Bush calls for education

Former first lady delivers keynote at Holocaust Museum fundraiser. Page 12

Former first lady Laura Bush offers comments during a conversation with J.B. Pritzker at the Holocaust Museum's annual Humanitarian Awards Dinner on March 8 at the Hyatt Regency Chicago hotel.

Get cozy this St. Patrick's Day

Suburban eateries including Tommy Nevin's Pub and the Harp and Fiddle are serving up the Irish comfort dish Dublin coddle this season. Find it at a restaurant near you or make it at home with a recipe from the Celtic Knot Public House. Inside

Rapper puts money where his mouth is

Columnist Randy Blaser applauds musician Chance the Rapper for his recent act of altruism, pledging to donate $1 million to art education and after-school programs at Chicago Public Schools. Page 20

The first dance

Local players help Northwestern make the NCAA Tournament. Page 41
Are you a frowner?

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SHOUT OUT

Adrian and Hannah Dydynski, owners of local dance studio

Adrian and Hannah Dydynski, owners of the Fred Astaire Dance Studio in Park Ridge, took time to discuss their active schedule in nationwide dance competitions, instructing students and encouraging for new dance students. Fred Astaire Dance Studio is at 17 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge.

Q: What is the favorite place you have performed?
A: Our favorite place to perform would probably have to be on the floor of the United States Dance Championships held in Orlando, Florida, once a year. We feel blessed to be able to do what we love on such a large scale.

Q: What's the most challenging part of the job?
A: The moments when you see potential and growth in your student, but they don't believe in themselves. We love encouraging our students to do things they may have never imagined, and as instructors we get saddened when we feel proud of them but they put themselves down. We wish all students knew that when we compliment them, it's because we really mean it!

Q: What is the greatest part of the job?
A: Seeing the immense joy and life-changing experience it gives our students and professionals alike! We love the light bulb moment going off in someone's mind from understanding a new concept and witnessing peoples lives change in ways they never imagined. Ballroom dancing was fulfilling in their marriages, a newfound confidence in themselves, and a fun new social outlet as a break from their everyday routine.

Q: What was the most difficult dance for you to learn?
A: All great ballroom dancing starts with a basic foundation of footwork, timing, leading and following, etc., and once those fundamentals are established it's typically pretty simple to learn the steps of any dance. However, the waltz was probably found the most challenging as Viennese

Adrian and Hannah Dydynski

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Five board seats held by Action Party face challenges from Independent Candidates group

2 slates on April ballot in Morton Grove

Five board seats held by Action Party face challenges from Independent Candidates group

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

Morton Grove’s Action Party currently holds every seat on the Morton Grove Village Board, which includes village president (commonly referred to as mayor), trustees and village clerk.

For the April 4 election, all five Action Party candidates find themselves in contested races against members of the Independent Candidates for Morton Grove political action committee, vying for village president, three trustees and village clerk. Independent Candidates for Morton Grove formed a coalition of opposing candidates to challenge the party.

Some opposing candidates used to be affiliated with the Action Party and say one party holding all seats on the board is not good for the village. Action Party candidates say they are not beholden to the party and remain independent.

Voters will be able to cast their ballot starting with early voting, which runs March 20-April 3.

Action Party

DAN DIMARIA (VILLAGE PRESIDENT)

Dan DiMaria, 49, faces a rematch in his run for a second term as Morton Grove mayor. DiMaria defeated the same challenger four years ago in a primary when both candidates were part of the Action Party.

A mortgage broker and long-time village resident, DiMaria said he challenged the party’s slated candidate then because he thought the village could do better.

“I thought that Morton Grove was stagnating and I thought there was so much potential and so much out there, but at the time I didn’t think we were poised for that growth and to capture the future,” he said.

DiMaria said economic development was lagging, noting that an economic development director was hired under his watch. The village, he said, was not “marketing and networking and branding properly to attract businesses.”

DiMaria said economic development and attracting more involvement from the village’s diverse population were two of his biggest goals. The village now has a better cross-section of the community representing its boards and commissions, and exciting economic development projects have been initiated, he said.

Under DiMaria’s administration, the village created its first strategic plan and brought in new development, such as an Audi vehicle dealership, Moretti’s Ristorante & Pizzeria and a mixed-use luxury apartment-retail development, he said.

BILL GREAR (TRUSTEE)

Bill Grear, 59, seeks a third term as Morton Grove village trustee and serves as the president of the Action Party. He has worked for the U.S. Postal Service for over 40 years, and has lived in Morton Grove all but two years of his life. "I take pride in a lot of things I do and whenever I take on a project, such as the village or the Action Party, I give 120 percent," he said.

Grear said the village Board over the last four years has reached out and listened to residents. He said the village has expanded economic development.

Grear said village taxes have been reasonable for Morton Grove residents with no levy increase this year. He also pointed to new staff hires under DiMaria’s administration and Morton Grove’s new water deal with Evanston as benefits to the village.

Like his Action Party colleagues, Grear argues against opposing candidates’ charges that one-party rule has made Morton Grove government less transparent or democratic.

“I am not obligated to vote on party lines,” he said. “This is not Democratic, Republican. This is an organization to raise money, keep the files accurate. If Bill Grear is elected as a trustee, he doesn’t owe the Action Party members anything. I owe the residents of Morton Grove.”

Under DiMaria’s administration, the village created its first strategic plan and brought in new development, such as an Audi vehicle dealership, Moretti’s Ristorante & Pizzeria and a mixed-use luxury apartment-retail development, he said.

CONNIE TRAVIS (TRUSTEE)

Connie Travis, 53, has served as village clerk after being appointed in 2015 and is now running for trustee. She said she works as a school social worker and has lived in Morton Grove virtually her entire life. She was also appointed chair of the village’s social services ad hoc committee in 2014. As a member of the Community Relations Commission, she said, she was able to “meet new people, listen to residents, cooperatively share ideas, and work together as a part of a team that has Morton Grove and its residents’ interests at heart.”

Travis said the village under the Action Party forged a new contract for water services that will save taxpayers nearly $100 million over 40 years, lowered the village’s debt by $7 million since 2012 and raised fund balances by $2.5 million since 2012.

“Because we are in the same party does not mean we always agree,” she said of one-party rule in Morton Grove. “We are able to talk respectfully to each other, share ideas, listen to one another, and at the end of the day, vote our conscience.”

She said she believes that village government is more transparent now than ever before.

ED RAMOS (TRUSTEE)

Ed Ramos, 69, was elected trustee to a two-year term and is now running for his first four-year term. He first served as village clerk and after two years, he said, he ran for trustee.

Ed Ramos and four other Village Board members are seeking re-election. Village Board members who also serve on the Action Party slate are asking residents to reject the slate and vote for the independent candidates.

“After the election, let’s forget the divisiveness and negativity,” he said. “After the election, let’s come together in the best interest of Morton Grove.”

EILEEN SCANLON HARFORD (VILLAGE CLERK)

Lifelong Morton Grove resident Eileen Scanlon Harford, 58, is the daughter of the late Mayor Dan Scanlon, who was co-founder of the Action Party. Harford said her grandfather was village clerk over 50 years ago, and now she is seeking the same office.

A special education teacher in Des Plaines School District 63, Harford said it was the right time to follow in the tradition of her father and grandfather.

“I feel like my grandfather and my father taught us the importance of community and the importance of doing things for other people,” she said. “This is my way to give back to the community.”

Harford maintained the Action Party is non-partisan, made up of "many, many individuals who have different opinions and different political views."

“We all come together to do the best thing for our community,” she said. “We’re a group of individuals and just as independent as their team.”

Harford said she believes communication with the community has greatly improved over the last four years. Creating Morton Grove’s first strategic plan with “all stakeholders” contributing was a major step forward, she said. She also said neighborhood outreach meetings and use of social media have been used.

Harford championed economic development projects and other initiatives undertaken under the current board. She said it’s important for continuity that the same board continue the work.

As village clerk, she said, she wants to push for early voting in Morton Grove. Currently, she said, Morton Grove residents who want to vote early have to go to a neighboring community to do so.

Independent Candidates for Morton Grove

DAN STAACKMANN (VILLAGE PRESIDENT)

Dan Staackmann, 61, served as Morton Grove mayor for one term under the Action Party. Four years ago, he was slated by the party for reelection, but
was defeated by DiMaria in the first primary the party ever held, officials said.

Staackmann said the Action Party is not the same as it once was and changed when the smaller Caucus Party joined with it. Some 30 years ago, Staackmann said, he successfully ran for a seat on the Morton Grove park board, which started his political involvement and is a position he currently holds.

A retired mechanic, Staackmann said he has also served as village trustee and has been involved in many organizations throughout the community.

He is critical of the current Village Board, which he said lacks checks and balances. Staackmann said a recent economic development deal included too high of an incentive to bring a restaurant to Morton Grove and also requires the village to pay for soil cleanup.

"My question is why didn't the village do an EPA study before they bought it" he said, emphasizing the village had to reimburse $300,000 for the contamination.

Action Party leaders have defended the deal as beneficial to Morton Grove residents since the property was vacant for so long and the restaurant will be there for at least 20 years. They also said soil cleanup is a standard part of any property sale and not unexpected when property has been vacant for so long.

Staackmann said that he wants open communication and greater transparency should he be elected mayor. He said he will never run as part of a party again because of group think and only as an independent.
4 candidates seek 3 seats on D219 board

Candidates share views with public during forum, Q&A

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

Three of the four candidates vying for a trio of open seats on the Niles Township High School District 219 school board introduced themselves to the public March 7 at a candidates forum sponsored by the Niles North and Niles West High School Parent Advisory councils.

Only Joe Nowik is a sitting member of the board and will be joined by newcomers Naema Abraham, Richard Evonitz and Virginia Camacho on the April 4 ballot. It was announced before the forum got underway that Camacho told organizers March 7 she would not be appearing.

The three attending candidates answered questions gathered from different sources, but posed by Niles East and Niles North high school students. All four candidates also answered written questions about themselves that came from Progress219, an organization that purports to evaluate for the community qualified and engaged candidates to serve on the school board.

Naema Abraham

Abraham, 53, said she is a Niles North alumni who works in human resources. She said that her skills at her job would benefit School District 219, including handling employment agreements, negotiating vendor contracts and designing and implementing employment relations policies and recruiting practices.

"Basically, I just feel we need a little more diversity at the board level," she said in her opening comments. "I am an Assyrian myself, and unfortunately, people in my community don't advocate as much as they should for their children, and I feel like having somebody with that same background on the board level will definitely add that perspective to decisions that are made by the board.

"It is challenging to serve a district that is so diverse," she answered. "Programs need to be constantly re-evaluated to ensure they are effective for all students, which is expensive."

She also said that student exposure to diversity is an upside that is "second to none." 

In other questioning at the forum, Abraham said she favors a school calendar that is mostly "religiously-neutral" and she doesn't see any major reason to make changes. She said she believes students should be "college ready" when they graduate, but also "life ready," which would include more vocational education.

"College is not for everyone," she said.

Abraham said she moved to Skokie in 1979 and spent a year at the now-defunct Niles East High School before she transferred to Niles North.

She closed by emphasizing her own immigrant experience.

"I hope to be able to be a voice for the immigrant population and the minorities," she said. "We just don't have the kind of support (we) should."

Richard Evonitz

Richard Evonitz, 49, said he spent the last eight years as a member of the East Prairie School District 73 board, most of them as board president.

Evonitz said the board he oversees has addressed fiscal challenges from the recession, hired a new superintendent, adopted one of the first STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs in the area and created a plan that calls for building a new school, the subject of a successful referendum.

"It is challenging to serve a district that is so diverse," she answered. "Programs need to be constantly re-evaluated to ensure they are effective for all students, which is expensive."

He said he is a lawyer with a firm in-house for a large property and casualty insurance company in downtown Chicago. Evonitz said he has lived in Skokie since 1998 and his daughter graduated from Niles North in 2016.

"I hope to, if elected, help foster a collegial and collaborative spirit among board members," Evonitz said. He also said his role would be to support administration and staff in doing "vital work of educating and developing our children" and developing strategies regarding district funds.

"Other candidates, Evonitz named the district's ethnic diversity as one of its greatest strengths, and said "money is always an issue" when asked about challenges.

Education should not be "one size fits all," he said, adding he supports more effort in making the curriculum suited for all demographics. He said he spoke out against the original Classroom First program in 2014 that called for NTHS School District 219 to set aside funds for feeder schools in Skokie school districts 67 and 69.

The idea was to use those funds to build out STEM curriculum for students who would be entering School District 219 in the future.

"As time has evolved, you've seen some of the benefits of Classroom First," Evonitz said. "I think there are better ways to collaborate on curriculum."

In 2009, he said, East Prairie was able to build a STEM curriculum for much less money.

Joe Nowik

Joe Nowik, 56, said he was appointed to a school board seat in District 219 two years ago, making him the only incumbent in the race. A Skokie resident of 31 years, Nowik said he is father of a child with a disability.

He said he has had opportunity to work with many school administrators and teachers at Molloy Education Center, in feeder districts and high school advocating for his son.

"This experience has given me a unique perspective on the working of... schools and the need to make sure our schools excel," he said.

Nowik said he has served on the board of Have Dreams, a Chicago-area nonprofit serving children, teens and young adults affected by autism, for seven years and served as board president for two.

He currently works as the director of operations of a manufacturing company on the North Side of Chicago, he said. Nowik maintained he is one of the few parents who have children in both School District 219 schools.

Nowik received the only applause during the forum when he advocated for a curriculum focusing on more vocational education.

"One of the areas the board needs to focus on is to review its mission statement," he said, adding that it is too "college-focused."

Asked to list his three top priorities as a board mem-

ber, Nowik named long-range strategic planning for school projects, decreasing district-incurred debt, encouraging more participation from district families and introducing programs geared toward assisting students with finding a career path.

Virginia Camacho

Virginia Camacho, 47, did not appear at the forum, but she provided information to Progress219.

She said she is a two-year member of PLUS (Parent Leaders Uniting Schools) at Lincoln Junior High School.

"I work with other parents to organize events, bringing the multicultural community together and promoting participation with the school and community events," she said.

"My main focus is encouraging parents to take part in school-sponsored events for the benefit of their children."

Camacho said she has a daughter who is a freshman at Niles West.

"Since I am a Hispanic woman, I would like to provide a voice for the Hispanic community within the school board," she said. "I have the benefit of understanding and experiencing the challenges and obstacles that Hispanics encounter when it comes to education. I feel it is vital to represent that community."

She listed as her top priorities as a potential school board member assisting in decreasing district-incurred debt, encouraging more participation from district families and introducing programs geared toward assisting students with finding a career path.
Park Ridge renews $600K deal with Advocate Lutheran General Hospital

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Advocate Lutheran General Hospital no longer charges patients and visitors a fee to park in its garages in order to cover a Park Ridge tax, but the city will still continue to benefit financially.

The Park Ridge City Council on March 6 unanimously approved another three-year agreement with the hospital, in which Advocate Lutheran General agrees to pay the city $600,000 annually in lieu of a parking garage tax. The agreement will be in effect from May 1 until April 30, 2020.

This is the third such agreement approved by Park Ridge’s elected officials. It began in 2010 when the hospital decided to stop charging for parking and instead pay the city a flat, monthly fee to cover costs related to Park Ridge emergency medical services. The amount the city has been paid by Advocate Lutheran General Hospital has not changed since the agreement was first put in place.

Sixth Ward Ald. Marc Mazzuca suggested it should be increased, saying that the cost of paramedic salaries has gone up since 2010.

“I would hope to see that (payment) go up three years from now,” he said.

Morton Grove candidates face off

“...and secure.”

MARY WHITE (TRUSTEE)

Mary White, 52, a clinical services coordinator for a group of psychologists, said she has never run for political office before. She has lived in Morton Grove for about four years, she said.

She said she grew up in Niles and was exposed to politics through her mother, who was a precinct captain.

“I don’t see much involvement from the community,” she said. “It’s kind of like a top-down decision making process here with decisions. There’s no transparency.”

White said she wants more accountability and better communication from the Village Board, which prompted her to run for trustee.

She said she lives near a new development and maintained there was no communication with neighbors about the project. She also questioned the TIF incentive that came with the deal.

“If we want to get new businesses in the area, they’re going to say, ‘well, what are you going to give me? You gave these guys a sweet-heart deal,’” she said. “So I have a big concern about that.”

White said there is a need for better urban planning and community involvement. She said she would like to work toward better coordination between residential and commercial redevelopment opportunities to balance the interests of both.

LORI GATTORNA (VILLAGE CLERK)

Lori Gattorna, 57, has lived in Morton Grove her entire life, she said. She has worked in the finance end of business for more than 30 years and currently works as a business analyst supporting finance and fund development areas of Rotary International, she said.

Gattorna said she decided to run for political office for the first time because she wants to see “stronger internal controls.”

“What I see of our current government is too many like-minded people, which can lead to poorer decision making and lack of transparency to the constituents of the village,” she said.

Should opposition candidates prevail, Gattorna said she would like to see the Village Board “create a solid long term plan to address our growing pension debt problem, improve our bond rating and I strongly hope to bring back some of the revenue producers we once had.”

She said she saw more choices for dining, grocery shopping and entertainment while growing up in Morton Grove.

“I think we need to build relationships with those people and entities that could bring more of those choices back to Morton Grove,” she said.
Evanston police investigate robbery of 12-year-old boy

Keys, backpack taken

BY BRIAN L. COX
Pioneer Press

Evanston police are investigating the report of a strong-armed robbery of a 12-year-old boy in an alley March 8.

The boy was walking in an alley in the 900 block of Mulford Street at around 5 p.m. that day when he was allegedly approached by a man who told him to empty his pockets and to drop his backpack, police said March 9.

They said the boy complied and dropped his backpack on the ground. When the alleged robber bent down to pick up the backpack, police said, the boy was able to run away and contact police.

According to police, a set of keys and the backpack were stolen from the boy but he was not injured and no weapon was used in the robbery.

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

POLICE BLOTTER

The following items were taken from Niles police reports. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt.

RETAIL THEFT

■ Ksenia Kopylova, 23, and Natalya Lezhneva, 43, both of the 10000 block of Bronx Avenue, Skokie, were each charged with retail theft on Feb. 23.

Police said they were accused of stealing jewelry, clothing and other items from a retailer in the 200 block of Golf Mill Center and then leaving the area in a car, which was stopped by Morton Grove police.

Kopylova and Lezhneva are each scheduled to appear in court March 24.

DUI

■ Christopher Clifton, 28, of the 2400 block of Church Street, Evanston, was charged with driving under the influence following a traffic stop in the 7200 block of Dempster Street Feb. 23, police said.

Clifton is scheduled to appear in court March 24.

PUBLIC INTOXICATION

■ A 50-year-old Niles man was ticketed with public intoxication Feb. 20 after he was reportedly found on the front steps of a building in the 7100 block of Lee Street. He was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, police said.

SUSPICIOUS INCIDENT

■ An Elmwood Park woman told police she found a sewing needle inside a pear she purchased from a store on Golf Road Jan. 26. Police said the woman on Feb. 16 showed officers a pear with a sewing needle "wedged in its middle." The village's Public Health Division was notified, police said.

BURGLARY

■ An attempt was made to burglarize a business in the 8700 block of Dempster Street between Feb. 21 and 23, police said. According to reports, the rear door had several scratches on it and an anti-burglary plate was bent backward.

THEFT

■ An employee of a restaurant in the 9100 block of Golf Road told police that a man left the establishment Feb. 12 without paying his bill. The man reportedly fled after he was told the credit card he had attempted to use for the purchase was declined.

