Encouraged to ‘speak up’

Town hall urges protestors, dissenters of Trump administration’s recent actions to keep making their voices heard. Page 6

U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky speaks March 3 at a town hall meeting held at the Muslim Community Center in Morton Grove. Schakowsky and civic and elected officials spoke at the gathering of about 125 area residents and shared their thoughts on the importance of continuing to protest against the actions of President Donald Trump and his administration.

Go green

Check out some fun ways to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day. Page 21

Extra motivation

Niles North, Damaria Franklin have all summer to think about squandering late lead to Notre Dame. Page 45

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SHOUT OUT

Sal Rehman, entrepreneur and ‘wing’ man

Sal Rehman, 28, is scheduled to bring a Wing Zone restaurant to Niles this spring. The young entrepreneur and franchisee said he grew up helping out in a family member’s diner before deciding to strike out on his own. He recently opened a Wing Zone in Lombard.

Q: Where will the new Wing Zone be located in Niles, and what made you want to bring one of the restaurants to Niles?
A: The Niles location will be at 8600 W. Golf Road. I’ve been focusing on bringing Wing Zone to communities in Chicagoland that are growing and have a growing demand for great food, delivered. Customers at my nearby Skokie location ask when we’re coming to Niles and I wanted to fill that demand.

Q: How many locations do you own, and where are they?
A: I currently have four Wing Zone locations: Glen Ellyn, Skokie and Lombard.

Q: What do you like about being a young entrepreneur?
A: I love that I own my own business and that I’m responsible for building this up. Because Wing Zone is a franchise, I get support and best practices from the corporate team, however I am able to run the day-to-day operations and customize my business on my own. I get to be my own boss and manage a great and growing team.

Q: What are the biggest challenges of being a business owner?
A: There is a lot of hard work that comes with being a business owner. I am responsible for the livelihood of my team, so it’s important to stay on top of everything. As we continue to expand and open more locations, there is more coordination and back and forth between restaurants.

Q: So far, what has been your “secret to success”?
A: My family had a restaurant in Chicago growing up, and I learned a lot about running a restaurant helping out there. My secret to success has been having an understanding of each role within my restaurants, growing in a strategic manner and building a strong and reliable team that have supported me and my business as I’ve continued to grow.

Q: When does the new location open in Niles, and will there be an event or events to mark the grand opening?
A: We are planning on opening Niles early April. Yes there will be a big grand opening event. Bounce house for the kids, DJ, photo booth, giveaways and a wing-eating contest! The exact date and time of the event is TBD.

Q: What is your personal favorite menu item?
A: Thai Chili Hand Breaded Boneless Wings.

—Staff report, Pioneer Press

Shout Out is a weekly feature in which we get to know and introduce readers to fellow community members and local visitors throughout suburban Chicago. Check out more online at ChicagoTribune.com/ShoutOut.
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Town hall focuses on resistance to Trump administration

Schakowsky returns to Morton Grove, encourages others to ‘speak up’

**BY MIKE ISAACS**
   Pioneer Press

U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky and other speakers at a town hall meeting March 3 urged protesters and dissenters of recent actions by the Trump administration to keep making their voices heard.

Even in the wake of relentless challenges and controversy, there was “good news” to focus on, she told about 125 people at the Muslim Education Center in Morton Grove.

“I’ve been an organizer for 40-plus years and never have I seen in my lifetime a greater resistance — a greater mobilization — of people who have come out in a consistent way, beginning with the day after the (Trump) inauguration,” the congresswoman said.

The crowd — some of them Muslim Education Center students — heard Schakowsky and others talk about what they said were distortions of actions the president has taken since he assumed office in January — and the importance of protesting against them.

The town hall meeting was purposefully titled “People’s Resistance Through Congressional Opposition,” organizers said.

Speakers also issued a stinging rebuke of the Trump administration.

The congresswoman called for the resignation of recently appointed Attorney General Jeff Sessions based on controversy over his alleged contact with Russia before the election.

Though, nationally, some Republicans have agreed with Sessions’ decision to recuse himself from any investigation of the meeting, the party has rebuffed calls for him to step down as attorney general.

White House officials, including the president, have said that some of the town hall events have taken place in congressional districts nationwide — mostly Republican ones — include staged protests.

The so-called angry crowds in home districts of some Republicans are actually, in numerous cases, planned out by liberal activists. Sad!” Trump tweeted Feb. 21.

Schakowsky, D-Illinois, whose 9th District includes Evanston, Lincolnwood, Skokie and portions of Morton Grove, last came to the Muslim Education Center in January, joining a protest of about 500 people against Trump’s Jan. 27 immigration executive order.

Those kind of protests, she said, as well as the women’s march following the inauguration, leave her optimistic — even with a Republican-controlled House and Senate.

“I see so many people now are ready to take on all the challenges that we are facing right now,” she said.

A president of the United States needs to be set straight. He needs to be set straight by our people. We not only need to take the message to Congress, we need to take the message to the ballot box.”

The town hall was moderated by Maaria Mozaffar of Council on American Islamic Relations — Chicago, an organization that bills itself as the nation’s largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy group.

“Right now is a very unique time,” Mozaffar said about the need to hold such town hall meetings. “Throughout the country, as we’ve seen through protests and through marches, the country is realizing exactly who they are. The country is realizing that they are not the people in the executive branch.”

Jane Ramsey, a Chicago board member of the Philadelphia-based Shalom Center, said “a dramatic increase” in violence and hate crimes in recent weeks against immigrants, refugees, African Americans, Latinos and Jews “reflects a dangerous national trend.”

“They reflect a broad atmosphere of intolerance, unleashing suspicion and hate that poisons and infects the very fabric of America,” she said.

According to Ramsey, the incidents of hate and Trump’s efforts to restrict some Muslim immigration to the U.S. have resulted in the country being in danger of being “tragically set adrift from its core values.”

“We call upon our nation’s and community’s leaders to join us in assuring that all persons’ civil and legal rights are protected, that all may practice their religion, free from fear,” she said.

Turning to Schakowsky, Ramsey said, “we are here seeking ... rejection of a Muslim ban, rejection of the scapegoating and deportation of immigrant mothers and fathers.”

The speakers, including an attorney from the Mexican American Legal Defense and Education Fund, said they have seen growing fear from people in recent weeks, especially since the executive orders were issued.

Schakowsky told a story about a Muslim family celebrating a birthday at a restaurant in the community when approached by a white woman. The family was told to leave “and go back where they came from,” she said.

“They got up and left the restaurant,” Schakowsky said. “There were some tears from family members. The restaurateur, to that person’s credit, threw the woman out. But I have to tell you she also told me that no one in the restaurant stood up in their defense and for their protection.”

Schakowsky then looked at the crowd and said it’s important to be there for each other.

“If you witness something like that, it is our responsibility to get up and surround those people,” she said in applause. “Stand up as witnesses and protectors. That will discourage that kind of thing. So all of us have to be together to protect against discrimination.”

misaacs@pioneerlocal.com
Twitter @SKReview_Mike
Police, bystanders help save man's life following heart attack

Feb. 11 incident took place at Skokie restaurant

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

Vivian Aronson calls her husband's unforeseen heart attack in a Skokie restaurant last month "a curveball" that life threw at the retired couple.

"We're very careful about taking care of ourselves," she said.

Her husband, in fact, had recently had a physical, heart scan and a stress test and there was no warning of any trouble, she said.

But on a Saturday night at Shallots Bistro, in the 7000 block of Carpenter Road, Michael Aronson, 71, suddenly blacked out with his wife and another couple at the table, Vivian Anderson said, recalling the Feb. 11 incident.

Fortunately, his story has a happy ending — in large part because of compassionate fellow diners, responsive police officers and a caring and competent medical staff, Vivian said.

"I did not know that dinner was almost my last," Michael Aronson later wrote to Skokie police.

"Early on in the meal, I suddenly stopped talking and became unresponsive and started to turn blue."

Vivian said what happened next was "kind of like a fantasy. Everyone came together and worked like a team," she said.

When her husband blacked out, she and others yelled out for someone to call 911, she said.

Then, a handful of fellow diners lined up and took turns administering CPR to her husband, she said, until police and paramedics arrived.

Once police showed up, one of the diners went next door to a fitness center and got a defibrillator.

Once police had the defibrillator in hand, police administered two shocks to Michael Aronson and revived him, his wife said.

Skokie police officials said the Skokie Fire Department arrived on the scene, treated Michael Aronson and he was taken to NorthShore Skokie Hospital.

"I think our officers did a great job to assist the citizen until the fire department could get there," said Skokie police Officer Eric Swaback. "We're happy there was a good outcome."

Vivian Aronson said the incident made her faith in God that much stronger and the couple wanted to share their story in the hope it benefits other people.

NorthShore Skokie Hospital Interventional Cardiologist Dr. Josh Loew, who led the team working on Michael Aronson when he arrived at the hospital, said they confirmed he suffered a heart attack. In fact, he said, Aronson had 100 percent blockage in one artery, which is commonly referred to as a "widow maker."

"He had life-threatening arrhythmia and was shocked back to a normal rhythm at the restaurant," Loew said. "Having the defibrillator nearby and getting it so quickly was very fortunate. The heart attack, though, still had to be treated."

Skokie police are trained in using defibrillators in emergencies, Swaback said.

"It's training that Loew called "very important."

"If someone arrests in the field, and they're down for some time and they have to await paramedics," he said, "during that amount of time their brain is not receiving normal blood perfusion."

Having a heart attack in public where paramedics are immediately called to the scene increases chances for survival, the doctor said. But administering CPR and especially electric shocks from a defibrillator make it much more likely neurological functions will remain intact, he said.

Michael Aronson's prognosis is good although Vivian said he is more tired than usual and suffered broken ribs during CPR.

Loew said that's not uncommon and can even be a sign the emergency procedure is being administered correctly.

"We're so grateful for the way people came together," Vivian said.

In his letter to police, Michael Aronson singled out nine police officers who were on the scene that day who he says helped save his life. They included Sgt. Michael Liebau and Officers Patrick Panizo, Shane Long, Kevin Moore, John Odea, David Badagliacco, Eric McCune, Jeffrey Riggs and Sabih Khan.

"Skokie police officers rushed to the scene right away," Michael Aronson said. "It is due to the quick response time and extensive training of the Skokie police officers that I am still alive to share my story."
A ‘taste’ of local cuisine

29th annual feast of an event benefits local charities, nonprofits

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC | Pioneer Press

Hundreds of people flocked to the Taste of Morton Grove on March 2, taking part in an event what organizers say is as much about community as it is the savory food that was available.

"It typifies Morton Grove in that we have a diversity in our food and culture," Village President Dan DiMaria said about the annual village fundraiser. "It's our biggest community event next to the Fourth of July."

This year marked the 29th annual 'taste', which is hosted by the Morton Grove Foundation and benefits local charities and nonprofit organizations, according to organizers.

People purchased tickets to the event, held at The White Eagle, in Niles, which allowed them to dig into a variety of foods — from soups to desserts — prepared by 22 area food purveyors and caterers.

The goal this year was to raise $45,000, organizers said.

Then the proceeds are donated.

"It's truly the meaning of community," DiMaria said.

Mike Simkins, a Taste of Morton Grove organizer and chairman of the Morton Grove Foundation, said putting on the food fest is a collaborative effort that includes the village administration, the police, fire and public works departments, the park district, the business community and a host of other volunteers.

"Everybody works together to put this event together," Simkins said. "It's the only event I've ever been a part of that brings so many facets of the community together."

Among the food served up was a special recipe chili made by members of the fire department.

"Part of our job is helping out the community so it's nice to see them in not an emergency setting," said Brandon Patchett, a Morton Grove firefighter/paramedic.

Lorraine Strybel, Karen Berkowsky, both of Morton Grove, and Patty Bacci of Niles, were among the estimated 700 attendees.

"We've been coming for years," Strybel said. "It's a great event!"

Karie Angell Luc is a freelancer.

Humberto Soto of Victoria Banquets and Catering, located in Niles, serves diners at the Taste of Morton Grove fundraiser on March 2.
Hhgregg closing 88 stores, including Niles location

Electronics retailer battling slow sales, troubled finances

BY LAUREN ZUMBA CHicago Tribune

Electronics retailer hhgregg will close 40 percent of its stores as it works to stem the red ink and turn around slow sales.

The 88 store closings include hhgregg's Schaumburg, Bloomingdale, Arlington Heights, Niles, Springfield and Champaign locations, the company said in a news release March 2. The Indianapolis-based retailer is also closing three distribution centers in Maryland, Florida and Pennsylvania.

The retailer has 12 other stores in Illinois.

Hhgregg President and CEO Robert Riesbeck said the closing stores are unprofitable or located in areas that are no longer shopping destinations.

"We feel strongly that the markets we will remain in are the right ones for our customers and our business model. Our team is dedicated to moving forward and being a profitable 32-

store, multiregional chain where we will continue to be a dominant force in appliances, electronics and home furnishings," he said.

The 88 stores are expected to close by mid-April, eliminating about 1,500 jobs, hhgregg said.

Hhgregg said last month that it hired a financial adviser and investment banker to pursue a range of potential strategic and financial transactions to help it find ways to get back to profitability.

The announcement came a month after hhgregg reported a 22 percent drop in sales at stores open at least 14 months - mostly because of weak consumer electronics sales - during the quarter that ended in December.

Bloomberg reported the chain is preparing to file for bankruptcy as soon as this month.

lazumbach@chicagotribune.com

Police: Skokie woman hit officer in face after altercation at Wal-Mart

BY GENEVIEVE BOOKWALTER Pioneer Press

A Skokie woman allegedly "battered" a Wal-Mart employee and hit a Skokie police officer in the face on March 2 after a Wal-Mart worker declined to cash her check, Skokie police said March 3.

Marie Roberge, 40, of Skokie, was arrested after allegedly hitting the worker and then fleeing into a business next to the Wal-

Mart at 3626 Touhy Ave., according to a police press release.

Roberge is charged with misdemeanor battery and felony aggravated battery to a police officer, the release said.

Police found Roberge in the adjacent business and tried to arrest her, according to the release.

During the arrest, she allegedly struck a police officer in the face and hit a Wal-Mart loss prevention agent.

The officer was taken to a hospital for treatment and released, the release said.

The two Wal-Mart employees were treated on the scene by the Skokie Fire Department.

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RETAL THEFT
- James T. Mahoney, 29, of the 5700 block of North McVicker, Chicago, and Katherine Hickey-Mahoney, 50, of the 7200 block of West Howard Street, Chicago, were charged with retail theft on Feb. 14 after police said they stole items from a store in the 7200 block of Harlem Avenue.
- Jerome Roberts, 30, of the 13100 block of South St. Lawrence Avenue, Chicago, was charged with retail theft on Feb. 15 after he was accused of stealing merchandise from a store in the 8200 block of Golf Road.

DUI
- Saikhanjargal Bayasgalan, 19, of the 4800 block of West Wrightwood, Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence and driving without a valid license in the 8600 block of Milwaukee Avenue on Feb. 13.
- Nirmal Pandya, 30, of the 9000 block of Grace Avenue, Niles, was charged with driving under the influence on Feb. 14 following a traffic stop in the 8200 block of Elizabeth Avenue.

PUBLIC INTOXICATION
- A 56-year-old Niles man was ticketed by police after she reportedly left her two children, ages 6 and 8, alone inside a parked car Feb. 14 while she shopped at a store in the 8500 block of Golf Road. Police said the children appeared to be OK and "were not upset about being left in the vehicle." The woman said she had been in the store "for a short period of time," police said. A Department of Children and Family Services notification was issued.

FRAUD
- A 46-year-old Niles woman told police on Feb. 13 that she was scammed into giving her banking information to someone who claimed to be with a loan company. Police said the woman lost $242.

POLICE REPORT
- The owner of a business in the 8800 block of Milwaukee Avenue was charged with allowing smoking indoors after officers reportedly observed 16 hookahs being smoked by customers on Feb. 13.
- A 39-year-old woman was ticketed by police after she reportedly left her two children, ages 6 and 8, alone inside a parked car Feb. 14 while she shopped at a store in the 8500 block of Golf Road. Police said the children appeared to be OK and "were not upset about being left in the vehicle." The woman said she had been in the store "for a short period of time," police said. A Department of Children and Family Services notification was issued.

BURGLARY
- A resident in the 9200 block of Maynard Road reported her walker was missing from her closet when she returned from a trip Feb. 11. Police said there were no signs of forced entry to the residence.

PROPERTY DAMAGE
- A car's side mirrors, tailights and driver's side window were discovered damaged Feb. 10 while the car was parked in the 8600 block of Westter Street.

LINCOLNWOOD
- HIT AND RUN
- Jimmy Montes De Oca, 35, of the 4800 block of Central Park Avenue, Chicago, was charged with retail theft and criminal damage to property stemming from an incident Feb. 17. Police said there was extensive front-end damage to Mosquera's vehicle, with the front bumper completely ripped off and placed inside the vehicle. According to police, Mosquera admitted he was involved in a crash and left the scene because he did not have insurance. He was also cited with operating an uninsured vehicle, improper lane usage and driving too fast for conditions.

The following items were taken from the Niles and Lincolnwood police department reports. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt.
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PRICE JUST SLASHED TO SELL!
District 64 candidates talk spending, taxes

Seven potential school board members discuss a possible future referendum

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Financial decisions — from teacher pay to building repairs to school lunch programs — are among the most important decisions local school board members are required to make as part of their elected duties.

The seven candidates running for four, four-year seats on the Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 Board of Education recently responded to questions on district spending, property taxes and if a future referendum would get their support.

What are your thoughts on the district's current spending practices?

Rick Biagi: I have disagreed with the board's decisions on several fiscal issues, including the secured vestibule project.

However, my greater concern is with the current and past boards' propensity to conduct too many of the discussions related to major financial decisions, including the current teachers' contract and compensation issues for administrators, behind closed doors.

Greg Bublitz: I believe that District 64 is in line with comparable districts geographically, demographically and economically. My main concern is that spending is in line with best practices and appropriate curriculum, and I would work to ensure that this remains the case.

For example, the math and literacy curriculum currently in use is appropriate, lines up well with state standards and is research-based. I would be against approving spending on items or initiatives that were not appropriate for students based on solid research.

Norman Dziedzic: After the last referendum, the Community Finance Committee recommended a fund balance of 33 percent, which was achieved shortly thereafter. The fund balance is currently around 66 percent. We will not need to go to referendum in 2017, extending the original 10-year period that the district promised would lapse before it would ask the community for increased funding. I believe the board has done a good job of being fiscally responsible.

