A vehicle inside the store was running but no one was there."

Dugan added that while police were at the scene, Chicago police reported that two of the missing cars had been located on Lake Shore Drive at Fullerton Avenue in Chicago.

"They saw a bunch of them just flying down Lake Shore Drive," Dugan said.

Two of the other cars were subsequently found in the city, he said. One was located on the North Side, but Dugan was not aware where the other one was found.

A 2013 BMW remains missing, Dugan said.

"I think that's the reason they left it," Dugan said.

A video from the dealership shows that six offenders entered the business as part of the heist, Dugan said.

The dealership's owner, Richard Fisher, expressed his aggravation over the situation.

"It is unfortunate," Fisher said. "Car dealerships all over Chicagoland have been experiencing incidents like this. It is the seventh time in six months that one of our dealerships has had a car theft incident, most of them in broad daylight."

Fisher, who owns seven dealerships across the area, said he has been forced to place GPS trackers in the approximate 2,500 cars that he has for sale.

"We're angry and frustrated with the situation," Fisher said. "The car dealerships feel like we are under siege."

Meanwhile, according to the Glencoe Public Safety Department, officials are investigating the theft of five luxury cars last week from a Mercedes dealership in the 1000 block of Frontage Road.

Police said an unknown person or people drove an automobile that was believed to be stolen through the overhead doors of the dealership on Jan. 26 and then took five cars while leaving the stolen car at the dealership.

The total value of the five cars was $108,000, the Public Safety Department reported.

Glencoe Public Safety Director Cary Lewandowski said the investigation is ongoing and includes other jurisdictions, but did not say which ones. He added that it was the single biggest car-theft incident since he came to Glencoe in 2013.

A general manager for the Mercedes dealership did not immediately respond to requests for comment.

Whether the two incidents are connected is not known yet, according to Dugan.

"We're aware of the (Glencoe incident), but we are still really early in the investigation," he said.

Dugan added that it is possible this type of theft of breaking into a dealership could be the work of one similar group of criminals or a new overall method by car thieves.

"This is the first time I remember seeing something like this," Dugan said.

Pioneer Press reporter Gene-vieve Bookwalter contributed to this report.

Daniel I. Dorfman is a freelance.
Local company had role at Super Bowl

Virtual reality device was on display

BY RONNIE WACHTER
Pioneer Press

It may not have been for the fans of the Chicago Bears, but the 2016 NFL season was exciting for at least one Buffalo Grove resident and his Skokie-based company.

While the Bears stumbled to a 3-13 record, Creative Promotional Products raced to finish a new entry in the realm of virtual reality, hoping to have it ready for a debut during the run-up to Super Bowl LI, held on Feb. 5 in Houston.

They succeeded, and some of the staff spent several days prior to game day in Houston showing visitors from around the country their VPod virtual reality dome. Marketing director Jonathan Lee said the work began in September, when Houston's city government asked CPP to build its walk-in, stand-up virtual reality experience.

"It's a completely different approach," Lee said of the VPod as compared to the goggles that several giants in the tech field are working on. "They said they wanted to create something no one had seen before. That was the only direction."

The simple explanation for the VPod is that it is what a personal-sized IMAX theater might feel like. The VPod is a 12-foot-diameter dome, held up by three legs, which rises over the viewers' heads and drops down to about chest height, surrounding them with a semisphere of video and audio. Two speakers provide stereo sound.

It is tilted a bit to make the "back" higher (and easier to walk under) and the "front" lower for more viewing space. As many as 10 people can fit inside — all watching the same video. They are free to look around the dome as they choose, and without strapping goggles or a mobile phone and blinders to their faces.

"You can walk around," said the CPP president, Dan Granick, a Buffalo Grove resident. "You immerse yourself into the content by standing under the dome and looking up at it."

Granick and Lee said there are some drawbacks to the design: because the dome's rim stands several feet off the floor, ambient light and sound sneak in. They said that future VPod models will have a feature that allows a single user to control where the party goes within the video, in much the same way that face-strapping products from Occulus and Google currently can — but this means one "driver" and a party full of passengers.

The current model, which went on display at downtown Houston's George R. Brown Convention Center, has no controls and plays only a "visit Houston" tourism promotional reel.

Granick said CPP got into virtual reality to stay near the front of the field he jumped into 21 years ago, making promotional products for sports, music and corporate events. Lee said that they saw the edge of the industry moving into virtual reality and they came up with the VPod as a response.

It is definitely not intended for home use, though.

Lee said the market they will pursue is convention centers, shopping malls, stadiums and other major gathering places buying and permanently installing them.

Houston now owns the Super Bowl VPod, which will stay in the Brown convention center. CPP plans to hold on to some for rentals, as well; at a wedding, revelers might step into a VPod and "ride" a roller coaster or a race car.

"The possibilities are endless," Lee said. "It was hard work, and a little bit of luck."

Cooking at home doesn't have to be difficult, but it should always be delicious. Since 2007, JeanMarie Brownson, culinary director for Rick Bayless' Frontera Foods, has been helping readers put inventive, yet simple, dishes on the table through her Dinner at Home column for the Chicago Tribune. Her book includes everything you need to create spectacular food any day of the week, including sample menus and recipes for everything from prosciutto parmesan puffs to roasted chicken with tomato-olive relish.

Dinner at home has never been better.

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Chicago Tribune
Morton Grove holds final winter market

Staff report

Hundreds of people turned out Feb. 4 to the Morton Grove winter farmers market, where more than a dozen vendors offered everything from meats and dairy to cheese and homemade jewelry and soaps.

Elaine Monterola, the public relations director for the Morton Grove farmers market, said that the one held Feb. 4 would be the last one until Mother's Day in May.

The village usually holds two indoor events over the course of the winter, she explained.

The Feb. 4 farmers market was held at the American Legion Civic Center.

Since Illinois farm fields are bare because it's winter, Monterola said Rock County, Wis.-based Wright Way Farm was lined up to provide certified organic produce that the family farming company grows in greenhouses, hothouses and grow rooms located inside the owners' home.

The village offers the farmers markets, even in the cold months, to "provide the community with a free social activity that includes live music, shopping, prepared food and more," Monterola said.

She said the winter events also afford people an opportunity to buy local and purchase from small business owners, especially for December holidays and Valentine's Day. Also, she said, consumers get a chance to meet new vendors.

"Many of our regular season vendors first joined us at a winter market," Monterola said.

For the final winter farmers market, Morton Grove invited such vendors as Bee in Beazyness With God, which offers honey, honey combs, raw beeswax and beeswax candles; Distinct Bath and Body, makers of handmade soaps, bath bombs, body butters and lip balms; and Morning Dew Designs, with its line of handcrafted jewelry, hand-blown glass marbles, ornaments, plant stakes, pendants and mini wizards.

The next farmers market is scheduled for May 13, followed by the summer season kickoff on June 3, according to Monterola.
Mary Tyler Moore influenced young men too

But then, in 1970, along came Mary. Who wouldn't fall for the girl who could turn the world on with her smile?

Randy Blaser

Following the death of Mary Tyler Moore, we've been hearing a lot about the impact the TV star had on young women at the time with her groundbreaking show that debuted in 1970.

As the independent Mary Richards, who moves out on her own to one of the Twin Cities — Minneapolis — and takes a job as an assistant producer at a local news station, Moore's character became a role model for young women and girls about what they can achieve on their own.

The timing was right for such a message and Mary was definitely the perfect messenger.

Already a star for her role as Laura Petrie on the popular “Dick Van Dyke Show” in the early 1960s, Mary was ready for a change as we entered the 1970s. And the country was prepared for her return to the small screen, too.

And it was also ready for her transformation on TV from the pretty and supportive suburban wife of a successful TV writer to a pretty and independent career woman.

Even Oprah admitted that Mary put big dreams in her head of what she can achieve as an independent young woman chasing a dream in the big city.

But what about us guys?

Left out of this analysis was the impact Mary had on us guys, who also grew up viewing role models on television about what to expect in a life partner. For just as Mary was an example for girls about who they could be, Mary was a role model for boys about who they should be.

The ideal partner for boys displayed on TV went from fun-loving mischievous Gidget, or the thoroughly modern Patty or upper-crust cousin Cathy from “The Patty Duke Show,” to the strat-ed and unattainable Mary Ann or Ginger on “Gilligan’s Island.”

But then, in 1970, along came Mary.

Who wouldn't fall for the girl who could turn the world on with her smile? Who wouldn't want to be with the person who could take a nothing day and suddenly make it all seem worthwhile?

Mary was smart, funny, independent and career-minded — all wonderful qualities.

And while Mary always seemed to strike out when it came to her own love life, that was OK. The right guy could come along at any moment. It could be anyone. It could be me!

So, yes, Mary changed the way young women saw themselves and saw the opportunities available to them. And that was great. By the end of the 1970s, everything was different for women.

And Mary’s vision changed the way young men saw the women who would be the most important person in their lives. In order to share their dreams together, Mary taught men to be sure and give the women we loved the space and support to chase her dreams.

That’s been great too. And we see the result of that change in attitudes being fulfilled today.

It’s been great for all of us men and women as we seek more fulfilling lives in every way. We’re going to make it after all.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

President Trump ushers in a renaissance for dystopian literature

Paul Sassone

Protest marches.

Lawsuits.

Injunctions from judges.

Editorial jeremiads.

Apoplectic political pundit.

The life of a new president of the United States is not all beer and skittles.

While bunkerizing down in the Oval Office churning out executive orders, President Donald Trump has ignited a firestorm of discontentment, disagreement and despair.

Can't anyone find any-thing nice to say about President Trump?

Yes, I can.

Thank you, Mr. President for promoting and encouraging readers to return to classic literature.

Anyone who can cause thousands of readers to return to the classics deserves a vote of thanks.

And that is what President Trump has done.

Thanks to him and his actions (and tweets) that great novel, “1984” by George Orwell has recently become a best-seller on Amazon.com.

Published in 1949, “1984” tells of an authoritarian state run by Big Brother in which there is no objective truth, only what the ruling party says is true at that moment. The book's main character works in the Ministry of Truth, rewriting history to make it conform to the latest party “truth.”

Sound familiar?

Kind of like alternative facts, no?

And not content with reviving one literary classic, President Trump also has boosted “It Can’t Happen Here,” a novel by Nobel Prize-winning author Sinclair Lewis. Published in 1935, the book is about a U.S. president who becomes a dictator in order to save the country from welfare cheats, crime, sex and the liberal press.

Also receiving revived interest are other classic dystopian novels — “Fahr-

heit 451” by Ray Bradbury, “The Handmaid’s Tale” by Margaret Atwood, “Brave New World” by Aldous Huxley, and “The Plot Against America” by Philip Roth. And I’d like to throw in a dystopian novel that was OK. The right guy could come along at any moment. It could be anyone. It could be me!

So, yes, Mary changed the way young women saw themselves and saw the opportunities available to them. And that was great. By the end of the 1970s, everything was different for women.

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We’re going to make it after all.

President Donald J. Trump reads from one of the executive orders he signed during a visit to the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 25, 2017.

President Donald J. Trump reads from one of the executive orders he signed during a visit to the Department of Homeland Security in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 25, 2017.

So, thank you, Mr. President. I look forward to what else you can do to bring out the best in Americans.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
Pat Lenhoff

One noticeable thing that happens as age creeps up on you is an increased tendency to become emotional.

