

NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR



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Thursday, February 16, 2017

nilesheraldspectator.com

A grand opener

Coming Together kicks off with celebration of Chinese culture. Page 6



KEVIN TANAKA/PIONEER PRESS

Chinese Language School dancers perform a Mongolian dance to celebrate the opening of Coming Together In Skokie and Niles Township, focusing this year on the Chinese culture, at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, Feb. 11.

GO



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Dough is a go

Pioneer Press has a list of local bakeries frying up paczki for Fat Tuesday. Page 23

SPORTS



KEVIN TANAKA/PIONEER PRESS

Pool party

Area swimmers, divers compete at Central Suburban League meets. Page 44

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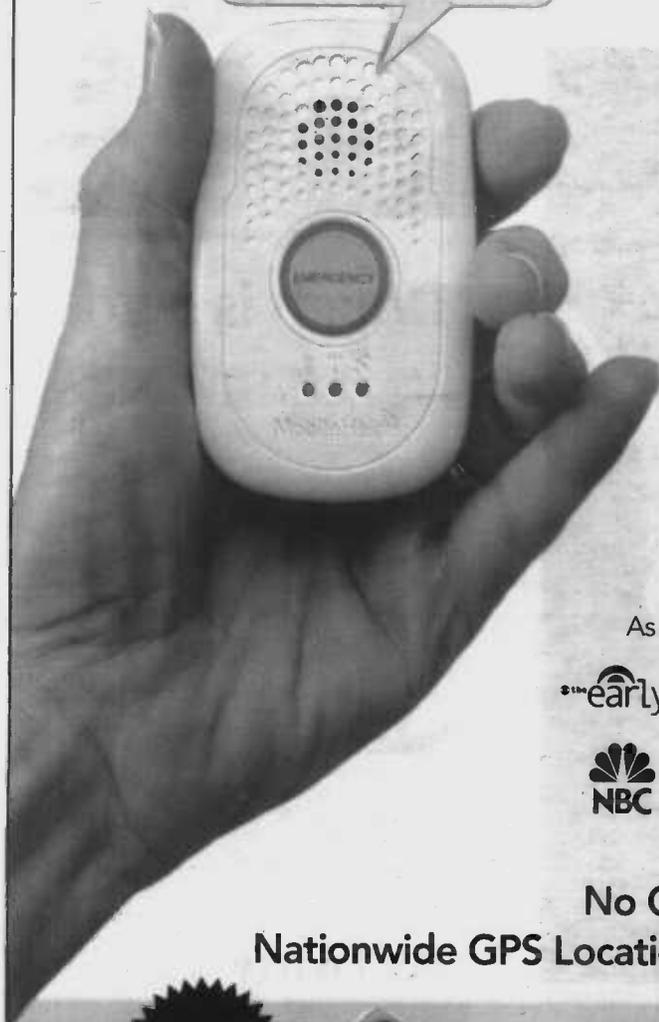


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MAILING ADDRESS
 435 N. Michigan Ave.
 Chicago, IL 60611

PUBLICATION INFORMATION:
 Niles Herald-Spectator is published
 52 issues per year by Chicago Tribune
 Media Group, 435 N. Michigan Ave.,
 Chicago, IL 60611. Single copy: \$1.50.
 One-year subscription: \$52.00. In-
 cludes Sunday Chicago Tribune.
 In-county only. New subscriber starts
 require email address. If for some
 reason you choose to cancel, please
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 apply.
 Vol. 68, No. 3

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SHOUT OUT

Ronnie Strzelecki, Niles resident and village worker

Ronnie Strzelecki is a supervisor with the Niles Department of Public Services. He is a lifelong Niles resident and the father of two sons, 13 and 10.

"What I enjoy about Niles is the community itself. I've developed a lot of friendships," said Strzelecki, whose pals from childhood are lifelong buddies. "I've grown up in a great town."

Q: What are your hobbies?

A: My hobbies are my kids right now. I coach basketball. My oldest is involved in bowling and golf. My youngest one has done from dodge ball to soccer to basketball to tae kwon do. We stay active in all of the events that the park district has to offer. We've been active.

Q: What else do you enjoy doing?

A: I like to read. I think "The Count of Monte Cristo" is probably my favorite book (an 1840s adventure novel by French author Alexandre Dumas). I like the story of it, of the baseline of it, of a man who was torn down but never gave up. I help out with the Niles Chamber of Commerce, I help out the Optimist Club of Niles, I help out with Notre Dame College Prep, so I enjoy it.

Q: Did you play with trucks when you were younger?



KARIE ANGELL LUC/PIONEER PRESS

Ronnie Strzelecki

A: I did. I was always really good with my hands and operating equipment.

— Karie Angell Luc, Pioneer Press

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'Coming Together' stages grand opener

To introduce the culture of China, Coming Together in Skokie and Niles Township organizers decided on a bigger stage this year.

For most years, the opening event that kicks off a comprehensive celebration of one culture has been held at Niles West High School.

The Feb. 11 opener this year, however, took place at the professional arts center, the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts.

The evening was filled with a collection of colors seen in song, dance, martial arts and more — all giving audience members a taste of the Chinese culture and the two-plus months of programming that will follow.

The annual Coming Together program includes a diverse committee that develops approximately 50 programs devoted to a single culture. The programming on China, which will run into April, will feature author visits, discussions, film, music, history and more spread throughout venues in Niles Township.

When the program began eight years ago, it was called Coming Together in Skokie. But as more municipalities showed interest and came aboard, Niles Township was added to the title.

Villages, libraries, park districts, schools and more host various events.

From the beginning, organizers said, Coming Together was conceived around literature. Each year focuses on books exploring a given culture and serves as a catalyst for the programming highlighted by author visits. Four books were selected this year and are aimed at different age groups.

"Our Chinese culture and heritage reaches back more than 5,000 years," members of the Niles Township community said in a written statement. "(It) features innovations and achievements in ceramics, architecture, music, literature, martial arts, cuisine, visual arts, philosophy, medicine and science, is diverse and unique, yet harmoniously blended — an invaluable asset for all mankind."

A schedule of events can be found at www.comingtogether.in, and free booklets on the series are available at the Skokie Public Library and other locations.

— Staff report



A member of the Phoenix Performing Arts group performs a fan dance.



KEVIN TANAKA/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

A dragon dance is performed to celebrate the opening of Coming Together in Skokie and Niles Township, focusing this year on the Chinese culture, at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie Feb. 11.



A "lion dance" is performed by a group at the Coming Together opening ceremony.



KARIE ANGELL LUC/PIONEER PRESS

David Pasquale, of the Niles Department of Public Services, unloads a television that village resident Nick Kuzniarski brought to be recycled during the electronics recycling event the village sponsored Feb. 11.

Niles collects electronics, other items during event

Hundreds recycle household items

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

The village of Niles gave residents a chance to get rid of hunky televisions, bulky computer hard drives and other electronics during a recycling event held Feb. 11.

"It's very important to recycle," said David Pasquale of the Niles Department of Public Services. He was part of a team of village workers who helped unload the electronics from people's vehicles.

"I'm glad we can get rid of a TV and also do some good," Niles resident Maggie Kuzniarski said. "If everyone does their bit, we can live on Earth longer and better."

Ron Strzelecki, a supervisor with the Department of

Public Services, said staff members were prepared to accommodate several hundred cars.

He said he was pleased with residents' turnout for the event and added that the mild temperatures probably encouraged people to come out.

"We (recycled) TVs and stereos — anything that had to do with electronics — so it gets disposed of properly and goes into the right hands, instead of just into the garbage," Strzelecki said.

Resident Jennifer Wawryk brought a laptop that she said she had been driving around with for awhile, waiting for the right opportunity to securely dispose of it.

Even some village officials dropped items off to the recycling event, which was for residents only and sponsored by Groot. Village Trustee Denise

McCreery recycled ink cartridges for a printer and toner cartridges for a copier, among other items.

"I'm ... clearing out my house and taking advantage of this great service that we're offering our residents today," McCreery said. "You don't really know what to do with these things, so it's nice these days are available."

The village also accepted such things as answering machines, calculators, camcorders, cameras, cell phones, some computer items, copy machines, shredders, satellite receivers, small home appliances, stereo equipment, power tools, video game consoles and more.

"We don't want these things going into our landfills," McCreery said.

Karie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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D219 coach charged with sexually assaulting student

BY LEE V. GAINES
Pioneer Press

A girls soccer coach and a special education paraprofessional at Niles Township High School District 219 was being held on \$75,000 bail at Cook County Jail on Feb. 10, charged with sexual misconduct with a minor.

Adrian Lovera, 31, of the 4000 block of North Western Avenue in Chicago, was arrested Feb. 8 and charged Feb. 10 with predatory criminal sexual assault for allegedly sexually assaulting a 17-year-old girl an undisclosed number of times between Dec. 23 and Jan. 21, according to Officer Michelle Tannehill, a Chicago police spokeswoman.

Tannehill said the alleged act or acts occurred in the

same block as Lovera's residence, but declined to confirm a precise location.

Jim Szczepaniak, spokesman for NTHS School District 219, confirmed that the allegations against Lovera involve a student from the school district, but declined to say which school.



Lovera

Niles North, West and Central high schools make up the district, serving students in Lincolnwood, Skokie and parts of

Morton Grove and Niles, according to the school district's website.

The coach and educator was initially placed on paid administrative leave Jan. 23, Szczepaniak said.

Now, the spokesman said, Lovera, who is a full-time paraprofessional at Niles North High School's special education department, is on

unpaid leave.

School officials reported the allegations to Skokie police and the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Szczepaniak said in a news release the district issued Feb. 10.

"The extent of our involvement is he teaches in Skokie," said Skokie police spokesman Officer Eric Swaback.

He said nothing has been alleged, so far, to have happened in Skokie.

"As soon as our investigation started, it was found out right away the allegations of the misconduct occurred in Chicago," Swaback said.

Lovera was hired by NTHS School District 219 as a substitute teacher in 2010 and has coached boys and girls diving at Niles West High School since 2011, according to the news release.

Lovera got a job as a paraprofessional at Niles North's special education

department in 2013, and in 2015 he was tapped to be head coach of girls soccer at Niles West, the release states.

School District 219 families were informed about the charges against Lovera in a letter sent out Feb. 10.

According to the letter, district officials notified faculty and staff member about the arrest, and students were told after classes ended Feb. 10.

"If any students would like to discuss this issue or need support, we are advising them to speak with their school counselor, social worker or psychologist," school district officials state in the letter.

Parents and guardians were also encouraged to reach out to school officials with any additional questions.

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

Chicago man charged in Lincolnwood armed robbery

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

A Chicago man was charged with felony armed robbery Feb. 3 after Lincolnwood police said he stole a victim's wallet at gunpoint in the 6500 block of North Central Park Avenue.

Alonzo J. Coates, 18, of the 4300 block of South Langley, on the city's South Side, is being held in Cook County Jail with bond set at \$350,000, police said in a news release.

Lincolnwood police said a suspicious vehicle was seen before 9:10 p.m. Feb. 3 with the engine running and headlights turned off.

According to police, the vehicle pulled out, and accelerated toward a pedestrian who was walking near his home.

A passenger in the vehicle got out, displayed a handgun and demanded money from the victim before taking his wallet, according to the news release.

Police said a responding officer saw the vehicle leaving the area and tried to pull the driver over, but he fled onto the Edens Expressway.

The vehicle was later located with help from neighboring law enforcement agencies and Coates was identified in connection with the armed robbery.

The victim's wallet and the gun allegedly used in the incident were recovered, Lincolnwood police

announced in the news release.

Coates is scheduled to appear in court in Skokie Feb. 28.

Lincolnwood police officials said they have been issuing public safety alerts

in response to recent patterns of crime impacting Chicago suburbs including Lincolnwood. The pattern has involved groups of juveniles and men in their early 20s who travel to suburbs

in stolen vehicles to commit crimes of armed robbery, motor vehicle theft and burglaries, police said.

Skokie police last year said coordination among several police departments was helpful in combating car thefts and vehicle burglaries committed by suspects coming from the city to the suburbs.

The effort led to a reduction of such crimes, Skokie police officials said.

The department helped identify a pattern of these crimes — eventually learning they impacted some 50 suburbs — and worked to create more effective enforcement, according to Skokie police officials. In each of these cases, they said, suspects came from the far South Side of Chicago to break into vehicles in the suburbs and then returned to the city.

Police officials said they eventually learned the crime spree traveled as far as East Moline.



Coates

Police: Several vehicles burglarized in Skokie movie theater parking lot

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

Skokie police Chief Tony Scarpelli advises motorists to secure their vehicles — and contents — after police said several break-ins occurred in late January near a popular movie theater.

There were four burglaries to vehicles reported in the AMC Showplace movie theater parking lot, in the 7000 block of Carpenter Road, police said.

One similar incident was reported in a nearby parking lot at Shallots Bistro, 7016 Carpenter Road.

Four of the break-ins occurred Jan. 30, one re-

portedly took place Jan. 28, police said.

"Anywhere you bring together a big grouping of vehicles that are going to be unattended during a period of time, sometimes those circumstances bring opportunities," Scarpelli said. "We always encourage people to lock valuables in the trunk so they are not in view and to lock the doors."

Police said the car doors were locked but the vehicles were broken into and items were taken.

In most of the incidents, vehicle windows were shattered, in one a sharp tool was used to break the driver's side door handle to

gain access, according to police.

Among the items reported stolen were multiple credit cards, a briefcase, cash and a cellphone.

A bass guitar was also reportedly stolen in one incident, though it was locked inside the trunk of the vehicle, police said.

Scarpelli said that consistent crime analysis allows police to send extra patrols to areas where a problem has been detected.

Independent of police patrols, Scarpelli said, there are also off-duty police who work at the movie theater.

Skokie police last year said they were at the fore-

front of coordinating with several police departments in combating car thefts and vehicle burglaries committed by suspects from the city who come out to the suburbs.

The Village Crossing car break-ins differed from the pattern identified by police last year.

In those cases, police said, the car doors were almost always left unlocked.

"They never once smashed a window or tried to force in a door," Scarpelli said about last year's crime pattern.

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Super Bowl sex trafficking sting yields more than 100 arrests in Cook County

BY KAREN ANN CULLOTTA
Pioneer Press

A recent Cook County Sheriff's Department Super Bowl sex trafficking sting has netted more than 100 arrests, including five men accused of buying sex in Arlington Heights, authorities said on Feb. 8.

The local law enforcement initiative was part of the National Super Bowl Sex Trafficking Sting, which took place from Jan. 18 through Feb. 5, Super Bowl Sunday, and led to the arrests of more than 700 alleged sex buyers and 29 alleged sex traffickers across the U.S., according to a statement from Cook County Sheriff Thomas Dart.

In addition to the Cook County Sheriff's Department, other local law enforcement agencies participating in the recent sting initiative include: the Arlington Heights Police Department, with five arrests; the Lansing Police Department, with six arrests; the Matteson Police Department with 11 arrests; and the Lake County Sheriff's Police, with two arrests.

"The ultimate goal is to eradicate the human trafficking aspect of prostitution," Arlington Heights Police Sgt. Chuck Buczynski said. "In the past, we arrested the prostitute, but we realized if we arrest the 'john,' you eliminate the customer base. And no customers, no prostitution."

The recent sting represents the sixth time Arlington Heights police have taken part in the effort, bringing the total number of sex buyers arrested in the village initiative in recent years to more than two dozen, Buczynski said.

The sting entails police



Barbosa-Gomez



Blaine



Guezzar

first placing fake ads on various websites known to carry information related to prostitution, Buczynski said, with female police officers interacting with the sex buyers via text messages.

Buczynski said the arrests are made after the sex buyers arrive in the parking lot of a designated motel, proceed to a room where two female officers are awaiting, with the alleged offenders subsequently apprehended and arrested by other police officers on the premises.

While the national initiative culminates on Super Bowl Sunday, Buczynski said participating local police departments are granted a grace period to carry out their stings when staffing permits, which in Arlington Heights, was on Feb. 7, where all five arrests were made at a motel in the village near the intersection of Arlington Heights and Algonquin roads.

Those arrested and charged with solicitation of a sexual act in this year's Arlington Heights sting were: Streamwood resident Saharat R. Blaine; Mount Prospect resident Wilmer Rodriguez; Skokie resident Alan Karamovic; Lake Bluff resident Juan Barbosa-Gomez; and Hinsdale resident Yassir Guezzar.



Karamovic



Rodriguez

Among the incidents reported in the nationwide sting were an alleged sex seller in Houston who was shot in the head by an alleged sex buyer; an alleged buyer who had his 4-year-old son with him; and three alleged buyers who were arrested in connection with attempts to solicit a minor for commercial sex, authorities said.

According to offender data, sex buyers are more likely to be white, at least high-school educated, and in many cases, are college educated, middle-aged-older men, with many who are married and very few who are unemployed, authorities said.

Among those who are involved in prostitution, authorities said most report they started before they turned 21, used drugs — most often highly addictive drugs such as heroin and crack cocaine — with a majority reporting they had experienced violence against them, including sexual assault, as an adult or child.

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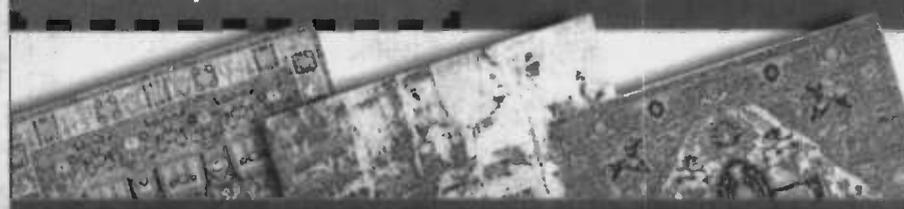
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Niles

BATTERY

■ Jaime Solis-Mendez, 26, of the 8200 block of Oak Avenue, Niles, was charged with domestic battery on Jan. 20. He was scheduled to appear in court Feb. 7.

■ Christina Lara, 31, of the 3200 block of West 23rd Street, Chicago, was charged with battery and obstruction on Jan. 21. A security guard for a bar in the 8700 block of Milwaukee Avenue told police he saw Lara approach a woman from behind and punch her in the face several times. The woman who was allegedly hit told police that the attack on her was unprovoked, while Lara allegedly told police that she hit the woman after being spit on. Police accused Lara of initially providing false personal information, but after her real identify was learned, it was discovered she had an outstanding warrant for retail theft out of Chicago, police said. Lara is scheduled to appear in court March 14.

BURGLARY

■ A tablet, laptop computer, digital camera, camcorder, cables and memory

cards were reported stolen from a car parked in a lot in the 6800 block of Touhy Avenue Jan. 23, police said.

■ A laptop computer and jewelry were reportedly stolen Jan. 21, during the burglary of a home in the 7300 block of Nora Avenue, police said.

■ A portable safe was reported stolen Jan. 20 during the burglary of a home in the 8300 block of Maynard Road between 10 a.m. and noon, police said.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

■ A man told police that he saw another man deliberately push a shopping cart into his car Jan. 23, damaging the rear passenger door. The alleged incident occurred in a parking lot in the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue.

PUBLIC INTOXICATION

■ A 25-year-old man was ticketed with public intoxication Jan. 20 after police responded to a report of an intoxicated and unwanted person near a bar in the 7300 block of Harlem Avenue. The man's mother was contacted to pick him up, police said.

SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT

■ A representative of a financial institution in the 9100 block of West Golf Road told police that surveillance video showed a

man attempting to remove the card reader on an outdoor ATM machine and replace it with a green skimming device Jan. 25. The suspect was unsuccessful in removing the card reader and left the area, police said.

THEFT

■ A man allegedly failed to pay a \$23.75 cab fare Jan. 21. A cab driver told police that the man attempted to pay the fare with two credit cards that were declined, and then left the cab to get money from his wife, but never returned.

Park Ridge

DRUG POSSESSION

■ A 16-year-old Chicago boy was charged with possession of a controlled substance and possession of more than 30 grams of marijuana following a traffic stop on the morning of Feb. 2. According to police, the teen, a passenger in the car, was found in possession of 59 grams of suspected marijuana and a bag containing 47 pills believed to be ecstasy.

LEAVING THE SCENE

■ Jeremy Beltran, 19, of the 1000 block of Canfield Avenue, Park Ridge, was charged with leaving the scene of an accident, driving an uninsured vehicle and improper backing on Feb. 1. Police said a witness saw

a car driving north on Lincoln Avenue, approaching Oakton Street, when it suddenly backed up and hit a parked car just after 7 a.m. The car then left the area, police said. Officers identified Beltran as the driver and he turned himself in, police said. He was given a March 3 court date.

■ John Coyle, 22, of the 800 block of Forest Avenue, Deerfield, was charged with leaving the scene of an accident, driving an uninsured vehicle, failure to give aid or information, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and improper backing on Feb. 2. A 26-year-old Park Ridge woman told police that while she was stopped in traffic on Dee Road at Oakton Street on the morning of Jan. 29, a car struck her from behind, backed up and drove away. Police said the woman followed the car briefly and obtained a partial license plate, which led investigators to Coyle.

BATTERY

■ Irina Lelik, 42, of the 1200 block of Potter Road, Park Ridge, was charged with domestic battery on Feb. 2.

BURGLARY

■ Jewelry was reported stolen from a house in the 1800 block of Weeg Way during a burglary on the afternoon of Feb. 1, police said. A window and screen reportedly were damaged.

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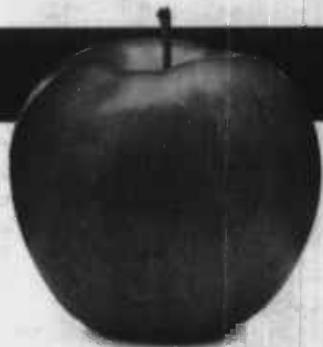
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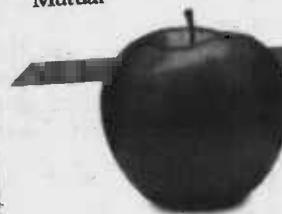
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Students get firsthand take on computer science

Lincoln Junior High School hosts first ever Hour of Code event

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

It's uncertain whether a recent visit from local high school students will inspire Lincoln Junior High School kids to take computer programming or related courses after they move on this year.

It also isn't known whether the visit will increase female participation in STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs once the junior high students arrive at Niles West High School.

But Skokie School District 69 STEM instructional coach Louis Kotvis said he believes the exposure will help, which is why he supported the school's first Hour of Code event.

Feb. 2, a group of Niles West students went to Lincoln and then fanned out.

Individually they entered different eighth-grade classrooms to talk about experiences with computer science and related activities.

Code.org, a non-profit that says it's "dedicated to expanding access to computer science, and increasing participation by women and underrepresented minorities," created the annual Hour of Code.

"Our vision is that every student in every school should have the opportunity to learn computer science, just like biology, chemistry or algebra," according to the organization.

According to area educators, many districts, including Skokie School District 69, have focused more heavily on STEM education in recent years, trying to reach students at an earlier age. Kotvis and fellow STEM instructional coach Kelcie Cain were both Edison School teachers before they filled new roles a few

years ago as STEM instructional coaches, they said.

"With all the jobs that are coming in the future, there's going to be a deficit in a lot of the areas because of students not having exposure at a younger age," Kotvis said. "What we want to do is start them at a younger age doing more inquiry-based projects and more three-dimensional design."

The school also has its own robotics program now like a number of junior high schools that have expanded into this area.

Additionally, Kotvis said, a huge reason for holding Hour of Code is to "promote young, bright female students to computer science."

He said that only 25 percent of students in computer sciences at Niles West are females.

The group of about 20 Niles West students who arrived at Lincoln Feb. 2 reflected this gender disparity. The majority were males, but several females made their way to classrooms as well.

One of them was senior Lesley Ongyaco, who takes an advanced placement computer science class in high school. She said she graduated from Lincoln and has a sister who attends there.

"I'm a senior, and this is the first time I've tried a (computer science) coding class," she told the eighth graders. "They put a lot of emphasis on it now and they really want girls to get involved. I'm one of three girls in my class."

The senior said the class is easy to follow and "it's not terribly difficult."

Students can advance to different levels if they're interested in more computer science, and several extra-curricular clubs incorporate computer program-



MIKE ISAACS/PIONEER PRESS

Lincoln Junior High School eighth-grade math teacher Tina Brendel, right, welcomes Niles West High School student Lesley Ongyaco, left, to her class Feb. 2 to talk to her students about computer science in high school.

ming as well, she said. Ongyaco handed over a list of different related courses and activities that are open to high school freshmen.

"Especially now, where there is so much tech in our world, computer sciences should be required," Ongyaco said. "It's so prominent."

Lincoln Junior High eighth-grade math teacher Tina Brendel agreed. "You may not see the validity today," Brendel told her students, "but it is everywhere. It's part of everything and it is everywhere. It's really great background to have."

Ongyaco's computer science teacher, Matthew Fahrenbacher, said that he'd like to see more gender balance in the computer science classes that he teaches.

"I'd like it to be closer to 50-50 if possible," he said.

"I'm sure it is the stigma. Some of it is what kids think computer science is. They don't have exposure so they think it's what they see in movies. It's the nerd who sits in front of the computer and doesn't have a social life or any fun. We're trying to break that stigma as much as we can."

Chris Powell, Niles West director of applied sciences and technology, said he believes Hour of Code can help.

"I definitely feel this can have an impact," he said. "I think when students listen to older peers rather than adults, it can have a different kind of effect. This kind of exposure early on can mean a lot to these kids when they get to high school."



Skokie School District 69 STEM instructional coaches Louis Kotvis and Kelcie Cain wait for Niles West High School students to arrive to participate in the first Hour of Code event, which was held Feb. 2.

Local kids battle it out in spelling bee

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

Mouayad Albaghdadi of Palatine made a deal with his son.

"We promised him ice cream and \$200," said Albaghdadi.

Why? Well, to celebrate with a treat. His son Ali Albaghdadi, 11, placed first Feb. 7 in the 7th annual North Cook County ISC Scripps Spelling Bee.

Ali spelled the winning word, "pylon," correctly at the competition, held at the Joseph Sears School in Kenilworth.

"I'm very excited," said Ali, who advances with the second- and third-place finishers (third place in a tie) to compete in the Regional Championship ISC Scripps Spelling Bee on Feb. 21 at McClure Junior High School in Western Springs.

Will this sixth-grader, who is home schooled, be the first-place finisher in the televised Scripps National Spelling Bee near Washington, D.C., May 28 through June 2?

"I'm hoping," Ali said, with a grin.

In second place was Angelo Karadimas, 11, a Des Plaines sixth-grader. In the tie for third place were Emily Seriruk, 14, of Arlington Heights, a third-grader at Thomas Middle School, and Catherine Sernel, 13, of Park Ridge, a sixth-grader at Lincoln Middle School.

Some of the words spelled were grotto, coyote, hibachi, trauma, embargo, innate, gondola, synopsis and cabana.

Ali was among 26 participants who represented students through eighth grade from public, private and home schools.

Finalists that evening were from Skokie, Wilmette, Buffalo Grove, Evanston, Kenilworth, Chicago, Northfield, Glenview, Northbrook, Elk Grove Village, Lincolnwood and Niles.

The youngest contestant was Lucas Hernacki, 8, of Cary, a second-grader at Quest Academy in Palatine.

His feet dangled from his chair on stage and his royal blue shoe-laced black sneakers could be heard when he crossed the stage. But Lucas stood on firm ground for a longer stage life, besting competitors nearly twice his age.

He wasn't nervous but "100 percent excited," Lucas said.

"It's unbelievable," his father, Matt Hernacki said. "He worked really hard."

"He saw the bee in kindergarten; they were able to watch it and he (Lucas)

immediately liked it."

Last year, Lucas participated in a school bee. This year he won and advanced.

"So now we're here," Matt Hernacki said.

Lucas enjoys reading but he's not a big Harry Potter fan. He likes gymnastics and spending time with his little brother.

"School is one of my favorite things," Lucas said.

Spelled out simply, Bruce R. Brown, executive director of North Cook Intermediate Service Center Regional Office No. 5 of Des Plaines, said spelling bees, "can be pretty grueling."

"But it's such a wonderful competition because it's true Americana," said Brown, who was among three judges.

"It's just a piece of our life that's well worth preserving and enjoying," Brown said, adding that research finds



KARIE ANGELL LUC/PIONEER PRESS

Lucas Hernacki, 8, of Cary, a Quest Academy of Palatine second-grader, was the youngest of 26 contestants.

that the first spelling bee was held in New England about 1850.

Margot Fennelly of Palos Heights is spelling bee grant coordinator with the North Cook ISC. She said spelling bees are inclusive, accommodating student special needs such as audio assistance.

"The purpose of a bee is to help students improve their spelling, increase their vo-

cabulary, learn concepts and develop correct English usage that will help them throughout life," Fennelly said.

Fennelly thanked ComEd, an Exelon company, which has sponsored spelling bees with the ISC for eight years.

Karie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Looking for sanctuary

Group pushes for Skokie to adopt protections for the undocumented

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

Some Skokie residents who said they are part of a newly-formed group called Skokie Citizens for Action are urging village leaders to pursue making Skokie a sanctuary municipality.

During citizen comments at the Feb. 6 Skokie Village Board meeting, several residents said the village needs to take this step — even while acknowledging Skokie has been a welcoming town to ethnically diverse residents.

Skokie resident Jessica Beverly said it was at a recent unity march held in Morton Grove where groups were encouraged to work to try to expand the sanctuary village movement. While the Skokie Village Board was meeting Feb. 6, she noted, the Oak Park Village Board was voting on sanctuary status for its village.

"It is up to us as citizens of this great nation and wonderful village to stand for something more than caring about diversity and to make ourselves heard and understood to be a sanctuary village," Beverly said.

Sanctuary cities and villages commonly provide protection for undocumented immigrants.

The subject of sanctuary status for towns moved front and center recently after President Donald Trump signed an executive order restricting or banning immigration from seven predominantly Muslim countries — a policy now being legally challenged. Trump has also threatened to withhold federal funding to sanctuary municipalities.

Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen said the village has had a long-standing hands-off policy regarding residents' immigration status even if it has not adopted sanctuary status legislation.

"The village's policy is and always has been, and it will continue to be, that we



PATRICK GORSKI/PIONEER PRESS

Organizers of the Jan. 29 anti-Trump Immigration policy rally held at the Muslim Education Center in Morton Grove also encouraged towns to adopt sanctuary ordinances. Some Skokie residents are pushing for the village to establish such a sanctuary policy.

do not ask anyone their immigration status," Van Dusen said. "We do not keep immigration records and we are not the immigration police."

Whenever anyone asks for police, fire or human services of any kind, he said, they are not asked about their immigration status — a policy the mayor said will not change.

But Van Dusen also said that Skokie relies on federal funding of about \$1.5 million annually.

"This isn't change," he said. "This is real money and it affects people."

According to Van Dusen, some of that money goes toward community block grant funding, which is distributed to projects and social service agencies that help low- and moderate-income residents. Federal funding has also paid for vaccinations, emergency preparedness and even for the hiring of firefighters, he said.

"What we're trying to do

is strike a balance," the mayor said.

Although only a few members of Skokie Citizens for Action spoke Feb. 6, many came to support the group's position.

Caroline Paulson Andrew said she formed the group after the Jan. 21 Women's March in Chicago. According to the group's Facebook page, there are currently about 190 members.

"Skokie Citizens for Action consists of area women and men who are dedicated to fighting to preserve — on local, state and federal levels — the civil and human rights of all U.S. citizens and residents," according to the group's social media page.

Some members asked the village Feb. 6 to stand with other cities and villages that have declared themselves sanctuaries. Chicago, Evanston and Oak Park are among sanctuary municipalities.

Under Oak Park's ordinance, no village agency or

employee is permitted to accept requests by the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement or other agencies to support or assist in any capacity with immigration enforcement operations. Should an employee receive a request to support or assist in an immigration enforcement operation, the employee shall report the request to a supervisor, who will deny the request, the ordinance states.

Unless the village is presented with a valid and properly issued criminal warrant, the village is not allowed to transfer any person into ICE custody, according to the ordinance.

"Everyone in our village needs information to make an educated choice because ... it's serious," said Skokie resident Janice Sackett, commenting on whether the village should adopt a similar law. "We know the background of Skokie. I've lived here for many, many, many years. But there's also

the issue of put your money where your mouth is."

The mayor acknowledged that the threat to take federal funding away from sanctuary cities is not a certainty.

"Should the village of Skokie be taking a stand that we should be able to do these things and not risk getting funding?" Sackett asked.

"Maybe we need to put ourselves out there with other cities like Chicago, like Evanston ... and other cities who will all be in the same boat as we are."

Van Dusen and other village officials Feb. 6 also emphasized what they considered Skokie's continued reputation for being welcoming to residents of diverse backgrounds.

The village hosts the Festival of Cultures and Coming Together in Skokie, the mayor said, and a Niles Township Interfaith Dinner on Thanksgiving Eve draws hundreds of people of different faiths every year.

He called the events more than just gatherings. The mayor said they demonstrate support for all of Skokie's residents.

In the wake of concerns over controversial national immigration policy, some local community leaders formed a new group, Skokie Cares, the mayor said. The group is supporting a campaign it calls "Skokie Welcomes Everyone."

"We are a group of community members who are working on a campaign to welcome and support everyone who lives in Skokie," according to the organizations' website.

The campaign asks people to display "Skokie welcomes everyone" signs in their windows and promises more activities in the future.

Skokie Village Manager John Lockerby, a member of Skokie Cares, said the group has met only once but will hold another public meeting this month at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center.

Van Dusen said this kind of campaign and other initiatives speak loudest about Skokie's celebration of diversity.

"Sanctuary cities is a legality," the mayor said. "It's a political statement, and I think what counts as much, if not more than that, is 'What is your conduct? How do you comport yourselves all the time?'"

Beverly said she appreciates Skokie's celebration of inclusion and the importance the village places on federal funding, but her group still wants Skokie to take action with "more teeth."

"This is a trying time in our nation, and Skokie needs to stand up," she said. "We've always stood up for what we believe in this community. We need to have more than just a policy about it."

Packed house at Skokie town hall on mental health

By MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

Last week marked the 16th annual town hall meeting in Skokie on mental health care, a gathering sponsored by Turning Point Behavioral Health Care Center, which is a nonprofit outpatient provider serving Skokie, Morton Grove, Niles, Lincolnwood and Evanston.

For the first time, organizers said, the main auditorium in the Skokie Public Library was filled and an overflow crowd watched the Feb. 10 event by television in an adjacent room. Organizers said 230 people — mostly those who work in the health care field and community leaders — attended, more than double the count from last year.

"Each year at our town hall meeting, we welcome our community to this im-



MIKE ISAACS/PIONEER PRESS

Local, regional and national legislators talked about the state of mental health care Feb. 10 at the Skokie Public Library.

portant discussion about mental health services and the political and economic factors that impact us all," said Point CEO Ann Fisher Raney.

During the last few years, panelists have painted an especially bleak picture as they say critical funding for

mental health services has been jeopardized by fiscal uncertainty and state and federal political tumult.

Turning Point CFO Marsha Hahn, who moderated the town hall, said Turning Point had to decrease psychiatric services because of grants that failed to come

through. Her comments came after it was mentioned that Lake County has a wait list of two to eight months for psychiatric services, depending on the site.

State Rep. Laura Fine, D-Glenview, vice chairwoman of the Mental Health Committee in the Illinois House, promised to address this issue.

State Rep. Lou Lang, D-Skokie, called Springfield "a mess," but he said he and state Rep. Sara Feigenholtz, D-Chicago, will oversee a project that focuses on mental health.

"(We) are about to undertake an entire look at the mental health system in the state of Illinois," Lang said. "We are going to dismantle, piece by piece and bolt by bolt, and take a very long time to do it, but when we're finished we're going to have a better and more support-

ive health system."

Leslie Combs, district director for U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky, D-9th District, said the congresswoman is committed to trying to protect the Affordable Care Act.

"Before the ACA was passed," Combs said, "people died because they didn't have insurance and that's what will happen here."

Combs acknowledged that there are elements of the act that need fixing, but she said, the law should not be taken away.

"Mental health service costs could grow exponentially," she said. "It would take away access to preventative treatment and create barriers for access for those most vulnerable who are also, as we know, disproportionately affected by mental health illness and substance abuse issues."

Gov. Bruce Rauner was

invited, organizers said, but did not appear.

Some in the audience raised concerns that veterans with green cards are being deported after arrests related to mental health issues.

Combs said Schakowsky supports federal laws that prevent those who fought for this country from being deported.

"As a nation, we should be protecting those who we made promises to and who protected us and put their lives on the line," added Cook County Commissioner Larry Suffredin, D-13th District. "You have to keep reminding us ... that there is this group of people who have a unique bond to this country because of their service."

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NEWS

O'Hare runway plan may be renewed in the spring

Program still facing serious challenges, some fine-tuning

BY ROBERT MCCOPPIN
Chicago Tribune

A program to reduce jet noise in the worst-hit areas around O'Hare International Airport appears to have worked most of the time, officials said Feb. 8, and might be renewed this spring.

The program faces serious challenges, however. While the nighttime runway rotation plan provided relief to some residents closer to the airport, officials said, it spread more noise to the northwest suburbs, and the scheduled closing of a key runway next year will force fundamental changes to the program.

In addition, the Federal Aviation Administration raised safety concerns about some aspects of the plan. The FAA cited air traffic controllers' recommendations that they should stop having planes cross runways where other flights are landing, and that a long runway should be kept on standby.

The program, called the Fly Quiet Runway Rotation, was tested for six months last year as a way to spread night flights around O'Hare, rather than concentrating them immediately east and west of the airfield. Each week, a different pair of runways was designated for use, on a rotating basis.

The rotation operated as planned 67 percent of the time, according to an analysis by the Chicago Department of Aviation. The rest of the time, pilots did not use the designated runways, often because they wanted longer runways to handle larger loads.

Though Fly Quiet was designed to operate from 10 p.m. to 7 a.m., because of air traffic and other factors, it ran on average from 11:16



STACEY WESCOTT/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

An American Airlines plane sits near the 28L-10R runway at Chicago O'Hare International Airport on Oct. 15, 2015.

p.m. to 5:25 a.m.

Compliance varied widely, depending on the weather and which runways were designated. When winds were from the west, as they were half the time, flights were more likely to land from and take off to the west, regardless of the plan.

The runway most frequently used as part of the program, 15/33, runs south-east to northwest. It was used for 27 percent of departures, directing more flights over Arlington Heights, Mount Prospect and nearby areas, and diverting noise from the most affected areas, such as Schiller Park, northwest Chicago and Bensenville.

That runway is scheduled to close next year, as Chicago proceeds with construction to replace it. Noise complaints hit record levels in recent years near the airport after Chicago started building new east-west runways that are meant to be safer and more efficient than crossing concrete.

Monitors showed that Schiller Park still had the most noisy incidents overnight, with 27 flights of more than 65 decibels and nine of more than 85 decibels. Mayor Barbara Piltaver said that showed the need for Chicago to pay for more soundproofing of homes there.

Several members of the O'Hare Noise Compatibility

Commission's Fly Quiet Committee expressed support for the runway rotation. Bensenville Village Manager Evan Summers thanked the city, FAA and air traffic controllers for implementing the plan. He asked that any plan move more flights from over his residents' homes and instead go over industrial areas.

Schaumburg supported the test program, but its transportation director, Karyn Robles, cautioned that officials would have to consider the higher number of night flights taking off over its residents.

And Chicago resident Frank Gagliardi, a member of a residents' group called Fair Allocation in Runways, said the runway rotation concept was good, but there's room for improvement.

"I was shocked," he said. "It gave me a little more sleep."

City officials are scheduled to return Feb. 22 with a plan to renew the program, probably for another six months at most, with a final vote expected March 10. If approved by the FAA, which according to its spokesman is open to looking at renewing the program, it probably would start again in the spring.

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Skokie's Lubavitch school celebrates arrival of new Torah

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

When a new Torah arrives for the first time, it is cause for celebration, rabbis at Seymour J. Abrams Cheder Lubavitch Hebrew Day School in Skokie say.

The school certainly proved that Feb. 13 by holding an exuberant ceremony that began outside with a schoolwide march around the building and ended inside with music, dancing and boisterous good cheer.

Known as the most sacred item in the Jewish religion, a new Torah scroll is always welcomed in this celebratory fashion, said Rabbi Yitzchok Wolf, dean of Cheder Lubavitch.

"This is actually a very significant and extraordinary experience for the children," Wolf said. "The children will all read from this. We're trying to give the



MIKE ISAACS/PIONEER PRESS

The Seymour J. Abrams Cheder Lubavitch Hebrew Day School community celebrated the Feb. 13 arrival of a new Torah with a joyful march around the Skokie school. The Torah will be permanently housed at the school.

children the right perspective as to what Judaism means for a child growing

up in the 21st Century."

The Torah traveled a long way to find its perma-

nent home. It was a gift from Sherwin and Pam Willner of Lincolnwood in memory of Sherwin's parents, Ben and Mary Willner, school officials said.

A scribe (or "Sofer" in Hebrew) was commissioned in Israel, according to Wolf, and he wrote most of the Torah scroll in Jerusalem. Another scribe, Yochanan Nathan, finished the scroll, working some of the time at school where children could watch and learn the traditions of the Torah.

The final letters of the Torah were completed by Nathan Feb. 12 at the Palmer House hotel in Chicago where the celebrating began, Wolf said. Then the Torah was transported to the Skokie school.

"It's a beautiful thing to be able to hand over a Torah to the community," Nathan said during a recent visit to

the school. "There's always a lot of excitement about it. There's a continuity among all the generations of Jewish people."

Wolf said the Torah is "a piece of artwork" written by the scribe using a quill and ink. Nothing is [machine] printed; a piece of parchment that comes from deer or cow skin is used to create the sacred scroll, he said.

To create a Torah, according to Judaism, the scribe hand-writes the sacred scroll in a specific way and only then is it considered a kosher Torah. There are 600,000 letters in the Torah, which reflect the 600,000 Jews who exited Egypt in the time of the Exodus, Wolf said.

"There's a lot of history and tradition when it comes to commissioning the scribe to write the Torah," Wolf said. "It is exactly the

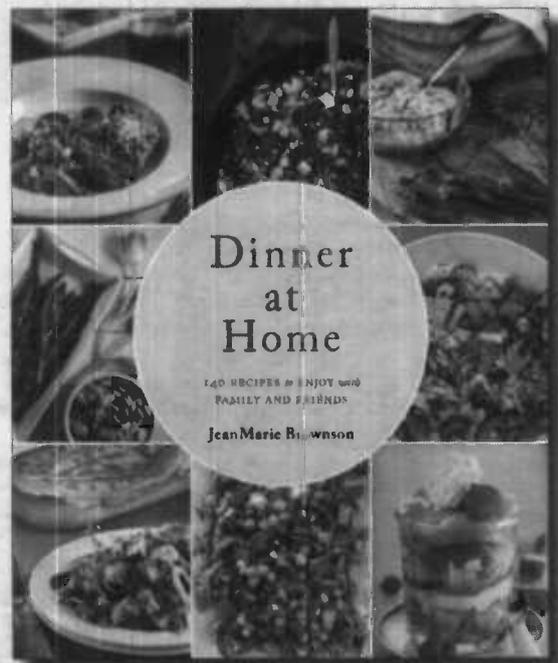
same Torah that the Jewish people had for thousands of years. Not even one letter was changed — added or subtracted."

Although other Torahs have been studied in the school, this is the first permanent one commissioned specifically for the children, Wolf said. That makes it even more special to the school community, he said.

The Torah represents a way of life, according to Wolf. It provides a foundation for living, he said.

"This school is not only where we convey facts and figures," Wolf said. "It gives them the right morals and the right values that children must have today in this pop culture environment that we're living in. We must give them something of content."

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Chicago Tribune

Fire, police departments square off

Cooking contest raises funds for local food pantry

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

It was the “the firehouse special” that topped the “pasta policia” Feb. 11 in the village of Lincolnwood’s “Iron Chef”-style competition and fundraiser.

The competition included teams of four, with one team representing the fire department and the other representing the police department. The teams were given pasta ingredients at the start of the cook-off and had about 25 minutes to come up with an entree.

The winning dish was prepared by the fire department’s team, which included Lt. Jim Bove, firefighter/paramedic Brad Wasiele, firefighter/paramedic Kristian Krynski and EMT/firefighter Tom Siwik.

“I’m very proud but I think we have an advantage because we have some really great cooks and they cook every day on their shift,” said Fire Department Chief Michael Hansen.

The Iron Chef’s Cook-off event, as it was officially called, was hosted by the village’s Human Relations Commission and held at the Lincolnwood Community Center.

It also featured over a dozen local restaurants with menu items that showcased the community’s ethnic and cultural diversity, organizers said.

An estimated 100 people were in attendance and Iron Chiefs raised over \$3,000 that officials said will be donated to the Niles Township food pantry.

“The feel-good aspect of sharing a meal as a community is that you get to meet your neighbors and see the wonderful restaurants that we have in the area,” said



KARIE ANGELL LUC/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

“Iron Chef America” judge Mario Rizzotti, right, poses with Lincolnwood fire and police department personnel, as well other chefs who judged the Iron Chef’s Cook-off event held in Lincolnwood Feb. 11.

Katie Gamroth, the village’s superintendent of recreation.

“Iron Chef America” judge Mario Rizzotti, who’s from Lincolnwood, served as celebrity emcee. The three chef judges who decided on the night’s winning entree were Paul Guerrero of the Cooking Skills Academy, Adam Weissell of Aurelia Osteria and “Top Chef” contender Carlos Gaytan.

“I’m very happy to be here because we are celebrating the Village of Lincolnwood,” said Rizzotti. “People should definitely enjoy the restaurants in Lincolnwood.”

Representing team Lin-

colnwood police were Detective Mike Kieca, Officer Alex Rodriguez, Officer Sandy Martin and Executive Secretary Mary Liss.

“It’s a great event and everybody’s a winner,” said police Chief Robert LaMantia. “It’s about understanding and accepting our diverse community.”

Among the restaurateurs who donated fare to the event was Mark Freedman, owner of the Wildwood Tavern of Niles. His son, Charlie, helped to serve the restaurant’s signature barbecue pulled pork on a bun.

Mark Freedman said he’s grateful to assist the food pantry.

“There are people who are hungry every night in the United States. There are children who go to sleep every night who are hungry,” he said. “You’ve got to try to do community support as much as you can.”

Hansen said the event is more than a competition, but also an opportunity for the public to fellowship with the first responders.

“The more than we work together and love one another and really embrace diversity within our community, I think the better off we will be,” he said.

Karie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.



“Iron Chef America” judge Mario Rizzotti, left, served as the emcee for the Iron Chief’s Cook-off event.

Can Trump's business-like approach to the presidency work?



RANDY BLASER

So what to make of the first few weeks of the Donald Trump presidency?

I've been waiting for the hysteria to calm down before commenting. How long can he keep up the whirlwind pace?

I hear news reports that the media is nearly out of breath chasing down every thing Trump does and doesn't do, and then commenting about it. My good friends who are liberals appear to be having nervous breakdowns or throwing temper-tantrums over Trump. Some seem resigned to the inevitable.

My advice is the same that Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel gave recently: Chill.

That is what I've been

trying to do these first few weeks of the Trump administration. To get a clear picture of what's going on beyond all the shouting and name-calling, don't overreact. Now that the Donald has had time to settle in as leader of the free world, what's he like? What are we in for over the next four years?

One of the most important traits for a president to be successful is the ability to grow in office. Kennedy had it and so did Clinton. Perhaps Reagan did, too. Eisenhower was already a towering world figure, so he didn't need it. The failed presidents - Johnson, Carter, Nixon - are the prime examples of presidents who showed little or no ability to grow in office. Their inability to rise above their character flaws spelled doom for them and pain for the country.

Can Trump grow in office? I don't know, but what realistic choice do we

have other than to give him a chance and realize that his failure will result in our pain. Presidents come and go but the country goes on. What has his whirlwind activity shown us so far? It seems to me Trump has approached governing the United States in the same way a professional CEO runs what is perceived to be a failing business. So far, he has been the proverbial bad boss who is not out to make friends but to put the company under stress to figure out where all the weak links are and to fix them.

His whirlwind pace the first few weeks is typical of such a boss, who comes in and starts dashing off orders, making changes, demanding reports, doing everything except the old way. "That's the way we've always done it," is unacceptable.

All that he said he would do in his job interview, he's going to do in week one.

Maybe week two.

So there is a frenetic pace at the plant. People are running around, going this way and that, and implementing the chief's wants, desires and orders with little or no thought to the ramifications.

Hence, we have the temporary travel ban, which is not an unusual presidential order. But it has been implemented in the worst possible way with no instructions, no protocol and no real understanding of the mechanism for entry into the United States for the multi-varied reasons people come.

"I don't care if you've got to break some eggs, just get it done," is the attitude.

Here's another thing. All the old ways of doing business across every department is at an end. You like to tweet out stuff about your department? Forget it. No more tweeting. There's a hold on everything until you're told the new way.



SAUL LOEB/AFP/GETTY IMAGES

President Donald Trump shakes hands with Oscar Munoz (left), president and CEO of United Airlines, during a meeting with airline industry executives in the State Dining Room of the White House in Washington, D.C., on Feb. 9.

There will be no reasoning, arguing or dissenting, either. You got information that says one thing. That's nice, but these are the facts I like. In every aspect, the old way of conducting business is completely wrong. That's what got the company into this mess. And anyone affiliated with the old boss or with loyalties to the old way is suspect. And just so everyone is clear that there's a new sheriff in town, the

first person to resist, to stand up to the new boss, is immediately fired.

"Anyone else want to resist? No? Good, let's move on to item 147 on the agenda."

So that's what we got. The heavy-handed new boss of a failing company where business as usual just won't cut it anymore.

Does that ever work?

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

No hall of fame for the masses of regular people



PAUL SASSONE

It's nice - really - that Tom Brady is the greatest quarterback in the history of fractional backs. He'll be in the Pro Football Hall of Fame as soon as he is eligible.

But there is no hall of fame for the convenience store clerk. Tom Brady is lauded wherever he goes. The convenience store clerk is on the verge of being punched out. A customer was claiming he had paid for two packs of smokes but hadn't received

them. The clerk politely said he had received them. The customer was getting angrier and angrier when I left.

Probably nothing happened. But why did the clerk risk getting slugged?

Because he was doing his job. He's paid to do a job and he does it. Just like millions of other Americans.

I read somewhere that workers waste a little over two hours a day on the job. Maybe that's right. Maybe it isn't. I've yet to see a study, though, on how many workers go into hock, or get a second job to send their kids to college. And I wouldn't mind seeing a study of how much time, say, a mail carrier wastes

when it is 95 degrees, 90 percent humidity and it's catalog day.

The thing is, people goof off at work and people work hard at work. Work is performed by human beings and human beings do all kinds of things, whether they're at work or not.

Most people - I am convinced - do the best they can. They work hard and worry simultaneously. I guess that's what they call multi-tasking. The vast majority of workers do their job in anonymity and with calamity only one serious illness away.

And there is no hall of fame for them. They aren't millionaires or billionaires. They are regular people. Oh, they may shake their

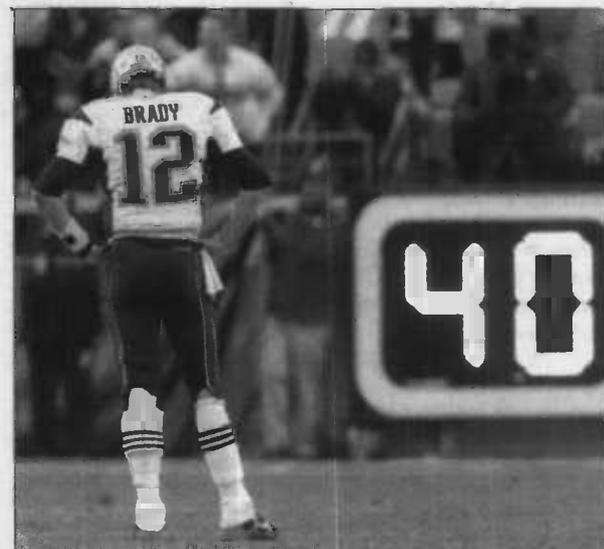
heads in sadness sometimes and wonder why raises are so small and why nobody has pensions anymore. But mostly they just go to work every day to support their family. Like that convenience store clerk.

I don't suppose Mr. Convenience Store Owner knows that his clerk went to bat for him for some cigarette money. There's no reason why he should. The clerk was just doing his job.

I can't help but wonder if some day there ever will be a Hall of Fame for Regular People?

Probably not. There would have to be too many members.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.



JOE MAHONEY/AP FILE PHOTO

New England Patriots quarterback Tom Brady stands on the field after a play during the second half of the NFL football AFC Championship game between the Denver Broncos and the New England Patriots on Jan. 24, 2016, in Denver. Brady and the Patriots would go on to win the Super Bowl against the Atlanta Falcons on Feb. 4, 2017.

Don't worry Falcons fans, Chicago knows how to deal with sports heartbreak



ERIC SCOTT

Hello Atlanta Falcons fans, have you crawled out of bed yet? I know, I know ... the Super Bowl comeback by the New England Patriots really was painful.

But that was days ago, the sting can't be as bad as ... no, it still is bad? Well, no one has heard from you since the conclusion of the big game, and I wanted to check-in to see how you're doing.

Remember ATL, always think how the glass is half-full, not half-empty. And hey, let's look at the good stuff!

You had a great season. You beat Aaron Rodgers and the Chicago-detested Green Bay Packers to win the NFC Conference Championship to get to the Super Bowl. Your quarterback was named regular season MVP and, don't forget, you're moving from your current domed stadium to a brand new one next year.

In Chicago, we can't grasp the concept of a domed stadium. We're still bundling up for football games in sub-zero cold and sporting multiple layers in December while enduring one of the many frigid "turnover bowls" we host at Soldier Field.

It must be nice to watch a Falcons game without wearing half the Land's End clothing catalog and having to wedge into your seat between two other guys who make the Michelin Man look slender.

Like you, though, we have had our share of sports pain — stuff you wouldn't believe!

Some of that pain was



CURTIS COMPTON/ASSOCIATED PRESS

Atlanta Falcons quarterback Matt Ryan reacts after losing Super Bowl 51 as confetti flies in Houston Feb. 5, 2017.

So, as nicely as I can put this, get over it, Atlanta!

remedied last year when one of our baseball teams won the World Series after more than a century of trying. Your baseball team won that prize in the '90s, so at least you have video highlights in color to remind you of better days.

But then there's football. What ... you still don't want to talk about it?

Well, I'm sure any time when one of your teams starts leading a game again by the score 28-3, even in baseball, there will be a collective cringe from the home crowd. What you have to understand is that once the second half of the Super Bowl started, your Falcons fell into a weird sports vortex where weird things happen in a way that

shows which team is going to win — no matter what happens on the field.

Only now are Cubs fans comfortable talking about the sports vortex that emerged in Game 6 of the 2003 National League Championship Series.

You want to talk about snake-bitten teams? Welcome to our reptile farm.

So, as nicely as I can put this, get over it, Atlanta! Yeah, this one is going to sting like a ripped off Band-Aid for a while, but there is a light at the end of the long off-season tunnel.

Look at it this way, y'all get to raise an NFC Championship banner to open your new building.

Plus, you have to know that no matter how much praise fans heap onto the Patriots, they'll always feel a bit deflated over certain things.

Eric Scott is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ensuring our security is the responsibility of the president

National security, simply, is to provide security of a nation, is it not?

In the U.S., it is a primary responsibility of the president. What is security? Most people have no clue. Security is like pregnancy: It is or it isn't.

Doesn't anyone remember Pearl Harbor or Sept. 11?

Vigilance is necessary in today's world. It is not only bombs and mass shootings, but organized

crime including narcotics, white slavery, protection money, kidnapping for ransom, etc. There are areas in Europe that are victims of a culture of rape, pillage and plunder. I do not want that cancer brought here.

Although the implementation of President Trump's executive order on the refugee program and immigration might have some rough edges, it was introduced by the

book — swiftly and secretly.

Also, the liberal and left-wing political opposition, supported by the new media, unknowingly has helped by promoting the fact that the U.S. Constitution does not apply to foreigners and has helped warn the world that to enter the U.S. is not a "right" but a "privilege."

-Harry Lepinske, Western Springs

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

O'Hare is an orbit of human energy

It's easy to imagine O'Hare cabbies betting on how long it will take their tourist fares to think their ride has already "reached the city." No wonder, when just a few minutes out they witness a line of towering glass and steel office buildings, flashing hotels and thickening traffic.

I know the feeling, for I moved here a short 50 years ago when most of this space was still only open fields and scattered houses.

We hear a lot about orbits of human energy: the West Wing, the recent women's march, Silicon Valley. One walk through the energy throbbing inside this compact few square miles, and you are caught up into its orbit. Given the million-plus

daily flights overhead, coupled with the thousands of office workers and hotel guests below, you quickly understand why hundreds of national conferences and seminars are held each year in its many convention spaces.

Events that bring together some of the keenest minds and missions from both corporate and scientific America.

There are times when we all experience connections with the spaces in our lives. This international airport and its surrounding space together constitute a dynamic instrument for change. Not so much political change, but rather paradigm change. Pushing forward the discovery of our best cognitive and spiritual

selves in time to meet an onrushing future.

In our young century, the old notions of territoriality and ownership, nationalism and patriotism, race and religion are inexorably dying. As Soren Kierkegaard wrote: "He who fights the future has a dangerous enemy." If there are eyes that can see that future, they will be the eyes of youth.

Youth which is always bound to be in conflict with the old authorities. Not unlike the youth of another time and space: The 16th C streets of Galileo.

Not unlike the youth who gather here year-round ...

-Jack Spatafora, Park Ridge

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We want to hear from you! Send your letters to the editor to suburbanletters@tribpub.com. Letters should not exceed 250 words and should include your name, phone number and address (only your name and town will be published).

'Timeless Motion' celebrates 25 years of dance

Show features 3 new pieces created in Thodos' in-house choreography program

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Two world premieres, the reprise of a poignant 2015 piece and three works created through an in-house choreography series will be featured in Thodos Dance Chicago's "Timeless Motion" at North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie on Feb. 25.

Artistic Director Melissa Thodos said they are calling the concert, "Timeless Motion" because, "It being our 25th anniversary season, we are performing works that span the spectrum of styles and many of the works have a timeless sensibility to them."

The Evanston native will premiere her piece, "Changing Strangers." "The strings within the piece are very fluid so I developed movements that portray a lot of fluidity. I structured the piece to be in pairings and the pairings change within the piece."

Guest choreographer Brian Enos will premiere his highly inventive "Acid Reign."

"I had this piece of music that I had been listening to for years that I wanted to create a work to," Enos said. He described the work, "Sunstroke" by Anders Trentemøller, as being "electronic but



CHERYL MANN PRODUCTIONS PHOTOS

Thodos Dance Chicago's piece "Near Light" honors Melissa Thodos's late brother.

had a woman's voice singing soulfully over the top of it. I started thinking about what a celebration might look like hundreds of years in the future on another planet."

He went into the studio with the dancers "and started exploring movement and creating vignettes and moments," Enos said. This is the second time that Enos has created a piece with Thodos Dance Chicago. "I find that the dancers are extremely open to playing around," he said. "They were willing to take my idea and play with me and run with it

which is such a nice treat. Not every group of dancers is that open and receptive to experimentation."