■ On Feb. 16, a coin dispenser containing approximately $60 worth of coins was reported stolen from the laundry room of an apartment building in the 8800 block of Root Street.

■ On Feb. 18, two men allegedly purchased nearly $550 worth of merchandise from a retailer in the 200 block of Golf Mill Center using counterfeit $100 bills. Later that day, police said the same men were seen at the store's Schaumburg location returning the merchandise they bought and receiving cash refunds. According to police, a man also used a counterfeit $100 bill to buy groceries from a store in the 5700 block of Touhy Avenue Feb. 18 after his cousin found the bill on the ground outside.

BURGLARY TO VEHICLE

■ A dashboard radio and keys were reportedly stolen between Feb. 17 and 20 from a pickup truck parked in the 200 block of Golf Mill Center, police said. The rear window was reportedly broken to gain entry.
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Laura Bush speaks at Holocaust Museum

Former first lady gives fundraiser's keynote address

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

Former first lady Laura Bush learned about the Holocaust while growing up in Texas—not in school, but through her father who helped liberate a concentration camp in Germany, she said.

As keynote speaker March 8 at the Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center's annual Humanitarian Awards Dinner, Bush spoke to a crowd of approximately 2,000 people, including more than 100 survivors, event organizers said.

In a room at the Hyatt Regency Chicago hotel that included representatives from all levels of government, including Gov. Bruce Rauner, state Comptroller Susana Mendoza, Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel—and his predecessor Richard M. Daley, Cook County Board President Toni Preckwinkle and others, Bush's comments on politics were limited.

She was not asked, nor did she offer, opinions about the jobs her husband's successors have done since she left the White House.

Instead, at what organizers called the Holocaust Museum's largest fundraiser of the year, the former first lady talked about what her father imparted to her about the Holocaust.

Bush said her father, who grew up in Texas—not in school, but through his comments on the back of his return from service, he sent harrowing photos from the camp, which included "terribly sad."

"I always knew about the Holocaust because of my father's experience," Bush said. "The photos were of dead bodies that went on and on past the edge of the photograph...what he saw was the very, very worst of humanity."

Bush talked about a range of subjects March 8, from her post-White House work to providing updates about her father and her family.

Also a former librarian and teacher, her comments came from questions posed by J.B. Pritzker, the museum's former board of trustees chairman.

She served as first lady from 2001 to 2009, the wife of former President George W. Bush, and said she continues to champion some of the same issues she did back then.

According to the George W. Bush Presidential Center, she has been an advocate for literacy, education and women's rights and serves as chairwoman of the Bush Institute's Women's Initiative.

Bush said she knew she wanted to be a teacher as early as 2nd grade.

"Everyone in this room knows how important education is, what being educated can do for your life," she said. "And how important it is that we educate the next generation, and that's what you're doing at the Holocaust Museum as well, and that is making sure our people are educated about our history."

Continuing to learn about the Holocaust remains essential because "we don't want it to ever happen again," Bush said.

Curriculum can have an impact on young lives, she said, and not just about anti-Semitism but about the way people treat other people perceived as having differences.

As for her husband, the former president has taken up painting portraits of wounded veterans as a hobby, Bush told Pritzker.

"He's become an artist in his retirement. I will say I'm shocked," she said. "I might have guessed he would become a president but I would never have guessed he would become an artist."

She shared a story about her husband campaigning for governor of Texas. She had promised never to criticize his campaign speeches, she said, but when he asked her what she thought as they returned from one event, she told him, "it wasn't really that good."

"He drove into the garage wall," she recalled.

Asked what she misses most about not being in the White House, the former first lady said "the chef."

"I miss all the people," she said. "We knew all of the butlers and the ushers. They were all permanent employees."

Pritzker asked if she has ever felt like picking up the phone to offer advice to former President Barack Obama and then President Donald Trump.

"No," she said quickly. "I think they would call George if they wanted his advice and neither one called him."

However, she said, she and her husband have become friends with the Obamas, having seen them at several functions.

"I think what you find is that you have a lot more in common, no matter what the party is—just because you've both been in the same jobs," she said. "But no, President Trump hasn't reached out for any advice yet. I doubt if he will."

misiascs@pioneerlocal.com
Twitter @SKReviewMike
Airport noise reduction plan cleared for takeoff

Commission approves O'Hare runway rotation over suburban complaints

BY ROBERT MCCOPPIN
Chicago Tribune

A noise reduction commission voted on March 10 to restart a controversial runway rotation program at O'Hare International Airport — the latest strategy in a perennial struggle to provide volume relief to nearby residents.

A tweaked version of the program, which aims to reduce nighttime airplane noise in the loudest areas, was approved by the O'Hare Noise Compatibility Commission by a 36-10 vote.

That all but clears the way for a new 12-week test runway expansion.

The latest plan to reduce airplane noise from O'Hare has been discussed in campaigns for local offices, with municipal elections looming on April 4, and on local government boards in recent days.

Des Plaines Ald. Malcolm Chester, who sits on the commission, told fellow City Council members March 6 that he predicted the plan would pass.

"It's kind of a situation where most of the people who are on the commission benefit by putting the planes over us, to be quite blunt about it," Chester said.

The commission is made up of city and suburban municipal officials.

Most representatives of the northwest suburbs voted against the plan, out of concern that the use of the diagonal runway called 15/33 would send more airplane noise over their residents.

Chester said March 10 that he voted against the plan for other reasons, arguing that flights from 15/33 primarily go over industrial and commercial areas before flying high over homes, while other runways send flights directly over houses.

The ultimate criteria for routing flights, he said, should be how many homes are most affected.

Mount Prospect Mayor Arlene Juracek was one of the few northwest suburban representatives to vote for the plan, saying it should bring noise relief sooner to many people during the spring and summer, when windows are open.

By spreading the flights around, Juracek said, "What we're trying to do is share the pain."

Members of the residents group Fair Allocation of Runways opposed the plan, saying it reduced usage of the diagonal runways and would leave more large, noisier planes over the city.

"The goal is to relieve the most severely impacted communities, and we're doing the opposite," FAIR member and Chicago resident Daniel Dwyer said.

In spring 2018, runway 15/33 is due to be closed, which Chicago officials say is necessary to build the sixth and final new east-west runway, 9 Center, as well as to make way for western ground access to the airport and a new tollway around the west side of the airfield.

FAIR members are fighting to keep that diagonal runway open as a way to disperse the noise, though city officials say it is a moot point. Commission members are considering whether they will test rotations that exclude 15/33 even before it's gone.

Ultimately, FAIR members would like to see limits on the number of flights at night, in part by spreading cargo flights to other airports in the region.

In addition to Arlington Heights, Park Ridge and Des Plaines, representatives from the following municipalities voted against the nighttime runway rotation: Downers Grove, Elmhurst, Hoffman Estates, Palatine, River Forest, Rolling Meadows and Schaumburg.

Freelance reporter Brian L. Cox contributed.
A time for ‘healing and learning’

Organizers: Skokie 'unity' rally drew crowd four times bigger than expected

Staff report

Leaders of a local community organization had expected about 50 people to attend a rally it sponsored that was focused on community unity, but some 200 ended up turning out, organizers said.

“We were overwhelmed,” said leaders of the group Skokie United!, which is part of the Skokie Cultural Community Coalition. “The people of our village really united over this event.”

The March 4 rally was held at the Devonshire Cultural Center in Skokie, and was born out of the organizers’ desire to give back to the town, which, they said, had done so much for them.

Attendees participated in activities that organizers said were aimed at relationship-building and fostering solidarity. Also, they added, various service providers were on hand to share information.

Several elected officials addressed the crowd, including Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen and state Rep. Lou Lang, D-Skokie.

“Five of us spent hours upon hours thinking, planning and communicating about divisive issues by starting in Skokie. We believe that the rally can lead our community toward healing and learning more about each other,” the group of leaders said, collectively.

The organizers said the goal of the two-hour event was to connect — and reconnect — residents and neighbors to “inspire each other and develop lifelong bonds throughout our great community.”

“It’s extremely important to bring positive events to the community. Everywhere we turned we heard or read about a division based on race, class, gender, preference, religion, socio-economic status, etc. As hate continues to fill our TV and radio news reports, we want to change the stereotypes of what diversity is. We want people to overcome their biases by meeting people and talking with them about everyday issues,” the group of leaders said.

They said that, going forward, they hope to make events like this an annual event, modeling after other community events such as Coming Together Skokie and Niles Township — which this year is highlighting Chinese culture, Skokie Festival of Cultures and others.

They explained that other events could be forthcoming, including other community workshops. The coalition is also looking forward to promoting standing community events, leaders said.

“We want to make the great resources accessible to our entire community. We will promote civic engagement and positivity,” organizers said.
Catholics can have corned beef on St. Patrick’s Day

Church leaders declare exception to Lenten rule

BY ERIN GALLAGHER
Daily Southtown

Southland Catholics will be able to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day with meat this year, despite it falling on a Friday in Lent, church leaders said.

Cardinal Blase Cupich, the leader of the Chicago Archdiocese, and R. Daniel Conlon, bishop of Joliet, are setting aside the church's practice of avoiding meat on Fridays for March 17.

“Cardinal Cupich has given a general dispensation to Catholics from abstaining from meat on this day,” according to archdiocese spokeswoman Colleen Tunney-Ryan. “Catholics in the Archdiocese of Chicago are asked to substitute for another form of penance for the Lenten Friday abstinence. In a statement Conlon said, “My name is Conlon — a very Irish. More significantly, I am Catholic, and Lent is an important season of prayer, penance and charity. If some fellow Catholics within the Diocese of Joliet feel that eating meat on St. Patrick’s Day — which this year falls on a Friday — is important enough to break the rule of abstinence, they are permitted to make a conscientious decision to do so. In that case, they should substitute some other form of penance.

“For myself, I see no connection between honoring the patron saint and apostle of Ireland and eating corned beef.”

During the 40-day season of Lent, Catholics prepare themselves for Easter through prayer, giving alms and fasting that includes avoiding meat on Fridays. In Oak Lawn, the Rev. Lawrence Malcolm, pastor of St. Gerald Church, 9310 S. 55th Court, said the dispensation will allow his parishioners to celebrate St. Patrick’s Day by eating corned beef, a tradition started among the American Irish.

Corned beef became popular among Irish immigrants here, but is not common in Ireland, he said.

“Since St. Patrick is so important to Irish Catholics and what he’s done for the country, I think it’s very important for the cardinal to recognize that,” said the Rev. Benedykt Pazdan, pastor of St. Bernadette Parish, 9343 S. Francisco Ave., Evergreen Park.

Pazdan said the cardinal is being “pastoral” by granting the dispensation that would allow some Catholics to honor the saint.

Erín Gallagher is a freelance reporter for the Daily Southtown.
Home Cooking Made Simple

Everything you need to prepare home-cooked meals in about 30 minutes.

Libertyville Muslim couple ejected from flight file suit

BY WILLIAM LEE
Chicago Tribune

Nearly a year after their family was removed from a flight at O'Hare International Airport, a Muslim couple from the north suburbs filed a federal lawsuit against United Airlines, claiming they were discriminated against based on their faith.

Attorneys with the local chapter of Council on American-Islamic Relations filed the suit in federal court March 10 on behalf of Mohamad and Eaman Shebley in connection with the March 20, 2016, incident aboard the SkyWest flight, operating as United Express from Chicago to Washington.

An attorney for the couple said they think “inherent bias” prompted flight crew members to kick the Shebleys off United Flight 5811 — after Eaman Shebley asked for assistance with a child booster seat.

The suit comes at a time of growing anxiety among Muslims who worry they can be targeted and removed from flights just for making other passengers feel uncomfortable, CAIR officials noted, saying it’s intensified with President Donald Trump’s travel bans — the latest barring the issuance of new visas to citizens of six Muslim-majority countries for 90 days and suspending the refugee program for 120 days. Attorneys for the couple also cited a dozen incidents in the last year and a half in which Muslims were asked to leave flights or were harassed because of fears of passengers or crew members.

“We believe the time is right now to bring this to the attention of the courts and the federal government and ask for some accountability on behalf of the airlines,” Phil Robertson, CAIR Chicago’s lead attorney who is representing the Shebleys in the suit, told reporters at the council’s downtown offices.

“This affects more than the Shibley family. It affects our entire community,” said Ahmed Rehab, CAIR Chicago’s executive director. “There is a real strong sense of apprehension every time one of these stories emerge. People start to think, ‘Can I speak Arabic in an airport?’ Nobody should have to bite their tongue and start to feel as if they’re committing a crime just because they need to communicate with their elderly mother or father-in-law while standing in line in an American airport,’” he said.

The Shibleys, of Libertyville, did not attend the news conference. CAIR officials said they preferred to stay out of the limelight.

The couple have previously said they were humiliated when their family was ushered off the plane after they sought help with their youngest child’s booster seat. The family’s removal from the flight came after the parents requested an additional shoulder harness that goes around the back of the seat and attaches to the lap belt for their youngest daughter’s booster seat, which they had to try and check at the gate.

The 15-page, three-count suit repeats many of the claims the couple made to the Tribune a month after the incident — that they’d sought a strap for their child sitting in the booster seat, but were told by a flight attendant that the airline didn’t provide over-the-shoulder harnesses for passengers, despite information on the United website that said they did. Another crew member told the family the child could not sit in a booster seat, but ignored subsequent questions from Eaman Shebley, a Lebanese-American who wears an Islamic headscarf.

Despite removing the booster chair and storing it in a Motor City metropolitan area. The Shibleys said they were asked to leave the plane by the flight attendant and the plane’s pilot.

“Something doesn’t add up to me,” Eaman Shebley, an accountant who recorded her family’s encounter, told the Tribune last April. The couple were aboard a SkyWest flight, a United Airlines carrier. “We weren’t rude. We didn’t do anything wrong. I’m in customer service. This is not normal for someone to treat someone this way. I felt singled out right from the get-go.”

Before disembarking, she told the Tribune, she asked the pilot if the family’s removal was a “discriminatory decision.” The pilot responded that it was a “safety of flight issue.”

The couple and their children completed their spring break journey to the nation’s capital on a later flight with the booster seat without incident and were later offered reimbursement for their flights and any expenses incurred for the inconvenience, as well as five free round-trip tickets anywhere in the continental United States.

Before filing the lawsuit, the family had filed a formal complaint with the Federal Aviation Administration.

A year later, the Shibley family — particularly the Shibleys’ young children — continue to struggle with the incident.

“That lasts a lifetime, to be honest with you,” said Maria Mozaffar, another attorney working on the case.

In a statement, a spokeswoman with United declined to comment on the suit, but added, “Both SkyWest and United hold our employees to the highest standards of professionalism and have zero tolerance for discrimination.”

The suit seeks unspecified damages from United.

Arab Daily News

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Winery proposed for Main Street Metra station

**BY GENEVIEVE BOOKWALTER**

A new craft winery and tasting room could open as soon as this summer in the former theater space at the Main Street Metra station in Evanston.

The zoning application for Meta Wine was approved by the Evanston City Council in February.

Owner Walter Clements, of Evanston, said store officials are negotiating a lease at 600 Main Street with owner Union Pacific railroad and, if all goes well, could open the winery this summer.

The space previously was occupied by Piccolo Theatre, which moved out last year.

"Evanston residents tend to be pretty astute people," said Clements, 44, as to why his shop is a good fit for the north suburb. "It's a relatively wealthy town, but people appreciate a good value."

Meta Wine is based on the wine shops Clements visited in Venice, Italy, where his wife is from, he said. Instead of offering a variety of wines by the bottle, staff at Meta Wine plan to create unique blends for each customer.

According to city reports, Meta Winery staff plans to source bulk supplies of finished wine from around the world. Once at the shop, they will repackage the wine into custom blends. These blends can be consumed by the glass in the tasting room or taken off-site in kegs, growlers or similar containers.

The business is permitted for the ground floor of the Metra station and would be accessed by the alley connecting Main and Washington streets, according to city reports. The shop would not be accessible from Metra platforms.

Plans for the winery tasting room include inside seating for about 40 people, with additional outdoor seating near the alley, according to city reports. Light snacks, like bruschetta and other appetizers, could be served.

Proposed tasting room and retail hours are 3 to 10 p.m. Sunday through Thursday, and 3 to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday. Between two and five employees would work in the store at one time, according to city reports.

Clements grew up in Evanston, he said, and recently moved back with his wife and two sons, ages 8 and 1. Until the first Meta Wine shop opens he plans to introduce his custom blends at summer festivals around the greater Chicago area.

Clements also hopes the Main Street location is the first in what eventually will be a nationwide chain, he said. "We plan to roll out across the country," Clements said. A comparable concept "doesn't exist anywhere in the U.S."

Piccolo Theatre, meanwhile, is operating from its new home at Parish House at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Evanston, said managing director Joshua Allard.

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Late congressman honored in Evanston

Post office named in honor of former Rep. Abner Mikva

BY GENEVIEVE BOOKWALTER
Pioneer Press

The Evanston post office was renamed March 13 in honor of the late former congressman, judge and White House counsel Abner Mikva, who represented Evanston for three terms in Washington, D.C., and who local politicians cited as inspiration for their own careers.

"He was an indispensable mentor and role model for me and so many others," said U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky, Democrat from Evanston who sponsored legislation that ultimately changed the Evanston post office name.

He died in July at age 90.

"He inspired a whole generation that politics is a noble calling," Schakowsky said.

Schakowsky introduced legislation to rename the post office on July 14. Then-President Barack Obama signed it into law on Dec. 16.

The plaque honoring Mikva will be installed between post office counters three and four, officials said.

U.S. Postal Service officials, community members and others were among the approximately 50 people who attended the morning ceremony honoring the late Mikva, held in the lobby of the post office.

Mikva's daughter, Mary, called the post office's new name "the perfect coming together of three things my father loved: Congress, the city of Evanston and getting letters."

Mikva was born in 1926 and moved to Evanston in 1971, after serving in the Illinois General Assembly and the U.S. House of Representatives representing the Hyde Park neighborhood of Chicago.

Evanston and other residents of what was then Illinois' 10th Congressional District sent him back to Washington in 1974.

Mikva was later nominated to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia, and during his final four years there he served as chief judge.

In 1994, former President Bill Clinton asked him to serve as White House counsel.

After returning to Evanston, Mikva taught at Northwestern University.

Mikva received a Presidential Medal of Freedom from Obama in 2014.

Evanston Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl remembered Mikva as helping to turn the city, once a predominantly Republican college town, into a Democratic enclave.

"Abner Mikva was not only a great man, but he chose Evanston, he came to Evanston," Tisdahl said.

"At that point this really was a Republican community," she said, "and it turned Democrat because of Mikva."

Like Schakowsky, Tisdahl remembered volunteering for Mikva and working in the community to get him elected.

U.S. Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Illinois, recalled Mikva as someone who could bring together constituents from different parties and perspectives.

He did not attend the dedication ceremony March 6, but a spokeswoman made comments on his behalf.

"He brought humility, integrity and fairness to every challenge he faced and combined those qualities with an extraordinary sense of humor and a famous ability to get along with others, regardless of their politics," Durbin said through his spokeswoman.

The Evanston Post Office, 1101 W. Davis Street in Evanston, was renamed for Abner Mikva on March 13.
This is Us! It could be.

"This Is Us" is not only a critically acclaimed television drama that has taken the country by storm since it debuted last fall. It also has served as a much-needed shelter, week after week, from our country's stormy political climate.