I recall how surprised I was when watching my aging dad—a tough Irish King with strong expectations that were likely spurred by being the son of an Illinois state trooper—began to well up at things that wouldn't have phased him during my growing years. A memory, a touching greeting card, a news report about subjects either exceptionally good or sad all elicited an emotional response. His tears flowed often and he didn't feel the need to hide it.

I've become the same way, although I belong to the gender that is already more comfortable with tearful public displays. I raise the subject because lately I have found myself softly crying while watching daily news reports about travelers being detained, questioned and sometimes forced to return to where they departed. In airports and streets across the country, thousands of voices are lifted in support of those travelers and against the new president's policy of travel restrictions and bans from a select few countries.

As a matter of fact, it is veering into 1930s Europe territory where people (Jews) were forced into "interviews" as the Holocaust began. In those dark days, observer nations including our own country sat quiet too long as inconceivably heinous acts were directed by leaders who publicly postured that the programs were for the country's benefit.

I'm not suggesting a comparison exists between our president and Adolph Hitler, although there are many who have been bold enough to do so. However, it's hard not to be troubled by the similarities in the two situations, substituting today's Muslims for 1930s-era Jews.

Pat Lenhoff is a freelance columnist and can be reached at viewfromvh@yahoo.com.
After the Women’s March, now what?

SALLY HIGGINSON

Last month, I learned to knit. Eager to join everyone making a “pussy hat,” I sat at my local yarn store and did my best. I made the sorriest looking hat in history, but I wore it and marched, along with others across the world. And then I joined in the collective question, wondering, “Now what?”

In this era of “alternative facts,” allow me to introduce a slight variation, which I refer to as “selective memory.”

Way back in college, I enrolled in a poetry seminar that was taught by then Poet Laureate of New Hampshire Richard Eberhart. Meeting at his home for three hours each week, his wife, Betty, served tea and cookies. Helping her clear the table, I noticed a sticker affixed to her kitchen wall. It read, “It will be a great day when our schools get all the money they need and the Air Force has to hold a bake sale to buy a bomber.”

That’s my selective memory from the class: Gentle Betty posting a political missive above her stove, signaling solidarity among people committed to making the world a better place.

Following the march, I started thinking about that slogan. Where did it come from? Who was pointing out the imbalance of priorities back in 1984? Who had the audacity and the prescience to acknowledge, from a woman’s perspective, the misguided policies of the time?

Turns out I didn’t give women enough credit, nor did I go back far enough in history to recognize the foresight and mission of our foremothers. The Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) coined the slogan in 1979. But that’s not when the group began.

Founded in 1915, according to the group’s website, WILPF “works to achieve through peaceful means world disarmament, full rights for women, racial and economic justice, an end to all forms of violence, and to establish those political, social, and psychological conditions which can assure peace, freedom, and justice for all.” The original organizers, all members of the International Suffrage Alliance, met at The Hague while World War I raged.

Over 1,000 women assembled to work together, selecting Jane Addams as their first president, according to the organization.

Think about that. These women organized internationally before the age of Facebook, emails, and tweets.

The answer to “now what” is becoming evident. Paraphrasing my friend Ellyn’s recent email, last week over 40 concerned citizens gathered at her home to write letters, send emails and make phone calls to representatives in Washington. In a single night, activism took shape.

My friend Page Fortna, the Harold Brown Professor of U.S. Foreign and Security Policy in Columbia University’s Department of Political Science, attended the march.

“I was in DC for the Women’s March, and to one overflowing town hall with a senator... and thinking of joining a local group to keep the activism going,” she said by email.

So now what? WILPF U.S. President Mary Hanson Harrison says it best, “It’s up to each of us to preach, sing and shout that image of a ‘better world’ into the consciousness of the people.”

Find a group. Sing, shout, write, and call.

Sally Higginson is a freelance columnist.

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"Funky Cold Medina"

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Stars of the 2017 Chicago Auto Show

BY ROBERT DUFFER
Chicago Tribune

Just when it seems like there couldn't be any more crossovers, here come Alfa Romeo Stelvio Quadrifoglio, transmission. Buyers also paired to an eight-speed power, four-cylinder engine and a wicked hood scoop. Customers get one session at a high-performance driving school that will be nowhere near where you see many Durangos — during drop-off at the kids' school.

Ford Mustang

The refreshed Mustang drops the V-6 engine and adds elements from its track-star sibling, the Shelby GT350. It gets a lowered hood, headlights and fascia like the GT350, with new vents and a wider grille. The lowered hood also reduces drag and creates better sightlines whether hitting the apex on the track or corners on the street. There are 12 wheel options, three new colors (including Orange Fury) and the headlights and taillights get new C-shaped bars. The global Mustang gets an unspecified increase of torque in the V-8 and turbo four engines, which come with an available 10-speed automatic transmission. Expected in dealer lots this spring.

Lexus LS

The fifth-generation flagship sedan has a sleek, modern look, with a longer wheelbase and a lower ride. Its new twin-turbo V-6 engine mated to a 10-speed transmission churns out 442 pound-feet of torque, which Lexus says is on par with its competitors' V-8 engines. The RWD variant hits 0-60 mph in 4.5 seconds. The cabin is loaded with the latest safety technology, and there is an available 24-inch head-up display. Not sure how you see the road beyond the display but we'll test it once the 2018 LS hits the road, expected in late 2017.

Volkswagen Atlas

Volkswagen's first three-row SUV fills a big hole in its product lineup. The seven-passenger Atlas, which will go on sale in the spring, comes with two engine choices — a 238-horsepower four-cylinder or a 280-horsepower V-6. Both are paired to an eight-speed transmission. All-wheel drive is available.
KENDALL BRUNS

A collection of the items in the traveling U.S. Pizza Museum exhibit that is on display at the Niles Public Library.

U.S. Pizza Museum delivers in Niles library display
BY SAMANTHA NELSON
Pioneer Press

Kendall Bruns loved pizza when he was growing up, whether it was from a national chain, the local Cincinnati chain where he had his first job or the mom and pop pizza parlors in his home city. When he was older and traveled more, he always sought out the city's best pizza places to try their takes on the dish.

After graduating from the Art Academy of Cincinnati, Bruns did design work for the Cincinnati Art Museum and the Contemporary Arts Center. As he learned how to put a museum exhibit together and market it, he decided to combine those skills and his passion by founding the U.S. Pizza Museum.

"I just thought pizza was a topic that deserved a museum and that I could do it," Bruns said. "I tried to research the (pizzerias) that had been around the longest and ones that still were prominent today or ones that had any other specific innovation. I tried to use examples that would tell the story of how pizza actually evolved and became popular."

Bruns debuted his collection of pizza menus, boxes and memorabilia in April 2016 at the Chicago Pizza Summit. It doesn't have a permanent home, instead appearing online at www.uspizzamuseum.com and in pop-up exhibits like the one running through March 31 at the Niles Public Library.

The exhibit showcases Chicago pizzerias, chronicling the evolution of the city's iconic deep-dish style.

Pizza first appeared in Chicago's Little Italy neighborhood in the 1930s and '40s in its traditional street-food form, but was transformed in 1943 by the founders of Pizzeria Uno.

"They were aware of the pizza that was available in Little Italy and wanted to do something more substantial," Bruns said. "People say they wanted to appeal to a robust Midwestern appetite, but I think they wanted to make it more like a meal and less like an appetizer."

Their innovation was to create a pizza with a butter crust and lots of cheese, sausage and sauce that was baked for a long time in a pan.

Most of Chicago's other major deep-dish purveyors were connected to Pizzeria Uno.

Chef Alice May Redmond worked in the kitchen and helped Sam Levine and Fred Bartoli open Gino's East in 1966. Rudy Malnati was a bartender and manager at Uno and was credited with helping craft the deep-dish recipe. His son, who also served as a manager there, went on to open Lou Malnati's, and Lou's half-brother opened Pizano's.

Bruns details this history in his displays, though he warns visitors that the truth of deep dish's evolution isn't fully known.

"A lot of this is information that people from the different pizzerias tell as their origin story," Bruns said. "You never know how much they're putting their own spin on things. Everybody wants to be the people that invented everything."

The library is also hosting a variety of events as part of the exhibit's run.

Bruns will give a presentation on the history of pizza at 5 p.m. Feb. 9 in honor of National Pizza Day. Other events include a demonstration of how to make pizza dough with the owner of Paulie Gee's Logan Square on Feb. 18, a pizza snack food taste-off for teens on March 4 and a celebration of Pi Day for kids in kindergarten through 4th grade on March 14.
Coming out to your kids

Experts offer insight and tips into difficult conversations surrounding parents' sexual orientation
Cook puts spin on comfort food classics

By Judy Buchenot
Naperville Sun

Daniel Shupert of Aurora is among the growing number of young chefs who are making dining out more interesting than ever. Shupert, 28, took some culinary courses at College of DuPage and is getting valuable experience working at Cooper's Hawk in Naperville as a line and banquet cook.

He notes that working in a restaurant is not depicted accurately on TV cooking shows where one chef prepares a dish from start to finish. “There is so much prep that goes into dishes in a restaurant,” he said. “Someone needs to do all the chopping and dicing of all the ingredients that go into sauces, soups, marinades. At one time in our station, there can be 100 different things being prepared. It’s like putting together a puzzle, and we have to get all the pieces ready.”

There can also be a lot of careful, repetitive work. “For Thanksgiving at Cooper's Hawk, I was working desserts,” he said. For each serving of pumpkin cheesecake, Shupert had to dress a plate with a ring of vanilla sauce. Next, he evenly dropped three identical pools of caramel into the vanilla sauce and gently pulled a toothpick through the caramel to form heart shapes. He then carefully removed the creamy cheesecake slice from the pan without altering the shape or losing the graham cracker crust. Finally, he topped the slice with a dollop of freshly whipped cream and a sprinkle of cinnamon. “And I plated 275 slices of cheesecake,” he said.

As he is learning new skills on the job, Shupert is working on defining his own personal style. “I have a special yen for comfort food in general,” he said.

He adds his own personal touch to familiar dishes. For example, when he makes his favorite shepherd’s pie, he uses a mix of potatoes. “I use mostly golden potatoes because they have great flavor but then I add some red because they provide a great consistency when mashed.”

He also prefers to use chicken stock over beef stock for his gravy because, “chicken stock lightens the sauce and marries the flavors so well.” He adds red wine to his sauce for flavor, whips his potatoes to fluffy perfection using heavy cream and avoids thickeners in his gravy. “I always think it is better to reduce the sauce by cooking it than by adding cornstarch or other thickeners so that you avoid that starchy flavor.”

Shupert loves to explore new flavors, especially ingredients from the Middle East and Asia. “I pretty much like anything with turmeric in it even though it stains my fingers yellow,” he said with a grin.

He finds it frustrating that more people aren’t open to trying new things. “For example, lots of people have strong feelings about curry. Some people say they just don’t like curry. However, there is a whole laundry list of ingredients that go into curry and they are not all the same. If you don’t like one mix, you might like another. I like my curry on the red side with less spice and more smoke. The color, flavor and consistency are different from curry to curry. I don’t like coconut unless it is toasted and on a Girl Scout cookie but I had the best coconut curry one time. It’s important to try new things.”

One of his favorite dishes at Cooper’s Hawk is the braised short ribs because they are “so tender, like butter and they have red pearl onions, carrots and parsnips. People should try more parsnips. They are earthy but have some spice.”

He encourages people to branch out and try new flavors. Instead of only using lettuce for a salad, he suggests thinly slicing Brussels sprouts and kale and then dressing it with olive oil and salt and pepper for an interesting change.

Shupert hopes to someday own his own “cafe and bookshop. I would serve fresh soups, salads, pastries.”

