

NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR

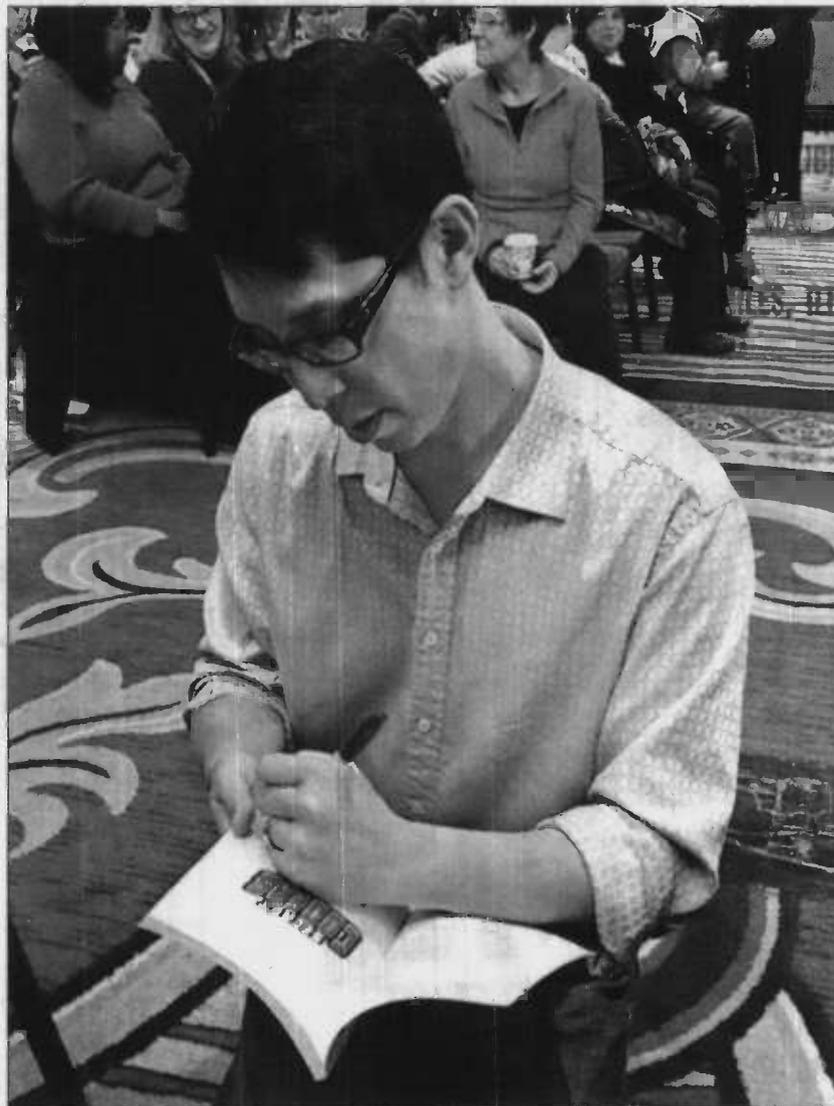
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Thursday, March 23, 2017

nilesheraldspectator.com

Coming together

Award-winning graphic novelist Gene Luen Yang discusses his work while in Skokie. **Page 6**



Chinese-American cartoonist, illustrator and writer Gene Luen Yang signs one of his books March 13 as part of his Coming Together In Skokie and Niles Township book discussion at Holiday Inn Chicago North Shore.

MIKE ISAACS/PIONEER PRESS

LIVING

Fish taco Fridays

For those who try to avoid eating meat on Fridays leading up to Easter, this easy recipe will stave off a trip to the drive-thru in favor of a delicious homemade meal. **Inside**



MELISSA ELSMO/PIONEER PRESS

GO



BACONFEST CHICAGO

Chefs get hog wild

Baconfest Chicago is back with more than 100 chefs cooking up dishes featuring the popular cured meat. **Page 23**

OPINION

Throwback proposal a refreshing change

Columnist Randy Blaser enjoyed the story of an old-fashioned marriage proposal using printed letters in an age of YouTube, Instagram and social media. **Page 19**

SPORTS



BRIAN O'MAHONEY/PIONEER PRESS

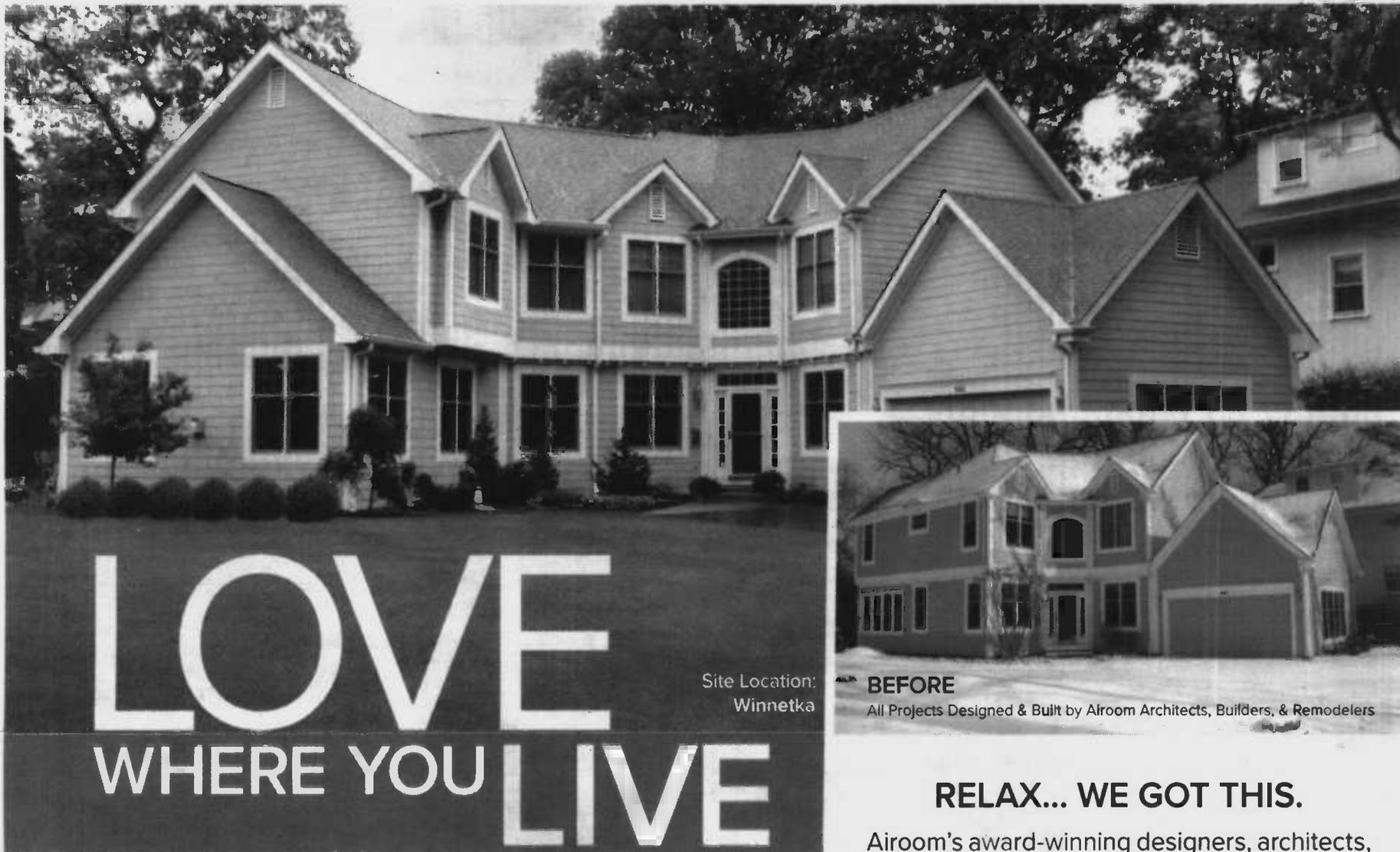
Opening day

Local softball teams take the field for spring season. **Page 45**



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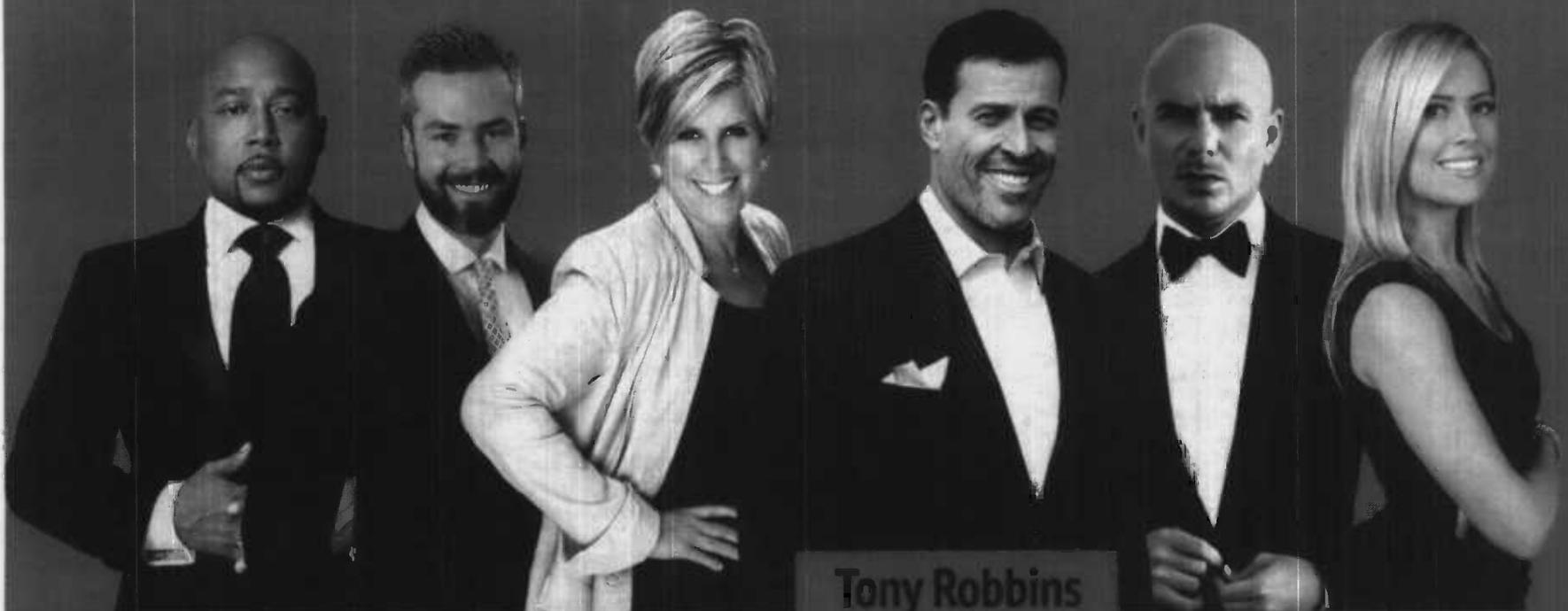
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SHOUT OUT

Christine Corelli, author, public speaker

Christine Corelli, a 20-year resident of Morton Grove, was one of hundreds who attended The Taste of Morton Grove, an event presented by the Morton Grove Foundation at White Eagle Banquets in Niles March 2. Corelli is author of six books, she said, and also a public speaker. Corelli dished about the start of spring, which came this week, and March Madness.

Q: Of all the seasons, which is your favorite and why?

A: My favorite season is spring. Everything is new. The robins come and build their nests. You see trees budding, the flowers coming up. The world is fresh and new!

Q: What is your favorite thing to do in the springtime?

A: My favorite thing to do is bike ride on the trail or walk around beautiful Morton Grove and look at all of the homes. People keep up their houses and their landscaping.

Q: On those rainy days, what do you like to do?

A: I read. I write. I study and do research. I like ginger tea too, plus coffee and champagne.

I never need an excuse to open a bottle of champagne!

Q: March Madness is kicking up. Any favorites to win?