Larry Ryles: I believe the board should have more transparency in its spending practices. I also believe there should have been some town hall meetings to provide the community more information and more input as to how their money is being spent. I believe there should have been more discussion on possibly going to referendum on the security vestibules. I do believe the district's spending practices have been focused on the education, security and safety of our children.

Fred Sanchez: My biggest issue with the district's current spending practices is the board's proclivity to make decisions on expenditures behind closed doors. Time and time again, we have seen the board retreat to closed sessions to discuss and ultimately decide on issues of substantial cost to the taxpayer, most significantly the last teachers' contract. I want to bring increased transparency to the board so that the residents of District 64 fully understand how the district is spending their tax dollars.

Michael Schaab: I believe the spending habits are headed in the right direction. I have heard a lot of the phrase "deferred maintenance" spoken at board meetings. Work that should have been completed in the past is now being completed, however some of this work became big projects due to the fact the issues were not addressed in a timely fashion. With over 4,000 students in the district, we need to make sure we are maximizing every dollar spent.

Eastman Tiu: Most of the spending has been responsible, but I think there are ways to be more efficient with the budget and with our current district resources. I also feel that certain expenditures are not financially sustainable when those resources can be used elsewhere.

The board of education typically approves a higher property tax levy every year. What are your thoughts on this practice?

Rick Biagi: I am vehemently opposed to the notion that the board should increase the tax levy each year in the absence of a legitimate need for the additional funds, simply because it's legally permissible. Some on the current board and in the current administration erroneously espouse the viewpoint of "use-it-or-lose-it" when deciding whether to assess a tax levy increase. In virtually every year on the (Park Ridge) park board, I voted against tax levy increases because the staff failed to present a persuasive argument as to why those additional monies were needed. I intend to take the same approach at District 64.

Greg Bublitz: I would not automatically assume we should raise taxes every year. Many variables need to be examined before this decision is made. The economy, the health of the community, the needs of school infrastructure, educational requirements and CPI are all factors in whether or not the levy should be raised. It is not appropriate to say it should or should not be raised every year. It depends.

Norman Dziedzic: The tax levy decision should be made considering the current state of district finances and the existing and anticipated future needs of the district. However, I feel the current board has been diligently finding and cutting waste in the budget for at least the past four years and these savings will be harder and harder to find. Increasing the levy by the legally mandated limit of the CPI means we are requesting to have the same purchasing power as the previous year.

Larry Ryles: There is a state-mandated 5-percent ceiling increase on the annual tax levy. The District 64 board has typically asked for 4.9 percent. They never get it and never will. I expect, as in the past, they will receive closer to 1 percent. There is stability in a 1 percent to 1.5 percent (increase) each year. The fact remains, 85 percent of the district's finances are tied up in payroll.

Fred Sanchez: Raising the tax levy just because you have the authority to do so does not mean you should. I will not support any increase to the tax levy without having been presented a detailed justification for needing to do so, and not before sharing that explanation with the taxpayer.

Michael Schaab: While no one wants to hear their taxes are going up, by not utilizing the tax levy every year, it will penalize the community. We should raise taxes every year. What are your thoughts on this practice?

Rick Biagi: I am vehemently opposed to the notion that the board should increase the tax levy each year in the absence of a legitimate need for the additional funds, simply because it's legally permissible. Some on the current board and in the current administration erroneously espouse the viewpoint of "use-it-or-lose-it" when deciding whether to assess a tax levy increase. In virtually every year on the (Park Ridge) park board, I voted against tax levy increases because the staff failed to present a persuasive argument as to why those additional monies were needed. I intend to take the same approach at District 64.

Greg Bublitz: I would not automatically assume we should raise taxes every year. Many variables need to be examined before this decision is made. The economy, the health of the community, the needs of school infrastructure, educational requirements and CPI are all factors in whether or not the levy should be raised. It is not appropriate to say it should or should not be raised every year. It depends.

Norman Dziedzic: The tax levy decision should be made considering the current state of district finances and the existing and anticipated future needs of the district. However, I feel the current board has been diligently finding and cutting waste in the budget for at least the past four years and these savings will be harder and harder to find. Increasing the levy by the legally mandated limit of the CPI means we are requesting to have the same purchasing power as the previous year.

Larry Ryles: There is a state-mandated 5-percent ceiling increase on the annual tax levy. The District 64 board has typically asked for 4.9 percent. They never get it and never will. I expect, as in the past, they will receive closer to 1 percent. There is stability in a 1 percent to 1.5 percent (increase) each year. The fact remains, 85 percent of the district's finances are tied up in payroll.

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Lincolnwood School District 74 hires new Downers Grove-based custodial company

GCA Educational Services Group has contract through 2020

Staff report

After voting last fall to terminate its contract with one janitorial service provider, the Lincolnwood School District 74 school board has approved an agreement with a new company.

GCA Services Group will now clean the three schools in the district and the administration building, after school board members gave the green light with a 7-0 vote at its Feb. 2 meeting.

The Downers Grove-based company was one of four that bid to provide the custodial service and was awarded a $319,627 contract.

The contract was effective March 1 and the three-year agreement is set to run through June 30, 2020, school officials said.

"GCA was the recommended company due to its extensive background in the cleaning of educational facilities," said school district spokeswoman Christina Audisho.

School district officials added that the decision to go with GCA was also based on its bid documents and references.

In total, the district had reached out to 10 companies during the bidding and got proposals from four, according to school district documents. GCA's bid was the second highest, behind the highest bidder's $316,464. The lowest bid among the four was $296,760, school district documents show.

Lincolnwood School District 74 ended the contract it had with Smith Maintenance Co. before the scheduled August 2017 expiration of a three-year agreement. The company's last day cleaning the schools and district administrative building was Feb. 28.

Robert Ciserella, the school district's business manager, declined last December to give a specific reason for the school district deciding to end the Smith Maintenance contract early.

However, the decision did not involve issues with the company's personnel, he said.

"After being with them for two years, we were unhappy with the service they provide," Ciserella said.

Representatives from Smith Maintenance Co. did not return calls seeking comment on the issue.

As part of daily classroom cleanup, GCA is expected to do such things as empty trash cans and wipe down desks, among other tasks. Monthly, window ledges and glass doors would be cleaned, shelves and other areas would be dusted, and other cleaning done, according to the terms of the contract.

The contract calls for GCA to do some cleaning in other places throughout the schools including in the teachers' work areas, cafeteria, library and other common areas.

According to the contract, GCA custodial workers would be paid $10.25 per hour to $15 per hour.

Custodial staff would work after-school hours during the regular school year, and during the day on winter, spring and summer breaks, according to the contract terms.

Candidates discuss issues

D64, from Previous Page

picture changed because the district insisted on pursuing large-scale projects like the secure vestibules, I would support going to referendum because I believe residents should have a say in how the district spends their tax dollars.

Michael Schaab: If the school board has exhausted all other avenues in order to correct a downturn in the district's financial health, without compromising the level of educational service provided to the students in the district, I feel that a referendum to increase property taxes is something that should be considered.

Eastman Tiu: Yes, if that is the only way to make sure the quality of education that we are accustomed to is maintained. When it comes to a referendum, the most we can do as a board is to make a recommendation, but ultimately, the final decision comes down to our voters.

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Fifth suspect charged in 2014 fatal shooting

Chicago man held in connection with killing of local teen

By Mike Isaacs and Brian L. Cox
Pioneer Press

More than two years after four teenagers were charged in the fatal shooting of a Niles North High School student and the serious injury of another, criminal charges have been filed against a fifth suspect, Skokie police announced March 1.

Antonio Hicks, 19, of the 10000 block of South Forest Avenue in Chicago, has been charged with first-degree murder, attempted first-degree murder and armed robbery in the shooting death of Maxwell Gadau and the shooting of a female teenager.

In a court appearance March 1, Hicks was identified by authorities for the first time as the gunman, and he was ordered held without bail.

The Sept. 28, 2014, shooting, which occurred inside a car parked in the 9200 block of Kedvale Avenue in Skokie, killed Gadau and left the female with serious injuries.

Four teens were charged days later, and Skokie police said a fifth suspect, a 17-year-old believed to be the gunman, was arrested at his school in Chicago, but he was released the following day. Because he was a juvenile, police said, he could be held for only 24 hours, and the state's attorney concluded there was not enough evidence to charge him at the time.

Authorities have not said if Hicks is the same person previously held in this case, or what developments prompted them to bring charges against him. Prosecutors did say in court that Hicks' fingerprint was found on the outside of the car.

They also said that when Hicks was arrested in Chicago days ago, he was carrying a 9mm handgun, the same kind authorities believe was used in the shooting.

Hicks was a juvenile at the time Gadau was shot but has been charged as an adult. Prosecutors said Hicks has a criminal record both as a juvenile and an adult.

In court March 1 and at hearings for the other defendants, prosecutors said the group had made plans to meet the female victim to buy marijuana from her, but had secretly plotted to rob her instead.

When the girl, who was accompanied by Gadau "for moral support," according to police, resisted handing over drugs, she and Gadau were shot.

Plans for a robbery turned into murder and attempted murder, prosecutors said.

Prosecutors alleged that Hicks and another defendant, Dzevd Avdic, of Chicago, went into a car with Gadau and the girl, who were both 17. Authorities said Hicks fatally shot Gadau in the back and shot the girl in the cheek, with the bullet lodging near her spine.

The following month, Avdic was charged in the case, along with Jeremy Ly, of Skokie, and Miles Hughes and Nicholas Smith, of Chicago. The four defendants, all 19 at the time, were each charged with first-degree murder, attempted murder and armed robbery, according to police.

All four are being held without bail in Cook County Jail and awaiting trial.

Ly and Avdic are both 17-year-old Chicago residents.

Prosecutors said Avdic contacted the female victim twice within 20 minutes of the shooting.

Gadau's mother, Patricia, attended the March 1 hearing with other relatives.

"We're just relieved (about the arrest). We'd be happy if it brought Max back," she said, adding she was grateful to police and prosecutors who "gave us a happy day today."

Patricia Gadau has said that her son texted her that night saying he was coming home soon. She said her son was "very caring" and had a good sense of humor.

He swam competitively and was beginning to explore possible colleges, his mother said, and he had expressed an interest in engineering.

Mike Isaacs is a Pioneer Press reporter; Brian L. Cox is a freelance reporter.

Glenview man charged in Niles robbery attempt in parking lot

By Mike Isaacs
Pioneer Press

A 35-year-old Glenview man has been charged in connection with an attempted armed robbery and battery Feb. 20 in a Niles parking lot, Niles police announced in a news release.

According to police, Ryan M. Whary, of the 3800 block of Rugen Road, Glenview, was intoxicated Feb. 20 when he allegedly approached a male and female in the 8500 block of Golf Road, displayed a knife and placed it against the throat of at least one of the victims, demanding valuables.

One of the victims fought back, police said, and chased the suspect across Golf Road where the suspect stole a bicycle and made a getaway.

The male victim suffered a stab wound to his left shoulder during the incident, police said.

Glenview police said they were able to identify a potential suspect in the case and shared it with neighboring law enforcement agencies.

Whary was identified as the suspect and was taken into custody without incident Feb. 24 after being spotted at a Motel 6 in Glenview.

A clerk at the motel informed Glenview police that a man identified as Whary was in one of the rooms there.

Niles police investigators were then notified and ended up apprehending Whary in the 1500 block of Milwaukee Avenue in Glenview, police said.

He was charged with attempted armed robbery, aggravated battery, unlawful use of a weapon and theft, and was also wanted for a parole violation out of Kentucky, Niles police said.

As of Feb. 28, Whary was being held at the Cook County Jail on $250,000 bail for the attempted armed robbery charge, according to information from the Cook County Sheriff's Office.

He is scheduled to appear in court March 23.

Park Ridge police arrest teen for battery, seek boy who displayed lewd photo

By Jennifer Johnson
Pioneer Press

Park Ridge police arrested a 15-year-old boy accused of punching a teen in Uptown on March 4 and are looking for another boy who allegedly showed four children a pornographic image in the same area days earlier.

A police officer on patrol of Uptown on the night of March 4 witnessed a boy push another teen into a window outside Panera Bread, 39 S. Northwest Highway, before headbutting him and striking him the face, around 8:40 p.m., said Deputy Police Chief Lou Jognen.

When the officer approached the suspect, he ran away, Jognen said.

The boy who was punched, identified as a 15-year-old from Park Ridge, lost a tooth in the attack, the deputy chief said. Investigators were able to determine the identity of the teenager who ran away and contacted his parents, who brought him to the police station for an interview that same night, Jognen said.

Identified as a 15-year-old from Chicago, the teen was charged with battery and has been petitioned to juvenile court, Jognen said. He was also ticketed for consumption of alcohol by a minor, the deputy chief said.

Police believe the battery followed some kind of dispute between the two boys.

Days earlier, on Feb. 24, police reportedly received a complaint from a Park Ridge parent that her 11-year-old daughter and three friends, ages 11 and 12, were shown a pornographic image on a cellphone while they were on a bench outside Oberweis Dairy, 101 S. Northwest Highway, just across the driveway and parking area where the alleged battery took place.

Jognen said a boy between 14 and 18 years old, who was sitting inside the ice cream shop, is accused of showing the image to the girls sometime between 8:30 and 9 p.m. while one of their parents was making a purchase. A complaint was made to police at 9:12 p.m. from the home of one of the victims, he said.
Laura Bush set to speak at annual Illinois Holocaust Museum awards dinner

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

Former first lady Laura Bush was scheduled to be the keynote speaker March 8 at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center's annual 2017 Humanitarian Awards Dinner.

The dinner is the museum's largest fundraising event of the year, but it also honors those who have supported the museum, officials say.

In the past, high-ranking dignitaries including the governor and mayor as well as U.S. senators and representatives have attended the event, which is held every year at the Hyatt Regency Chicago.

Each spring, the museum hosts its signature event, the Humanitarian Awards Dinner, according to information about the event on the museum's website. "Now the largest fundraising dinner in the city of Chicago, this high profile evening pays tribute to pillars in our community, Holocaust survivors and highlights the museum's achievements."

Past dinners have been attended by more than 2,000 people, according to museum officials.

Humanitarians set to be honored March 8 included Richard A. Chaitetz, founder, chairman and CEO of ComPsych Corp., which bills itself as the world's largest provider of employee assistance programs.

Also scheduled to be honored was E. Scott Santi, chairman and CEO of Illinois Tool Works Inc., one of the world's leading diversified manufacturers of specialized industrial equipment, consumables and related service businesses, according to the company.

Laura Bush, wife of former President George W. Bush, served as first lady from 2001 to 2009.

According to museum officials, she was slated engage in a conversation with J.B. Pritzker, who has served as chairman of the museum's board of trustees and was instrumental in developing the museum, which is located in Skokie.

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Libraries look to combat ‘fake news’ with programs

BY LEE V. GAINES
Pioneer Press

Nate Gass, an emerging technology librarian at Cook Memorial Public Library District, said he's a little nervous about hosting a program at the Libertyville library next month about how to spot fake news because he fears the event could raise partisan hackles among attendees.

Prior to the last presidential campaign, which put a spotlight on an explosion of misleading, false and inflammatory information online, Gass said he never could have predicted sorting fact from fiction in the news cycle "would become a political thing."

"It makes me anxious about the program, to be honest, because we don't want it to be a political thing," he said. "But, overall, we felt as a library that it was still a risk worth taking because this is a service that needed to be provided."

Cook Memorial is among several local libraries either currently hosting or planning to host programming focused on media literacy.

"There's just a general assault on information and how it's shared and how it's accessed," said Chad Clark, new media services manager at Highland Park Public Library. "It seems completely obvious to me that librarians should be in this conversation and reminding people what we've always done."

Clark said, historically speaking, libraries have helped patrons access and interpret the information. He said librarians learned through experience that verifying content across multiple sources is an important strategy when looking for accurate and truthful information.

The Highland Park Library has already hosted several media literacy forums dubbed "Consider the source: Not all information is created equal," Clark said. The program is designed to educate patrons about the tools and strategies librarians use to fact-check information, The effort pinpoints what clues or red flags to look for when determining the credibility of a website in addition to providing lessons on general digital literacy, he said.

Though the issue of misleading information and fake news has existed for decades, the internet has allowed for a proliferation of false news, which has made it difficult for some patrons to parse out the fact-based signal from a cacophony of inaccuracies online, according to both librarians.

"I do see a lot of patrons talking to me about things that have clearly been shown to be false or fake, but they are still holding them as truth internally," Gass said.

Clark said he shows patrons at these forums how easy it is to make a website and tout it as a credible source of information and how Google can be used to confirm a preconceived notion whether or not it's accurate.

These media literacy efforts are not unique to Illinois libraries, nor are they unique to libraries within the United States, said Bob Doyle, executive director of the Illinois Association of Libraries. Libraries and librarians across the globe have launched similar events to help the public "navigate the explosion of information and separate the true from the fake," he said.

Librarians are non-partisan and neutral public servants, Doyle said. If they're on the side of anything, it's fact-based information and helping people find that and helping people think critically."

"They've been doing this for decades where they've been encouraging the collection of diverse thought so that people don't remain just in their own little echo chambers seeking confirmation of what they already think," he said.

Good-hearted people have fallen prey to fake news, said Catherine Lemmer, director of the Lake Forest Library, because social media has made it easier for us to confine ourselves among our own opinions than to engage in a respectful debate with someone who disagrees with our views.

"Everybody just wants to be right and the way you get to be right is to only read the Facebook feeds that come into your stream," Lemmer said.

Lee V. Gaines is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Two Niles West students participate in 'hack' event

BY BRIAN L. COX
Pioneer Press

Two Niles high school students recently spent a day "hacking" on a computer, at an event that had nothing to do with dubious deeds but allowed them to create would-be useful apps.

The event was Junior Achievement of Chicago's first Hackathon, which brought together 13 students from nine schools who ended up creating three games around the theme of financial literacy, officials said.

"Hacking" often gets a bad rap, said Michael Leon, a Niles West senior and standout in the school's computer science program. "That word 'hacking' can be misunderstood," said Leon, who, along with Jay Monga, participated in the Jan. 14 Hackathon held at Columbia College. "It was really constructive," Leon said. "The literal definition doesn't really have any negative connotations to it."

Monga, 16, said his favorite part of the Hackathon was working in a group environment. "I learned a lot of teamwork skills," he said. "Everyone has their own roles and everyone was really involved," said Monga, a junior at the high school, and also a computer science program notable. "We were able to make a good piece of software at the end of the six hours. It opened my eyes that during the game-development process how involved everyone has to be. It's really a group effort. I learned a lot of teamwork skills."