He shares his recipe for shepherd’s pie.

By adding his chopped kale and Brussels sprout salad, it makes a perfect wintry meal.

Judy Buchenot is a freelance reporter for the Naperville Sun.
Enjoy a one-day cassoulet with bacon bread crumbs

Streamlined French dish offers hearty flavor in less time

Once a year I am lucky enough to enjoy a hearty bowl full of French cassoulet, a rich dish comprising assorted meats and white beans. I've always enjoyed tasting various versions of this classic stew throughout the city, but this winter I decided to make my own cassoulet from scratch for the first time. I poured over several dozen recipes before I settled on replicating a Toulouse-style cassoulet with its unique bread crumb topping. I sourced hand-picked Tariang beans from the south of France, located fresh Toulouse-style garlic sausages and even made my own duck confit. I had never made a meal featuring nine different kinds of meat, two pounds of beans and one lonely tomato, but the resulting feast was a glorious, glutinous, gastronomic delight.

It took me a week to make a proper cassoulet and it was a fairly expensive endeavor, but sharing that highly nuanced cassoulet and it was a fairly expensive delight was a glorious, gluttonous, gastronomic one.

Streamlined Cassoulet with Bacon Bread Crumbs

FOR THE BRAISED PORK:
- 3 pounds boneless pork shoulder, cut into 2-inch chunks
- Salt and pepper
- 3 Tablespoons canola oil
- 1 onion, halved and sliced
- 8 garlic cloves
- 1 1/2 tablespoons tomato paste
- 2 cups chicken stock
- 1 tablespoon brown sugar
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 large sprig thyme

FOR THE BEANS:
- 4 strips of thick cut bacon
- 2 carrots peeled and diced
- 1 small sweet onion diced
- 1 medium celery stalk, diced
- 8 ounces smoked sausage, diced
- 2 (14.5 ounce) cans cannellini beans, rinsed and drained
- 1 medium tomato, seeded and diced
- 1 cup chicken broth (plus extra as needed)
- 1 cup pork braising liquid
- Salt and pepper

FOR THE GARNISHES:
- 1 tablespoon reserved bacon drippings
- 1 tablespoon olive oil
- 3/4 cup fresh bread crumbs
- 2 garlic cloves, minced
- 2 strips of reserved bacon, crumbled
- Salt and pepper
- Chopped parsley and whole grain mustard for serving

1. **For the braised pork:** Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Dry the meat with paper towels and season each piece well with salt and pepper. Heat the canola oil over high heat until nearly smoking in a dutch oven. Add the pork to the hot oil and sear the meat until well browned on all sides. Remove the seared meat to a plate and repeat until all pork is browned properly. Reduce the heat to medium, add the onions to the pot and season with salt and pepper. Stir frequently until softened and beginning to brown. Toss in the whole garlic cloves and continue to cook for an additional 5 minutes. Add the tomato paste, mix well and increase the heat to high. Allow the mixture to cook for 3-4 minutes or until tomato paste starts to brown slightly (take care not to burn it). Gradually add the chicken broth to the pot and stir in the brown sugar. Return the pork and all the accumulated juices to the pot. Add the bay leaves and thyme sprig. Bring the mixture to a boil, reduce heat to a simmer and cover the pot tightly with foil before topping with the lid. Transfer the pot to the oven and allow the pork to braise for 2 hours.

2. **For the beans:** When the pork has about 20 minutes left to cook begin preparing the beans. Fry the four strips of bacon in a large skillet until browned and crisp. Remove the cooked bacon to a paper towel lined plate and reserve. Pour out all but 1 tablespoon of the bacon drippings from the pan and save for later. Heat the tablespoon of bacon fat in the pan over medium and add the diced carrots, onion and celery to the pan. Season the vegetables with salt and pepper and cook, stirring frequently until vegetables are soft-about 12 minutes. (At this point the pork should be coming out of the oven). Add the beans, sausage and tomatoes to the vegetables and mix well. Stir in 1 cup of chicken stock, 1 cup of the pork braising liquid and 2 strips of the cooked bacon (crumbled). Bring the mixture to a boil, reduce heat to a simmer and cook until liquid reduces and mixture begins to thicken - about 10 minutes. Meanwhile, remove the pork and garlic cloves from the braising liquid. Smash the garlic cloves into a paste and whisk into the bean mixture. Shred the pork into large chunks and mix half of the shredded meat into bean mixture. Add additional pork braising liquid or chicken stock if mixture seems too dry. Adjust seasoning and keep warm.

3. **For the bread crumb garnish:** Heat the 1 Tablespoon reserved bacon drippings and the olive oil in a small skillet. Add the fresh bread crumbs and garlic and cook until bread crumbs are golden brown and crunchy. Fold in the remaining twobreaded bacon strips and season with salt and black pepper.

4. **To serve:** Serve the cassoulet sprinkled with the bacon bread crumbs and chopped parsley and a side bowl of whole grain mustard.
MY PET WORLD

How the dog truly represents the eighth Wonder of the World

By Marc Morrone  
Tribune Content Agency

Q: You mentioned in your article about the variety of tail shapes in dogs that this illustrates how you believe that the dog is the eighth Wonder of the World. I was curious on why you feel that way and if you could elaborate a bit on it?

Sandra Williams, Chicago, IL

A: One of the most amazing facts about the domestic dog that has always amazed me is that genetically it is the same animal as the wolf. Dogs and wolves can interbreed and produce fertile offspring.

This is not so surprising when you put a wolf and a German Shepherd side by side but if you put a wolf next to a Maltese and told a person who does not know they were the same species of animal then they would be amazed.

In these days of cloning, GMOs and other such technology, the idea of contemporary scientists changing the looks and behavior of one species of animal into something different is not that big of a deal. But try and imagine Fred Flintstone and Barney Rubble doing this because it was early man that domesticated wolves into dogs. They did this with no knowledge of genetics or evolution or spontaneous occurring mutations that contemporary breeders of animals do.

Thousands of years ago certain wolves, of their own choosing, became habituated to the early man. There were some humans who were interested in these animals and thought of them not as something to be killed but as creatures that should hang around. Most likely these early pet keepers were the direct descendents of me and all you readers who also share my fascination with the natural world.

As time went on, these habituated wolves began to prove their worth to the community, either in helping during the hunt or warning of danger. That’s when the rest of the people realized their value and took an active part in providing for them.

Spontaneous mutations appeared in the offspring of these wolves. It affected their looks, ability and temperament. These mutations pleased their caretakers and assured their survival when times were hard to care for the animals.

The mutations were passed down to the next generation and over time we changed the way those wolves looked and acted by merely taking better care of the ones that we liked best or found more useful. At that time, none of those people had any knowledge of genetics at all. Eventually, they ended up creating hundreds of breeds of dogs and each breed represents a time in human culture, history and they all have a story to tell.

This month is the Westminster Kennel Club dog show in Madison Square Garden. It is an event where these breeds are all compared and celebrated and their stories told to a new generation of pet keepers eager to learn about them. Without dogs, we would still be living in caves as it was the early keeping of these habituated wolves that gave man the idea that certain animals were of more use to us alive than dead. This evolved into keeping other animals, such as horses and cows, and it was those animals that really gave us the free time to allow our brains to develop the technology that we so cherish today.

It is for this reason that I think of the dog as the eighth Wonder of the World as its creation to me is certainly more amazing than any Pyramid or monument and certainly a lot more useful and life altering and cuddly.

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 petxperts2@aol.com.
Readers share additional advice for consumers

This week I decided I would turn Help Squad over to my well-informed readers. Below are pointers I've received from folks with real experience in areas recently addressed by Help Squad.

Regarding your column, “Illinois-registered vehicle winds up with Arizona title, lots of red tape,” this scenario stinks. The dealer should have given the buyer the necessary documents to go to Illinois to register and title the vehicle ... I wonder what documents were presented for that event. Dealers very seldom, if ever, get involved with out-of-state titling efforts. The lender may have put pressure on the dealer in this instance to produce proof of title upon finance contract presentation. And of course the buyer should have been aware of what documents he or she signed at the dealership.

— Dennis, retired Naperville auto finance executive

I read your column, “Top tips for getting your consumer complaints heard.” Granted, I am a lawyer, but filing a small claims lawsuit is a great way to get a company’s attention, if the money warrants it! For do-it-yourselfers, check your state’s Secretary of State website, get the name of the corporation’s registered agent and serve the corporation at this address. If the claim is more than a few hundred bucks, you may have to get a lawyer. But trust me, it’s worth it.

— Lily, Northwest Indiana attorney

I read with interest your column regarding the increases in water bills that multiple customers experienced once Glenview installed new meters. This exact situation happened to me, in Highland Park, about two years ago. Our house received a new digital meter, and the subsequent quarterly bill doubled! When several months went by and we showed normal usage consistent with before the install, I knew there was something wrong. I would not let up, and finally the cause was revealed. When the water department switched over to the new billing system, a manual transcription error – by human input – incorrectly recorded the initial water usage base rate. The new meter worked fine; the city calculated incorrectly from the wrong base. They eventually reversed the bill, and I am told it happened with over 100 homes.

So, I might encourage your readers in Glenview to dig deeper. One or two instances might be attributed to old meters “failing completely” but there (could be) some other error that is not the homeowner’s fault.

— Chris, Highland Park

I just stumbled across your article “Auto-barn customer sold VW that’s incompatible with Illinois biodiesel.” I hope I can add a little information to the issue of Volkswagen’s compatibility with Illinois biodiesel. I am no expert on Volkswagen but do understand the marketing of diesel fuel in Illinois, as I have owned and operated several gas stations that sell diesel fuel. Although most diesel pumps are labeled with quantities of up to 20 percent biodiesel, in most cases they are blended with 11 percent. If a gas station sells 11 percent, the sale is exempt from the Retailer’s Occupa- tion Tax (the state sales tax) which in the immediate area of Chicago and collar counties is around 10 percent. If diesel is selling around $2.25 per gallon, that’s a savings of $0.225 per gallon, most of which is passed along to the customer.

I previously owned a 2006 Volkswagen V-10 diesel and never had any trouble with the B-11 biodiesel. I have spoken with several people who drive more recent TDI diesels who use a detergent like Diesel Kleen and do not have problems.

— Bob, Chicago and Stickney gas station owner

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

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist.
The value of ‘Object Lessons’

A series of single-subject books encourages readers to see the mundane differently

By John Warner

One of my favorite books of all time is “Oranges” by John McPhee.

When I tell people this, they ask me what it’s about.

“Oranges,” I say.

“No, seriously; what’s it about?”

This is when they walk away shaking their heads and lose the opportunity to hear about how awesome it is to read a book entirely about oranges.

The history of the orange, how oranges grow, Louis XIV’s fascination with oranges. For example, did you know that oranges actually grow on lemon trees? McPhee, a longtime New Yorker contributor, follows his own curiosity and pours every last bit of learning into what is in the end, a still rather slim volume, because seriously, how much is there to say about oranges?

McPhee is a great writer, one of our greatest, but he’s only one writer, and so I was grateful to be introduced to “Object Lessons,” an entire series of books that take on one subject at a time, seeking to illuminate what appears, at first, to be mundane.

“Object Lessons” describes themselves as “short, beautiful books,” and to that, I’ll say, amen. Overseen by Ian Bogost of Georgia Tech (“Play Anything”) and Christopher Schaberg of Loyola University New Orleans (“The End of Airports”), the books have such scintillating titles as “Remote Control,” “Shipping Container” and “Refrigerator.”