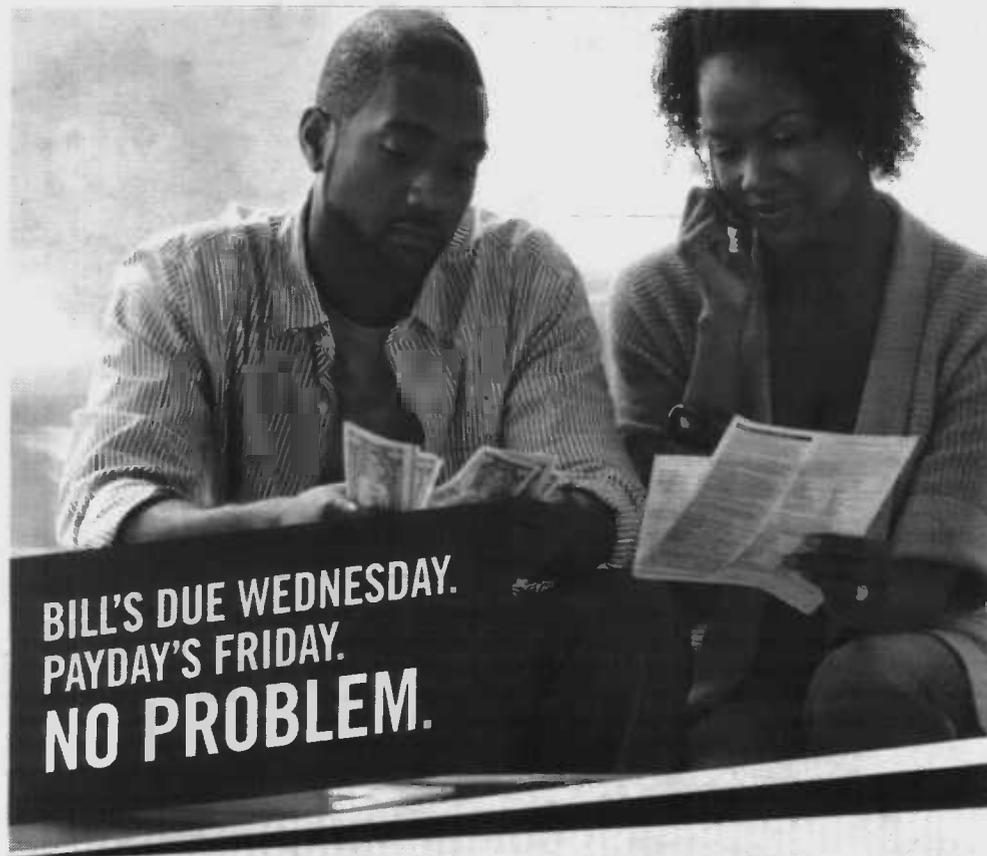
A: I like the excitement and seeing everyone screaming and yelling for their team.

— *Karie Angell Luc, Pioneer Press*



KARIE ANGELL LUC/PIONEER PRESS

Christine Corelli



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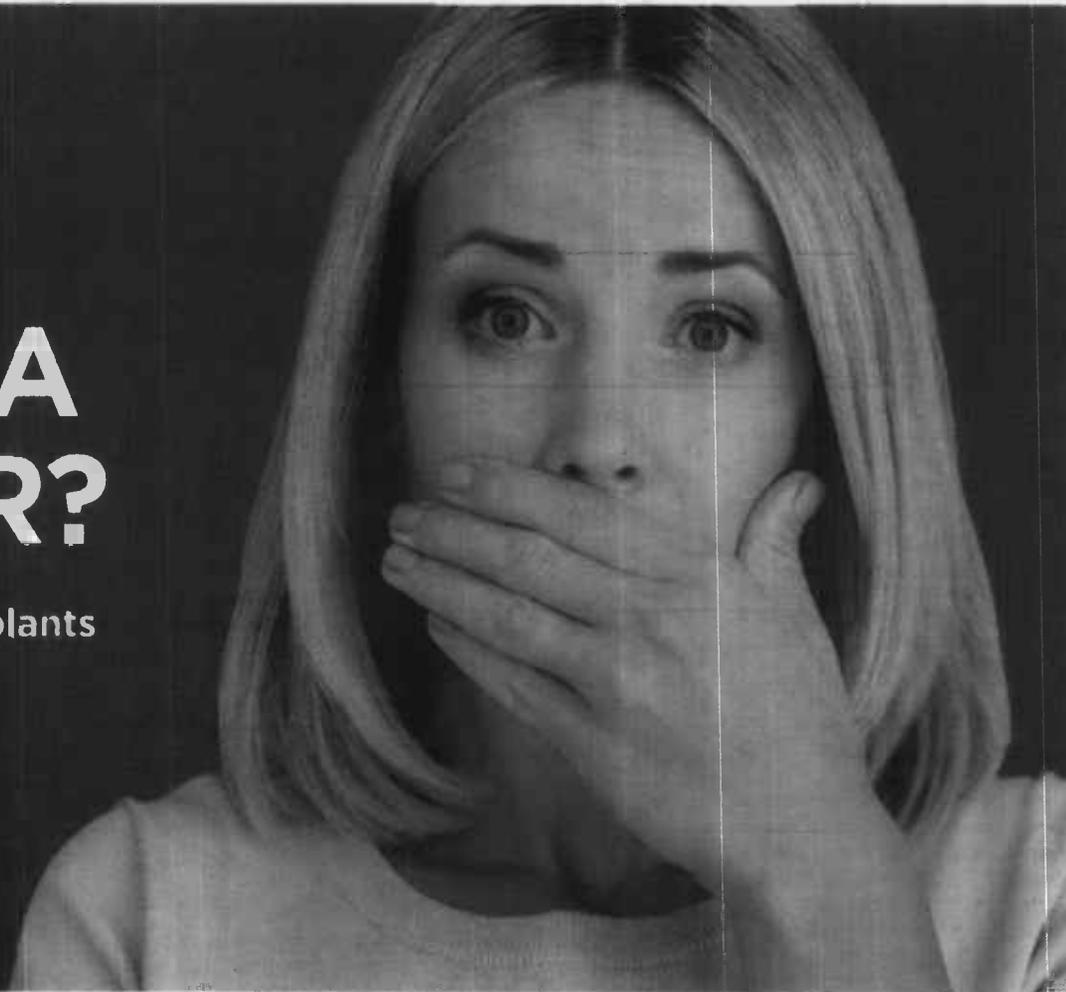
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Graphic novelist traces comic book roots

BY MIKE ISAACS

Pioneer Press

Chinese-American cartoonist, illustrator and writer Gene Luen Yang introduced himself March 13 to his audience in Skokie with four words: "I am a nerd."

"I generally like things that nerds like," he said. "I like superhero comics. I like computers. I might have been genetically born a nerd but my 'nerdiness' definitely solidified when I was in the 5th grade."

Yang then showed a picture of his 5th-grade self wearing glasses, having unkempt hair and flashing an uninhibited smile.

Yang led a book discussion before an audience of youth and adults at the Holiday Inn North Shore in Skokie.

His graphic novel, "American Born Chinese," was selected as a main book for this year's Coming Together in Skokie and Niles Township. It tells the story of a Chinese-American student looking to fit in at school and was the winner of the Printz Award for excellence in young adult literature and a National Book Award finalist.

Coming Together focuses on a different culture every year — this year it's China — and author visits are among the highlights of programming that spans a few months.

What was clear during Yang's engaging and relaxed talk was that his "nerdiness" has served him well.

According to Skokie Public Library Director Richard Kong, Yang last year won a MacArthur Fellows Program Genius Grant. He is in a two-year term as National Ambassador for Young People's Literature, a program organized by the Children's Book Council, Every Child a Reader and the Center for the Book at the Library of Congress.

"In 5th grade, I fell in love with comic books, and I fell in love with comic books because of this issue," he said, showing a picture of a "Thing and Rom" comic book, which featured two characters in one issue.

His mother wouldn't buy that comic book for him because it was too scary, he said. Instead, he wound up with the latest Superman comic. And while he later became a big Superman fan and



MIKE ISAACS/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

Chinese-American cartoonist, illustrator and writer Gene Luen Yang talked about his career March 13 as part of his Coming Together in Skokie and Niles Township book discussion.



Gene Luen Yang signs one of his books for 5-year-old Seth Mandigo while parents Ric and Jennie Mandigo look on.

even worked on Superman stories, he felt differently then, he said.

"In 5th grade, I thought out of all the superheroes out there, Superman was by far the most

boring," he said. "He's the best behaved. He never says any bad words. He doesn't punch anybody unless he has to, and afterward if he does, he feels kind of guilty about it. He flies around his

Metropolis in his blue uniform. He's like a giant flying Boy Scout."

Still, this Superman story had a dark side with a narrative about an atomic bomb that kills many people, Yang remembered. Even though it all turned out to be a dream, the future illustrator and author said it was enough to freak him out.

"This combination of words and pictures did something inside my head that had never been done before," he said. "Pretty soon after this, within a few weeks of reading this issue, I went from being a comic book reader to comic book creator."

Yang's love for computer programming and illustration helped shape his career, he said. He served as director of information services and taught computer science at Bishop O'Dowd High School in Oakland, Calif. He currently is co-writing and drawing a middle school graphic novel aimed at teaching kids the fundamentals of computer science, he said.

"So I am a nerd," he repeated.



Karl Patch of Winnetka's The Book Stall sells the works of Gene Luen Yang on March 13.

Despite the snowy, cold night March 13, about 100 people came to hear Yang speak — some from beyond the immediate area.

Elmhurst residents Ric and Jennie Mandigo brought their 5-year-old son, Seth. They said Seth was just introduced to Yang's first comic book in his "Secret Coders" series two weeks ago.

Before the talk, Yang introduced himself to Seth, his new fan, and signed one of his books for him.

"We checked the first book out on a whim because it looked cool," Ric Mandigo said. "We saw there was a second one and when we found out the writer was going to be in Skokie, we had to come. He loves the books and got very excited he'd be able to meet the author."

That author said he was invited to Washington by the Library of Congress and awarded with a medal when he became National Ambassador for Young People's Literature. Yang put the medal around his neck so those in the audience could see it.

His job as ambassador, he said, is to teach people about the world of books. But he said books themselves are already ambassadors.

"Books have been an ambassador for me. Books can be an ambassador for you," he said. "Books can be an ambassador into the lives of people who are different — people in different cultures, people who believe in different religions, people who live different ways of life."

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State Sen. Biss expected to enter governor's race

Former U. of C. math professor critic of Rauner

BY RICK PEARSON
Chicago Tribune

A Democratic state senator from Evanston who put together ads last fall attempting to link Republican Gov. Bruce Rauner to President Donald Trump told leading Democrats he was set to formally launch his campaign for governor on March 20, sources said.

Sen. Daniel Biss, who has served in the Illinois legislature since 2011, had scheduled a 10 a.m. Facebook Live event "to address his plans to build a movement to take our state back from wealthy and insider interests," according to an email his campaign released March 19.

Biss did not return calls for comment. But sources said that on March 19 he informed top Democratic officials and current and potential rivals in the March 2018 primary of his plans to run for governor. If he does so, Biss would be giving up his state Senate seat, which is up for election next year.

The former mathematics professor at the University of Chicago has been outspoken in his criticism of Rauner, the first-term GOP governor who largely has funded the Illinois Republican Party and turned it into a personal and political messaging arm to attack Democrats during the state's historic budget impasse.

Last year, Biss headed a federal super political action committee called Leading Illinois for Tomorrow. It made about \$10 million in independent expenditures, largely for TV ads that sought to link Rauner to Trump, who was then the GOP presidential nominee.

Rauner helped fund mil-



CHRIS WALKER/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Illinois State Sen. Daniel Biss speaks March 3 outside the Islamic Community Center of Des Plaines during an organized demonstration of interfaith support.

lions of dollars in ads last year on behalf of Republican legislative candidates seeking to erode Democratic majorities in the Illinois House and Senate by attacking longtime House Speaker Michael Madigan. Madigan also chairs the state Democratic Party.

Madigan's personal campaign fund gave \$500,000 to the Biss super PAC. It also got money from longtime Democratic donors — including \$3 million from money manager Michael Sacks and \$1.25 million from media mogul Fred Eychaner — as well as from organized labor.

Other donors to the Biss PAC included Chicago businessman Chris Kennedy, who already has announced his candidacy for governor, and Chicago entrepreneur and investor J.B. Pritzker, who last week formed an exploratory committee for a run for governor.

Biss launched the PAC after considering but later withdrawing a bid for the Democratic nomination for comptroller against Susana Mendoza, then the Chicago city clerk. Mendoza went on to win the contest last year in a special election against Rauner appointee

Leslie Geissler Munger.

Biss also launched a series of sometimes wonky videos and essays under the "Road Back" label in an attempt to counterprogram Rauner's message. In one, the senator juggled flaming sticks as he talked about ways to shore up the state's finances.

In a Democratic governor primary, Biss would seek to appeal to progressives in Illinois as Democrats nationally struggle to find their identity between liberal and establishment wings in the aftermath of Hillary Clinton's defeat in the 2016 presidential race. Also seeking to appeal to the progressive wing is Chicago Ald. Ameya Pawar, from the Northwest Side's 47th Ward. Biss' colleague in the state Senate, Sen. Andy Manar of Bunker Hill, also is exploring a bid for governor. Biss served a term in the Illinois House before his election to the state Senate in 2012. He moved to the Chicago area after completing his undergraduate degree at Harvard University and his doctorate in mathematics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

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Monthly interfaith prayer unites faithful

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

On an unseasonably snowy night March 13, more than a dozen participants filled chairs placed around long tables in a room at St. Luke's Christian Community Church in Morton Grove for an interfaith event.