The students walked away from the event with a second-place finish, $100 each and so much more, according to Niles West High School science teacher Matt Fahrenbacher. "It gave them some perspective that what they're doing could be valuable, not just make money or a fun game, but do something that's very useful," Fahrenbacher said.

Fahrenbacher added that, despite the event's name, there was nothing nefarious about the work the students did. He explained that the Hackathon was mostly about programming.

"The general idea is that they collect kids from the area and they get them together and they give them some type of a project or theme they need to create," he said. "Some kids might be the programmers, some kids might be the designers. Every kid can participate in their own way."

Brian L. Cox is a freelancer.
District 219 gets approval from village of Niles to build bus facility

Property was purchased a year and a half ago

By Lee V. Gaines
Pioneer Press

Niles village trustees approved a package of special requests from Niles Township High School District 219 on Feb. 28 that allows the school district to move ahead with plans to build a bus terminal and maintenance facility on property it purchased a year and a half ago.

Trustees approved a special use permit, two landscape variation requests and an intergovernmental agreement between the village and NTHS Dist. 219 outlining the operations of the facility that is to be built in the 6100 block of Howard Street.

Trustee George Alpogianis voted "no" on the landscaping variation requests and "yes" on both the special use and intergovernmental agreements.

Four other trustees present voted "yes" on all three. Trustee Joe LoVerde was absent from the meeting.

The greenlight from the village board on Feb. 28 came after the school district's requests had met with several delays with the Niles planning and zoning board, with officials on that board expressing concerns about traffic management.

The planning and zoning board voted Feb. 6 to advance the requests for village board consideration — but without a recommendation.

Niles Mayor Andrew Przybylo rejected some of the planning and zoning board's uneasiness about the impact of the school buses crossing railroad tracks at Lehigh Avenue.

"Fact of the matter is those students who live west of Lehigh where the terminal is or east of Lehigh, those children are going to be crossing those tracks," he said during the village board meeting.

"We are not adding any danger to children because, regardless, those kids are going to get on a school bus and cross," he said.

Przybylo added that the intergovernmental agreement addresses the flow of traffic "very well."

Eric Trimberger, NTHS District 219 assistant superintendent for business, said he was "very appreciative of the mayor's words of support and encouragement for the project."

The school district bought the land where the facility will be located in August 2015, Trimberger said. The parcels, located at 6119 Howard Street and 6100-6140 Gross Point Road, were purchased for $2.5 million.

He explained that renovation work could begin on the 35,000 square-feet facility on the property in May or June.

"Our architect needs to develop construction drawings and bid documents. This will take around two months," said Trimberger.

Construction would be expected to wrap up at the end of the calendar year, he said.

The construction project is scheduled to include creation of office space for First Student — the district's bus service provider — and an area where bus maintenance would take place, Trimberger said.

He said there would also be an employee parking lot with 100 parking stalls along Gross Point Road and parking space for the bus fleet.

The village board approved the permit and agreement with little discussion, but Alpogianis expressed some reservations about the proposed facility.

"Because you guys do an amazing job educating our kids, I'm wondering why you guys are getting into the bus service and not leaving that to people who do it professionally," the trustee said.

The school district had spent nearly $5 million March 2015 on a fleet of 75 school buses.

That purchase came after looking for a new bus service and determining the most cost-effective option for the district was to own its own fleet and hire another company to operate it, Trimberger previously explained. He added that the school district is required by law to build a bus terminal within two miles of its boundaries.

Alpogianis asked how many students from Niles the facility would serve.

Trimberger said 450 Niles residents were eligible to ride buses in NTHS District 219. He said the buses would also be used to serve children in Niles Elementary School District 71.

In total, Trimberger explained, the bus terminal and maintenance facility would ultimately serve approximately 4,200 students daily including kids from School District 71, Morton Grove School District 70 and Lincolnwood School District 74.

NTHS Dist. 219 has stored its buses on the Niles West High School campus in Skokie since August 2015. That storage agreement with the village of Skokie was only supposed to last a year.

But Pete Peyer, Skokie's community development director, said the village removed patient while the school district worked on getting permission to move forward with the storage facility.

"There have not been any issues with the current location of the buses and we understand the operation of the buses is critical to the operation of the District 219 schools," Peyer said last month. "The safe and convenient transportation of students is the primary concern of the village (of Skokie) and District 219."

Lee V. Gaines is a freelancer.

Niles Village Board honors retiring 27-year police sergeant

Staff Report

A Niles police sergeant who worked a total of 27 years over four different decades for the department retired from the police force at the end of January, according to Niles police.

The Niles Village Board honored Thomas Davis for his years of service at its Feb. 28 meeting.

Hired Oct. 10, 1989, Davis began his career on the force and attended the Chicago Police Academy, according to Niles police.

He watched over the streets of Niles as a patrol officer through the end of 1992, when he was assigned to the department's investigative unit as a detective.

According to Niles police, Davis served in that role until the end of 1999.

He was promoted to sergeant and assigned to the patrol division May 13, 2002, according to his biography.

Four years later, he was assigned to the administrative division as the staff services sergeant. His duties there included scheduling and training auxiliary officers and hiring and scheduling crossing guards.

He served in multiple roles including Citizen Police Academy coordinator, department training coordinator, adjudication court liaison and the department's press information officer.

He also represented the department on the Terrorism Liaison Officer Committee, police officials said.

During his career, Davis attended numerous schools and training events including Northwestern University Center for Public Safety School of Police Staff and Command Course, according to Niles police.

In 2011, according to police, the sergeant was reassigned back to the patrol division until the day he retired.

Niles Police Chief Dennis McEnaney said Davis will be "truly missed" and wished him well on behalf of the entire department.
Prejudice against Muslims is no joking matter

As our preoccupation with walls and banning immigrants shows, many of us seem to need to have someone to look down on. All of us have been looked down on by someone at sometime in our life for some reason. We're too short. We're too fat. We're not pretty. The list can be lengthy.

You'd think our vulnerability would make us more sensitive to, and empathetic toward, others. Alas, not always so. And being looked down on hurts.

An friend of mine who is Italian-American told me how she paid for dinner with a credit card. The waiter, she said, looked at the name on the card and joked, "Oh, you must be in the mafia."

She was offended and hurt.

As an Italian-American, I have been hearing stuff like this - and worse - my whole life. Worse includes the guy who wanted to write about the mafia and asked me to introduce him to some gangsters. And he wasn't joking.

The Prejudice Pecking Order has a kind of structure. There are groups that mostly are the butt of jokes - the overweight and the elderly, for instance.

I am aware there are many other people, many other nationalities, races and religions that are subject to worse than not-so-funny jokes. These people have historically been injured or killed by prejudice - Native-Americans, African-Americans, Jewish-Americans.

Today, it is Muslims - and people the ignorant think might be Muslims - who are looked down on.

Looked down on doesn't do the seriousness of the situation justice. Lives are at stake.

But, for some reason - unfathomable to decent people - some of us feel they must look down on those who are not them, who are different. Who are "the other."

And being other is being bad. For some, looking down on others is a way to get an easy laugh, just a joke. But, for others it's something more, something dark and dangerous. Just watch and read the news.

But whether looking down on someone else is a joke or an incitement, all of it is a rotten shame.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Growth, rather than proficiency, a better measure of education success

For a moment, I kind of felt like Betsy DeVos, the new education secretary. The moment was when U.S. Sen. Al Franken asked DeVos during her confirmation hearing about her thoughts on using assessments to measure proficiency or growth.

Huh? What's Franken talking about?

Turns out I wasn't alone. At a meeting soon after, several colleagues wondered what the issue was all about. Nobody knew.

Turns out, this issue is not just for policy wonks. It is something those Americans who care about public education, and that should be all of us, should know about. For the past two decades, we've been focused on proficiency. If you look at the Illinois School Report Card for any public school in the state, you will see that student achievement is measured by how many of them meet or exceed state standards.

That yardstick became ever more important when the federal government enacted No Child Left Behind in 2002, which required all students to meet state standards for their grade level by 2014.

Each year from the law's inception, a greater percentage of students had to meet those standards, including students in so-called subgroups, such as racial minorities, limited English speakers, poor children and children with special needs.

A worthy goal, right? But there was always something odd about the whole business, I thought. For one, there were no uniform federal education standards of proficiency for students to meet. Instead, each state determined what standards students in each grade level had to meet.

Some states could be more rigorous than others. Each state got to decide.

So when we journalists did stories about how Illinois students compared to students from Indiana or Wisconsin or Iowa or Florida, it was meaningless. The states all used different standards. How could they be compared?

But that's not all. In measuring these yearly progress statistics, where each year more students had to meet state standards for their grade, students were compared from year to year by grade.

Think about that. The federal mandate required schools to measure student progress every year. But every year, they measured the same grade and therefore different kids. Third-graders' results from 2002 were measured against third-graders in 2003. And that's how we reported it. This year's third-graders performed better than last year's third-graders. But that doesn't mean anything.

We weren't measuring the performance of the same kids from one year to the next. What if this year's group just had more kids who were smarter or more prepared or whatever.

Wouldn't it make more sense to measure third-graders one year and then measure their performance as fourth-graders the next? Again, the comparisons we made, it seemed to me, were meaningless. If the goal was to increase the number of students meeting state standards, shouldn't a student's yearly progress be measured?

That's what growth gets at. You take a student, no matter where they are, and you move them along the scale one full year from September to June.

This makes a lot of sense to me, especially when you consider the number of students who fail to meet state standards in some of our struggling schools.

What difference does it make to pass students along from first through eighth grade if they can't do any of the work. Forget grades. Take a kid where they are and help them get better. So now I know, and I have to say I'm for growth.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
The secret to lifelong health?
Don’t try so hard!

NICOLE
RADZISZEWSKI
Mama’s Gotta Move

The other night, as I threw a frozen Trader Joe’s pizza into the oven and steamed some (also frozen) broccoli for dinner, it occurred to me: I used to try way too hard.

A few years ago, my countertop would have involving sweet potato crust, homemade tomato sauce and fresh veggies. Tasty! Sure. Healthier than my frozen TJ’s dinner? Maybe. Worth the two hours spent rinsing peeling, chopping, mixing and assembling? Not for this mama.

I’ve done my fair share of planning meals, often around “restricted” foods (whether because they were high in fat or because they contained some ingredient I deemed off-limits). I’ve also spent much of my adult life scheduling exercise and stressing out when I missed a workout.

The crazy thing is when I look back at the times in my life when all of those things were working out for me — when I was eating “clean” and fitting in all of my workouts — I don’t miss them. I sigh out of relief that I got off that wagon. I may have been leaner (and maybe even healthier) during those times, but when I think about what it took for me to sustain that lifestyle, I wouldn’t recommend it.

Going all out with diet and exercise is like cramming for an exam so you can get an A+ in the class. You’re not sure what to study, so you memorize everything. You’re constantly cramming and the exams keep on coming.

Moderation is like slowing down and absorbing the material that matters so it sticks with you for life. You may not always earn an A, and maybe you’ll get a few Cs, but you’re happy, relaxed and balanced.

What do I recommend?
Stop trying so hard! Be a lazy cook. Hit snooze on your alarm. Tell your Fitbit to leave you alone. We’ve managed to complicate concepts as simple as eating mindfully and moving our bodies. It doesn’t have to be that way.

Instead of: Always cooking entire meals from scratch.
Try: Adding heaping amounts of frozen veggies to a pre-made entree. Not all processed food is evil. If you look at the ingredients and they are all real foods, don’t feel bad about taking a shortcut.

Instead of: Driving to the gym, parking, leaving your kids in child care and getting on a treadmill.
Try: Running or walking to the park with your kids and playing with them. Hang on the monkey bars. Play tag, do some squats while you push your toddler in the swing, move your body and have fun.

Instead of: Making a no-sugar, no-flour cake that tastes like crap but is “clean.”
Try: Eating a small slice of the real thing and moving on with your life.

Instead of: Waking up early to work out when you’re exhausted.
Try: Sleep. It does a body good.

Instead of: Working muscle groups on alternating days so you can hit every muscle.
Try: Climbing a tree. Cleaning your floor on hands and knees. Going for a walk.

Instead of: Letting your Fitbit dictate your steps.
Try: Walking when it makes sense to walk (like that trip to the post office a mile from home) and remembering that other types of movement besides walking and running count, too.

Instead of: Stressing about a night out with friends because you know there will be nothing but bar food and beer.
Try: Eating a healthy meal before you go, so you can enjoy a beer (and maybe a few fries off of a friend).

Instead of: Thinking you can’t get the results you want without giving up the things you love.
Try: Loving your body a little bit harder.

Nicolé Radziszewski is a freelance columnist.

Northwestern men’s basketball’s improbable season should lead to March Madness

ERIC SCOTT

Now that the Cubs winning the World Series is old news, we can focus on our other rags-to-riches burgeoning sports dynasty — the Northwestern University men’s basketball team.

Never in a million years did I ever think I would have the opportunity to write that sentence. While the Cubs have, at least, had some ancient championships to their credit before 2016, the Northwestern men’s basketball team’s championship cupboard always has been bare.

The Wildcats have never even played in the March Madness tournament, but that soon could change.

On March 1, the Cats notched their school-record 21st victory of the season in dramatic, no-lead-you’ve-got-to-be-kidding-me-buzzer-beater fashion against Big Ten Conference rival, Michigan. With that victory, Northwestern should comfortably fit their foot into an NCAA tournament glass slipper.

Seeing Northwestern place in a tournament bracket will generate celebrations in Evanston and wherever purple pride lives.

It may rival the biggest Cubs championship party — and we haven’t even won anything yet. (Yes, count me as a Northwestern grad.)

But unless Northwestern gets an automatic NCAA bracket bid by winning the Big Ten championship, it will be up to the NCAA Selection Committee to slot the Wildcats into a tournament bracket.

With 21 wins going into the Big Ten championship tournament, the Cats should be a lock for their first-ever March Madness bracket selection. But it’s the uncertainty of what the committee may decide that has the purple nation on pins and needles.

Barring an attempt by Russian hackers to infiltrate the NCAA’s computers or a North Korean scheme to poison members of the selection committee with confusion serum, Northwestern should be invited to the big dance.

But if I see a first-round matchup between North Carolina and Moscow Community College, or a First Four play-in game featuring The Kim Jong Un Fighting Superior Rulers, I’m going to demand an investigation, a ballot recount, and congressional hearings with testimony from Warren Beatty and Faye Dunaway.

Chicago has gone long without a winning men’s college basketball team. We had the DePaul Blue Demons making the Final Four in the era before Michael Jordan landed in Chicago and changed local basketball history with the Bulls.

But that’s also ancient history.

The Northwestern Athletic Department’s slogan is, “Chicago’s Big Ten Team.” Now is the best time in the basketball program’s history to prove that.

In Coach Chris Collins and those sporty “Game of Thrones” uniforms we trust.

Hopefully, Northwestern can end its losing streak of being the only major athletic conference school to never play in the NCAA Tournament and finally turn the corner.

Hey, if the Cubs can win the World Series...

Eric Scott is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
Fun ways to celebrate St. Patrick's Day

Enjoy a parade, eat corned beef and cabbage or don green attire

BY SAMANTHA NELSON
Pioneer Press

Even if you're not Irish, St. Patrick's Day offers the opportunity to have some fun this March. Whether you're looking to take in some Irish music, enjoy some hearty Irish fare or get dressed in green and head to a community parade, local spots stretch the festivities both before and after March 17 to offer celebrations and activities for all ages.

Kids are encouraged to wear green to the St. Patty Skate from 12:30 to 1:45 p.m. March 11 at IceLand Skate, 8435 Ballard Road, Niles. They'll be playing Irish music to get everyone moving on the ice and giving away hats, beads and other green swag. Admission is $6 and skate rental is another $4.

Watch approximately 2,500 people march in the 14th annual Northwest Side Irish Parade, which kicks off at noon March 12 at Onahan School, 6634 W. Raven St., Chicago. The Emerald Society Band, Chicago Pipes and Drums, Mullane Irish Dancers, Notre Dame High School Band and others provide entertainment along the route, which ends at approximately 1:30 p.m. at the Immaculate Conception Elementary School Recreation Center, 7271 W. Talcott Ave. For $10 or $5 for kids under age 11 you can attend an after-party there from 1 to 5 p.m. that includes corned beef and cabbage, beer, wine and soda for adults and a hot dog, chips and soda for kids, plus face painting, raffles and other family-focused activities. Go to www.northwestsideirish.org.

Follow a bagpiper/drummer duo and Mayor George VanDusen down Lincoln Avenue for the Downtown Skokie's St. Patrick's Day Parade at 2 p.m. March 12. Arrive at Aw Yeah Comics, 7925 Lincoln Ave., Skokie, dressed in your most creative and festive green attire and you could be chosen to help lead the festivities as the parade's prince, princess, king or queen. Businesses along the route will hand out treats and prizes. The parade culminates with free soft drinks and Irish music at The Curragh Irish Pub & Restaurant, 8266 Lincoln, from 2:30 to 5 p.m. Go to www.downtownskokie.org/calendar.

Enjoy traditional Irish fare including corned beef and cabbage, shepherd's pie and bangers & mash at The Curragh Irish Pub & Restaurant, 1800 Tower Drive, Glenview, which is also hosting plenty of performances to celebrate the holiday. Catch the Mulhern School of Irish Dance at 3 p.m. March 12, the Tully Irish Dancers at 6 p.m. March 16, and performances from noon to 12:30 p.m. March 17 by Matt Stedman, Jim McVeigh and Anish.

Catch two weekends full of entertainment at the ninth annual St. Patrick's Day Fleadh at the Curragh Irish Pub & Restaurant, 6705 N. Northwest Highway, Edison Park. The Acoustic Generation performs at 9 p.m. March 10, Seamus O'Kane and Anish play March 11, and March 12 brings performances by bagpipers, the Trinity Irish Dancers and The Dave Dunne Band. The Trinity Irish Dancers return on March 17 along with Joe McShane and The Chancey Brothers. Anish plays again at 9 p.m. March 18.

All through March, the Harp & Fiddle, 110 Main St., Park Ridge, is serving corned beef and cabbage, Irish potato soup and Irish cocktails. The Trinity Irish Dancers will perform at 7 p.m. and the band Chicago Reel at 8 p.m. March 16 while a St. Patrick's Day party takes place March 17 with band Mulligan Stew and a beer tent on the patio. Visit www.theharpandfiddle.com.