Thodos will reprise "Near Light," to honor her late brother. "Three years ago, I lost my brother very suddenly and tragically," she explained. "That loss was very hard for me and for my family. I wanted to create a piece about the process of loss and also the process of healing and reconnecting." The work is danced to the music of Olafur Arnalds. The show also features three pieces created in

Thodos' New Dances in-house choreography program: "Flawed" by ensemble member John Cartwright, "Uncovering" by ensemble member Briana Robinson, and "Sunrise" by guest choreographer Shannon Alvis. This is the 25th season that Thodos Dance Chicago has been presenting exciting and diverse programming. Thodos attributes that longevity in part to the company's flexibility as an organization. The other factors she mentioned were, "My passion for the art form and, in many respects, my determination and

Thodos Dance Chicago presents, 'Timeless Motion'

When: 7:30 p.m. Feb. 25
Where: North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie
Tickets: \$28-\$58
Information: 847-673-6300;
www.northshorecenter.org

the determination of the folks that have supported it and the artists' perseverance."

Thodos noted that there have been many highlights in the history of her company, including premiering her first piece and wonderful collaborations. She also cited the company's commitment to teaching dancing. The company has performed, created and taught dance in 27 states and on six continents. There are 12 dance artists in the ensemble. Changes are ahead. Thodos Dance Chicago has had a following at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, but this will be the company's last performance there as an ensemble. Thodos is taking her company in a new direction. She plans to focus on project-based work, including participating in residencies, pursuing independent teaching opportunities, creating pieces for festivals and participating in filming opportunities to spread the reach of dance, among other possibilities.

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DINING

It's Paczki time! Where to find the Fat Tuesday treat

This year Paczki Day, otherwise known as Fat Tuesday, is Feb. 28. The decadent Polish treats are filled with everything from fresh fruit to creme and mousse and can be topped with powdered sugar, icing or chocolate.

Below is a roundup of Chicago area spots that will sell paczki for a limited time. Many bakeries begin paczki sales days in advance of Fat Tuesday and don't require pre-orders for Fat Tuesday pickup. Make sure to call ahead to order or to confirm the dates of sale.



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Paczki, a doughnut-like Polish treat, will be sold on and around Fat Tuesday, Feb. 28, at many Chicago area bakeries.

Bennison's Bakery Paczki will be available in the store for purchase starting Feb. 20; pre-orders are currently being taken. Same-day orders won't be accepted for Feb. 27 and 28. A paczki eating contest will take place at 2 p.m. Feb. 25. 1000 Davis St., Evanston; 847-328-9434; www.BennisonsCakes.com

Central Continental Bakery Paczki will be sold Feb. 20-28, 1000 Davis St., Mount Prospect; 847-870-9500; www.centralcontinentalbakery.com

Chicago Sweet Connection Bakery 5569 N. Northwest Highway, Chicago; 773-283-4430; www.sweetconnectionbakery.com

Cumberland Bakery 36 E. Northwest Highway, Des Plaines; 847-827-7810; www.CumberlandBakery.com

Deerfields Bakery 813 N. Waukegan Road, Deerfield; 201 N. Buffalo Grove Road, Buffalo Grove; 25 S. Roselle Road, Schaumburg; 847-520-0068; www.DeerfieldsBakery.com

Deli For You 4343 N. Harlem Ave., Norridge, 708-457-1700; 9 E. Camp McDonald Road, Prospect Heights, 847-398-3838; 560 S. Roselle Road, Schaumburg, 847-466-5022; www.DeliForYou.com

Delightful Pastries Fat Tuesday orders should be made by Feb. 25. 5927 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago; 773-545-7215; www.delightfulpastries.com

Dinkel's Bakery Paczki will be sold Feb. 23-28. Fat Tuesday orders should be made by 2 p.m. Feb. 27. 3329 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago; 773-281-7300; www.dinkels.com

Kolatek's Bakery & Deli 2445 N. Harlem Ave., Chicago; 773-637-3772; www.KolateksBakery.com

Maler's Bakery 9328 Waukegan Road, Morton Grove; 847-967-8042; www.maiersbakery.com

Oak Mill Bakery 2314 E. Rand Road, Arlington Heights, 847-454-0139; 8012 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles, 847-318-6400; 4747

N. Harlem Ave., Harwood Heights, 708-867-9400; 5635 W. Belmont, Chicago, 773-237-5799; 2490 S. Wolf Road, Des Plaines, 224-422-2500; www.OakMillBakery.com

Oak Park Bakery 904 S. Oak Park Ave., Oak Park; 708-383-1712; www.OakParkBakery.com

Old Warsaw Buffet 4750 N. Harlem Ave., Harwood Heights; 708-867-4500; www.Old-Warsaw-Buffet.com

Racine Bakery 6216 S. Archer Ave., Chicago; 773-581-8500; www.racinebakery.com

Swedish Bakery 5348 N. Clark St., Chicago; 773-561-8919; www.swedishbakery.com

Vesecky's Bakery 6344 Cermak, Berwyn; 708-788-4144; www.facebook.com/VeseckysBakery

Weber's Bakery 7055 W. Archer Ave., Chicago; 773-586-1234; www.webersbakery.com

— Staff report

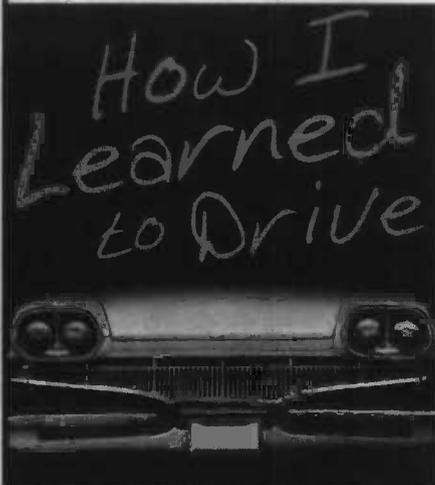
March 2 - 12

Larry Shue's hilarious farce skewers the two-faced "moral majority" and roasts it over a growing fire of revelatory comedy. Like the best farces, the audience is in on the joke from the very beginning, but as the main character falls deeper and deeper into his deception, the tension builds in outrageously improbable situations and is released in uproarious laughter.



April 6 - 15

Paula Vogel's 1998 Pulitzer Prize winning play is a compassionate, sophisticated, and gently humorous look at a heart-rending family tragedy. It is a coming of age story of a bright and perceptive girl, Li'l Bit, who matures from a lonely 11-year-old into an 18-year old who can stand up to her oppressor, her emotionally stunted Uncle Peck who preys on her need for approval.

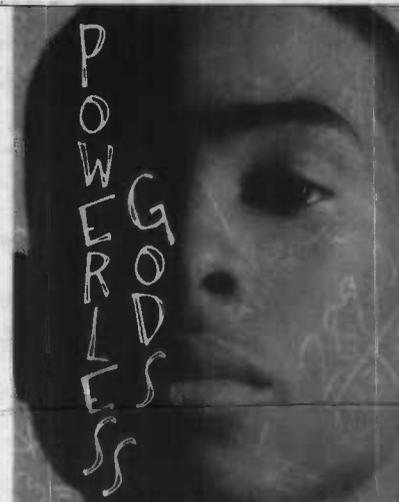


Saturday, April 22, 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 23, 3 p.m.

Staged Reading

A thoughtful, timely play that looks unflinchingly at the problems of urban education—public vs. charter, race, respectability politics, class, and identity. *Powerless Gods* entertains the heart while lighting the way toward hope, freedom, and empowerment in the face of bleak times and circumstances.



Six Piano Ensemble

Saturday, April 29, 8 p.m.

Sunday, April 30, 3 p.m.

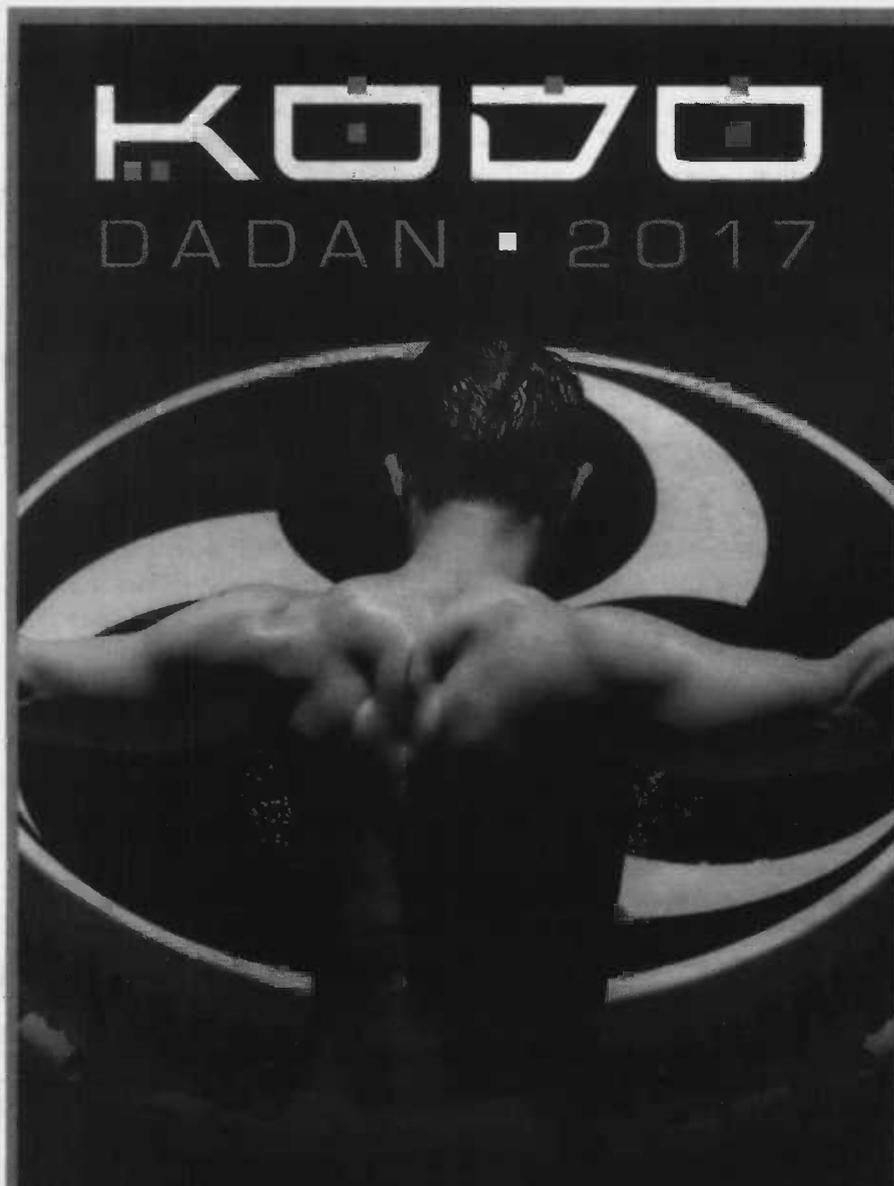
Following a triumphant performance last summer at the World Conference for Music Education in Glasgow, the Six Piano Ensemble performs classical, ragtime, and popular music transcribed for six pianos. The rich, layered sound is comparable to an orchestra as the melody transfers from pianist to pianist. Enjoy this extraordinary musical experience and get your tickets early for this annual favorite!

A reception will follow the concerts.



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MUSIC

Anne Burnell channels Julie London in 'Cry Me a River'

BY MYRNA PETLICKI

Pioneer Press

Acclaimed cabaret artist Anne Burnell will channel a singer known for her sultry, sensual singing style when she presents "Cry Me a River: A Julie London Tribute" at the Skokie Theatre on Feb. 24. Anne's husband Mark Burnell is music director.

Anne said that the concert was inspired by a trumpet player she worked with who compared her to London because, "I like to hang out with the band and be one of the guys."

"That kind of surprised me because she was such a glamorous pinup person. It endeared her to me."

When Anne suggested they create a show about London, Mark immediately agreed.

"I always liked her voice — that really husky, breathy, smoky, sexy sound," he said. "It kind of reminded me of a tenor sax player that plays with a lot of air, like a Ben Webster or Stan Getz."

"A warm, warm, warm sound," Anne said. "She's an actress so she's infusing every lyric with meaning."

When guitarist Henry Johnson, who produced and arranged Anne's most recent album, "Summer Days & Dreamy Nights," agreed to join them, "We knew we had a show," Anne said.

The Burnells began researching London and discovered, to their great surprise, that she had recorded 32 albums in 15 years.

"It's an insane amount of material," Anne said, noting that only two or three songs were repeated on all those albums.

"Then (Anne) presented me with 88 songs," Mark said. "She chose such great material. She sang the best songs."

They managed to reduce that number to a little over two dozen songs. Since the majority of London's songs were ballads, they selected some of the up-tempo numbers to create a more balanced show.

Audience members will hear a couple of pieces written by London's husband, songwriter and jazz pianist Bobby Troup, "The Meaning of the Blues" (lyrics by Leah Worth) and "Girl Talk" (music by Neal Hefti).

In addition, Anne's numbers will include, "Nice Girls Don't Stay for Breakfast," "And I Love Him," "Bye Bye Blackbird" and, of course, "Cry Me a River."

Two other musical notables have been added to the concert.

Drummer Paul Wertico, who played with the Pat Metheny Group from 1983-2001 and currently tours with Wertico Cain & Gray, has won seven Grammy



ANNE BURNELL PHOTO

Anne Burnell will perform a tribute to actress and singer Julie London, who released 32 albums in 15 years.

'Cry Me a River: A Julie London Tribute'

When: 7:30 p.m. Feb. 24

Where: Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie

Tickets: \$25

Information: 847-677-7867

www.skokie theatre.org

Awards and earned several gold records.

Double bassist Mark Sonksen has played in all of the Chicago area's major jazz clubs, including a regular weekly gig at the Green Mill in Uptown. He has also toured around the country and across the globe.

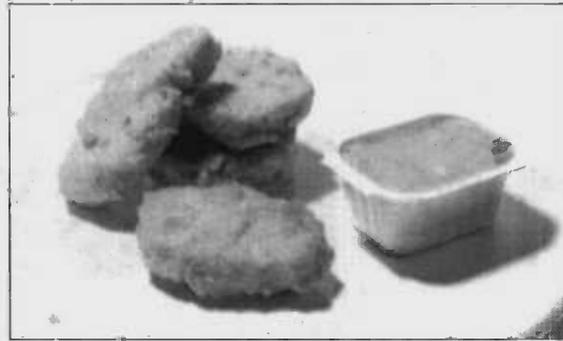
Besides singing London's songs, Anne will share information about London who, in addition to being a nightclub, jazz and pop singer, was a film and television actress and a onetime pinup model. To be certain that the information is accurate, the couple has been in frequent contact with Michael Owen, whose definitive biography, "Go Slow: The Life of Julie London," will be released in July.

This has turned out to be a mutually beneficial relationship. Anne said Owen is "thrilled someone is doing a show of her music."

Section 2

Living

Thursday, February 16, 2017



Love essentially:
Chicken nuggets
can have a
romantic side

Page 11

CN
★



Aria Ricchetti, of River Forest, brushes her teeth.

ERICA BENSON/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Kids: Do it yourself

Experts: Teaching children self-sufficiency early helps ease the transition to adulthood Page 3

FOOD

Blame it on Rio

Can't say no to Brazil's Carnival food

By Veronica Hinke
Pioneer Press

Can't get away for Carnival? The flavors of Rio aren't so far away. From Feb. 18 through March 5 an estimated 2 million people will once again take to the streets of Rio de Janeiro for the longest, largest pre-Lenten party in the world. And Brazil's favorite foods are as essential to the festival as the voluptuous costumes and flamboyant dance steps. But you don't have to fly south for the food. From feijoada (black bean stew) to moqueca, (coconut fish stew) and so much more, the flavors of Brazil are within a short drive and they're a cinch to make in your own kitchen.

At Texas de Brazil in Schaumburg, classic moqueca de peixe com coco, or moqueca, a coconut fish stew, will be on the menu through March. Culinary Director Evandro Caregnato explained that moqueca is more popular in the northern parts of Brazil, where fish and coconut are more available.

Moqueca is extremely flavorful with touches of lemon juice and cilantro. "Cilantro is not a favorite ingredient of gauchos and rarely used in the gaucho cuisine, but in this dish, combined with the lemon, it provides a bright flavor," Caregnato said. "The coconut milk provides a delicious aroma while azeite de dende (palm tree oil) gives the dish a lovely golden color."

But as Caregnato pointed out, Carnival time is rarely a time to eat at home. "Carnival in Brazil is not a holiday centered around tables of food at home such as Thanksgiving," he said. "Instead, people are out celebrating and choosing a variety of food available through street vendors such as churrasquinho."

Churrasquinho is like a kabob. It is a combination of winter squash, chicken, beef sirloin, pork, kielbasa, bacon, bell peppers, tomatoes and onions, all served on a bed of rice. Churrasquinho isn't on the Texas de Brazil menu, but it is simple to make.

Calabresa sausage bites, a seasonal Brazilian appetizer, will be on the menu starting Feb. 15 at Taste of Brasil Cafe in Oak Park. "Calabresa bites are very popular all over Brazil," chef/owner Cristiane Pereira said. "They are served in bars and restaurants throughout the country. They consist of an incredibly delicious sausage made with garlic and smoked for a unique flavor."



TASTE OF BRASIL CAFE PHOTO

Taste of Brasil chef/owner Cristiane Pereira holds up a plate of feijoada (Brazilian black bean stew) at her Oak Park restaurant.

The sausage and onions cook in the same sauce pan on the stovetop. "We let them caramelize together," she said. "When you taste the calabresa sausage bites, you quickly notice the smokiness of the sausage and the sweetness of the onion coming together as a perfect pair." The bites are served with a French baguette and drizzled olive oil.

Feijoada, the Brazilian black bean stew, is also on the menu at Taste of Brasil Cafe. "It's Brazil's national dish," Pereira said.

"The stew takes a while to make, since there are many steps, but there is surely a reward after all the hard work"

Feijoada is one of the many beloved foods of Brazil that Pereira's mother taught her how to make. "This is a great dish to be served for a special holiday like Carnival, when you have family and friends together for a big a party. It's an intricate dish that is full of flavor. We can taste the best combinations of black beans and meats in one single pot."

Feijoada (Brazilian black bean stew)

- 1 pound dried black beans, picked over and soaked overnight (use same water for boiling)
- 6 ounces smoked bacon, cut into cubes
- 1½ pounds boneless pork shoulder (Boston butt) cut into 1/2-inch cubes
- 3-4 bone-in beef short ribs or other meaty beef or pork ribs
- 1 pound smoked pork sausages such as lingulca
- 4 bay leaves
- 2 medium onions, finely chopped
- 6 large garlic cloves, peeled and minced
- ½ cup olive oil
- Salt, to taste
- Freshly ground black pepper, to taste

1. Put beans into a large saucepan of cold water. Bring to a boil over medium heat, then simmer until tender (about 30 minutes). Add meats and ribs and bay leaves to the beans and cook for 30 minutes over a medium heat. Heat a very large saucepan and pour in the olive oil so it covers the bottom. Add the onions and garlic and cook until softened.

2. Add the sausages and bacon. Pour in the cooked beans and meat. Simmer for about one hour or until the meat falls off the bone. Add salt and pepper. Suggested accompaniments: 2 naval oranges, cut into wedges; farofa (Brazilian toasted yucca flour); sauteed collard greens. Serve with steamed white rice.

Calabresa sausage bites

- 4 tablespoons olive oil
- 1 medium whole onion, sliced medium thick
- Salt and pepper, to taste
- 1 pound calabresa (garlic smoked sausage)
- Oregano, to taste

1. Cut sausage in small diagonal pieces. Heat 2 tablespoons of olive oil in a sauce pan on stovetop. Add the onions and season with salt and pepper and cook until softened. Add calabresa and continue to cook until the onion is caramelized and the sausage is thoroughly cooked. Finish with a touch of oregano and drizzle remaining 2 tablespoons of olive oil on top. Serve with a baguette slice.

Cristiane Pereira, Taste of Brasil Cafe, Oak Park

Kids: Do it yourself

Teaching children self-sufficiency early helps ease the transition to adulthood, say experts

By Danielle Braff
Chicago Tribune

After 4-year-old Aria Ricchetti wakes up each morning, she grabs the outfit she helped choose the previous night and gets herself dressed.

Then, she brushes her teeth and hair, feeds the dog, sets the table, toasts waffles for herself and her little brother and begins eating her breakfast while her mother gets ready for the day.

Aria, of River Forest, is a self-sufficient anomaly at a time when kids, teens and even some adults are relying on their parents to do everything for them. There's even a name for it: emerging adulthood. Instead of leaving the nest, getting married and becoming parents themselves in their early 20s, most people are postponing these transitions until at least their late 20s.

A Pew Research Center study found that nearly a quarter of 25- to 34-year-olds are living with their parents or grandparents, up from 11 percent in 1980. And another Pew study shows that about three-quarters of adults with at least one grown child said they had financially supported that child within the last year. Half of those said they were their grown child's primary means of support.

It may seem extreme to believe that simply failing to be self-sufficient as a child can lead to financial instability and the inability to leave the nest in your 20s, but experts said there's a link.

"Helping children to acquire the skills to be self-sufficient also helps them be self-sufficient adults," said Gina Lofquist, senior director of teacher education at the American Montessori Society.

Lofquist said that if parents do everything for their children, then these children will come to depend on their parents, which will eventually lower their self-esteem. On the other end of the spectrum, if you show children that you trust them to do more,



ERICA BENSON/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Aria Ricchetti, 4, of River Forest, helps teach her little brother, Leo, how to feed the family dog, Zola, prior to Aria leaving for school at Mosaic Montessori Academy.

then the children will establish a sense of independence for themselves, and they will gain self-sufficiency skills.

"We educate children in terms of the adult that they will be," Lofquist said. "It all starts with the fact that we trust children."

That's why at Montessori schools children are allowed to cut with real knives, they toast with real toasters, and they can even iron by themselves. When the 2-year-olds want a snack, they walk over to the snack area and they peel themselves their own hard-boiled egg or their own clementine.

"It's everyday living skills," she said.

Aria, who has been going to the Mosaic Montessori Academy in River Forest since she was 1½, embraces her independence, said

her mother, Roshni Ricchetti, who mainly attributes Aria's self-sufficiency to two things: the Montessori method and to her own laziness.

"If I just lie around, she likes to help, and she likes doing things herself," Ricchetti said.

While Ricchetti was very open to having Aria be independent ever since she was a baby, most parents are hesitant, though they shouldn't be, said Madeleine St. Jacques, a New Jersey-based certified parent/family coach.

"It's never too young to start teaching self-sufficiency skills," St. Jacques said.

During tummy time or when babies are crawling, walking or learning to walk, parents can put objects just out of their reach to help them try to grab them. Eventually, the baby will reach the

objects, and they will gain satisfaction from doing so.

"We want our kids to be happy, and we want to spare them discomfort," St. Jacques said. "But if we rescue them too early and too often from the safe, everyday struggles, we're denying them opportunities for growth."

Younger children can help with meal prep, laundry, pet care and packing their lunch boxes; preteens can walk short distances unsupervised and complete homework on their own; teens should be doing their own laundry and shopping for their own clothing, St. Jacques said.

Treats, pep talks and a playful tone can help if your child is resistant to starting a task, said Carol Weston, author of nine books and advice columnist at *Girls' Life* since 1994.

And start small, she suggested. So you can tell your child that you'll set the timer, so he can clean his room for 10 minutes before you go shopping. Or ask him to quickly set the table before dinner or help load the dishwasher before dessert.

With teens, you could be more comfortable, presenting the task as definitive: Dinner is in 10 minutes, so let's set the table together.

"No cajoling or scolding; try to be matter-of-fact," Weston said. "Present the task as a given."

While there will be tears, especially with the infants and younger children, the rewards of self-sufficiency are worth it.

"Part of being a kid is being proud of your accomplishments: picking an outfit, getting dressed. Each of them are small, attainable goals that allow them to feel good about yourself every day," Ricchetti says.

These are also small steps to showing children that they can take care of themselves, said Eileen Gallo, psychotherapist and co-author of "Silver Spoon Kids."

Gallo used to give her teen a clothing allowance and would take him to the mall to help him shop.

"The first time I did it, I helped him understand the clothing," she said. "I told him to feel the fabric, feel the seams."

She had a cup of tea while he walked around the mall and figured out what he wanted, and then she joined him to pay for the clothing. The following year, he was able to do it all himself.

"There are so many opportunities to guide them," Gallo said. But part of being self-sufficient is also learning to fail.

One year, Gallo's son used his money on a wool coat. At the time, they were living in Los Angeles, so the wool coat wasn't necessary, and he didn't have any money left for other clothing.

It was a lesson he'd never forget.

Danielle Braff is a freelancer.

PETS/ANIMALS

MY PET WORLD

Each dog has a different tail for a reason

By Marc Marrone
Tribune Content Agency

Q: My question is one of tails! We have three dogs — a Boston terrier, a mini poodle and a golden retriever. The Boston has a teeny-weeny tail, the Poodle has a tail that was obviously cut off and the Golden has a big long tail. All three dogs seem happy with the way things are but we were wondering why there seems to be such a difference in the tail that a particular dog has? — Fran Weller, Chicago, IL

A: Well, the dog probably is the most domesticated animal on earth and the definition of a domesticated animal is one whose genes are controlled by man. In other words, when a spontaneous mutation occurs in a group of animals being bred by man in a controlled environment, then we do our best to breed more offspring from that animal that was born with the mutation in hopes that it will pass the characteristic to the next generation.

So the Boston terrier has a little short tail that is pretty much useless, however when a dog was born with such a tail long ago, the human that saw it thought it was a desirable trait for whatever reason. Then they did their best to be sure that dog had puppies that also had the little bob tail. Thus the modern Boston terrier and bulldogs all have that particular type of tail.

The short tail of your poodle is



MICHAEL TERCHA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2015

Founder Kelly Moyer plays with five of the 39 rescue dogs at Tails of Hope, 1628 Old Deerfield Road, in Highland Park.

not so simple. Dogs like poodles, terriers, cocker spaniels, boxers, Dobermans and many others are subjected to having their tails amputated or "docked" soon after they are born. They are made to a length that has been determined by a breed club that controls the standard that dogs of that particular breed are compared to.

The reason for this is because the job the dog was bred to do is enhanced by the dog having a shorter tail than nature intended. Although that argument does not hold much water as for every breed of dog that has a docked tail there is another breed with a natural tail that does the same

kind of job.

So basically it is the same situation as the short tail of the Boston terrier — for whatever reason long ago a dog breeder thought the particular dog they had looked better to them with a docked tail, and since nature did not cooperate then the breeder took matters into their own hand with a scalpel.

I myself do not judge this situation as long as the docking is done by a vet. Most dogs really do not seem to care in the end, but there are those that do, and as a result, dogs in the European Union are not docked no matter what the breed. So they look very different

from what we in the USA think when we visualize a particular breed of dog.

Obviously the creators of the golden retriever determined that their particular breed was just fine with the tail the way it was and that is why they look the way they look today. There are many other different types of tails that breeds of dogs have, such as the tightly curled tail of the pug or the long whip tail of the greyhound, but no tail type determines if any one dog will be a better pet than the other.

When you compare all these different tail variations with the natural tail of the dog's ancestor, the wolf, then you can really appreciate how the creation of the dog by early humans is indeed the eighth wonder of the world.

Q: Is it helpful to occasionally feed the backyard gray squirrels when the ground is frozen and inaccessible in winter? I thought it would be difficult for them to retrieve their buried storage of nuts. Do squirrels remember where they have hidden all of their food supply? Thank you very much. — Kim Hustik Nesconset, New York

A: When you are a little animal living outside in 20-degree temperatures then any help is appreciated and squirrels are no exception. They are one of my favorite animals to observe and I feed them whenever the opportunity presents itself.

Although we admire the idea of an animal hiding food to take advantage of at a later date, the squirrels that are hiding nuts and acorns in the nice weather have no idea they are doing it to help them through the winter. Squirrels that are born in May have no idea that the winter will be upon them six months later.

Although squirrels are smart and do communicate with each other, I doubt they have enough folds in their brains to allow the older squirrels to impart the experience of living through winter to the younger ones.

It is instinct that tells them to bury nuts, the same instinct that has a dog go through all the motions of burying a bone or toy between the cushions of a couch. If there is an abundance of food available, such as more than they can eat at a particular moment in time, then the squirrels will bury the extra nuts here and there. And then later on, they will find it through chance and their keen sense of smell. Of course they do not recover all their nuts and this is how the forest helps to regrow via the ones they do not find by springtime.

Marc Marrone 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.



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Power steering fails after leaving dealership

My daughter bought a used 2011 Ford Escape on Jan. 17 from an area dealership. We drove about 30 minutes when the power steering failed. We were able to pull to the side of the street, turn off and re-start the vehicle. The power steering worked, then went out again. When we finally got home, I called the dealership. They said bring the vehicle back. The next day I carefully drove the vehicle back to the dealership. The diagnostic computer gave a power steering error/fault code. The sales manager told me they would take care of it after I voiced my concern that I shouldn't have to pay for any of it.

Finally, two days later after I called the dealer, he told me the repair estimate was \$2,270, and I would have to pay half. I found it hard to comprehend that I would have to pay anything, since the steering failed on the way home from their dealership. I asked for our money back. He flat out said no.

Bill, Arlington Heights

After sending me the above email, Bill complained vigorously to the sales man-

ager, who eventually backed-pedaled and agreed to fix the SUV free of charge. It then sat at the dealership for three weeks "waiting for a part to be delivered." The repair was completed on the three-week anniversary of its purchase.

One of my first questions to Bill was: Did you have the car inspected by a mechanic before the purchase? He said the salesperson told him the car could only be inspected if his mechanic came to the dealership. As such, no inspection occurred.

Because I wanted to gather some additional data points on how a situation like Bill's would be addressed by other dealerships, I reached out to Fields Chrysler Jeep Dodge Ram in Glenview and Joe Rizza Ford Porsche Lincoln in Orland Park.

"There's nothing in the law that says a dealer has to do anything to address issues once a car leaves the lot," explained Doug Morris, Fields' service director. "When you buy a used car, the phrase 'buyer beware' is



CATHY CUNNINGHAM
Help Squad

true." However, Morris told me: "There's no question Fields would fix the car. And if it was cost-prohibitive to fix, we'd find something else on the lot that fit the bill." He added that Fields would additionally provide a loaner until the issue was resolved.