But it is in this simplicity that we find insight and even beauty. “Shipping Container” by Craig Martin asks us to contemplate an object on which we depend to move 90 percent of what goes from point A to points B through Z on the globe, but also with which very few of us have had direct contact.

In “Refrigerator,” historian Jonathan Rees asks us to look again at an object many of us take for granted as it hums away in our kitchens. When’s the last time you looked at that thing? Did you contemplate how the refrigerator may have done more to extend the human lifespan than any other piece of technology?

“Remote Control” by Caetlin Benson-Allott is another pleasure, walking us through the history of one of my favorite objects, with a history dating to the 1920s. In the middle to late 1970s, I was actually employed as a remote control, as my father would say, “John, change the channel to 7;” or “Put it on 9;” and my job would be to get up and change the channel to 7 or 9. I was relieved to be replaced by an infrared model in the 1980s.

Other “Object Lessons” books take more philosophical or metaphysical approaches, like “Silence” by John Biguenet, which explores whether it’s possible — or indeed if we would want — to experience true “silence.”

“Hotel” by Joanna Walsh is essentially a memoir as she escapes to hotels as a way to avoid a failing marriage and contemplates who we are and what we do in these dwellings that are not “home.”

If you read enough “Object Lessons” books, you’ll fill your head with plenty of trivia to amaze and annoy your friends and loved ones — caution recommended on pontificating on the objects surrounding you. More important, though, in the tradition of McPhee’s “Oranges,” they inspire us to take a second look at parts of the everyday that we’ve taken for granted.

These are not so much lessons about the objects themselves, but opportunities for self-reflection and storytelling. They remind us that we are surrounded by a wondrous world, as long as we care to look.

John Warner is the author of “Tough Day for the Army.” Follow him on Twitter @biblioracle.

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Book recommendations from the Biblioracle

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

1. “Born a Crime” by Trevor Noah
3. “Commonwealth” by Ann Patchett
4. “The Little Paris Bookshop” by Nina George
5. “The Circle” by Dave Eggers

I feel like Lauren might enjoy the warmth of some early Richard Russo, “Risk Pool.”

---

1. “The Woman in Cabin 10” by Ruth Ware
2. “The Girl With All the Gifts” by M.R. Carey
4. “The Girl With the Lower Back Tattoo” by Amy Schumer
5. “The Grownup” by Gillian Flynn

Mystery and intrigue dominates. Can’t do much better on that front these days than Megan Abbott. Carol should try “The Fever” so she can keep up her string of reading books that start with “The.”

---

1. “The Plot Against America” by Philip Roth
2. “Walden” by Henry David Thoreau
3. “Ma Rainey’s Black Bottom” by August Wilson
4. “Fun Home” by Alison Bechdel
5. “Proof” by David Auburn

Two plays and a graphic memoir that was also turned into a musical. I don’t know what that means, but it must mean something. I think Mark may dig Joan Didion’s novel “Play It as It Lays,” a slim, hard little novel.

Get a reading from the Biblioracle!

Send a list of the last five books you’ve read to printersrow@chicagotribune.com. Write “Biblioracle” in the subject line.
# FEATHER OR NOT:
Try to wing it

**BY GAIL GRABOWSKI | EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN**

(standxwords.com)

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Quote-Acrostic

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

Clues  Words

A. Sullied  65 114 81 31 151 83
B. Muslim sect member  117 94 105 12 30 78 58
C. Crazy, 3 wds.  126 85 111 149 35 9 136 99 18 52
D. Foster  90 100 109 33 126 140 49
E. Part-stretching muscle  6 158 127 98 145 75
F. Moderately fast: Mus.  11 63 150 92 138 38 26 131 101 5
G. Classified  118 19 79 32 50 148
H. Harshly criticize:  2 wds.  128 42 80 161 97 110 56 143 3
I. Very much:  4 wds.  106 115 51 159 135 69 48 74 47

J. Twin of Pollux  91 123 67 39 24 157
K. Misunderstood: 2 wds.  156 112 71 8 37 60 129 27 21
L. Plain  103 51 29 137 70 121 152 22 10 76
M. Supply anew  113 144 73 43 134 155 64 95 53
N. One fond of luxury  154 14 68 28 142 133 87 7 1
O. Without sauce  36 162 66 84 107
P. NJ city near Newark:  2 wds.  11 147 59 141 2 119 44 25 108 20
Q. Small stream  57 132 82 165 116 46
R. Equally: hyph.  72 163 96 82 13 23 40 146 102 55
S. Not the usual  54 41 130 139 77 96 104 15 153
T. Wheedle  16 120 93 164 62 34
U. Tank dome  4 122 88 45 160 17


Time to Concentrate

BY CHARLES PRESTON

Across
1 Unpleasant situation  45 Uproar
5 Shah  46 Criticizes
10 Drop or gas  47 Furnish
14 Passageway  50 Shorter period than usual
15 Mother's kinsmen  54 Hindu instructor
16 Plunder  55 Ridiculous sham
17 Japanese city  57 Hyalite
18 Confirmed  58 Prognostic
19 Being: L.  59 News items
20 Correct text  60 Come [...]
22 Carried away  61 Turned to the right
24 Valley  62 Lexicographer
25 Mild expletive  63 Noticed
26 Hindu poet  64 Down
29 Hurry up
33 Unique
34 Incentive
35 Nick and.... of "The Thin Man"
36 Bore
37 Taters
38 Elliptical
39 Burrows, et al.
40 Hastened
41 Mr. Rockne
42 Resounds
44 Della, and family
45 Church recess
46 Part of a clarinet mouthpiece
47 Be bold enough
48 Enfold
49 Music study
50 Mongolian
51 Offer a defense
52 Bridge expert
53 Sudden outburst
54... ordo sefolium
55 Furious
56... of a Wayside Inn
57 Offer pompously
58 Advocated
59 Illustrator Rockwell
60 Isaac Newton
61 Most uncommon
62 Covenant: Fr.
63 All excited
64 Rage
65 Release
66 Fussy one
67... dixit
68 Seaman
69 Dash
70 Bloodgroup system
Mary Tyler Moore offered empowerment to singles

There are several reasons I didn’t get married until I was 35, but I can honestly attribute one of them to “The Mary Tyler Moore Show,” which I watched regularly with my family while growing up during the 70s.

As a kid, I idolized Moore’s character, Mary Richards, who died last week at the age of 80. Richards was a single woman and TV news producer who was not only beautiful and smart, but also fiercely independent, unafraid to express herself and very happily single. She was unlike any other female character on television at the time.

Richards was always smiling and perky, yet she was professional and well respected, even by her tough but lovable boss, Lou. Richards showed her silly, light-hearted side at times — like in the episode when Chuckles the Clown died and she couldn’t stop laughing at the funeral. But, she also seemed to be the station’s problem solver, the go-to girl, and the person the rest of the show’s wacky characters depended on immensely. Richards was the glue that held the news team and her friends together.

When it came to Richards’ love life, I vaguely remember a few episodes when she went on dates. What I do recall is that she always seemed to be counseling other people about their relationship issues. It was evident that Richards didn’t need to be in a relationship. It wasn’t a priority for her. She was career-driven and just wanted to enjoy life and be happy.

It’s a little ironic that I found myself at age 32, single and working as a TV news reporter in Minnesota. Was I aiming to be the Mary Richards of the late 1990s? Maybe. All I know is her powerful character had more influence on me than I realized. Looking back, I think Richards taught me that not only is it OK to be single, but despite society’s expectation for women to get married and have babies, women can also be happy and successful without being in a romantic relationship. Richards showed the female world how to empower ourselves and how to love ourselves with or without a ring on our finger.

In honor of Mary Tyler Moore, I asked a bunch of people — both single and married — what the benefits are of not being in a relationship. Here is some of what they had to say:

- There is something peaceful about the kind of independence that comes with being single.
- You don’t have to worry about another person’s family. That includes in-laws and kids.
- You eat healthier — not like a man. You can cook whatever you want to cook.
- You learn to validate yourself and do things on your own terms rather than doing them for someone else. Once you find that strength to be able to be alone, it ultimately leads to eliminating drama, the kind that you cannot control, but are impacted by.
- After my divorce, I rented a house for my two daughters and myself. This was one of the happiest times of my life. Every day brought another lesson on independence, my own efficacy. At times I astounded myself with how much I could do without a spouse. It is little victories, daily confirmations of one’s strength, effectiveness and ability to not only survive but to thrive that I value most about not being in a relationship.
- You can lie in the center of the bed and spread out and turn as much as you’d like.
- You can eat cereal for dinner in front of the TV.
- No pressure to shave your legs.
- It’s obvious. Two words: toothpaste tube!

Most single people I know — divorced or never been married — wish they were in a relationship. I think it’s just human nature to want to give and receive love, to desire a connection and to have someone who feels like a partner.

That said, what most single people don’t realize is how to take advantage and how to actually enjoy not being in a relationship. Being “alone” is scary to most people, and I think that is very sad.

With being “alone” for a period of time comes a sense of independence that fosters self-pride. You think you are really lonely, but then you look in the mirror at times and think, “Wow, I’m doing this. I’m totally fine by myself. I didn’t think I could handle being single again but I did.” It is a feeling of bravery that fosters self-love.

My advice to those who are unhappily single is to tap into your Mary Richards. We all have a little bit of her in us, which includes the courage to be alone if it’s the right thing, the confidence to stand tall and live up to all you can be, and a passion for joy and laughter and fulfillment, regardless of your relationship status.

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist.
ASK THE DOCTORS

Talk to your physician about the necessity of yearly physicals

By Robert Ashley, M.D.

Dear Doctor: I'm a 45-year-old man without any major medical problems. Is it worth it for me to get yearly physicals with my primary care doctor?

Dear Reader: That's a difficult question to answer. I have generally encouraged annual physical exams for most of my patients in their 40s and beyond. I schedule more time for this type of examination so that I can collect a history of a patient's lifestyle, conduct a review of their symptoms, and determine whether they have had the recommended colonoscopies, mammograms and vaccinations. With both the history and the physical examination, I learn aspects of the patient's health that were often not known to me prior.

From my subjective vantage point as a primary care doctor, I find value in these visits. But objectively, the benefit of physical exams is less clear.

Take a 1986 study comparing death rates of more than 5,000 men between the ages of 35 and 54 who had six health checkups to more than 5,000 men who had one checkup. Over a 16-year period, researchers found a decrease in death rates from colon cancer and hypertension among those men who had more checkups, but they found no decrease in death rates from other causes.

A 2007 article in the Annals of Internal Medicine reviewed 33 studies assessing the efficacy of health checkups. Researchers tried to determine if physicals caused benefit, caused harm, or had no impact on a patient's health. The largest benefit seen from physicals was through an increase in colon cancer screening. However, overall, the results showed no benefit seen in regard to death rates.

A 2012 British Medical Journal study analyzed a combination of 14 studies assessing the benefits of health checkups. The study did not find any difference in death rates between those who had physicals and those who didn't. However, in one case, what the authors defined as the group receiving health checkups amounted to one physical over a 22-year period. In fact, participants in eight of the 14 studies evaluated had only one physical exam done for the time frame of their studies. The studies that showed more health checkups actually had better outcomes. The authors also tried to show if having physicals actually caused harm, but could not do so.

Obviously, the question needs to be studied further — and electronic medical records give us the ability to do this. The critics of routine health checkups say they lead to unnecessary testing, possibly harmful tests and cost about $10 billion per year.