Last week marked the fourth Interfaith Gathering for Prayer and Support event since organizers launched the first meeting in December.

"We generally discuss the topic of the month for the first 40 or so minutes and then transition into a general time of prayer," said the Rev. Elizabeth Jones, pastor of St. Luke's, describing how the gatherings usually go. "We discuss urgent requests for prayer and then we have a brief time of general, closing prayer."

Topics discussed on March 13 included a snapshot of American politics and decisions facing all people affected by them.

Jones said she started the interfaith gatherings after serving on a local panel in November. A need was identified to provide a safe place for people to share and reflect with prayer, she said.

"There was a lot of anxiety and just uncertainty about what was going to happen," Jones said, looking back at the weeks immediately after the November election.

During the March 13 fellowship, participants offered personal and confidential prayer requests. One person showed visible emotion when asking for prayers for a family member.

Amy Grabowski, of Morton Grove, explained her decision to attend the gathering.

"After the tumultuous beginning of this present (presidential) administration, I wanted to reach out to my Muslim neighbors," said Grabowski, who lives near the Muslim Community Center of Morton Grove.

"I heard about this group somehow and I thought this would be a perfect way to get to know them one-on-one, to connect more and get to know more about them as people," Grabowski said.

Grabowski sat next to Akhter Sadiq, of Morton Grove, who said he has come to know Grabowski better as a neighbor and friend.

"I've been a part of this group for the last four months," Sadiq said. "It is overwhelming to see how different faiths and groups have much in common, belief-wise."

Sadiq also read a prayer to the group.

Anisa Laliwala, of Morton Grove, said she had been to three of the prayer meetings.

"My prayer for the world is that we focus on similarities as humans rather than the differences."

— Anisa Laliwala

"I am a person of faith and I do believe in prayers, and the positive feelings I get out of it have been helpful," Laliwala said. "There is too much of 'us versus them' going on," she said.

Laliwala said she is part of the Muslim Education Center of Morton Grove.

"My prayer for the world is that we focus on similarities as humans rather than the differences," Laliwala said. "We're all human beings."

Jones said the prayer meetings would continue on the second Monday of the month through May, at least.

Karie Angell Luc is a freelancer.



KARIE ANGELL LUC/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

Atiya Usman and Mohammad Zia Usman, of Skokie, participate in an interfaith prayer session held March 13 at St. Luke's Christian Community Church of Morton Grove.



The Rev. Elizabeth Jones, pastor of St. Luke's Christian Community Church of Morton Grove, speaks during the interfaith prayer session held there March 13.

Area man charged with attempted murder after shooting near Niles bar

BY BRIAN L. COX
Chicago Tribune

A Des Plaines man was ordered held without bond on March 20 for allegedly shooting another man during a confrontation outside of a Niles bar early March 19, but the alleged shooter's lawyer said he was acting in defense of a relative and himself.

Alen Hurem, 26, was charged with attempted murder following his arrest at around 5 a.m. March 19, shortly after the shooting, authorities said.

Officials said an officer on patrol saw a commotion outside of the bar along North Milwaukee Avenue at about 4 a.m. and then, as the officer approached, saw a man pull out a gun and shoot another man in the chest.

The officer drew his weapon and ordered the gunman to the ground, but the suspect fled, prosecutors said. They said the gunman ran a short distance, approached an Uber driver and asked for that man's

phone and then fled again when the man refused, eventually throwing his weapon under another car.

Following a police manhunt, authorities said they located the gunman — whom they later identified as Hurem — nearby a short time later. Officials said they also recovered a 9mm handgun from under the vehicle and also recovered a 9mm casing from the crime scene, which police said was near Chasers Sports Bar and Grill.

Prosecutors also said, in addition to the police officer, there were multiple other witnesses to the shooting, which they said was captured by a security camera. They said Hurem did not have a valid firearm owner's ID card or a concealed-carry permit.

The man who was shot, identified by authorities as a Lincolnwood resident, sustained a bullet wound to the upper chest and was in stable condition in the hospital on March 20, according to prosecutors. They said Hurem and the man who

was shot did not know each other.

Hurem's public defender noted in court March 20 that police are still investigating was led to the shooting, and the defense attorney suggested Hurem's alleged actions might have been justified. The public defender said Hurem had been assaulted by at least one other person in the crowd and that a female relative of Hurem's had been the victim of a sexual crime before the shooting and was in the hospital March 20 for treatment of related injuries.

Despite those claims, Judge Michael Hood ordered Hurem held without bond.

"It's a violent crime," the judge said. "He is a danger. He shot somebody in the chest."

Authorities said Hurem works for a limousine company and that he had a prior burglary conviction, for which he was sentenced to two years of probation.

Brian L. Cox is a freelancer.

COD candidate accused of forgery

BY BILL BIRD
Naperville Sun

A woman who had sought election to the College of DuPage board of trustees was charged March 16 with forging her nominating petitions.

Rafath Waheed, 61, of the 6100 block of Hickory Drive in Lisle, would not comment on the charges, although her attorney, Stacey A. McCullough, said her client "vehemently denies the allegations."

Waheed has been charged with two counts each of issuing a forged

document and forgery and four counts of perjury, DuPage County State's Attorney Robert B. Berlin said. All of the charges are felonies. The charges allege Waheed made "photocopies of two completed signature portions of the petitions, and then completed the candidate information by hand," Berlin said in a statement. She then "notarized those petitions as authentic" and submitted them to COD officials, he said. The fraud was uncovered during a hearing in which her petitions were successfully challenged, Berlin said. Her

name will not appear on the ballot as a result.

"The bedrock of our entire system of government is free and fair elections," Berlin said. Waheed "attempted to circumvent one of the basic requirements for candidacy — filing petitions with the correct number of authentic signatures."

Waheed turned herself in to authorities March 15 after a warrant for her arrest was issued March 14. She is free on \$10,000 bail pending her next court date set for April 12.

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POLICE REPORT

The following items were taken from Niles police reports. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt; only a court of law can make that determination.

RECKLESS DRIVING

■ Justin Jamie, 22, of Groveport, Ohio, was charged with reckless driving and speeding Feb. 25. According to police, Jamie's car was traveling at 97 mph on westbound Dempster Street, west of Milwaukee Avenue. His car also struck the side of another car as it swerved out of its path, police said. Jamie has an April 14 court date.

THEFT

■ Cassandra Fornear, 33, of the 200 block of West Belvidere Road, Hainesville, was charged with retail theft Feb. 24 after she allegedly stole merchandise from a store in the 8500 block of Golf Road and then attempted to return the items for cash, police said.

Fornear is scheduled to appear in court March 24.

BATTERY

■ Ibrahim Matezic, 52, of the 8100 block of Park Avenue, Niles, was charged with domestic battery on Feb. 24. Matezic has an April 3 court date.

DUI

■ Jakub Grajdura, 22, of the 7000 block of West Kedzie Street, was charged with driving under the influence Feb. 26 after police said his car struck a fence and rolled over in the 6700 block of Howard Street. A female passenger inside the car was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, but Grajdura was not transported, police said. Grajdura is scheduled to appear in court April 14.

■ Marvin Ontiveros, 25, of the 4900 block of Enfield Avenue, Skokie, was charged with driving under the influence Feb. 25 following a traffic stop in the 8800

block of Milwaukee Avenue, police said. Ontiveros is scheduled to appear in court April 14.

PUBLIC INTOXICATION

■ A 25-year-old Waukegan woman was ticketed for public intoxication after police were called to a bar Feb. 27 in the 8500 block of Golf Road for a report of a battery. The woman reportedly told police she had been attacked in the restroom and punched in the stomach five times. Police said she gave the responding officer different names and birth dates before her identity could be confirmed. Police ticketed a 23-year-old man from Vernon Hills for public intoxication in connection with an unrelated incident that occurred at the same bar the same day. Reports of both incidents were sent to the Niles Liquor Commission, police said.

BATTERY

■ A 57-year-old man told police that while he was walking his dog Feb. 22, he became involved in an argument with a 71-year-old man, who punched him in the jaw. The 71-year-old denied striking the other man, police said. No criminal complaints were signed, according to police.

BURGLARY

■ Jewelry was reported stolen Feb. 25 from a home in the 8200 block of Neva Avenue, police said. The house was forcibly entered, according to police.

■ A business on the 7200 block of Dempster Street was reported burglarized between Feb. 24 and 27 while it was undergoing remodeling, police said. A worker told police that approximately 22 spools of copper wire were missing from the building.

THEFT

■ An employee of a restaur-

ant in the 5900 block of Touhy Avenue discovered more than \$13,000 in unauthorized withdrawals had been made from the business' payroll account between Oct. 1 and Feb. 21, police said.

■ A 90-year-old Chicago woman was ticketed Feb. 24 after she allegedly stole a container of strawberries from a store in the 5700 block of Touhy Avenue.

■ A man was reportedly seen stealing two TVs Feb. 24 from a store in the 8500 block of Golf Road.

■ On Feb. 25, a woman allegedly attempted to cash a fraudulent check totaling \$672.53 at a business in the 7500 block of Milwaukee Avenue, police said.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

■ Graffiti, written with marker, was discovered Feb. 24 on playground equipment at Washington Park, 8900 N. Washington Road, police said.

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District 64 holds candidate election forum

Transparency, conflicts of interest discussed

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

The relationship between three Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 candidates and three teachers currently working for the district was one of several topics raised during a pre-election forum held March 14 in Park Ridge.

An audience of about 70 attended the forum, which was hosted at Roosevelt Elementary School by the District 64 teachers union and parent-teacher organizations. It was moderated by Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Gail Haller.

Most questions posed during the roughly one-hour forum were asked of just three or four of the seven candidates who are running for four, four-year terms on the board this April 4.

The only question answered by all candidates involved the marriage of three candidates — Greg Bublitz, Norman Dziejczak and Michael Schaab — to teachers currently working in District 64 schools and who are covered under a labor contract that is negotiated and approved by the Board of Education.

Haller asked the candidates whether they think such a relationship is a conflict of interest.

Candidate Rick Biagi said that, as an attorney, he is required to avoid “even the appearance of impropriety when it comes to conflicts of interest,” and suggested this be followed on the Board of Education as well.

“I don’t suggest that any of these three gentlemen are intentionally (running for the school board) because they want to do something to better their spouses



JENNIFER JOHNSON/PIONEER PRESS

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 teacher Andy Duerkop, at podium, addresses the audience at the beginning of a March 14 forum with the seven candidates running for the school board.

es,” Biagi said. “I’m certain they’re doing this for the right reasons, but it’s giving the appearance of impropriety.”

Fred Sanchez, also an attorney, said he shared Biagi’s perspective.

“(If) you have three people on the board that have spouses within the district, I think there are certainly plenty of opportunities where there could be a conflict — whether it’s negotiating salary and benefits, length of the work day, whatever the case may be,” Sanchez said. “There definitely is that image of impropriety. Why would you want to put your organization in that sort of light? That is something folks ought to consider when making the decision about who they want to represent them on the board.”

Candidates Larry Ryles and Eastman Tiu did not share how they felt, saying it is up to voters to decide.

“If you don’t have a problem with their spouses working in the district and you want to vote for them, that’s your opportunity,” Ryles said. “If you do have a problem, then don’t vote

for them.”

“It’s a very personal decision as to whether you trust the people in front of you,” Tiu told the audience.

Dziejczak said he has been open about the fact that his wife, Sonja, is a District 64 teacher and does not view this as a conflict of interest. He said his run for the board “has nothing to do with my wife’s salary and benefits,” but he would recuse himself from voting on “anything directly affecting her.”

Bublitz, whose wife, Kirsten, is a special education teacher at Carpenter School, said his run for office is based on his “vocation to help children.” Bublitz is currently director of student services in neighboring East Maine School District 63.

“Ask people who know me about my integrity,” Bublitz said. “I will make decisions for children first. And yes, I will recuse myself where appropriate.”

Schaab, whose wife, Caroline, teaches at Field School, said no one board member is responsible for making decisions.

“There is appearance of

conflict of interest, but one person cannot control what everyone else decides,” Schaab said. “It’s seven individuals making decisions.”

If a board member recuses himself, there are still six other members “who are going to help make those decisions,” he added.

The current contract with the Park Ridge Education Association extends through mid-2020, putting negotiations and possible ratification of a subsequent teachers contract within the four-year terms of candidates elected in April 2017.

Transparency was also a topic during the forum, with Biagi objecting to the board’s recent decision to go into closed session to deliberate the appointment of a new member to fill a short-term vacancy on the school board.

Biagi added that the school district required the Park Ridge Herald-Advocate to submit a Freedom of Information Act request in order to receive the names and resumes of the eight residents who applied for making decisions.

“It’s absurd,” he said.

“I’ve sat through this multiple times on the Park District board, and we just don’t do that. We just don’t need to hold documents like that behind closed doors so the public can’t see them.”