Not once while watching this engaging NBC show, aired like an interrelated series of short films, did I ever think about partisan politics or the White House or so many issues we've been debating for months. Not once did I think "us versus them," as we've been conditioned to do by our political leaders. There is a choice, you know. It's our choice, you know. This, too, defines us, though we tend to forget it.

"This Is Us" has been described by critics as syrupy, and it may be at times, but its characters are dripping with bittersweet dilemmas we can all relate to. More importantly, with their flaws and failings, tapping in to our own similar faults.

Poor decisions, bad habits, shameful secrets and other relatable character flaws are on full display in this show. Not only about its fictional characters but about each of us and our universal commonalities. Despite these traits, the characters somehow manage to tap into more redeeming virtues such as salvation, redemption and hard-earned lessons about themselves. Along the way, we are invited to do the same.

The show's themes include obesity, race relations, relationship infidelity, career pressures, a parent's fiercely protective love, baby adoption, loss of a spouse and, in the latest episode performed with tender poignancy, loss of a father. Despite these heavy themes, the show is buoyed by convincing portrayals of hope, love, promise and sacrifice. These are the qualities that should inspire us and motivate us in our own lives, politics be damned.

When I watch this show, I'm not celebrating or bemoaning the decisions of the three siblings - the twins, Kate (Chrissy Metz) and Kevin (Justin Hartley), and the adopted Randall (Sterling Brown). Instead, I'm celebrating or bemoaning my own life decisions or those of my loved ones. The same can be said for millions of other faithful viewers, I'm sure. This is the magic of "This Is Us," which for some is my finest show on network television. It's also the fastest hour of my week.

The show's magic is not about its colorful characters and their make-believe lives. It's about us, each of us, all of us, and our troubles, joyful, monotonous, rather ordinary lives. We see us in them. Since this show debuted last September, viewers learned that the three siblings who share a birth date also share so much more. They have a drop in the bucket of what Chicago schools need to serve their students, some 36 years ago, to their present-day lives and struggles.

Their lives and struggles, however, are refreshingly normal, though dramatized for entertainment purposes. There are no high-speed chases, intense police interviews, courtroom debates, dead bodies or science-fiction phenomena. None of that typical, action-packed, eye-grabbing escapism we see on so many other TV shows. Instead, similar to most of our lives, the show explores rather ordinary human dramas, the grind of relationships, ethical moments that challenge us, and the daily decisions that define who we are as a person and, ultimately, as a people. By doing so, it reminds us that we're so much broader, and more complex, than we've been led to believe by our nation's us-versus-them politics and knee-jerk name-calling. This unspoken truth about us should be obvious, yet it gets hidden behind the loudness of our political rhetoric. It can be difficult to hear the whispers of truth amid the screams of extremists. Yet we seem to allow their voices to suppress our understanding of who we are. Why is that?

Is it because we choose to build walls rather than bridges, as we've been wired to do for eons, to safeguard us from potential threats? Or is it more a conscious thought process to separate us from others, as we've been conditioned to do by our political leaders? There is a choice, you know. It's our choice, you know. This, too, defines us, though we tend to forget it.

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Jerry Davich

Editor's Note on Election Letters

Please be advised that letters to the editor relating to the April 4 local election will not be accepted for print publishing after noon Friday, March 17. Letters will continue to be accepted for online publishing through noon Friday, March 31. Letters must be 300 words or fewer, and should be submitted with the letter writer's name, town, phone number and address (phone number and address will not be published). They can be sent to jputerbaugh@chicagotribune.com.
On St. Patrick’s Day, we recall the hard work of immigrants

As the annual St. Patrick’s Day celebrations rev up, restaurants, pubs and homes across the nation are ready to party hearty. Our family always gathers for my corned beef (minus that nasty cabbage), Irish potatoes, green beer/pop and soda bread. It’s special to me not only because every family gathering is to be cherished, but also because it commemorates an important part of my ancestral heritage. As is often said, everyone is Irish on St. Patrick’s Day.

This year, I have a slightly different view on these cultural celebrations. There is so much contentious debate over immigrants and who should stay and who should go, who should never be allowed in and who should be deeply vetted. The sentiment has shifted greatly from the Statue of Liberty’s engraved refrain, “Give me your tired, your poor, your huddled masses yearning to breathe free … the wretched refuse of your teeming shore.” Send these, the homeless tempest-tossed to me, I lift my lamp beside the golden door.”

The current discourse has many wondering if that lamp lighting the golden door has been extinguished, and if so, what a sad day it is for the dream that their future had far more potential than the lands from which they came.

Should we have rules and regulations, protocols and procedures that must be followed in immigration policy? Yes, I doubt anyone would disagree with that. The bone of contention is how to arrive at laws that are reasonable and fair while keeping with the tenets that established our country from the beginning. I don’t pretend to have the answer, it’s a complicated issue that can be flavored subtly depending on each person’s background and experience. Even so, there has to be a way to stay true to the American tradition of the golden door without sacrificing safety and financial security.

As we tip the green hat and wish each other a top o’ the mornin’ on St. Patrick’s Day, we recall what a sad day it is for us to take the kids who grew up watching this stuff to see something that is R-rated “for strong brutality, violence and language throughout, and for brief nudity.”

Thanks also to Hugh Jackman, the otherwise genial Aussie chap who, according to at least one published interview with the film’s director, took a pay cut to persuade the studio to allow an R-rated Wolverine film. Apparently, he wanted to say the F-word a lot and impale people through their skull, and he got his wish, if not his money.

All of this led to a question from my seventh grader after seeing and hearing about the critical and commercial success of “Logan,” during the previous weekend: “Can we go see ‘Logan’ tonight?” And so it was time to weigh things out. How mature is your youngest kid? Not sure how we measure that to an exact degree, but the record shows only one significant school discipline incident that I can recall. It could be that he’s paying off the administration to hide things from us.

While the most robust movie he’s ever seen? That would be “Mad Max: Fury Road,” which was just as depraved as your usual “Mad Max” entry, but also a winner of six Academy Awards, so it arguably was a cultural experience.

It is significant to point out that we watched “Fury Road” — which was R-rated “for intense sequences of violence throughout and for disturbing images,” and they weren’t joking — in the security of our home after a trip to a Redbox kiosk. This would be the first time I would openly escort my youngest child to an R-rated movie, officially defined by the Motion Picture Association of America as requiring an “accompanying parent or adult guardian” for viewers younger than 17, because it contains “some adult material.”

The MPAA guidelines also state this for the record: “Parents are urged to learn more about the film before taking their young children with them.”

My research in this case included reading a review at The Onion’s A.V. Club, which noted that “the language is blue (and) the violence is red, with limbs hacked off and faces skewed.”

As I rolled all of this around in my still-developing brain, I eventually realized that I was the same age as my son when I not only saw my first R-rated movie but did so without a parent. Allow me to re-share a story originally shared in October 2004:

“The Patio (was) where I got my R-rated movie, since its ticket sales were known for luring the other way as long as you showed up with cash. I believe my passage into movie adulthood was the 1978 horror classic ‘Halloween,’ which had been described to us in detail at St. Pascal’s by our sixth-grade social studies teacher.”

That last statement is an absolutely true episode of 1970s education.

Anyway, I survived and did not grow up to become a serial murderer. All selective bias aside, I figured it was time for my son to see his first R-rated movie.

Big mistake. He was traumatized by the experience, and we have yet to lure him from under his bed.

Just kidding. What really happened is we sat through 137 minutes — along with parents toting kids even younger than mine — of somber introspection peppered with a few F-words and outbreaks of blood-splashed combat. At least one mid-film sequence, featuring the murder of a family, wouldn’t have been out of place in a Jason or Freddy movie. There also were scenes of emotional depth that took the cartoon out of cartoon violence.

Was my kid ready for all of that? Yes and maybe. We talked on the way home about how sad and disturbing “Logan” could be, and how that made it a good movie in its own right. If nothing else, it was an exercise in critical thinking for my young man.

I will also note for the record that he was fetching a refill of popcorn during the “brief nudity” scene, which involved a drunk girl at a bachelorette party.

Which reminds me — I also saw “Animal House” when I was his age. Maybe we can rent it when he’s 18.

Pat Lenhoff is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Debating whether to take kids to see R-rated ‘Logan’

So “Logan” came out recently, setting up a decision that would make me either an enlightened, progressive parent or one that should be burned at the stake.

Basically, the dilemma boiled down to this: Should I take my kid to see an R-rated movie?

Thanks a lot, 20th Century Fox and/or Marvel Entertainment. First you lure us in with two decades of X-Men films rated PG-13 “for sci-fi action violence” — you know, like the bloodless mercy-goring of Jean Grey by Wolverine in “Last Stand” — and then you dare us to take the kids who grew up watching this stuff to see something that is R-rated “for strong brutality, violence and language throughout, and for brief nudity.”

Thanks also to Hugh Jackman, the otherwise genial Aussie chap who, according to at least one published interview with the film’s director, took a pay cut to persuade the studio to allow an R-rated Wolverine film. Apparently, he wanted to say the F-word a lot and impale people through their skull, and he got his wish, if not his money.

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What’s the roughest movie he’s ever seen? That would be “Mad Max: Fury

Dan Moran

Dan Moran

Dan Moran

Dan Moran

Dan Moran
Everybody knows the superstars of music, but what about the “celebrities” of college campuses?

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Show brings artists, musicians together to build bridges

BY GINA GRILLO
Pioneer Press

In Glenview, musicians are using the universal language of music to build bridges between interfaith communities, with their upcoming “Concert for Peace: We’re Still Here,” March 19 at Glenview Community Church.

Now in its fifth year, “Concert for Peace” is part of the Glenview Community Church’s Simple Gifts Concert Series, organized by Katherine Hughes as a way to explore themes of peace through music. Hughes, a seasoned musician, has 40 years experience playing the violin.

Hughes said the impetus for this concert was “Hands of Peace,” an organization founded by fellow GCC member Gretchen Grad in 2002. “Hands of Peace” works on fostering understanding among Jewish-Israelis, Palestinian citizens of Israel and Palestinians through dialogue between teenagers from the Middle East and America during a three-week summer program in Glenview each year.

Similarly, the concert brings musicians from different faith groups together to share a musical dialogue — culminating in a collaborative performance that promotes religious and cultural diversity.

In addition to their core 10-piece ensemble, the March 19 concert will also feature guest musicians from two Muslim venues, Jamathkhanas in Glenview and the Turkish American Society in Mount Prospect, Hughes said.

“Music and art are two universal elements of cultural expression that inspire the human spirit,” said Ikbal Koseli, Turkish American Society volunteer community project organizer. “Events like this are much needed these days especially during the time of division and isolation happening in our society.”

Also performing will be two Jewish musicians — Elliot Dvorin of the Key Tov Orchestra and Haazan (rabbi) Roger Weisberg from Congregation Beth Jedaia in Long Grove.

Organizers incorporated an open approach by selecting songs in a variety of styles, from traditional to contemporary, each related to creating peace or conveying peacefulness.

Performance highlights will include renditions of Leonard Cohen’s “Hallelujah,” and Harold Arlen’s “Get Happy,” and an updated and unplugged version of the Motown song “War” with string quartet accompaniment. The Chancel Choir will sing “Give Me Your Tired, Your Poor” by Irving Berlin.

Special to this concert will be bassist Ken Haeberlich’s original song, written for the core 10-piece ensemble called, “We’re Still Here,” to be performed with Jade Maze on vocals.

New to the program this year is an art show curated by Pat Albano of Aaron Galleries in Glenview, featuring works by culturally diverse artists ages 16 and up.

Input from these high caliber professional musicians from Park Ridge, Niles, Highland Park, Glenview, Mount Prospect, Long Grove and Chicago, has been important, Hughes said.

“By sharing their gifts, these musicians remind us that what we have in common is so much more powerful than what divides us,” Grad said.

Northlight’s ‘Water’ explores aftermath of natural disaster

BY CATIEY SULLIVAN
Pioneer Press

For director Cody Estle, the journey to Northlight Theatre’s “By the Water” started — quite literally — at the end of the line. From a plane to a train to a ferry and finally a bus, Estle made his way east, eventually winding up as the lone passenger arriving in Staten Island’s Oakwood Beach neighborhood — or rather, what used to be the Oakwood Beach neighborhood.

“The devastation was surreal,” he recalls of the community swept away by 2012’s Hurricane Sandy.

“Nobody was there, almost nothing was left — big, empty grassy areas where the homes had been. The only way I knew I’d arrived was because the bus driver told me I had to get off. It was the final stop. That’s when the world of the play really hit me.”

Running through April 23 at Northlight, Sharyn Rothstein’s drama is set in a Staten Island neighborhood destroyed by Hurricane Sandy.

Once a tight-knit, thriving community, the post-Sandy world of the play is a place where houses and possessions aren’t the only casualties. Rothstein’s plot focuses on two families facing a difficult choice: They can take a government buyout and move elsewhere or they can stay and try to rebuild.

“The decision seems like it would easy, right? Why would you stay so close to the water knowing that Sandy or something like it was eventually going to happen again? Why not take the money and leave?” says Estle, “But think about it. These are people who have lived in this neighborhood for 30 years, people who were like family to each other. And now they’re faced with starting over completely. Not just with replacing their homes and things — but with rebuilding in a strange community, beginning again, where nobody knows them.”

Rothstein heightens the drama by factoring in a painful dilemma that played out in real life as Oakwood Beach residents grappled with whether to leave. The buyouts are only available if everyone in the neighborhood signs on. If one family declines, the whole offer is rescinded.

Rothstein lays bare the emotional wreckage that the all-or-nothing bargain creates. The Carters (Janet Ulrich Brooks and Patrick Clear) want to go. The Murphys (Francis Guinan and Penny Slusher) want to rebuild where they are. The generations-deep friendship between the families becomes a casualty of the storm.

“What seems like common sense to one family feels like betrayal to another,” says Brooks. “I’m 60, and when I think about losing absolutely everything at that age — including the very community where you live — I can’t even imagine how difficult it would be to face starting over completely.”

While “By the Water” is a story of loss among fami-
BOOKS

‘Lillian Boxfish’ novel takes stroll through woman’s fascinating life

BY SAMANTHA NELSON
Pioneer Press

Kathleen Rooney’s latest novel is set in New York, but the idea came to the Woodridge native through her high school best friend who was archiving a series of papers from the poet and advertising copywriter Margaret Fishback that she knew Rooney would want to see.

“She seemed to be a proto-feminist,” Rooney said. “Everything she did was in terms of being a career woman, being very proud of how much money she made. She was fascinating.”

Rooney went to work at the Duke University archive in 2007, but she didn’t know what to do with the material. She didn’t begin seriously working on the novel until 2013, when she was inspired to combine a fictionalized version of Fishback’s story with her own love of flaneur: aimless walking through urban areas. The result was “Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk,” which imagines an 85-year-old woman reminiscing about her life and career while she strolls around New York City on New Year’s Eve of 1984.

“Walking in a city is such an experience of sensory stimulus and also time travel,” Rooney said. “You’re out and doing physical activity, but you’re smelling the smells and seeing the sights and running into people.”

“Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk” was published in January, and Rooney will discuss the book March 19 at the Morton Grove Public Library. Chapters alternate between Lillian’s long walk through numerous New York neighborhoods and moments from her rise to fame in the 1930s, allowing Rooney to address historical events from the Great Depression and construction of the Empire State Building to the New York Subway Vigilante and AIDS epidemic. But the story also deals with issues that are timeless, such as depression, alcoholism and equal pay for women.

“It’s technically historical fiction, but I didn’t want it to be a costume drama or sendup of the ‘20s,” Rooney said. “I think any good book that doesn’t take place in our contemporary moment has to speak to things that are relevant now.”

Boxfish fights, with limited success, for more recognition for both herself and her female colleagues. When she becomes pregnant, she loses her job at R.H. Macy’s and is later forced to balance a freelance career with the requirements of being a mother and homemaker.

“I wanted to realistically portray what it was like for someone who loved her work and was so good at it,” Rooney said. “She’s living in a world where it was expected when you have a kid you’re going to go be a mom. Lillian would not have chosen that. I just really wanted to show that something like that would not be easy for her. She loved her husband and doted on her son, but there’s an ambivalence.”

Boxfish’s career, more than her age, shapes her identity. She likes rap music for its poetry and is always interested in talking to people about their experiences and desires, connecting with photographers, limo drivers and bartenders.

“Something that makes me really sad is how invisible old people become in our world,” Rooney said. “We often segment people off by age. I didn’t want to create a stereotypical old lady who’s sassy. I wanted to create this whole person who wants to be not shut out or lonely. I wanted to make Lillian the kind of character who would be interested in a lot of stuff. Age has nothing to do with it.”

Kathleen Rooney author event

When: 2-4 p.m. March 19
Where: Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave.
Admission: Free
Information: www.mgpl.org

THEATER

Thin Ice Ensemble performs classic ‘The Miracle Worker’

Three-act drama runs March 31 to April 2 in Skokie

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

A woman who has had her share of troubles is able to break through a young blind and deaf girl’s wall of silence and defiance in “The Miracle Worker.”

Thin Ice Ensemble Theater Artistic Director Eileen Hand, of Skokie, directed William Gibson’s three-act drama based on Helen Keller’s autobiography, “The Story of My Life,” March 31-April 2 at Devonshire Playhouse in Skokie.

It’s the story of a spoiled little girl who was rendered deaf and blind because of an illness when she was an infant. By the time she is six years old, Helen Keller is a wild, tantrum-throwing, uncontrollable child. Her frustrated parents hire a governess for her. Fortunately, they choose Annie Sullivan.

“A young woman comes into this family and heals the family and, through the process of it, she ends up getting rid of her own demons and healing herself as well,” Hand said. “The other thing I really like about this play is something that I think is a really good teaching tool, is how silence can be as powerful as dialogue.”

Everis Stodder, 15, plays Helen Keller, described her character as “stubborn and she’s kind of bratty. She wants to get her way. She’s lost in her own world. She senses that there’s something more out there and she wants to find it. She doesn’t really want to get it from Annie, but at the same time she does.”

Director Hand noted that they are also working closely on movement because, in the play, Helen “has these moments where she doesn’t know where she’s at.”

Another challenge is related to Helen’s utterances. “The sounds that she makes are so interesting” Hand said, reporting that they are exploring Evelyn’s lower range.

Both Everis and Evelyn, who are home-schooled Chicago residents, are studying sign language through a co-op.

Hand hopes that audience members “understand the frustrations that Helen goes through trying to release what’s inside of her. The way Evelyn is portraying this is that (Helen) just wants to let go and communicate with people. There are scenes where she is moving her mouth and trying to communicate. So finally, at the end, when she makes that connection with water, the audience should be in tears.”
How to introduce dog, baby
STEM Cafe series digs into hot topics

Group discusses food-related issues at eateries

By Judy Buchenot
Naperville Sun

Just seeing that a tomato is plump and red isn't enough for shoppers anymore. Today's shrewd shoppers want to know where it was grown, how far it was transported, whether it was genetically altered and if it's organic.

Lisa Brandt, a Sycamore resident who is a nutritionist for a local grocery store chain, has noticed that shopping habits have changed. "Eating locally grown foods is very in," she said. "People want to buy from local farmers because they like the idea of helping them."

Eating locally is just one of the many hot topics connected to food today. Sustainability, food insecurity, humane livestock practices, use of antibiotics and other concerns can be challenging for the average consumer.

One way to get a handle on some of these issues is to attend the upcoming STEM Cafe on April 11 hosted by Northern Illinois University Outreach. Judith Dymond, of the university's outreach, engagement and regional development division, helps organize these monthly events.