According to Morris, every used car bought by Fields undergoes a thorough inspection by its mechanics before being placed on the lot. If, after inspection, a car is deemed cost prohibitive to repair, it's sent to a wholesale auction. Morris also told me that as long as a mechanic is local, Fields has no problem with customers taking a car to be looked over before buying it.

Terrie Levens, office manager at Joe Rizza, concurred with Morris. She told me: "[Joe Rizza] most likely would have fixed the vehicle as part of the transaction."

For guidance on requesting a pre-sale mechanic's inspection, I contacted Chuck Hartaugh, owner of C&M Auto Service in Glenview. He offered the following point-

ers:

■ For vehicles out of factory warranty, it is critical to have a thorough inspection before the purchase. If no written warranty is provided, it is sold "as is."

■ The buyer is responsible for the cost of the inspection. This can range from \$65 to \$130 depending on the vehicle.

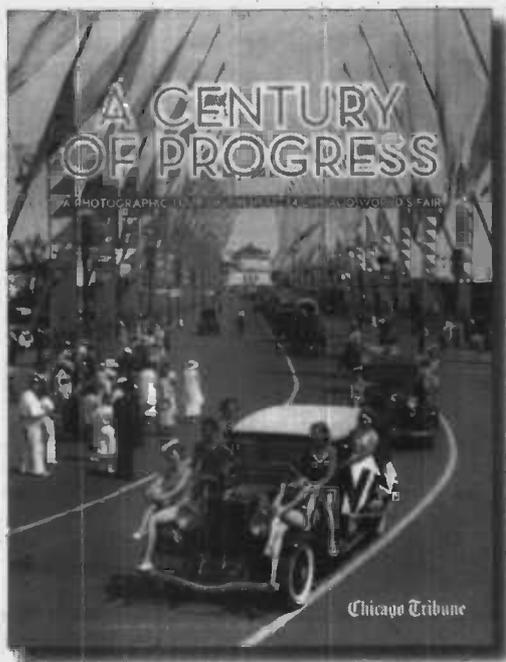
■ If a vehicle is newer and within factory warranty, check its history for collision. The warranty may be void where repairs were made, but if repaired correctly, it will not affect the reliability or longevity of the vehicle.

■ A thorough inspection consists of raising the vehicle, pulling off the wheels, checking fluid conditions, looking for leaks, checking for worn suspension parts, scanning the modules and doing a good road test.

Need help?

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

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.



Trib Books

LIBRARY

Travel back in time to 1930s Chicago with *A Century of Progress: A Photographic Tour of the 1933-34 Chicago World's Fair*. This historical collection features more than 100 rare - and in some cases, unpublished - photographs documenting the fair's construction, demolition and everything in between. Readers will glimpse the technological feats and futuristic exhibits that characterized the fair, as well as elements of lasciviousness and insensitivity that, while clearly on display during the exposition, may prove shocking to modern readers.

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Chicago Tribune

BOOKS

Everyday resistance

Taking the high road shouldn't lead to martyrdom

By John Warner
Chicago Tribune

In 1971, along with three partners, my mother founded the Book Bin, an independent bookstore in Northbrook.

I was a year old. All through my childhood and into my teens, the store chugged along, not a blockbuster, but a viable business. And then a man named Robert Haft appeared sitting among piles of books declaring, "Books cost too much."

Haft, the son of successful businessman Herbert Haft (Trak Auto, Dart Drug and others), was the founder and CEO of Crown Books. And Crown Books was going to destroy the Book Bin.

I've been thinking about resistance lately. Because I've lived a largely privileged life, I haven't had to think deeply about these things before. That's to my shame. I'm going to practice more vigilance now.

I believe the way the Book Bin resisted the invasion of Crown Books is at least worthy of remembrance and appreciation.

The "genius" of Crown was to discount best-sellers so the margins were infinitesimally small, or even in some cases, below cost. A hardcover that sold at the Book Bin for a list price of \$19.95 would sell for less than \$12 at Crown. Even selling "full price" books, margins were small — perhaps \$4 per hardcover sold. Crown cut that margin to \$1 per book.

It is important not to become what you are trying to resist. In the case of the Book Bin, discounting best-sellers as Crown did would mean losing money on every book sold. Instead, it would have to double down on serving the community well by matching readers and books, and by ordering lesser-known titles.

At the same time, resisting means offering actual resistance. Refusing to become what you are resisting is not about endlessly turning the other cheek. The popular "when they go low, we go high" mantra can easily be misinterpreted

in a way that turns into noble martyrdom.

Here's the thing about martyrs, though. They're all dead. I don't see the justice in that.

When the Book Bin was low on particular hot titles, it's possible that my mom would hop in her car, drive a town or two over, buy a dozen copies from Crown (at less than even her wholesaler would charge), and then resell them in her store.

Strictly kosher? No. The high road? Of course. The Book Bin had customers who wanted to buy books. Fulfilling that need is the highest road imaginable.

Resistance also obviously requires sacrifice, and it is those with the most privileges who must step forward and sacrifice first. For the Book Bin, this meant years of employees getting paid first, and the owners, including my mom, last, or not at all.

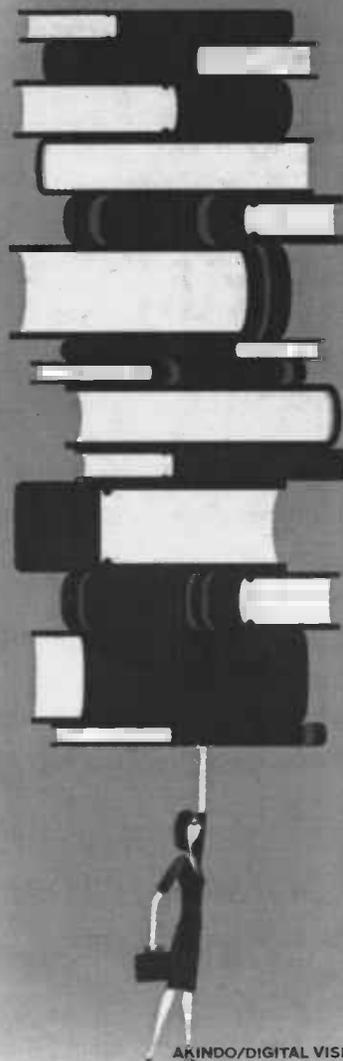
Often, it seems to me that movements are successful if they can just last long enough for the enemy to undo itself. In the case of Crown Books, the company could not survive Herbert Haft's contentious divorce, which pitted father against son, causing turmoil that ultimately led to bankruptcy.

The Book Bin endures, still in downtown Northbrook, a few doors down from its original location.

But the resistance took its toll on my mom's enjoyment of the work. Not long before Crown's ultimate implosion, she sold her half of the store to her partner.

Not everyone can expect to come through an act of resistance unscathed, which is why it's even more important for us to act collectively. When I go home, I go by the Book Bin and give private thanks to everyone who believed it was important enough to save.

John Warner is the author of "Tough Day for the Army." Follow him @biblioracle.



AKINDO/DIGITAL VISION VECTORS

Book recommendations from the Biblioracle

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

1. "Consider the Lobster" by David Foster Wallace
2. "Never Let Me Go" by Kazuo Ishiguro
3. "Mao II" by Don DeLillo
4. "How To Be Alone: Essays" by Jonathan Franzen
5. "The Moviegoer" by Walker Percy — Kyle P., Chicago

I've been thinking about the writers I wish were still around to help us through these times. James Baldwin is at the top of the list, but David Foster Wallace is in the top five. I think Kyle may enjoy the fierce and funny "Long Division" by Kleese Laymon.

1. "When Breath Becomes Air" by Paul Kalanithi
2. "The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks" by Rebecca Skloot
3. "Hidden Figures" by Margot Lee Shetterly
4. "The Light Between Oceans" by M.L. Stedman
5. "The Princess Diarist" by Carrie Fisher — Jane P., Chicago

When I see a list of well-publicized books, I'm like to recommend something less widely read: "Great White Fathers" by John Tallafiero tells the story of Gutzon Borglum, the sculptor of Mount Rushmore, who had some very grand notions indeed.

1. "Silent Spring" by Rachel Carson
2. "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood
3. "The Line of Beauty" by Alan Hollinghurst
4. "Cloud Atlas" by David Mitchell
5. "Wolf Hall" by Hilary Mantel — Kate P., Lake Forest

The first two titles on the list suggests Kate's reading has been influenced by the Trump presidency. My recommendation doesn't correlate directly, but as a great science fiction writer, Octavia Butler uses storytelling to illuminate the particulars of the world we live in today — and tomorrow. My recommendation is "Kindred."

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.



puzzle island

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2/12

COIN COLLECTION: Who originated certain words

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

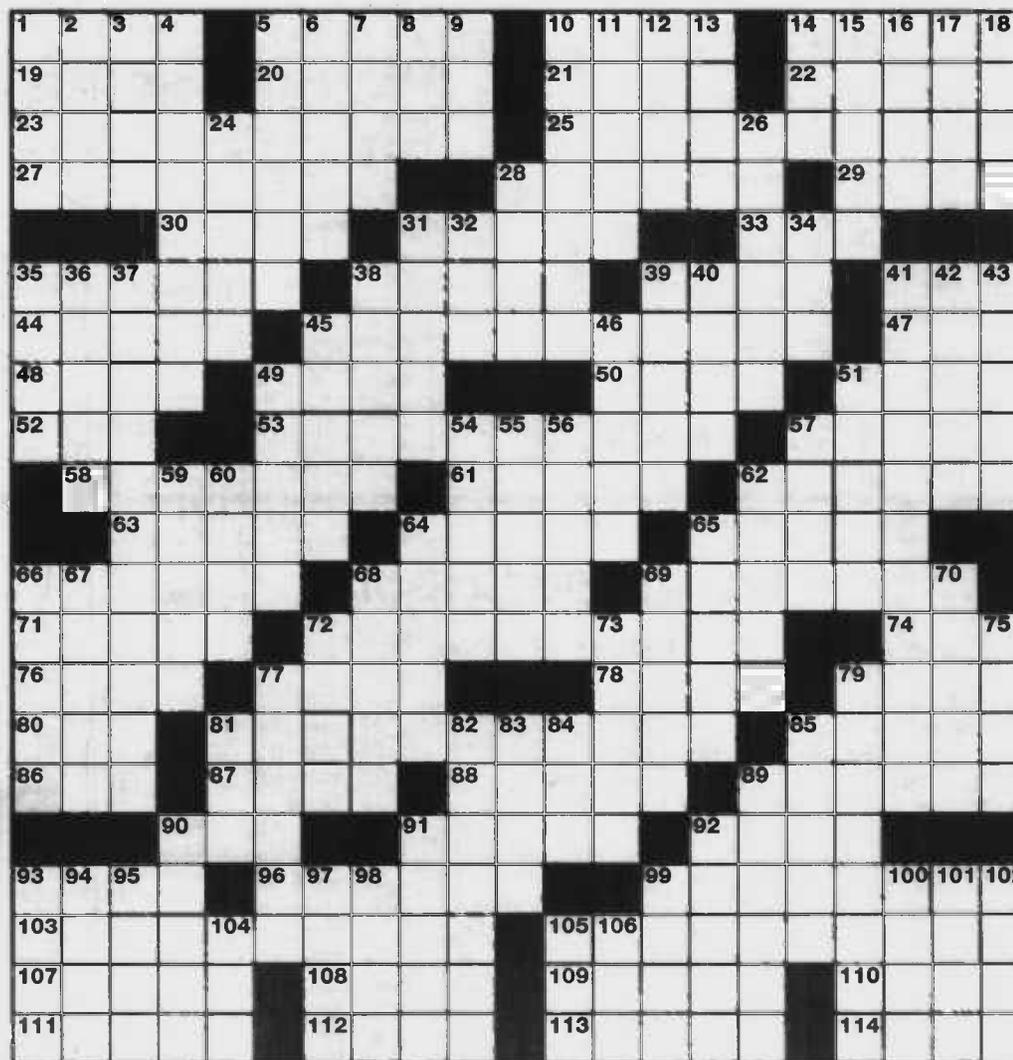
Across

- 1 Wear a long face
5 Erased, as a hard disk
10 Upscale retail chain
14 Continental divider
19 Similar in nature
20 Sambuca flavoring
21 Albacore, for one
22 Backyard spot
23 Political deception (Stephen Colbert)
25 Destructive weapon (H.G. Wells)
27 Discuss in detail
28 Parliamentary term
29 NYSE debuts
30 Tech's caller
31 Boils or broils
33 Inc., in England
35 Lowered in esteem
38 Put a hex on
39 Lion's home
41 AMA members
44 Caused to yawn
45 Meaningless talk (Lewis Carroll)
47 Muesli morsel
48 Some 112 Across
49 Programmer's output
50 Fortune-teller's intro
51 Ballet skirt
52 Volcanic emission
53 Tough as nails (Mark Twain)
57 Batmobile rider
58 Fiend
61 Solitude seeker
62 Author Castaneda
63 Strand in winter, perhaps

- 64 Some diner-mat games
65 Incite to anger
66 Cream-filled dessert
68 Cable installer
69 Red wines
71 Sleigh accessories
72 One on foot (Wordsworth)
74 Guys
76 Make airtight
77 *Selma* lead role
78 Exclusively
79 Clickable text
80 Quarterback Manning
81 Chaos (Milton)
85 Hair conditioner
86 Persona — grata
87 Mice, to owls
88 Role models
89 Failed rapidly
90 "Give Kids a Smile" org.
91 Fridge forays
92 LummoX
93 Sighed word
96 *Honor Thy Father* author
99 Bargain-bin markers
103 Self-love (Coleridge)
105 Timid one (Dorothy Parker)
107 Slight adjustment
108 Reebok rival
109 Powered a rowboat
110 Gyro bread
111 Hogwarts potions professor
112 Office supplies
113 Home of many Goyas
114 Genesis setting

Down

- 1 SAT portion
2 Gumbo vegetable
3 WWII-era pope
4 Shows zeal
5 Gave up, as a right
6 Deep-seated
7 Waterfront walk
8 Snaky shape
9 — Moines, IA
10 Less adorned
11 What a lot may be filled with
12 Shoelace snarl
13 Aforementioned
14 Scanned bars: Abbr.
15 Zealous
16 Perched on
17 Prom night rental
18 Cries out loud
24 Watered down, in a way
26 Teen's "My answer was ..."
28 Pretense
31 Shaped like dice
32 Poet's sun or moon
34 Take a shot at
35 "Mamma Mia!" group
36 City west of Sun Valley
37 Nemesis (Shakespeare)
38 Well-trained unit
39 Ne'er-do-well
40 Got 100 on
41 Acceptance of opposite opinions (Orwell)
42 Proportional stat
43 Confounds
45 Craft store chain
46 Bits of cunning
49 Singers on a riser
51 Sculpted trunk



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

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- 54 Bugle blast
55 Moves like lava
56 Chemically nonreactive
57 Castro of Cuba
59 Poker declaration
60 Floral chains
62 Trite, as jokes
64 Gnatlike insect
65 Purview
66 Hepburn's husband in *Breakfast at Tiffany's*
67 Rapper Green
68 Neverland visitor
69 Arithmetic sign
70 Feel intuitively
72 Needle maker
73 Muddies up
75 Itinerary, for short
77 Gold standards
79 Newspaper production machine of old
81 Opposite of COD
82 Bad atmospheres
83 Garfield pal
84 Auction bid of a sort
85 Demolished
89 El Greco's adopted home
90 Tunesmiths' org.
91 72 Down product
92 Made public
93 Creatures in colonies
94 Croquet surface
95 Purview
97 Bit of rushin' language
98 In person
99 Paretsky of whodunits
100 Corrosive
101 Estate entryway, often
102 *South Park* kid
104 *South Park* kid
105 Absorb, with "up"
106 Vacation rental

Quote-Acrostic

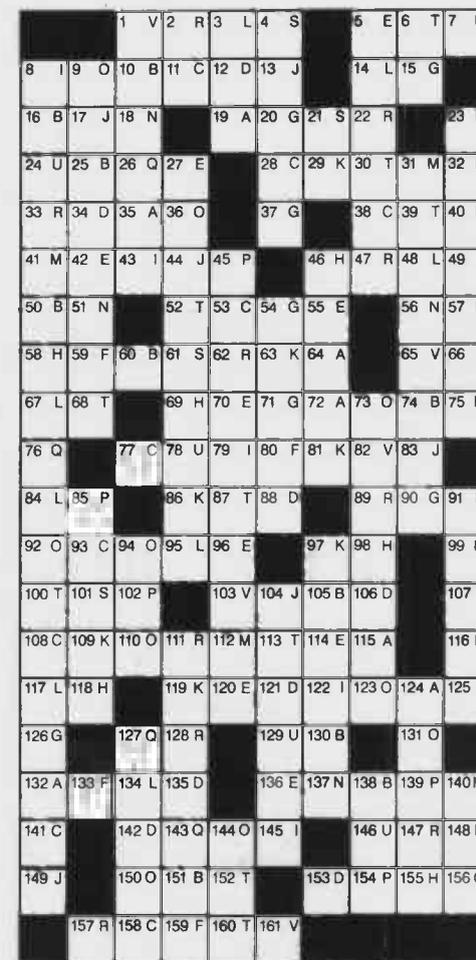
1. Define clues, writing in Words column over numbered dashes.
2. Transfer letters to numbered squares in diagram.
3. When pattern is completed, quotation can be read left to right. The first letters of the filled-in words reading down form an acrostic yielding the speaker's name and the topic of the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

Clues

Words

- A. Exercise routine 19 72 64 132 124 35 115
- B. Presently, or not at all: 3 wds. 138 25 151 60 105 16 50 74 130 10
- C. Mete out 28 77 38 53 141 93 11 158 108
- D. Quiet!: 3 wds. 106 88 57 121 34 153 135 40 142 12
- E. Modification 120 5 42 114 55 136 96 70 27
- F. Lion's share 159 133 80 59
- G. Repugnant 20 156 15 37 71 54 90 126
- H. Take another loan 155 118 98 69 32 91 58 46 148
- I. Fear and trembling 122 145 43 79 8
- J. Looks up 83 17 104 13 66 44 149

- K. The west 97 119 109 81 29 49 63 86
- L. Jamaica vacation spot: 2 wds. 134 95 117 84 48 14 3 67
- M. Declining years 112 140 41 31 99 75
- N. Substance 56 23 18 116 137 51
- O. Green 144 92 150 73 9 36 94 123 131 110
- P. Naturalist 85 154 102 107 45 139
- Q. Therefore 127 143 26 76
- R. Job 2 157 33 111 89 47 22 62 128 147
- S. Retina components 61 101 4 21
- T. With the beat: 3 wds. 113 152 125 87 6
- U. Wealthy one 7 78 24 146 129
- V. Chews at 1 92 65 103 161



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

By Nell Goldstein
Edited by Linda and Charles Preston.
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Language Lesson

BY CHARLES PRESTON

Across

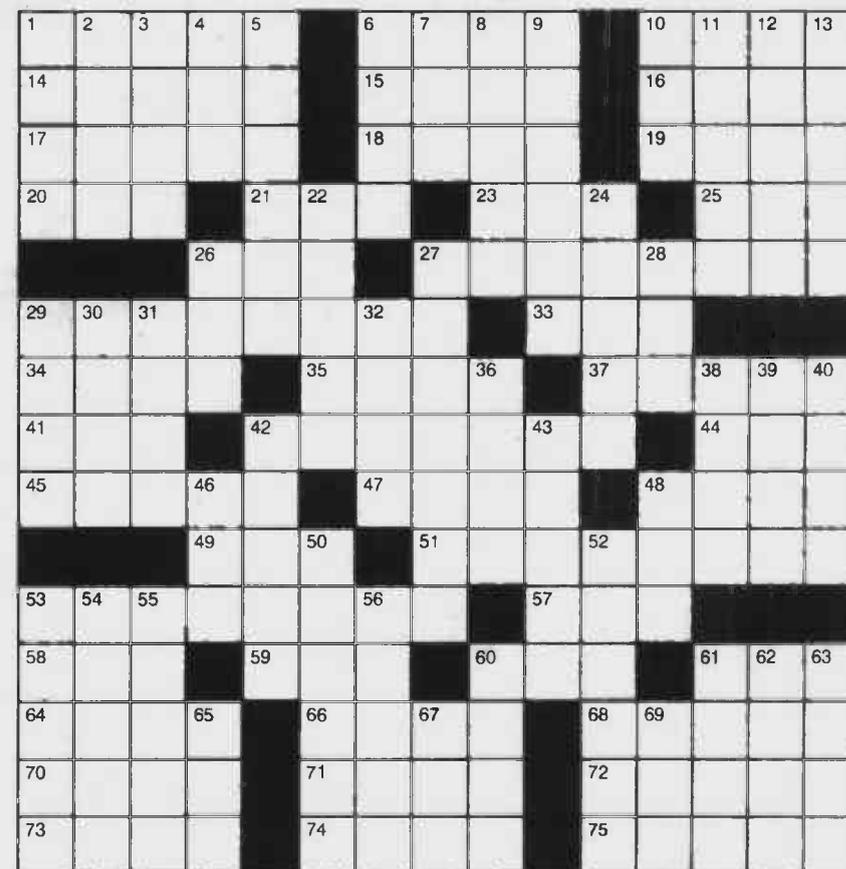
- 1 Celerity
6 ___ and Sciences
10 Palm fruit
14 Market: Fr.
15 Kick
16 Troubled continent
17 Examinations
18 Girl's name
19 Little fight
20 Decade
21 Is: C.
23 French season
25 Anger
26 Vase
27 The ___ heritage
29 Steady
33 Noise
34 Herb
35 Speed
37 It's used in *la plume de ma tante*
41 For each
42 Negotiates again
44 Cover
45 American Indian
47 Singer Paul ___
48 Visage
49 Era
51 Pinscher's first name

Down

- 53 Humiliates
57 Eggs
58 Sick
59 Illuminated
60 Exist
61 Hole
64 Tiny container
66 Vats
68 So. American plain
70 Saga
71 Poems
72 Long
73 Clarinet part
74 Network
75 Nostrils

Down

- 1 Fired at
2 Peel
3 High spirits
4 House addition
5 Sandy waste
6 Urge
7 Decay
8 ___ pole
9 Testified
10 German article
11 Salad
12 Crown
13 Consumed
22 Trap
24 Lake Indians
26 Employ
27 Is present
28 Hostel
29 Beginning: mus.
30 Raht
31 Girl's name
32 Space agcy.
36 Nevada town
38 Bivalve
39 Costa ___
40 Paradise
42 Royal
43 Work
46 Long fish
48 Brother
50 Redactor
52 ___ Waugh
53 Poolside athlete
54 Slur over
55 Dell
56 Study: mus.
60 African fox
61 Jack ___
62 Regarding
63 Weights
65 Boy
67 Wager
69 Meadow



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

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First Things First

By ED Sessa

Edited by RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

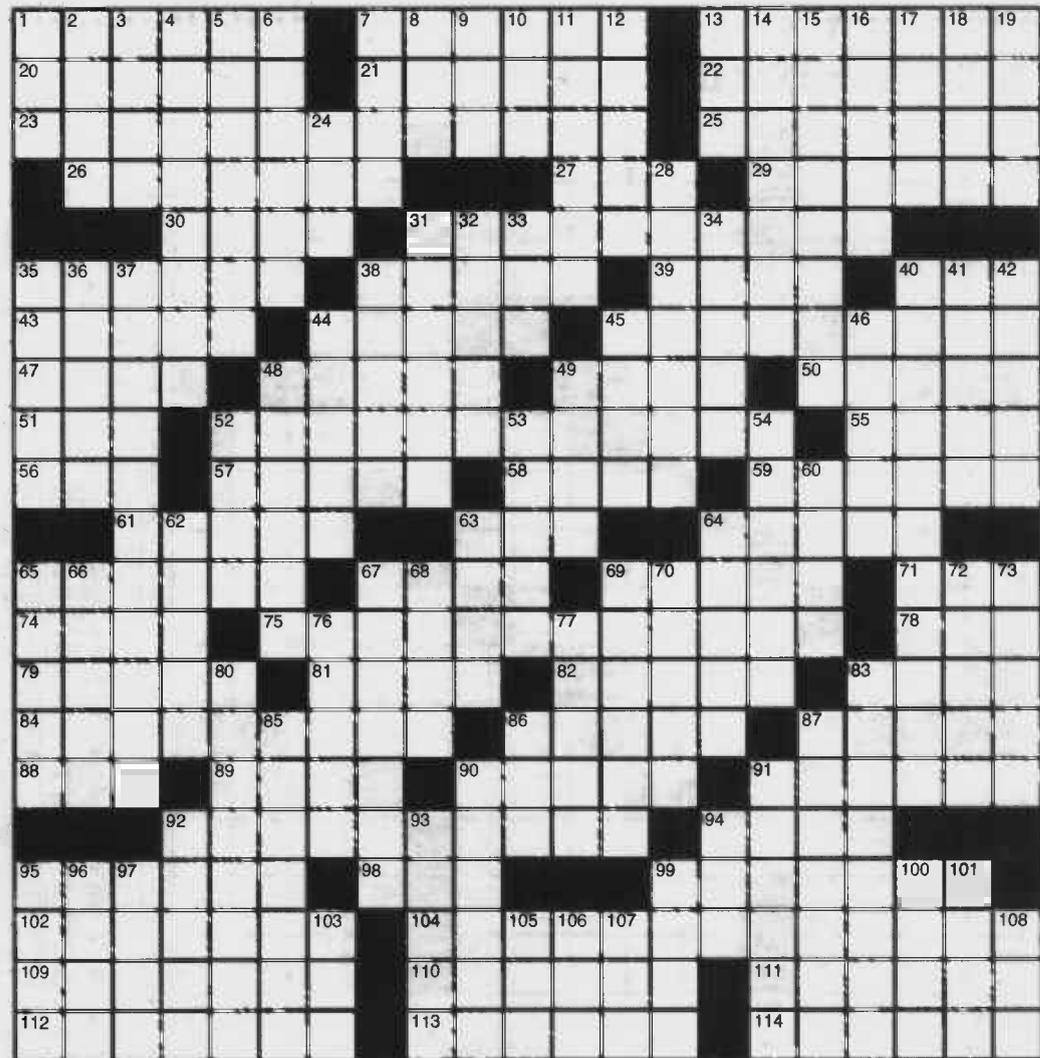
- 1 Unflappability
 7 Responds to an alarm
 13 Bliss
 20 Counterman?
 21 On deck
 22 "Raging Bull" fighter
 23 Trust builder?
 25 Clink
 26 Sent messages, before faxes and email
 27 Bit of body art
 29 Julia of "Legends of the Fall"
 30 Meat cut
 31 Result of losing two points, perhaps
 35 Convey
 38 Descendant of the English Bulldog
 39 Son of Donald
 40 Shares an email with
 43 Pigeon hangouts
 44 Voice of TV's Fat Albert
 45 Get online shopping help, say
 47 Sports org. with three major divisions
 48 Student of Socrates
 49 Hired car
 50 TV exec Arledge
 51 Tolkien monster
 52 Concern for gardeners
 55 Protest gone bad
 56 Piggy
 57 Gambling game
 58 Veers
 59 Pound units
 61 Urban of country
 63 Rooting area
 64 Shot with English
 65 Reach by schooner, say
 67 Canal through Oneida Lake
 69 Half of a record
 71 Trap that's spun
 74 Gremlins, e.g.
 75 Wiggler on a hook
 78 --Wan Kenobi
 79 Some price changes
 81 Whoop-de-...: lively parties
 82 WWII issue
 83 Suffix with Jumbo
 84 Glacial expanses
 86 Night noise
 87 Edge along
 88 Happy hour sponsor
 89 Kyrgyzstan range
 90 Refrigerant trade name

- 91 Troubles
 92 Teacher's bane, at times
 94 Celebrity
 95 Like Jack and Jill, ultimately
 98 -- lepton: physics particle
 99 Fiber source
 102 The littlest bit
 104 Mozart's "The Hunt," for one
 109 Verify
 110 Colored tee, perhaps
 111 Bawled (out)
 112 Aflutter
 113 Hill group
 114 Border maintainers

Down

- 1 Time of one's life
 2 Fruit fly or gnat
 3 Loser's ad word
 4 Nebraska city named for a Native American tribe
 5 Streakers in showers
 6 Withdrawal in 2016 headlines
 7 "Should -- acquaintance ..."
 8 FDR program
 9 Gothic novelist Radcliffe
 10 Understanding
 11 Oxford college
 12 Classic Fender guitar, briefly
 13 Golfing countryman of Player
 14 Unit of heat
 15 Diminutive two-seater
 16 "Pinball Wizard" opera
 17 Spherical opening?
 18 WWII British firearm
 19 Spot to spot Spot
 24 See 25-Across
 28 WWII alliance
 31 Was beaten by
 32 U-shaped river bend
 33 "Oy --!"
 34 Monte of Cooperstown
 35 Schoolyard argument
 36 Itsy-bitsy
 37 Any one of the NFL's top 25 career scoring leaders
 38 Bit of braggadocio
 40 They're spoken in anger

- 41 Transport for Chingachgook
 42 Editors' marks
 44 Quilter's need
 45 Dangle
 46 Pedal problems
 48 Subatomic particle
 49 Serving convenience
 52 Flutter by like a butterfly
 53 Templo Mayor builder
 54 Driven to act
 60 Tablet buyer, usually
 62 "It's nobody -- business"
 63 Poses
 64 Pooh creator
 65 Ahmedabad address
 66 Livorno lady friend
 67 Hard one to work with
 68 P-like letters
 69 Thick-furred primate
 70 Like court testimony
 72 Virus first identified in Zaire
 73 IQ test pioneer
 76 Thoughts
 77 Extend one's Self?
 80 Petroleum produced from rock fragments
 83 Jazz standard that became an LSU fight song
 85 Hyundai compact
 86 "No seats" letters
 87 Performed a ballroom dance
 90 1984 Heisman Trophy winner Doug
 91 The great outdoors
 92 Site of an ascent
 93 Playbill listings
 94 60-Down's info source
 95 Central points
 96 In short order, in verse
 97 Dunham of "Girls"
 99 Ornate arch
 100 My way
 101 --do-well
 103 Band accessory
 105 Neurotic toon pooch
 106 Potato source: Abbr.
 107 Paper read on the LIRR, perhaps
 108 Cardinal points, briefly?