Sanchez said he would encourage the board to share as much information as possible if it does not violate anyone’s privacy.

“I think it’s very hard to come to a conclusion that the district’s making the right decisions when the people who are making the decisions are doing it behind closed doors and you don’t know the reasons they are coming to that conclusion,” he said.

Ryles said the district needs to better communicate with residents.

“We don’t spend enough time in District 64 explaining the actions we take,” he said. “We need to figure out a way to reach more people in the city of Park Ridge, to let them know what we’re doing, why we’re doing it and the way we’re doing it.”

Tiu, a high school teacher, said the board needs to be careful about how much of what goes on during collective bargaining ses-

sions is made public, as there are rules that must be followed.

“Some people have said, ‘We want to get things out in the public.’ But we want to be careful of that because a district that does do that is CPS (Chicago Public Schools), and I don’t think we want to go there,” Tiu said.

When voters elect school board members, they do so trusting in the decisions they will make, he added.

On the topic of balancing education “with the need to respond to the local taxpayer burden,” Bublitz stressed the importance of conducting research on any new programs, which is what he does in his position with District 63.

Though “not as affluent” as District 64, District 63 was able to create secured entrances at its schools and is investing in full-day kindergarten, Bublitz said.

Ryles said the district needs to better “connect” with the city of Park Ridge, the Park District, Maine Township High School District 207 and local nonprofit agencies to find ways to save money, such as each taxing district using the same contractor. He also called for growing each school’s PTOs and PTAs, which raise money for student programs.

Focusing on addressing capital needs of the district’s facilities was cited by Dziejczak, Ryles and Tiu as among the most important issues currently facing the district. Dziejczak added that the district needs to resist focusing so much on standardized testing “so we can continue to focus on the whole child.”

The public was not invited to ask questions of the panel during the forum, but those in attendance were invited to speak with individual candidates following the event.

Wadhwa, Harada won't return to Oakton board

Longtime trustee among 2 stepping down; 4 candidates vying for the 2 seats

BY LIBBY ELLIOTT
Pioneer Press

A longtime Oakton Community College trustee is one of two on the college's board who aren't seeking re-election April 4.

After nearly three decades as an Oakton Community College trustee, Northbrook resident Jody Wadhwa decided to step down because of what he called hearing loss. Wadhwa is joined by Patricia Harada, of Wilmette, who also is giving up her seat on the board. She is exiting after serving one term.

There are four candidates on the ballot vying for the two seats.

Wadhwa, 82, has served

five six-year terms, after joining the board in 1987. He said a loss of hearing — which he attributes to his age — is his principle reason for stepping down, though he “loves the college” and “enjoyed serving.”

“I can only hear about 60 percent of what's said at the meetings now, which is frustrating,” said Wadhwa. “It's time to give someone else a chance.”

Wadhwa's many contributions to the college during his tenure have included introduction and endowment of The Illinois Community College Trustees Association's Gandhi/King Peace Scholarship. The annual essay contest



Patricia Harada



Jody Wadhwa

OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE PHOTOS

provides a \$500 scholarship to the student who best articulates the peaceful messages of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Oakton College President Joianne Smith spoke highly of Wadhwa and his

longstanding service on the board.

“Jody's departure is a tremendous loss to the college community,” Smith said. “He is absolutely committed to the success of our students.”

In addition to being a

generous donor to Oakton's educational foundation, Smith said Wadhwa has been a mentor to many of the college's students who are from India.

“I can't tell you how many of our Indian students would refer to him as ‘Uncle Jody,’” said Smith.

Wadhwa came to the U.S. from his native India in 1956.

Harada was elected to the board in 2011 and has served a single six-year stint.

“I'm leaving for no particular reason other than I served out my term,” Harada said. “I am honored and privileged to have served and I'll miss my fellow trustees.”

Harada led the transition team that oversaw the succession in 2015 of former Oakton College President

Margaret Lee to Smith.

“I was very happy to serve in that capacity during the transition,” Harada said.

Smith reiterated that both of the out-going trustees would be missed.

“Oakton Community College has always had a good board of trustees and we're very grateful for all their contributions,” she said.

Martha Burns of Evanston, Carmina Cortes Gonzalez of Des Plaines, Travis Zimmerman of Northbrook and Paul Kotowski of Skokie all are running for a seat on the board of trustees in next month's election.

Early voting in Cook County runs March 20-April 3.

Libby Elliott is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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DOUBLE DUTY

Firefighters can run for office locally, but should they?

BY IRV LEAVITT AND
ALEXANDRA KUKULKA
Pioneer Press

In recent years, Harris, Gallup, and other pollsters frequently have ranked firefighters first among professionals deserving of respect and trust. But in Northbrook and Glenview, two firefighters are being viewed warily by some politicians as they vie for seats on the boards of the villages where they work.

In Illinois, firefighters can run for seats on the town bodies that govern their professions — where members make the decisions about pay, union negotiations, approval of new equipment, and in some cases, even professional discipline. But some politicians say the exception for firefighters in rules prohibiting municipal employees from seeking office in their towns is a bad one.



Bush



Spalo

“When a village employee runs for village board, he’s essentially running to be his own boss,” said Glenview board member John Hinkamp.

One of Hinkamp’s opponents in the April 4 election is Glenview firefighter Vince Spalo. In Northbrook, firefighter Scott Bush is running for trustee against three opponents slated by the Northbrook Caucus.

“I think there are so many conflicts this guy Bush should be disqualified,” said Northbrook Caucus leader Barry Nekritz, himself a former trustee.

Thanks to a 2005 law, firefighters are allowed to seek town board seats, a privilege denied to other municipal employees. Shortly after that law’s passage, the then-chief counsel of the Illinois Municipal League wrote that a conflict of interest occurs “because the fire-

fighter would have an interest in his or her employment contract with the corporate authorities.” Roger Huebner concluded that it “has the inexplicable reality of only creating problems where problems do not need to exist.”

Opposition to the law remains among some of the Illinois agencies that protect the rights of local governments. Every year, the Metro West Council of Government votes to keep it on the list of laws it wants to kill, said Mary Randle, executive director.

Randle said the suburban communities in the group continue to oppose the firefighters-as-trustees law, “because they don’t think it appropriate for someone to affect decisions that affect their own job.”

They take that stance, she said, even though Elgin, one of the member communities, has a councilman who was an Elgin fire lieutenant when he first ran eight years ago, and, she said, no ethical problem ever was raised with her group.

Richard Dunne, now running for a third term, retired from the fire department after three years in office. Elgin Mayor David Kaptain said that when Dunne was an active firefighter, he recused himself from firefighter contract talks and other discussions and votes that might cause conflicts.

“All I can say is I think he’s done a good job,” said Kaptain, who’s served on the City Council for 12 years. But he added that Dunne’s service doesn’t mean the law allowing him to serve is necessarily right — or wrong.

“Is there somebody else who isn’t a firefighter who could do the job? Of course there is,” he said. “Does that necessarily mean we should never have (another) firefighter? I’ve got to think about that.”

The 2005 law was sponsored by former State Rep. Tim Schmitz, R-49th, a paid-on-call firefighter who had legally served years ago as a Batavia alderman due to an exemption for part-time and volunteer firefighters. When a full-time Batavia firefighter tried to run and couldn’t, Schmitz sponsored the new law.

That firefighter didn’t wind up

running, but it opened up the possibilities for a few others, like Dunne, to do so.

Illinois police officers later tried to get similar rights, but failed. In 2005, Schmitz said, “I was probably dealing with the situation at hand. I didn’t have any police officers, snowplow drivers, saying ‘Put me in, too.’”

From the beginning, the Associated Fire Fighters of Illinois union has supported finding a way for firefighters to seek local governmental positions.

“Firefighters have a right to run for office. They pay taxes, too,” said Eddy Crews, AFFI lobbyist.

AFFI President Pat Devaney, a Champaign fire lieutenant, said the kind of person who would become a firefighter might also be interested in being another kind of public servant.

“Our members tend to have a heightened sense of community service,” Devaney said.

And the firefighters running for office say they bring something to the table.

Spalo said that as a firefighter, he’s seen up close how Glenview Public Works and other departments operate, and he believes that knowledge would benefit the board and the village.

But incumbent Glenview Trustee Deborah Karton, also a 2017 candidate, said the board already relies on knowledge and recommendations from village employees, so the body doesn’t require a member who has first-hand experience working for the village.

Karton said Spalo would have conflicts of interest because the board votes on many issues that directly impact or relate to the fire department. Staying out of all of those discussions, she said, would not be fair to residents.

“All taxpayers deserve representatives who are going to represent them all the time,” she said.

Spalo, who has served as union vice president for two years, said he would “most likely step down” from union leadership if elected, and he said he would recuse himself from any contractual discussions. Bush also said he would recuse himself from contract talks.

“All he’s got to do is abstain on



CHICAGO TRIBUNE FILE PHOTO

A Northbrook firefighter is running for local office in the April 4 election.

the wage ordinance,” Schmitz said.

“If there were any questions where there’s even a hint of, ‘Is this something that I should or should not be involved in,’ I would lean on the village attorney and turn to his guidance for his interpretations of those issues,” Spalo said.

That’s the approach Elgin took, too, officials there said.

“We relied on our corporation counsel to tell whether this is a spot where he should, or shouldn’t, vote on it,” former Elgin Village President Ed Schock said.

Dunne said that while still a firefighter, a fire contract came up in executive session, so he excused himself from that closed-session discussion.

“I personally asked the mayor and the manager to put the labor agreement as the last item on the agenda, so people could discuss it freely and openly among themselves,” he said.

But Glenview Village President Jim Patterson said it would be a conflict of interest for Spalo, as a member of the fire union, to participate in labor discussions concerning even the non-fire department unions, because “when you’re talking with one union, it could have bearing with another union.”

In Northbrook, Trustee Kathryn Ciesla, one of Bush’s opponents, said she also sees areas of concern, even with tax votes.

“I think voting on the budget may be a conflict, certainly voting on labor contracts, voting on the tax levy,” Ciesla said. “Over the last several years I’ve been on the board, our tax levy has been used to fund police and fire pensions.”

She added that it may also be a conflict, in her opinion, to work on the board’s Ad Hoc Labor Commit-

tee and its Public Safety Committee.

“I don’t think it would be appropriate for him to sit on certain committees,” said another Northbrook candidate, Plan Commission Member Muriel Collison. She said she was concerned whether Bush would, if elected, recuse himself from firefighter labor talks and some other department-related issues.

Bush said he would stay out of fire labor talks but not much else that involved his job.

“Who better to know what’s good to use in the fire department than somebody in the fire department?” he asked.

The caucus’ Nekritz said having a firefighter on the board would inhibit discussion of discipline of firefighters in closed executive sessions.

“When the board talks about discipline, all the firefighters shouldn’t know about it,” he said.

But three-term Northbrook Trustee Todd Heller said that most firefighter and police officer discipline is managed by the chiefs, and in his 12 years, such issues have only reached the village board three times.

Jason Han, a third candidate for Northbrook trustee, said that a Bush-generated conflict, real or perceived, creates liability for the village: if a costly decision is made that appears to have been decided by Bush, that could trigger litigation.

“I can envision some wealthy resident, who has an ax to grind, funding a lawsuit,” he said.

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Judge feared hospital merger would increase prices

BY LISA SCHENCKER
Chicago Tribune

The federal judge who ruled against Advocate Health Care and NorthShore University HealthSystem's proposed merger earlier this month worried that it would raise prices and do more harm than good, according to his newly released opinion.

Advocate and NorthShore decided to drop their quest to merge after U.S. District Judge Jorge Alonso granted the FTC and state of Illinois' request for a preliminary injunction to temporarily stop the union.

Although Alonso's decision was released earlier this month, his written opinion was kept under seal to give attorneys time to request the redaction of any competitively sensitive information.

The court publicly re-



ANTHONY SOUFFLE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

NorthShore's Evanston Hospital in Evanston.

leased his opinion March 16, shedding light on the judge's reasoning for siding against a deal that would have led to the creation of the 11th largest health system in the country.

Alonso wrote that the FTC's economist "persuasively demonstrated that the merger is likely to cause a significant price increase resulting in a loss to consumers."

He also wrote that NorthShore and Advocate did not prove that the potential benefits of their deal would offset the harm to competition it would cause.

The judge wrote that because the FTC and state of Illinois showed that they would likely win the overall case, he felt it necessary to grant their request for a preliminary injunction. Otherwise, it would be diffi-

cult to pull the systems apart later if they lost the overall case.

Alonso's decision is an about-face from a call he made last year when the matter came before him.

At that time, Alonso sided with the systems, refusing to give the FTC a preliminary injunction. The FTC, however, appealed that decision to the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which sided with the FTC and sent the case back to Alonso to reconsider.

The appellate judges said that Alonso had erred in his original decision when it came to defining the hospitals' geographic markets — a key issue in the case.