"Basically, we meet at a restaurant where people can order something to eat and get information on the latest research on a specific topic," said Dymond, who lives in Sugar Grove. STEM stands for science, technology, engineering and math.

This program of feeding the body and the mind in one place began in Europe and has spread to the United States. The NIU STEM cafe is one of 51 cafe programs in the United States.

"Everyone loves to eat," Dymond said. "And we pick topics that have to do with everyday life. In April, we are going to help people understand several issues like the fact that we grow enough food to feed the world, so why do so many people go hungry? We also answer the question of why we should even bother thinking about where our food comes from. We will be looking at the politics of food too."

Each STEM Cafe begins with short presentations by experts on a specific topic. There is a short break followed by a one-hour question, answer and discussion period.

"We used to meet in small restaurants but we have outgrown them. We now have about 75 to 100 people attend," Dymond said. At the April event titled "Our Daily Spread," there will be an NIU instructor talking about food systems and a farmer explaining his point of view.

Brandt supports the STEM program and has been a past presenter. She applauds efforts to buy food grown locally. "Produce that has been in transport for a long time can lose nutrients faster," she said.

"I tell people not to throw their produce into the crisper because it is easy to forget that it is there. It is better to cut it up and keep it in sight," Brandt said. Turn fruits and vegetables into attractive, easy-to-grab food by washing and cutting it into bite-sized pieces. She takes grapes off the stems and keeps blueberries in a handy bowl so they can be just as simple to eat as a cookie from the cookie jar. "Berries are great sources of fiber and antioxidants. You should eat them daily," she said.

Brandt likes to use plain, canned pumpkin to pack a nutritional punch to her meals. "Throw a cup of pumpkin into chili or spaghetti sauce. It doesn't change the taste but adds a lot of fiber."

When craving sweets, try mixing a 15-ounce can of pumpkin with a chocolate cake mix. Bake like a regular cake for a super food snack. "It works with spice cake or other flavors too," she said.

Brandt shares two recipes that can easily be altered to include whatever is in season. One is a pizza made with eggs, bacon and a variety of seasonal vegetables. The second recipe is a simple stir-fry that can be varied with each season. If the supply is low, frozen vegetables can be added to the mix for additional color and flavor.

This refreshing take on a pizza begins with a pizza crust, eggs and bacon and then varies by using a mix of seasonal vegetables such as spring asparagus.

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**Our Daily Spread**

What: Our Daily Spread, a STEM Cafe presentation about the Importance of where we buy our food presented by Northern Illinois University Outreach.

When: 6:30-8:30 p.m. April 11
Where: Fatty's Pub & Grille, 1312 W. Lincoln Highway, DeKalb
Cost: Event is free. Food and drink available for purchase.
More information: www.niu.edu/STEM/courses.shtml

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**Bacon, egg and vegetable pizza**

Serves four to six.

- 1 pound prepared pizza dough, preferably whole wheat
- 2 strips bacon
- 3/4 cup sliced shallots
- 1 pound asparagus, trimmed and cut into 2-inch pieces
- 4 large eggs
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 1 cup shredded extra-sharp cheddar cheese

1. Preheat oven to 500 degrees. Coat a 8-inch by 10-inch pizza pan with non-stick spray. Roll out dough on a lightly floured surface to fit the pan and place in pan. Make a small ridge around the edge of the crust to help hold eggs in place. Bake about eight minutes or until the crust is crispy on the bottom.

2. While crust is baking, cook bacon until crisp. Remove bacon to drain on a paper towel leaving drippings in the pan. Add shallots to the pan and cook, stirring often, until light brown, about 2 minutes. Add asparagus and cook two more minutes or until asparagus begins to soften.

3. When crust is ready, spread onion and asparagus over the crust and crumble bacon on top. Whisk eggs, salt and pepper in a medium bowl and slowly pour over the vegetables, trying not to let any run off the crust. Sprinkle with cheese. Bake about 8 to 10 minutes until the eggs are set and the cheese is melted. Can be made with any combination of vegetables and cheese.

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**Farm stand stir-fry**

Makes four servings.

- 1 tablespoon extra-virgin olive oil
- 1 small shallot, minced
- 4 cups vegetables, cut into small chunks
- 2 tablespoons water
- 1/2 teaspoon dried dill or tarragon
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1/4 teaspoon freshly ground pepper

1. Heat oil in a large skillet over medium heat. Add shallot and cook, stirring, until softened, about 1 minute. Add vegetables and water. Cover and cook, stirring occasionally, until the vegetables are tender, 4 to 12 minutes; depending on the size of the vegetables. Stir in dill (or tarragon), salt and pepper.

**Recipe:**

- Brandt shares two recipes that can easily be altered to include whatever is in season. One is a pizza made with eggs, bacon and a variety of seasonal vegetables. The second recipe is a simple stir-fry that can be varied with each season. If the supply is low, frozen vegetables can be added to the mix for additional color and flavor.
Dublin coddle

Broaden your St. Patrick’s Day menu with this traditional Irish comfort meal

By Veronica Hinke
Pioneer Press

Guinness stew and corned beef and cabbage will work just fine for St. Patrick’s Day, but these well-worn options only just skimp the wide array of classic Irish comfort meals. Truth is, even a leprechaun might confess that boiled vegetables and corned beef is only on his plate for the holiday. This year, kick up your St. Patrick’s Day menu and try a Dublin coddle. The stew-like dish is the ultimate in comfort food and made with beloved bangers (sausages) and rashers (bacon).

“Dublin coddle is a traditional Irish dish which is intended to use up leftovers. The result is a warm, comforting stew,” said Liz Bartlow Breslin. She and her husband Patrick own The Celtic Knot Public House in Evanston.

On one of their trips to visit Patrick’s hometown in County Down in Ireland, they brought back an Irish recipe book as a souvenir for chef and kitchen manager Carlos Perez. As a gift and thank you for his hard work,” Liz said. “He looked through it and found a recipe for the coddle, something we had never tried on our menu. Delicious! Carlos says that he likes to cook traditional dishes for our Irish guests who are away from home, to bring them a little of that comfort.”

To make the Dublin coddle, Perez sautés chopped onions, thyme, bay leaf and ground black pepper with bacon and sausages until tender. He places everything in a pot with water, carrots and potatoes. Then, he slowly cooks everything in the oven at 275 to 300 degrees for two hours, stirring occasionally. He adds a little salt and pepper before serving it — with a satisfying slice of warm homemade Irish brown bread.

While the Dublin coddle is always on the menu at The Celtic Knot Public House, it is only available for a short time at the Harp and Fiddle in Park Ridge. Owner Declan Stapleton said the coddle will be a featured menu item for the month of March, suggested trying out different ingredients until you find the perfect combination. Mooney works from his grandmother’s recipe.

“Trial and error is always a great way to learn to cook an item,” he said. “Where most ingredients work well together some items just do not work and can overwhelm the dish.”

Mooney, who grew up watching his grandma make coddles, said they were typically end-of-week fare that expedited the use of leftovers from the meals of the week. “Traditionally, a coddle would always have sausage, rashers, stock and hearty root vegetables in it which resulted in a wonderful aroma resembling that of a chicken soup.

Because they were a hodgepodge of items that stewed the ingredients were very flavorful and tender,” he said.

Creative variations on the classic coddle won’t work for everyone. Chef Marcus Mooney with Tommy Nevin’s Pub in Evanston, where Dublin coddle is on the menu in March, suggested trying out different ingredients until you find the perfect combination. Mooney works from his grandmother’s recipe.

Dublin Coddle

Serves 8 people

1 cup onions, diced
1/4 cup carrots, diced
1/4 cup red potatoes, diced
1/2 cup water
1 pound Irish bacon (rashers)
1/2 pound Irish pork sausages (bangers), thick-cut
1/2 cup chopped bay leaves, thyme
1/2 teaspoon black pepper, ground
Salt and pepper to taste

1. Sauté onions, thyme, bay leaf and red peppers until tender. Place in cooking pot with water, carrots and potatoes. Slow cook in the oven at 275 to 300 degrees for two hours, stirring occasionally. Add salt and pepper to taste.

— Liz and Patrick Breslin, The Celtic Knot Public House

The Dublin coddle is a classic Irish stew full of thick-cut bangers, rashers and vegetables. The dish is served year-round and comes with a slice of homemade Irish brown bread at the Celtic Knot Public House in Evanston.
MY PET WORLD

Use a dog’s habits to retrain unwanted behaviors

By Cathy M. Rosenthal
Tribune Content Agency

Q: I adopted an adult dachshund and an adult dachshund/mix, and neither one is house-trained. I take them out frequently and reward them with treats when they pee outside, and they totally get that part. But when I bring them in one or the other is going to pee in the house within half an hour. It’s very frustrating, but they are the cutest, sweetest dogs ever, so I just clean up after them every day. Why are dachshunds so hard to train? Is there anything else I can do? — Carol M., Asheville, NC.

A: Through the years, I have received many letters from dachshund owners asking the same question. The good news, they aren’t mythical creatures who can’t be trained, and they aren’t intentionally defiant toward training. Dogs are dogs, and just like any other breed, they love their routines, and when you know their routines as well as you do, you can use them in your training to turn things around.

When your dogs go outside, they are probably distracted by sights and scents, so they pee a little here and there, never emptying their bladder entirely. When they go back in the house, they are no longer distracted. That’s when they suddenly need to pee again. Let’s get your dogs focused on doing their business by teaching them the words “go potty” as an actual command, like “sit” or “down.”

Go into the yard with them and tell them to “go potty” pointing where you want them to go in the yard to relieve themselves. If they get distracted, walk up to them and tell them to “go potty,” again, pointing in a direction. Keep doing this until they relieve themselves. Say “go potty” again when they start to relieve themselves, so they make the connection with the command. Follow up immediately with a marker word — a special word for each dog, like saying “Bingo” for one dog and “Awesome” for the other dog — to let each dog know the exact moment they get it right. (You can use the marker word for all your training.) If they stay outside for more than 15 minutes, go through the “go potty” routine again before bringing them into the house.

Next, if you know one of them always will have an accident within 30 minutes of coming into the house, then take them both back outside 20 minutes after they come in, so they can relieve themselves outside and not in your house. Follow the same “go potty” routine again. If you are persistent with this repetitive training, they should learn to empty their bladders on command as quickly as they learned to “sit” for a treat, which I bet they do well.

Finally, dogs like to pee where they smell urine, so use a bio-enzymatic cleaner, which feeds on the ammonia residues and other organic materials in your pet’s urine, to remove the urine scent from your carpet or floors. Believe in them and be consistent with your training and you should see a change in their bathroom behaviors in about a month.

Q: I have three indoor cats. We provide them with scratching posts and other toys, but they are not interested in them. Instead, they are destroying our furniture with their claws. I don’t believe in declawing, so is there anything else I can do to stop them from scratching the furniture? — Ann Sparks, Denver, Colo.

A: If your cats are scratching the arm of the couch, cover the arm with a towel, blanket, piece of wood, books, aluminum foil — anything to keep them from getting access to their preferred scratching spot. I like a product called Sticky Paws®, a double-sided tape that doesn’t damage the furniture and feels sticky to their paws when they try to scratch it. Once the couch appears off-limits, put the scratching post near it, since your cats will head that way to scratch already. Rub catnip on the post or leave treats on its base to attract the cats. Praise them when they use it.

To create a scent barrier, look for “keep off” type products in pet stores that you can spray on the furniture. You will need to reapply these products every 24 hours until your cats learn to leave the couch alone.

Thanks for not declawing your kitties and for recognizing scratching is a natural cat behavior that needs a healthy outlet. You’re an awesome pet parent.

Cathy M. Rosenthal is a longtime animal advocate, author, columnist and pet expert who has more than 25 years in the animal welfare field. Send your pet questions, stories and tips to cathy@petpundit.com. Please include your name, city, and state. You can follow her @cathymrosenthal.
Watch out for deceptive auto dealer ads

As a result of the many columns I've written addressing consumer issues involving auto dealerships, and the contacts I've established as a result, I've been made aware of an advertising tactic about which you should all know. Before I get into the details, let me start by saying simply that if the advertised price of a new car looks too good to be true it probably is.

Buyer beware: There are auto dealerships that post prices to their websites and place advertisements in newspapers that tout incredible deals on new cars. The fine print typically says something like, "You must qualify". But just what does that mean? Customers are told everything from "The car sold just before you got here" to "You don't qualify."

Before making a call or showing up in person, do your research on the dealership. Start by checking its online reviews at sites like Yelp. If the Better Business Bureau is part of your research, be sure to look at more than simply the dealership's BBB rating. In some cases, dealers receive an A+ from the BBB — even when consumers have posted overwhelmingly negative reviews to the BBB site. When I asked Chicago and Northern Illinois BBB president and CEO Steve Bernas about this seeming contradiction, he provided this explanation: "Customer reviews are truly representing customers' opinions of the business, whereas the BBB grade represents the BBB's opinion of the business." He explained that customer reviews don't affect the BBB grade. However, they do play into the five star Composite Score underneath. The Composite Score is 67 percent BBB rating and 33 percent customer review rating.

He continued: "Complaints filed with the BBB are what affect the [letter] grade. Complaints are what we get involved with and try to seek resolution to. Grades are done by algorithm. The algorithm looks at 13 different standards, including number of complaints filed, business size and other factors."

I reached out to the Illinois Attorney General's office to ask about enforcement of a motor vehicle advertising regulation that includes the following verbiage: "The availability of a limited rebate maybe advertised if the terms of the limitation are clearly and conspicuously disclosed. It is an unfair or deceptive act to advertise a price or amount of an installment payment in which limited rebates have been deducted, or to advertise a total amount of rebate if a portion of the total consists of a limited rebate." An AG spokesperson told me the AG's office routinely enforces this law. She added consumers who find themselves up against a dealership in violation of this regulation should file a complaint with the AG's office.

When I asked Paul Laton, Fields sales manager in Glenview, what consumers can do to protect themselves from deceptive auto advertising scams, he advised buyers to:

- Say you must qualify for certain rebates.
- Say you must buy an extended service contract to get the advertised price.
- Try to add fees like "dealer prep" or "lot fee" to the advertised price.
- He also offered the following guidance:
  - Make sure the monthly payments add up correctly with the sale price you are quoted.
  - Request a printed bill of sale with all taxes and fees in order that you may request a check from a credit union or bank. If they refuse, it's a major red flag.
  - Laton said these problems typically come up when it's time to close the deal, with the customer sitting in the dealer's finance office. With a little investigating conducted before, customers should be able to avoid getting this far into a potentially stressful and upsetting buying situation.

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

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist.

Dear Chicago, Will you send us your proposal video? We're asking on one knee.

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Critic Mark Athitakis uses literature to strip myth from the modern view in "The New Midwest"

By John Warner  | Chicago Tribune

A good work of fiction can help you see the world differently. A good work of criticism can help you see a good book differently, which, in turn, alters the world again.


At one point, Midwestern literature was American literature. As William Faulkner said, Mark Twain was the first truly American writer. Ernest Hemingway, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Willa Cather, Carl Sandburg, Saul Bellow, Richard Wright, Sinclair Lewis, Upton Sinclair and on and on. Midwestern books and Midwestern writers defined the country's values, stories of labor, struggle, faith, all in the service of pursuing the American Dream.

But as Athitakis notes in his introduction, these authors told us of a Midwest that no longer exists. Sandburg's "City of the Big Shoulders" is no longer hog butcher for the world. Does the "Main Street" of Sinclair Lewis even exist anymore?

Last year's presidential election has led to much soul searching over the expression of Midwestern values. By narrow margins, Wisconsin and Michigan tipped the balance to Donald Trump. Wisconsin, once the cradle of progressiveivism, and Michigan, once the epicenter of union labor, voted for a man with a golden toilet.

Is the Midwest Chicago and Detroit and Milwaukee? Is it Youngstown and Topeka? Are there two Midwesterns--one rural, religious and white; the other urban and marked by segregation?

Using the lens of novels and short stories published over the past 30 or so years, Athitakis seeks to illuminate the ways we still lean on literary mythology of the Midwest when it comes to defining the region.

I remember election night as the returns rolled in, feeling something close to certain that the people I come from, the people I know, would not vote for a vulgarian like Trump. At the same time, I also knew, deep down, that the current narrative of the Midwest as an exemplar of the country is one of alienation and uncertainty. The myths have lost their potency.

Through this series of essays on the new Midwest, Athitakis provides a lens that helps us see contemporary times more clearly. Rather than organizing by author, or by era, each chapter is themed: immigration in "The Latest Migrants," labor in "Hard Work and Other Lies of the Heartland" and religion in "Is This Heaven?"

In his essay on religion, Athitakis ties together Marilynne Robinson and David Foster Wallace, revealing how old attitudes toward Midwestern literature skew critical understanding of the work. Athitakis notes how Robinson's novels are called "quintessentially American...peopled by humble characters, centered on family, driven by hope," but in reality, these impressions are rather facile, obscuring her exploration of "the Civil Rights Movement, poverty, violence, prostitution, troubled faith, and failure."

Wallace's posthumous, unfinished novel, "The Pale King," is an exploration of how we can transcend boredom, a call to find faith in "drudgery."

These are not novels of the "quiet Midwest." The literature of the new Midwest challenges the time capsule image of the region that seems to prevail in the broader conversation.

By design, the book is a mere conversation starter. In fewer than 100 pages, Athitakis touches on a couple of dozen or more authors.

These conversations are necessary, no matter who is president. We should always strive to see what's here and now—not what was.

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

Book recommendations from the Biblioracle

1. "The Library at Mount Char" by Scott Hawkins
2. "Euphoria" by Lily King
3. "The Mirage" by Matt Ruff
4. "Dusk or Dark or Dawn or Day" by Seanan McGuire
5. "The Reflection" by Hugo Wilcken

Peer should seek out the very recently released "Ill Will" by Dan Chaon, who has become one of our leading lights of psychological suspense.

1. "Universal Harvester" by John Darnielle
2. "Lincoln in the Bardo" by George Saunders
3. "The Impossible Fortress" by Jason Rekulak
4. "The Nix" by Nathan Hill
5. "Mercury" by Margot Livesey

Lance is tapped into the zeitgeist of contemporary literary fiction with this list, which makes me a little cautious about recommending something current. I'm going to dip back a few years and choose a great book that maybe didn't quite make the zeitgeist: "Return to Oakpine" by Ron Carlson.

1. "Nutshell" by Ian McEwan
2. "Hillbilly Elegy" by J.D. Vance
3. "Strangers In Their Own Land" by Arlie Russell Hochschild
4. "Fates and Furies" by Lauren Groff
5. "Difficult Women" by Lauren Groff

I can't sign off for this week without recommending a Midwestern writer. I think Sarah may take to Jane Smiley's "The Last Hundred Years" trilogy, the first of which is "Some Luck."

Get a reading from the Biblioracle!