Come celebrate St. Patrick's Day with two Irish-American women in "Pot of Gold: An Evening of Irish Stories and Songs with Megan McDonough and Susan O'Halloran" at 8 p.m. March 17 at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. The show will include stories and songs about being raised Irish American. Tickets cost $30. Call 847-677-7761 or visit www.skokietheatre.org.

The Irish American Heritage Center's St. Patrick's Day celebration takes place noon to midnight March 17 at the center, 4626 N. Knox Ave., Chicago. The day-long celebration in the Fifth Province pub features live music, dance, food and drink for purchase and face painting for children.

Tickets cost $10. Children age 12 and younger are free. Visit www.irish-american.org/events.

The Trinity Irish Dancers will be making stops all over the Chicago area to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.
**THE SPOTLIGHT IS CLOSER THAN YOU THINK**

**Saturday, March 25 7:30 PM**

Music Legend

**TOMMY JAMES**

AND THE SHONDells

"Crystal Blue Persuasion"
"Crimson & Clover"
"Mony Mony"

With Special Guest

THE ASSOCIATION

**Saturday, April 1 7:30 PM**

**TAYLOR DAYNE & EXPOSÉ**

"Tell It to My Heart"
"Prove Your Love"

**Friday, April 7 7:00 PM**

Spectacular Animals, Fascinating Stories

**JACK HANNA**

**Thursday, April 13 8:00 PM**

"In Living Color"
"White Chicks"
"The Wayans Bros."

**Friday, May 12 7:30 PM**

Featuring former leading cast members of JERSEY BOYS!

**UNDER THE STREETLAMP**

**Saturday, May 20 7:00 PM**

**THE IDES OF MARCH**

"Vehicle"

THE BUCKINGHAMS

"Kind of a Drag"

THE CRYAN' SHAMES, NEW COLONY SIX

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Rising Chicago talent sing the best of Broadway 1969

1930s - 60s era productions served as inspiration

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Ten talented performers who are launching musical theater careers in Chicago will be showcased in Porchlight Music Theatre's New Faces Sing Broadway 1969 at the Skokie Theatre.

Michael Weber, Porchlight's artistic director, is co-creator and dramaturge of the series, which focuses on a different year each time, offering performances of musical numbers as well as interesting details about the shows from which they came.

"The inspiration came from a series on Broadway from the late '30s to the late '60s called 'New Faces,'" Weber said. "Out of that particular revue were discovered many, many stars that we know today - people like Henry Fonda, Madeline Kahn, Maggie Smith and Paul Lind."

Audience members at Porchlight's series may well be seeing stars of the future.

Porchlight added other elements to the original concept to involve the audience. "We do sing-alongs, and we have trivia contests and music theater trivia games," Weber said. "It's evolved into a very unique program."

Adrian Abel Azevedo directs the 1969 version; David Fiorello is music director.

"We collaborate in picking the songs for the show, looking at all the shows of the season, both the Tony winners and the flops," Azevedo said.

This is the third time that Fiorello has served as music director of a Porchlight New Faces show. He considers part of his job, "knowing these shows backwards and forwards."

Several factors are considered when the pair select songs. "It's not just the most popular songs," Fiorello said. "Because we're doing it in a cabaret setting, a lot of times it's what's the song that stands up by itself the best? What's the song that has enough dramatic action for a performer that's trying to showcase themselves?"

It helps that Fiorello has a huge cast recording database.

The Music Director declared that 1969 was "a great season. '1776' won the Tony and anything that's political is big for business right now. You've got shows like 'Hair,' which changed the Broadway landscape. You've got shows like 'Promises, Promises' where you've got Burt Bacharach writing songs. There's a show that was starring Muhammad Ali. It's such randomness involved in the season."

The revue also includes songs from "Zorba," "Canterbury Tales," "Dear World" and "Come Summer," among others.

Azevedo also collaborates with Weber on locating performers. "I, with Michael, look at young Chicago talent and pick who's coming up in the Chicago theater scene and who we feel needs to have a little spotlight on them."

That's how the cast is selected. They also choose a known-name to serve as host. This time it's acclaimed musical theater star E. Faye Butler, who will appear in "Chicago" later this month at Drury Lane Oakbrook.

Azevedo wrote the script for the host. "Like so many other people in the city I have such a love for the art form that I also love the history and I also love knowing where it started, where it came from," he said, jokingly adding, "If you put me on 'Jeopardy' and gave me the musical theater category, I would win the round."
GERSHWIN SPECTACULAR

FRIDAY, MARCH 24, 7:30 | SATURDAY, MARCH 25, 1:30

Bramwell Tovey conductor and piano
GERSHWIN, ARR. ROSE
Overture to Strike Up the Band
GERSHWIN, ARR. TOVEY A Foggy Day
GERSHWIN Catfish Row
GERSHWIN Rhapsody in Blue
GERSHWIN An American in Paris

Celebrate the genius of Gershwin with an all Gershwin Spectacular featuring conductor and pianist Bramwell Tovey and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. From irresistible musicals to iconic works for piano, orchestra and beyond, Gershwin endures as one of America's most beloved composers.

Enjoy a concert featuring the exuberant An American in Paris as well as selections from Strike up the Band and Porgy and Bess. Tovey, revered internationally for his charismatic performances and witty commentary, conducts and plays piano in Gershwin's popular Rhapsody in Blue.

GO

MOVIES

JCC Chicago Jewish Film Festival attracting attention

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Pioneer Press

In addition to attracting a significantly more sizable audience since it debuted four years ago, the JCC Chicago Jewish Film Festival has achieved a more glamorous indicator of success — the attention of Hollywood.

Among the 26 films being shown at seven venues for 10 days beginning March 9, the CJFF will feature a Chicago debut screening of "The Zookeeper's Wife," several weeks before the adaptation of the New York Times bestseller opens in theaters. And it was Focus Films, who approached the festival, hoping for a preview screening.

"We were super excited about that," said Addie Goodman, JCC Chicago Executive Vice President. "We took it as an indication that the reputation of the festival has grown and given us new opportunities. We were also able to secure the Oscar-nominated documentary 'Life, Animated' for our lineup, along with other noteworthy films."

The fest has come a long way, in short, since it opened in 2014 with eight films at three venues over 10 days and a combined audience of less than a thousand. In terms of audience size alone, Goodman said they hoped to almost double last year's total of 3,500.

The CJFF includes titles that did well at sister Jewish film fests around the country in addition to films identified by its own selection committee, headed by JCC Chicago Director of Adult Programming Helen Uhlmann. But it also makes it its business to make sure its films are as accessible as popular to the communities it serves throughout the city. Hence, the increase in the number of venues hosting screenings. The venues for the films are Landmark Century Center Cinema in Chicago, AMC River East in Chicago, Regal Lincolnshire Stadium, AMC Northbrook Court, the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center in Skokie, Landmark Renaissance Place in Highland Park and Century 12 Evanston.

"Human interest is what most of the films have in common," Goodman said. "I think one of the things we do best is selecting films that make you think, laugh, cry — that have some emotional or intellectual effect."

The following films are ones that Goodman expects to be among the highlights of the fest.

"The Zookeeper's Wife" Jessica Chastain and Daniel Brühl star as Antonina and Jan Zabinski who sheltered 300 Jews during the German occupation while the husband was director of the Warsaw Zoo. Based on the non-fiction best seller by poet and naturalist Diane Ackerman.

"Life, Animated" The Oscar-nominated documentary by Roger Ross Williams tells the story of autistic youngster Owen Suskind, who learned how to communicate with his family through the medium of Disney animated films.

"Already Tomorrow in Hong Kong" A cross-cultural romance featuring real-life married couple Jamie Chung and Bryan Greenberg, is one of the films featured in the JCC Chicago Jewish Film Festival.

JCC Chicago Jewish Film Festival
When: March 9-19
Where: Seven venues in Chicago and the suburbs.
Tickets: $13; $11 for seniors and students per screening.
Information: 847-763-3507; www.jccfilmfest.org

"A La Vie" A French drama about three girls who survive the holocaust and meet up again as young women.
You're not imagining it -- it's hard to break up in your 30s.

JAMIE GRILL/TETRA IMAGES

Breaking up in your 30s

Splits in the 3rd decade are hard for a variety of reasons. Page 14
Cooking for a cause

Roommates getting ready for 50 Cooks Who Care benefit

By Judy Buchenot
Naperville Sun

Roommates Michelle Naus and Rosalinda Olszta both enjoy cooking and baking, but usually they're making meals for two. So when the opportunity to cook for a crowd comes along, they're ready to tie on their aprons. The two friends will again be part of the fundraiser 50 Cooks Who Care on March 18 that benefits Suicide Prevention Services of America. The event takes place at Nagel Emporium at Abbey Farms in Aurora.

The event started nine years ago as 50 Men Who Cook, but things have changed over the years. "We have been including women in the mix for a couple of years, so we decided to change the name to 50 Cooks Who Care," said Jen Slepicka, one of the event organizers.

Both amateur and professionals participate in the event where guests are invited to sample all 50 dishes prepared by the cooks and can vote for their favorites. Anyone interested in becoming one of the event cooks can sign up through the event organizers.

Anyone interested in attending the event can purchase tickets in advance for $50 or at the door for $60. For more information, visit www.spsamerica.org.

Cream of Mushroom Soup

Makes 5 to 6 servings.

- 8 ounces mushrooms
- 6 tablespoons butter, divided
- 1/4 cup finely diced onion
- 1/4 cup flour
- Salt to taste
- 32 ounces chicken broth
- 1 cup whipping cream
- White pepper to taste
- Dash of ginger

1. Clean and finely dice mushrooms. Melt 4 tablespoons butter in a pan. Add mushroom and onion. Cook and stir until onion is transparent. Add flour and salt. Cook and stir about 2 minutes until a paste forms. Slowly add broth while stirring to keep mixture smooth. Let simmer for about 20 minutes or until slightly thickened. Add whipping cream, pepper and ginger. Simmer for about 20 minutes. Add remaining 2 tablespoons of butter and stir until dissolved.

Stuffed Shells

Makes 5 to 6 servings.

- 12 ounces shell pasta
- 24 ounces cottage cheese
- 2 tablespoons Italian seasoning
- 1 tablespoon garlic powder
- 1 tablespoon onion powder
- 3 tablespoons dried parsley
- 1/2 cup freshly shredded Parmesan cheese
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 1 pound mild Italian sausage
- 15 ounce jar prepared spaghetti sauce
- 8 ounces sliced mozzarella

1. Place pasta into boiling water and follow instructions on the box to cook to al dente. Drain pasta and rinse with cold water. Set aside. Mix together cottage cheese, Italian seasoning, garlic powder, onion powder, parsley and Parmesan cheese. Add salt and pepper to taste. Set aside.

2. Brown sausage in a frying pan and drain. Add to cottage cheese mixture and stir to combine. Pour a thin layer of spaghetti sauce into a 9-inch by 13-inch pan. Stuff each shell with about 2 tablespoons of cottage cheese mixture.

3. Line up shells in rows in the pan. Spoon remaining spaghetti sauce over stuffed shells to cover. Lay slices of mozzarella over the shells, completely covering them. Bake at 350 degrees for about 45 minutes or until the mozzarella begins to lightly brown.
That's a whole lot of boiled potatoes and boiled cabbage. Stringy mess of a meal. The ruby roast into a pot of water and boil slip a mammoth corned beef on the menu. My mom would out a hearty Irish boiled dinner Patrick's Day in my house with-it for hours until it became a St. Patrick's Day Slow cooker twist

Swiss cheese.

OUT OF MEL'S KITCHEN

Using slow cooker corned beef, these amazing Reuben sandwiches feature sauerkraut and Finlandia Swiss cheese.

Slow cooker twist on a classic for St. Patrick's Day

Growing up, it wasn't St. Patrick's Day in my house without a hearty Irish boiled dinner on the menu. My mom would slip a mammoth corned beef roast into a pot of water and boil it for hours until it became a stringy mess of a meal. The ruby hued meat was always served alongside boiled carrots, boiled potatoes and boiled cabbage. That's a whole lot of boiled things. And here's the deal, boiling foods in water doesn't do anything to build flavor or texture.

While many people clamor for this holiday comfort food classic dinner because it easily feeds a crowd, I've just never been a huge fan of this mushy meal. But that doesn't mean I don't love a good corned beef dinner on St. Paddy's day. I just want one that has a whole bunch of rich flavor and a little structural integrity.

The first step in cooking up the corned beef of my dreams involves removing all the water from the cooking process. Thanks to my neighbor I've become a huge fan of slathering my corned beef with a sweet mustard mixture, wrapping it in heavy duty foil and cooking it low and slow in my crock pot. The resulting roast is anything but lackluster and perfectly suited to serving with a batch of oven roasted carrots, boiled red potatoes and a loaf of Irish soda bread, but be sure you make enough to whip up one of my ultimate Reuben sandwiches.

You will never go back to using deli meat or store-bought dressing to make this retro treat with your St. Patrick's Day leftovers. In fact, this version of a diner favorite — one that's seared in a pan and finished in a hot oven — will likely spoil you on ordering a Reuben in a restaurant ever again.

The Ultimate Reuben Sandwich

You can serve half of this roast as part of your St. Patrick's Day dinner and refrigerate the rest for use in these indulgent sandwiches or you can make the meat for the sandwiches alone. Either way, it's best to start this recipe one day before you plan to serve the sandwiches; cold corned beef slices like a dream.

FOR THE CORNED BEEF:
1. 4-pound corned beef brisket
2. 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
3. 2 tablespoons whole grain mustard
4. 1/3 cup brown sugar
5. 1 tablespoon onion flakes
6. 1 teaspoon coarse black pepper
Heavy duty aluminum foil

FOR THE REUBEN DRESSING:
1. 1 cup mayonnaise
2. 1/4 cup ketchup
3. 1/4 cup chopped Italian parsley
4. 2 tablespoons dill pickle relish
5. 1 heaping teaspoon prepared horseradish
6. 1 teaspoon Worcestershire sauce
7. 1 teaspoon white sugar
8. 1/2 teaspoon each coarse pepper and salt

FOR THE SANDWICH:
2. 2 slices of dark Bavarian rye bread per sandwich
3. Unsalted butter at room temperature
4. 3 slices Finlandia Swiss cheese (cut 1/8-inch thick) per sandwich
5. 2 tablespoons of sauerkraut per sandwich (homemade or store bought)

1. For the corned beef: Place the corned beef, fat side up, on three large sheets of aluminum foil. Mix together the mustards, brown sugar, onion flakes and pepper in a small bowl. Pour the mustard mixture over the corned beef and wrap the entire roast tightly in the aluminum foil. Place the foil packet in a large crock pot and cook on low setting for 6 hours. Remove the packet (serve half for dinner if desired) and allow to cool to room temperature before refrigerating overnight.

When ready to assemble the sandwiches, remove the corned beef from the refrigerator and unwrap. Slice the meat across the grain into 1/8-inch thick slices and set aside until ready to use.

2. For the Reuben dressing: Combine the mayonnaise, ketchup, parsley, pickle relish, horseradish, Worcestershire sauce, sugar, salt and pepper in a small bowl. Cover and refrigerate until ready to serve. Can be made 1 day ahead. Note: This will make enough sauce for several sandwiches. You can halve the recipe if desired or use the leftover sauce as a dip for cooked shrimp.

3. To assemble the Reuben sandwich: Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Butter one side of each slice of bread and place butter side down on a cutting board. Spread each slice of bread with 1 tablespoon of the Reuben dressing. Place one slice of Swiss cheese on top of the dressing. Top the cheese on each side with 1 tablespoon sauerkraut and one or two slices of corned beef (depending on size). Place the two slices of bread. Place the halves together to make one giant sandwich; your sandwich bread will be buttered on the outside and there will be one slice of cheese in the middle of the sandwich.

4. Heat 1 tablespoon of butter in a large skillet over medium-high heat until it is melted and hot. Carefully add the sandwich to the sizzling butter and allow the bread to brown for two minutes. Using a large spatula, carefully flip the sandwich and allow the bread to brown on the second side for two minutes. Transfer the sandwich to a rack set on a rimmed baking sheet. Transfer the pan to the oven and bake the sandwich for 25 minutes or until the cheese (especially that center slice) is gooey and melted. Transfer the sandwich to a cutting board and allow it to rest for 5 minutes before slicing on the diagonal into two portions.
How to keep a cat busy during the early morning hours

By Marc Morrone
Tribune Content Agency

Q: My wife and I rescued two small kittens (6-6 weeks old) from a ditch in November of last year. We took them to the vet and got them cleaned up, one kitten died within the week the other is now a very cute, very active 16 to 18 week old kitten. The problem is she is now big enough to jump over or get through the barriers we have set up to block her from the bedroom. She gets very excited at 4 a.m. and comes into the bedroom looking for fun and food. It is not workable for us to shut the bedroom door to keep her out. How can we get her to not be waking us in the early hours. At some point in the future I'd like to be able to have her sleep on the bed with us. Any suggestions or ideas would be much appreciated. — Leif Næsingen

A: Congratulations on your new kitten that is acting like a kitten should! That is really the answer here. She is acting like a kitten that is bored and does not have a sibling to play with.

It reminds me of when my wife and I had. The only answer is to get another kitten to act as a playmate for her and hopefully keep her entertained all night long.

Of course that situation could also backfire. You could have two kittens all over your head at night as my wife and I had. The only other suggestion I can offer is since you say her antics start around 4 a.m., and she begs for food then try getting one of the automatic feeders that work on a timer. That way the cat can access the food at that specific time. Hopefully she will take the food presented to her and take the edge off her antics.

Q: I really need to know if an outside stray male cat can be fixed and not spray indoors. I really feel sorry for this guy. He comes just about every night to eat but he is in rough shape. He always has scratches or wounds. He will let me pet him but is afraid of everything and everyone else. I already have seven cats. Pure accident, I took in two stray pregnant females. I tried to find good homes and when I couldn't, I kept them. They are all fixed, shots and monthly flea meds. It's not a cheap situation. I want to help this guy. My females go out, but back in about every 10 minutes. He does not bother them and they are not afraid of him like they have been of other wondering males. My boys have never been out so I don't allow them to start. Please tell me if you think getting him fixed would stop him from spraying indoors. — Donna Lampkin

A: You are a very kind person to take pity on these cats. However this issue, like most cat drama, does not have a black or white answer. According to the rules of science a male cat that has no free testosterone in its system should not feel the need to spray. However, this does not apply to all cats. There is very little that actually applies to all cats when you think about it.