Last week's answers appear on the next page

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Jumble

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

HOCONH
 PEOOSP
 CDTTEE
 CAMPIT
 VALHIS
 TROHET



PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW



This week's answers appear on the next page

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2017 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

Sudoku

2/12

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

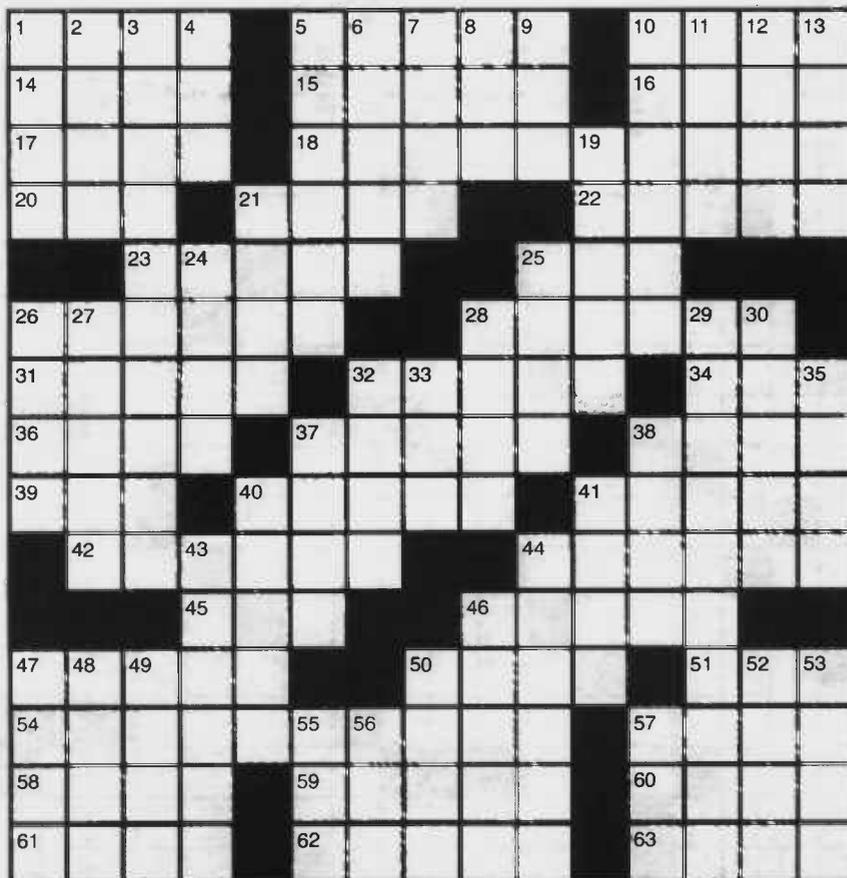
Level: **1 2 3 4**



Last week's answers appear on the next page

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Crossword



By Jacqueline E. Mathews. © 2017 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

2/15/17

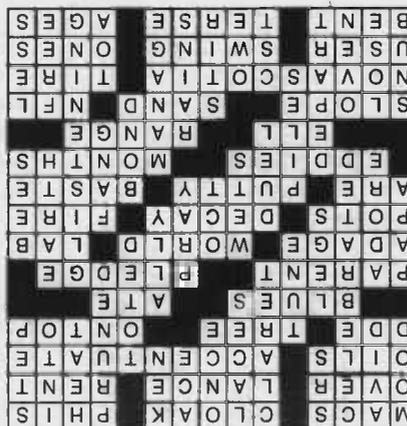
ACROSS

- 1 Apple computers
5 Outer garment
10 Greek letters
14 "___ my dead body!"
15 Cyclist
Armstrong
16 Monthly expense
17 Wesson
products
18 Emphasize
20 Ike's initials
21 Genealogist's
drawing
22 ___ of the world;
elated
23 Bessie Smith's
music
25 Feasted on
26 Mom or dad
28 "I ___ allegiance
to the flag..."
31 Old saying
32 Globe
34 Scientist's
workplace
36 Cauldrons
37 Rot
38 Conflagration
39 "Roses ___ red,
violets..."
40 Hole-filling
substance
41 Keep a cooking
turkey moist

DOWN

- 42 Albert & Fisher
44 May, June, etc.
45 Building wing
46 Stove
47 Incline
50 Beach surface
51 Org. for Bears
and Panthers
54 Canadian
province
57 Michelin product
58 Drug addict
59 "___ Low, Sweet
Chariot"
60 Singles
61 Crooked
62 Rudely brief
63 Grows older

Solutions



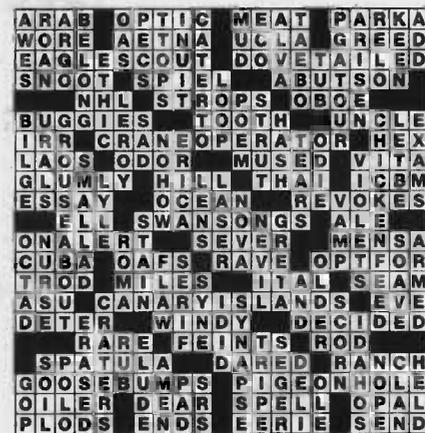
- 21 Melody
24 Table supports
25 Actress Sheedy
26 Family member
27 Think highly of
28 Speak to God
29 Shiny
30 Our planet
32 Moistens
33 Sept.'s follower
35 Hive dwellers
37 Sword fight
38 Viper's tooth
40 Mounds
41 James ___; 007
43 Go away
44 Be in charge of
46 ___ cats and
dogs; pours
47 Ignore with
contempt
48 Misplace
49 Baker's need
50 Mixer speed
52 On the house
53 Not as much
55 Okla.'s time
zone
56 Have debts
57 ___ T; exactly



puzzle island solutions

Last week's crosswords

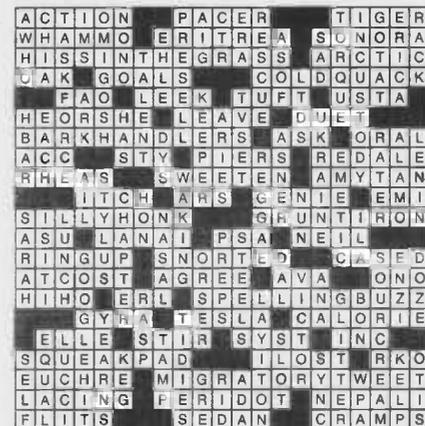
"FEATHER OR NOT"



"Time to Concentrate"



"Sounds About Right"



Last week's Quote-Acrossic

S(us)an SONTAG: PICTURE PERFECT: Not to take many pictures of one's children, particularly when they are small, is a sign of parental indifference, just as not turning up for one's graduation picture is a gesture of adolescent rebellion.

Last week's Sudoku

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

This week's Jumble

HONCHO DETECT LAVISH
OPPOSE IMPACT HOTTER

He was beginning to accept the fact that he was a ghost. The other ghosts said —

THAT'S THE SPIRIT

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Chicken nuggets can have a romantic side

In my opinion, the chicken nugget could possibly be one of the worst food inventions of all time. Not only is its taste average at best, but the nutritional value ... I don't even want to go there.

What's even worse is that the chicken nugget is introduced to kids at a very young age and for some bizarre reason offered as a meal option almost everywhere kids go. So kids become conditioned to craving deep-fried little pieces of chicken that are often filled with suspect ingredients.

But despite my thoughts on chicken nuggets, when I read a recent story about the college student in the Philippines who bought his girlfriend a chicken nugget bouquet for their one-month anniversary because he knew she would prefer chicken nuggets over flowers, I was extremely touched. Why? Not because he gave the woman he loves deep-fried processed chicken, but because at the young age of 19, this kid gets it. What I mean by that is, he is a thoughtful person. And in romantic relationships, thoughtfulness is key in maintaining a happy, healthy connection.

The best example I can give is Valentine's Day. Every year on Valentine's Day, millions of men buy and send their wives or girlfriends flowers or candy. Others buy their spouse a stuffed animal or balloons, or a Valentine's Day card.

Don't get me wrong. There is nothing wrong with traditional Valentine's Day gifts. Buying someone flowers or a gift or a card shows thoughtfulness in that the person took the time to call the florist, shop for the card or the gift, maybe wrap the gift, or write something special on the card.

But thoughtfulness goes way beyond tradition. Thoughtfulness doesn't just happen on Valentine's Day, it happens on a random Wednesday night when a person sees their spouse experiencing anxiety or stress, and then subsequently sits next to him or her on the couch and gives them a much needed back rub.

Thoughtfulness means knowing your spouse loves Billy Joel and surprising him or her with tickets. Thoughtfulness means supporting your spouse who is trying to get in shape, so you insist he or she go to the 5:30 p.m. kickboxing class while you make dinner and watch the kids. Thoughtfulness means folding the laundry before she gets home or putting on the song you danced to at your wedding and



JACKIE PILOSSOPH
Love Essentially

asking him to slow dance. It means having her mother over for dinner despite the fact that she drives you nuts. It means indulging his desire to watch March Madness with a pizza delivery. Thoughtfulness is listening to the things your spouse

wants or needs and then fulfilling them.

When people in romantic relationships display thoughtfulness, there are a few things that happen. First, the recipient of the behavior feels heard. For example, the girl who got the chicken nugget bouquet knows her boyfriend paid attention when she told him jokingly that instead of a bouquet of flowers, she'd rather it be of chicken nuggets so she could eat it. Everyone feels satisfaction knowing their spouse listened. It makes us feel important, cared for, special and connected to him or her.

Thoughtfulness also makes the recipient giddy and happy and joyful. A kind, caring gesture can help us fall in love again. So, repeated acts of this kind of behavior help sustain long-term love because we fall in love over and over again.

There is one more thing that thoughtfulness produces, and it has to do with the giver. Doesn't knowing your actions made your spouse feel heard and loved and cared for feel great? The act of giving makes the giver feel important and it makes the person like themselves. A thoughtful act will almost always be reciprocated, which can begin a cycle of giving that will foster love, like, romance, sex and overall relationship happiness.

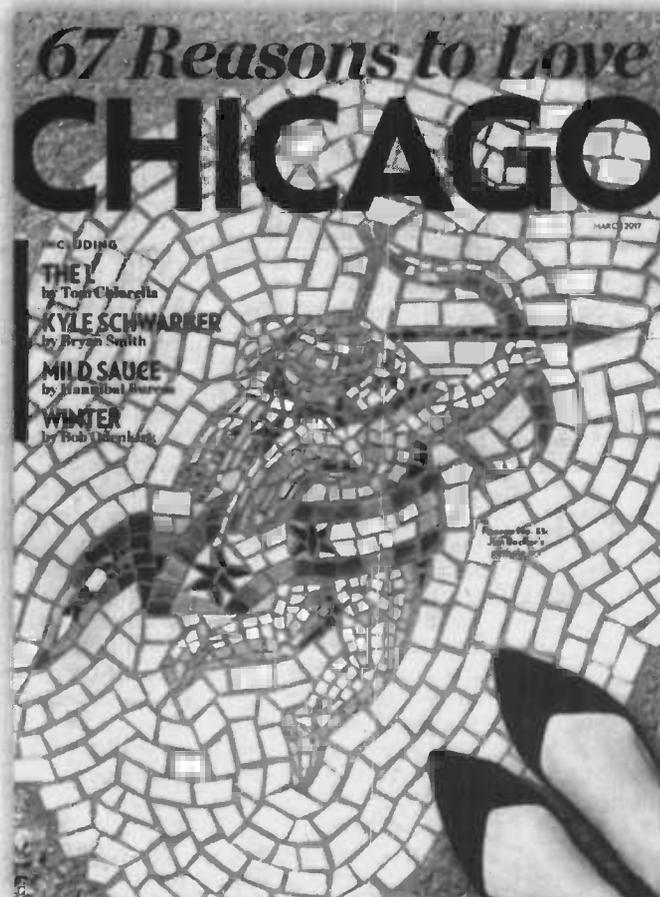
However, I do need to warn the giver: Do not wait for reciprocation because it should not matter. Even if you feel your thoughtful acts are not being returned, you are still getting the benefit of the giving.

I'm not going to tell you that for Valentine's Day or other special occasions you should automatically buy your spouse a nontraditional gift. But if there is something he's been talking about — a new golf club or a weekend getaway to see his brother, why not step up and show the guy you love that you're paying attention? When shopping for her, my only advice is don't let the thoughtful guy motivate you to go for the chicken nugget bouquet. The kids will enjoy it, but most likely, your spouse will feel otherwise.

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist.

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ASK THE DOCTORS

You should know the long-term side-effects of taking PPIs

By Dr. Robert Ashley
Ask the Doctors

Dear Doctor: Because I had an ulcer, three years ago a doctor wrote me a prescription for Prilosec and told me I had to take it for the rest of my life. But lately, articles in the newspaper have seemed to contradict his thinking, suggesting that Prilosec and similar medicines can cause heart problems. What's your opinion?

Dear Reader: Prilosec is one of many proton pump inhibitors (PPIs) that include Prevacid, Aciphex, Protonix, Nexium and Dexilant. These drugs work by blocking the formation of hydrogen chloride in the stomach. This very strong acid is necessary to break down proteins so that they can be absorbed by the small intestine.

I don't know the specifics about the causes of your stomach ulcer — the size, the depth, whether it was a bleeding ulcer or caused by aspirin or other anti-inflammatory medications — but I do agree with your doctor that a proton pump inhibitor would be necessary for the healing of the ulcer. These drugs decrease the acidity of your upper gastrointestinal tract, allowing for an ulcer to heal. The normal duration for treatment is from two to 12 weeks.

In some circumstances, a PPI needs to be continued indefinitely, such as when an ulcer doesn't heal, when an older patient has an ulcer that's larger than 2 centimeters, or when a patient has three or more ulcers a year. People with recurrent acid reflux also need to be on prolonged courses of proton pump inhibitors.

While there are benefits

to these medications, there also are downsides. Any drug that changes the normal physiological process of the body can have unintended consequences, and PPIs are no exception. With prolonged use, the decreased formation of hydrogen chloride in the stomach can decrease calcium absorption and bone strengthening, increasing the risk of osteoporosis. Prolonged use also can reduce the absorption of magnesium and B12, and increase the risk of intestinal infections, such as those caused by *Clostridium difficile*, leading to severe diarrhea.

As for your specific question about proton pump inhibitors and heart disease, a 2014 study published in the *International Journal of Cardiology* compared more than 126,000 people who took PPIs with an equal number who didn't. After 120 days, researchers found a 58 percent increase in the risk of heart attacks among those who took them. The biggest problem with this study is that the authors couldn't assess whether those in the study smoked cigarettes, were obese or had a family history of heart disease.

A 2015 study published in the journal *PLOS One* analyzed large amounts of data both from people who used PPIs for gastroesophageal reflux and those who didn't. In this study, researchers found a 16 percent increase in the rate of heart attacks among those who took PPIs. The authors didn't find this risk in those taking acid-reducing histamine-2 blockers, such as Zantac, Pepcid or Tagamet. The authors, however, did note that people who take proton pump inhibitors may be sicker patients to begin with and thus may have an increased risk of

having a heart attack.

Then there was a 2016 study in *The American Journal of Medicine* that focused on people taking Prilosec with two blood thinners after having either angina or a heart attack. After 110 days, researchers found no increase in the risk of heart attacks.

Finally, an analysis of 11 studies — with a total of more than 84,000 patients — looked at use of proton pump inhibitors in people taking the blood thinner Plavix after having an angioplasty. The authors found a 37 percent increase in the rate of heart events among those taking the proton pump inhibitor Clopidogrel with Plavix and those taking just Plavix, but they found no difference in death rates. The findings suggest that PPIs decrease the ability of a blood thinner, like Plavix, to work.

Overall, it's clear we need better studies of the potential link between proton pump inhibitors and heart disease.

Your worry about taking Prilosec for the rest of your life is understandable, but you're probably on the drug for a good reason. Just know that there can be long-term side effects, and be aware of them. You also can ask your doctor to keep you apprised of any new research on long-term use of PPIs.

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

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

PEOPLE'S PHARMACY PRESCRIPTIONS AND HOME REMEDIES

Tamiflu cuts downtime; probiotics show promise

By Joe Graedon
and Teresa Graedon
King Features Syndicate

Q: I have been washing my hands obsessively and have been very careful not to touch my face. But many people around me have been sick with the flu, including a co-worker who dragged herself into the office despite a high fever.

I started with a little tickle in my throat Monday night, and by Tuesday morning I was really sick with fever, aches, chills and a terrible headache. I went straight to the doctor and was prescribed Tamiflu, which I immediately started taking.

I was too sick to do anything but try to sleep for two days. By the end of the second day, though, the fever was gone, and I started to feel a bit better. The next day, I felt well enough to go to work, and I was completely recovered the day after. Thank goodness for Tamiflu! Many of my co-workers were out a lot longer.

A: Oseltamivir (Tamiflu) can shorten a bout of the flu by up to a day and a half. That may not sound like much, but it makes a difference when you feel as terrible as you did.

A recent review from Germany concluded, "The benefits of antiviral drugs outweigh their risks" (*Deutsches Arzteblatt International*, Nov. 25, 2016).

The most common side effects of Tamiflu include digestive-tract upset and headache. Some people report psychological side effects. A rash requires immediate medical attention.

Q: After many years,



DREAMSTIME

Tamiflu can shorten a bout of the flu by up to 36 hours, but some people report psychological side effects.

my wife and I suspected problems related to her. Nexium and my Prilosec. We both opted for probiotics instead. That was four years ago. We had no trouble quitting, and we have not had heartburn since starting a probiotic regimen.

I am no longer diagnosed with Barrett's esophagus. We use a product that has more than 60 billion organisms per dose, including 10 strains of bacteria plus a probiotic.

A: The importance of the bacteria living in the digestive tract has become increasingly clear in recent years. A diverse collection of bacteria is usually associated with good overall health.

Recent research has shown that people who consumed a specific probiotic yogurt every day changed their bacterial balance and reduced their problems with indigestion (*BMJ Open Gastroenterology* online, Sept. 16, 2016).

The field of probiotic therapy is still developing. We look forward to a time when doctors will be able to specify which probiotic strains will be most helpful for a particular digestive

problem.

Q: I was prescribed high-dose ibuprofen for a knee injury. Two months later, my blood pressure was 188/100. It is normally 120/70. Does ibuprofen raise blood pressure?

A: Ibuprofen and other nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs can in fact raise blood pressure (BMC Cardiovascular Disorders, Oct. 24, 2012).

Doctors generally figure that if your blood pressure goes up on one of these drugs, you should take prescribed anti-hypertensive medicine. But if your knee is starting to heal, you might want to consider a different way of managing your discomfort.

Talk with your doctor about whether a topical NSAID such as Voltaren Gel might be one approach. Or perhaps you would benefit from an anti-inflammatory herbal medicine such as boswellia or curcumin, or a home remedy like tart cherry juice.

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

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trbcht-129712

3 elements to 'hygge' at home

Latest lifestyle trend inspired by a Danish term for coziness

By Vicky Hallett
The Washington Post

Every Friday morning, Cynthia Sanford gets to work early. She's not there to sell more midcentury Danish furniture, although that's what shoppers can find at the Kensington, Md., branch of Modern Mobler, where Sanford is store manager.

Instead, she enjoys some quiet time with a friend before opening up for the day. They drink coffee and knit among handcrafted teak sideboards, splayed-leg coffee tables and never-let-you-go lounge chairs.

In other words, Sanford explains, "We're having hygge."

It's a term she hadn't heard until about a year ago. Almost no one had except for the people of Denmark, who use it incessantly, says Danish Ambassador Lars Gert Lose.

"Hygge is part of our DNA," he says.

Roughly translated into English, hygge means coziness. But, Lose adds, "it's as hard to define as it is to pronounce." ("HOO-gah" gets you close enough.) To him, hygge is a combination of three factors: the space you're in, the people you're with and the intention "to create a sanctuary." Nail the details, and it adds up to an all-encompassing sense of comfort and well-being. In Denmark, which boasts eight months of weather forecasts that might make you want to stay in bed, hygge has served as the ultimate coping strategy.

Now the secret's out.

Hygge has been anointed the latest lifestyle trend, inspiring luxury tea blends (www.hooglytea.com), designer wallpapers (www.hyggeandwest.com) and a Philly brewpub (www.barhygge.com). It's also the subject of an entire library of new books, which is fitting, given how hyggelig it is to curl up and read, preferably by the glow of a fireplace while wearing woolen socks and sipping something steaming.



PERNILLE FLORIN ELBECH

The Danish Embassy residence's living room features warm but playful lighting, conducive to hygge.

Blame the buzz on current events, says food writer Signe Johansen, author of "How to Hygge," which explains how she maintains her Nordic traditions while living in London.

"People are worried and anxious about the future; 2016 was a discombobulating year for many reasons," she says.

That's certainly true in Washington, where the recent spike in political divisiveness is palpable. Some hygge-style socializing could help, Lose says.

"It's almost like meditation, but it's a collective exercise rather than an individual one," he explains. Distractions such as phones are shut off. Topics that could devolve into shouting matches are shelved. "The point would be to say, 'This is all about having a good time now. It's time to talk about what we enjoy about life.'"

A conducive environment is key to experiencing hygge, Lose says. In Washington, there's the Danish Embassy, which is hygge by design. The building is the work of

Ways to hygge at home

Keep it simple: Nordic interiors are minimalist. So to prep for going hygge, you might want to try the KonMari Method, Modern Mobler's Cynthia Sanford says. The goal is to tame clutter by keeping only things that "spark joy." To Sanford, a sleek sideboard fits that bill; you can use it to display items and tuck away a few of your favorite things for easy access. "I always want my knitting and yarn near me," she says.

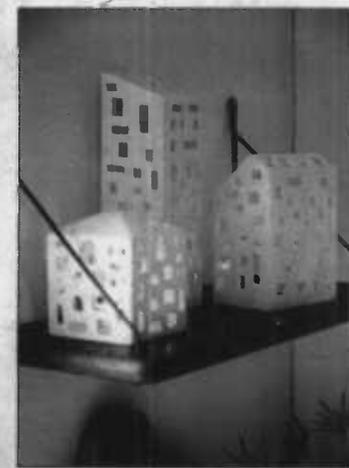
Go green: Bring nature home with a houseplant. "How to Hygge" author Signe Johansen recommends aloe vera: They're a funky shape, they're low maintenance and they're useful. "It's the best thing for applying on a burn," she says. If you're picking up a bouquet from the florist, go monochromatic. "Too many colors can feel hectic," she explains.

Find your sources: Kira Fortune's strategy for creating "a Copenhagen house in Washington" involves knowing where to shop. She visits Ikea every two weeks to restock her candle supply. The Swedish store also sells rye bread mix and holiday foodstuffs. For Kahler-brand striped vases and other ceramic accessories, she orders from www.royaldesign.com. And when she's desperate for other goodies from home, she turns to design emporium Illums Bolighus (www.illumsbolighus.com), which ships to the United States.

Danish architect Vilhelm Lauritzen, who inserted hygge-friendly touches, such as the chandeliers that hang throughout the residence. Their playful circles of

bulbs, each inside a glass, can be dimmed to adjust the mood.

As Happiness Research Institute chief executive Meik Wik- stitutute chief executive Meik Wik- stitutute points out in "The Little Book



KAHLER

Kira Fortune, a Dane who lives in the U.S., loves the Kahler brand of ceramics.

"Hygge is part of our DNA."

— Lars Gert Lose, Danish ambassador to the U.S.

of Hygge," proper lighting is essential. That means there should be several light sources, scattering pools of warm light throughout a space. When in doubt about how to achieve that, he says, just add candles.

Kira Fortune, a Dane who lives in Chevy Chase, Md., with her family, has 14 candles in her living space at the moment, not counting the ones inside lanterns in her yard. She lights all of them.

To her, that's hygge, which demands that "you go out of your way to be uber-cozy," she says. When she has the time, Fortune lights not only the candles but also her two Morso wood-burning stoves. She prepares hot chocolate and glogg, or mulled wine, and bakes rye bread from scratch. Then she savors sitting around with no real plans — just board games, books and blankets.

"Living in Washington, we work long hours. This is one way to switch off, go down in gears," Fortune says.

That seems like a good thing to know how to do, even if you can't pronounce it.

Vicky Hallett is a freelancer.



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ASKING PRICE: \$2,885,000

Listed on Jan. 30, 2017

This home offers an abundance of space with classic architecture, advanced technology and quality materials. Features include a hand-formed brick exterior with limestone accents, slate roof, custom moldings and millwork throughout, specialty lighting, hardwood floors, oversized windows and french doors and professional landscaping with bluestone and tumbled brick patios. The floor plan includes a formal living and dining room, first-floor office, eat-in kitchen with breakfast room and a mudroom. The lower level features a recreation room, wet bar, wine bar, theater, spa and sport court.

Agent: Jody Savino of The Hudson Company, 312-286-4404

At press time, this home was still for sale.



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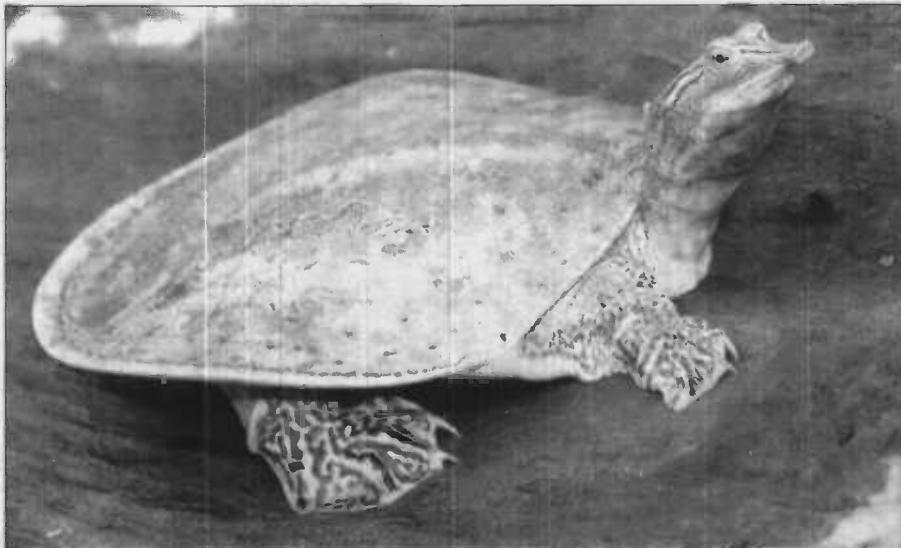
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DAVE DINASO

Dave DiNaso brings turtles and other critters from his Traveling World of Reptiles to party with Ninja Turtles, moms and sons in Park Ridge on March 3.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Moms and sons can party with real and Ninja turtles

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

What boy wouldn't like to visit the sewers of New York City? That will be the setting created in the O'Connor Community Building, 733 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge for Mother/Son Turtle Time, 6:30-8:30 p.m. March 3.

"We thought with the new turtle movies coming out, this would be a fun thing to do," said Mary Bart, recreation supervisor for the Park Ridge Park District. "The Ninja Turtles stand for greatness. We're going to follow some of the things that the Ninja Turtles do. They love pizza so we'll be doing a pizza dinner. We'll be doing some turtle fun games."

Dave DiNaso's Traveling World of Reptiles will bring the reptiles.

Bart said they chose this theme for an event for ages 3-12 because boys like interactive events.

The cost is \$30 per couple for residents; \$48 for nonresidents; \$15 and \$24 per additional participant. Registration is required.

For details, call 847-692-5127 or see www.prparks.org.

Call for crusaders

Capes and costumes are encouraged for a Mother & Son Superhero Dance, 5-7 p.m. March 4 at Oakton Community Center, 4701 Oakton St., Skokie. There will be dinner, dancing, souvenir photos and superhero fun. The cost is \$15 per person for residents; \$18 for nonresidents. Registration is required.

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

Kids create cars

...during Coupes and Comedy: Indoor Drive-In Theater, 10 a.m.-noon Feb. 24 at Lincolnwood Community Center, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave. All materials provided to decorate a cardboard car. Then they will climb in and watch a funny animated story. Registration is required for this free event.

For details, call 847-673-1540 or see www.lincolnwoodil.org.

Steps for understanding

Your family will be dazzled by Chinese Classical and Traditional Folk Dances when the Phoenix Dance Group and the Flying Fairies perform, 3-4 p.m. Feb. 19 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. The free event is part of Coming Together in Skokie and Niles Township.

For details, call 847-673-7774 or see www.skokie.library.info

Better butter

Children ages 4-10, accompanied by a grownup, will learn how to make their own butter at a Weekend Family Class: Churn It and Flip 'Em, 9:30-11 a.m. or 1-2:30 p.m. March 4 or March 12 at Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. The cost is \$24 per child for nonmembers; 20 percent discount for members. Registration is required.

For details, call 847-835-6801 or see www.chicagobotanic.org/familyprograms.