Send a list of the last five books you've read to printersrow@chicagotribune.com. Write "Biblioracle" in the subject line.
PALO ALTO PAIR: Bill and Dave, who made it big

BY MARK MCCLAIN | EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN

ACROSS
1 Rank below cpl. 67 Golf scorecard abbr.
4 Snoop of rap 68 Car door flap
8 Get a new mortgage, briefly 69 Rank above cpl.
12 Certain Broadway wannabe 72 Italian cars
18 Plumlike fruit 73 Deutschland's denial
19 Language of Pakistan 75 Yapper
20 Welsh version of John 77 Singer Lyle
21 Opulent home 80 Bounteous return
22 Aircraft slower 81 Like two peas in a pod
25 Key near D 84 "Skyfall" singer
26 Supplements 86 Arithmetic
27 Orgami bird 87 Coal source
28 — Lanka 88 Small combos
29 "Modern" prefix 89 Climax
30 Editor's backlog: Abbr. 90 Comprise
31 Low wetlands 91 Supermarket
32 Suit material 92 Membre de la famille
33 W'VW address 93 "Melancholy" odist
34 Muralist Rivera 94 Movement via liquid pressure
35 Be remorseful for 95 Approximate
36 Creeping phlox or blue dogbane 96 As a joke
37 Creeping phlox or blue dogbane 97 Rural lodging
38 Quinn of films 98 What you eat
39 Upscale Honda 99 Rural lodging
40 Snacks in shells 100 Approximately
41 Farming prefix 102 Cruise amenity
42 Director Dunham 104 Trade
43 Pallid 105 Toolbox poker
44 Author Calvino 106 Contort
45 — with faint praise 107 Big name in broth
46 Yanks on 108 Some pay-stub stats.
47 5th letter of "neat" 109 Emergency signal
48 Suit material 110 First Obi-Wan portrait
49 Wild guess 111 Heroic fliers
50 Polynesian menu platter 112 Morning phone
51 In short supply 113 Coat hanger
52 Fast-food staple 114 What you eat
53 Mawkish humor 115 White Daisy
54 Astronomer's muse 116 Year-end events
55 Weather-changing currents 117 Year-end events
58 Weather-changing currents 118 Bottom-row phone button
60 Weather-changing currents 119 Train of thought
61 Diva's performance 120 Poetic time
62 Miscue 121 In short supply
63 Terse turndowns 122 Playpen pile
64 Terse turndowns 123 Extremities
65 Weimar wife 124 Slip-- (some shoes)

DOWN
1 Walks wearily 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
3 Turn over via treaty 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
4 It's northeast of Glasgow 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
5 Choir's accompaniment 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
6 Macroeconomic stat. 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
7 Nacho dip, for short 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
8 Slopes down 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
9 With consistency 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
10 What you eat 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
11 Rural lodging 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
12 Judicial order 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
13 Gives out, as tasks 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
14 Unspecific ordinal 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
15 Scott of Hawai'i 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
16 Raison d'etre 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
17 Loss via default 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
18 Deception 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
19 As a joke 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
20 Anime sound 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
21 Opulent home 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
22 Aircraft slower 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
23 As a joke 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
24 Cape Cod resort 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
25 Key near D 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
26 Supplements 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
27 Orgami bird 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
28 — Lanka 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
29 "Modern" prefix 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
30 Editor's backlog: Abbr. 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
31 Low wetlands 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
32 Suit material 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
33 W'VW address 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
34 Muralist Rivera 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
35 Be remorseful for 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
36 Creeping phlox or blue dogbane 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
37 Creeping phlox or blue dogbane 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
38 Quinn of films 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
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42 Director Dunham 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
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48 Suit material 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
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50 Polynesian menu platter 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
51 In short supply 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
52 Fast-food staple 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
53 Mawkish humor 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
54 Astronomer's muse 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
55 Weather-changing currents 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
58 Weather-changing currents 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
60 Weather-changing currents 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
61 Diva's performance 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
62 Miscue 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
63 Terse turndowns 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
64 Terse turndowns 124 Slip-- (some shoes)
65 Weimar wife 124 Slip-- (some shoes)

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

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.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Clues</th>
<th>Words</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A. Lewis Carroll poem</td>
<td>80 33 126 71 92 9 121 146 107 66 56</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B. Frightful</td>
<td>77 63 5 147 25 55 96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C. Diffusion process</td>
<td>38 67 82 60 14 118 157</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>D. Toothwheel mechanism</td>
<td>125 141 106 51 24 70 8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>E. Kitchen adjunct</td>
<td>35 163 111 47 131 88 101</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F. Rodgers and Hammerstein's first musical</td>
<td>72 137 102 44 148 160 75 28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>G. Denizen of Shady Lane, song lyric: 2 wds</td>
<td>116 87 127 104 2 79 59 15 53 143 41</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>H. Without</td>
<td>145 109 45 129 30 159 23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>I. Kind of maneuver</td>
<td>7 93 19 158 149 31 46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

J. On this spot: 2 wds.
K. Like medical tests
L. Title
M. Skin spot
N. Heelless shoe
O. Cleverness
P. Fettor
Q. Gamma or manta
R. Michigan land mass: 2 wds.
S. Least heavy
T. Kind of maneuver

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

Numerology

BY CHARLES PRESTON

Across
1 Pace ___ at Indy
4 Slip-up
9 Year in time of Pope Gregorius I
13 Turkey cocker
15 Singer Frankie
16 Whit, jot or ___
17 Songstress Horne
18 Siouans
19 City on the Oka
20 Passing show
23 Lap robe
24 Bishopric
25 New York lake
28 Percalos
30 Deserter
33 Illuminated again
34 Massage
36 Same old grind
38 Spleen
39 Gymkhana event
45 Louis TV
46 ___ are the one"
47 Like some wit
48 Emissary
51 Salt, in Rouen
53 Eldritch
57 Mourner

59 ___ pro nobis
61 Letters
62 State of being ambidextrous
66 Information
68 Spitting ___
69 Record of deeds
70 Always
71 Remarks
72 "___ also serve"
73 Alan or Cheryl
74 Wear away
75 Goddess of plenty

59 ___ pro nobis
61 Letters
62 State of being ambidextrous
66 Information
68 Spitting ___
69 Record of deeds
70 Always
71 Remarks
72 "___ also serve"
73 Alan or Cheryl
74 Wear away
75 Goddess of plenty

Down
1 Red and black
2 ___ of the Americas
3 Bridge no-no
4 Panegyric
5 Newsmen Dan
6 Disturbance
7 Singles
8 Musical intuences
9 Marie, one of five
10 Daughter of King Lear
11 Moab or Canaan follower
12 Worth: abbr.
14 River in northern Thailand

21 Emit
22 Prefix meaning aircraft
26 Geom. figure
27 Suit to ___
29 Common prefix
31 Debate
32 Hudson sight
34 Fear
35 Popular bread
49 ___ Christian Soldiers
50 ___ man: CPO
52 Dwelt
54 Reverberate again
55 Foot part
56 Lamb's output
58 Wine area
60 Songstress Della
63 Eros
64 Alliance
65 King Cole
66 Neighbor of MD
67 Actress Gardner

Last week's answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island © 2017 Creators News Service.
Can a monster-in-law break up a marriage?

An email I got from a newly divorced reader:

Jackie, what is the best thing I can do to get over my ex-spouse? I am having the hardest time because she gave up after eight months of marriage and was unwilling to go to counseling. She always talked to her mom and spent a lot of her time with her (three to four times a week.) I voiced concerns about priorities with her in terms of our relationship because I felt her time and devotion were all geared toward her mom. I never told her what she could or couldn't do, nor did I try to drive a wedge between her and her mother. But, our plans were often canceled because her mom called and needed something. I am just wondering did I do something wrong?

There are two issues that come to mind when I think about this guy's situation: boundaries and balance. It doesn't seem as if these things existed in the marriage.

When two people are in a committed relationship, it is up to both partners to discuss and set boundaries for family members and friends. Also, a successful marriage is about having a healthy balance. A couple owes it to their relationship to spend time together with no outsiders — not even their kids. Every married couple needs "alone" time to foster a continued connection. It is also important for couples to spend time with family (both sides) and friends. Furthermore, each partner needs to maintain closeness with his or her own family and friends. Where problems arise is when these get-togethers become excessive, leaving the husband or wife feeling alone a lot, left out and hurt.

So, did this guy's mother-in-law cause his divorce? We can't know from hearing one side of the story. But I can say some really big problems in the marriage seemed to have stemmed from two women who forgot what it means to say "I do".

Maybe in this case there were other issues that drove the wife away from her husband and toward her mom. Then again, maybe she was a mama's girl who just never grew up. There is a third scenario: maybe the mother-in-law was a controlling monster-in-law.

On that subject, I'm getting to an age where lots of my friends are becoming mothers-in-law. The mom of two teenagers, I will probably not be a mother-in-law for quite a while, but I do feel versed in this area having had a less than ideal relationship with my former mother-in-

law and watching my mother be a mother-in-law.

Based on what I saw, here are 10 tips for mothers-in-law who want the best possible relationships with their children and the spouses they choose:

1. When you meet your son or daughter's new love, he or she might not be who you imagined your child would bring home. Give the person a chance and try not to judge right away.

2. It is not important if you don't have much in common with your son or daughter's spouse. What matters is if the two of them have a lot in common.

3. If engaged, try to stay out of the couple's wedding plans. Only offer advice if asked.

4. Have some alone time with both your son or daughter and with his or her spouse.

5. Make an effort to get to know the other family. Treat them as part of your family because they are.

6. Be sensitive to and respect religious or cultural beliefs and traditions. You could end up learning a lot and enjoying enriching experiences.

7. Don't talk negatively to your son or daughter about his spouse or the family.

8. Don't pressure the couple to spend time with you. Remember that they are newly in love and want time alone together.

9. If the couple has an argument, try to stay neutral. Listen to each of them if they get you involved, but don't offer advice, don't bad-mouth either of them, and don't try to play mediator.

10. In the end, it doesn't really matter if you and your son or daughter-in-law are best friends. What's important is the way he or she treats your son or daughter. Does he/she respect your son or daughter? Does he/she show them love and affection? And most importantly, is your son or daughter truly happy? That is ultimately any mother's wish, isn't it?

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist.
ASK THE DOCTORS

Dietary fiber an integral part of a healthy diet

By Dr. Eve Glazier and Dr. Elizabeth Ko
Ask the Doctors

Dear Doctor: Our family went out to dinner the other night, and when I urged our kids to order a salad instead of French fries because of the dietary fiber in salads, they challenged me to explain why. I was embarrassed that all I could come up with about the benefits of fiber was “because it’s good for you.” Can you help?

Dear Reader: Don’t feel bad! With your brief answer, you got right to the heart of the matter — dietary fiber is integral to a well-balanced diet and to a healthy life. It lowers your risk of heart disease, diabetes and certain cancers, prevents constipation, stabilizes blood sugar and can help you maintain a healthy weight.

But kids are often natural skeptics when it comes to any kind of rules, so we’re happy to help you out with the science of why dietary fiber matters.

Let’s start with what we’re referring to when we talk about fiber. Dietary fiber is the part of the fruit, vegetable or grain that your body cannot digest and absorb. It falls into two basic categories: Fiber that can dissolve in water is known as soluble fiber. Fiber that cannot dissolve in water, and which passes through the body pretty much intact, is known as insoluble fiber.

Each type of fiber offers a specific health benefit. Soluble fiber dissolves in water to form a kind of gel matrix, which puts the brakes on the entire digestive process. The presence of soluble fiber slows the absorption of sugars, which stabilizes blood glucose levels. It binds cholesterol so that instead of being absorbed by the body, cholesterol is excreted. And because the stomach takes longer to empty when soluble fiber is present, you wind up feeling fuller for longer.

Insoluble fiber, meanwhile, has an equally important role. Not only does the texture and “chew” that insoluble fiber adds to food make a meal more interesting, it travels relatively unchanged through the digestive tract and gives much-needed bulk to stool. This results in easier and more regular elimination. Insoluble fiber also helps to control the pH of the colon, and helps to prevent microbes from producing cancerous substances.

How much fiber do you need? Recommendations put the number at 25 grams a day for women younger than 50, and 38 grams a day for men younger than 50. For adults older than 50, the number is 21 grams a day for women, and 30 grams a day for men.

Although all kinds of fiber supplements are available, they lack vitamins, minerals and micro-nutrients, so it’s better to eat whole foods. Most fruits, vegetables, beans, legumes and grains contain both soluble and insoluble fiber, but in differing amounts. For the best results, eat from a wide range of foods.

If fiber has been missing from your diet, it’s wise to add it slowly. Make the change to a high-fiber diet too quickly and you run the risk of unpleasant side effects, such as gas. And be sure to drink plenty of liquid to keep the fiber moving smoothly.

Eve Glazier, M.D., MBA, is an internist and assistant professor of medicine at UCLA Health. Elizabeth Ko, M.D., is an internist and primary care physician at UCLA Health.

Send your questions to askthedoctos@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.

Sweating in the sauna can benefit brain, heart

By Joe Graedon and Teresa Graedon
King Features Syndicate

Q: Saunas are the only gym experience I enjoy. I’ve led a very active and physical work life and had better-than-average strength and endurance. Exercise never makes me feel better. It leaves me sore and tired instead. Saunas help me feel cleansed, extremely relaxed and energized afterward.

A: Two studies from Finland demonstrate the health benefits of regular sauna use. Finns love saunas, and most visit them at least once a week.

A decades-long study of more than 2,000 middle-aged men found that those who spent more time in the sauna were less likely to have a fatal heart attack (JAMA Internal Medicine, April 2015). A more recent analysis of data from this study showed that men visiting the sauna at least four times a week were 66 percent less likely to develop dementia than those who went only once a week (Age and Ageing, Dec. 8).

The researchers who conducted these studies note that blood pressure and heart function are improved after a sauna. Relaxation, improved blood vessel flexibility and lower inflammation may account for the brain and heart benefits.

Q: I have severe osteoarthritis in my knees. I cannot take ibuprofen due to having had a lap-band procedure. Tylenol is ineffective for my knee pain. The arthritis is quite debilitating and painful, and over time my flexibility and mobility have dramatically declined.

A: Do not put Vicks VapoRub in your nostrils. The petroleum-jelly base, if inhaled, could irritate the lungs and cause pneumonitis.

It sounds as if you are sensitive to one of the ingredients in Vicks, possibly camphor or menthol. You would do well to avoid it.

In their column, Joe and Teresa Graedon answer letters from readers. Send questions to them via www.peoplespharmacy.com.
We know your favorite spot better than your spouse.

Reintroducing Chicago's original entertainment guide

Experience the new Metromix.com, now on all of your devices. With entertainment listings that cover the city and the suburbs, we're your go-to source so you can spend less time planning, and more time doing.
How to introduce dog, baby

Classes can help parents with training

By Randi Stevenson
Chicago Tribune

The terms “dog mom” and “dog dad” have gained popularity recently, thanks to social media and a bombardment of products aimed at dog owners. But what happens when new parents find out they’re becoming people parents?

For many couples and their canine companions, bringing a baby home is no bigger task than a few resources to help the transition go smoothly. In big cities and small towns, dog-training businesses offer classes and individual training aimed at owners whose pets need attention for bites.

“The key is to accept that things are going to be different and out of the way,” said Robin Edwards, co-founder of Home Dog Training of South Florida. “Some (parents) that are maybe five to six months pregnant, they welcomed home a fake baby.

The couple did what a lot of new parents do: They Googled, and at six months pregnant, they welcomed home a fake baby.

They carried it around, rocked it, put it to bed — even called it baby Luke — in hopes their Chihuahua mix would get used to having an infant around. Alvarez said Paco wasn’t fooled for long. He was well-behaved when real baby Luke arrived in early 2015.

“When we came over with the real baby, he was curious,” Alvarez said. “It took a couple months for him to get used to everything.”

The first few months are critical, said Joan Harris, director of training and canine behavior at PAWS Chicago.

“Parents and adults have to really be on spot with that relationship,” Harris said. “Especially people who had dogs as children. They don’t realize how much their own parents supervised things.”

Dogs that are aggressively protective of people, food or toys are referred to as “resource guardians” and require extra caution and work. Stewart said a professional trainer may be needed.

Even more laid-back dogs have their limits. “Children are not equipped to read dogs’ body language, so they don’t adjust like an adult would,” said Harris.

Part of Braun’s motivation for attending Bowser & The Baby was her uncertainty about how Milks would handle being around infants and toddlers.

“If I’m holding an infant, she won’t leave my side, and she wants to sniff the baby like crazy,” she said. “I don’t feel comfortable enough to leave the baby on the floor with the dog, because I just don’t know what she’s going to do.”

This is where “Go to place” comes in handy, a command all trainers seem to rally behind. Different dog owners may have different words, but the goal is to create a safe place for Fido where he’s happy and comfortable — like a dog bed in the corner of the living room — so that when mom and dad need to focus on baby, the dog can be put somewhere he feels safe and content — and out of the way.

“Baby has a place, the dog should have a place,” Stewart said.

Alone time for mom, dad and dog is also important, said Harris. After all, they were used to being the only child.

“They do become part of your family,” Braun said about Milka. “She’s my baby too.”

Stewart said a common misconception is that dog bites happen without warning. That warning will come in the form of body language: The dog may tuck its tail between its legs, put its ears back, excessively yawn or lick its nose, or turn its head away from the action.

Dogs that do show signs of stress need more work at home and, in some cases, professional help. For those pups, nonprofit shelters across the country often host group classes for basic training commands, and it’s not hard to find private businesses that offer baby- or kid-specific training.

As for online resources, owners can find everything from video tutorials to webinars — even a hotline. National organizations, like the ASPCA and Humane Society, have sections of their website dedicated to the topic.

The key is to accept that things will be different and not to buy into what industry pros call “the Lassie myth” — the idea that your dog and baby are going to follow each other around and be the best of friends.

That said, Paco and Luke have managed to form a beautiful bond. As Alvarez put it, “When Luke comes home from daycare, he goes right to the dog.”

restein@chicagotribune.com
Nantucket-style
Glen Ellyn home: $2M

ADDRESS: 724 Hill Ave. in Glen Ellyn
ASKING PRICE: $1,999,900
Listed on Feb. 22, 2017

The home includes a large gourmet kitchen with a quartzite-covered island, Sub-Zero and Wolf appliances and a butler's pantry. The lower level has a professionally equipped, onyx-plated bar, which is bordered by a private home theater and game room that walk out to the patio and outdoor fireplace. Upper floors include five bedrooms with vaulted ceilings and extensive custom cabinetry and millwork, including a master suite with luxurious bath.

Agent: Matthew McCollum of Keller Williams Premiere Properties, 630-790-6970

At press time, this home was still for sale.

To feature your luxury listing of $800,000 or more in Chicago Tribune’s Dream Homes, send listing information and high-res photos to ctc-realestate@chicagotribune.com.
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- The Toronto Star
A young teen learns some interesting lessons about himself and others in "13," presented by Devonshire Playhouse Teen Performers from March 18 to 26.

**FAMILY FRIENDLY**

**Teens get to act their age in Devonshire Theatre’s ‘13’**

By Myrna Petlicki
Pioneer Press

Life has become complex for Evan Goldman in "13" by Jason Robert Brown (music and lyrics) and Dan Elish and Robert Horn (book). There’s his parents’ divorce, a move from New York to a small Indiana town and his upcoming bar mitzvah.

"I love this show. It's one of my favorites," said Jessica Sawyer, who directs the Devonshire Playhouse Teen Performers' production. "It's a really funny and honest look at middle school and adolescence. Giving teens a chance to speak their experience onstage in that creative way is an important thing for them to do."

The show features a cast of 16, ages 12-16.

The director said the lesson Evan learns is that, "It's more important to be true to himself and know who his friends are than to try to be cool and popular."

Performances are 7 p.m. Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays, March 18-26 at 4400 Greenwood St., Skokie.

Tickets are $12-$13. For details, call 847-674-1500, ext. 2400 or go to www.skokieparks.org/devonshire-playhouse.

**It's in the bag**

Talk about a great deal. You and your kids can purchase a bag for $4 and fill it with books during the Friends Spring Cleaning Sale, noon-4 p.m. March 25 at Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. Come to the Book Sale Room early for the best selection.