So my suggestion is you do get him neutered and then ask the vet who performs the operation how long he or she feels that it will take the cat to lose its testosterone based on the cat's physical condition. Then keep him outdoors for the time suggested by the vet before you bring him into the house. If it all works out then it is a win situation. If not you have to put him outdoors again then at least his life will be a lot easier if he has been neutered.

Marc Morrone has kept every kind of animal as a pet possible for the last half century and is happy to share his knowledge of pet keeping with those in need of it. Although he cannot answer every question individually, he will publish those of general interest. You can contact him at petxperts2@aol.com; please include your name, city and state.
Senior living residents upset with homes

I bought a home in Naperville's Carillon Club (a senior living community developed by D.R. Horton) on April 29, 2016. We now call this the "House of Horrors." I have had continuous issues since moving in. There are cracks in the foundation, which keep occurring. I have had water in the basement three times. The excuses I get from D.R. Horton's warranty manager are ridiculous. Insulation on the walls has to be pulled away because it gets wet. All the windows have ice buildup along the windows and frames. Someone from the window vendor is supposed to come out and look at the problems but never shows up. My hot water heater produces only a small amount of hot water then turns cool. There have been so many issues with this home, and they keep happening. Many homeowners in this development are having similar problems.

I believe Horton tries to intimidate seniors, thinking they are not too sharp and will go away eventually.

Joanne, Naperville

Since receiving Joanne's email, I also heard from three other Carillon Club residents:

Warren spent a year and a half attempting to get his poorly sealed windows repaired or replaced through D.R. Horton's 1-year warranty. He finally gave up and replaced all 19 of his home's windows at his own expense.

Kim reported issues with cabinets, plumbing, fireplace pilot light, master bath fan, electrical system, living room floor and garage door opener. The pilot light, bathroom fan and garage door opener (insufficient size for the door's weight) were all replaced at her expense as they fell outside D.R. Horton's warranty.

Since October 2014, when Dominic moved into his home, he has attempted to get his wood floor repaired or replaced. There are nicked edges, missing pieces and improperly installed sections.

I forwarded Joanne's, Warren's and Kim's complaints to D.R. Horton's media relations email address. (I had not yet heard from Dominic.) A day later, I received this statement from D.R. Horton spokesperson Marissa Ann Awtry:

"Customer satisfaction is very important to D.R. Horton. A number of [Joanne's] concerns have already been addressed, and we are in the process of resolving the few remaining items. We have not been contacted recently by [Warren] or [Kim] regarding the items you brought to our attention. We plan to contact them both soon and will address their concerns according to the guidelines of our warranty. We encourage any homeowner to contact us directly if they ever have concerns with their home...."

Shortly after that, I emailed Dominic's complaint to Awtry. Since that time, I have emailed and called Awtry five times. Since receiving Awtry's initial statement, there has been no further response.

Joanne's last update said D.R. Horton would repair her foundation cracks if she would sign a contract releasing Horton of responsibility for future cracks. Her sump pump was replaced and a third "adjustment" was made to her hot water heater.

Kim was contacted by Horton and told to make a list of the replacement costs she has incurred, but was told that reimbursement was not guaranteed.

Warren reported: "Tom Tuhy (D.R. Horton's warranty manager) stated the primary purpose of his call was to respond to Chicago Tribune's accusation that D.R. Horton had not contacted me. He showed little interest in listening to my concerns, sounded annoyed that homeowners publicized their dissatisfaction to the Tribune and disputed all quality issue claims on the windows...."

I have not yet heard back from Dominic. Help Squad will keep an eye on this situation.

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

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
Disruption undone

Phones may have displaced watches, but technology doesn't always improve things

By John Warner
Chicago Tribune

The other day I looked down at my left wrist and noticed that my tan was even up and down my arm, and realized that I hadn't worn a watch for months. My watch has been disrupted by my phone, which is — sometimes to my chagrin — omnipresent, available for a time check whenever I may need it. Because I wore a watch for purely practical reasons rather than fashion, the habit has fallen by the wayside.

Disruption is the buzzword of the technology utopians used to see technology as the solution to all of our problems. Books on disruption and disrupters probably already merit our attention as they try specific applications of his theory in the disruption world. Christensen, a Harvard Business School professor, published in 1997, originates his “disruptive innovation” theory, which essentially argues that new technologies can cause legacy firms to fail by interfering with key components of their business models. Think Kodak, a film company that was undone by digital technology.

Once we buy into disruption theory, everything looks ripe for the picking, and indeed, Christensen tackles industry-specific applications of his theory in both “The Innovator’s Dilemma” and “Disrupting Class: How Disruptive Innovation Will Change the Way the World Learns.”

It is worth examining, however, situations where disruption is predicted but doesn’t occur and why.

For example, take books. As reported in Publishers Weekly in January, Nielsen reported a 16 percent decline in e-book sales from 2015 to 2016. Meanwhile, hardcover unit sales increased by 5 percent. E-books have established a valuable niche in the book industry, but print books are here to stay.

They’re here to stay because they have virtues that readers partial to the physical book may find difficult to articulate but are nonetheless real and valuable. This is why Christensen’s predictions about education should be looked at skeptically. Christensen told Wired in 2013 that “higher education is just on the edge of the crevasse,” arguing that online education would supplant face-to-face learning because it is more efficient.

However, online education has so far proved inferior. EdX and Udacity, which once thought they would replace universities, have now pivoted to corporate training.

Education built on human interaction seems to have deeper meaning. For all the troubles of our higher education system, it is not so easily disrupted, nor should we allow it to be.

We shouldn’t be afraid of progress, and Stone’s and Christensen’s books help map out possibilities, but it would be nice if the authors weren’t quite so faithful in their steadfast belief that technology necessarily leads to better solutions.

Some things deserve preserving, not disrupting.

John Warner is the author of “Tough Day for the Army.” Follow him @biblioracle.
THINK TUBULAR:
Or cylindrical, if you prefer

**By Gail Grabowski | Edited by Stanley Newman**

(staxwords.com)

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Last week's answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island © 2017 Creators Syndicate. All rights reserved.
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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Words</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Cinc. Reds immortal catcher</td>
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<tr>
<td>B. Collect</td>
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<tr>
<td>C. Gold or aluminum</td>
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<td>D. Delicate</td>
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<td>E. Brooding hen</td>
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<td>F. Wheat or rice</td>
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<td>G. Burrowing animal</td>
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<td>H. Esteem</td>
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<tr>
<td>I. Anonymous</td>
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<td>J. Brownish-grey color</td>
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K. Stuff | 61 116 132 17 71 167 |
L. NYC theater venue: hyph. | 55 38 47 |
M. Spread gossip: 3 wds. | 138 110 100 128 39 49 66 |

N. Thrifty | 43 83 158 111 37 142 23 59 96 14 |
O. Renounce | 30 107 11 161 128 64 |
P. Essential | 131 147 16 46 32 63 105 78 135 |
Q. Just begun | 153 36 129 95 140 58 109 4 |
R. No longer in use | 9 166 117 27 52 |
S. All | 151 104 68 5 50 |
T. Cautioned | 127 40 20 137 165 |
U. Become calmer: 2 wds. | 99 155 19 34 80 119 150 |

Sport Scene

BY CHARLES PRESTON

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<td>1. Son of Noah</td>
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<td>5. Pro football team</td>
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<td>9. Place of trade</td>
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<td>13. Outdoor game</td>
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<td>14. Bellowing</td>
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<td>16. Celeban ox</td>
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<td>17. Asian land</td>
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<td>18. Mouthlike opening</td>
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<tr>
<td>19. Excellent athlete</td>
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<tr>
<td>20. Football immortal</td>
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<tr>
<td>22. Pro football team</td>
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<tr>
<td>1. Motor trip</td>
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<td>2. Israeli dance</td>
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<td>3. Ancient country in southwestern Iran</td>
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<td>4. Lisa</td>
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<td>5. Bacon slice</td>
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<td>7. State of mind</td>
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<td>8. Last home of RLS</td>
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<td>9. Golf club</td>
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<td>10. Opposer</td>
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<td>11. Type of horse</td>
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<td>12. Frigate hands</td>
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<td>15. Made a comeback</td>
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<td>16. Golfing need</td>
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<td>17. Son of Noah</td>
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<td>19. Excellent athlete</td>
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<td>21. Golfing need</td>
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<td>22. Pro football team</td>
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<td>23. Shoulder</td>
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<td>24. Electric</td>
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<td>25. Merry Widow composer</td>
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<td>27. Sports official</td>
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<td>28. Tennis great</td>
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<td>29. Nourished</td>
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<td>30. Diner</td>
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<td>33. Sprinter paths</td>
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<td>34. Box</td>
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<td>35. Lhasa monk</td>
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</tbody>
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In Other Words

BY JIM HOLLAND
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across
1 For every one
5 Attempts
10 Asian vine leaf
15 Came down to earth
19 Cadenza, e.g.
20 Kidney-related
21 Together
22 Suvari of “American Beauty”
23 At center stage, literally
27 Pond buildup
28 Talk about incessantly
29 Floor-length garment
30 Asian New Year
31 Lao Tzu principle
33 Apple core, for short?
34 Chopin work
36 Start the day cheerfully, literally
42 Numskulls
43 Rock’s... Lobos
45 Start a pot
46 CPO’s org.
47 Links transport
48 Request reassignment, literally
50 Rio contents
52 “Red Balloon” painter
54 Blocker of “Bonanza”
55 Mime character
56 Elevator innovator
57 Elite group
58 ’40s-’50s pitcher
59 Pic source
60 A Streetcar Named Desire’s wife
61 Gather
62 Staff symbol
63 Collar
64 “What’s the _?”
67 Withdraw by degrees
68 Track runner, to a tout
69 Stinging reube, literally
70 Farm house dweller
71 Get into shape, with “up”
72 “Not _ long shot”
73 Goob
74 Start to freeze?
75 1956 Triple Crown winner
76 Pampering place
77 Linguist Chomsky
78 Logician Turing
79 Rubs the wrong way
80 Johnny’s 2014 Olympics figure skating co-commentator
81 Fills with cigarette output, as a room
82 “Piece of the rock”: Prudential slogan
83 Support for the sheriff
84 Subj. with x’s
85 Nobel Peace Prize city
86 Degenerate from disuse
87 Yucky stuff
88 Art class subject
89 “Yeah, right?”
90 Rubs the wrong way, literally
91 2014 Johnny’s Olympics figure skating co-commentator
92 Show up
93 Fills with cigarette output, as a room
94 Word with hygiene or history
95 “Yeah, right?”
96 Squealer
97 Part of DMV: Abbr.
98 What’s the _?
99 Withered
100 “Sweet as apple cider” girl of song
101 Spirited mount
102 Hellenistic mathematician
103 “Red Balloon” painter
104 Request reassignment, literally
105 Toddler’s outfit
106 Academic security
107 Parts of kettles
108 Iron-attracting magnetite
109 Byron’s “before”
110 Boston lawyer
111 Sass
112 Sentimental sounds
113 Heavy reading?
114 Is incapable of
115 Comes up short
116 Little helper?
117 Approx. repair cost
118 Went lickety-split
119 Stocking shade
120 Bum
121 Delivers, literally
122 Chicago winter
123 “Old Possum’s Book of Practical Cats” monogram
124 Burnable media

Down
1 Movie role played by Skippy
2 Sci-fi writer
3 First name in fashion
4 Start a pot
5 Oft-fried food
6 High...“Diana” singer
7 Tinker Bell’s creator
8 Make a subtle exit
9 Oh so very
10 German road
11 Approx. repair cost
12 Surround
13 Release
14 Pal of Pierre
15 Soup bean
16 Swallow
17 Soup bean
18 Preferences
19 Mark, for one
20 Office phone unit
21 “Piece of the rock”: Prudential slogan
22 Chicago winter
23 Tinker Bell’s creator
24 Annoying situation
25 “Red Balloon” painter
26 Office phone unit
27 “Red Balloon” painter
28 “Red Balloon” painter
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30 “Red Balloon” painter
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123 “Red Balloon” painter
124 “Red Balloon” painter

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.

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

This week’s answers appear on the next page.
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2017 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.
How to live with and love a spouse who has dementia

As a little girl in the 1970s, I used to watch "The Partridge Family" every week with my grandmother. I was a little too young to worship teen idols back then, but I still recall the magazine covers and posters of David Cassidy, with his long shag haircut and beautiful blue eyes.

It's hard to believe that anything bad could happen to the teen idol who seemed invincible to so many adoring fans. But last week, Cassidy, who is now 66, went public with the news that he has dementia.

According to the Mayo Clinic website, dementia isn't a specific disease but rather a condition characterized by symptoms that affect memory, thinking ability and social functioning severe enough to interfere with daily life. The most common cause of dementia is Alzheimer's disease.

Alita Arnold is a care manager, on-staff nurse and cognitive therapeutics specialist for home care agency Home Care Assistance, which operates throughout Chicago's northern suburbs. Arnold said the first symptom people affected with dementia experience is usually short-term memory loss.

"There is a normal level of cognitive sharpness that can decline as we get older, like forgetting where we put our keys or trying to find a word we can't put our finger on," said Arnold, who has been in the field for five years. "But when the inability to execute plans and juggle all the details that go into your home or workplace begins to interfere with your life and relationships, it's a problem."

Arnold said when people are diagnosed with dementia, both the patient and his or her spouse usually face fear and sadness, but that every dementia case is different.

"Some patients decline quickly but others could have smaller deficits that stay at the same level for longer periods of time without serious declines," she said.

So, how do you cope if you or your spouse is diagnosed with dementia? Arnold said the best thing couples can do is try and live their healthiest, most active, involved and connected life. Here are her tips:

- Continue to be hopeful and do things you love.
- Stay active, or if you aren't active, get active. There is scientific data supporting the benefit of exercise to delay or slow down the progression of dementia.
- Don't isolate those around you. If you see signs of depression, get help. Depression is linked to less favorable outcomes in dementia.
- If you are the spouse, understand personality changes that can come with the condition. These include irritability, aggression, mood swings, paranoia, anger, being sexually uninhibited and inappropriate, and using foul language. Don't take anything personally and realize that the disease is acting out, not your spouse.
- Some patients cover their dementia symptoms with humor or clever tactics to justify not remembering people's names or details when they are asked questions. In a way it can be a good thing, because it helps the person maintain self-respect and protects them. But on the other hand, the people close to them need to understand they are struggling and not put on them responsibilities they can't handle.
- Know when to step in and have the discussion that he or she needs outside help.
- The spouse has to make sure they are taking care of themselves. They need breaks. They need to get away and do self-nurturing things so that they can be present and healthy for the loved one. That might mean getting part-time or full-time home care or utilizing resources around them such as senior center programs, cognitive stimulation programs, art classes, lectures, etc.
- Be prepared. It is heartbreaking to see your spouse decline cognitively. The person can become mean, demanding and difficult. Again, remember, it is the disease — not your spouse's fault.
- Better overall health means better quality of life for patients with dementia. That's why it is important to address any health issues.
- Encourage the patient to maintain social ties and engage in mentally stimulating activities.
- As David Cassidy sang so often in his 1970s megahit song, "I think I Love You," it's important to live those words every day, remembering to cherish and enjoy the good and meaningful moments. Because whether they are funny or serious or heartfelt, these are the times that give life and love deep meaning.

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist.
Natural remedies available for nagging arthritis pain

By Dr. Robert Ashley
Ask the Doctors

Dear Doctor: Are there natural remedies for arthritis? Exercises that could help? My pain is in the upper arms and shoulders.

Dear Reader: Osteoarthritis, the kind that you’re describing, is caused by degeneration of the cartilage within a joint. Without the cartilage, one bone rubs upon the other, leading to pain and degeneration of the bone.

Doctors typically recommend nonsteroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs), such as ibuprofen, naproxen and aspirin; acetaminophen; and, more rarely, opiates. But NSAIDs can increase the risk of stomach ulcers and kidney problems when used chronically; acetaminophen at high doses can cause liver problems when used chronically; and opiates can lead to addiction. So I can understand your desire to look for an alternative for the pain.

Edward Clark, M.D.

The supplements chondroitin sulfate and glucosamine have been used for osteoarthritis for years. Chondroitin is one of the building blocks of cartilage in our body, so many people believe that taking chondroitin can decrease the pain of arthritis. A 2015 review of 43 randomized trials compared the use of chondroitin alone or in combination with glucosamine against the use of a placebo. Most of these studies looked at treatment for arthritis of the knees, with some looking at arthritis of the hips and hands. The studies measured pain on a 100-point scale. The use of chondroitin was found to be beneficial, whether with or without glucosamine, showing a small 8-point difference in pain compared with placebo. It didn’t ease the stiffness and lack of mobility associated with arthritis, however.

In another study, a randomized trial of 606 patients with pain from osteoarthritis of the knee compared the use of glucosamine with chondroitin against the anti-inflammatory drug celecoxib (Celebrex). After six months, both groups found a greater than 50 percent reduction in both pain and joint swelling. What was interesting about the study was that it took a while for the glucosamine/chondroitin to work. At one to four months, Celebrex was much better at improving pain, but at six months it was no different than the glucosamine/chondroitin combination. So with the use of glucosamine and chondroitin, it is important to be patient.

The supplements MSM (methylsulfonylmethane) and DMSO (dimethyl sulfoxide) are anti-inflammatory agents that have been studied in arthritis of the knees without evidence of benefit, but it’s possible they could decrease pain in the joints of the hands. Arnica montana is a plant-based therapy that has some potential in topical use for pain relief, with one study finding a slight benefit for arthritis of the hands. Topical use of capsaicin cream has shown potential, as well. Other natural remedies and supplements, such as fish oil, are touted for arthritis.

As for exercises, I would recommend physical therapy to increase your range of motion for your shoulder and to help increase your muscular strength. Yoga, Pilates and tai chi also can be beneficial, potentially increasing your range of motion without undue stress on your already aching joints. Over time, you may well see a difference in your ability to function with less pain.

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

Send your questions to askthedoctormd@mednet.ucla.edu, or write: Ask the Doctors, c/o Media Relations, UCLA Health, 924 Westwood Blvd., Suite 350, Los Angeles, CA 90095. Owing to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.
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Breaking up in your 30s

Splits in the 3rd decade are hard for a variety of reasons

By Alison Bowen
Chicago Tribune

This breakup felt different. Neil and his girlfriend were considering making big life changes for each other — him moving from Chicago to New York, for one.

So when the relationship fell apart and he found himself single at 30, it felt heavier than similar previous splits.

"I was pretty heartbroken," said Neil, now 33, who asked that his last name not be used due to potential embarrassment that his ex might think he wasn't over her. "I think I put too much pressure on it."