Alonso wrote in the opinion released March 16 that in light of that guidance from the appellate court, he concluded that the FTC did correctly define the geo-

graphic market.

A spokeswoman for NorthShore declined to comment on the opinion March 16.

In a statement, Advocate said "We move forward committed to the same core values that drove our decision to pursue the merger — improve quality, advance care delivery and lower costs."

The systems' leaders said in letters to their employees after the ruling that they were disappointed by the decision.

"We have determined with the Advocate Health Care leadership that the time, cost, and uncertainty of pursuing any additional appeals would not be worthwhile," NorthShore CEO Mark Neaman wrote at the time.

The systems had argued that a merger would allow

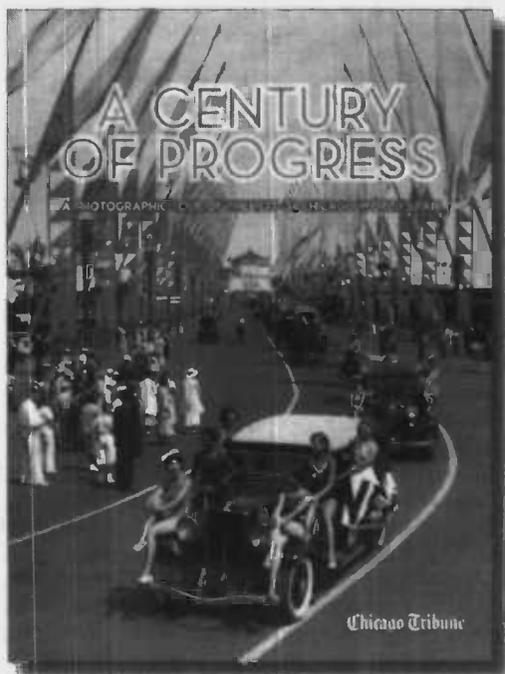
them to lower costs and improve care for patients. They had said they would offer an insurance product priced at 10 percent less than the lowest-priced comparable product available, saving consumers at least \$210 million a year.

The FTC, however, challenged the proposed merger in 2015 on the grounds that it would hurt consumers. The FTC said the union would lead to an 8 percent, or \$45 million, price increase at the hospitals.

In an interview with the Tribune earlier this month, Neaman said NorthShore was not in merger discussions with anyone else at that moment but would "keep an open mind."

"We're looking inward at the moment," Neaman said.

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NEWS

Former Skokie officer charged with stealing bond money

By **BRIAN L. COX**
Pioneer Press

A former Skokie police officer who cited “financial peril” as the reason he allegedly stole two individuals’ bail money in 2015 is free on a recognizance bond, authorities said March 17.

Mitchell Smaller, 36, of Buffalo Grove, is charged with felony misconduct and misdemeanor theft for allegedly stealing \$450 in bail money he collected following two separate arrests nearly two years ago, authorities said.

“An investigation was launched immediately and Smaller’s employment with the Skokie Police Department was terminated on June 19, 2015,” Skokie police Chief Anthony Scarpelli said in a written statement provided Friday. “Upon discovery, the matter also was turned over to the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office Public Integrity Unit that recently concluded its investigation and review.”

Charges were filed against Smaller this month. On May 9, 2015, Smaller

arrested a person for retail theft and someone posted \$150 bond on their behalf, prosecutors said during Smaller’s bond hearing last week.

Prosecutors allege in the official complaint filed against Smaller that he completed a bond receipt, arrest report and other documents, but “failed to submit the arrest file, including the bond money, to the police department, as required by department policy.”

Fifteen days later, Smaller arrested a motorist for a traffic violation, according to the complaint. Prosecutors say that a passenger in the vehicle posted \$300 bond for the motorist, and the passenger who posted the bond added that Smaller had taken the passenger to an ATM to get the bond money to post.

In this May 24, 2015 case, according to prosecutors, Smaller “again” did not submit the arrest file or bond money to the police department.

In June 2015, an employee with the Cook County Clerk’s Office “alerted the

Skokie Police Department to the missing bond money,” and police supervisors at that time discovered arrest files for both individuals Smaller had arrested in Smaller’s internal mailbox at the police department, prosecutors said.

Smaller then admitted to his supervisors that he took the bond money, according to prosecutors, because he was in “financial peril.”

Officials say Smaller then returned the money to the police department.

Smaller was an 11-year veteran of the department when he was terminated more than a year ago — after officials became aware of the alleged thefts and misconduct, his attorney, Daniel Herbert, said March 17.

Herbert said Smaller will fight the charges in court.

“Nobody was out any money. It was returned. The allegation is he took it and didn’t immediately put it in the clerk’s office like he’s supposed to,” Hebert said. “It’s certainly out of character for his body of work.”

Brian L. Cox is a freelancer.

Evanston, Nashville senior homes bet on Northwestern-Vanderbilt game

By **GENEVIEVE BOOKWALTER**
Pioneer Press

Residents of an Evanston senior living community bet deep dish pizza and local pastries that Northwestern would beat Vanderbilt in the March 16 men’s basketball game.

It was the Wildcats’ first ever appearance in the NCAA Tournament.

Residents of The Merion, which include a number of Northwestern University alums, had Lou Malnati’s pizzas and a box of pastries from their house chef on the line against The Heritage at

Brentwood, a senior living community near Nashville, home of Vanderbilt University, according to a news release.

“We got the Heritage at Brentwood to go along with a nice, friendly little wager, which they’re going to lose,” Mark Zullo, director of marketing for The Merion, joked before the start of the game.

And so they did. Northwestern topped Vanderbilt 68-66.

Now residents of The Merion are expected to receive a party featuring “country ham and flaky biscuits” from the Loveless

Cafe in Tennessee, that, according to the release, was wagered.

Many of The Merion’s 100 residents are from Evanston and the surrounding area, and many of those are graduates or former employees of the university, Zullo said.

The Merion hosted a party that afternoon for its residents to watch the game together.

The two teams played in the first round of the tournament’s West Region games, taking to the court in Salt Lake City, Utah.

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Rainbow of colors at fashion show

By **KARIE ANGELL LUC**
Pioneer Press

It was a rainbow of colors and a festival of school spirit at the fifth North Suburban Prom Fashion Show March 19 in Glenview.

Students from Glenbrook North High School in Northbrook, Glenbrook South High School in Glenview, Deerfield High School in Deerfield and Loyola Academy of Wilmette took part in the fashion show.

A red carpet runway served as the catwalk at Youth Services of Glenview/Northbrook at 3080 W. Lake Ave., where the gym accommodated fans and photographers at the McLennan Center for Youth's PotashCorp campus.

Approximately 200 people attended the ticketed event, which had a raffle, and roughly \$2,000 was

raised to assist Youth Services programming, said Amy O'Leary, YSGN executive director.

"Youth Services is thrilled to host the North Suburban Prom Fashion Show this year, and the funds will support our efforts to foster the social and emotional well-being of children in the northern suburbs," O'Leary said. "This event has been a fun and meaningful way to partner with our community and raise much-needed dollars."

More than 60 high school-aged models, mostly girls, wore formalwear on loan from Men's Wearhouse of Deerfield and Lord and Taylor at Northbrook Court. Elizabeth Arden Red Door Spa in Deerfield provided hair and makeup.

"It's so awesome," said Ben Zhao, 18, of Northbrook, a Glenbrook North senior

and event chairman. "We're supporting a great cause."

Kamryn Abraskin, 18, of Northbrook, also a Glenbrook North senior, served as chairwoman.

"It's just a great way to get people involved in the community, while students have fun," Abraskin said.

Emily Sedlak, Julianna Gordon and Louis Gordon, all of Northbrook, were co-chairs.

In previous years, the annual fashion show headlined at the North Suburban YMCA in Northbrook. The 2017 event was the first time the show took place at Youth Services of Glenview/Northbrook.

The Northbrook Family Network, a partner on the previous fashion shows, ceased operation, said Bob Lozaro, the show's event coordinator.

"We're happy to be work-

ing with Youth Services of Glenview/Northbrook," Lozaro said.

The student committee chose Youth Services to be the recipient of the proceeds from the show, he said.

"It's the youth supporting the youth," Lozaro said.

Northbrook Village President Sandy Frum and Glenview Village President Jim Patterson spoke at the fashion show.

"This is a great event that supports Youth Services," Frum said. "They do things that we'd have to do if they weren't around."

"You're in for a fun afternoon," Patterson said, adding the event provided an inclusive fashionable opportunity, "where everybody's in and nobody's out."

The look of prom aligns with what's in season for 2017 wedding wear, said Joe Tagorda of Chicago, Men's



KARIE ANGELL LUC/PIONEER PRESS

Emily Chwa, a Glenbrook North student, walks the runway at the North Suburban Prom Fashion Show on March 19.

Wearhouse assistant store manager, who said bow ties and vests are popular requests.

Dressing appropriately is vital because "it makes an impression," Tagorda said.

Prom, typically taking place in the weeks before graduation, has a tradition of prom proposals. How one is asked to the big dance is often as creative as the dressy pomp.

Student Dylan Rose took the opportunity at the fashion show to drop to his knee on the runway in a prom proposal to Falya Mellul. Both are Glenbrook North students and had already planned to go to prom together.

"She said yes, but I didn't get a kiss," Rose said later.

Karie Angell Luc is a freelancer for Pioneer Press.

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On one wild, computer-simulated ride

Potential engineers first learn to drive Metra trains while looking at a screen

BY MARY WISNIEWSKI
Chicago Tribune

Metra engineer-in-training Anthony Davis, 29, encountered some unusual weather on a morning train route last week.

First there were storm clouds, then fog and finally snow — all in the space of five minutes.

Later, he could encounter a car, a backhoe or even a brown-and-white spotted cow blocking the tracks.

Davis, a former freight engineer, was driving not a real train but a simulator used as part of the Metra engineer training program.

At Metra headquarters, 547 W. Jackson Blvd., Chicago, five simulators reproduce engineer cabs on different types of commuter trains, with the same throttles, brakes, gauges, switches and alerts. The view out the windows of the cabs is a computer animation of actual train runs, like the Heritage Corridor to Joliet, with trees, cars and briefcase-carrying commuters waiting at stations. It's like a vast model train set, but on screens.

Trainees have to deal with slow zones for construction, power losses and whatever else the trainer sitting at a nearby computer station decides to throw at them.

"It doesn't feel the same as the real thing, but you can better prepare yourself when you get out there," said Davis, of Plainfield, who had previously worked for 5½ years as a freight engineer on the Burlington Northern Santa Fe.

"It gives you a base before you go out and touch the equipment," agreed trainee Jason Cook, 38, of Matteson, an engineer on Union Pacific trains for 12 years.

Both Davis and Cook expect to graduate from the

training program and be ready to go into regular service as engineers March 24, after a 20-week paid program that combines training on the simulator, in the classroom and on live Metra trains.

Metra was the first commuter railroad in the country to start using computer simulations as part of its training program in 2008, according to Marty Fitts, an engineer and senior director of training and certification at Metra who led the team that developed the program.

Other commuter railroads have since started using simulators. Besides new engineer training, the simulators are used for engineer recertification, which happens about every three years for Metra's 208 engineers.

At least one engineer a year loses his or her certification — five were decertified in 2016.

"This gives us a better idea of how they're performing in the field," Fitts said. He said the use of the simulators has helped cut rule violations, such as running red signals or entering a section of track without permission.

The computer hardware and software for the five simulators are 9 years old, and Metra will replace them this spring at a cost of about \$600,000, Fitts said. The new equipment will provide more realistic graphics, such as showing changing light conditions at dusk and dawn, and shadows from trees. It also will be easier to add changes to track conditions, such as new construction and speed zones, Fitts said.

No one can just walk off the street to train as a Metra engineer.

Internal Metra applicants need to have been in a train-service job, typically a



MICHAEL TERCHA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTO

Candidate engineer Jason Cook, 38, takes his final skill run March 13 in the Metra training simulator room, which is used to train or recertify engineers.

conductor, and must go through 40 weeks of training to be an engineer. External applicants need at least four years of experience as an engineer and go through 20 weeks of training. Like Davis and Cook, the other 10 people currently in training at Metra are external applicants from other railroads.

Engineers in training spend two to four weeks on the simulator, mixed with experience being in a cab with a working Metra engineer, and operating a live Rock Island District train out of Blue Island, with an engine and cars but without passengers.

The Rock Island District line is used for training because Metra owns it, and it does not have to deal with Amtrak and freight schedules, explained Robert Tague, an engineer and director of training and certification.

Before a simulated or actual run, an engineer is given a "track warrant" that indicates workers and equipment will be on the tracks between certain times and at certain locations, and track flags will be

displayed, and an engineer needs to slow down and radio the foreman to get permission to come through.