For details, call 708-867-2299 or go to www.eisenhowerlibrary.org.

**Have a ball**

Rain forest trees are used to make Gumballs & Superballs. You and your child, ages 4-10, will learn how during a Weekend Family Class at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, 9:30-11 a.m. or 1-2:30 p.m. April 8. The cost is $24 per child; $19.20 for members. Register early for this popular event.

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

**Shape up**

Getting and staying healthy is the purpose of the Fitness for All program at Kohl Children's Museum, 2100 Patriot Blvd., Glenview. Musical Shapes will be the focus of the program, 2:30-4 p.m. March 21, 23, 28 and 30.

Children will discover what shape they will be in when the music stops — circle, square or star.

For details, call 847-835-8261 or go to www.chicagobotanic.org/education.

**Hair today**

Those creatures with the wild, loud-colored hair and happy attitude confront some problems in "Trolls." The 90-minute PG-rated film will be screened at 3 p.m. March 20 at Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave. No registration is required.

For details, call 847-825-3123 or go to www.parkridgelibrary.org.
Polish Museum marks 80th anniversary

Event: 80th Anniversary Celebration
Commemorating: The opening of the Polish Museum of America in Chicago
Location: Sabina P. Loglitz Great Hall of the PMA
Date: Jan. 22
Attended: 200
Funds raised: Will go toward PMA general operations
Website: www.polishmuseumofamerica.org

Micheline Jaminski, from left, Malgorzata Kot of Schiller Park, Museum managing director, Richard Owslany of Chicago, Museum president, Marek, Emilia, Paula and Agnieszka Kowalczyk, all of Park Ridge, new life members, Maria Bronny Ciesla of Park Ridge and Joseph Drobot Jr. of Chicago

Betty Usarowicz of Downers Grove, from left, Prof. Mira Modelska Creech of La Grange, Mietek Szczesniak, vocalist from Poland, Anna Sokolowski of Downers Grove, Malgorzata Kot of Schiller Park, Polish Museum managing director and Helena Soltys of Niles

Karen Frederick of Evanston, Steppenwolf artistic director, from left, Anna D. Shapiro of Evanston, Phylicia Rashad, 2017 honoree and Cathy Iverson of Skokie were among 250 guests at the 2017 Steppenwolf Salutes Women in the Arts luncheon hosted by Steppenwolf Theatre at the Blu Aqua Hotel, Chicago on Feb. 6. The event, which honored Rashad for her acting achievements, also raised $140,000 for Steppenwolf’s educational and professional development programs. More at www.steppenwolf.org.

“The Nature Project,” a show of ecologically themed works by Oakton Community College art students and faculty, runs through March 26 the Brickton Art Center, 306 Busse Highway, Park Ridge. Works in a variety of media emphasize ideas of going green. The show is free and open to the public, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. For more information, email lplerozz@oakton.edu or clouds@oakton.edu.

GARDEN WALKS & PLANT SALES
Thinking spring? We are, and we’re planning a roundup of local garden walks and plant sales. Garden clubs and other groups who host these events can submit the address, date, time and some details of the event, whether there is an admission fee, and a phone number or email for publication, to Debbie Hoppe, dhoppe@pioneerlocal.com, by April 7 to be included.
WHEELING

Three-bedroom, two-bath custom ranch built on cul-de-sac in 1989. Stainless steel appliances, new flooring and lighting, newer furnace and freshly painted. Full basement, professionally landscaped backyard, family rec room and wheelchair accessible garage.

Address: 803 Reef Court
Price: $299,990
Schools: Wheeling High School
Taxes: $2,734
Agent: Connie Hoos, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage

NILES


Address: 8016 N. Oconto Ave.
Price: $338,900
Schools: Maine East High School
Taxes: $6,571
Agent: Molly Scott, Century 21 Marino, Inc.

VERNON HILLS

Three-bedroom, 2.5-bath two-story home built in 1976. Bay window in living room, which opens to dining room, and updated kitchen, which opens to family room. Yard features patio and garage with epoxy floor. Full bath in master bedroom. Dry, partially finished basement. Central air.

Address: 3 Augusta Drive
Price: $359,900
Schools: Vernon Hills High School
Taxes: $8,302
Agent: Lori Progar, Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage Libertyville

WILMETTE

Newly built six-bedroom, 5.5-bath home in east Wilmette on extra deep lot, Chef's kitchen, custom millwork, coffered ceilings. First-floor office with custom shelves and USB ports, hardwood floors from first to third floor, master suite with steam shower, two-car garage.

Address: 527 Greenleaf Ave.
Price: $1,825,000
Schools: New Trier Township High School
Taxes: $11,382
Agent: Kevin Rutherford, Baird & Warner Winnetka

Listings from Homefinder.com

PLAY $100 ON US

MARCH 1 - 31

Join Rush Rewards this March. Play $100 and we'll email you back $100 in Free Slot Play!

RIVERS CASINO

See Rush Rewards for official rules. Promotion only valid for newly established Rush Rewards members. Not valid on Video Poker slot machines or Table Games. Must register a minimum loss of $100 between 12:00 AM - 11:59 PM on day of entry. Entry may be limited by management. No cash value. Must already have email address to receive Free Slot Play for the promotion. Offer is valid at all Rivers Casino Venues. Subject to state and local laws. Provided in 2017. Valid photo ID may be required. No entries prior to or after. Offer is not transferable or duplicable. Offer ends on March 31, 2022. Not valid for any Rush voucher. A portion of the proceeds from each Rush ticket may be donated to the Autism Education Program. Must be 21 years of age or older. If you or someone you know has a gambling problem, crisis counseling and referral services can be accessed by calling 1-800-GAMBLER (1-800-425-324)
Moving on up: Rug styles shift from floor to furnishings

BY KIM COOK
Associated Press

As part of the red-hot globalism trend, "tribal style" — exotic, eclectic and influenced by travel — has spread from fashion to home decor. There's a caravan of interesting furniture and accessories that work in any space, from the sleek and contemporary to the simple and functional.

"It's a look that's meant to reflect the places you've been and decorative objects you brought home," says New York designer Elaine Griffin. "And it's perfectly fine if you've voyaged no further than the internet, in the comfort of your living room."

Rugs are a big part of the style, and not just on the floor. Griffin says "the flat-weave kilim and dhurrie rugs that are now back with a vengeance move stylishly onto upholstered chairs, sofas and ottomans."

Kilim rugs are admired for their bold, geometric flat-weave patterns. They've been hand-woven for generations in Turkey, North Africa, the Middle East and Asia.

A lot of their appeal lies in the bold motifs and pigment dyes, with elements like wolf's mouths, stars and fertility symbols interpreted in geometric patterns. Back in Victorian England, smoking rooms and nooks were rife with kilim-covered furniture.

British manufacturer George Smith (www.georgesmith.com) is known for kilim upholstery marked by careful pattern alignment and crisply tucked edges. They make a range of armchairs and benches covered in detailed modern and vintage Turkish flat-weaves.

Karma Living's collection (www.karmaliving.net) of smartly styled midcentury modern chairs and footstools are upholstered in bold stripes and tribal patterns.

Both new and antique versions are interesting, working well not only as upholstery but also as wall hangings or table coverings. The handcrafted nature of kilim, Oriental and rag rugs plays well with woods and metals. White walls make them pop, while more saturated hues are complementary frames.

Joss & Main's style director, Donna Garlough, says pouf ottomans are one of her favorite twists on the Bohemian-inspired trend. "They're a great way to add a pop of pattern to a room, and you can use them for extra seating if you're having a party," she says.

An added bonus of these materials is that they're pretty tightly woven and durable, and the bright patterns often camouflage stains.

"You don't have to worry as much about a toddler spilling juice on a kilim-covered cocktail ottoman as you would if the upholstery were linen or leather," Garlough says.

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Associated Press
HOUSE BEAUTIFUL!
Northbrook...First Offer! Beautiful 4 Br - 2 ½ bath Brick Colonial with High End Finishes throughout. Hardwood floors on 1st & 2nd floor. Custom Solid Oak Entry Door. High End Kitchen w/42” Maple Cabs, Quartz Counters, SS Appliances & Separate Eat Area overlooking Large Landscaped Fenced Yard & Patio. Family Room with Fireplace. Newer Powder Room with Quartz counter. Master BR Suite with 2 Custom closets & dressing area. Rec Room w/recessed lights. Steps from Leisure Center & Park. Close to Downtown Train. 2 car attached garage. $635,000

RARE “SILK STOCKING” LOCATION!!

PRICE REDUCED TO SELL - $499,000!
Skokie... Stunning Brick 2 story, Quality built in 2008 with exceptional finishes. Hardwood Floors. Spacious living room & formal dining room with built-in granite buffet. Gourmet kitchen with 42” custom cabinets; granite counters & back-splash, SS appliances, huge island w/cabinet space. Open concept great room/family rm with FP. Master Suite w/tray ceilings, balcony & walk-in closet. Master Bath w/whirlpool & separate shower. 2nd floor laundry, 4 brs & 3 ½ baths. Oversized 2.5 car garage. Full Bsmt with 9’ ceilings. Walk to town, train, parks & school. $499,000

MUST SEE TO APPRECIATE!
Buffalo Grove... Spectacular 9 room 2 story home located in Highland Grove! Brand new windows & many recent updates! Large living room & separate dining room. Gorgeous eat in kitchen with beautiful cabinets, Granite counters & stainless steel appliances opens to main floor family room with fireplace leads to patio & large yard. 4 large bedrooms on 2nd floor. Master bedroom with master bath. Beautiful wood laminate floors on main level. Bonus lower level rec room & utility room. 2 car attached garage with direct entry to house. Stevenson High School. $405,000
COMMUNITY REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

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6 essential filters in a home that shouldn't be forgotten

BY JURA KONCIS

In our homes there are lots of hard-working things equipped with filters that trap dust balls, pollen and many other impurities. Some filters, such as those in dehumidifiers and dryers, are reusable and must be cleaned regularly, others, such as refrigerator and HVAC, are disposable and need to be replaced on a regular basis. Changing a filter can get pushed to the bottom of a jammed-to-do list. This can result in costly and unhealthy consequences.

In certain home systems, filters are essential to keeping air circulating. You must keep airflow moving. "It's as important as changing the oil in your car," says home expert Mike Holmes of DIY Network's "Holmes on Homes" series.

Neglecting HVAC filters can increase your power bill or damage your system, says Carrie Kirby, customer experience manager at online filter store Filters Fast. "It can also impact indoor air quality and can affect people with allergies or asthma," Kirby says.

Kirby says consumers should not try to save money by using disposable filters. "We've had customers vacuum their disposable furnace filter and put it back in," Kirby says. "They're not designed to handle the pressure. They trap dust balls, pollen and many other impurities. The more often you replace your furnace filter — usually every 30 to 90 days — the longer your furnace could last."

The more often you replace your furnace filter — usually every 30 to 90 days — the longer your furnace could last. Often go unnoticed. "They're so small, you forget about them," Kirby says. He suggests replacing them about every 60 days, or after 60 uses, for better-tasting coffee. "It also will increase the life of your coffee maker because it reduces buildup of minerals and scale," Kirby says.

Dryer: The plastic and mesh pullout lint catcher in a dryer needs to be cleaned after every load. Not doing this causes a potential fire hazard, Kirby says. Every once in a while, rinse the lint catcher under a faucet. If the screen in the lint catcher becomes ripped, order a new one. Even small holes will let lint get into the exhaust duct.

Furnace: A furnace filter is one of the most important house filters. This is especially important if you own pets, smoke, or have asthma or allergies. The more often you replace it (usually every 30 to 90 days), the longer your furnace could last. Says Kirby: "If you don't replace your filter as frequently... this might increase your power bill or, worse, create irreparable damage to your system."

Humidifiers: Some HVAC systems have whole-house humidifiers that dispense moisture as you heat. Most come with disposable pads or filters that absorb mineral deposits and other impurities from water. Experts say these should be replaced once or twice a year.

Refrigerator: Many refrigerators have water filters that service ice makers and in-door water dispensers. According to Holmes, most manufacturers recommend replacing them every six months. "If you keep a water jug with a filter in the refrigerator, you tend to pay more attention to that but forget about the other filters in there," he says.

Vacuum cleaner: Disposable vacuum cleaner bags also act as filters. Never let them fill to the maximum capacity, Kirby says. Replace the bags when two-thirds full. Holmes cautions that a stuffed bag can burn out a motor.
Large Multi-Estate Auction
Kendall County Fairgrounds
10826 Route 71, Yorkville, IL 60560
Saturday, March 18th, 2017
9AM Start
Antiques & Collectibles, Lifetime Collections, Household, Furniture, Geraldach Barklow
Prints & Calendars & Much More!

There will be two auction rings.

Deckland, Lowrance 1240A Dual Depth Range, Carpet, 2 Rear Live Wells, Cooler, Garage kept, Tandem Axle Trailer.

Bedroom & Furniture: 5-Pc Queen Cherry Poster Bedroom Set includes 5 Drawer Dresser, 6 Drawer Chest, 3 Drawer w/ Mirror & Nightstand; King Size Bed; Wrought Iron Glass Top Dressing Table & Seat; Oak Dresser & Mirror; (2) Leather Sofas; (2) Leather Love Seats; Leather Rocker/Recliner; Futon Sofa; Glass-top Coffee Table w/wrought iron base; Oak 5' Bar; Bar Stools; Walnut Hall Tree w/Mirror; 3-Pc Mahogany Book Case; White Upright Bathroom Cabinet; Oak Bench; Oak Tea Cart; (3) Oak Stack Glass door Bookcases, Lamp Tables, Pole Lamp, Floor Lamps, work table, footed table, walnut dining room table with leaves & 8 chairs, small chest, jewelry cabinet; 1970's Furniture, Iron base marble top table, old rocking chairs, antique wicker couch with matching chair with cushion - like New, Victorian Chairs with Marble Table - pink, Hall marble table, Bamboo porch furniture, Oriental China Cabinet, Roll Top Desk with 2 Door Cabinet. 4 post Bed, 1900's Round Oak Table with 4 Chairs.

Household: GE side-by-side Refrigerator, black, Vizio 47" Flat screen TV; LG 36" Flat Screen; (2) Plant Stands; (2) Floor Lamps; 5-Tier Shelf; Many Assorted Wall Pictures; China; Glassware Kerosene Lamp; RS Germany Pottery; 18" Floor Safe; Several Baskets; Wooded Race Horse Game Set; 36" Entry Door, 1/2 glass; Health Deluxe Massage Chair; Precor 9.17i Treadmill; Life Cycle R9i Exercise Bike; Everlast Punching Bag; Mary Barbell Set & Stand; Foosball Table; Motobecane Bicycle, Leather seat; Klein Bicycle; Ping Golf Clubs; Harley Davidson Catalogs, Signs, Posters, Belt Buckles, Lighters and Toys; Bird bath, washer and dryer, Crock Water cooler - newer, blankets, linen doilies, plate collection.

Antiques & Dining: Burl Walnut Top Dining Table & (6) Cane-Back Chairs; Antiques Dining Room Cabinet, glass front, Granite top; Peck China Cabinet, glass front; Oak Desk with leather inlaid top High Chair converts to Walker with cast wheels; Tall Glass Front Curio Cabinet; Oak Barrel Bottom Table, 24x36; Tea cart; Copper Lined Smokers Side Table; China Crystal, Coca Cola swing, clock/lamp - new with lead style shade - Iron stop Planter, beaded lamp, glassware & vases, 1970's lamps, various dolls, Many knick Kacks, Gone With the Wind Lamp, 1970's vintage TV, small statues and busts, 30's floor model radio, assorted costume jewelry, Grandfather Clock, Seasonal decorations - Christmas, mirrors, tin windmill, vintage Schwinn girls Bike - Very Good Shape, old luggage, doll House, purple lamp with small busts.

Tools & Equipment: John Deere 261 Grooming Mower; Husqvarna 198000W Mower; Stihl HS46C Hedge Trimmer; Stihl MS 192 TC Chain Saw; Poulan Pro 24" Path Snow Blower, like new; DeWalt 3100psi Pressure washer; Troy-Bilt 4-cyl Power Edger; Several Assorted Power Tools & Yard Equip; Steel Shelving; Craftsman 5-Drawer Tool Chest; Bench Grinder; (2) Aluminum Step Ladders; Patio Set & 6 Chairs; SS Outdoor Grill.

Geraldach Barklow Prints & Calendars: There will be approximately 150-200 Prints from the Nicholas Georges Estate containing various artists, such as: Arthur Hider, Bradshaw Crandell, Adelaide Hiebel, and Zula Kenyon. There will be framed prints, Calendars and Various Handheld Fans containing local Advertising car picture, many pictures and prints, wood carvings, tapestry needle work, oriental art - glassware and pictures, landscape prints and paintings.

Very good quality tools and antiques!
Lifetime collections of items. These Auctions are well attended.
Please try to attend this great quality sale. Please arrive early to view.
Bring a bidding partner, we run two rings all day.

Owner(s): Terry D’Orazio; Estate of Nicholas Georges;
Items from other Estates: Brian DeBolt, Agent

For more information, or to view more photos from this auction, please take a look on our websites.

Content Terms: Cash or good check w/ proper ID. Everything sold as is. Everything paid for day of sale. Not responsible for accidents or items after sold. No buyer premium! Please try to attend this quality sale.

Auctioneers:
Richard Olson, Morris IL
Erik Olson, Morris IL
Brian DeBolt, Plain IL

For more information, or to view more photos from this auction, please take a look on our websites.