No breakup is ever easy. But for people in their 30s, breakups can feel more emotionally taxing than splits in other decades, experts say.

"The breakups are harder in your 30s," says therapist Heather deCastro, who works with millennials at her New York practice, Millennium Psychotherapy.

Factors include a generation of millennials who wait longer to seriously date, meaning years-long relationships now end in the third decade. And pressure to fit someone into your already-fixed life — apartment, adult job — can mean that an exit can be a harder unraveling. Meanwhile, the fear of starting over is sharp for those who want to get married and have children.

The Pew Research Center reported in 2014 that a record share of Americans have never married. In 2012, 1 in 5 adults 25 and older had never been married. And the median age to get first hitched is 27 for women and 29 for men. In 1960, those ages were 20 for women and 23 for men.

Not finding a forever partner is a common concern, said Kute Blackson, author of "You Are the One: A Bold Adventure in Finding Purpose, Discovering the Real You, and Loving Fully."

"The older you get, maybe the stakes get higher," said Blackson, who helps men and women navigate dating through seminars like "The Man Breakthrough Experience" and 14-day India treks.

Pew reported that in 2015, 53 percent of never-married adults said they would like to marry eventually. Neil said that, since his big breakup at age 30, questions about future intentions arise more quickly when he's dating now.

"It usually comes up a lot quicker than 'Let's just hang out and get to know each other,' " he said.

Breakups later in life may be harder, too, because the couple may have tried for years to make a relationship work.

"It's stability; it's safer, and you're doing what everybody else is doing," deCastro said.

But just because you are already dating someone, experts advise, is not a reason to stay together.

Blackson often asks clients, "If you were to meet your partner today, would you date them?"

"I kid you not, people go silent," he said.

He added, "By the time you reach 40, you've been dating since you were in your 20s, you may be with a completely different person. That's not a bad thing. That's just growth."

He urges his clients to identify their own wants and needs. That clarity can come with age.

This can be particularly tough for women, who face fertility concerns as they age.

"I think in the 20s, it's a lot easier — especially, women feel like they have more time," deCastro said.

"But it's not what's going on inside. It's not reality."

Married friends may also add to singles' stress in surprising ways. Often, deCastro said, clients are scared by pals sharing anxieties like, "Did I really make the right choice?"

"Other friends have these marriages, and they hear from their friends that it's not that great," deCastro said.

Dating past your 20s means you often have a more adult life. Standards have been set: You've made yourself a comfortable home, maybe one you own and don't want to leave. Perhaps you prefer nicer restaurants or don't want to compromise on travel.

"You're not willing to budge as much," deCastro said.

Popofsky said she now has the same high standards but different values — she cares more about someone's behavior, not job, for example.

"I wouldn't say I'm picky," she said. "But I'm looking for someone great."

Now, past his 20s, Blackson said he is "much more able to discern who is right for me, who I am, what works."

Finding that balance and moving past anxiety over dating and splitting in your 30s, involves a few key factors.

"The most powerful thing I think someone can do is to sit with their pain," Blackson said. "It takes tremendous courage to sit with the feeling of loneliness, to sit with the pain."

John Grohol, psychologist and founder of PsychCentral.com, similarly suggests a post-mortem.

"People are so quick to say, 'I have to get over this breakup,' " said Grohol, based in Newburyport, Mass. "Take the relationship apart, and see what worked and didn't work, and take that new knowledge that you have, and use it for your next relationship."

If an ex had a quick temper, for example, perhaps you are looking for someone who handles anger in a healthier manner.

Most important, don't beat yourself up or bathe in feelings of guilt or failure.

"A lot of people take it personally and feel terrible and think that they did something wrong and they didn't choose right," deCastro said. "Give yourself a break."

When clients tell him they've been through a breakup, Blackson tells them, "Congratulations!" and salutes their new chapter.

"You made a courageous choice," he said. "It takes a lot of courage to follow your heart and not compromise what you know inside. If you stay together with someone you know is not right, you're never going to be fulfilled."

abowen@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @byalisonbowen
French provincial home in Hinsdale: $2.4M

ADDRESS: 614 Maple St. in Hinsdale
ASKING PRICE: $2,400,000
Listed on Feb. 13, 2017
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Agent: Anne Brandt of Baird & Warner Real Estate, 630-323-1855

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OPENS APRIL 1
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The SNAP Dance Company of Wilmette is one of the many youth dance ensembles performing at the “Progressions” dance festival on March 11 in Evanston.

**FAMILY FRIENDLY**

**‘Progressions’ festival will showcase young dancers**

BY MYRNA PETLICKI  
Pioneer Press

Chicago area dance companies are coming together for “Progressions,” the second annual dance festival produced by Wilmette-based Studio North Academy of the Performing Arts, 7 p.m. March 11 at Haven Middle School, 2417 Prairie Ave., Evanston.

“I really love giving our kids the chance to create community and meet other kids from other studios and see what they’re doing,” said Studio North owner Pamela Sue Fox. “In the end, it is a really small community. Eventually, they’ll end up at the same auditions or summer intensives or maybe even college programs. So it’s nice to have that basis of knowing someone else from another place.”

Participating companies include Living By Performing Dance Company based at Le Ballet Petit Future Shock, Joel Hall Youth Dance Company, Dance and Music Academy, Mohler Dance, Old Town School of Folk Music, Design Dance, New Trier Kinesis Dance Company and SNAP Dance Company, which is based at Studio North.

Tickets are $12 cash or check.

For details, call 847-251-7627 or go to **www.studio-northacademy.com**

**Their lucky day**

Kids ages 2-11 will collect lots of green at a St. Patrick’s Day Clover Hunt, 4-5 p.m. March 17 in the Community Room at Prairie View Community Center, 6834 Dempster St., Morton Grove. Prizes will be given to children who find the special clovers. There will also be a craft project.

For details, call 847-965-1200 or go to **www.mortongroveparks.com**

**Think Irish on ice**

Traditional Irish music will be played for skaters during IceLand St. Patty Skate, 12:30-1:45 p.m. March 11 at 8435 Ballard, Niles. Ice rink admission is $6; skate rental is $4. You and your children will undoubtedly want to wear something green to the event.

For details, call 847-297-8010 or go to **www.niles-parks.org**

**A real howl**

Families will hear the tale of a lovable and laughable Native American literary character at Coyote Tales Fireside, 6:30-8 p.m. March 18 at Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie. The indoor fireside event, for ages 3 and older with a parent, includes a craft project and hot cocoa. The cost is $5. Pre-registration is encouraged. For details, call 847-674-1500, ext. 2500 or go to **www.skokieparks.org/emily-oaks-nature-center**

**Pandemonium**

Po faces a supernatural threat and one closer to home in “Kung Fu Panda 3.” The PG-rated film will be screened at 10:30 a.m. March 11 at Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave. The showing is in conjunction with “Coming Together: Celebrating Chinese Culture.” For details, call 847-677-5277 or go to **www.lincolnwoodlibrary.org**
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Morton Grove crafters create goods for charities

Crafting for Charity, a group that meets at the Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., on the second Saturday of each month, recently donated 79 hats, 41 scarves, 6 ear warmers, and 4 blankets to the Niles Township Food Pantry and Maine Township Food Pantry.

Group members knit or crochet items for organizations in the community that have need of them. Some of Crafting for Charity's past projects include knitted stuffed animals for children and lap blankets for residents of a local nursing home.

The crafters are currently creating Twiddlemuffs, which are knitted or crocheted muffs with decorated with ribbons, large buttons or textured fabrics, things patients with dementia can twiddle in their hands. Twiddlemuffs provide a source of visual, tactile, and sensory stimulation and also keep hands snug and warm. By the Feb. 11 meeting, group members had made 13 muffs and 15 hats and scarves. New members and community support through yarn donations are always welcome. More at www.mgpl.org.

The Sound Exchange from Minneapolis is one of the a cappella harmony groups that will take the stage during the 33rd Annual Harmony Sweepstakes Chicago Regional competition at 7:30 p.m. March 18 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie. Local competitors will be Counterpoint, No Big Deal, the Northsiders, the Uptones, and Listen Up! Local musician David Wilner emcees. The winning group from the Chicago festival will compete against the other six regional champions in the National Harmony Sweepstakes in San Francisco in May. Tickets are $25-$35 and available at www.northshorecenter.org/event/harmony-sweepstakes or call 847-673-6300.

Stacy Sternberg of Highland Park and Janice Blum of Northbrook, co-chairs of the North Shore Auxiliary of Jewish Child & Family Services Key Card shopping event, have prepared a fundraising Spring Shopping Spree throughout Chicago and suburbs set for March 11-18. Purchase key cards for $75 at participating stores. Cards entitle holders to a 20 percent discount at retailers and vendors. Proceeds will help local families. For complete Key Card information, email LaurenMcCoy@jcfs.org, call the Key Card hotline at 312-357-4610 or go to www.jcfs.org/events/nsa-key-card-shopping-spring.

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BUFFALO GROVE

Address: 917 Thornton Lane
Price: $324,900
Schools: Buffalo Grove High School
Taxes: $8,777
Agent: Anne Kaplan, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage The Groves

LAKE ZURICH
Two-bedroom, two-bath cottage design home built in 1938. Three-season room, hardwood floors throughout, formal dining room and updated kitchen with Corian counters and maple cabinets. First-floor den with glass French doors walks out to a private deck, master suite with built-in dresser, garage.

Address: 21312 W. Arbor Lane
Price: $295,000
Schools: Lake Zurich High School
Taxes: $4,892.85
Agent: Denise Nelson, Baird & Warner

DES PLAINES
Four-bedroom, three-bath split-level home built in 1962. Move-in condition, hardwood floors, newer doors and windows. Master suite with full bath, lower level with the family room, work room, laundry and separate exterior access to the garden area. Paved yard with concrete patio ready.

Address: 2048 Webster Lane
Price: $337,500
Schools: Maine West High School
Taxes: $6,113
Agent: Barbara Augustyn Rago, Berkshire Hathaway Homeservices American Heritage

LAKE BLUFF
Four-bedroom Classic Craftsman design home, with four full and two half baths, built in 2002. Open floor plan, gourmet kitchen, second-floor master suite with vaulted ceiling, living room with gas fireplace and custom built-ins. Finished basement with wet bar, rec room and exercise room, garage, bluestone patio.

Address: 751 Moffett Road
Price: $1,500,000
Schools: Lake Forest High School
Taxes: $30,741.89
Agent: Andra O'Neill, @Properties

Listings from Homefinder.com
Insulating an older home presents several problems

BY C. DWIGHT BARNETT
Tribune News Service

Q: Just bought a 1910 house. We love the house, but it’s very chilly.
I thought I would start with insulating the basement because I can feel jets of cool air coming in at certain points when walking around down there. I also need to install a dryer vent, so I removed a section of the lath and plaster to expose the stud bays. There was no sheathing, just what appears to be tar paper behind the clap boards.
So now my question is, how to insulate?

Everywhere I look recommends something different. I am concerned about a vapor retarder and trapping water in the wall that will lead to mold. I thought about doing rigid foam insulation surrounded by spray foam. But I hear that will leak over time when the foam also needs to be exposed to the wall cavity to vent moisture.

With cellulose or expanding foam there will not be a vapor barrier. Ask your paint dealer about certain paints that can provide a vapor barrier to prevent moisture migration from the warm side of the wall to the wall cavity.

Another project to help stop airflow and loss of heat would be to insulate the gaps and voids around doors and windows. Depending on the style of the windows, the trim around the window is removed, the gaps are filled with low-expanding foam, and the trim is reinstalled.

Older windows that use clap boards. There was no sheathing, etc. - anything that may be done to the exterior wall covering.

Cavity insulation in older homes can be filled with loose-fill cellulose insulation or low-expanding spray foam. Blown-in cellulose insulation has been extensively used, but the insulation may settle over time, leaving underinsulated cavities inside the walls. Spray foam will provide a better thermal barrier, with fewer, if any, voids inside the walls. The contractor will drill holes on either the inside of the home or the exterior, depending on the damage that may be done to the exterior wall covering. Foam insulation is injected into each wall cavity, and then the holes are filled.

On the interior, the holes can be sanded and painted to blend in with the decor. On the exterior, some holes are filled with plastic or wood fillers, and some are capped with air vents to allow the wall cavity ventilation.

C. Dwight Barnett is a certified master inspector with the American Society of Home Inspectors.

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<td>Javier Almonte</td>
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<td>4900 N Sherman Rd, #205, Niles</td>
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<td>Albert McCaffery Jr &amp; Jeanne M McCaffery</td>
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This list is not intended to be a complete record of all real estate transactions.

In a living room with a low ceiling, a shorter sofa creates the proper sense of scale.

Approach your room design with size and scale in mind

BY CATHY HOBBS
Tribune News Service

Whether your ceilings are low or high, or your space is small or spacious, it is important to select and choose furniture that is the appropriate size and scale.

When furnishing a space, often the focus is on style and color. Furniture selections are made for aesthetic reasons, as opposed to considering the critical aspect of how the furniture will actually feel in the space.

In living areas that are large and cavernous, oversize pieces will likely be successful; they are needed to help fill the room. In general, if your space is oversize, choose pieces that are heavier to help add weight to the room. Wooden decor and upholstered furniture will be more inviting than transparent surfaces such as glass.

Conversely, if you have a small home, you will need to add a sense of spaciousness. Look for furniture that is smaller in scale so the space doesn’t feel overcrowted.

These dos and don'ts can help you keep size and scale in mind when decorating.

Do
• Select shorter furniture if you have low ceilings. Tall pieces will close the room in and make the ceilings feel even lower.
• Use light colors rather than darker tones in smaller areas; lighter colors open up a space.
• Carefully consider the proper amount of furniture for your space. Buying an entire set often is not necessary, for many people, it is simply too much furniture.
• Have a cohesive color scheme. Tying pieces together using color can help a space feel cohesive.

Don't
• Select furniture and accessories that are timeless as opposed to trendy. Classic items are more long-lasting.
• Forget the power of mirrors. Mirrors, especially in darker spaces, can reflect light and brighten the room.
• Be afraid to use oversize artwork. If you have tall ceilings, oversize artwork hung in twos or threes can be very attractive.
• Overstuff a space. Often, rooms that don’t work well are jam-packed with furniture and decor. Remove the excess.
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Thursday, March 9

Frank Vignola and Vinny Raniolo: 7:30 p.m. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $15-$27, 847-492-8860

Reading Between the Lines: The Woman's Club of Evanston has been making people laugh for a good cause for over sixty years in their annual Benefit Show. This year's 66th Revue, titled Reading Between the Lines, is no exception. 8 p.m. Thursday-Saturday, Woman's Club of Evanston, 1702 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $35-$40, 847-475-3800

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

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", the world's largest orchid. 6 p.m. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Avoca West Kindergarten Parent Information Night: Avoca West Elementary holds its annual Kindergarten Parent Information Night in the school's library. All parents of children who will be five-years-old by Sept. 1 are invited to attend. Doors open at 5:30 p.m. for current residents of the Avoca District to begin the registration process. Please bring your child's birth certificate, and two proofs of residency (tax bill, lease or utility bill). 6 p.m. Avoca West Elementary, 235 Beech Drive, Glenview, free, 847-724-6800

Park Center Preschool Spring Book Fair: Park Center Preschool Spring Book Fair takes place at the Glenview Park Center. Stop by to shop great selections of books for all ages, as well as craft, activity and gifts. 9 a.m. Glenview Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, free, 847-724-5670

Morning Matinee Film — "The Last Emperor" (1987): This sweeping account of the life of Pu-Yi, the last emperor of China, follows the leader's tumultuous reign. After being captured by the Red Army as a war criminal in 1950, Pu-Yi recalls his childhood from 1911 through 1931, the world Pu-Yi knew is dramatic. 10:30 a.m. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Niles Songwriters: Local songwriters meet on the second Thursday of the month at the library's Lower Level to discuss their craft and play their music. Acoustic instruments are welcome. 7 p.m. Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Park Ridge Garden Club Meeting: The Park Ridge Garden Club hosts speaker Nancy Carroll, speaking on "Hummingbirds, our flying friends." All are welcome to come learn what to plant in their yard and what feeders to use to attract them. The Park Ridge Garden Club is a member of the Garden Clubs of IL, Inc., District IX and National Garden Clubs, Inc., Central Region. 7 p.m. Centennial Activity Center — Park Ridge Park District, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-0993

MB Financial Park's Restaurant Week 2017: MB Financial Park at Rosemont hosts its first-ever Restaurant Week, where visitors can take advantage of special prix fixe, three-course menus at MB Financial Park's wide range of restaurants including Adobe Gila's, Bub City, Five Roses Pub, Fogo de Chao, Hofbrauhaus Chicago, Kings Bowl, Park Tavern and Sugar Factory. Restaurant Week menus start at $20 per person. 11 a.m. Thursday-Sunday, MB Financial Park at Rosemont, 5501 Park Place, Rosemont, Varies, 847-349-5008

Free Lunch and Learn-Cx Success with an Omnichannel App: Join the Mindsight team at the Cisco office for a multi-part seminar on omnichannel strategy and the modern customer experience. They'll cover the ins and outs of omnichannel and demo a powerful social media tool from Cisco. Register online at the website. 11:30 a.m. Cisco, 9501 Technology Blvd, Rosemont, free, 630-981-5050

Friday, March 10

Friday Night Fish Fry at White Pines: White Pines will be hosting a Fish Fry every Friday night from March 3 through April 14. Bring the whole family and enjoy an all-you-can-eat lake Perch dinner for only $14.99. In addition to fresh fish entrees, there will also be weekly menu specials and delicious desserts. For more information call 847-766-0304, Ext. 2. 5 p.m. White Pines Golf Club, 500 W. Jefferson St., Bensenville, $14.99, 630-766-0304

Delbert McClinton: 8 p.m. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $35-$108, 847-492-8860

The World Premiere of Quest: Quest is an original circus-theater production loosely based on Leo Tolstoy's short story "The Three Questions." The protagonist asks three simple (but huge) questions, setting in motion a whirlwind journey to find the answers. 7:30 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Actors Gymnasium, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, $20 for adults, $15 for kids, students and seniors, 847-227-2975

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 secret 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. Friday-Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, Piven Theatre Workshop, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, $10-$25, 847-424-0089

Friday Night Meltdowns: This is a great night out for teens to join in an awesome skate and dance party. 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