Yet I find that the most important aspect of the health checkup is the time to sit with patients — to talk to them about their level of exercise, their diet, their drug habits and their level of stress; to review whether they're having shortness of breath, chest pains, or problems with urination or bowel movements — and many times to learn about the stressors in their lives. This time is an important aspect to the doctor-patient relationship and is difficult to quantify.

So, if you are healthy, 45 years old and not on any medications, I would recommend that you get a health checkup every two years. But, of course, put your trust in your own primary care doctor's opinion regarding this matter.

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

Send your questions to askthedocs@mednet.ucla.edu, or write: Ask the Doctors, c/o Media Relations, UCLA Health, 924 Westwood Blvd., Suite 350, Los Angeles, CA, 90024.
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Coming out to your kids

Experts offer tips, insight into difficult family conversations

By Andrea Guthmann
Chicago Tribune

By most accounts, Scott Takacs was living the dream: an engineering degree from the University of Michigan, marrying his girlfriend of nearly five years at 28, designing their sprawling home in an affluent suburb of Detroit. A decade later, they had three sons, but by then Takacs, 45, had debilitating doubts.

"Just before turning 40, I accepted that I was probably gay and that I was born that way," Takacs says. "I didn't have a bad marriage. I just knew it wasn't right."

Growing up in a Catholic family in a conservative community, Takacs says he fulfilled traditional expectations while denying his own identity. "I grew up with the expectation that you go to college, get married and have kids. And so I did that. It's easy to look back and say I probably always knew I was gay. But I heard a lot of negative things about the gay lifestyle growing up. Nothing terminal, but small comments here and there. You grow up in it, and you think it's wrong."

Takacs' story is no surprise for Sheena Hoffmann, a licensed psychologist and sex therapist in Chicago specializing in sexual orientation. "It's almost like if you're not raised in a family or community where being gay is OK, some people don't even know that it's an option," she says. "It feels really unobtainable and can feel super shameful."

Another parent who recently came out about being in a gay relationship is Christian mom blogger and Oprah's Book Club author Glennon Doyle Melton. Mother to three and recently divorced from her husband of 14 years, Melton revealed in November that she was in a loving relationship with women's soccer star Abby Wambach. That was two months after Wambach announced she was leaving her wife of three years.

Melton is known for her straightforward confessional writing, and many of her readers continue to support her. Like much of the U.S. population, Christian attitudes toward homosexuality have shifted dramatically in recent years.

According to Andrew Flores, visiting scholar at UCLA School of Law's Williams Institute, a think tank focused on sexual orientation and gender identity, from 1994 to 2014 the percentage of Protestants who believe homosexual relations were "not wrong at all" more than doubled from 15.6 percent to 32.6 percent. Support among Catholics also doubled from 27.9 percent to 54.7 percent.

It was a spiritual struggle that led Takacs to finally come out to his wife. "We'd long been members of a modern, nondenominational Christian mega-church," says Takacs, a sales engineer at a technology consulting company. "When states began legalizing gay marriage, the church threatened to divest from any charities offering benefits to gay partners."

He and his wife argued over the church's actions. "She couldn't understand why this was such an important issue to me," Takacs says.

"People always say you come out to yourself first, then to your family," he says. "Well, I had already come to the realization I was gay. The church's decision brought me to my breaking point. I just couldn't do it anymore."

Takacs confided to his wife that he was gay.

"It can be almost insulating to the spouse if someone comes out as gay," Hoffmann says. "They may wonder if they did something wrong or weren't a good enough sex partner."

In Takacs' case, he and his wife — who declined an interview for this story — soon separated, but she asked him not to reveal the reason. "Her family is very religious, and she was afraid they would hate me. I guess she felt this would protect me from their wrath," Takacs says. He waited over a year to fully go public about being gay, something he regrets. "That hiding didn't help me or the kids at all. It would have been better to come out immediately."

To help other men going through similar situations, Takacs co-founded Gay Fathers of Greater Chicago, a support group for fathers who have children from traditional heterosexual marriages, with his family.

Tips for coming out to your children

Mark Reinecke is chief of psychology at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine. Here's his advice for sharing what can be startling news with children:

- Do it together. Speak as a couple, as unified and caring parents.
- Choose your setting. It should be quiet and private. Leave plenty of time.
- Have a plan. What do you want to convey? How do you want to say it? Stay simple and straightforward. Keep on point.
- Convey that the parents separating is their choice and responsibility. It's nothing the child caused or could have prevented.
- Convey that being gay is not a choice; it's nothing mom or dad chose to do.

"Kids are tough. They are resilient. They are taught to be tough, and they need to be to get through this," Reinecke says. "The key is being consistent. Be clear and consistent in helping the kids understand why the parents are separating. Explain that it's nothing to do with them or what they did. Kids often think it's because of something they did."

Scott Takacs, co-founder of Gay Fathers of Greater Chicago, a support group for fathers who have children from traditional heterosexual marriages, with his family.
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ASKING PRICE: $9,750,000
Listed on June 27, 2016
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Agents: Chaz Walters and Linda Monty of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage's Lakeview office, 773-405-8707 and 312-320-9477 respectively
At press time, this home was still for sale.

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Kathy Griffin to dish on the ‘precedent’ to Kardashians

BY CATEY SULLIVAN
Pioneer Press

Kathy Griffin claims to have earth-shaking stories about the man she calls the ‘precedent.’

“I’ve known him for years,” she says of Donald Trump. “I know things that will blow your mind. Unless I’m imprisoned first!” At 56, the outspoken comedian is bringing those things to Skokie’s North Shore Center for the Performing Arts for two shows Feb. 18.

The Celebrity Run-In tour follows the publication of Griffin’s second bestseller, “Celebrity Run-Ins.” Despite the name, the show is comprised of all-new material not found in the book. And every day, Griffin says, her act changes at the speed of current events.

“Here’s how I plan my shows,” she says, “I take a Walgreens notebook. I write 10 or so bullet points of things I want to talk about. And I take that with me on stage.” There are no notes, no teleprompter, no set list, no holds-barred.

“Sometimes I go long,” she adds. “Like after doing the Women’s March in San Francisco, I accidentally did a two-and-a-half-hour show. I just had so much to say.”

After more than three decades working in one of the most notoriously, agest and sexist fields in the world, Griffin long ago made a name for herself by refusing to mince words or be coy about her age. She’s one of three women on the planet who are household-name level comedians older than 50. (Ellen DeGeneres and Wanda Sykes are the other two.) Griffin describes an early encounter with Trump that distills the battle women who dare to do stand-up face.

When the two met years ago, Griffin recalls, Trump

Comedian Kathy Griffin brings her Celebrity Run-In tour to the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts.

Kathy Griffin

When: 6 and 9 p.m. Feb. 18
Where: North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 N. Skokie Blvd., Skokie
Tickets: $63-$89
Contact: 847-673-6300; www.northshorecenter.org

seemed flummoxed by the fact it was possible to both possess female body parts and be a stand-up comic.

“He just kind of stared at me and said, ‘So you’re a female comic?’ And I was like, ‘Yeah. Next thing you know we’ll be wanting to vote.’”

“I always thought he was just an orange, over-the-top realtor. A kooky reality show personality. An aggressively stupid person with absolutely no sense of humor,” she adds. “I don’t think anybody who knew him expected that he would turn into what he’s turned into.”

Rest assured that Griffin’s show will not be a relentless rehashing of politics. For one thing, she lives next door to the Kardashian-West, a glorious bit of geography that she mines for material daily.

“I am staring at their driveway right now,” she says. “Anything could happen. Anything.”

Griffin has come a long way since her days at Oak Park and River Forest High School, which she credits for forming her earliest fan base. “That’s where the gays first found me, including my first boyfriend. I officiated at his wedding a while back, but in high school? I couldn’t figure out why he never wanted to go to third base.”

Griffin’s grueling tour schedule keeps her away from home for much of the year. In 2016, she did an 80-show U.S. tour. This year, she has more than 50 in her schedule so far.

“Chris Rock asked me if I owe child support or something,” she says (she doesn’t). “I can’t even tell you how many male executives have asked me why I don’t retire. For me, the motto is always work harder, get jump higher. Although I’ve gotta say, my mother still drums that I’ll come to my senses and be a dental hygienist.”
Fashion trends for 2017

LYNN TAYLOR SCHWAAB
The Look

Good-bye, 2016. Hello, 2017!
I always look forward to the new year and new fashion trends. The world color expert, Pantone, has already come out with its color of 2017. It's greenery - a fresh and zesty yellow-green color.

Some people say it's the color of Kermit the Frog. That may be, but some of us might also take it as a nod to growing interest and concern with environmental matters.

It's a great color, green: one of spring, hope and new beginnings, so enjoy it.

The belt comes front and center this year. Waist cinching emphasizing that feminine mid-torso curve, is where this year's styles draw the line. Try a wide corset style belt, or create a waistline that's pleated and cinched. A high-waisted pant with a tie belt, and you're spot on style. The point is to highlight your mid-section without exposing it.

It's your shoulders you want to expose. Baring them was big last year, and it's in again for 2017. Off the shoulder or shoulder cutouts or even just one shoulder looks are all fine. Get them out there, and come spring, don't forget the sunblock.

Stripes seem to always be in style, but this year they've got a more nautical kick. Ann Taylor used the look in a sequined sweater striped in navy and green - our color of the year - creating a must-have piece for 2017. It's the work of Creative Director, Austyn Zung, who came to celebrate this American label from Oscar de la Renta.

Another hot trend is hands-free handbags, repeating the convenience of the popular crossbody bag. Up and down the runways, the belted clutch had a stunning debut. Some of these have loops for your belt, others have belts attached. Everyone from Stella McCartney to Rag & Bone showcased this trend. Local Chicago designer Tanjea Pritchett has a fabulous version that just slides right onto your belt.

If you prefer, of course, you can also carry this clutch alone or fold it over for a dressier look.

The other trend is the ankle wrap, which draws attention to the ankle. We saw it in 2016, but it's bigger this year. Try a tie wrap or a buckle ankle strap. It can be thin or thick, a long tie wrap or a short one. Just make sure there's something around that ankle to complete your stylish looks for 2017.

There are more trends for 2017. So watch closely, pick and choose carefully those that fit your look, your personality, your life, and you'll always be in style.

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COMMUNITY REAL ESTATE  HOMES IN YOUR AREA

MORTON GROVE
Four-bedroom, 5.5-bath Colonial design home built in 2005. Park view, hardwood flooring throughout, gourmet kitchen with stainless steel appliances, granite counters, cherry cabinets and breakfast bar. Wood-burning fireplace with granite surround in living room. Sliding glass doors off the kitchen leading to deck for ease in entertaining, garage. Pre-wired for home theater.

Address: 5815 Church St.
Price: $669,900
Schools: Niles North High School
Taxes: $16,847
Agent: Melvin Servellon, Baird & Warner

MUNDELEIN
Five-bedroom, 4.5-bath brick exterior home, with wood roof, built in 1988. Two-story grand foyer with bridal staircase, gourmet kitchen with island, family room, brick fireplace and crown molding. Master suite has masonry fireplace. Walkout basement has custom bar. Professionally landscaped yard has pool/patio area and 3.5-car garage.

Address: 24250 W. Cardinal Court
Price: $574,900
Schools: Mundelein High School
Taxes: $14,438
Agent: Christine Lee, RE/MAX Showcase

GLENCOE
Four-bedroom, 3.5-bath split-level home built in 1957. Cathedral/vaulted ceilings, fireplace, eat-in kitchen. First-floor master bedroom has renovated bath. One bedroom currently used as office/rec room. Screened porch. Lower level opens to flagstone patio and private yard. Attached two-car garage.