312-283-7082
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, March 16

**Eileen Ivers:** 7:30 p.m. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $20-$42, 847-492-8860

**How To Find a College Without Losing Your Mind:** If you are losing sleep over what your child is going to do after high school, join JJB Educational Consultants for this talk about transition planning for students with learning differences. If you can't attend this talk, check the website for more upcoming events. 7 p.m. Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston, free, 847-940-8090

**New Trier Alumni Achievement Awards Dinner:** Eleven New Trier High School alumni, including a new Young Alumni Award recipient, receive the school's Alumni Achievement Award in 2017. Recipients are honored at a dinner hosted by the New Trier Educational Foundation. 6 p.m. Hilton Orrington Evanston, 1710 Orrington Ave, Evanston, $150, 847-784-2346

**FAB 2.01 EDE dances the Beatles:** Come together and help us celebrate EDE's 20th Anniversary as we dance to the Beatles. Even if you can't remember the beat, you can use anywhere you go dancing and still have fun. 8:30 p.m. White Pines Golf Club, 500 W. Jefferson St., Evanston, $10-$30, 847-492-7500

**Salsa Group Dance Class:** Learn Salsa this March with instructor Vito Magrone. He goes over basics that you can use anywhere you go dancing and teaches tips to make your salsa look smooth and polished. Dancers of every skill level, including newcomers, as well as both couples and singles, are welcome in this class. Register online, or in person the first night of class. 7 p.m. Just Dance Studios at Georgetown West, 301 S. Prospect Ave., Wood Dale, $50, 630-542-7644

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

**North Shore Senior Center's Shamrock Shindig:** This is a St. Patrick's Day themed, fundraising event for the Adult Protective Services program. Enjoy a sit-down meal, Irish Dancers, bagpiper, beer, and good company. 6 p.m. Hackney's Glenview, 1514 E. Lake Ave., Glenview, $40 person; $75 couple, 847-724-7171

**Excel 2010 Basics:** Discover the Excel spreadsheet layout, data input, and basics for writing formulas. Glenview Library card required, register at glenviewpl.org/register or call 1:30 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**YMCA Preschool Art for ages 3 to 5 with adult:** The North Suburban YMCA Art Academy provides opportunities for preschoolers to create art. A parent or caregiver must be present. Please register at glenviewpl.org/register or by calling. 1:30 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Morning Matinee Film - “Captain Fantastic”**
- In the forests of the Pacific Northwest, a father devoted to raising his six kids with a rigorous physical and intellectual education is forced to leave his paradise and enter the world, challenging his ideal of what it means to be a parent. This film is rated R. 10:30 a.m. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 N. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

**Hot Ticket: “The Girl on the Train”**
- “The Girl on the Train” is rated R and is about a divorced woman who becomes entangled in a missing persons investigation. The cast stars Emily Blunt, Haley Bennett, 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

**Maluma:** 8 p.m. Akoo Theatre at Rosemont, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont, $49+, 847-671-5100

**Nature vs. Nurture:** The Evanston Art Center announces an upcoming exhibition curated by Younsoo Kim Flynn. It features the works by Nathan Braunfeld, Jack Flynn, Sae Jin Kim, and Everything is Collective (Jason Lukas, Zachary Norman, and Aaron Hegert). Nature vs. Nurture runs from March 17 to April 23. Each of the artists focuses on redefining the complex relationship between nature and urban landscapes. 9 a.m. All week. Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-5300

**Sandy Day to Demin Night - Fashion for a Cause 2017:** JPA will host a Fashion Show with Bloomingsdale's at Old Orchard Mall. Fashion Stylist, Vince Theodore will showcase the versatility of denim while guests enjoy wine, apps and a raffle. 6 p.m. Old Orchard Center, Bloomingsdale, 37 Old Orchard Shop Center North Shore Road, Skokie, Event tickets are $30 and raffle tickets are $10 for one or $25 for three, 321-698-6939

**13th annual S. Patrick’s Hooley:** The fun begins with jig dancing and lessons and musical performances by Madison Curran from the Soo Academy of Irish Dance, The Public House Band, Tim O’Shea and Phillip Crickard and Frank Quinn and Scott Stevenson. 11 a.m. The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679

**The Actors Gymnasium Presents Quest**
- Quest is an original circus-theater production, loosely based on Leo Tolstoy's short story, “The Three Questions.” The protagonist asks three simple but huge questions, setting in motion a whirlwind journey to find the answers. The hero and her sidekicks venture through obstacles, misinformation, slapstick fun, unexpected detours, music and songs, near crises, and amazing feats of partnership in seek of answers. 7:30 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Actors Gymnasium, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, $20, 847-328-2795

**Piccolo Theatre Private Eyes:** Matthew's wife, Lisa, is having an affair with Adrian, a British director. Or perhaps the affair is part of a play being rehearsed. Or perhaps Matthew has imagined it all. But a mysterious woman who seems to shadow the others brings the story to its surprising conclusion, or does she? The audience plays the role of detective in this hilarious, multi-layered comedy of suspicion about love, lust, and the power of deception in which nothing is ever quite what it seems. 8 p.m. 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. A DJ plays today's hits and disco lighting shines on the ice throughout the night. Call for more information. 8:15 p.m. Glenview Ice Center, 851 Landwehr Road, Glenview, $8 per person; $4 for rental skates, 847-724-5670

**“Jackie”:** Following the assassination of JFK, First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy fights through grief and trauma to regain her faith, console her children, and define her husband's historic legacy. A Women's History Month special selection. 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Evanston Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Evanston, free, 847-729-7500

**Friday Film - “The Girl on The Train”**
- This is the story of Rachel Watson's life post-divorce. Every day, she takes the train in to work in New York, and every day the train passes by her old house. Rachel's ex-husband, who still lives in the house they shared, now lives there with his new wife and child. 1 p.m. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

**Blake Shelton:** 7:30 p.m. Allstate

Turn to Calendar, Next Page
Celebrate Women's History Month with original songs and script about one of the most iconic women in Hollywood history, Jillemus. In this one-woman musical about the iconic Hollywood gossip columnist, actress, and political pundit, Hedda Hopper. 2 p.m. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-477-5277

Get Hooked Crafts: Springtine Quilling: Registration is required for those who attend. Come learn this basic paper quilling technique and create wonderful spring-time designs, with materials being provided. 10 a.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Jacqueline Lee Bouvier Kennedy Raffle/Luncheon: The Glenview History Center is having a fundraising luncheon/raffle. Leslie Goldward will portray the celebrated First Lady Jacqueline Kennedy. Guests are welcome to wear their “Jackie look” optional of course. 11 a.m. Chateau Ritz, 9100 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles, $40, 847-724-2235

Petite Opera 2017-18 Season Auditions: General opera auditions are by appointment only for the following dates: from 7-10 p.m. March 18, and March 21; also from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. March 25, to cast open roles for a Rosini opera (Nov. 3-19), and an operetta (TBD, spring 2018). 10 a.m. St. Mary’s Episcopal Church, 306 S. Prospect Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Coyote Tales Fireside: Listen to the stories of Coyote, the lovable and laughable Native American literary character who is hero, clown, educator, magician and fool, all wrapped in one. This indoor fireside includes a break for a craft and hot cocoa. Children (ages three and older) must be accompanied by a registered adult. Please pre-register to avoid cancellation due to low enrollment. 6:30 p.m. Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, $5 per person, 847-677-7001

Chicago Harmony Sweepstakes: The Harmony Sweepstakes - A Cappella Festival is the premier American showcase for vocal harmony music. The winning group from the Chicago festival will go on to compete against the other six regional champions in front of celebrity judges and a sold out house of enthusiastic a cappella fans at the National Finals in San Francisco this May. 7:30 p.m. North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, $25-$35, 847-673-6300

Preserving Survivor Stories: Ask Holocaust Survivor Pinchas Gutter any question you would like, and natural language technology software will respond as if Pinchas were in the room. 10:30 a.m. Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, free, 847-967-4800

Sunday, March 19

The English Beat: 8 p.m. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $38-$68, 847-492-8860

Bach Week Festival Benefit: Chamber ensemble Duo Sonidos, comprising guitarist Adam Levin, and violinist William Knuth, entertain guests at this “Hauskonzert” (house concert). This is a fundraiser for the Evanston-based Bach Week Festival’s 2017 edition in April and May. The benefit starts at 5:30 p.m. with a cocktail reception and light hors d’oeuvres, followed by a 6 p.m. concert. 5:30 p.m. Charles G. Dawes Home, 225 Greenwood St., Evanston, $60 per person, 847-269-9050

LIVE Jazz with Chad Willits Trio: On Sundays they have their full brunch menu with live jazz and the Chad Willits Trio from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Peckish Pig, 623 Howard St., Evanston, free, 847-491-6777

Concert for Peace: We’re Still Here: The Simple Gifts Concert Series hosts Concert for Peace: We’re Still Here, which explores the theme of peace. Violinist Katherine Hughes and the 10-piece Peace Concert Orchestra will perform songs about peace in a variety of styles, from traditional to contemporary. 3 p.m. Glenview Community Church, 1000 Elm St., Glenview, free, 847-724-2210

“Alexander Hamilton: The Man, The Myth, The Musical”: Historian Barry Bradford presents this exciting, all-ages program of this wildly popular musical. This is an unique look at Hamilton’s true story and fascinating background. Please register at glenviewwp.org/register or call. 2 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 2015 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Comming Together Event - Art of Chinese Blossom: Join Larry Stephan of the Midwest Bonsai Society for an in-depth demonstration on how to property prune, wire, and shape a Bonsai tree. Take in the beauty of these living miniature displays of nature. This program is presented as part of Coming Together Celebrating Chinese Culture. 2 p.m. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Meet The Lincolnwood Candidates Turn to Calendar, Next Page
CALENDAR

for Mayor and Trustees: Indivisible Lincolnwood is having a panel discussion for Lincolnwood residents to get to know the candidates for Mayor and Trustee in the upcoming April 2017 election. This is a panel discussion and open to all residents of Lincolnwood. Indivisible Lincolnwood is a group of concerned citizens who want to ensure their local government reflects the values of inclusion, tolerance and fairness. 7:15 p.m. Lincolnwood Community Center, 4170 W Morse Ave., Lincolnwood, free.

Meet the Author Series: Kathleen Rooney: Join us for a reading and discussion with Kathleen Rooney, an author of bestselling "Lillian Boxfish Takes A Walk," a smart and charming story about the highest-paid advertising woman of 1930s (based on a real-life ad woman and author, Margaret Fishback). 2 p.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4420.

WINTER RAMBLE AND LUNCH: This is for those ages 18 and up to visit Grant Woods Forest Preserve near Lake Villa, walking three miles of trails through marshes, oak groves and grasslands. Lunch follows at Reflections on Deep Lake, featuring Polish-American cuisine, and is included in the trip fee. The auction will include great works and be a part of venture funds. 6:30 p.m. Callan Building, 1939 Waukegan Road, Glenview, free, 847-414-7342.

Tuesday, March 21
Vegetable Gardening Basics: Chicago Botanic Garden horticulturist Lisa Hilgenberg teaches attendees the essentials for growing their own vegetable garden. Site selection, soil/soil preparation, seed sowing, transplanting, variety selection, and more are covered. Register at glencoeapw.org/register or by calling 7 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Presentation: Chicago Music Scene of the '60s and '70s: Relive the glory days of the folk, rock, jazz, country, and blues scenes as author/musician Dean Milanos brings both the music and pictures of these two decades to life. 11:30 a.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4420.

MOUSICAL THEATER IN AMERICA: The Twentieth Century Club presents "Musical Theater in America," featuring the Fox Valley Festival Chorus, at this General Meeting. The chorus is directed by Mary Beth McCarthy. During the meeting the Social Services Committee hold their annual food drive for the Maine Township Food Pantry. 1 p.m. Park Ridge Presbyterian Church, 1300 W. Crescent Ave., Park Ridge, free, 312-391-6788.

LEHRHAUS CONFIRMATION CLASS: Post Bar/Bat Mitzvah teenagers are invited to participate in this program which teaches young people how to utilize Jewish resources when faced with making a decision. This is a fascinating three-year program. 7 p.m. Ezra Habonim, The Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 450 Dempster St., Skokie, $420 for entire year plus book fees, 847-675-4111.

An Ounce of Prevention is Worth a Pound of Cure: Everyone interested in their heart is invited to this informative program about heart health. Dr. David Simon, Medical Director of the Cardiovascular Institute Wellness Program at NorthShore University HealthSystem provides tips for maintaining a healthy heart and an update on heart health research. 1 p.m. Winnetka Covenant Church, 1200 Hibbard Road, Winnetka, free, 847-446-4300.

KNOW OUR CONSTITUTION: Mark Rosen, Professor of Law IIT Chicago Kent College, will speak on Executive Branch Powers and Constitutional Limits. 7 p.m. Wilmette Community Recreation Center, 3000 Glenview Road, Wilmette, free.

Wednesday, March 22
Hiromi: The Trio Project featuring Simon Phillips: 7 p.m. and 9:30 p.m. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $20-$55, 847-492-8860.

FOUND’S SALON SERIES FEATURING NICHOLAS BARRON: Found Kitchen and Social House are featuring a new collection of interactive events dubbed the Salon Series. As a part of this series, Turn to Calendar, Next Page
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

Triple B: Wednesday nights the burger special is of epic proportions! A burger of your choice, a house-brewed draft beer and a shot of buck bourbon— all for $15. 4 p.m. Peckish Pig, 623 Howard St., Evanston, $15, 847-491-6778

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. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 939 Hinman Ave., Evanston, free, 224-307-4327


The World's Fairs of Paris and Chicago Lecture: AAUW Glenview branch welcomes guest speaker Karen Thomson, Executive Director and Founder of the nonprofit "Literature for All of Us." Karen discusses the challenges of literacy and poverty and the issues facing a new generation of readers and writers today. Karen's nonprofit has been using an innovative book group curriculum for nearly two decades to reach young adults and families. The lecture follows the general meeting. 7 p.m. Glenview Police Department, 2500 E. Lake Ave., Glenview, free, 312-301-2059

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. 11 a.m. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

DIY Teen Craft: Washi Tape Fun! There's so much you can do with washi tape. We'll provide materials as we show many uses for this decorative masking tape and create several fun projects. 3 p.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Local Spelling Bee: Illinois adults age 50 and over can demonstrate their spelling skills through three levels of spelling competition: local, regional, and the State Finals. The winner and runner up of the Local Bee will go on to compete at the Regional Spelling Bee; date and location to be announced in April. Giordano's of Morton Grove is co-sponsoring the local bee and will donate prizes for winners. Registrants will receive their information packet containing the spelling bee rules. 10 a.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Introduction to Word 2010: Registration is required for this hands-on workshop. The prerequisite of being experienced and comfortable with computer, keyboard and mouse is a must before learning to format, proof, print and save documents. 7 p.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Community Wednesdays: 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. Bring your supplies or project in progress, brush up on your skills, learn new techniques, or just spend an afternoon knitting with others. 1:30 p.m. North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, free, 847-784-6060

Animal Tracking 101: This is for those ages 8 and older who ever wondered about the story behind that footprint they saw while hiking. This L.L. Bean workshop that takes place primarily indoors. From identifying tracks and track patterns to looking for chews and rubs, the experts share tips and techniques to help uncover who or what is responsible. 7 p.m. Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, free, 847-677-7001

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

“Logan” ★★
R, 2:17, action/adventure
Director James Mangold's picture is the most solemn, sentimental and relentlessly violent of the nine films featuring Hugh Jackman, either in the lead or in a cameo, as the furry mutant with the blood-stained blades of glory. It's set in 2029, when the specially gifted mutant population has been decimated. Laura, played by a first-rate scowler named Dafne Keen, is a mini-Wolverine cloned from our hero's blood. She is being pursued by security goon Pierce (Boyd Holbrook) and his "Mad Max"-interns posse. "Logan" is deadly serious, and while its gamer-style killing sprees are meant to be excitingly brutal, I found them numbing and, in the climax, borderline offensive. — Michael Phillips

“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, for several months. It's time, she determines, to meet her parents. The film is a little of everything: 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. — M.P.

“The Shack” ★★
PG-13, 2:12, drama
If Octavia Spencer is God, then Lord, take me to church. A folksy Spencer serving up homemade baked goods is the vision of the divine in "The Shack," Stuart Hazeldine's faith-based drama, an adaptation of the novel by William P. Young. Mack Phillips (Sam Worthington) is a wayward soul who receives a mysterious invitation: a note asking him to a weekend getaway at the shack where his daughter was likely killed. There he's greeted by a trio of groovy spiritual teachers. Though the dialogue is written with all the finesse of a self-help book, and the visuals are a technicolor explosion, there are some nuggets of wisdom that do resonate, regardless of personal belief. — Katie Walsh, Tribune News Service

“The Lego Batman Movie” ★★½
PG, 1:46, animated comedy
At its sporadic best, the crazy velocity and wisener humor 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 II 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.

“Before I Fall” ★★★
PG-13, 1:39, drama
"Before I Fall" is a young adult thriller that goes far beyond the surface level. The film borrows a premise from "Groundhog Day," in that our protagonist, Samantha (Zoey Deutch), must relive the same Friday, over and over, preceding a dangerous car crash. Sam starts off as a carefree queen bee, enconced in a tightly knit foursome of popular girls, with closely held allies and enemies. However, forced to relive the day over and over, she zeros in on the side characters, the nerds and the bullied, and the small interactions that lead toward the inevitable, trying to change things and stop the loop. — K.W.
Death Notices

Paige, Virginia ‘Jinnie’
Virginia Paige, 1917-2017

Virginia ‘Jinnie’ Paige, a long-time resident of Park Ridge, passed away peacefully on March 4, 2017 in a care home in Honolulu, Hawaii where she had resided since 2014. She was born Virginia Stearns on August 16, 1917 in Ogdensburg, New York, a small town on the St. Lawrence River on the Canadian border of New York state, to Dr. Melvin Joseph Stearns of Massena, New York and Jenny Robinson Stearns, originally from Baraboo, Wisconsin.

Jinnie graduated from Ogdensburg Free Academy and attended Wellesley College, Wellesley, Massachusetts. She lived in Rochester, New York from 1938-1943 before joining the American Red Cross, where she worked as a club worker in the China-Burma-India theatre of operations of World War II from 1943-1945. After the War she worked as a counselor for Western Electric, Kearny, New Jersey. She married USMC Col. Ward Tallman Paige, also of Ogdensburg, New York in April, 1947 and they lived in Dearborn, Michigan until 1956 when they moved to Park Ridge, Illinois. Their three children, Jean, Ward, Jr. and Polly attended Park Ridge schools. Jinnie was an active member of the Park Ridge Community Church for many years. She resided at 908 S. Courtland Ave. in Park Ridge for 58 years.

Jinnie became a real estate agent in 1967, working for Bice Realtors 1967-1992, McLennan Realtors 1992-1994 and Baird & Warner Realtors 1994-2008. She was a graduate of the Realtors Institute and a licensed real estate broker. She enjoyed family, golf, bridge and walking the neighborhoods of Park Ridge. She was a friend to many and loved her community. Jinnie was preceded in death by husband Ward in 1967. She is survived by her daughters Jean Paige Bohrman of Phoenix, Arizona and Oconomowoc, Wisconsin; Polly Paige Loughran of Chicago, Illinois; son Ward Tallman Paige, Jr. of Honolulu, Hawaii; three grandchildren; Michael Bohrman, Amy Bohrman Fanning and Patrick (PJ) Bohrman; and 7 great-grandchildren; Cole, Paige, Michael, Bryce, Everley and Keller Bohrman and Dennis Fanning. Internment private.

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Chicago-area natives excited to be part of 1st Ivy League Tournaments

**BY JONAH L. ROSENBLUM**

Pioneer Press

The first Ivy League tournament was madness for Steven Cook.

The Princeton senior and New Trier graduate clinched his first NCAA tournament appearance Sunday when the Tigers beat Yale 71-59 in the Ivy League final at the Palestra in Philadelphia. Later in the day, Princeton learned it received the 12th seed in the NCAA tournament's West Region and will take on fifth-seeded Notre Dame at 11:15 a.m. Thursday in Buffalo, NY.

In prior years, Cook’s Princeton team — after finishing first in the Ivy League at 14-0 — would have received the conference’s automatic berth in the NCAA tournament. With the advent of the four-team conference tournament, the Tigers had to win two more games — and neither came easily.

In its semifinal against Pennsylvania, Princeton trailed at halftime and needed a comeback with five seconds remaining to force overtime. Princeton prevailed 72-64. In the title game, Princeton led by two at the half before riding a second-half surge past Yale, with Cook contributing 15 points.

“The entire Princeton game, where we got down, we really relied on (our) experience and what we had done so far this year,” Cook said. “We’ve won so many different ways.”

Before the Ivy League tournament began, Cook said he supported its inception.

The Ivy League was the nation’s final league to employ a conference tournament to decide its automatic qualifier for the NCAA tournament.

“It would’ve been nicer to not have the tournament happen this year, but it adds a lot of excitement to the league,” Cook said in the days leading up to the event. “You’re playing two massive games, hopefully in front of big crowds, on national TV. It’s hard to not want to play in those sorts of games.”

Two Chicagoland basketball players now at Pennsylvania came into the inaugural Ivy League tournament with similar excitement.

For Dan Dwyer, a Fenwick graduate and junior on the Quakers men’s basketball team, the tournament prolonged his season. After the Quakers started 6-0 in conference play, they won six of their last eight Ivy League games to earn the fourth and final spot in the tournament to retain a shot at making the Big Dance.