Drop-in Chess Club for up to grade 8: Volunteer chess instructor Steve Levenson teaches fundamentals and strategy. Children under eight must be accompanied by an adult. 7 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Video Game Nights for Ages 13-18: Hang out with your friends and play video games on big screens using the Library's game systems and collections. Check out our new PS4 game system and games as you enjoy pizza. 5 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Evanston, free, 847-729-7500

Candlelight Yin Yoga — Special Class: Experience the gentle, harmonizing effects of a Yin yoga practice. We will gently stretch and stretch our connective tissue to increase flexibility while encouraging healing. 7 p.m. Glenview Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, $10, 224-521-2608

Mom and Son Night Out: Moms and sons, enjoy a fun-filled night out at Niles Park District. This special event features games, contests, prizes, pizza dinner and fun. 6:30 p.m. Greenman Heights Park, 4259 N. Oketo Ave., Niles, residents $20; non-residents $25 per couple

Crafternoons All Ages: Come make a craft in the children's department. Drop in anytime between 4 and 5 p.m. 4 p.m. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

Saturday, March 11

Glen Phillips with Amber Rubarth: 8 p.m. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $18-$38, 847-492-8860

Unmanned Entrepreneur: Make Money Flying Drones: If you love flying drones, learn what opportunities are available and how to take advantage of this amazing technology. Reserve your spot today for Unmanned Entrepreneur: Make Money Flying Drones. 9 a.m. Panera, 1700 Sherman Ave., Evanston, $30, 847-220-5193
Calendar, from Previous Page

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

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

**Segovia Classical Guitar Series:**
Thibaut Garcia: French guitarist Thibaut Garcia, was the 2015 first prize winner of the prestigious Guitar Foundation of America International Competition. Garcia is in the midst of a 50-concert tour of the United States and Canada. 12:45 p.m. Mary Galvin Recital Hall at Northwestern University, 70 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, $10-$30, 847-467-4000

**ACT Prep Test for Grades 9-12: Limit 40:** Professional tutors from College Nannies and Tutors of Glenview will guide you through a practice ACT test. Register by March 10, at glenvi Pw.org/register or call. Noon, Glenview Public Library, 130 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Family Day:**
Our experts can assist with your brick walls or help you get started with your research. Glenview Library card required, just drop in at either room between 1-4 p.m. 1 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 130 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Spring Fling Drive, Chip and Putt Tournament:** This tournament has a new, fun format, where all contestents compete in all three categories. Prizes are awarded in Men's/Ladies and Junior divisions. The $20 entry fee per person includes a trip to the chill bar. Rain or shine, the tournament is on. 10 a.m. Glenview Park Golf Club, 800 Shermer Road, Glenview, $20 per person, 847-724-0250

**Video Game Tournament, Grades 5-8:** Compete against your friends in Super Smash Bros. for prizes. You MUST arrive and register the day of the event at the Youth & Teen Services desk by 1:30 p.m. The competition bracket closes promptly at 1:30 p.m. and is limited to 20 competitors. First come, first compete. 1:30 p.m. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

**Coming Together Family Film – “Kung Fu Panda 3”**: Continuing his legendary adventures of awesomeness, Po must face two hugely epic, but different threats: one supernatural and the other a little closer to his home. We are pleased to offer this program in conjunction with Coming Together: Celebrating Chinese Culture. 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

**AHIIA Skate-a-Thon:** The American Hearing Impaired Hockey Association or AHIIA affords deaf and hard of hearing hockey players to practice and improve their skills on the ice. The organization was established in 1973 by Stan Mikita and Irv Tiahnybik. Through generous donations from the community and local corporations in the past, AHIIA's programming, equipment and operating fees have benefited. 7 p.m. American Heartland Ice Arena in Lincolnwood, 7384 Lincoln Ave, Lincolnwood, free

**Crafting for Charity:** Knit or crocheted mufflers will be made with items such as ribbons, large buttons or textured fabrics attached that patients with dementia can twiddle in their hands. Called twiddlemuffs, these provide a source of sensory stimulation while keeping hands snug and warm. Crafters bring their needles and/or hooks. Novices are welcome. 10 a.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

**Special Movie Screenings: “Spilled Water”**
Enjoy this special screening of the documentary, “Spilled Water.” Director May May Tchao introduces the movie and answers questions after the viewing. A synopsis of this film is wanting to connect with her distant sisters decades after leaving China, May reunites with her homeland and explores the very different lives of a rural school teacher, folk singer, factory worker, and lawyer. 2 p.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

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

**Twice as Nice Moms Spring Resale:** Being sold are gently used and like-new clothing from newborn to size 10 and over, shoes and boots, maternity clothing and items, baby equipment and gear, books, toys and much more. Bring a laundry basket or bag for easier shopping. No strollers are allowed. A huge parking lot is located at the corner of Greenwood and Crescent, just one long block south of Touhy Avenue. 8 a.m. Park Ridge Presbyterian Church, 1300 W. Crescent Ave., Park Ridge, $1, 847-823-4135

**Twenty-first Star Chapter NSDAR Genealogy Workshop:** A Genealogy Workshop, sponsored by the Twenty-first Star Chapter NSDAR offers attendees the opportunity to work with one of the members and receive assistance with application papers. This workshop is for women who are interested in joining the DAR. Please contact Dorothy Wilson at 847-328-6946 for further details. 1 p.m. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-328-6946

**Panic at the Disco, Misterwives and Saint Motel:** Panic! at the Disco is an American rock band from Las Vegas, Nevada, formed in 2004 and featuring the current lineup of vocalist Brendon Urie, accompanied on tour by bassist Dallon Weekes, guitarist Kenneth Harris and drummer Dan Pawlovich. 7 p.m. Allstate Arena, 6920 Mannheim Road, Rosemont, $145, 847-655-6001

**Darth Seder and Other Bad Parodies Dinner and Shpiel:** Temple Beth Israel presents Dinner and Purim Shpiel: “Darth Seder and Other Bad Parodies.” Cost for dinner and show must be reserved by March 8 and paid in advance, as there are no tickets at the door. Members of the community are welcome. 6:30 p.m. Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie, $20 per adult, $15 per child, 847-675-0951

**Hourly Megillah Readings:** To accommodate participants. 10:30 a.m. Saturday, 1:30 p.m. Sunday, 11:30 a.m. Monday, 12:15 p.m. Tuesday, 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, 11:30 a.m. Thursday, 11:30 a.m. Friday. Members of the community are welcome. 6:30 p.m. Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie, $20 per adult, $15 per child, 847-675-0951

**Mercey versus Law and Justice:** Come hear a lecture/discussion with Bishop Thomas J. Paprocki, J.D., J.C.D., of Springfield. Learn about the distinctions between the Moral Law, Church Law and Civil Law: how they bind us and how they free us. Learn how a well-formed conscience enables us to experience God’s mercy. Noon, St. Catherine Laboure Parish, 3535 Thornwood Ave., Glenview, free, 847-826-4704

**Sculture Discussion:** Meet sculptor John Adduci as he talks about his art work and his sculpture that is displayed in the center of our Library's parking lot, donated by the Friends of the Lincolnwood Library. A Q&A session will take place after his discussion. 1:30 p.m. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

**Grand Reopening Concert:** Founder & Music Director Philip Simmons conducts Mozart's Divertimento in F Major, Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in D Minor with soloist Violetta Todorova, and a new work composed for the event Celebrating Lincolnwood. 3 p.m. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

**Turn to Calendar, Next Page**
The rollicking 1950s-style music of “Bye Bye Birdie” is presented three times. The story of the evil Haman, who tried (but was unable) to destroy the Jews in 5th century BCE Persia, is told in song and story. Tickets are: $20 for adults or $25 at the door; $10 for children under 12 or $12 at the door. 1:30 p.m. Ezra Habonim, The Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, $10-$25, 847-674-5414

Purim Service and Family Party at Skokie Synagogue: Come to the familiar-orient Purim service and stay for lots of fun afterward. Enjoy music, stories, and a real magic show. 10:30 a.m. Ezra Habonim, The Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, free, 847-675-4141

Monday, March 13

Call For Art 6th Annual Square Foot Show!: The Arts of Life invites you to participate in a free, open, non-juried exhibition including national and international artists. 12-12 inch artwork will be accepted through March 13, at 3 p.m. 3 p.m. The Arts of Life, 1963 Johns Drive, Glenview, free, 847-486-0808

St. Patrick’s Fellowship Luncheon: Join in for traditional Irish fare and a musical celebration of Ireland performed by Lee Murdock. Enjoy Irish pub songs, old ballads, and dance tunes. Noon, The East Wing Glenview Senior Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, $20 for members; $25 for nonmembers, 847-724-4793

Adult Book Discussion: This book discussion features “The Readers of Broken Wheel Recommend” by Katrina Bivald. A Swedish tourist opens a bookstore in Broken Wheel, Iowa, to honor her deceased pen pal and makes some unconventional choices that threaten to bring long-hidden secrets to light as she attempts to share her love of reading with the locals. 11 a.m. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

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

An Evening with Gene Luen Yang: Gene Luen Yang author of both, American Born Chinese and Shadow Hero, is the first writer who works primarily in graphic novels to be appointed by the Library of Congress as the National Ambassador for Young People’s Literatu

Tuesday, March 14

Gary Burton & Makoto Ozone: 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. SPACE, 1248 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $22-$46, 847-492-8860

Smile & Rhyme at Helen’s ages 2 & up with an adult: Just drop in to hear Miss Fran share stories, rhymes, and songs in the Cafe. Stay for a snack and to chat after the program, but an adult must accompany children. 10:30 a.m. Helen’s Grocery Store, 1020 Waukegan Road, Glenview, free

“Older Than Ireland”: This is a landmark documentary film telling the extraordinary stories of a hundred years of a life as seen through the eyes of thirty Irish centenarians. Please register at glenview.tplregister or call. 7 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

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

Movies, Munches and More: “The Iron Lady”: The story is about Margaret Thatcher, who talks to the imagined presence of her recently deceased husband. She struggles to come to terms with his death while scenes from her past life, from girlhood to British prime minister, intervene. The cast stars: Meryl Streep, Jim Broadbent, Richard E. Grant. 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 April 2, 2017 at 3 p.m. 7 p.m. St. John Brebeuf Parish Church, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., Niles, suggested free will donation, 702-806-9421

Pinched Paintings: Famous Art Heists in History: Learn about notorious international art heists, including the Louvre’s Mona Lisa as well as the largest museum theft in American history. Art historian Dr. Michelle Mishur discusses history’s most infamous heists both solved and unsolved. 7 p.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

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

Modern Irish Cooking Class: In this class, explore the new Irish culinary canon, focused on local ingredients, simply prepared and presented. Dishes include: Irish Farmer Cheese Souffle, Wild Flower and Herb Crusted Lamb, Colcannon, Soda Bread and Spring Pudding. Register at the website, 6 p.m. New Trier Township High School, 7 Happ Road, Northfield, $65, 847-446-7000

The Status of Women: Have We Come Far Enough?: The New Trier Multifaith Alliance (formerly Winnetka Interfaith Council) is holding another of its unique forums exploring the sacred texts of the Abrahamic religions. The latest is entitled: The Status of Women: Have We Come Far Enough? What the Sacred Texts Teach. 7 p.m. Winnetka Covenant Church, 1200 Hibbard Road, Wilmette, free, 847-446-4300

Wednesday, March 15

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

Organ Meditations for Lent at Saint Luke’s Episcopal: Pause midweek during this season of reflection to enjoy sounds of the historic 1922 Skinner Organ in the beautiful Saint Luke’s nave. Dr. Christine Kraemer, organist at Saint Luke’s, performs organ meditations during Lent. A free will offering is taken to benefit NFP Opus 327, dedicated to preserving the organ, 11:30 a.m. St.

Turn to Calendar, Next Page
Association and NorthShore University Seminar: Non Motor Symptoms of Parkinson’s Disease: The Glenview Park District, the American Parkinson Disease Association and NorthShore University HealthSystem present a free community talk about non motor symptoms of Parkinson Disease. Neurologist, Dr. Ashvini Premkumar, discusses symptoms and tests for diagnosis. Also, learn about the park district’s Parkinson related programming. Register by March 14, by calling or going to www.surveymonkey.com/r/Glenview2017.

Free Seminar: How to Spot a Narcissist: If you suspect someone you know of being a narcissist, you don’t want to miss this fascinating seminar. You’ll discover exactly what narcissistic personality disorder is, the signs you need to be on the lookout for and today’s treatment options. This is presented by George Savarese, Ph.D., LCSW and includes refreshments. 6 p.m. Whitehall of Deerfield, 300 Waukegan Road, Glenview, free, 847-580-8323.

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

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

Community Wednesdays: Community Wednesdays begins Jan. 18, at Bernard Weinger JCC. We will host three, one-hour lectures/classes throughout the day, along with our fitness class offerings at the Marvin Lustbader Center. 9:30 a.m. Bernard Weinger JCC, 300 Revere Drive, Northbrook, $10 per day for nonmember, 224-406-9257.

Knitting Studio and Workshop: Each Wednesday afternoon, certified knitting instructor Mary Staackmann provides personalized instruction, answers any questions about knitting, and perhaps gets you started on a new project. 1:30 p.m. North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, free, 847-784-6060.

Biltmore Estate: America’s Downtown Abbey: Biltmore Estate in Asheville, North Carolina combines the talents of landscape designer Frederick Law Olmsted and architect William Morris Hunt. Art historian Jeff Mishur discusses the history, architecture, and landscape plan of Biltmore Estate. 10 a.m. North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $12 NSSC members, $15 non-members, 847-784-6060.

Lunch and Learn-From Tape to Cloud: The Evolution: Join Mindsight and Solutions Architect, Eric White for an informative seminar on the evolution of backup. We'll also be showcasing EVault's cloud and disk data backup solution. 11:30 a.m. McCormick & Schmick's, 5320 N. River Road, Rosemont, free, 630-981-5050.

Robert Robe Roller Rabbit Spring Trunk Show: Robert Roller Rabbit is a travel-inspired lifestyle brand offering exotic, sophisticated yet affordable leisure wear, accessories, and home goods with a magical touch. 5 p.m. 1222 Washington Court, Wilmette, free, 847-363-6435.

Introduction to RefUSA, a Business and Marketing Tool: ReferenceUSA is a library database providing information on over 25 million businesses and more than 262 million consumers. At this session, entrepreneurs and business owners learn how to find the mission critical information necessary to start, manage and grow a business. A light lunch is provided. Registration is required though the library's calendar at the website or by calling. 12:30 p.m. Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-256-6930.

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

"Get Out" ★★★½
R: 1:44, horror
Writer-director Jordan Peele's satirically shrewd, bracingly effective thriller opens with a young African-American man walking along a dark suburban street. Chris, played by Daniel Kaluuya, has been dating Rose, a chipper, easygoing sort portrayed by Allison Williams. It's time, she determines, to meet her parents. "Get Out" offers some choice comic details in its main character's journey into the land beyond the pale. The film is unnerving; funny in just the right way and at the right times; serious about its observations and perspectives on racial animus; and straight-up populist when it comes to an increasingly (but not sadistically) violent climax. — Michael Phillips, Chicago Tribune

"The Lego Batman Movie" ★★½
PG: 1:46, animated comedy
At its sporadic best, the crazy velocity and wisenheimer appeal of "The Lego Batman Movie" reminds you of what made "The Lego Movie" such a nice surprise three years ago. "The Lego Batman Movie" goes where various franchises housed at various studios have gone before, with the lil' plastic Batman (Will Arnett) taking center stage as a raging egomaniac, all abs and no heart. Batman's chief nemesis remains, inevitably, the needy, whiny, malevolent Joker (Zach Galifianakis). "The Lego Batman Movie" offers more mayhem and less funny than the first Lego movie; I enjoyed it well enough. — M.P

"John Wick: Chapter 2" ★★
R: 2:02, action
Keanu Reeves stars in a film that's a step down from the first "John Wick," which played its killing games with more wit. Early in "John Wick 2," one of many licensed and bonded guns-for-hire visits brooding Wick at home. He presents Wick with a marker, the Coin of Death; this means the recipient must do the bidding of the presenter, and his account is settled. Wick declines. Later, Wick reconsiders, and he travels to Rome to eliminate the guy's sister. "John Wick 2" stages its gun-fu melees sleekly and sometimes well. As our real world grows stranger and more brutal by the day, a movie selling weightless ultraviolence, plus nice suits and Reeves, is like a deep-tissue massage for our jaded, fearful souls. — M.P

"The Great Wall" ★½
PG-13, 1:44, suspense/thriller
In 1972, Richard M. Nixon visited the Great Wall of China. "I think that you would have to conclude," he said in his remarks, "that this is a great wall." In the Nixonian spirit, let's discuss director Zhang Yimou's "The Great Wall." Watching it, you would have to conclude that this is a movie. It is in color, in English, and in 3-D, which means green monster guts splurching in your face. It co-stars Matt Damon as a mercenary archer named Willam Garin. So what is ol' Matt doing in a mythological version of 1000 A.D. China? His character is just another European money-grubber, ostensibly trading with the locals. It is an extremely tedious movie. Even in China, they didn't love it. — M.P

"Fifty Shades Darker" ★★
R: 1:58, drama
The second installment of the "Fifty Shades" franchise, based on the E.L. James series of books, is pure camp. Audiences will be in ecstasy all right — from hysterical laughter. While decidedly not a comedy, there are times when you have to wonder if the film is In on the joke. Star Dakota Johnson definitely seems to be. The plot of "Darker" is fairly mundane, centered on the reunion of Ana and her dominant partner, Christian Grey (Jamie Dornan), a young billionaire with a playroom that’ll make you blush. Truth be told, they're both intensely boring people, and their relationship is a snooze. — Katie Walsh, Tribune News Service

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Death Notices

Walters, Mary Ann
Mary Ann Walters, age 95, Beloved wife of the late Garrett; loving mother of Garrett II, Taryn (Martin) Ross, Martine (Mark) Niebur, Jeffrey (Kelly) and Laurel (John) Dobosz; cherished grandmother of 7; proud great grandmother of 4. Longtime resident of Park Ridge and member of Redeemer Lutheran Church where she served as guild president. Former officer of PEO, RF chapter, board member of Park Ridge Book Review and Antique Rovers. U.S. Coast Guard Veteran. Mary Ann ran a successful estate-sale business, was an avid Cubs fan, cat lover and proud Norwegian, but most of all will be remembered for her dedication to family. Inurnment will take place at a later date on Bainbridge Island, WA.