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FACES & PLACES

Zia's Super Bowl Party raises \$24K

Event: 11th Annual Misericordia Super Bowl Fundraiser
Benefiting: Misericordia, Chicago, home to over 600 children and adults with developmental and physical disabilities

Hosted by: Zia's Trattoria, Edison Park

Date: Feb. 5

Attended: 150

Raised: \$24,000; this brings the event's 11-year total to \$270,000

Website: www.misericordia.com



KARIE ANGELL LUC/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

Jeff Butler, from left, Jay Crowley and Traci Zimmerman, all of Park Ridge



Jeanette Warner of Des Plaines, from left, John and Laura Tortorello of Park Ridge and Leo De Lenardis of Chicago



Mary Kay and Joe Calabrese of Park Ridge, of Zia's Trattoria



Kristin Tortorello of Park Ridge



Mary Berg of Chicago, from left, JoAnne Bobus of Park Ridge and Dawn Chambers of Hoffman Estates



Maureen Schultz of Downers Grove and Jim Boyle of Park Ridge



Bill Unterschuetz, from left, and Una Dillon, both of Park Ridge and Brian Schoen of Des Plaines

Share your event

We want to publish your photos. To submit, visit <http://community.chicagotribune.com> or email sburrows@pioneerlocal.com.



NORTHBROOK

Four-bedroom, 2.5-bath wood exterior home built in 1976. Updated eat-in kitchen, family room with vaulted ceiling, wood-burning fireplace. First-floor laundry, two-car garage, finished basement, master bedroom, second-floor office. Near school, shopping, expressways, parks and Metra.

Address: 2809 Farmington Road
Price: \$580,000
Schools: Glenbrook North High School
Taxes: \$9,849
Agent: Debbie Glickman, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Northbrook



LONG GROVE

Four-bedroom, four-bath brick and cedar exterior home built on cul-de-sac in 2002. View of woods from kitchen, family room, master bedroom with bathroom, including whirlpool, and walk-in closets, tray ceilings. Two-car attached garage. Near schools, parks, shopping and Metra.

Address: 6420 Collier Circle
Price: \$519,900
Schools: Stevenson High School
Taxes: \$13,368
Agent: Jane Lee, RE/MAX Top Performers



GLENCOE

Five-bedroom home with five full and three half baths built in 2008 on six-tenths of an acre. Grand-scale foyer, seasonal views of Lake Michigan, family room with French doors leading to patio, second-floor luxury master suite, private study with built in fireplace.

Address: 10 Lakewood Drive
Price: \$2,995,000
Schools: New Trier High School Northfield
Taxes: \$63,710
Agent: Michael Mitchell, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Glencoe



BUFFALO GROVE

Three-bedroom, three-bath split-level home built in 1957. Hardwood floors, partially finished basement, one-car garage and backyard. Move-in ready condition. Near golf course, Metra and I-94.

Address: 12 Linden Ave.
Price: \$299,900
Schools: Stevenson High School
Taxes: \$7,418.62
Agent: Sam Lubeck, Baird & Warner Highland Park

Listings from Homefinder.com

Chicago Tribune

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HOME REMEDIES

Don't get burned: Avoiding chimney cleaning scams

BY CYNTHIA WILLIAMS
Angie's List

Regular chimney maintenance and repairs typically require skills that go beyond a typical weekend warrior do-it-yourselfer.

If you don't use the right equipment, it can be dangerous and messy, and it could trigger allergies or respiratory problems. Also, it's a job rife for scams, especially for those unwilling to climb on top of their roof or inside their soot-filled chimney.



ELDON LINDSAY/ ANGIE'S LIST

Chimney sweep solicitation calls: Many chimney scams start with a solicitation call. If the company calls you, hang up, says Richard St. Marie, owner of Rich and John's Complete Chimney Service in Woodbury, Conn.

Once you bite on a solicitation, the telemarketer sells the job to the highest bidder, and that person may not have the proper state credentials or training, or they may not carry liability insurance to cover any damages.

"They're not interested in doing the cleaning; they're interested in getting as much money as possible when they get there," St. Marie says.

The cost of a basic chimney sweep ranges from \$125 to \$250, depending on the type of chimney and its condition.

Chimney fire hazard scare tactics: If a contractor says your chimney is a fire hazard, they may be right, especially if they find glazed creosote, which can ignite. But if they tell you it needs to be fixed immediately, and it'll cost thousands of dollars, get a second opinion. It's a common scare tactic.

Call your local gas company, which will come free of charge to verify whether

the chimney is truly a fire hazard.

Referrals for chimney work: If someone contacts you claiming your oil or gas company referred your home for chimney work, be suspicious. It's a cold call. Utility companies don't make those kinds of referrals.

If a contractor shows you photos of chimney damage or creosote build-up, make sure the pictures truly came from your chimney. Many top pros email service recommendations to customers with time-stamped photos they can easily recognize.

No unsolicited visits after-hours: Scammers can be bold. Some cruise neighborhoods looking for company yard signs of a legitimate contractor at work. After the contractor leaves a home, the scammer visits a short time later claiming they need to collect an outstanding balance.

Never pay anyone you don't recognize. Legitimate contractors collect payment before they leave the job, or they mail a bill.

Hire qualified chimney

service providers: It's easier than you think to find qualified, reputable chimney service companies. Start with:

■ Read reviews for chimney sweep companies. Look for reviews that match the type of service you need, and request bids from at least three companies.

■ Never buy chimney maintenance and repair services from a telemarketer or allow door solicitors into your home. Don't let a contractor pressure you into going to the bank to withdraw money.

■ Not all states require trade licensing for chimney sweeps, but they should be registered with the secretary of state's office. Reputable businesses also carry liability insurance and workers' compensation insurance, if applicable. Ask to see a copy of each policy before you sign a contract.

■ Educate yourself about the function and maintenance of chimneys by visiting the Chimney Safety Institute of America. You can search the CSIA website (www.csia.org) for certified sweepers in your area and the courses they've completed.

| ADDRESS | BUYER | SELLER | DATE | PRICE |
|---|---|-------------------------------|----------|-----------|
| 1621 W Orchard Pl, # 1621B, Arlington Heights | Joshua W Lebak & Lauren J Lebak | Cynthia Lebak | 01-11-17 | \$190,000 |
| 528 E Windgate Ct, # 3E6, Arlington Heights | Janet Vargas & Aaron Gutierrez Araiza | Nitin Singh | 01-11-17 | \$195,000 |
| 844 S Vail Ave, Arlington Heights | Marc A Dykes | Mccormick Trust | 01-10-17 | \$195,000 |
| 979 W Happfield Dr, # 979, Arlington Heights | Tymisi B Patel | Kyle Erdmann | 01-10-17 | \$242,000 |
| 822 S Mckinley Ave, Arlington Heights | Rogelio J Samanlego | Nadea Na | 01-10-17 | \$288,000 |
| 116 N Pine Ave, Arlington Heights | Matthew J Milford & Kathryn W Milford | Miriam J Jackson | 01-10-17 | \$315,000 |
| 1306 S Fernandez Ave, Arlington Heights | Ralph Dziedzic | Fannie Mae | 01-18-17 | \$318,500 |
| 64 N Dryden Pl, Arlington Heights | Timothy J Lee & Ana S Lee | Brian Corcoran | 01-09-17 | \$320,000 |
| 1712 S Fernandez Ave, Arlington Heights | Anupam Tewari & Apeksha Rane | Kevin J Seifert | 01-10-17 | \$502,500 |
| 755 Grove Dr, # 106 4, Buffalo Grove | Adin Y Betrus | Malcolm Roseman | 01-11-17 | \$83,500 |
| 250 Lake Blvd, # 264, Buffalo Grove | Iryna V Grames | Lillian Lipschultz | 01-10-17 | \$93,000 |
| 112 Steeple Dr, # 20E, Buffalo Grove | Dharmesh D Thakore & Jyoti Thakore | Nataliya Konarska | 01-05-17 | \$115,000 |
| 640 Checker Dr, Buffalo Grove | Steve Mcwade & Natalie Mcwade | David J Rodriguez | 01-09-17 | \$125,000 |
| 274 Ashland Ct, Buffalo Grove | Rina Kolotov | Intercounty Judicial Sales Co | 01-10-17 | \$126,000 |
| 271 Ashland Ct, # 200, Buffalo Grove | Lynda Solomon | Michael J Williams | 01-03-17 | \$140,000 |
| 393 Glendale Rd, Buffalo Grove | William R Thies | Keith Osman | 01-09-17 | \$176,000 |
| 103 Autumn Ct, Buffalo Grove | Erin A Kraft & Sean Ladd | Eugene Pavloutine | 12-30-16 | \$190,000 |
| 300 Raupp Blvd, Buffalo Grove | Violeta Filipovska Nenkova & Boris Nenkov | Federal Home Loan Mtg Corp | 01-11-17 | \$193,000 |
| 1542 Anderson Ln, Buffalo Grove | Sergey Balakir & Inesa Astouskaya | Olga Fridman | 12-30-16 | \$240,000 |
| 220 Willow Pkwy, Buffalo Grove | Teddy S Singer & Barbara G Singer | Sheri J Blum Estate | 01-09-17 | \$245,000 |
| 554 Lasalle Ct, Buffalo Grove | Yelena I Rubina | Yuriy Utkin | 12-30-16 | \$269,000 |
| 492 Trinity Ct, Buffalo Grove | Justyna Bujnowska | Gregory D Star | 01-09-17 | \$292,500 |
| 310 Springside Ln, Buffalo Grove | Phanit Tameerug | Theodore C Kalomiris | 01-09-17 | \$312,500 |
| 2432 Madiera Ln, Buffalo Grove | Jingbo Wu | Boris Cherner | 12-29-16 | \$329,000 |
| 841 Twisted Oak Ln, Buffalo Grove | Bartłomiej Hulewicz & Beata Hulewicz | Karen Bezold | 01-09-17 | \$338,000 |
| 480 Burnt Ember Ln, Buffalo Grove | Amit Choudhary & Anjali Mishra | Brandon S Gordon | 12-30-16 | \$340,000 |
| 580 Checker Dr, Buffalo Grove | Christopher J Bayci & Vanessa C Bayci | Jason Bruckman | 01-05-17 | \$350,000 |
| 8916 Kenneth Dr, # 202B, Des Plaines | Irfan Khan Mohammed | Jp Morgan Chase Bank | 01-11-17 | \$80,000 |
| 8808 N Leslie Ln, Des Plaines | Narendra Dave & Milan Dave | Brenda S Reed | 01-18-17 | \$80,500 |
| 9616 Bianco Ter, # D, Des Plaines | Gerard Brzozowski | Donald J Griffin | 01-11-17 | \$86,000 |
| 8820 N Western Ave, # 201A, Des Plaines | Ivan Ishaq & Camen G Shumeil | Deborah Macduff | 01-12-17 | \$91,000 |
| 9581 Dee Rd, # 1F, Des Plaines | Ashwin Patel & Dharmisthaben Patel | Manish A Patel | 01-11-17 | \$95,000 |
| 9409 Bay Colony Dr, # 2E, Des Plaines | Roman Demyanets & Mariana Kudriavtseva | Natalia Lansberg | 01-12-17 | \$119,000 |
| 9382 Landings Ln, # 302, Des Plaines | Patryk Gonder | Camille Prokop | 01-09-17 | \$120,000 |
| 9468 Bay Colony Dr, # 2S, Des Plaines | Ewelina Dudek | Yon Hung Yu | 01-12-17 | \$123,000 |
| 876 E Thacker St, Des Plaines | Ismet Sharich Damir Saric & Hasan Saric | Fannie Mae | 01-09-17 | \$136,500 |
| 9356 Landings Ln, # 401, Des Plaines | Vasilii Semeniuc | Agnes Metel | 01-11-17 | \$150,000 |
| 1269 E Washington St, Des Plaines | Angel Gutierrez & Jocelyn Gutierrez | Bonifapt Silvia Hoza | 01-12-17 | \$195,000 |
| 430 S Western Ave, # 712, Des Plaines | Magdalena Kouvalis | Shirley Zaneta Blazejczyk | 01-12-17 | \$208,000 |
| 390 Western Ave, # 407, Des Plaines | Katherine T Ramirez | Stone Gate Of Des Plaines Llc | 01-12-17 | \$217,000 |
| 750 Pearson St, # 505, Des Plaines | Luis Gorbena & Daria Gorbena | William S Harp | 01-18-17 | \$222,000 |
| 94 Windsor Dr, Des Plaines | Klementina Nikov | Fannie Mae | 01-09-17 | \$245,000 |
| 1350 Phoenix Dr, Des Plaines | Marlo Grimaldo & Blanca N Godinez | Jeffrey M Mophew | 01-18-17 | \$250,000 |
| 481 Marshall Dr, Des Plaines | Bharatkumar M Patel | Joan L Levin | 01-10-17 | \$274,000 |
| 183 Ne River Rd, # F1, Des Plaines | Carlo Y Creus | Paulina Chodorowski | 01-11-17 | \$280,000 |
| 385 Wilkins Dr, Des Plaines | Adam R Bolur & Catherine A Martin | Nafis Patel | 01-09-17 | \$286,000 |
| 3024 Patton Dr, Des Plaines | Wardia C Khayel & Lina Khayel | Right Residential II Fund FLI | 01-18-17 | \$313,000 |

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Evanston...Character & Charm abounds in this 9 room brick Bungalow with loads of potential! Tons of space with the 3 levels of living space. 5 bedrooms & 3 full baths. First floor features new Maple/Granite kitchen with island & walk-in pantry, separate formal dining room, living room with decorative brick fireplace, hardwood floors, 2 bedrooms & den/office on main level. 2nd floor with family room & 2 additional bedrooms, office/study area. Full bath on each level. Full basement. 3 car brick garage, fenced yard. Great Location!! Won't Last at **\$460,000**



ELEGANT COLONIAL BUILT 2005!

Niles...Truly spectacular Brick Colonial with many fabulous upgrades! Located in Maine South School District 207! Beautiful kitchen with heated ceramic tile floor. 4 bedrooms & 4 baths. Beautiful 26' family room with vaulted ceiling and stone fireplace. Master bedroom suite with full bath. Trey ceilings in all bedrooms. Brick driveway, brick walkways and gorgeous brick patio in large yard. Zoned heat. Full unfinished basement awaits your finishing touches. 2 car attached garage with direct entry to house. Park Ridge Schools & Niles Free Bus!! Call to see today!..... **\$647,000**



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| ADDRESS | BUYER | SELLER | DATE | PRICE |
|--|---|--------------------------------|----------|-------------|
| 2057 Busse Hwy, Des Plaines | Niko Dimatos & Loukia Dimatos | Connex Properties Inc | 01-09-17 | \$320,000 |
| 9142 Greenwood Ave, Des Plaines | Peter Kappos & Dimitra Kappos | Jamal R Dababneh | 01-11-17 | \$350,000 |
| 1242 Elmwood Ave, # 1, Evanston | Wendy S Roberts | Matthew C Brenner | 01-11-17 | \$139,000 |
| 1618 Darrow Ave, Evanston | Diego Rojas Leon & Carlos Leon | Third Coast Properties Llc | 01-09-17 | \$195,000 |
| 800 Elgin Rd, # 717, Evanston | Sara Rubin | Gary V Rubin | 01-09-17 | \$230,000 |
| 1732 Ashland Ave, Evanston | Helen A Pytlewicz | Deborah J Henn | 01-12-17 | \$254,000 |
| 800 Elgin Rd, # 708, Evanston | Justin B Craig & Kim A Craig | Michael Sopocy | 01-11-17 | \$260,000 |
| 1017 Ashland Ave, Evanston | Howard C Kleinstein & Debra Honig | John P Moran | 01-11-17 | \$410,000 |
| 816 Hinman Ave, # 3, Evanston | Nikki B Kopelson & Zeev S Saffir | Robert M Webber | 01-18-17 | \$456,000 |
| 501 Ridge Ave, Evanston | Jason B Taylor & Michelle Taylor | Matthew Pflughoeff | 01-18-17 | \$470,000 |
| 2143 Hartrey Ave, Evanston | Kate A Drohan | Frederick W Fox | 01-18-17 | \$485,000 |
| 724 Seward St, Evanston | Ljiljana Draganic & Milena Gacesa | Michael Mccauley | 01-18-17 | \$510,000 |
| 1120 Foster St, Evanston | Richard Scott Jackson | Kevin C Knohl | 01-18-17 | \$645,000 |
| 1224 Maple Ave, Evanston | Robert S Marshall | Chris N Jones | 01-10-17 | \$1,050,000 |
| 1840 Wildberry Dr, # A, Glenview | Thomas C Kestler & Jessica M Eder | Monika Westin | 01-18-17 | \$282,500 |
| 1417 Peblecreek Dr, Glenview | Batmunkh Ukhna | Jungmee Lee | 01-10-17 | \$310,000 |
| 2411 Saranac Ln, Glenview | Leonard A Valentino & Jeannie Moy | Northern Trust Co Na | 01-09-17 | \$725,000 |
| 2042 Brandon Rd, Glenview | David A Sulkin & Dina N Sulkin | James Aralis | 01-09-17 | \$750,000 |
| 1929 Westleigh Dr, Glenview | Frank Vincent & Sherril Vincent | Daley Trust | 01-12-17 | \$780,000 |
| 916 Linden Ln, Glenview | Vanessa Ward & Rohan Ward | David J Ford | 01-12-17 | \$787,000 |
| 2885 Wilson Ln, Glenview | Hsin Chung Lai | Development Solutions Gln Llc | 01-11-17 | \$913,000 |
| 1617 Woodlawn Ave, Glenview | Eric Briesacher & Christina Briesacher | Mas Investment Group Llc | 01-18-17 | \$1,152,000 |
| 5500 Lincoln Ave, # 404, Morton Grove | Enrique C Abdon & Maria Abdon | Anellya Frys | 01-09-17 | \$95,000 |
| 8610 Waukegan Rd, # 510W, Morton Grove | Tedsup Sim & Nina Sim Choi | Noriko Richart | 01-18-17 | \$130,000 |
| 9329 National Ave, Morton Grove | Kiro Serovski & Liljana Serovski | Benjamin F Loveless | 01-11-17 | \$216,500 |
| 8800 Oleander Ave, Morton Grove | Gloria R Cordero & Maria C Mejia | Anne Poleretzky | 01-18-17 | \$236,000 |
| 8545 Major Ave, Morton Grove | Armaghan Rana & Aaliya Rana | Jorge L Gomez | 01-12-17 | \$265,000 |
| 9224 Oketo Ave, Morton Grove | Mysyl Quillo | Walerian Zawisza Estate | 01-11-17 | \$277,000 |
| 7247 Church St, Morton Grove | Ovidiu Borz & Alexandra Bochis | Civic Properties Llc | 01-12-17 | \$295,000 |
| 8839 Mansfield Ave, Morton Grove | Rodrigo Torres | Em Real Estate Investments Inc | 01-11-17 | \$295,000 |
| 9236 Marmora Ave, Morton Grove | Christian X Chavez | Michael Burzawa | 01-10-17 | \$300,000 |
| 5711 Capulina Ave, Morton Grove | Syed M Ali | Steven T Knupp | 01-10-17 | \$360,000 |
| 5806 Crain St, Morton Grove | Syed Shariq Hussain & Salma Pahman | Hunair Shaikh | 01-18-17 | \$370,000 |
| 8815 W Golf Rd, # 51, Niles | Esad Kamencic & Alija Kamencic | Kevin Farahmand Pour | 01-10-17 | \$99,000 |
| 6878 W Touhy Ave, # E, Niles | Stanlaw Blaszczuk & Malgorzata Pienkowski | Teresa Rokicka | 01-11-17 | \$135,000 |
| 8866 N Prospect St, # 8816, Niles | Tomasz Zukowski & Monika A Zukowski | Crystal Roberts | 01-12-17 | \$165,000 |
| 7814 N Harlem Ave, Niles | Jan B Wisniewski & Halina K Wisniewski | Lazar Shaoul | 01-10-17 | \$235,000 |
| 8263 N Elmore St, Niles | Lambros Konstantellos & Elena Konstantellos | Ann M Fantuzzi | 01-11-17 | \$650,000 |
| 200 S Dee Rd, # 2B, Park Ridge | Cary Grimmer | Casey J Grimmer | 01-09-17 | \$165,000 |
| 1016 N Knight Ave, Park Ridge | Erik Daniel Baylls | Richard H Jung | 01-11-17 | \$214,000 |
| 230 N Delphia Ave, Park Ridge | Giuseppe Ricardi & Rosa Ricardi | Susan E Stodz | 01-12-17 | \$230,000 |
| 1432 Potter Rd, Park Ridge | David A Gillespie | Wilmington Sav Fund Soc Ttee | 01-11-17 | \$295,000 |
| 736 N Delphia Ave, Park Ridge | Aneta Steinhof | Fannie Mae | 01-09-17 | \$311,000 |
| 825 Goodwin Dr, Park Ridge | Ryan McDonough & Kathryn McDonough | Christopher M Vlasich | 01-12-17 | \$357,500 |
| 1309 Elliott St, Park Ridge | Renato Natividad Jr & Genevieve Reyes Natividad | Paul Faso | 01-09-17 | \$390,000 |
| 604 Austin Ave, Park Ridge | Benjamin Gustashaw & Kristin Gustashaw | Janice L Reardon | 01-12-17 | \$400,000 |
| 132 Elmore St, Park Ridge | Jay A Ure & Bethany L Ure | Jason Henderson | 01-11-17 | \$412,000 |
| 301 S Northwest Hwy, Park Ridge | Andrew M Shafer & Meggan B Shafer | Brighton Mews Venture Lic | 01-18-17 | \$512,000 |
| 1763 Park Ridge Pt, Park Ridge | Michael Izrael & Teresa Izrael | Peter Tsitiridis | 01-12-17 | \$520,000 |
| 1721 S Washington Ave, Park Ridge | Roland Schneider Jr & Alison M Schneider | Stevan Cotra | 01-11-17 | \$535,000 |
| 1417 S Clifton Ave, Park Ridge | Paul Santucci | Terrence P Bannon | 01-09-17 | \$667,000 |
| 1117 S Hamlin Ave, Park Ridge | Francisco Trujillo & Leticia Trujillo | John W Hester | 01-18-17 | \$682,500 |

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

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

8 ways to free up space in your pint-size kitchen

BY GABRIELLE SAVOIE
MyDomaine

As much as we would all want a chef's kitchen complete with multiple islands, sprawling counter space and endless kitchen supplies, our reality can be quite different.

Those living in larger cities, small apartments or starter homes know all too well the challenges that come with a tiny kitchen; limited storage, little counter space and overflowing clutter often come with the deal.

But you're not destined to suffer small-kitchen woes for as long as you live in tight quarters. Thanks to a few clever hacks, there are ways to dramatically improve the function of a small kitchen.

Are you using all your vertical space? Can you increase your counter space somehow? Could you free up cupboard space by adopting other storage hacks? We studied our favorite small kitchens to give you the best tools to overhaul your own.

Use a utensil rod. We all have a junk drawer or a container filled with cooking utensils. But if your drawer or counter space is limited, take advantage of your vertical space and hang your tools instead. You'll free up storage space for other essentials.

Keep a bar cart. Sometimes, no matter how hard we try to keep everything contained in our cupboards and drawers, limited storage space fails us. If you struggle to find cupboard space for large pots and pans, or if you have nowhere to keep your spices and oils, consider adding a bar cart to your kitchen arsenal.

Use sleek containers. Some things are best kept



ERIC AUDRAS/GETTY

To maximize space in a small kitchen, keep your nonperishables out in the open in pretty glass canisters. Also, showcase kitchenware on the counter.

close at hand. Keep your off-used nonperishables in pretty glass canisters and display them instead of taking up limited pantry space. This works great for breakfast cereals, granola and sugar.

Use your vertical space. You may have high ceilings, but are your cupboards reaching all the way to the top? So many kitchens have cupboards that stop too low, leaving precious vertical space unused. If you're not planning on renovating your kitchen, see if you can have high cupboards built-in to match your existing ones or hang high shelves on unused walls. These are perfect for lesser-used items like vases and special-occasion pieces.

Corral essentials in trays. Any amateur cook knows to keep a few essentials close to the stove. To make it look more organized and less messy, corral these in a pretty tray: olive oil, vinegar, salt, pepper and other regularly used ingredients. Not only will it free up pantry space, but you'll also enjoy having these nearby when cook-

ing. **Showcase your kitchenware.** Make your decor functional. Some kitchenware is too pretty to hide away. If you have beautiful wooden cheese boards, marble mortar and pestles, pretty candleholders or a collection of wooden spoons, make them a part of your decor instead of keeping them in cabinets.

Get creative with glassware storage. If your cupboard space is limited, but your glassware collection is large, try hanging it upside down, bar-style. Glassware racks can be hung on the wall or under cupboards, freeing up space for your other dinnerware and simultaneously showcasing your wineglass collection.

Use a butcher block. If your counter space is limited, a butcher block is a great way to add storage and surface to your kitchen. Keep knives and prep essentials in the drawers, store larger prep items on shelves underneath and use the top surface for chopping and cutting.

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

Thursday, Feb. 16

Hayes Carll: 8 p.m. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$22-\$44, 847-492-8860

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, who investigate aspects of 19th and 20th century North American history and resonate with contemporary concerns about war, racism, and xenophobia. 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, 847-491-4000

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 Herskovits 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

The Orchid Show: This year, at our biggest flower show of the year, we're taking a playful look at how orchids have influenced and continue to inspire popular culture. Bring your camera and come see the striking Phalaenopsis V3' orchid—it's rarely on display at botanic gardens. 8 a.m. All week, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, Adults: members/nonmembers: \$10-\$12, seniors 62 or older members/nonmembers: \$8-\$10, children ages 3-12: members or nonmembers: \$8-\$10, 847-835-5440

Character Counts! In Glenview Writing Contest: Students in fifth through eighth grades are invited to write an 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. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-400-8975

Last Lectures of the Season Opera Lecture Series: For this lecture: Eugene Onegin by Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. Talk of tales of intrigue, love, and death from the 2016/17 Lyric Opera of Chicago season. Moderated by former Lyric Opera docents. Please register at glenviewpl.org/register or by calling. 7 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Adult Literacy Classes: Spring Session: This is a unique opportunity for native and non-native English 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

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

Park Center Winter Art Show: Stop by Park Center to see the great artwork submitted by visual art class students for this annual art show. View art by students of all ages and levels. 9 a.m. All week, Glenview Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, free, 847-724-5670

Hot Ticket: "Bridget Jones's Baby": "Bridget Jones's Baby" is rated R. Bridget's focus on single life and her career is interrupted when she finds herself pregnant, but with one hitch, she can only be 50 percent sure of the identity of her baby's father. The cast is: Renee Zellweger, Colin Firth. 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-

965-4220

Wonder Ground Open Lab: Look, touch, tinker, and play with an intriguing array of science-oriented curiosities in this new space designed especially for kids. A drop-in visit is meant to last about 15 minutes. Activities are repeated each week from Tuesday to Thursday. The Wonder Ground is a STEAM playground for kids. 4 p.m. Thursday and Tuesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

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

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

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

Innovative Surgical Techniques In Knee Arthroplasty: Gain a comprehensive understanding of the spectrum of options for managing arthritis of the knee, from patients with early disease to more advanced disease. Presented by AAOS, AAHKS, and The Knee Society, this is a unique cadaver lab experience. 3:30 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, OLC Education and Conference Center, 9400 W. Higgins Road #100, Rosemont, \$1,499-\$2,099, 800-626-6726

Faceless: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, 8 p.m. Friday, 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd, Skokie, \$30-\$81, 847-673-6300

Friday, Feb. 17

St Stephen Gaslight Players present "Fiddler on the Roof": The Gaslight Players of St. Stephen Church in Des Plaines perform "Fiddler on the Roof." Tickets can be ordered from Kathy Drelicharz at 773-391-3185 or by email at kdreli@aol.com. 7:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, St. Stephen Church, Hanley Hall, 1280 Prospect Ave., Des Plaines, \$15 adults; \$10 seniors; \$8 children

Partner Yoga at Lattof YMCA: Take

time to relax, learn new breathing techniques and exercises as a pair. Fees: \$20 a couple for YMCA of Metro Chicago members; \$35 a couple for nonmembers. Childcare is available at no additional cost. Visit or call Lattof YMCA to attend. 7 p.m. Lattof YMCA, 300 Northwest Highway, Des Plaines, \$20 members; \$35 nonmembers, 847-296-3376

Willy Wonka Jr.: Based on the beloved Gene Wilder film, Willy Wonka Jr. is one of the sweetest shows of all, with the story about an eccentric and brilliant candymaker, Willy Wonka. People scramble through chocolate bars in search of five golden tickets to tour his exclusive factory. 7 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, Prairie Lakes Theatre, 515 E. Thacker St., Des Plaines, \$11-\$14, 847-516-2298

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

The Freeze Basic Skills Figure Skating Competition: Take a break from the cold and watch the skating stars of tomorrow at this United States Figure Skating sanctioned competition which draws more than 180 participants across the Midwest and beyond. Call for more information. 5 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. Saturday, Glenview Ice Center, 1851 Landwehr Road, Glenview, Free for spectators, 847-724-5670

"Queen of Katwe" Screening, Just Drop In: This film, rated PG, is about an Ugandan girl who sees her life change after being introduced to the game of chess. Phiona must learn more than the game as she is exposed to life outside Katwe and dreams of escaping a life of poverty for herself and her family. 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Toddler Science Ages 18 months - Three Years with Adult: Join in a science project geared for the youngest learners. Limit: one class. Registration begins Saturday, Jan. 14. 9:30 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. Friday, Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

Saturday, Feb. 18

Polyglots Toastmasters meeting:

Turn to Calendar, Next Page

Calendar, from Previous Page

Polyglots is the only Toastmasters International Club in the United States that conducts its meetings in German. If you speak German or want to keep it fresh or improve it, visit this club. This is not a language school, but a place where you can speak and listen to German and, above all, have a good time with those at all levels and ages. Go to their website at www.polyglottoastmasters.org/ and their meetup at www.meetup.com/Polyglots-Toastmasters-German-speaking/. Please email andrew.weiler.uiuc@gmail.com for the current location, as sometimes they meet at places other than the Des Plaines Library. Our Feb 4 meeting will be at: Oakton Arms 1660 Oakton Place, Des Plaines, IL 60018. 9:30 a.m. Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St., Des Plaines, free, 847-827-5551

Greg Brown with Chicago Farmer: 8 p.m. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$25-\$55, 847-492-8860

Lake Michigan Polar Plunge for Special Olympics: The Polar Plunge, presented by Law Enforcement Torch Run and GEICO, is a unique opportunity to support Special Olympics athletes by taking a flying leap, a leap into the frigid waters of Lake Michigan. Participants must raise \$100 in donations from friends, family and co-workers in exchange for jumping into the icy waters. 11 a.m. Clark Street Beach, 1811 Sheridan Road, Evanston, \$100 fundraising minimum for Plungers, 312-502-7954

Stories of Internment and Remembrance: Feb. 19 marks the 75th anniversary of the signing of Executive Order 9066 that called for the incarceration of 120,000 Japanese Americans during World War II. Every year, the Japanese American community in Chicago comes together to remember. Come learn from elders who experienced this history firsthand. 2 p.m. Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, free, 847-467-4602

Segovia Classical Guitar Series: SoloDuo: Comprised of Italian guitarists Matteo Mela and Lorenzo Micheli, SoloDuo has performed throughout Europe, Asia, the United States and Canada. SoloDuo performs Mauro Giuliani's transcription of the Sinfonia from Vincenzo Bellini's "Il Pirate." 7:30 p.m. Mary Galvin Recital Hall at Northwestern University, 70 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, \$10-\$30, 847-467-4000

Piccolo Theatre "Private Eyes": Matthew's wife, Lisa, is having an affair with Adrian, a British director. Or perhaps the affair is part of a play being rehearsed. Or perhaps Matthew has

imagined it all. But a mysterious woman who seems to shadow the others brings the story to its surprising conclusion or does she? The audience plays the role of detective in this hilarious, multi-layered comedy of suspicion about love, lust, and the power of deception in which nothing is ever quite what it seems. 8 p.m. Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday, Piven Theatre Workshop, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, \$10-\$25, 847-424-0089

Friendship Club Interactive Film, "Finding Dory": "Finding Dory" is rated PG/16 and is for those in grades 3-8 who want to make friends in a supportive environment. Trained Friendship Ambassadors (grades 4-12) host these events where everyone feels welcome. Generously sponsored by the Kiwanis Club of Glenview-Northbrook. Please register at glenviewpl.org/register or by calling. 2:30 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Restoration Work Day at Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie: Help the restoration team remove invasive plants to make way for native prairie grasses. Work parties may be canceled in case of inclement weather. 9 a.m. Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie/The Tyner Center, 2400 Compass Road, Glenview, free, 847-724-5670

The New SAT: Tips, Strategies and More to Master: Teens 13-18 are invited to join us for a free informational session on the new SAT. Registration is required to learn from college and test prep professionals at C2 Education Evanston Center. 10 a.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

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

Crop and Garden Planning: This is for those ages 16-yrs-old and older to learn from Matt Ryan, farm manager at The Talking Farm. Matt speaks on: garden design, germination, plant spacing and sequencing, companion planting, and cold weather plants. Bring a layout of your yard and begin work on your garden design in class. 10:30 a.m. Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, \$25 Skokie resident; \$31 non resident, 847-677-7001

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, 847-967-4800

Sunday, Feb. 19

Sons of the Never Wrong: 7 p.m. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$15-\$32, 847-492-8860

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

Trail Marker Trees: America's first road signs were created by Native Americans. Some of these living historical relics still stand along the North Shore, including several in Glencoe. Artist and author Dennis Downes presents a program based on his 30-year study of marker trees. Cosponsored by the library and the Friends of the Green Bay Trail, this program is suitable for adults and families with older (in grade 3 and up) children. 2 p.m. Glencoe Public Library, 320 Park Ave., Glencoe, free, 847-835-5056

On Board with The Sound of the Sea: Join singer, actor, and sailor Tom Kastle for a performance, in song and story, of the amazing maritime traditions of Chicago and the Great Lakes. Tom is a co-founder of the Chicago Maritime Festival, faculty member of the Old Town School of Folk Music, and has captained tall ships on the Great Lakes. Please register at glenviewpl.org/register or by calling. 2 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Mercy, Forgiveness and Healing of Memories: This is a lecture/discussion with Deacon Robert Arvidson, LCPC, of Holbrook Counseling Center, Catholic Charities. Painful memories can sap our energy and distort our focus in the present. Healthy ways of dealing with anger, fear and guilt can enable us to be merciful to others. Noon, St. Catherine Laboure Parish, 3535 Thornwood Ave, Glenview, free, 847-826-4704

Grand Reopening: Help us celebrate our grand reopening of the library after a year of renovations. Enjoy a ribbon cutting ceremony conducted by Mr. Abraham Lincoln himself, a scavenger hunt, refreshments and more. 1 p.m. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Avenue, Lincolnwood, free.