The trainee's behavior on the simulator is monitored by a trainer sitting at a multiscreen computer module in another part of the room — the trainer pretends to be the dispatcher, calling out instructions, and can add hazards, like fog, snow or cows.

The trainer also can monitor what the trainee is doing — what switches are being pulled and what mistakes are being made.

After a six-hour day on a simulator, there is a debriefing so students can discuss with their trainer and each other what they have learned, and what they can do better, Tague said.

"We can throw all these scenarios out there," Fitts said. "We want the mistakes to happen while we're here in the simulator, and not in the field."

Aside from engineer training and certification, another layer of safety is coming to Metra with the addition of Positive Train Control technology, accord-

cannot stop the train in time, and a tragedy can happen even if an engineer does all the right things. Davis witnessed a pedestrian being struck when he was out on a real, nonsimulated training run, and the engineer in control could not prevent it.

"You've got to expect it," Davis said.

Vanishing ticket agents

Technology is closing more ticket windows at Metra.

Because of declining on-site sales, the commuter rail service said that Union Pacific will no longer staff the Oak Park and Kenilworth stations with ticket agents as of the close of business March 30.

Ticket sales have declined at many Metra stations as passengers have switched to online and mobile purchasing, Metra said. About 30 percent of all tickets at the end of 2016 were purchased through the Ventra app.

Passengers will still have access to station facilities at the Union Pacific West Line Oak Park station, where more than 1,100 people board each weekday, and at the UP North Line Kenilworth Station, where more than 300 people board each weekday. The positions are being cut through attrition, Metra said.

On-site ticket sales have previously been eliminated at the Riverside and Brookfield stations on the BNSF Railway Line; the 91st, 95th and 99th street stations on the Rock Island District; the Bensenville station on the Milwaukee West Line; the 57th Street station on the Metra Electric District; the Hubbard Woods and Lake Bluff stations on the Union Pacific North Line; and the Harvard station on the Union Pacific Northwest Line.

Fitts said that PTC does not take away from the engineer, who will still be in control of the train. "If the engineer is doing everything he or she is required to do, that we teach them to do, they will never have to engage with PTC," Fitts said.

Trainees also learn that when a hazard shows up unexpectedly, like a car on the tracks, an engineer often

Proposal is nice throwback in digital age



RANDY BLASER

In an age when nothing really happens unless it was captured on video, I came across a story of young love that is a throwback to another age.

The issue was a marriage proposal.

Marriage proposals in modern times of Instagram, YouTube, Facebook and phones with better cameras than the ones used to film "Ben Hur" have become lavish productions unto themselves.

It all began with marriage proposals at sporting events.

I'm sure you've seen them in a galaxy long ago and faraway. You're at the ball game enjoying a beer and hot dog when an audible "Aawwww" wells up from the crowd. You look



JUSTIN MCFADDEN PHOTO

A marriage proposal at the Willis Tower Skydeck in Chicago.

up at the big message board and there it is in big bold letters:

"Amy. Will you marry me? Scott."

Then the camera pans to Amy and Scott. He's on one knee, taking a ring out of a catcher's mitt. She's in tears,

nods and then they embrace. The crowd cheers.

Of course, there have been embarrassing moments for such a ploy. The bride-to-be says "no way" to the proposal and makes a mad dash out of the stadium, again in tears. The

boyfriend is left standing alone in a faded Cubs shirt.

But that method of public marriage proposal was long ago. Today, such events are choreographed, filmed live and then edited for the post-production masses as if it were a Ken Burns pro-

duction on PBS.

I'm sure you've seen the videos. Just search for "Best Marriage Proposals Ever" on YouTube. There are thousands of them.

Watch them for awhile and you get the feeling the proposers are trying to out-do one another.

Some enlist their friends to create flash mobs dancing to that sappy "Marry you" song you hear on the TV show "Glee."

Others have the parents of the bride-to-be and all her family participate by showing up en masse at a mall or movie theater or favorite bar. Still others work to recreate movie scenes to pop the question. Sometimes a pet dog or cat is employed.

It's as if guys these days are no longer satisfied with the love of their life saying "yes" to the most important question any guy could ever ask. Today, you also have to get the most views on YouTube.

Then there is the story of

Timothy and Candice, a young couple who were in the news this past week for the unusual way, by modern standards, Timothy asked for Candice's hand.

He did so in a series of handwritten letters sent to Candice over several years with a hidden message. The message, of course, was, "Will you marry me," spelled out by the first letter of each note.

The message went unseen by Candice, until Timothy found the right moment years later and pointed it out to her.

Romantic? Yes, but just about as old-fashioned as you can get.

There was no enlisting of friends and family, no flash mob, no music to coordinate. Just an intimate expression of love carried out over time.

And that's what really makes it special. Good luck you two.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

St. Patrick not only saint worth celebrating



PAUL SASSONE

Which do you prefer? Squishy corned beef, limp cabbage and a bare boiled potato.

Or ...

Thin, crisp, rich red pizza redolent with spicy sausage.

Do I even need to tally the votes?

Not that I have anything against all things Irish. I am part Irish myself.

But there are other ethnicities that deserve celebration yet don't receive anywhere near the attention St. Patrick's day does.

On St. Patrick's Day we

are told everyone is Irish.

And, like many of you, I watched the various parades on TV and oohed as the Chicago River was dyed green. And it's always a kick to watch kids Irish dancing, arms rigidly held at their sides. It was nice, a fun event as always.

But every year as I watch the St. Patrick's Day festivities, I feel a twinge for that other saint's day that falls close to the Irish saint's day.

I'm talking about St. Joseph, who is Italy's patron saint.

Unless you are Italian-American, you probably don't hear much about St. Joseph.

Nothing is dyed a different color because of Italy's saint, perhaps because it would be tricky to dye the

Chicago River the color of a meatball.

But even without a meatball-colored waterway, St. Joseph deserves to be remembered and respected and celebrated.

A major and laudable feature of St. Joseph's Day is the tradition of feeding the hungry.

On, or near, St. Joseph's Day, Italian-American churches and other Italian-American groups and organizations prepare and serve food to people at little or no cost. St. Joseph focuses on serving those in need. It is outer-directed.

Conversely, St. Patrick's Day is inner-directed. It is a day we celebrate and indulge ourselves. And there is nothing wrong with that. It is a welcome diversion

from what is the sometimes all-too-serious business of daily living.

So, while St. Patrick's Day is fun, probably one of them a year is sufficient.

But, you have to admit an ethnic observance day that focuses on feeding our hungry brothers and sisters is a different matter.

While the official date this year for St. Joseph's day is Sunday, March 19, we could use a lot more of those celebrations all year round.

St. Joseph's day is a template for how we should think - and what we should do - to celebrate and mark special days and observances.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.



MARYANN PISANO/PIONEER PRESS

A St. Joseph statue and desserts at St. Vincent Ferrer Parish's St. Joseph's Day table in River Forest in March 2016.

MARK AND MICAH

MARK SUPPELSA

MICAH MATERRE

WEEKNIGHTS

CHICAGO'S VERY OWN

WGN⁹NEWS

OPINION

5 examples of fitness fake news



NICOLE RADZISZEWSKI
Mama's Gotta Move

It's funny how some messages keep circulating in the fitness world, no matter how much science and common sense assert otherwise. If you've let any of the following fake news influence your efforts to be fit and healthy, now is the time to stop.

I realize I may be disrupting your lifelong beliefs, so please don't hesitate to challenge me on any of these points if you disagree. I'd be happy to have a conversation!

1. To engage your lower abs, draw your navel to your spine.

Let's start with a little anatomy lesson. First, unless by "lower" you mean "deeper," there is no such thing as your lower abs. Your deepest abdominal muscle, the transverse abdominis, spans from just above your pubic bone all the way up to your sternum. Sucking in your belly button does not ensure that you activate this muscle. Nor does flattening out your spine and doing a crunch. So how do you engage your "deep abs?" Try this: Place your hands on your abdomen, just inside your hip bones, then inhale, noticing your belly soften. Now, exhale and engage your pelvic floor (imagine you are stopping the flow of urine). You should feel your abdomen tighten. That's because you've just engaged your "deep abs." You're welcome.

2. For better posture, pull your shoulders back and stick out your chest.

More accurately, you

might say, "For low back pain, pull your shoulders back and stick out your chest." There is nothing wrong with pulling your shoulders back. The problem comes when we pop out our ribs. When you walk around with your ribs flared, you're not only putting an additional load on your spine; you're preventing your deep core muscles (yes, the ones you just learned how to engage in No. 1) from doing their job effectively.

3. If your hips/back/knees/feet hurt, you need more supportive shoes.

There are some people that do need more supportive shoes (like diabetics and the elderly), but for many of us, more support is just a bandage to cover up any number of biomechanical problems. Many people's feet have become so dependent on shoes that their foot muscles are weak and stiff, contributing to issues elsewhere in the body. Don't ditch your shoes altogether, but instead, make an effort to regain some of the strength and mobility in your feet; see a physical therapist to assess any dysfunction further up your kinetic chain; and see if you can gradually move toward a more minimalist shoe.

4. You have an anterior pelvic tilt from sitting in a chair so much.

There are plenty of things wrong with sitting in a chair all day, but one thing chair-sitting does not do is put you in an anterior pelvic tilt. Some of you may be wondering, what on earth is that anyway? Anterior pelvic tilt is when the pelvis is tilted forward, creating an excessive arch at your low back. Most of us who sit all day tend to have the opposite problem: Because of how we sit — with our tailbone tucked — when we stand up, we continue to have chair butt (AKA no



JARED LAZARUS/KRT

butt) and are stuck in a posterior pelvic tilt. If you're thinking, "But hey, I know I have too much of a curve in my back," I urge you to check where this curve is. In many people, it's higher up on their back and has nothing to do with their pelvis — it's because they've been sticking out their chest (a la No. 2).

5. Lifting heavy weights will make you bulky.

It seems we've moved past the myth of "lifting weights will make you bulky," but plenty of women have settled for "lifting light weights" because they don't want to look like Arnold Schwarzenegger. Muscle is muscle. There is more muscle and less muscle; there are lean people with muscle and not-so-lean people with muscle. But there is no such thing as "bulky muscle" or "toned muscle." Lifting heavy will help you gain muscle; whether you look "bulky" or "toned" is subjective and has more to do with your genetics than how much you can deadlift. Lifting light weights — the kind that you can hoist over your head 20 times in a row — just means you are choosing the less efficient approach toward building muscle.

Nicole Radziszewski is a freelance columnist. She lives in River Forest and is a certified personal trainer and mother of two. Check Nicole out on Facebook at [Facebook.com/mamasgottamove](https://www.facebook.com/mamasgottamove).

Parents of star athletes must learn when to take back seat

Talking big game adds pressure, steals headlines



ERIC SCOTT

What will you find on this year's road to the NCAA Final Four? In addition to the usual March Madness power teams, you may find a self-promoting father standing on the curb and trying to attract more attention than he deserves.

It wasn't long after Selection Sunday on March 12 when we heard from LaVar Ball.

Who's that, you ask? Exactly my point.

Ball is the father of UCLA standout freshman Lonzo Ball, who is expected to be a top pick in the next NBA draft — a so-called "one-and-done" player who only plays a single season of college basketball before jumping to the pros.

LaVar Ball has two other sons who play basketball in high school and already have committed to play college basketball at UCLA. Yup, that was nice recruiting by the Bruins.

But that's also all a part of LaVar Ball's marketing plan.

In an recent interview with USA Today, Ball made sure to offer up a couple of braggadocious statements that have stolen the opening thunder from all the other great stories surrounding the NCAA tournament.

Instead of hearing more about Northwestern University making its first tournament appearance, we're hearing more about Ball's claim that he thinks he could have beat Michael Jordan in a one-on-one game while in his prime.



MARK J. TERRILL/AP

UCLA guard Lonzo Ball, right, shakes hands with his father LaVar Ball following an NCAA basketball game March 4 against Washington State in Los Angeles.

He was talking about the same Michael Jordan who won six NBA championships with the Chicago Bulls and earned the reputation of being the greatest basketball player ever. LaVar Ball, meanwhile, averaged 2.2 points a game while playing for Washington State during the 1987-88 season.

Can I get the crazy on the side with that ham-steak entree please?

But that's not the craziest thing Ball has proposed from his platform of confidence, which is supported apparently by a pile of melting snow at the edge of a cliff.

From the what-else-can-I-say-to-get-attention department, Ball also said in the interview he's seeking a \$1 billion athletic shoe deal for his sons.

I'm sure that some mega-branded outfitter is jumping at the chance to write that check and ensure the Ball boys will be wearing their shoes for years to come. Ball is even making it easy for Nike, Adidas, Under Armour, or whoever else is listening, by saying a company can stretch \$100 million payments out to him over the

next 10 years.

Such a deal!

There is a simple motto to this story. It represents everything that's wrong with amateur athletics.