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The hatch is back

Hatchbacks could be small, potent antedote to crossovers

By Casey Williams
Chicago Tribune

Before there were crossovers, there were hatchbacks. Now that crossovers have proved to be America's preferred vehicle, its shorter predecessor is making a comeback. A new generation of exciting five-doors follows a simple formula: Take an athletic commuter car, pack in a bigger cargo area, and toss in lots of stuff. And, it's a segment that roundly offers a manual transmission for driving enthusiasts.

New models from Honda, Chevrolet, Subaru, Toyota, and some old favorites help rejuvenate a segment that used to be for the young and penniless.

"Hatch buyers are better educated, make more money and are used to products with more oomph," said Steve Majoros, marketing director for Chevrolet cars and crossovers. "They are also more urban than rural and are a bit older because of income. Hatchbacks add a dimension of personality and design - factors people are demanding in cars today."

According to Majoros, hatchbacks represent about 10 percent of model sales. Exclusivity, bolstered by some automakers offering hatchbacks only in certain regions, created its own demand.

"For years, Civic owners and fans have seen the sporty Civic Hatchback in Europe as something of a forbidden fruit," said Jessica Pawl, spokesperson for Honda. "We've found the hatch buyer is looking for something a little more individualistic, aimed toward their active lifestyle."

Millennials and Gen Xers, raised on SUVs and crossovers, look to hatchbacks as efficient transportation that can slip through traffic during the daily commute, yet carry bicycles, surfboards or camping gear on weekends.

Hatchback compacts are typically shorter and slightly heavier than their sedan counterparts, and cost about $500 more.

Consider these new hatchbacks:

Price and mpg listings based on more expensive automatic transmissions.

Chevrolet Cruze: Sassy and stylish, the Cruze Hatchback comes with a 153-horsepower turbo-four engine; a more efficient diesel arrives next year. Get it with a six-speed automatic or manual transmission. Lane keep assist, rear cross traffic alert, blind spot warning and a rearview camera enhance safety. It looks flashy in Orange Burst Metallic paint.

By the numbers: sedan/hatch

Combined fuel economy: 34 mpg/32 mpg

Cargo volume: 13.9 cubic feet/47.2 cubic feet (seats down)

LT trim price: $21,450/$21,920 (available only in high-end LT and Premier trims)

Honda Civic: Beneath aggressive Euro styling is a standard 180-horsepower 1.5-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine connected to a continuously variable or six-speed manual transmission. Sport Touring editions add aluminum pedals, red-lit instruments, and 540-watt audio. Crash mitigation systems enable a Top Safety Pick+ rating from the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety. Enthusiasts wait for the 2018 R-Type with carbon fiber splitter, 20-inch wheels and rear wing.

Combined fuel economy: 34 mpg/31 mpg

Cargo volume: 13.2 cubic feet (seats down)

Sport trim price: $20,995

Hyundai Elantra GT: Redesigned for 2018, the hatch is loaded with premium features like heated leather seats, navigation, push-button starting and rearview camera. Its 201-horsepower 1.6-liter four-cylinder engine delivers 162 horsepower through a six-speed manual or automatic transmission. The Sport variant has a 205-horsepower 2.0-liter turbo four engine. A tight suspension and 17-inch alloy wheels serve up a fun drive for little dough.

Pricing and mpg not available for new model


Combined fuel economy: 32 mpg/31 mpg

Cargo volume: 12.3 cubic feet/20.8 cubic feet (seats down)

I trim price: $18,500/$18,750

Mazda3: Stepping out with Mazda's KODO design language, the tight-handling compact screams with a 155-horsepower 2.0-liter four-cylinder or 184-horsepower 2.5-liter four-cylinder engine - both available with six-speed manual or automatic transmissions. An updated interior features available Bose audio, standard rear camera and navigation. Heated seats and steering wheel kill the chill while smart city brake support and blind spot warning enhance safety.

Combined fuel economy: 32 mpg/31 mpg

Cargo volume: 12.4 cubic feet/47.2 cubic feet (seats down)

Sport trim price: $17,945/$19,095

Ford Focus: Ford offers the Focus with several powertrains, from an all-electric that gets 100 miles on a charge, to a 1-liter turbo three-cylinder, to the sport model ST with a 252-horsepower 2-liter turbo four with a sweet manual. Then there's a European dream come stateside for 2017. The German-built RS races with a 2.3-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine generating 350 horsepower routed to the all-wheel-drive system through a six-speed manual transmission. Recaro sport seats and a flat-bottom steering wheel underline its street cred.

Combined fuel economy: 31 mpg/29 mpg

Cargo volume: 13.2 cubic feet/44.8 cubic feet (seats down)

S/SE trim price: $16,775/$19,765

Volkswagen Golf: The segment-defining two-box GTI delivers 220 horsepower from its 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine. Choose a six-speed manual or six-speed DSG automatic transmission. Shift up to the Golf R's 292-horsepower engine and 4Motion all-wheel-drive for 0-60 mph in under 5 seconds. Golf is also available with a 170-horsepower turbo-four or as an "e-Golf" with 83 miles range. It does 0-60 mph in under 8 seconds.

Combined fuel economy: 32 mpg/31 mpg

Cargo volume: 13.2 cubic feet/20.8 cubic feet (seats down)

S trim price: $20,995

Huanday redesigned its 2018 Elantra GT. The GT Sport, left, and GT models bow in Chicago.

The 2017 Honda Civic Hatchback has aggressive Euro styling. Under the hood is a standard 1.5-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine that gets 34 mpg.
The owner of a Saab 9-3 similar to this model had front-end shimmy at highway speeds.

Saab's front-end shimmy requires wheel balancer

Bob Weber
Motormouth

Q: My 2010 Saab 9-3 has a front-end shimmy at 65 to 75 mph. The wheels have been rotated and balanced a couple of times and it still vibrates. Any suggestions?

A: Follow the manual. Although cleaning the throttle body may marginally increase fuel economy, it is not required maintenance. Cold weather affects fuel economy not only due to longer idling times, but greater accessory loads such as window heaters, wipers, headlights and so on. Also, until everything warms up the various lubricants (transmission, differential, wheel bearings and so on) and until they thin out, they can cause drag.

Q: I have a 2014 Dodge Journey with a V-6 engine. The car has been excellent. However, when I have brought it in for oil changes, the dealer tells me that I should clean out the throttle body every 10,000 miles. I now have about 28,000 miles on it, but haven't taken the advice, because the manual doesn't say to do it.

The dealer says the cleaning will improve mpg. During the cold weather I notice a drop in mpg, but I think it is due to longer idling periods. What is your recommendation? Should I follow the dealer advice or just stick with the manual?

A: Follow the manual. Although cleaning the throttle body may marginally increase fuel economy, it is not required maintenance. Cold weather affects fuel economy not only due to longer idling times, but greater accessory loads such as window heaters, wipers, headlights and so on. Also, until everything warms up the various lubricants (transmission, differential, wheel bearings and so on) and until they thin out, they can cause drag.

Send questions along with name and town to Motormouth, Rides, Chicago Tribune, 435 N. Michigan Ave., Fourth Floor, Chicago, IL 60611 or motormouth.trib@verizon.net.

The 2017 Nissan Pathfinder SUV in Platinum trim sports a wider, lower exterior design.

Pathfinder not quite the one

Robert Duffer
Chicago Tribune

Testing a new car for a week is a lot like dating — exciting and different but without all the emotional vulnerability and wretched insecurities.

The brief courtship with the refreshed 2017 Nissan Pathfinder followed a familiar pattern: initially impressed, ultimately disappointed.

From across a crowded lot, the Pathfinder three-row SUV will catch some eyes, but not in a good way if it wears Sandstone garb like the press car, which both kids and adults called “poo-colored.” But in the right setting — against Lake Michigan and a clear blue sky — the beige metallic color looked more commanding.

Overall the Pathfinder looks wider up front and bulkier in the back, giving it a more trucklike presence. Large 20-inch alloy wheels, standard with the V-6, are capable without being overbearing or needing coaxing this three-row SUV is built for comfort, not speed, and does the job quietly, almost modestly. The continuously variable transmission is more refined than other CVTs, shifting in and out of its infinite gears without much detection.

As the outing continued, things were starting to add up. On paper, the Pathfinder had most everything a customer would need in a family SUV: it has intuitive four-wheel drive, which goes to front-wheel drive in most conditions (we averaged 30.2 mpg at 62 mph), until it detects slippery roads or rough terrain; towing capability of up to 6,000 pounds; easily adjustable fold-down middle and rear seats; and advanced safety and convenience technology.

Once the Pathfinder’s initial charms had settled in, after getting used to the visual and performance elements, it seemed that we had communication problems. Despite being able to access all the audio and climate functions from the confusing control panel, there was an audio-only interface below it, including a fashionable fanny pack) CD player. Below that was a climate panel, there was an audio-only interface below it, including a fashionable fanny pack CD player.

Parting shot: The 2017 Nissan Pathfinder three-row SUV that falters on infotainment system.
Maxim Royzen
Year: Senior  
School: Niles North  
Sport: Diving  
Best game: Royzen won the state title with a score of 527.50 on Feb. 25. He was the only diver to score more than 500 points.
Quote: “I was very confident but I wasn’t confident to the point that I would neglect anybody,” Royzen said. “I still knew I needed to stay on my toes to win.”

Jeameril Wilson
Year: Senior  
School: Notre Dame  
Sport: Boys basketball  
Position: Guard
Best game: Wilson was one of two Dons, along with Matt Stritzel, who was named all-conference in the East Suburban Catholic. He helped the Dons go 7-2 in league play, which was good for second place, and earn the second seed in the Class 4A Waukegan Sectional.

Caleigh Pistorius
Year: Sophomore  
School: Maine South  
Sport: Gymnastics
Best game: Pistorius tied for first on the balance beam at the state meet. She finished with a score of 9.425 to tie with New Trier’s Maeve Murdock.
Quote: “I tied with one of my best friends,” Pistorius said. “It’s so much better (to tie with her). It feels so good that I can share it with someone.”

Schroeder named MVC softball player of week

BY SAM BRIEF  
Pioneer Press

Lake Zurich graduate Maria Schroeder, a junior catcher on the Bradley softball team, was named Missouri Valley Conference player of the week on Feb. 27. During the Mardi Gras Classic in Lafayette, La., she hit .438 with two home runs, two triples and eight RBIs to bring the Braves’ record to 9-6.

Through 15 games, Schroeder was third on the team in batting average at .362 and second in RBIs with 13.

York trio standing out with Cardinal Stritch

York graduates Connor O’Ryan, Jason Bowles and Joe Duda have played major roles for the Cardinal Stritch (NAIA) men’s volleyball team, which entered the week 18-4. O’Ryan, a senior from Elmhurst, ranks second on the team with 143 kills and leads the team with 69 blocks. Bowles, a junior, has recorded 52 kills on the year. Duda, also a junior, leads the team with 704 assists and is third with 32 blocks.

Northbrook native shines at Davidson

Glenbrook North graduate Andrew McAuliffe, a senior forward on the Davidson men’s basketball team, scored a season-high 14 points on 6-of-8 shooting in the Wildcats’ 79-74 win over Massachusetts on Feb. 18. Through 28 games, McAuliffe was averaging 2.4 points per game on 61.5 percent shooting.

Deerfield grad boosts Foresters basketball

Deerfield graduate Eric Porter and Hinsdale South graduate Orlando Brown helped the Lake Forest College men’s basketball team finish second in the Midwest Conference tournament. Porter, a junior guard, scored 23 points against St. Norbert in the tournament semifinals on Feb. 24 and was named Forester Athlete of the Week on March 2. Porter had 15 points in the championship game, an 81-72 loss to Ripon on Feb. 25, and Brown added 13 points on 6-of-9 shooting.

On the season, Porter led Lake Forest in scoring with 13.8 points per game and 72 3-pointers, the second-highest season total in school history. Brown averaged 5.8 points per game on 54.5 percent shooting, with 3.0 rebounds per game.

Lake Zurich graduate Maria Schroeder, a junior catcher on the Bradley softball team, was named Missouri Valley Conference player of the week.

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

Sam Brief is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
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Notre Dame stuns Niles North in regional final

Dons complete comeback with 16-0 run

BY JON J. KERR  
Pioneer Press

Called up to the varsity as sophomores two seasons ago, Notre Dame boys basketball players Jeameril Wilson and Matt Stritzel have played in, and won, a lot of big games. None were as dramatic as Friday night.

Playing seventh-seeded Niles North in the Class 4A Libertyville Regional final, the second-seeded Dons closed out the final 3 minutes, 40 seconds of the game on a breathtaking 16-0 run to snatch a victory away from the Vikings and prevail 55-52.

Notre Dame was scheduled to play host Waukegan, the sixth seed, in the sectional semifinals on Wednesday.

“We’ve played in games with moments I won’t forget,” said Stritzel, a senior guard who finished with 10 points. “I’ll probably remember more things about this game than any other game.”

The seeds of the comeback began with 5 minutes, 25 seconds left and Notre Dame trailing 48-37. Over the course of 10 minutes of regulation time, Niles North had rallied from a 29-24 deficit. The Vikings were knocking down uncontested 3-point shots, curling off ball screens and finishing drives to the basket.

Dons coach Tom Les called a timeout. A calm but firm Les delivered a succinct message.

“He told us to stay composed,” said Wilson, a senior guard.

“To climb that mountain, we talked about one possession at a time,” Les said.

With 3 minutes, 40 seconds left, Vikings junior guard Damaria Franklin (16 points) drained a 3-point shot to make the score 52-39. They were the final points of the night for Niles North.

A drive and finish by Stritzel got the Dons going, cutting the deficit to 52-41 with 3 minutes, 18 seconds left. A quick shot by Niles North led to a run-out for the Dons. Wilson (16 points) finished a 3-point play and the score was 52-44 with 2 minutes, 42 seconds left. On the Dons’ next possession, senior guard Malik Jenkins, an Evanston transfer, drove the floor and scored a layup.

52-46. And after another missed 3-point shot by Niles North, the rebound found its way to Wilson, who drove the floor and scored another layup.

In the span of 1 minute, 55 seconds, Notre Dame (25-5) had trimmed a 13-point deficit to four, 52-48.

Since the beginning of the fourth quarter, Les went with his most experienced lineup — Wilson, Stritzel, Jenkins and fellow seniors Chris Heinichen and Sean Johnson. There would be no changes. The Dons were advancing or going home with them.

“If we lost this would be our last high school game. We were not going to let that happen,” Jenkins said.

Wilson picked up his fourth foul with 1 minute, 37 seconds left and the score still 52-48. It put the Vikings in the bonus, but they missed the front end of a one-and-one. Notre Dame got the rebound and Jenk-

ins launched a 3-point shot from the right side that swished through the net. The Vikings’ lead was now one, 52-51, with 1 minute, 26 seconds left.

In a scenario that occurred often during the Dons’ remarkable run, Niles North (21-10) launched a quick 3-point shot. It was off the mark and Stritzel got the ball. He crossed the half-court line, picked up speed, galloped to the rim and bounced in a lay up off the glass for a 53-52 Notre Dame lead with 55 seconds remaining.

On the Vikings’ next possession, Franklin misfired on another 3-point shot. Jenkins corralled the rebound and was fouled. In a one-and-one, he swished both free throws and with 6.1 seconds left, the Dons led 55-52. The comeback was complete.

“We are ND!” from the Dons fans in the stands, Notre Dame players leaped into the air in unison to celebrate as the final buzzer sounded.

“Senior year, one last crack at it,” Wilson said. “I don’t think in my history at ND we’ve made a comeback like that.”

Jon J. Kerr is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @Pioneer_Press

MICHAEL SCHMIDT/PIONEER PRESS

Notre Dame’s Jeameril Wilson celebrates with the student section Friday night after the Dons’ win over Niles North in the Class 4A Libertyville Regional championship game.

A potential game-tying 3-point shot from the Vikings missed wildly at the buzzer.

To exuberant shouts of “We are ND!” from the large cluster of Dons fans in the stands, Notre Dame players leaped into the air in unison to celebrate as the final buzzer sounded.

“Senior year, one last crack at it,” Wilson said. “I don’t think in my history at ND we’ve made a comeback like that.”
Franklin hopes to become more like Eastern

Niles North guard admires Evanston standout senior

By Jon J. Kerr
Pioneer Press

The Niles North boys basketball team led Notre Dame by 13 points with just over 3:30 left to play in the Class 4A regional final, which made the Vikings' loss all the more devastating.

Instead of taking its time at the end of the game, seventh-seeded Niles North played hurriedly. Instead of driving to the basket, a strategy that helped them build their lead, the Vikings settled for quick perimeter shots. Second-seeded Notre Dame got just enough possessions, scored the final 16 points of the game and won 55-52 on Friday in Libertyville.

"Everyone was trying to get theirs," said Niles North junior guard Damaria Franklin, who finished with a team-high 16 points. "We should have held the ball and let time off the clock."

Niles North (21-10) is slated to return every player who saw significant minutes against Notre Dame, and both Franklin and coach Glenn Olson think the Vikings will use the stunning loss as motivation.

"For a lot of us, it will make us want to work more," Franklin said.

Franklin has much basketball work ahead.
In mid-March, he is scheduled to begin spring AAU practices with Chicago Meanstreets. A year ago, Evanston senior forward Nojel Eastern, a Purdue recruit, and Simeon senior guard Evan Gilyard, a UTEP recruit, played for Meanstreets.

The 6-foot-3 Franklin said playing against elite AAU competition will force him to improve in certain areas like offensive rebounding. He also hopes to adopt aspects of Eastern's game over the spring and summer.

"It's his mindset," Franklin said of Eastern. "When you go against bigger guys he's not going to get outrebounded or outjumped. He just works hard to do whatever he can to help his team win."

There were stretches of both regional playoff games when Franklin took over on offense. He scored 28 second-half points in the Vikings' 62-60 win over 10th-seeded Warren in the regional semifinals on Feb. 28. He finished with a career-high 33 points. Over a 90-second stretch in the fourth quarter against Notre Dame, Franklin drained three 3-point shots.

Franklin also showed flashes of defensive brilliance in this year's postseason.

Olson believes Franklin's all-court game is strong enough to receive Division I offers, but the next phase of his development is vital.

"His ability to score the ball is special. He can make unguardable shots. For him, it's understanding the gift of his body and how he doesn't need to settle for jump shots. Be active on the glass and get those effort points," Olson said. "If he does those things, the colleges, they will respond."

Jon J. Kerr is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Franklin hopes to become more like Eastern
Notre Dame's Malik Jenkins (center) celebrates with a few seconds left in the Dons' comeback win over Niles North in the Class 4A Libertyville Regional final on Friday.

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