Lincoln Center Screening: "Sinatra: Voice for a Century": This is a screening of "SINATRA: Voice for a Century" that was originally broadcasted on Dec. 18, 2015. Lincoln Center teams up with the New York Philharmonic to celebrate the 100th birthday of Ol' Blue Eyes with Christina Aguilera, Chris Botti, Fantasia,

Sutton Foster, Kyle Dean Massey, Bernadette Peters, Billy Porter, Sting, and host Seth MacFarlane. 2 p.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Academy Awards Film Discussion: Join independent film maker Reid Schultz in his annual pre-Oscar night film discussion. 2 p.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois: Daniel Horowitz, a genealogy expert from MyHeritage, will present "Getting the Most Out of MyHeritage," an introductory session on the online family history service MyHeritage.com. 2 p.m. Temple Beth-El, 3610 Dundee Road, Northbrook, free, 312-666-0100

Skating In the Park: The park's great lawn has been transformed into an NHL-sized, outdoor skating rink where visitors can skate under breathtaking lights for a magical experience this holiday season. Admission to the ice rink is free. Skate rentals are \$8. 2 p.m. MB Financial Park at Rosemont, 5501 Park Place, Rosemont, free, 847-349-5008

George Washington Is coming! Take a step back in history and bring your kids to meet George Washington at the Wilmette Historical Museum. Hear Washington explain how he went from being a gentleman farmer and land surveyor to being our country's founding father and first President. 2 p.m. Wilmette Historical Museum, 609 Ridge Road, Wilmette, Free for Museum members, \$5 for nonmembers, 847-853-7666

Down Dog & Denim: Join us every Sunday for a free hourlong Vinyasa Flow Yoga Class. Register at www.eventbrite.com/e/down-dog-denim-tickets-31076517701. 10:30 a.m. Down Dog & Denim, 908 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, free

Monday, Feb. 20

Family Lantern Festival: Come celebrate the Year of the Rooster, explore the world, and create a traditional Chinese lantern at this all-ages festival. Please register at glenviewpl.org/register or by calling. 11 a.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Learn To Be A Shark: Come to the north shore's only coworking space and entrepreneur incubator. Vcapital speakers Ryan Kole and Jim Vaughan explain how to invest in early and mid stage

Turn to Calendar, Next Page

Calendar, from Previous Page

companies, joining investor networks and be a part of venture funds. 6:30 p.m. Callan Building, 1939 Waukegan Road, Glenview, free, 847-414-7342

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

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

Monday Movers for walkers up to 24 months: Join in for a half hour of moving, singing, reading, and fun. This is for toddlers with a caregiver. 10:30 a.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Storytime for All Ages: Enjoy stories, songs and fingerplays for the whole family. 1:30 p.m. Monday, Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S Prospect Ave, Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

Skating in the Park: The parks' great lawn has been transformed into an NHL-sized, outdoor skating rink where visitors can skate under breathtaking lights for a magical experience this holiday season. Admission to the ice rink is free. Skate rentals are \$8. 2 p.m. MB Financial Park at Rosemont, 5501 Park Place, Rosemont, free, 847-349-5008

President's Day - Adventure Quest: Our President's Day quest for outdoor adventure includes snowshoeing, geocaching, log climbing, or animal tracking, depending on weather conditions. Hot chocolate and trail mix help fuel the explorations of those ages 6 to 10-years-old. Dress for the weather. 9 a.m. Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brumel St., Skokie, \$16 Skokie resident; \$20 non-resident, 847-677-7001

Great Decisions Discussion - Saudi Arabia In Transition: The same eight topics based on The Foreign Policy Association briefing booklet articles are offered at both the afternoon and evening series. Purchase the briefing booklets or borrow from the library; there is no charge to participate but registration is requested at winnetkalibrary.libcal.com/event/2992652. To purchase

the books, contact Joan Fragen, by calling or joanfragen@gmail.com. The topic is Saudi Arabia In Transition - declining oil revenue and efforts to transform the country despite human rights issues. 12:30 p.m. Winnetka Public Library, 768 Oak St., Winnetka, free, 847-446-0184

Tuesday, Feb. 21

Digital Demos in the Lobby: Explore the library's digital ebook, audiobook, magazine, movie, TV show, and music collections. Learn how to download items to your mobile device from hoopla, MyMediaMall, and Zinio. Information and instruction are also available about the library's online databases. Sessions are conveniently held in the Library Lobby, so just drop in to ask the experts. 2 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Power Employment Workshop: Land Your Job In 90 Days: Discover proven strategies to land a job, as Illinois WorkNet Center speakers share what's working and what's not in today's job market. This comprehensive workshop discusses setting SMART goals to keep you on track, using social media to connect with active hiring managers, getting your resume through today's Applicant Tracking Systems, and developing two critical interview skills to sell yourself and land a job. Go to the website to register. 9:30 a.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

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

Drop-in Storytime: Ages birth to 5-years-old with caregiver. Space is limited to the first 20 drop-ins with caregivers. No registration required. Drop in for preschool storytime at the library this winter. This fun, interactive storytime emphasizes letters, numbers, shapes, colors and other concepts to provide a language-rich experience. 10 a.m. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Movies Munchies and More Snow Flower and the Secret Fan: "Snow Flower and the Secret Fan" is rated PG-13, and is a story set in nineteenth-century China. It focuses on the

life-long friendship between two girls who develop their own secret code as a way to contend with the rigid social norms imposed on women. Cast: Bingbing Li, Ji-hyun Jun, Vivian Wu. (Program is part of Coming Together in Skokie and Niles Township). 11:30 a.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

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 at 3 p.m. 7 p.m. St. John Brebeuf Parish Church, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., Niles, suggested free will donation, 702-806-8421

Threads & More: North Suburban Needle Arts Guild presents a Bead and Thread Embroidery workshop led by Lisa Binkley, fiber artist. Go to the website for information on the 2-1/2 days event which starts Feb. 21. 1 p.m. Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1133 Pfingsten Road, Northbrook, Workshop is \$135, 847-272-0400

Preschool Storytime for ages 3 to 5: Children ages 3 to 5 are welcome to enjoy this free storytime. 10:30 a.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Society of Active Single Seniors SASS Monthly Meeting: This is an independently run non-denominational club that offers a variety of social events including attending professional theater, music performances, parties and dining out. Events are planned and led by its members. New members are welcome and refreshments are served. For more information, please call. 7 p.m. Lutheran Church of the Ascension, 460 Sunset Ridge Road, Northfield, free, 847-498-5231

Reciprocity Day: Learn What's New In Park Ridge: Every February the Twentieth Century Club of Park Ridge hosts Reciprocity Day for representatives of local organizations. Join in the discussion, and learn what's new in the community. Members are free, guest fee is \$2. Refreshments are served. 1 p.m. Park Ridge Presbyterian Church, 1300 W. Crescent Ave., Park Ridge, free, 312-391-6788

Book Bites for Grades 4-6: Come talk about what you're reading, get great recommendations, and chow down on some pizza. 4:15 p.m. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

Teddy Bear Time: Stories, songs and fingerplays for children from 12 through

24 months with an adult. Siblings welcome. 11 a.m. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

Baby Bounce Storytime for Birth to 12 months with adult: Join us for storytime just for babies. Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes and a playtime at the end. 9:15 a.m. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

Storytime for 4s & 5s: Join us for storytime. No adults or siblings please. 10:15 a.m. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

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

Scientists in Synagogues: Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah, offers a three session Scientists in Synagogue program - How Free is Free Will? The Neuroscience of Moral Decision Making, exploring how what we know about the brain aligns with traditional Jewish ideas about autonomy and self determination. Takes place on Tuesday evenings. 8 p.m. Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah, 3220 Big Tree Lane, Wilmette, free, 847-256-1213

Wednesday, Feb. 22

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. Found Kitchen & Social House, 1631 Chicago Ave., Evanston, free, 847-868-8945

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 a 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

Jewish Genealogy Beginners' Workshop: Judith R. Frazin, an expert genealogist from the Jewish Genealogical

Turn to Calendar, Next Page

Calendar, from Previous Page

Society of Illinois, will present Finding Your Jewish Roots: A Beginner's Workshop. 7 p.m. North Shore Congregation Israel, 1185 Sheridan Road, Glencoe, free, 312-666-0100

Chicago and Cook County Resources: Discover resources for Chicago and Cook County. A Glenview Library card is required and registration at glenviewpl.org/register or by calling. 10 a.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

What Every Parent Should Know: Attorneys Nichole M. Waltz and Mildred V. Palmer discuss parents' legal rights, responsibilities, and limitations for tweens, teens, and young adults to age 25. Topics include protecting your right to parent through powers of attorney and HIPAA authorizations, disability and divorce, and preparing for life's "what-ifs" through guardianship and trusts. Please register at glenviewpl.org/register or by calling. 7 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Fat Wednesday, Mardi Gras Party: Join for a delicious New Orleans-style

buffet with Mardi Gras music performed by Dennis Stroughmatt and Creole Spirit. Sponsored by Whitehall Deerfield. Noon, The East Wing Glenview Senior Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, \$20 members, \$25 non-members, 847-724-4793

Spelling Bee Practice Session: In order to get ready for the local competition, a drop-in practice session will be held at MGPL. The winner and runner up will go on to compete at the Regional Spelling Bee; Date and place will be announced at a later date. 10 a.m. 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

Artist Reception at YMCA Community Gallery: The North Suburban YMCA welcomes local artist Tanya Christini Klatt for an exhibit of her new works, on display through the month of February in the Y's Community Gallery. Guests can meet the artist at an informal

reception on Feb. 22 from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the lobby of the Y. North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techny Road, Northbrook, free, 847-272-7250

Community Wednesdays Book Talk with The Good Book Fairy: The Good Book Fairy Lauren Margolin, discusses "Faithful" by Alice Hoffman. Every Wednesday, take part for a few hours of mind, body and spirit enrichment. The "J" hosts three, one-hour lectures/classes throughout the day, along with their fitness class offerings at the Marvin Lustbader Center. Cost: \$10 or free for Marvin Lustbader Health and Wellness Members. 10:45 a.m. Bernard Weinger JCC, 300 Revere Drive, Northbrook, free, 224-406-9257

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

Pokemon Club Grades Kindergarten through Sixth: Bring your own cards and meet up with fellow Pokemon fans.

4:15 p.m. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

Seed Starting 101: This is for those ages 16 and older to make the most of their available space and prolong the growing season by starting some garden favorites from seed. The discussion is on seed selection and storage, germination requirements, and how to care for seedlings once they emerge. Starter vegetable seeds are included. 7 p.m. Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, \$16 Skokie resident; \$20 non-resident, 847-677-7001

The South Side: A Portrait of Chicago and Segregation: Moore provides a snapshot of a fundamental issue facing her native city today: segregation on the South Side. And while it would be easy to see Chicago with its views, restaurants and thriving arts as a model for other metropolitan areas, underneath the shiny facade lurks deeply-rooted and destructive segregation. 7 p.m. Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-256-5025

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NOW PLAYING



"Split" ★★★

PG-13, 1:57, suspense/thriller

In the multiple-personality psycho-thriller "Split," James McAvoy sinks his teeth into the role of Kevin, a man with dissociative identity disorder who kidnaps three young girls. While McAvoy is known for his dramatic roles, he's delightful when allowed to show off his loud, campy, unhinged side. He's a fascinating character, 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 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*



"Rings" ★ 1/2

PG-13, 1:47, horror

"Rings," the third entry in the American "Ring" franchise, is just a generic ghost story that's half-heartedly built around the premise of a videotape that kills. It's now the file-share that kills. Johnny Galecki is cast against type as Gabriel, a surly college professor who's gotten hold of the old-school "Ring" videotape and is in the midst of an experiment that involves showing it to college kids.

One of the students and his girlfriend discover the video images turn out to be clues to a mysterious disappearance. The movie isn't scary, it isn't awesome, and it doesn't nudge you to think of technology in a new way. — *Owen Gleiberman, Variety*



"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. For all his shapes, forms and lives, it's always Bailey inside there, retaining all the memories and

experiences along the way. The problem here, though, is that it's painfully cheesy pabulum, relying on hokey burger joint and Friday night football game stereotypes to take the place of character development. — *K.W.*



"Hidden Figures" ★★ 1/2

PG, 2:07, drama

"Hidden Figures" is a fairly entertaining gloss of a docudrama elevated by its cast. It 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 in Jim Crow-

ruled 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*



"La La Land" ★★★★★

PG-13, 2:08, musical comedy

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 stubbornly idealistic jazz pianist and aspiring club owner. More crucial to the film's success, Emma Stone co-stars as a striving, occasionally employed Los Angeles actress. Stone is spectacular, and she's reason enough to see "La La Land." Damien Chazelle is a born filmmaker, and he 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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CAMP CONNECTION

Horseshoe Shootout points toward August hoops summit

BY RICH MAYOR
Pioneer Press

Camp Horseshoe has been around for awhile. The Horseshoe Shootout, however, is just getting its feet wet.

The shootout's second edition took place Saturday at Deerfield. Lake Zurich, Deerfield, Fremd and Prospect came out as winners — knocking off Highland Park, Rhinelander (Wis.), Lake Forest and Niles North — in a meeting of some of the minds behind Camp Horseshoe's annual summer basketball camp.

Jordan Shiner, a Highland Park resident and teacher at Niles North, runs Camp Horseshoe with his wife, Fran Shiner, in Rhinelander each summer. The basketball camp is an offshoot of the main camp and will take place Aug. 10-14, catering to boys entering fourth through eighth grade.

At the heart of Camp Horseshoe's week of basketball are local high school coaches drawn to the camp's good-natured camaraderie and unique setting.

"The kids that come to basketball camp are mostly from schools the coaches come from," Shiner said. "They're getting tons of basketball instruction, going through drills and growing by leaps and bounds during that week. But we also do other things, all the stuff we do at the regular camp: Water skiing, zip line, climbing the wall, archery, tubing, all those things. All of those things are done for fun, but the focus is on the basketball."

The 2017 Camp Horseshoe coaches include Deerfield's Dan McKendrick,

Highland Park's Paul Harris, Prospect's John Camardella, Stevenson's Pat Ambrose, Niles North's Glenn Olson, Lake Zurich's Billy Pitcher and Lyons' Tom Sloan, all of whom have been regulars at the camp. Lake Zurich assistant coach and longtime Hersey head coach Don Rowley also is involved.

Aside from the chance to mentor some up-and-coming players, a week at Camp Horseshoe provides the coaches an outlet to bounce ideas off each other and hang out among those who know the joys and challenges of coaching Chicago-area high school basketball.

After the camp, the coaches meet with Shiner to discuss that year's experience and what can be improved going forward. Someone mentioned a one-day regular-season event over dinner, and soon the Horseshoe Shootout came into existence. Lake Zurich hosted the first shootout last season.

Many current varsity players at the Horseshoe Shootout attended Camp Horseshoe, and some have returned as camp counselors. Shiner said the Horseshoe Shootout features anywhere between 30-50 players and coaches with ties to the camp, depending on the year.

"The shootout is really all of us just tipping our hats and acknowledging how much we enjoy Horseshoe," said Camardella, who has been a camper, counselor and coach in northern Wisconsin since 1994. "It's recognizing a camp for something that's extremely unique. I'd love to know if there's anything like it in the country. Eight or nine pro-

grams that all compete in the same area take a week at the end of each summer to go up to the Northwoods of Wisconsin."

Prospect senior Michael Ritchie, who plans to be a counselor at Horseshoe for the third time this summer, said "there's really nothing like it." He's made friends through the camp he otherwise wouldn't have known,

and the setting allows teammates to grow closer.

To Shiner, Ritchie's experience is the point. Shiner beamed while recounting some of the former Horseshoe participants who went on to play college basketball: Stevenson's Connor Cashaw (Rice), Highland Park's Josh. Bartelstein (Michigan), Niles North's Abdel Nader (Northern Illi-

nois/Iowa State) and Malachi Nix (Fairleigh Dickinson/Rockhurst), Prospect's Mike LaTulip (Illinois/Wright State) and Deerfield's Joey Lane (Ohio State).

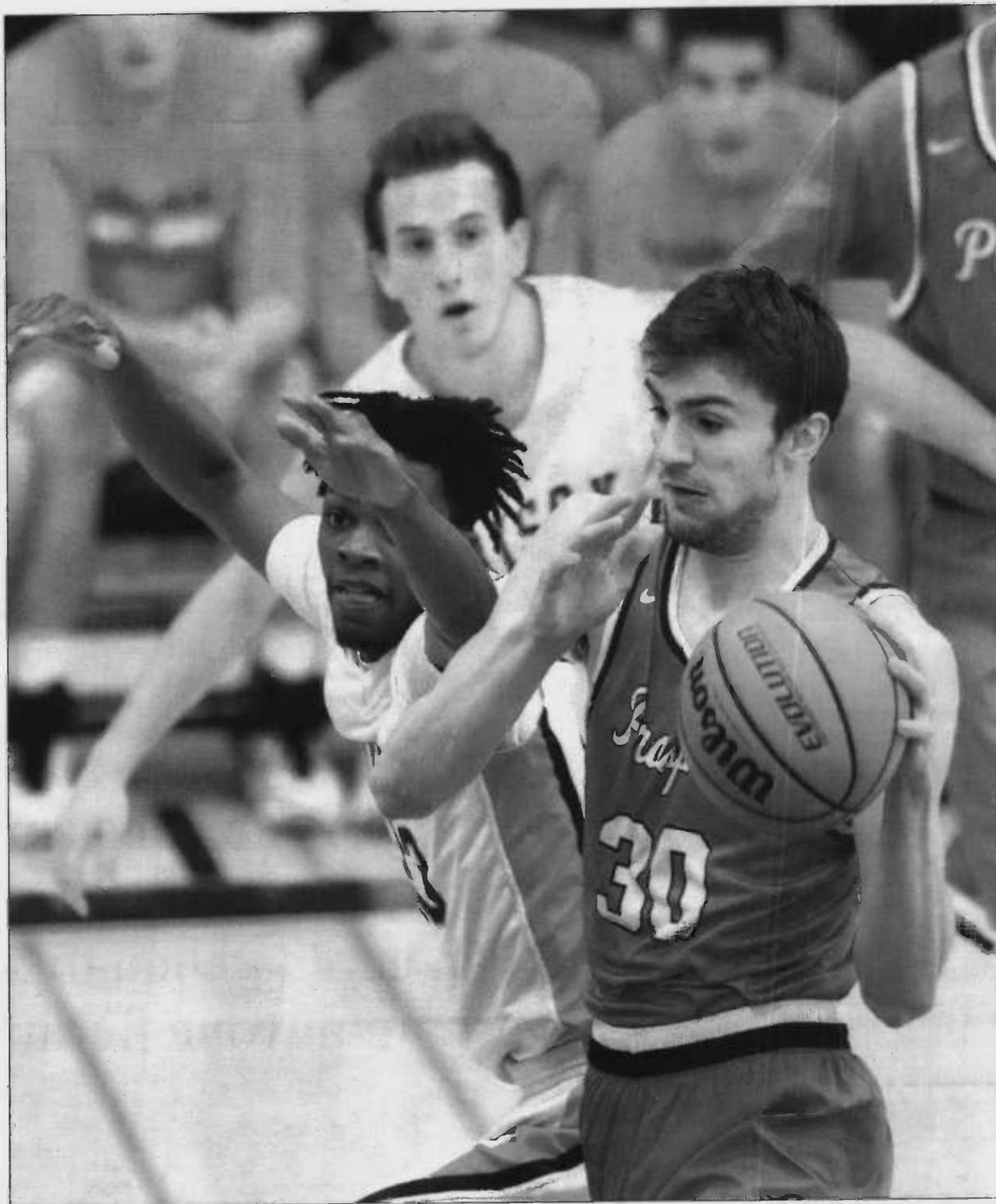
"It's an unbelievable leadership opportunity, an environment they're not really accustomed to," Shiner said of high school players who have worked at

Horseshoe. "They're coaching, refing games, taking care of younger kids the way it was done for them.

"Each year, it's just easy to see the growth in the kids."

Rich Mayor is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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ROB DICKER/PIONEER PRESS

Prospect's Michael Ritchie (30) gets past Buffalo Grove's Demetri Lomnick (23) on Jan. 20. Ritchie said he plans to return to Camp Horseshoe for his third summer as a counselor.

A PERFECT PAIRING

Former Loyola standout helps coach Ida Crown girls basketball team

By RICH MAYOR
Pioneer Press

Burt Levy and Brittany McCoy Peters met about six years ago at the McGaw YMCA in Evanston. Levy recognized the former Loyola star, approached her and they chatted for a few minutes. A day later, they connected on LinkedIn.

Then years went by with no contact.

Levy, the second-year girls basketball coach at Ida Crown, broke the silence before this season when he invited McCoy Peters to join his staff as the lone assistant. McCoy Peters, the first Minnesota women's basketball player to start every game during her four-year college career, accepted his offer a day later.

"When Burt offered this job, with this time structure, it was almost a question of how could I say no?" McCoy Peters said. "It was the perfect amount of time, the level I wanted to get back into, and everything really fell into place."

Ida Crown, a Modern Orthodox Jewish high school that moved to Skokie in 2016, has a policy for extracurricular activities that limits the basketball team to six hours of play per week. The Lady Aces often play two games in a week, which leaves time for one practice. If they play three games, practice falls by the wayside. That worked out well for McCoy Peters, who owns and operates a personal training and fitness studio in Chicago.

In her first season on staff, McCoy Peters helped Ida Crown earn a fourth seed in one of the Harvest Christian Academy sectional games. However, Ida Crown suffered a season-ending 42-38 loss to fifth-seeded Elgin Academy in the Class 1A Harvest Christian regional semifinal on Feb. 7.

"I wish so bad we started freshman year with her," said senior captain Yarday-



JON LANGHAM/PIONEER PRESS

Ida Crown girls basketball assistant coach Brittany McCoy Peters draws up a play while coach Burt Levy and the Lady Aces listen at the end of their game on Feb. 7. Ida Crown was playing Elgin Academy in a Class 1A regional semifinal in Elgin.

na Ben-Simon, a Skokie resident. "I think our team would be at a completely different level — not that we're not good now, I like this season — but having her for longer would've been so great."

McCoy Peters, who grew up in Lincolnwood and now lives in Chicago's West Ridge community area, graduated from Minnesota in 2010 after being named to the Big Ten All-Freshman Team (2007) and earning All-Big Ten honorable mention honors (2010). She currently is ranked fifth in career assists (519), seventh

in career steals (234) and second in games played (127) for the Golden Gophers. She signed a training camp contract with the WNBA's Minnesota Lynx before the 2010 season, but didn't make the team.

Shortly after she graduated, McCoy Peters got her first taste of coaching with middle-school feeder teams and one-on-one skills training sessions. During those experiences, she said she realized middle school wasn't her preferred age. So while she thought about high school coaching, she wasn't actively pursuing it.

Enter Levy. He had McCoy Peters and one other person in mind for the assistant coaching job. McCoy Peters expressed interest right away and got the job.

By all accounts, McCoy Peters was a great addition to Levy's staff and well-liked by the players.

"They love her, she's like a gift," Levy said. "They absolutely love her. She earns their respect through her knowledge and where she's been. When we're short someone, if we only have nine or so, she'll step in for a little bit. They want her

to play with them, and play hard.

"They love her. She couldn't have been a more welcome addition to the team, the staff, the school. She's an over-the-top classy character."

McCoy Peters had similarly positive things to say about the Ida Crown players.

"These girls are just so nice," McCoy Peters said. "They're great people, super coachable and respectful. They seem to be a coach's dream. I remember after our first practice, all the girls were saying, 'Thank

you, thank you, thank you' on the way out of the gym. I was blown away. In my head, I was like, 'Did we not work them hard enough today?' But that's just the type of crew they are.

"Because my experience here has been so positive, and we have so many juniors and underclassmen, I'm looking forward to coaching next year. I'm really excited to keep this going."