Address: 561 Westwood Lane
Price: $579,000
Schools: New Trier High School
Taxes: $14,910
Agent: Joanne Hudson, The Hudson Company

WHEELING
Four-bedroom, two-bath raised ranch with brick/stone exterior built in 1960. Three bedrooms on the main level, one in the basement. Family room in the basement, as well as rec room. Enclosed porch, asphalt roof, 2.5-car garage.

Address: 380 Wille Ave.
Price: $285,000
Schools: Wheeling High School
Taxes: $4,582
Agent: Cres Pioquinto, Baird & Warner

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Get into the green scene with materials and color

BY CATHY HOBBS
Tribune News Service

Europe has long been the leader in going green; now the United States is finally catching up. The trend is not only to be environmentally friendly but also to avoid wasting resources. Sustainability, many believe, is the key to healthy living. One of the main sustainability trends relates to building and construction. From eco-friendly materials that go into building a green home to some of the energy-efficient benefits of passive housing—a German building-design philosophy that involves rigorous requirements regarding energy usage and building airtightness—many homeowners are choosing to build and renovate their homes in a more environmentally friendly way.

If you are looking to create a green home, understand it will not happen overnight. Living green and building green are processes that are helped by preplanning. Here are some tips for a greener lifestyle.

Source locally. Locally sourced materials not only help the environment by creating a narrow carbon footprint, but in many cases they are more unique than what you may find elsewhere.

Focus on materials. These days there are so many green options when it comes to materials, you likely won't struggle to find a sustainable, eco-friendly choice. When looking for materials, begin by focusing on the most inhabited areas of the home, such as the kitchen and bathroom, where you will spend a great deal of time.

Focus heavily on energy efficiency. Cutting back on energy waste, specifically in regard to how your home is heated and cooled, should be a main area of focus. Looking to build a home from the ground up? Why not consider building a passive house? Passive homes are an exemplar of home efficiency and part of a growing movement.

One of the biggest misconceptions about green living is that it is too expensive. In many instances, it's easy to purchase products that are poorly made or prove to be lackluster performers. As a result, those items are discarded, and new ones are bought. Some eco-friendly products are extremely well-made and may be more durable and long-lasting. As a result, opting for eco-friendly materials may end up saving you money.

Going green can also apply to aesthetic choices. Green is a color that many associate with health and healthy living. With Greenery being the 2017 Pantone color of the year, expect to see green prominently displayed on runways and in home furnishings stores. In general, green is a fresh, clean color that pairs especially well with neutral colors such as white, taupe and gray.
### COMMUNITY REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

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<td>495 S Creekside Dr, # 306, Palatine</td>
<td>Georgia Ick</td>
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<td>1147 E Pratt Rd, Palatine</td>
<td>Dajana Toric</td>
<td>Michael Cappelleti</td>
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<td>458 W Wood St, # 213, Palatine</td>
<td>Umut Ozgun &amp; Deniz Ozgun</td>
<td>Timothy P Schubert</td>
<td>01-05-17</td>
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<td>1611 W Arbor Ct, Palatine</td>
<td>Siope Matthew &amp; Jasmin Joseph</td>
<td>Thomas Simonikty</td>
<td>01-05-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>1041 N Lincoln Ave, Park Ridge</td>
<td>Deborah K Smith</td>
<td>Gal A Odovanow</td>
<td>01-05-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>23174 N Prairie Ln, Prairie View</td>
<td>John D Evans</td>
<td>Andrew S Morton</td>
<td>12-16-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>5 N Sterling Heights Rd, Vernon Hills</td>
<td>Mongan P Polilina</td>
<td>Douglas Loretto</td>
<td>12-16-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>920 N Lakeside Dr, # 101, Vernon Hills</td>
<td>Vladimir Gilezer</td>
<td>Alina Mankowska</td>
<td>12-16-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>880 N Lakeside Dr, Vernon Hills</td>
<td>Gabriela Cervantes Vargas</td>
<td>Michelle Mantonya</td>
<td>12-22-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Crestview Ln, # 7, Vernon Hills</td>
<td>Bo Sun &amp; Donsiata Zhou</td>
<td>Julie M Silverberg</td>
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<td>1335 Cromwell Ct, Vernon Hills</td>
<td>John D Carlson &amp; Karen A Carlson</td>
<td>Andrejek Trust</td>
<td>12-16-16</td>
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<td>108 Burnside Ct, Vernon Hills</td>
<td>Shaodong Chen &amp; Juan Dong</td>
<td>Stith Trust</td>
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<td>825 Waterview Ct, # 4, Vernon Hills</td>
<td>Lynne E Smart</td>
<td>Zina Kattovitch</td>
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<td>378 Bay Tree Cir, Vernon Hills</td>
<td>Ying Li &amp; Yuqianfeng Fang</td>
<td>Yurl Ter Saayants</td>
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<tr>
<td>363 Pine Lake Cir, Vernon Hills</td>
<td>Timothy Byrne &amp; Sandra Byrne</td>
<td>Robert J Tetz</td>
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<tr>
<td>111 Alexander Dr, Vernon Hills</td>
<td>Natalia Ermelakova</td>
<td>Christopher T Waters</td>
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<td>125 Midway Ln, Vernon Hills</td>
<td>Andrew J Morrow &amp; Vanya S Morrow</td>
<td>Lifang Zhang</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Lindon Ln, Vernon Hills</td>
<td>Pavel Rytlik &amp; Rymma Rytlich</td>
<td>Elizabeth A Ede</td>
<td>12-22-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>1249 Georgetown Way, # 32, Vernon Hills</td>
<td>Chanderjeet S Raw &amp; Shrivat Kaur</td>
<td>Subhash R Gopala</td>
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<td>1255 Danforth Cir, Vernon Hills</td>
<td>Jun Xu &amp; Xuanlong Zhao</td>
<td>Lexington At Port Clinton PI</td>
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<tr>
<td>1046 Hidden Creek Cir, Vernon Hills</td>
<td>Boris Khalif &amp; Gabriela Khalif</td>
<td>Timothy Barcau</td>
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<tr>
<td>198 Lasalle St, Vernon Hills</td>
<td>Karol Staniewicz &amp; Heidi Morsalad</td>
<td>Jeffrey Ragan</td>
<td>12-28-16</td>
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<tr>
<td>1514 Central Ave, Willimette</td>
<td>Norma J Hannah &amp; Diane Y Hannah</td>
<td>Jeffrey Becker</td>
<td>01-05-17</td>
<td>$1,020,000</td>
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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

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**HOME REMEDIES**

**Homeowner, contractor on opposite sides of fence**

By Alan J. Heavens

The Philadelphia Inquirer

Q: I recently had a new fence installed, and I am pretty unhappy about it. The wood quality is terrible, as if they used second-rate materials. The salesman said this is the way the fence should look. I have only paid half the total cost. Should I ask them to repair/replace anything before I pay the balance?

A: Since I haven't seen your fence, it's hard for me to judge. I also don't really understand what the company representative means by “this is the way the fence should look.” Have you looked at other fences of similar composition to check him out?

Every board I've ever purchased has the grade stamped on it. And, anyway, any builder or carpenter worth dealing with can tell the grade of lumber by just looking at it. My raised garden beds are built of red cedar, which I bought at Lowe's. Though I understand you have never given the installer 50 percent upfront. If you did sign a contract with these people, that wasn’t written in their favor, it might include a way of reaching a settlement without going to court, because that's where I think you are headed. Although belated, it might be time to call that lawyer.

Though I understand your disappointment, you should have asked for a detailed explanation of the materials the installer was proposing to use, demanded a written contract for work performed — if it was a huge amount of money, you should have had it looked over by a lawyer and then specified contractually what you wanted and how much it should cost. Also, you should have never given the installer 50 percent upfront. If you did.
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Chicago Tribune
chicagotribune.com/suburbs
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Thursday, Feb. 9

Diabetes month by month: Learn how to prevent, manage and take care of your diabetes in order to prevent complications. Every month we will have a different topic; from weight management, stress management to how to read food labels. Class is bilingual (English and Spanish), 5 p.m. Thursday, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, free, 847-666-2346.

"Steel Magnolias": 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, First Congregational Church of Evanston, 1445 Hinman Ave., Evanston, $10-$25

Kader Attia: Reflecting Memory: The Block Museum will present an exhibition of newly commissioned work by the internationally acclaimed French-Algerian artist Kader Attia, based in part on the artist’s research in the collections of Northwestern University's Hertshorfs Library of African Studies and interviews with university faculty across disciplines. 10 a.m. All week, Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, free, 847-467-4602

Mining Pictures: Stories from Above and Below Ground: The exhibition spotlights the mining photography of Bruce Davidson and W. Eugene Smith, and sets their work in conversation with prints, drawings, and photographs from the late 19th century. 10 a.m. All week, Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, free, 847-467-4602

If You Remember, I'll Remember: This exhibition presents a selection of works by artists Kristine Aono, Shan Goshorn, Samantha Hill, McCallum & Tarry, Dario Robleto, and Marie Watt, along with exhibitions and events by artists such as Bruce Davidson and W. Eugene Smith. Upstairs is a selection of works by artists such as Bruce Davidson and W. Eugene Smith, along with exhibitions and events by artists such as Bruce Davidson and W. Eugene Smith. 10 a.m. All week, Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, free, 847-467-4602

SPARK Park for Kindergarten to Second Grades: Curious Curies and Tiny Teslas are needed for STEAM explorations. Space is limited, so register at glnviewpl.org/register or by calling. 4:15 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Excel 2010 Intermediate: Basic Excel skills are required before learning more with your spreadsheets. Learn several intermediate skills including tables and charts, conditional formatting, and absolute/relative cell references. A Glenview Library card is required and the class is limited to 16. Please register at glnviewpl.org/register or by calling. 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Adult Literacy Classes: Spring Sessions: This is an opportunity for native and non-native speakers to improve their reading and writing skills. A small, friendly group is led by a teacher and volunteer tutors, who meet twice weekly. Classes are conducted by Oakton Community College in the Glenview Library's Community Room West. Call 847-635-1426 for details. 9:15 a.m. Thursday and Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Character Counts! In Glenview Writing Contests: A new essay on one of the following two topics: Citizenship or Responsibility. Entries must be 350 words or less. Entries are judged by a panel of professional writers. Entries should be submitted (with name, e-mail address, phone number, grade and school in the upper right-hand corner of each page) to Barbara Littlefield, at the Glenview Public Library and are accepted through Feb. 17. 8 a.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-400-8975

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

Park Ridge Garden Club Meeting: The Park Ridge Garden Club hosts an Artisan Members Craft Fair, where members demonstrate hand-on projects. This includes: garden art, mosaic flower pots and flower-themed greeting cards. The Park Ridge Garden Club is a member of the Garden Clubs of Ill., District IX and National Garden Clubs, Inc., Central Region and all are welcome. 7 p.m. Park Ridge Park District-Centennial Activity Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-0993

Friday, Feb. 10

Livingston Taylor: 8 p.m. Friday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $18-$40, 847-492-8860

Hearth Valentine’s Day Dinner: Spend Valentine’s Day dining on a four course prix fixe meal including Seared Scallops appetizer, Wild Mushroom Salad, Beef Tenderloin Entree, and Chocolate for dessert. 5 p.m. Friday-Tuesday, Hearth, 1625 Hinman Ave., Evanston, $50 (per person), 847-570-8400