There are so many great stories about athletes and schools revolving around the tournament this year that it is embarrassing to see major news organizations giving LaVar Ball a platform — no matter how crazy he is or how unstable the foundation for his bragging is.

Yes, there's no such thing as bad publicity when the goal is to get everyone talking about you, which is exactly what's going on in this case.

But there are other stories surrounding the tournament that already could make for a better movie than the dad who won't shut up.

After all, the University of Michigan men's basketball team survived their plane skidding off a runway during takeoff from Detroit and arrived at the Big Ten tournament in New York a day late, still shaken, and played their first game in practice uniforms because their game gear was stuck on the plane.

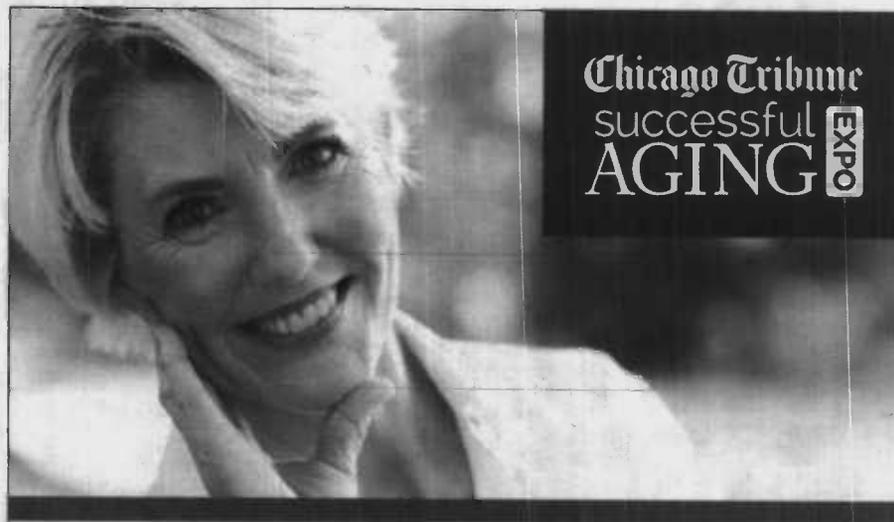
They ended up winning the Big Ten tournament.

With LaVar Ball, he now has heaped added pressure on to all three of his sons. I can just hear the crowd now the next time one of his sons has a bad game, "O-VER-RA-TED, clap, clap, clap, clap."

It's an example of how parents of athletes should not behave.

Those are the parents that need to look in the mirror and ask themselves, "Are your kids playing sports for their own enjoyment or are they playing for you?"

Eric Scott is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.



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BRING ON THE BACON

Baconfest Chicago serves up smoky sweet treats from bacon bourbon cornbread to pig candy cannoli

BY SAMANTHA NELSON
Pioneer Press

Chicago's The Duck Inn will be serving up the Frankenduckie — a bacon-wrapped duck fat hot dog with Wisconsin cheddar sauce and Calabrian chili relish.

BACONFEST CHICAGO PHOTOS

Lake Bluff's Inovasi took second place at Baconfest Chicago the third time they competed at the annual event. After taking two years off, chef/owner John des Rosiers will be at the UIC Forum in Chicago this year dishing bacon that was cured in-house for five days, smoked for 12 hours with black cherrywood and then braised in sake. The meat is accompanied by pickled ginger, polenta, bonita flakes, fried leeks and a drizzle of cooking juices.

"The idea is to do a combination of smoked bacon that's also like braised pork belly," des Rosiers said. "It's a technique that I think doesn't get used very much if at all. It's hard to do things different with bacon since it's used in so many ways. I want to win this year."

He'll have plenty of competition though. The ninth annual fest features 151 chefs from throughout the Chicago area divided between three sessions on March 31 and April 1.

"We find it's a self-selecting group," Baconfest co-founder Seth Zurer said. "It's restaurants who are pork focused or have chefs who are interested in pork or bacon."

One of those restaurants is Rack House Kitchen & Tavern in Arlington Heights, which will be competing for the first time this year.

"We're a full service barbecue smokehouse so we cure and brine all our own pork belly," Chef Bryant Anderson said.

The first Baconfest drew just 10 restaurants to The Publican in Chicago. Now it's a massive celebration featuring bacon-inspired cocktails, beer and wine, sampling from artisan bacon makers, and a food drive and raffle benefiting the Greater Chicago Food Depository.

"We've grown substantially to try to keep up with Chicago's love of bacon," Zurer said. "Chefs and culinary experiences are like the equivalent of going to a concert in Chicago. People are looking at food as entertainment and to connect with restaurants that they think will be good to go to in the future."

Berwyn's Autre Monde has participated in the fest every year since the eatery opened six years ago.

"Their mission and ours align," Autre Monde co-owner Christine Tully Aranza

Baconfest Chicago

When: 7-10 p.m. March 31 and noon-3 p.m. and 7-10 p.m. April 1. VIP ticket holders get in one hour early.

Where: UIC Forum, 725 W. Roosevelt Road, Chicago

Admission: \$60-\$200

Information: www.baconfestchicago.com

said. "And who doesn't like bacon? Anytime you have a pork event chefs are all too happy to participate."

This year Autre Monde will be sampling a Spanish-inspired one-bite green chili and bacon meatball.

Demetri Kopley, co-owner of La Grange's Wild Monk, said he hopes that participating in Baconfest will make more people aware of the restaurant and its bacon-heavy menu that includes a bourbon bacon sour cocktail, pork belly tacos and a pork belly burger.

"It's our first time so my expectations are to go out and have a good time and expose people who might not get out to La Grange



The Italian Village Restaurants will offer bacon lobster manicotti — a bacon "crepe" shell filled with Nueske's bacon, Maine lobster and seasoned ricotta cheese with bacon arrabiatta sauce.

to what we have to offer and what La Grange has to offer," Kopley said.

The restaurant is showing off several forms of pork at the fest, serving a pulled pork slider on a house made bacon fat brioche bun with a bacon jerky garnish and bourbon candied chicharrones on the side in place of potato chips.



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GO

MUSIC

Ravinia lineup spans from Blondie to 'La La Land'

BY GREG KOT AND JOHN VON RHEIN
Chicago Tribune

On March 15, Ravinia announced the lineup for its 15-week season, running June 3-Sept. 17. Tickets are currently on sale to donors and will go on sale to the general public on May 9 at www.ravinia.org.

The pop music lineup will include a rare sextuple bill of '90s hitmakers — TLC, Biz Markie, All-4-One, O-Town, Snap! and Sugar Ray's Mark McGrath — on Sept. 16.

Chicago hip-hop icon Common (June 24) and indie-music maestro Andrew Bird (July 23) are also among the first-timers at the Highland Park amphitheater this summer.

Other debuts include Lila Downs on July 1; "Hamilton" star Leslie Odom Jr. on Aug. 13; Alanis Morissette on Aug. 25; John Mellencamp on Aug. 26-27; Pentatonix on Aug. 28; the John Butler Trio on Aug. 30; and Stevie Nicks on Sept. 9-10.

Returning to the Ravinia stage will be Pat Metheny with Antonio Sanchez, Linda May Han Oh and Gwilym Simcock on June 14; Seu Jorge Presents the Life Aquatic: A Tribute to David Bowie on June 15; Willie Nelson on June 16; Aretha Franklin on June 17; the Gipsy Kings on June 23; Diana Krall on June 28; the Moody Blues on June 30; Sheryl Crow on July 7; Tony Bennett on Aug. 4; Darius Rucker on Aug. 5; Santana on Aug. 11-12; Frankie Valli & the Four Seasons on Sept. 8; and Smokey Robinson on Sept. 15.

Among the double bills are John Legend with Gallant on June 10; Boz Scaggs and Michael McDonald on June 27; the Beach Boys and Temptations on July 2; OneRepublic with Fitz & the Tantrums on July 14-15; Blondie and Garbage on July 22; Judy Collins and Stephen Stills on July 26; Chris Thile's Punch Brothers and I'm With Her on Aug. 14; Lifehouse and Switchfoot on Aug. 29; Michael Bolton and Gladys Knight on Sept. 1; and Los Tigres del Norte and Natalia Jiménez on Sept. 17.

On the classical side, Ravinia will honor an important figure in American music — composer John Adams, 70. The celebration will include Adams' orchestral masterpiece "Harmonielehre," to be conducted by Kent Nagano in his Ravinia debut with the CSO on July 25.

Conductors already announced as appearing with the CSO include former Ravinia music directors James Levine (Aug. 8) and Christoph Eschenbach (July 28-29), Susanna Malkki (July 20-21), Andrey Boreyko (July 12), Pinchas Zukerman



ALEXANDER THOMPSON PHOTO

Debbie Harry of Blondie will play Ravinia with Garbage on July 22.

(Aug. 3), Edward Gardner (July 18) and Dima Slobodeniouk (July 16).

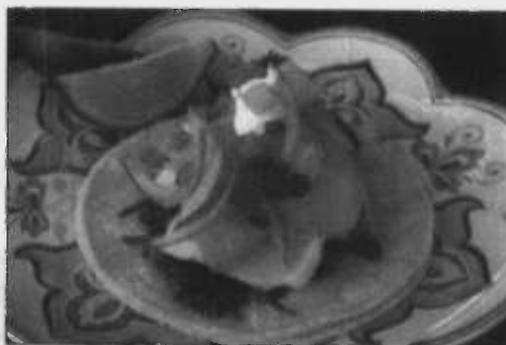
Not previously announced are the National Youth Orchestra of Venezuela, led by music director Gustavo Dudamel on Sept. 14; Switzerland's Lucerne Symphony Orchestra, under its American music director, James Gaffigan, Aug. 22 and 23; the Cleveland-based baroque orchestra Apollo's Fire, under Jeannette Sorrell, July 27; and the chamber ensemble The Knights, with mezzo-soprano soloist Susan Graham, Aug. 17.

Screenings of blockbuster films with live orchestral accompaniment include the CSO playing Howard Shore's soundtracks for the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy (Aug. 18-20) and a presentation of "La La Land Live" with the Milwaukee Symphony performing the Oscar-winning score (June 18).

Classical buffs also will be able to choose from more than 50 indoor chamber music and recitals given in the Martin Theatre and Bennett Gordon Hall, home of the \$10 BGH Classics series.

The popular Kids Concert Series includes the Catskill Puppet Theater (June 3), Stars of the Peking Acrobats (June 29) and the North Shore-based Performer's School's "Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat" (Sept. 16-17).

Living



**Fish taco Fridays:
Fun, flavorful
tacos a perfect
recipe for Lent**

Page 3



Lindsay Pinchuk and her husband, Daniel, play with their daughters, Lila, 3 years old, and Jordyn, 6, at their home in Northbrook.

JIM YOUNG/
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

New parents, take a deep breath

Experts offer tips ranging from must-have baby items to emotional support for the first years **Page 14**

SUBURBAN COOKS

Slow cooker soups perfect for weeknights

By Judy Buchenot
Naperville Sun

Laura Garvey enjoys the challenge of a new recipe.

"I really like recipes with five ingredients or less," she said. However, as long as time permits, she is willing to take on a challenge. Her son Jacob loves soup, so for a while, she was focusing on finding new soup recipes.

"I was making every Monday soup night," she said. She likes that a big batch of soup means leftovers that can be enjoyed later in the week or frozen for another time.

Garvey looks for recipes in magazines, newspapers and online. She used to try a recipe in a magazine and then save the magazine so she could make the recipe again. Finding the recipe in the stack of magazines to make it again was time-consuming so she came up with a different method of collecting recipes.

When Garvey sees a recipe that she thinks might be tasty, she tears the recipe out of the magazine or newspaper. The recipe goes into the front of her recipe notebook. When she makes the recipe, she polls her family for their opinions of the new dish. If the recipe gets rave reviews, it gets placed into a plastic sleeve to go into her recipe notebook. The notebook has dividers marking categories like soups, salads, main dishes and desserts. If the recipe is not a winner, she discards it.

"Whenever I don't know what to make, I can usually find something in this notebook," she said, holding up the notebook that is close to capacity with plastic-covered recipe pages.

When reading over a recipe, Garvey often makes changes to the ingredient list. For example, she recently made a batch of her potato minestrone.

"The recipe called for frozen spinach but I don't like how that turns out so I use fresh spinach," she said. She also changes the mix of the frozen vegetables and adds an extra cup of peas because she likes that texture in her soup.

Baking is also one of Garvey's interest. "My grandma taught me to love baking," Garvey said. "She baked so many wonderful things. Her peanut butter chocolate chip



JUDY BUCHENOT/NAPERVILLE SUN

Laura Garvey ladles her potato minestrone into a bowl.

Laura's Culinary Cue

When Garvey comes across a simple tasty recipe, she likes to share it with her college-aged daughter, who is living in an apartment. Since she knows that college students may not have a fully stocked kitchen, she makes up a packet of spices to go with the recipe so her daughter doesn't have to buy several different spices and seasonings to make the recipe.

cookies are what I remember the most."