Rich Mayor is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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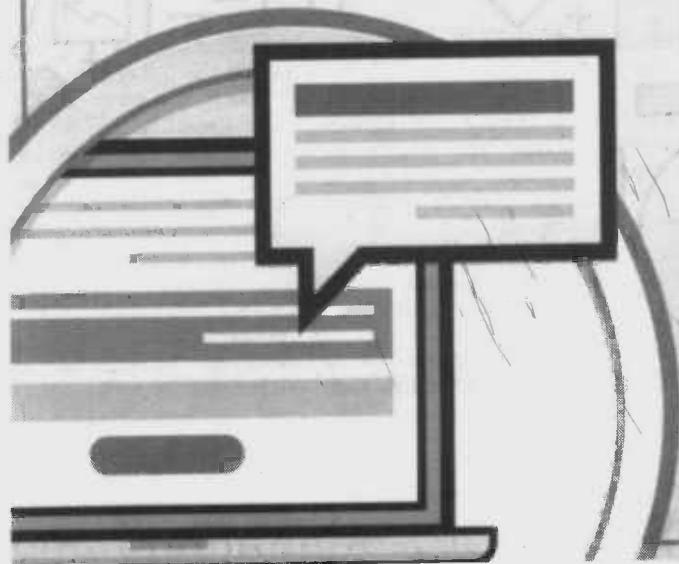


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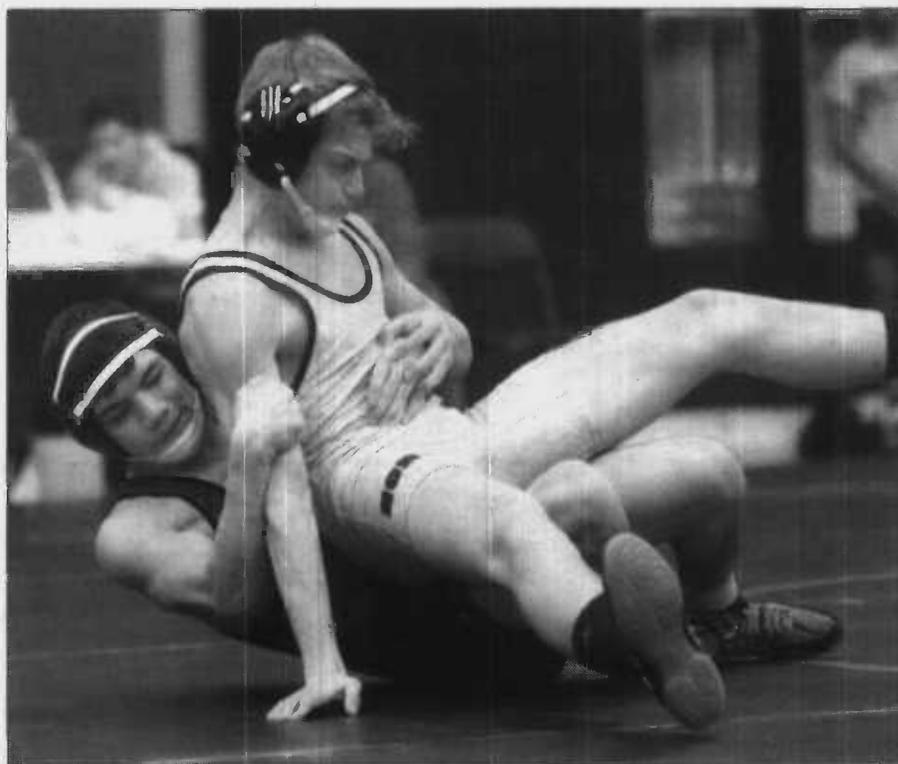
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KEVIN TANAKA/PIONEER PRESS

In this Jan. 21 photo, Maine East's Julio Cabrales, left, brings down Niles North's Nick Slater at the Central Suburban League tournament at Maine South in Park Ridge.

Cabrales doesn't let his concussion derail season

BY DAN SHALIN
Pioneer Press

Maine East junior wrestler Julio Cabrales' performance at the Class 3A Conant Sectional — he came up one win shy of reaching the state tournament — showed that the 132-pounder had made strides since last season. And in the past few weeks.

After missing out on the sectional as a sophomore, Cabrales qualified for this year's event by capturing a regional title.

Even that accomplishment seemed somewhat unlikely earlier in the season. Cabrales missed three weeks with a concussion, he said. An all-conference running back in football, Cabrales clearly had talent on the mat, but he was way behind in his fitness when he returned to wrestling just before the holidays.

"It was something that set me back," said Cabrales,

a Park Ridge resident who finished the season with an 18-9 record. "At our tournament in Wisconsin (the Whitewater Mid-States Classic) in late December, I faced guys with better conditioning who were (battling) the whole six minutes, while I was dying out at three or two minutes."

Over the next few weeks, Cabrales worked on his conditioning.

"I was really pushing myself (in training) because I knew I was going to have to make up for it, and it was something I told myself I had to overcome and do my best," said Cabrales, who said he started feeling fully fit at the regional tournament.

Then, in the sectional consolation quarterfinal on Saturday, Cabrales overcame St. Charles East senior Louis Gordon with a late flurry in which Cabrales turned a 6-3 deficit into a 10-7 win in the final 30

seconds of the third period.

"I don't think he was capable of that three or four weeks ago," Maine East coach Emiliano Hernandez said. "He would have settled with the loss. But he came back with a roar in the last 30 seconds and proved he's capable of these types of things. This is a big positive for him."

After the win over Gordon, Cabrales fell 10-1 to Conant sophomore Nicky Amato.

Next season, Cabrales will be looking to take the next step and become Maine East's first state qualifier since 220-pounder Mario Pagonis in 2015.

"Next year, I will try to win sectionals and just prove that I'm up there among the top in the state," Cabrales said.

Dan Shalin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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All are welcome on Maine East swim team

BY STEVE REAVEN
Pioneer Press

Only worry about yourself.

That sums up how Richard Phan and his Maine East boys swimming teammates approach their business.

It's a unique philosophy in today's results-oriented sports universe.

But it's an outlook well-suited for a program like Maine East, which often finds itself at both a depth and experience deficit compared to much of its competition.

"We all recognize that our team isn't as fast as many others but that doesn't matter to us," said Phan, a junior. "What's important is how (we) do as individuals. It doesn't matter what place we get — we just want to keep improving."

Wearing blinders is not the only team philosophy that helps point the Blue Demons swimmers in the right direction in the pool. Another Maine East credo is that everyone is equal, regardless of swimming acumen, seniority or ethnic background.

Maine East possesses a notably diverse student population, and the swim team is no different.

Maine East's varsity team alone contains swimmers of Indian, Polish, Chinese, Korean and Serbian descent, and several athletes are Hispanic.

"The guys on the team learn pretty quickly that no matter who you are, you'll be accepted," Maine East coach Peter Przekota said. "One thing that sets us apart is that our guys are so supportive of each other. It's great to see them grow into good teammates and also watch them become 'swimmers.'"

That process can take some time at Maine East because it's not uncom-



JON CUNNINGHAM/PIONEER PRESS

Maine East's Richard Phan swims the backstroke leg of the 200-yard individual medley at the Central Suburban North meet on Saturday at Maine East.

mon for even varsity swimmers to be fairly new to the sport.

Senior Jacob Mattenson hadn't swam competitively before joining the team as a junior. For him, seeing teammates with such varied backgrounds mesh seamlessly boils down to practicality.

"Race and culture aren't areas we need to focus on," Mattenson said. "It's about swimming — if we work hard, we know we'll get better, regardless of the standings."

The JV roster is filled with students who joined the team with a very rudimentary knowledge of the sport and have improved thanks to hard work.

Freshman Erik Osorio fits that profile. He decided to try swimming despite barely being able to traverse a full pool-length. Executing the flip turns necessary to finish a race seemed far-fetched.

But Osorio, whose parents were both born in Mexico, is now not only perfectly comfortable in the water, but he has trimmed his typical 100-yard freestyle time approximately in half.

"I make sure I never miss a practice," Osorio said. "In the beginning, I could hardly swim, but I've tried my hardest and dropped a lot of time."

So has Syria native Yaman Obaid. The freshman

came to the United States six months ago after four years in Jordan. When practice began in late November, Obaid was hesitant to put his head in the water.

But now Obaid competes in the sport's longest race at the high school level — the 500 free.

Obaid, who has only been speaking English since his arrival stateside, had other goals besides athletic achievement on his mind when he joined the swimming team.

"When I came here, I really wanted to get big muscles," Obaid said with a chuckle. "I'm really proud to be on the team. I've been taught everything and my teammates are my best friends in the school."

Freshman Mohammed Hussien is also thankful for the camaraderie in the Maine East program. He was born and raised in the United States, but spent several years living in Sudan until returning to the U.S. in fourth grade.

All three freshmen stressed things they can control — how much faster they get in the water and how well they get along with each other.

"We all have each other's backs," Hussien said.

Steve Reaven is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Prozanski benefits from tough training partners

Dons' Barzowski advances to state

BY DAN SHALIN
Pioneer Press

Notre Dame senior Nick Prozanski's 3-2 loss to Oak Park-River Forest senior Tariq Thurman in the 182-pound semifinals was part of a larger trend for the Dons at the Class 3A Conant Sectional: Notre Dame dropped four one-point matches.

The narrow defeats were one of the reasons Notre Dame, which brought 13 wrestlers to the sectional, had only one wrestler reach state. The sectional was Friday and Saturday.

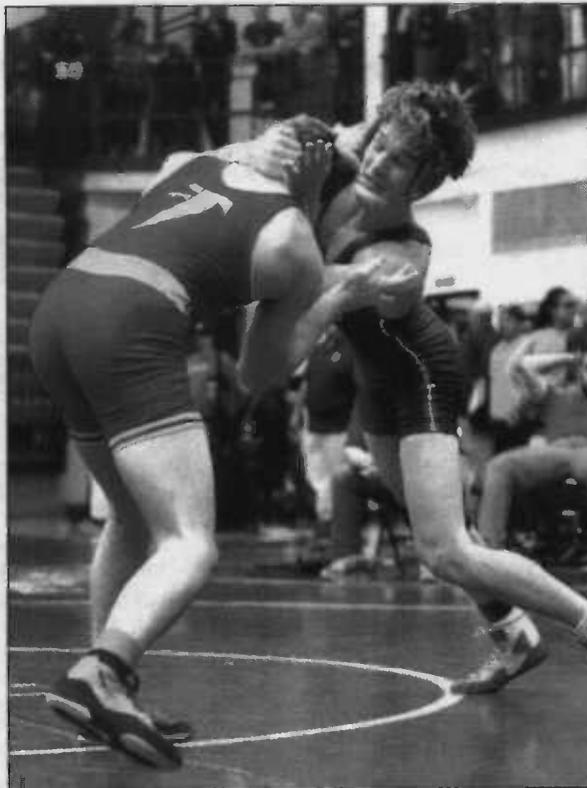
Still, Prozanski (31-10) said he was proud of the way he battled Thurman, who went on to finish second.

"I pushed myself a lot harder in that match and wanted to give it my all," said Prozanski, who lives in Chicago. "I ended up losing by one point, but that was my best match (Saturday). ... It hurts a little not to see myself there, but I gave it all I got."

Though Prozanski was pinned by St. Charles East senior Cody Glidewell in the consolation semifinal and eliminated, Notre Dame coach Augie Genovesi said Prozanski had every reason to celebrate his high school career, which actually is not quite over since the Dons will face Conant on Feb. 21 in the dual team sectional.

"Prozanski is a workaholic, the kind of kid you want in your program because he does everything you ask him to do," Genovesi said. "You feel for the kid (for not making state), you want him to have success because of everything he does for the program."

Prozanski's career did not start until he entered



ROB DICKER/PIONEER PRESS

Notre Dame's Josh Barzowski (right) and Wheaton North's Devin Donovan wrestle at 160 pounds on Saturday at the Class 3A Conant Sectional.

high school.

Prozanski said one of the key moments in his development occurred sophomore year when his training partner was then-senior Marco Orlandi, a two-time state-qualifier.

"He was a good mentor, he pushed me," Prozanski said. "If you're training against the best, you're going to get better and better. They are going to beat you up. But if you stand up, it just makes you better."

More recently, Prozanski said he has trained with current teammate Josh Barzowski, the 160-pounder who was Notre Dame's lone qualifier for this week's state tournament in Champagin. Prozanski said he improved his wrestling speed by training with the lighter Barzowski.

Results

Barzowski (37-4) clinched his spot at state with a pin of Geneva senior Nick Sowers in the consolation bracket semifinals. He then posted a 6-1 win over Conant sophomore Cormac Kane to place third.

Also participating for Notre Dame at sectionals were: freshman Sean Crump (106 pounds), sophomore Vincenzo Genualdi (113), sophomore Michael Moore (120), senior Andy Poniatowski (126), sophomore Alex Valenzona (132), sophomore Carlo Orlandi (138), senior Augie Whittington (145), senior Vince Spedale (152), junior Sam Grillo (170), senior Conor Flaherty (195) and junior Brandon Greifelt (220).

Dan Shalin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.



ERIC P. DAVIS/PIONEER PRESS

Meet your February winner!

Afroditi Baltas, Maine East Freshman

Maine East gymnast Afroditi Baltas placed second in the all-around at the Central Suburban North meet on Jan. 28. She finished with a score of 34.700. Baltas was the only gymnast to finish in the top four in all four events at the meet in Northbrook.

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Mages, Vikings want to do more than make state

BY RICH MAYOR
Pioneer Press

The Niles North boys swimming program looks ahead to the state meet all throughout the season. That's what regular success can do.

One Vikings relay, 2013 graduate Karol Mlynarski and senior diver Maxim Royzen have all medaled at state since 2012.

But this season, the phrase "dream bigger" has been relayed to the team often.

"Obviously, getting to the state meet is a great thing," Vikings coach Seth Orlove said. "It's always a goal, extending the season past the sectional meet. We've been very fortunate over the past (12) years to bring guys to the state meet every year. But getting there is only part of the process. The final part is scoring points at the state meet.

"So while getting there is a huge achievement, it's doing something at that meet, piecing something together to score some points is the goal. That's been communicated. These guys know."

One of those guys is co-captain Mitch Mages. The senior finished third in the 100-yard breaststroke (1 minute, .70 seconds), fourth in the 200 individual medley (1:59.29) and swam the anchor leg on the first-place 400 freestyle relay team (3:15.15) at the Central Suburban South meet on Saturday at Niles West. Jared Brown, Ethan Lee and Anthony Zagorov also were members of the victorious relay.

In spite of his strong showing, Mages called his meet "just OK." His stated motivation, like his coach's, is finding the podium at state.

"Something about being a senior makes you really want to work hard. Becoming a captain and inspiring the underclassmen, it just keeps me completely motivated," Mages said. "It's not like I haven't tried before, but something about this season makes you kick it into another gear."

Mages first competed as a swimmer as a Niles North freshman. He played soccer and baseball as a child — and contin-

ued playing both as a freshman, before dropping soccer after that season and baseball the year after — but immediately fell in love with the pool.

"Not only is it a team sport in a sense, obviously you're invested in the guys around you, but when you're in the water, it's an individual thing," said Mages, a Skokie resident. "It's all very mental. You had to rely entirely on teammates for baseball and soccer, but swimming felt different. Even if someone else has a bad swim, you can always depend on yourself. I was able to control my own success, in a way."

Up next for Mages, who plans to swim at Carthage College (Wis.), is Saturday's Niles North Sectional.

In addition to trying to qualify for the state meet in his home pool, Mages will try to keep his teammates loose.

"In terms of someone that's been pouring himself into the team, has a strong belief in hard work and dedication, Mitch is at the top of that list," Orlove said. "He also has great perspective on the sport. He's very competitive, but he likes to have a good time, too. He enjoys the sport, he enjoys training. He has fun with all of it. And when he's having fun, he's swimming fast. The team usually follows suit."

Results

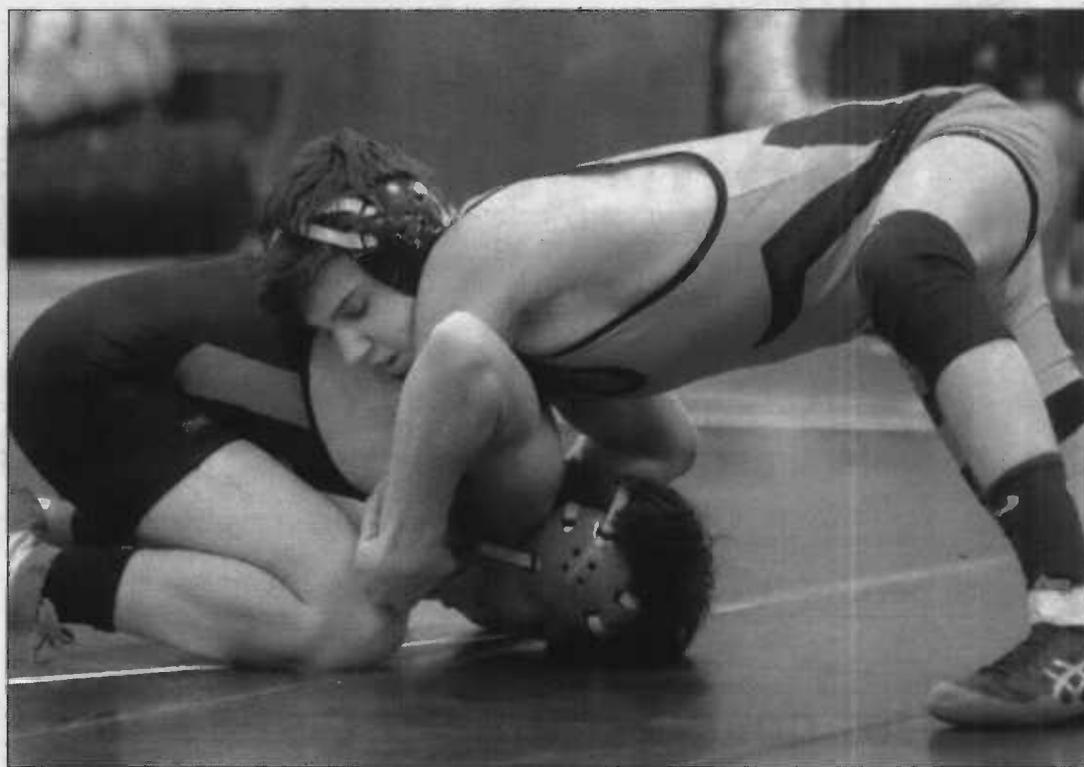
In their first season in the CSL South, the Vikings finished fourth in the conference meet on Feb. 11. They tallied 238.5 points, while first-place New Trier had 402.5.

Royzen, who finished first at the conference meet with 545.15 points, is expected to take the next step at state. He finished in 10th place in state as a freshman, then fifth, then third last year. He plans to dive at Minnesota next season on a partial scholarship.

"Max has come a long way," Orlove said. "We're really proud to have a diver at that caliber."

Rich Mayor is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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TIM BOYLE/PIONEER PRESS

In this Jan. 13 photo, Niles North's Peter Govis, right, wrestles Maine South's Jim Nuzzo in Park Ridge.

Offseason work helps Govis make most of senior season

BY DAN SHALIN | Pioneer Press

Niles North senior wrestler Peter Govis may have come up two wins shy of reaching the Class 3A state tournament, but the 138-pounder still declared himself proud of his performance at the Conant Sectional.

And with good reason.

Though Govis went 1-2 at the sectional, which took place on Friday and Saturday, he opened with an impressive 10-8 win over Conant senior Joe Gomez.

"In a setting (like sectional) with everything at stake, (Govis) just came out and wrestled really strong," Niles North coach Chris Albandia said. "He looked really good. Wish we had one more of those (wins)"

A Skokie resident, Govis finished the season with a 23-11 record, after going 7-22 last winter.

Govis was not deterred by his rough junior season.

"I'm not really a quitter, that's not who I am," Govis said. "My dad and my uncles wrestled and I didn't want to quit because I

would have disappointed myself and my family. So, I stuck with it."

Govis put a lot of time and effort into improving, most notably by becoming a regular at Lake Forest's Poeta Training Center during the spring and fall of 2016.

Albandia said the improvement was evident when Govis returned to the Vikings wrestling room in late fall.

"(Govis) really dedicated himself," Albandia said. "(At Poeta) he was able to immerse himself on a daily basis with kids who are at that (high) level. He came back and was just a different kid this year. He opened up really strong this year. It was like night and day."

At Poeta, Govis said he improved on getting to opponents' legs.

"I was always pretty good at getting legs," Govis said. "Last year, I was getting the legs, but I wasn't able to get a takedown. But Poeta really helped me with getting a leg, putting it up and taking a guy down."

At the sectional, Govis even got to the legs of Oak Park-River

Forest senior Jaime Hernandez in the quarterfinals. Hernandez is ranked No. 2 in the state at 138 pounds by the Illinois Matmen website. However, Govis was pinned by Hernandez, who went on to finish third.

Results

Niles North senior Dylan Ramirez qualified for his second straight state tournament by finishing second in the heavyweight division at the Conant Sectional.

Ramirez (33-5) lost 5-3 to Lane senior Jeremiah Olojo in the championship match. Ramirez and Olojo have now split their four matchups.

"When Dylan stays offensive for six minutes, he's good," Albandia said. "But if he has lapses in movement, it can haunt him."

The state tournament takes place Thursday through Saturday in Champaign.

Dan Shalin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

O'Shaughnessy 'gave everything,' nearly makes state

BY DAN SHALIN
Pioneer Press

Niles West senior wrestler Neil O'Shaughnessy did not quite have the story-book ending to his career, but the 145-pounder said he had few regrets about his four years in the Wolves program.

His career, which began with a 1-19 freshman season, came to an end at the Class 3A Conant Sectional on Saturday. O'Shaughnessy, who finished the season with a 32-7 record, twice was a win away from a trip to the state tournament.

"I can always go home and remember I gave everything I had," said O'Shaughnessy, a Niles resident who was eliminated with an 11-5 loss to York junior Austin Hoffman in the consolation semifinals. "I put everything into this sport. It shows you can do anything if you really put your mind to it."

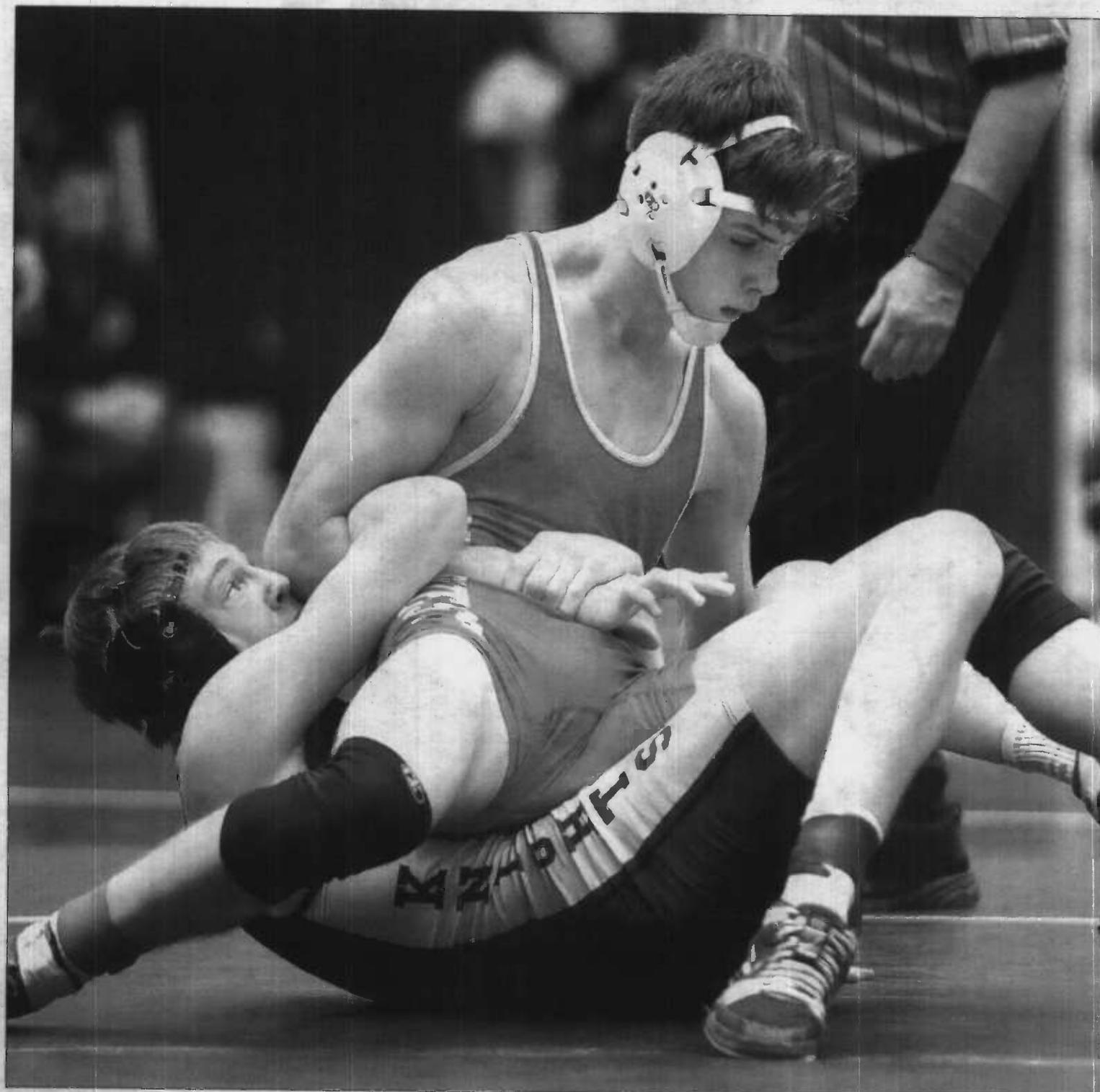
In the process of going from one win as a freshman — which came via a forfeit — to a conference champion and three-time sectional qualifier, O'Shaughnessy said he picked up lessons he will take with him throughout the rest of his life.

"(Legendary Olympic wrestler and coach) Dan Gable said, 'Once you wrestle, everything else in life is easy.' It's so true. Ridiculously true," O'Shaughnessy said. "You realize everything you've learned, it wasn't for nothing."

In fact, O'Shaughnessy said his wrestling experience has inspired him to study psychology in college.

"I'm interested in how strong your mind can be. If you push your mind to its limit, you can end up pushing your body. I think it's fascinating," said O'Shaughnessy, a triplet whose brothers Desmond (golf and track) and Brendan (diving) also are athletes at Niles West.

Niles West coach Anthony Genovesi said his program, and any program



ROB DICKER/PIONEER PRESS

Niles West's Neil O'Shaughnessy tries to escape the grasp of Prospect's Vince Lobono at the Class 3A Conant Sectional on Saturday in Hoffman Estates.

for that matter, needs more athletes like O'Shaughnessy who make a strong commitment to being successful.

"Neil came a long way mentally, just believing in himself," Genovesi said. "He improved (as a wrestler)

over his four years, wrestled a lot in the offseasons and got a lot stronger from last year to this year, and he's a great kid."

O'Shaughnessy, who was Niles West's only sectional qualifier, said he may have

wrestled a little too passively at the sectional, especially in the consolation semifinal match against Hoffman.

"I haven't really been wrestling my A-game (at sectional)," O'Shaughnessy

said. "I've been holding back and been a little more conservative. I think that led to my downfall (Saturday). I wasn't on my offense, but was mainly relying on my defense. I think that's why I kept

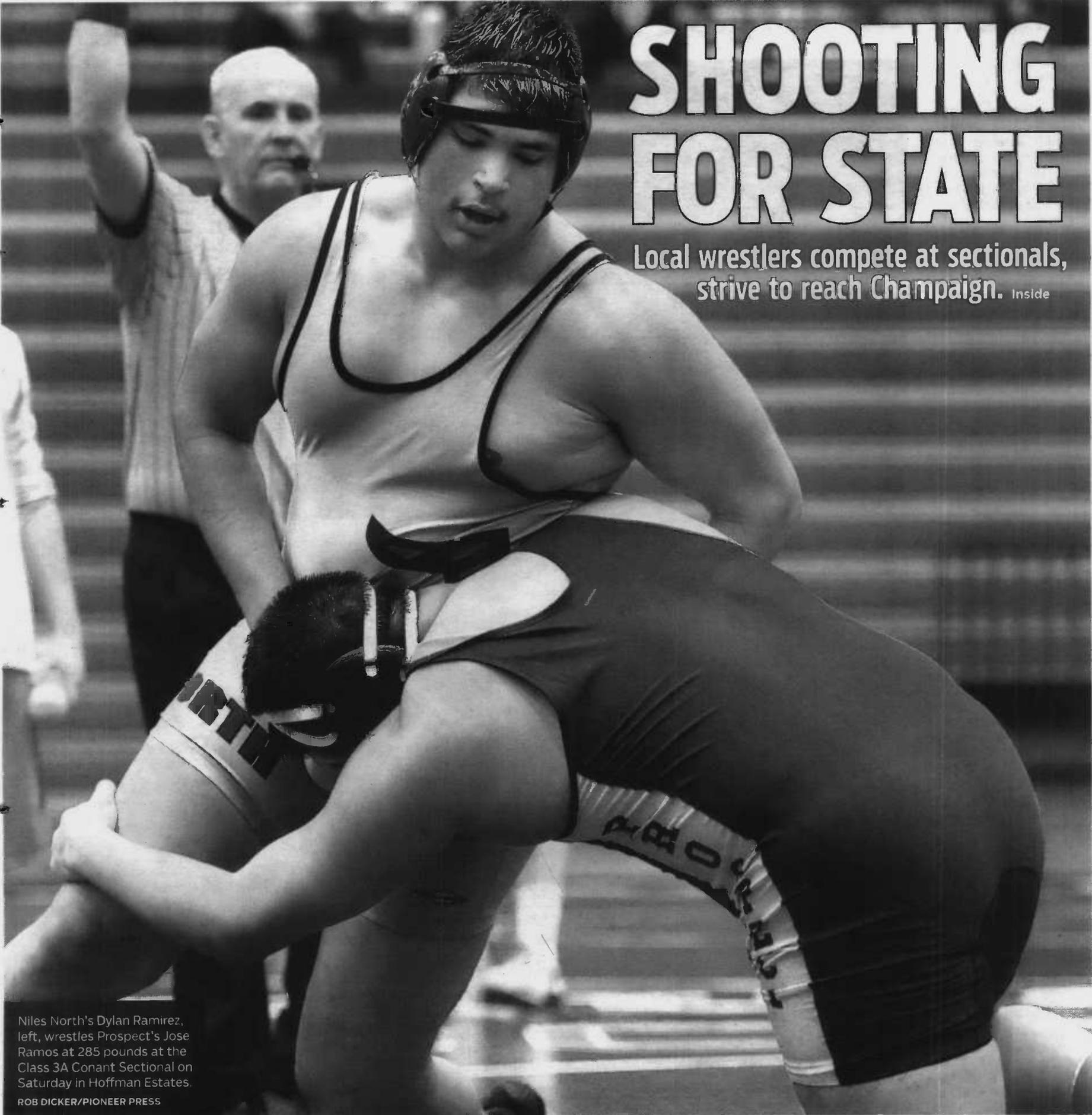
letting (Hoffmann) in, and he took advantage."

Dan Shalin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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SHOOTING FOR STATE

Local wrestlers compete at sectionals,
strive to reach Champaign. *Inside*



Niles North's Dylan Ramirez, left, wrestles Prospect's Jose Ramos at 285 pounds at the Class 3A Conant Sectional on Saturday in Hoffman Estates.

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