Friday Night Meltdowns:Whether you’re celebrating before or on the actual day of love, The Stained Glass offers a special Valentine’s Day menu available a la carte or as a three-course sensation. Chef A. Khamay offers the specials as individual dishes in the form of a three-course dinner with the choice of one dish from each category. The $48 per person is excluding tax and gratuity. 5 p.m. Friday-Tuesday, The Stained Glass, 1735 Benson Ave., Evanston, $48 per person plus, 847-861-8600

Princess Ball: Girls ages 4-12, and their special dates are cordially invited to the Princess Ball. Register each princess and her date separately. 6:30 p.m. Friday, Wynham Glenview Suites, 1400 N. Milwaukee Ave., Glenview, $40 per person due in advance, 847-724-5670

Friday Night Meltdowns: This is a great night out for teens to join in an
Saturday, Feb. 11

A Night of Stars Gala: The Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce is hosting A Night of Stars to recognize and honor outstanding achievements in community service at the Gala on Saturday, Feb. 11. The Chamber’s Gala features a silent auction and raffle prizes, three course dinner, open bar, and live music by Scream Blue. 6 p.m. Saturday, Cafe La Cave, 2777 Mannheim Road, Des Plaines, $85, 847-325-3121

Signature Entertainment Presents: LOL Saturday: Adult Comedy every Saturday night hosted by Comedy legends Tony Sulfield and Mark Simmons. Nationally recognized comedians and television credits on stage. Awesome venue with full bar and dinner menu. 9 p.m. Saturday, Chicago’s Home of Chicken & Waffles, 2424 W. Dempster St., Evanston, $15 adult advance; $20 at the door, 847-521-6434

Animal Arts and Seasonal Stories: "Animal Arts & Seasonal Stories" are recommended for children ages 5 up and up, there is no minimum age requirement. Activities are offered at varying levels of difficulty and interest to engage the entire family. An adult must accompany participants. 10:30 a.m. Saturday-Sunday, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, $3 kids, $5 adults, 847-600-7386

The Actors Gymnasium Presents “Quest”: "Quest" is an original circus-theater production, loosely based on Leo Tolstoy’s short story, "The Three Questions." The protagonist asks three simple (but huge) questions, setting in motion a whirlwind journey to find the answers. The hero and her sidekick venture through obstacles, misfortune, slapstick fun, unexpected detours, music and songs, near crises, and amazing feats of partnership in search of answers. 7:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Actors Gymnasium, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, $20, 847-528-2795

Restoration Work Day: Help collect seeds and remove non-native, invasive plants to make way for wildflowers, grasses and trees. Work parties may be canceled in the event of inclement weather. 9 a.m. The Grove, 1421 Milwaukee Ave., Glenview, free, 847-724-5670

Cold Days, Warm Kitchens Cooking Series: Learn some fun and inventive cooking projects to get you through the winter. Each class focuses on a specific food/beverage. Advance registration required. All skill levels are welcome. 10:30 a.m. Wagner Farm, 1510 Wagner Road, Glenview, various, see registration site, 847-724-5670

The Chicago 1893 World’s Columbian Expo: What Remains: Local historian and former criminal investigator Ray Johnson discusses the legacy of the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition. This is in partnership with the North Suburban Genealogical Society. Please register at glenviewpl.org/register or by calling 1 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Baby Signs Birth through Age 3: Pre-readers learn sign language with their families through new vocabulary, songs and play activities. This is led by Jamie Wilson, ASL Interpreter and certified baby signs instructor. Tickets are given out 20 minutes prior to Storytime Sessions and preference is given to Glenview Library cardholders. 10:30 a.m. Saturday and Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Crafting for Charity: Over the winter months, this group is knitting or crocheting mittens with items attached, such as ribbons, large buttons or textured fabrics. Patients with dementia can twiddle these “Twiddlemuffs” in their hands, providing a source of visual, tactile and sensory stimulation. They also keep hands warm and snug. 10 a.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

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

Elvis Lives: Journey across Elvis’ life featuring winners and finalists from Elvis Presley Enterprise’s (EPE) annual worldwide Ultimate Elvis Tribute Artist Contest, each representing Elvis during different stages of his career. 7:30 p.m. Rosemont Theatre, 600 N. River Road, Rosemont, Tickets $30-$50 (Cash Only)

Winter-Chilly Fest: Join us for some old-fashioned winter fun and food. Enjoy a cozy indoor chili dinner in our rustic Program Room that overlooks our pond and woods, and then head outside for outdoor activities. 4 p.m. Saturday, Emily Oak Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, $6-$13, 847-677-7001

Decades Dance: Join us for a great night out dancing to music from the 1930s all the way through the 2010s in celebration of the 150th anniversary of St. Peter’s UCC in Skokie. We celebrate with waltzes and polkas to hip-hop and disco. We will teach several of the dances throughout the evening. 7 p.m. St. Peter’s United Church of Christ, 8013 Laramie Ave., Skokie, free, 847-673-8166

CT Celebrating Chinese Culture Opening Ceremony: Join at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts for a variety of live demonstrations and performances. From a dragon dance to Chinese yo-yo, it is bound to be a night full of entertainment for everyone. 6 p.m. North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, free, 847-673-6300

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. Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, free, 847-547-4900

Sunday, Feb. 12

Lutherbrook Bowl-A-Rama: Join us for a fun-filled afternoon of bowling for a great cause. Help support the work and share the mission of Lutherbrook Child and Adolescent Center in Addison. 12:30 p.m. Stardust Bowl, 37 E. Lorraine Ave., Addison, free, 708-488-5558

Robert Ellis with Jenny O: 8 p.m. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $15-$25, 847-492-8860

Youthful Spirit: The Northshore Concert Band celebrates the youthful spirit of student guests as some of the most talented young musicians in the Chicagoland area join the band for their annual Lifetime of Music program. Highlights include Percy Grainger’s colorful masterwork, Liszt’s virtuoso showpiece, and the romanticized wild west. 3 p.m. Sunday, Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, Northwestern University, 5 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, $20 adults, $15 seniors, $10 students and children, 847-467-2263

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

Meet the Chicago Maritime Museum: Turn to Calendar, Next Page
Two Trumpet Concerto and so much more. 3 p.m. North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, $25-$75; $10 students, 312-957-0000

Monday, Feb. 13

Adult Book Discussion: This book discussion at the Lincolnwood Public Library features “The Japanese Lover” by Isabel Allende. 11 a.m. Monday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

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

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

Hearing Loss and Cochlear Implant Educational Program: This panel discussion is composed of several members from Chicago-area chapters who use cochlear implants (CIs). Discussed are: personal experiences, how they ultimately chose a CI, their journey throughout the process, and how their lives have improved. This valuable information and panel are presented by the North Shore Chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America. 10 a.m. Monday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, free, 847-784-6040

Tuesday, Feb. 14

Pokey LaFarge with Jack Greller: 8 p.m. Tuesday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $25-$42, 847-492-8860

Smile and Rhyme at Heinen’s Ages Two and up with Adult: Miss Fran shares stories, rhymes, and songs in the Cafe. Stay for a snack and chat after the program. Come just drop in. 10:30 a.m. Heinen's Grocery Store, 1200 Waukegan Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Niles Metropolitan Chorus J.S. Bach’s St. John Passion: Singers invited, with rehearsal 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays prior to the performance. Their spring concert of J.S. Bach’s St. John Passion is presented on Sunday, April 2, 2017. 7 p.m. St. John Brebeuf Parish Church, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., Niles, suggested free will donation, 702-806-8421

Needlework Meet Up for Ages 13 and up: Meet up with other crafters and share ideas as you work on your own projects. Be sure to bring your own materials. This is not a class, but staff will be available to discuss and guide self-directed work. 6:30 p.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Wednesday, Feb. 15

Lily and Madeleine: 8 p.m. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $15-$23, 847-492-8860

Found’s Salon Series Featuring Nicholas Barron: Found Kitchen and Social House are featuring a new collective of interactive events dubbed the “Salon Series.” As part of this series, Evanston’s own Nicholas Barron is set to perform every Wednesday night. 8 p.m. Found Kitchen & Social House, 1631 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $10, 847-868-8945

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

Musicians open mic: Kids open Mic 6:30-7:30 p.m.; adults 7:30-11 p.m. Bring Turn to Calendar, Next Page
CALENDAR

Calendar, from Previous Page

your instruments and bring your friends. 6:30 p.m. The Rock House, 1742 Glenview Road, Glenview, free

All Things Spanish: Native and non-native Spanish speakers are invited to join the fun while practicing language skills and expanding their love for Spanish/Latino culture. These monthly meetings may include reading a short story, watching a film, and more. Contact crainirez@glenviewpl.org for more information. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Do More with Excel 2010: This hands-on workshop teaches how to perform calculations with formulas and functions. Registration is limited to six. The prerequisite is: Introduction to Microsoft Excel 2010 workshop, or basic familiarity with Excel 2010 required. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Scrabble for Adults: Exercise your brain and enjoy friendly games of Scrabble with other word lovers. 2 p.m. Wednesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Chess Club: Whether you're a skilled player looking for a challenge or a beginner interested in learning new skills, all are welcome at this new, weekly Chess Club. Chess sets and clocks provided. 7 p.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

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

The Adoption Process from A to Z: Sally Wildman, a Chicago and Northbrook attorney, presents fundamentals of an adoption and legal steps of this process with focus on preparing you to adopt. She identifies home study, foster parent licensing, and immigration steps required. 7 p.m. New Trier Township High School, 7 Happ Road, Northfield, $18, 847-784-6060

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

Flights Around the World - Santa Barbara: WineStyles is offering monthly classes for a special flight around the world. Your flight crew will expertly pilot your through each destination as you experience new wines from across the globe. Advance registration required. 6 p.m. Wednesday, WineStyles Park Ridge, 105 S. Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, $15 for club members; $20, 847-518-9463

Young Professionals Networking - Beer on the Wall: Networking with other young professionals and enjoy a complimentary 4 oz. beer or cider tasting and appetizers. 6 p.m. Thursday, Beer on the Wall, 106 Main St., Park Ridge, $10 members; $15 prospective members, 847-256-6935

Basic map and compass skills: Learn the fundamentals of navigating using a compass and map, and discover the value of these timeless tools. Topics include topographic symbols and contours, taking and plotting bearings, and managing obstacles in your route. Ages 10 and older. 7 p.m. Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, $8 Skokie resident; $10 non-resident, 847-677-7001

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. First Congregational Church of Wilmette, 1125 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-251-6660

Picasso at the Nanoscale: Science Applied to Art: Learn how Dr. Volker Rose, a physicist at Argonne National Laboratory, is working with major art institutions, to unlock groundbreaking information about art, the artist, and our cultural heritage. 2 p.m. Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-256-6935

Have an event to submit? Go to chicagotribune.com/calendar
**NOW PLAYING**

“**Split**” ★★★
PG-13, 1:57, suspense/thriller
In the multiple-personality psycho-thriller "Split," James McAvoy ferociously sinks his teeth into the role of Kevin, a troubled young man with dissociative identity disorder who kidnaps three young girls. McAvoy is delightful when let off the leash and allowed to show off his loud, campy, unhinged side. But director M. Night Shyamalan retreats to the tried-and-true formulas for this genre. It's tiresome to see yet another movie where yet more young women are stripped and locked in a basement. Kevin meets his match in Casey (Anya Taylor-Joy). She's thoughtful, quiet and composed, thinking rather than acting impulsively out of their predicament. — Katie Walsh, Tribune News Service

“**A Dog's Purpose**” ★★
PG, 2:00, family
Directed by Lasse Hallstrom, "A Dog's Purpose" suggests that dogs are reincarnated. We follow the lives of a pup voiced by Josh Gad: first, briefly, the stray puppy; then a red retriever named Bailey in the 1960s and '70s; Ellie, a German Shepherd K-9 police dog; Tino, a chubby '80s corgi; and, finally, Buddy, a neglected St. Bernard with a long road home. The problem here is that it's painfully cheesy pablum, relying on hokey burger joint and Friday night football game stereotypes to take the place of character development. It falls back on the kind of hackneyed cliches endemic to rose-colored, nostalgia-heavy images. Adorable, but ultimately forgettable. — K.W.