For Liz Satter, a Pennsylvania freshman and Loyola graduate, the Ivy League tournament briefly jeopardized her team’s quest to make the NCAA tournament. Her Quakers finished 13-1 in conference play, four games ahead of the second-place Tigers, but had to win two more games to reach the NCAA tournament. They did, defeating Brown and Princeton to secure the automatic berth.

“I think the older girls may have a different perspective, but as a freshman, I never experienced going straight to the (NCAA) tournament; Satter said before the conference tournament. “I love tournament atmospheres.”

According to a number of Ivy League players from the Chicagoland area, the tournament didn’t just make for a great weekend — it made for a great season.

When the Princeton women started conference play with two straight losses, there was no reason to give up. After all, they didn’t need to finish first for a guaranteed NCAA berth. They just needed to finish in the top four to reach the league tournament.

“We knew we still needed to play because we had a chance to make it into the tournament,” said Gabrielle Rush, a Tigers sophomore out of Hinsdale Central. “That was definitely a continuing motivation throughout the conference play.”

The Quakers men got off to an even worse start but knew their season wasn’t a lost cause.

“In the past, if you lost two to three games, you might not even be in the race, but this year, it just keeps the league so competitive,” Dwyer said of the league tournament. “Everyone just wants to get to this tournament.”

Pennsylvania’s 75-72 victory against Harvard on March 4 at the Palestra gave the Quakers the fourth and final spot in the conference tournament.

The Harvard women, including freshman Jeannie Boehm of New Trier, also got a second chance thanks to the Ivy League tournament. The Crimson lost four of their last five regular-season games to fall to 8-6 and third place in the Ivy League. Even so, they stood two wins from the NCAA tournament. However, Harvard lost to Princeton 68-47 in the semifinals.

“It was just exciting to me that we could have a part in this March Madness,” Boehm said. “Everyone talks about the crazy basketball we all see in March. We’re now part of that with this tournament.”

New Trier graduate and Princeton senior Steven Cook walks off the Palestra court holding the Ivy League trophy on Sunday in Philadelphia. Princeton defeated Yale 71-59 in the inaugural league tournament.

The tournaments gave the league a chance to show its brand. The men’s basketball championship was on ESPNU2 and the women’s basketball championship was on ESPN3 on Sunday.

“I don’t think the Ivy League gets the respect for sports that I think it deserves,” Rush said. “I think that a lot of people have this notion about the Ivy League that it’s all about academics and that sports are a second sport, but even in my time here, I think the league has improved so much. It really is good basketball going on.”

Dwyer said he received plenty of text messages and phone calls from friends before the league tournament began. The opening day on the men’s side featured Harvard vs. Yale, one of the oldest rivalries in the sport, and Princeton vs. Pennsylvania.

“We hate Princeton and they hate us,” Dwyer said. The tension can be attributed, in part, to familiarity. Each matchup at the Ivy League tournaments represented a third meeting between teams because of the league’s home-and-home regular-season schedule.

“I think I know all their sizes, who their moms are, because we’ve scouted them and looked at film and everything,” Rush said.

Coming off an Ivy League tournament title, Cook said his Tigers enter the NCAA first round as a confident team.

“We think we can match up against anyone in the country,” Cook said. “We’ve played in big games in the past and won big games against big-time programs.”

Perhaps none bigger than Saturday and Sunday at the Palestra.

Jonah L. Rosenblum is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @Pioneer_Press
First dance
Local Northwestern players savor NCAA tournament selection party

BY BOB NARANG
Pioneer Press

Barret Benson tried to blend into the mosh pit celebration with his teammates near center court at Welsh-Ryan Arena late Sunday afternoon.

At 6-foot-10 and 240 pounds with his hair extending in every direction, Benson leaped in the air at a few teammates, even bouncing solely on his right leg while a teammate grabbed him in a moment of elation following Northwestern's being awarded its first-ever NCAA men's basketball tournament bid during a selection show party in Evanston.

Benson, a freshman center from Hinsdale South, is one of several Chicagoland natives on the team, along with Scottie Lindsev (Fenwick), Vic Law (St Rita), the team, along with Scottie Lindsey (St. Rita), Jordan Ash (St. Joseph), Rapolas Ivanauskas (Barrington) and Tino Malnati (New Trier). Benson said he was overwhelmed by helping the Wildcats set a new standard for the program.

"It's an amazing feeling right now, not really had full effect kick in yet," Benson said. "To see our name up on the board, especially in my first year, means so much and for these seniors who have taken us under our wings and fought so long for this. It's a really special feeling."

The Wildcats were awarded the No. 8 seed in the West Region, where they will play No. 9 Vanderbilt in Salt Lake City on Thursday afternoon.

Benson, a Willowbrook native, was a major recruit for Northwestern coach Chris Collins last season. Benson committed to the Wildcats instead of waiting for an offer from Stanford.

Six games into his college career, Benson became a starter due to a hand injury to Dererk Pardon that sidelined him for over a month. Benson started eight straight games, tallying six points and four rebounds in a win at Penn State on Dec. 27. On the season, Benson is averaging 20.2 points and 6.6 rebounds in 31.1 minutes per game.

"My year started off not playing much, then coming off the bench," Benson said. "Then Dererk got hurt, it really gave me an opportunity to get a feel for the college game and starting with my teammates. They trusted me, and it was a great experience."

"Those eight games I started were the biggest turning point for me, getting that experience and ever since then I've been more confident coming off the bench and bringing energy and doing whatever it takes to help the team."

Benson, who credited Pardon for being a mentor, had a memorable dunk in Northwestern's loss to Wisconsin in the Big Ten tournament semifinals on Saturday. Benson said helping the Wildcats end a 78-year tournament drought was particularly special with so many local players on the roster.

"It's crazy, just good luck," Benson said. "The right group of guys who believed. It's great to do it with the guys from here and around here. It's a great way to start off a freshman year."

Pride from the sidelines

Sitting down with a contented smile and joking with his teammates during a media interview session nearly an hour after the NCAA tournament announcement, Northwestern freshman Rapolas Ivanauskas stayed away from the bright lights of the cameras and microphones.

The 6-9 Barrington native did not play a single minute during his freshman season due to a shoulder injury. His length, ability to play numerous positions and athleticism would've been beneficial for the Wildcats this season.

"My first year has been sensational just from what I've seen," he said. "I've known these guys from before this year because I'm a local guy and seen the progress the team has made. Now, just seeing how the team has a swagger about winning, about competing, it's beautiful to see."

Ivanauskas committed to Northwestern in April 2015 as the team's first Class of 2016 recruit, then transferred from Barrington to Brewster Academy in Wolfeboro, N.H., for his senior season.

He said the culture has changed at Northwestern after posting a 23-11 record, including a 10-8 mark in the Big Ten, and beating ranked teams like Wisconsin and Maryland.

"I never saw Northwestern as a basketball school, just a school that smart kids went to," Ivanauskas said. "Seeing it now from where it has progressed and seeing it upfront, it's amazing. I'm very thankful to have this opportunity to be here and learn from these coaches and being friends, with my teammates."

'Dream come true'

Freshman walk-on Tino Malnati took some good-natured ribbing from Wildcats teammates in stride Sunday while being interviewed by the media. Malnati, the grandson of Chicago pizza icon Lou Malnati and son of Fenwick boys basketball coach Rick Malnati, was an all-conference player at New Trier and a Northwestern fan as a child.

"I grew up coming to Northwestern games all the time and cheering for the guys like John Shurna and Juice Thompson," said Tino Malnati, a Northfield native. "To be able to be here is like a dream, living a dream. ... I've watched every single Selection Sunday. To be able to be here with my family and these guys, my brothers, is a dream come true."

Though he hasn't appeared in any games this season, Malnati values his role on the team.

"My role is to push them during workouts and practice and keep everybody's spirits up," he said. "Playing against these guys every day, I've become so much of a better player."

Bob Narang is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Luther North's pending close has wide-ranging effects

Guerin needs Week 1 football opponent, Maine East looking for boys basketball holiday tourney

By Steve Reaven
Pioneer Press

Garry Puetz's path to the NFL began as a two-way lineman on Luther North's freshman team in 1965.

While Puetz's football development was by no means complete when he graduated from high school, the early athletic and life lessons he received at the Portage Park school formed the foundation for a pro career that spanned 10 seasons and concluded with a victory in Super Bowl XVI with Washington. Puetz played guard and tackle in the NFL.

Like legions of fellow alumni, Puetz was saddened to learn recently that Luther North will close at the conclusion of this academic year.

"Aside from athletics, Luther North was a place that gave me the tools to be successful in life, regardless of endeavor," said Puetz, an Elmhurst native who now resides in suburban Atlanta. "Important lessons like getting better each day and doing the right thing — those things were really beneficial to me in taking the next step in my life."

Junior Marc Nistor, one of 170 seniors currently enrolled at Luther North, has enjoyed a similarly positive experience as a student-athlete at the school. A Des Plaines resident, Nistor is a three-year veteran of the Wildcats' cross country and track and field teams who initially joined the no-cut teams with neither an affinity for sports nor a deep well of running experience. He said he has become engrossed in the sports because of the physical-wellness aspect and the camaraderie he has forged with his teammates.

Nistor added that he plans to decide by late April whether to attend Walther Christian or St. Viator next year, and if given the opportunity, he would like to continue running.

"Being at Luther North has been a great fit, being part of such a diverse community," Nistor said. "The culture there has really impacted me. Without this school, I wouldn't be the person I am today."

Luther North's closing also means the demise of the school's annual holiday boys basketball tournament, which dates to 1965.

Maine East and Guerin were among this school year's participants.

Guerin athletic director Bob Carlson received an unsolicited email in January from Holy Trinity stating that the school had an open spot in its holiday tournament. The Crusaders were committed to the Luther North tournament at the time, so Carlson disregarded the invitation. However, after Luther North announced it would be closing, Carlson asked Holy Trinity if the opening still existed. It did, so Guerin jumped to the Holy Trinity tournament.

That solved only part of Carlson's scheduling dilemma, though, since Luther North was slated to be Guerin's Week 1 football opponent in 2017.

"Football is harder than basketball to find games, so it's kind of scary," Carlson said.

Guerin had not found an opponent for Week 1 as of Sunday, Carlson said he expects he'll find a Chicago Public League team to play.

Maine East athletic director Steve Schanz is scrambling to find a home for his boys basketball team over winter break.

"It will make for an interesting couple of weeks as we assess our options," Schanz said recently.

As spring sports squads prepare in earnest for their seasons to kick off, the curtain has already fallen on Luther North's winter sports teams. The Wildcats boys basketball team experienced a dizzying range of emotions in its final days. It began with a 70-40 rout over Waldorf in the final of the Class IA St. Benedict Regional on Feb. 14. The match-up came only hours after Luther North students learned of the school's impending closing.

Triumph turned to heartbreak four days later when the Wildcats suffered a controversial 52-51 loss to Hope in the sectional semifinals. The Eagles won on a 3-pointer as time expired, but photographs showed the ball hadn't left the shooter's hand before the clock struck 0.0.

"If we had played as hard as we did in that regional all year long, we would have been undefeated," Luther North coach Jason Tucker said. "Going out like we did was unfortunate, though. It wasn't on our own terms."

Many others associated with the school will soon know the same feeling.

Steve Reaven is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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COLLEGE NOTES

Kemph repeats as A-10 player of the year

By Sam Brief
Pioneer Press

Rolling Meadows graduate Jackie Kemph, a junior guard on the Saint Louis women's basketball team, was named the Atlantic 10 Player of the Year on Feb. 28.

Kemph, an Arlington Heights native, shared the player of the year award with Duquesne guard Stefanie Vliet.

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Kemph on the Billikens roster.

Libertyville native wins conference tournament title

Libertyville graduate Becky Deichl, a sophomore center on the Wisconsin-Whitewater women's basketball team, scored a combined 26 points over the Warhawks' final two games of the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournament. With a 65-56 win over Wisconsin-Oshkosh on Feb. 26, the Warhawks won the conference tournament title for the first time in program history and qualified for the NCAA Division III tournament.

In a semifinal win over Wisconsin-La Crosse, Deichl scored 17 points on 8-of-15 shooting, adding six boards. Deichl had nine points and seven rebounds in the championship win. She is joined by Hinsdale Central graduate Gilley Martinelli.

Skokie native notches top-three finish at qualifier

Niles North graduate Dhruv Patel, a sophomore on the North Central men's track and field team, finished third in the men's 3,000-meter run at the Wisconsin-Stevens Point Final Qualifier with a time of 8:23.30. As of the no-cut teams with neither an advantage, the early athletic and life lessons he received at the Portage Park school formed the foundation for a pro career that spanned 10 seasons and concluded with a victory in Super Bowl XVI with Washington. Puetz played guard and tackle in the NFL.

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Notre Dame expects to rely on inexperienced players next season

BY DAN SHALIN
Pioneer Press

After the Notre Dame basketball team's season-ending 75-63 loss to Waukegan in the Class 4A Waukegan Sectional semifinals, Dons coach Tom Les told his players to walk out of the locker room with their heads held high.

The Dons finished 25-6 and captured the Libertyville Regional title with a memorable late comeback against Niles North.

Seniors Jeameril Wilson and Matt Stritzel completed their three-year varsity careers as two of the most decorated players in school history, winning three straight regionals, a 2016 sectional crown and multiple in-season tournament titles.

Les also had a message for his non-seniors on March 8.

"The sophomores, juniors and freshmen have to understand that time goes by quickly and you have to make the most of it," said Les, relaying his comments to reporters after the game.

With the attention shifting to the future, Les admitted there are "a lot of gaps to fill." The Dons will lose most of their key players, including their entire starting lineup, to graduation.

A team featuring Notre Dame's expected returnees and players from this year's sophomore and freshman teams, which went 9-19 and 16-20, respectively, will not enter next season with lofty expectations.

But Wilson said don't write off the team's current young players just because they might be unproven on the varsity level.

"Even though we play a lot of older guys, there are a lot of young guys on the bench, learning and working hard," said Wilson, who lives in Chicago.

Notre Dame's first player off the bench in the sectional semifinal was junior Dusan Mahorcic, a 6-foot-8 forward who arrived in Chicago two years ago from his native Belgrade, Serbia.

While Mahorcic was primarily used on the interior because of his height, teammates say he also has shown an ability to score from the perimeter.

"Dusan is a monster in the post and he'll be good next year," said junior Adi Tagani, from Chicago. "But, not only can he play in the post, he can step out and shoot and really make it difficult to guard him."

Tagani and sophomore Robert Pryor are combo guards who appear most likely to take over in the backcourt. Both are good ballhandlers. Tagani is a good shooter, while Pryor's defensive abilities might be slightly ahead of his improving offensive game at this point.

Les said he expects the 6-foot Tagani to be one of the team leaders, and Tagani said he's up for that challenge.

"I feel like I can (be a leader)," Tagani said. "We don't have a lot of returning juniors and we'll have a young team. I feel like I can step up and get them on the right track to work hard, and if they're slacking, pick them up."

The 5-9 Pryor is the nephew of former Notre Dame standout Rodney Pryor, who spent this season as a graduate transfer to Georgetown.

"I was hard picking between (going to school) with friends or with people I didn't know," Pryor said. "But it would be hard working through (the Evanston trio) to get a spot on the floor. (Rodney and I) talked through that and I made my decision. Also, seeing how much coach Les and the other coaches helped Rodney improve his game (was a key factor in the decision)."

Robert Pryor added: "I'm very happy with my decision."

Talented freshman Jason Bergstrom, who is 6-3, and juniors Nick McMananon (6-0) and Ethan Funk (6-3) are the only other varsity players expected to return next season.

Robert Pryor said there almost certainly will be people outside of the program who will not expect much from next year's team. But he said that will serve as motivation in the offseason and next winter.

"A lot of people will doubt us and say we don't have that much talent," Pryor said. "But we just have to work hard over the summer and come back and prove people wrong."

Dan Shalin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @Pioneer_Press
**SEASON PREVIEW**

**GIRLS SOCCER**

**Niles West**

**Coach:** Milo Cejovic

**2016 record:** Lost to Evanston in Class 3A regional final

**How they'll play:** Cejovic takes over as coach after also becoming the Niles West boys soccer coach in 2015. He will be coaching a team that is skilled in the midfiled. Seniors Taylor Isirov, Jackie Bajric and Bianca Tomuta, and junior Dyana Dawood bring experience to the position, and freshman Alia Durakovic is expected to play a major role there right away. Still, Cejovic is working to figure out how best to use all his players. "We are working on our style of play," Cejovic said. "I've had two weeks with them since being hired so it is a work in progress.

**Player to watch:** Isirov chose to play club soccer instead of high school soccer as a freshman and sophomore, but she was a difference-maker when she joined Niles West in 2016 and was named to the Pioneer Press All-Area honorable mention team. Though the Wolves have many talented midfielders, Isirov is unique because of her size: At 5-foot-8 she is one of just two players on the roster listed at 5-6 or taller. She will be key to winning aerial balls in the attacking third. "Taylor will be a very important part of how well we do," Cejovic said. "She's a special talent, and we are hoping we can turn that into a special season."

**Big question:** Cejovic said that while experience is one of the strengths of his starting 11, depth will be an issue. The roster is particularly young. It includes eight underclassmen. As Cejovic gets used to his new team, he'll be tasked with developing his bench in hopes of getting reserve players to take on bigger roles as the season progresses.

**Niles North**

**Co-coaches:** Sarah Paulis and Filip Cejovic

**2016 record:** 5-1-3 (1-3-1 Central Suburban North), lost to Niles West in Class 3A regional semifinal

**How they'll play:** Niles North has not one, but two new head coaches this year. Cejovic has been in the Niles North program for years, and he'll share the duties with Paulis. The coaches see the strength of the team as the midfield and want to play a possession-oriented style to take advantage of that. They plan to use both a 3-5-2 and a 4-2-3-1 formation. "The variety team has versatile players and we will be flexible with our formations playing with both three and four in the back," Cejovic said.

**Player to watch:** Cejovic said that junior midfielder Edina Taerbaum is the player who can be an "X-factor" for the Vikings this season. A Pioneer Press All-Area honorable mention player as a sophomore, she's a playmaker who is key to the Vikings' possession style. "(Taerbaum is a) wonderfully skilled footballer that finished off last year, her sophomore year, very well and had a terrific offseason," Cejovic said. "We are looking for her to control the tempo of the game and provide offensive creativity."

**Maine East**

**Coach:** Guy Anderson

**2016 season:** Lost to New Trier in Class 3A regional semifinal

**How they'll play:** In his third season of rebuilding the program, Anderson sees progress. But he has realistic expectations. "We're not the biggest or most skilled team so for us, it's mainly about teaching kids to work as one unit, on the same page," he said. The Blue Demons will rely heavily on a defense led by senior sweeper Sara Berrum and senior outside defender Cecilia Martinez, and largely play a counter-attacking style. Sophomore center midfielder Suzan Elizabeth Georges is expected to be a key link between the backline and the team's attacking players.

**Big question:** Will this year's team take another incremental step forward as Anderson continues to build the program? He likes what he sees so far. "The kids are buying into it, recruiting friends to come out and play, and we've got a great supporting cast of coaches," he said. "We have 25 freshmen in the program and our numbers have been good every year I've been here. We'll continue teaching them to mesh together as one unit. We're hard on them, but we also know we have to keep things fun."

**Twitter:** @Pioneer_Press

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Thank you to everyone who voted in our March challenge! The polls are now closed. Go to chicagotribune.com/suburbs/athletes to see which athlete was named Athlete of the Month, and stay tuned next week for a feature on our winner!
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