“**Hidden Figures**” ★★½
PG, 2:07, drama
"Hidden Figures" takes place mostly in 1961 and early 1962, three years into the life of NASA. With Russia's successful launch of Sputnik, America had to play catch-up in the space race. "Hidden Figures" focuses on three African-American female mathematicians working behind the scenes, and behind a long wall of white colleagues, at a stubbornly segregated NASA at Jim Crow-rulled Hampton, Va. The bigotry and sexism these women endured cries out for a tougher-minded movie. But there's no doubt that many will respond to this easygoing picture and be grateful for something that at least deals with subjects overdue for some of the space-race glory. — Michael Phillips

“**Resident Evil: The Final Chapter**” ★★
R, 1:46, action
"Resident Evil: The Final Chapter" is violent, idiotic fun. Newcomers to these video game adaptations may feel like they're being pummeled by Milla Jovovich's hard-punching Alice, but those who have sat through five previous films will feel right at home. This sixth movie in the franchise brings Alice back to Raccoon City and the Hive. Less than 5,000 people remain on an Earth overtaken by the T-virus-infected zombies. This zombie movie lacks not only brains but also a heart; most fans, however, will be too busy cheering Alice on to mind. — Kimber Myers, Los Angeles Times

“**La La Land**” ★★★★
PG-13, 2:08, musical comedy
How to write about "La La Land," the year's most seriously pleasurable entertainment, without making it sound like nostalgic goo? At its best, "La La Land" hits three, four, five bells at once, reminding us of the multilayer satisfaction a musical can provide. Ryan Gosling stars as a jazz pianist and aspiring club owner. Emma Stone co-stars as a striving, occasionally employed actress. Stone is spectacular, and she's reason enough to see "La La Land." Filmmaker Damien Chazelle doesn't settle for rehashing familiar bits from musicals we already love. He's too busy giving us reasons to fall for this one. — M.P.
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AUTOS

How tariffs could shock the industry

Automakers face tough choice if tax imposed on Mexican-made vehicles

BY DEE-ANN DURBIN
Associated Press

DETROIT — The threat from President Donald Trump to tax Mexican-made cars sold in the U.S. would throw the industry into disarray, analysts say, forcing some uncomfortable choices: Raise car prices or swallow the cost. Stop selling Mexican-made cars in the U.S. but risk losing customers. Move production to the U.S. but make less money.

"I don't think the auto industry would turn up its feet and die, but it would be a terrible shock. It would create mayhem with their profitability," said Marina Whitman, a business professor at the University of Michigan and a former vice president at General Motors.

Trump hosted a breakfast meeting Jan. 24 with the heads of General Motors, Ford Motor Co. and Fiat Chrysler Automobiles. Prior to the meeting, Trump demanded on Twitter that automakers build new factories in the U.S. "I want new plants to be built here for cars sold here," his tweet said. He has warned that companies without commitments to build here face being "at a serious disadvantage." He even called for a "substantial border tax" on imports from Mexico, according to the Center for Automotive Research, a Michigan think tank. In all, $50.5 billion in vehicles and $51 billion in auto parts were shipped to the U.S. from Mexico in 2015, U.S. government data show.

Mexico's auto sector, while still smaller than the U.S., is growing at a faster clip. Mexico's vehicle production capacity is expected to rise 49 percent to 5.5 million vehicles by 2023, according to LMC Automotive, a forecasting firm. U.S. capacity will grow 13 percent to 14.2 million vehicles in the same period.

But Trump could change that. In frequent tweets targeting the auto industry, he has proposed both a 35 percent tariff on Mexican imports and a "border tax," which would tax companies' imports. That's forcing automakers to consider a number of options.

Stay the course

Abandoning Mexico and moving production to the U.S., as Trump demands, would cost the industry billions and scuttle plans that are years in the making. Audi, for example, just opened a plant in Mexico that it decided to build five years ago.

"It's very difficult to turn on your heels quickly in the auto industry," said Laurie Harbour-Felix, a manufacturing consultant and president of Harbour Results Inc.

In recent weeks, Volkswagen, GM, Toyota and BMW have all said they won't shift their production plans, while stressing the amount they've invested in the U.S. BMW, for example, said it's proceeding with a $1 billion plant in Mexico that will make the 3 Series sedan starting in 2019. The German automaker also noted that its SUV plant in South Carolina is its largest plant worldwide.

Trump's border tax would hurt some companies more than others. Volkswagen, for example, imports 32 percent of the vehicles it sells in the U.S. from Mexico, according to LMC. But Honda imports just 11 percent, and that's expected to fall this year after it moves production of the CR-V SUV from Mexico to Indiana.

Pivot on production

In early January, Ford made the surprise announcement that it would halt construction of a $1.6 billion plant in Mexico slated to build the compact Focus. It also announced plans to invest $700 million of that savings into a Michigan plant where it will make new electric and autonomous cars.

Ford said declining sales of small cars, not Trump, influenced the Mexico plant decision, and the company will still make the Focus in Mexico at a different plant.

But Ford CEO Mark Fields noted that Trump's promise to lower corporate taxes and ease regulations would make it more attractive to do business in the U.S. Fields also said he's not worried about the possibility of tariffs.

Others appear more nervous. Speaking to reporters at the Detroit auto show, Fiat Chrysler CEO Sergio Marchionne said his company might withdraw from Mexico altogether if tariffs got too high.

"Those plants were designed, built and purpose at a time when NAFTA was alive and well," he said. "It's one of the perils associated with the business that we run." Trump can't place tariffs on companies or groups of companies without congressional approval, says Gary Hufbauer, a senior fellow at the nonpartisan Peterson Institute for International Economics. But he could fashion tariffs that hurt some companies more than others by, for example, picking and choosing from the dozens of import classifications for vehicles and parts.

Pass the cost

If Trump imposes tariffs, automakers could try to pass along the cost to U.S. customers. But that would raise the price tag of cars like the $17,000 Nissan Sentra or the $21,000 Chevrolet Trax by thousands of dollars.

Even a U.S.-built vehicle like the Toyota Camry would cost more. Jim Lentz, CEO of Toyota North America, said 25 percent of the Camry's parts are imported, and tariffs on those parts would add roughly $1,000 to the cost of the car.

Automakers could swallow the cost of the tariff, but it would hurt their bottom lines.

Associated Press writer Tom Krisher contributed.
Lake Forest graduate named diver of week

BY SAM BRIEF
Pioneer Press

Lake Forest graduate Mary Rose Donahue, a junior diver at Colorado College, was named the Southern Collegiate Athletic Conference (SCAC) women's diver of the week on Jan. 24, her fourth such honor this season.

In the 3-meter diving competition at the CC Classic on Jan. 21 and 22, Donahue set a school record with an 11-dive score of 484.00 to win the event. Donahue also finished in the 1-meter diving competition.

Also on the Colorado College women's swimming and diving team are New Trier graduate Hannah Warden and Niles North graduates Alma Jukic and Selma Jukic.

Saliba contributing for Spartans hockey

Lincolnshire native Sam Saliba, a freshman forward on the Michigan State men's hockey team, recorded a goal and two assists in the Spartans' recent series against rival Michigan. Saliba scored a power-play goal during Michigan State's 3-0 win over the Wolverines on Jan. 20. The next day, Saliba assisted on both of the Spartans' goals, bringing his season point total to nine.

Vogt receives academic honor

Libertyville graduate Matt Vogt, a senior outfielder on the Minnesota Duluth baseball team, was among the winners of a Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference (NSIC) Myles Brand All-Academic with Distinction Award for the 2016-17 academic year.

The award is given to NSIC athletes with a grade point average of 3.75 or higher. Vogt was on the NSIC All-Academic team in 2015 and 2016, as well.

Over his first three collegiate seasons, Vogt has hit .275 with 35 RBIs. Also on the Bulldogs' roster are Carmel graduate Brett Milazzo and Mundelein graduate Reid Rubio.

Golfers set for spring season

Lyons graduate Charlie Netzel and New Trier graduate Matt Murlick both enter their spring collegiate golf seasons with momentum from the fall.

Netzel, a Michigan State senior, shot an 8-under 205 over three rounds at the Allister MacKenzie Invitational that concluded Oct. 11, the third-lowest tournament score in school history. His first-round score of 67 was tied for the second-lowest of his Spartans career.

Murlick, a Marquette freshman, shot a 67 at the Marquette Intercollegiate on Oct. 3, finishing tied for fifth overall with a three-round score of 209.

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

Sam Brief is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
3-pointers by Loucks, Jenkins help Notre Dame beat Marist

BY JAKUB RUDNIK
Pioneer Press

The Notre Dame basketball team got off to a slow start in its 55-43 win against Marist on Friday in Niles. The Dons led the East Suburban Catholic game 10-8 at the end of the first quarter, but leading scorer and senior guard Matt Stritzel struggled from the floor and scored just two points.

In the second quarter things changed, but it was two other guards who sparked the offense and helped hand the Red Hawks, who had been alone atop the league standings, their first conference loss.

To open the quarter, senior guard John Loucks knocked down a 3, just as he did to start the game. Minutes later he knocked down another to put Notre Dame up 19-12. He finished with nine points. The team's next basket was a 3-pointer by fellow senior Malik Jenkins, his second of the game. He knocked another down before halftime, and the Dons took a 10-point lead into the locker room.

"When you see the first one go down, you want to come back down, touch it again and shoot," said Jenkins, an Evanston resident. "John, he started it off, he caught it, he made the first one. In practice he's a really good shooter, so in the game that's his job, to be the shooter."

After Notre Dame knocked down five 3-pointers in the second quarter — two each by Loucks and Jenkins, and one by Stritzel — the court opened up for Stritzel. He scored 11 of the Dons' 13 points in the third quarter and assisted on the other bucket, a dunk by senior center Sean Johnson. Stritzel said Loucks and Jenkins knocking down shots helped him get good looks in the second half. Stritzel finished with 24 points.

"It's huge, because teams can't key on me," said Stritzel, a Norwood Park resident. "If (opposing coaches) want to tell the defense just to go stop me, you're gonna pay for it. And they made (Marist) pay for it tonight."

Down the stretch the Dons held off Marist at the line, scoring 10 of their 12 points in the fourth quarter on free throws. Jenkins knocked down six of those free throws to finish with 14 points off the bench for Notre Dame (19-5, 4-2).

Dons coach Tom Les said the hot shooting did more than just open up the floor for Stritzel. He said it gives the team confidence and energy during the second and third quarters.

"Everything else gets easier when you make shots," Les said. "You play better defense, you move the ball better. Obviously that was huge making shots."

For Marist (21-3, 5-1), junior point guard Maurice Commander did everything he could to keep his team in the game. He scored 14 points in the second half and finished with 21 for the game.

Jakub Rudnik is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @Pioneer_Press

Notre Dame's John Loucks (22) shoots a 3 while guarded by Marist's David Daniels (13) in the second quarter on Friday. Notre Dame won 55-43 in Niles.

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