Garvey grew up in Wilmington. "My father was a farmer but it wasn't like what people think of a farm. There were no chickens running around the front yard or anything. We lived in a subdivision and the farm was about a mile away." Although she wasn't on a stereotypical farm, Garvey

still feels a strong connection to farm life. Her brother now farms with her father.

The mother of three said that her evenings can be hectic with sports practices, rehearsals and other activities for her children. "So I don't wait until dinner time to start making dinner. I like to start making dinner at 1:30 or 2. I choose dishes that hold well or

Creamy tortellini soup

Makes six servings.

- 1 pound Italian sausage
- 1 onion, chopped
- 2 large carrots, chopped
- 2 stalks of celery, chopped
- 4 cloves garlic, minced
- 1 tablespoon Italian seasoning
- 2 teaspoons chicken bouillon granules
- 1/2 teaspoon salt
- 4 cups chicken broth
- 1/4 cup cornstarch
- 1/4 cup water
- 12 ounces evaporated milk
- 12 ounces three-cheese tortellini
- 5 cups fresh spinach
- 1 cup milk

1. Brown sausage and place into slow cooker. Add onion, carrots, celery, garlic, Italian seasoning, bouillon, salt and chicken broth. Stir and cook on high for four hours or on low for seven hours. Uncover and skim fat off top. Dissolve cornstarch in water. Add evaporated milk and tortellini to slow cooker. Stir well and cook on high for 45 minutes or until soup is thickened and tortellini is soft and cooked through. Add spinach and submerge. Cook 5 to 10 minutes. Pour in 1/2 cup milk and continue adding more until soup is desired consistency.

Potato minestrone soup

Makes 10 to 12 servings.

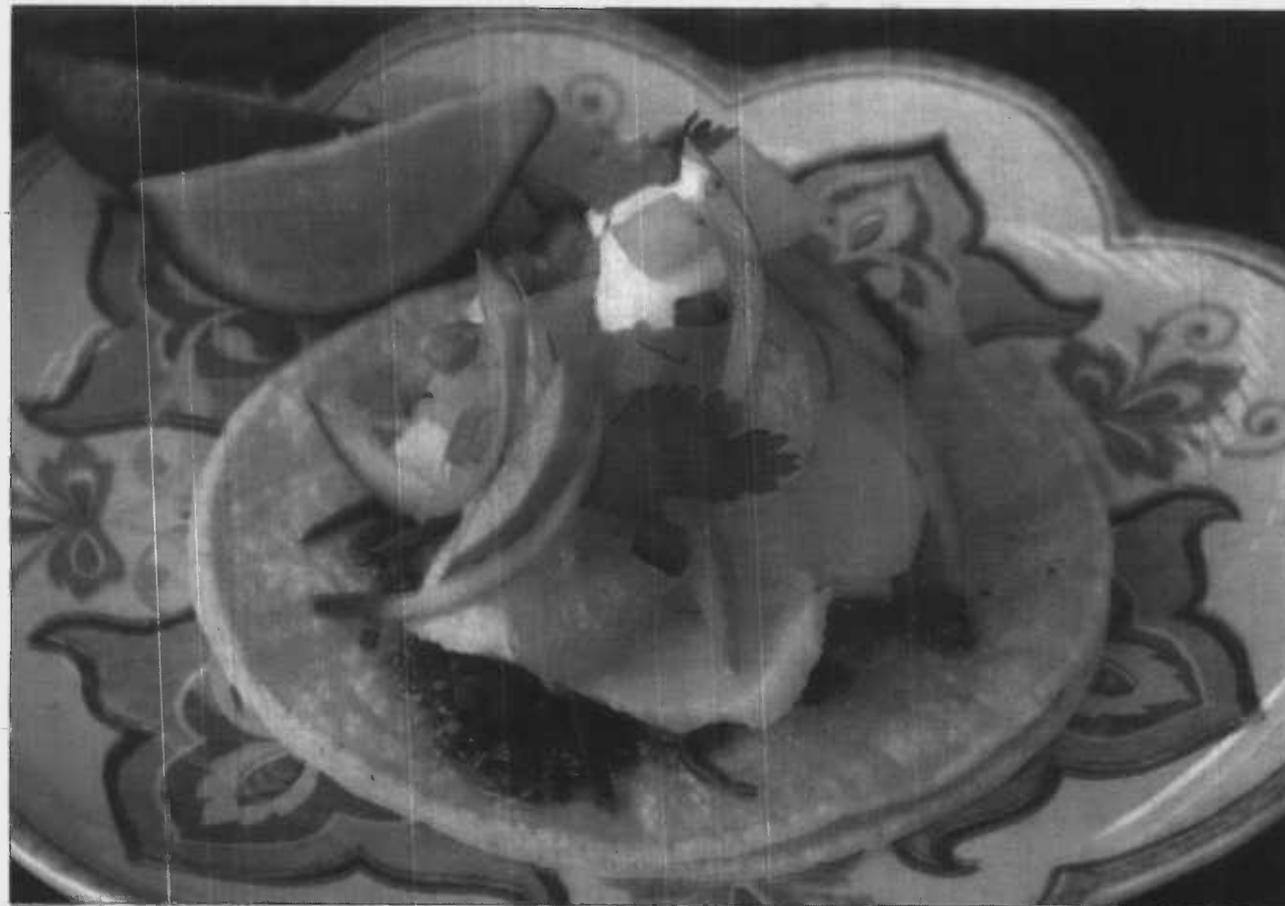
- 1 16-ounce can kidney beans
- 1 15-ounce can chickpeas
- 2 14.5-ounce cans chicken broth
- 1 28-ounce can crushed tomatoes
- 1 14.5-ounce can beef broth
- 2 cups frozen cubed hash brown potatoes, thawed
- 1 tablespoon dried minced onion
- 1 tablespoon dried parsley flakes
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon dried oregano
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/2 teaspoon dried basil
- 1/2 teaspoon dried marjoram
- 2 cups fresh spinach
- 2 cups frozen mixed vegetables, thawed
- 1 cup frozen peas, thawed

1. Rinse and drain kidney beans and chickpeas. Add to 5 quart slow cooker. Add chicken broth, tomatoes, beef broth, hash browns, minced onion, parsley, salt, oregano, garlic powder, basil and marjoram. Cook on low heat for eight hours. Stir in spinach, mixed vegetables and peas. Cook an additional 30 minutes or until vegetables are heated through.

can be reheated," she said. So if one son needs to be at choir rehearsal before the other gets home from sports practice, she can get each of them dinner without much difficulty.

Slow cooker meals are ideal for

the Garvey family's busy lifestyle. One of her tried and true slow cooker meals is creamy tortellini soup, which is a hearty, rich meal that is sure to please. She shares recipes for her tortellini soup and potato minestrone soup.



MELISSA ELSMO/PIONEER PRESS

Baked lime cod fish tacos with grapefruit salsa and cilantro pesto.

Fish taco Fridays

Fun, flavorful tacos a perfect recipe for Lent



MELISSA ELSMO
Out of Mel's Kitchen

I almost missed out on being born because my dad almost became a Catholic priest. After a two-year stint in the seminary, he decided he missed his high school sweetheart too much and left his religious studies behind. Lucky for me, his decision was a good one and my dad's high school girlfriend eventually became his wife and my mom.

As a result of my dad's brush with the cloth, we were regular attendees at

weekly Mass, always said a proper blessing before meal time and were the first in the neighborhood to set up the Nativity during the holidays. I attended Catholic school and made my first communion, first confession and confirmation right on schedule. My dad helped me learn the difference between the ascension and the assumption by running up and down the stairs in our house, I fell off the church pew during Easter services, and I even caught a wicked case of the giggles while leading the church choir in a hymn.

And, of course, we always ate fish on Fridays during Lent.

My mom was a pretty good cook, but even she didn't have a robust enough rotation of fish recipes to get her through the 40 days of Lent. After enjoying her best dishes like soy-marinated halibut

and honey-roasted cod, we'd have to endure a dreaded tuna noodle casserole and a batch of canned salmon cakes before my dad came to the rescue. That final Friday of Lent inevitably ended with my almost priest of a dad making a stop at McDonald's to pick up a few Filet-o-Fish sandwiches to tide us over until Easter Sunday. Let me tell you, it was a major sacrifice to enjoy those fries. At this time of year, when Lent is in full swing, I still crave a well-crafted fish dinner. My lovely Lenten fish tacos deliver big flavor and a healthy dose of family fun.

For those of you who try to avoid eating meat on Fridays leading up to Easter, this easy recipe will stave off a desperate trip through the drive-thru for another week in favor of a delicious homemade meal.

Lovely Lenten Fish Tacos

Makes 6-8 servings

FOR THE BAKED LIME COD:

- 1 ¼ pound fresh cod, cut into 4 equal pieces
- 2 tablespoons butter
- ½ teaspoon lime zest
- 1 tablespoon lime juice
- ½ teaspoon kosher salt

FOR THE GRAPEFRUIT SALSA:

- 2 Ruby Red grapefruits, peeled and cut into sections
- 1 navel orange, peeled and cut into sections
- 1 mango, diced small
- 1 jalapeno, seeded and minced
- ¼ cup diced red pepper
- 1 Roma tomato, seeded and diced
- ⅓ cup very thinly sliced red onion
- ¼ teaspoon lime zest
- The juice from ½ a lime
- ½ tablespoon canola oil
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper

FOR THE CILANTRO PESTO:

- 1 bunch cilantro, stems removed
- 1 cup roasted pepitas
- 3 cloves garlic, peeled
- ½ teaspoon salt
- ¼-⅓ cup olive oil

FOR SERVING:

- Shredded red cabbage
- Lime wedges
- Sour cream
- Warm corn tortillas

1. To make the cod: Preheat the oven to 375 degrees and spray a glass baking dish with non-stick spray. Melt the butter with the lime zest, lime juice in a small sauce pan. Coat each piece of cod with the butter mixture and place in the prepared pan. Drizzle any remaining butter over the fish and bake in the preheated oven for 20-25 minutes or until the fish flakes easily with a fork.

2. To make the grapefruit salsa: Combine all the salsa ingredients and mix well to combine. Feel free to do this early in the day and refrigerate until ready to use.

3. Make the pesto: Place the cilantro leaves, pepitas, garlic and salt in the bowl of a food processor. Process until a coarse paste forms and then slowly drizzle in the olive oil with the machine running. Use at once or transfer to a container and refrigerate for up to 2 days before using.

4. To assemble the tacos: Slather some of the cilantro pesto on warm corn tortillas. Sprinkle with some of the shredded red cabbage and top with large flakes of the baked cod. Top the fish with some of the grapefruit salsa, a dollop of sour cream and some cilantro leaves. Serve with lime wedges on the side.

PETS/ANIMALS

MY PET WORLD

'Leave it' solves a host of doggie transgressions

By **Cathy M. Rosenthal**
Tribune Content Agency

Q: I have some new neighbors that moved in with an outdoor cat. The cat uses our yard as her potty box. Our two dogs have found this cat poop delectable and they eat these deposits before I can remove them from the yard. Is there something I can do to dissuade my dogs from eating this poop? Thank you in advance for any insights. — Wendy Rutland, Pensacola, Fla.

A: In a foot race to the cat poop, your dogs will always finish first. You can get a head start by going outside and picking up the cat poop before you let them outside, or you could walk them on leashes so you can pull them away from the cat poop when they discover it. But these are temporary solutions that don't address the real problem.

While it would be great if your neighbors kept their cat in their yard, there will always be something in the yard or on the ground that your dog shouldn't eat; so the only surefire solution is to train your dogs to "leave it."

The easiest way to train the "leave it" command is to ask your dogs to sit, put a treat on the ground, and then hold a higher value treat in your hand, like a small bit of cheese or strong-smelling liver treat. When they see the treat on the ground, say "leave it." When they "leave it" and look at you, reward them with the higher value treat. Then pick up the other treats off the ground, wait a few seconds, and play the game again. Never let them eat the treats off the ground.

You are training them to leave things alone, even when you are not around. They should only accept food and treats from your hands or their dog dishes. Depending



SUSAN STOCKER/KRT

When outdoor cats use your yard as a litter box, you can teach your dog it to "leave it."

on their personalities, you probably should train your dogs' separately.

If you train them every day, it will only take a few weeks before you can say "leave it" from across the yard, and they will stop, look and listen to you. Keep those higher value treats handy to reward them for their good behavior.

Q: We adopted a boxer/pug/bulldog named Magento. He is three-years-old. Our problem is that he is systematically eating our backyard from top to bottom. He is breaking branches off trees,

and chewing on branches and the other plant materials in the yard. He only stops when he gets caught. A few hours later, he passes some obnoxious gas. This can't be good for his digestion. Why is he doing this and how can we stop him? — Allison Vann, Cleveland, Ohio

A: There's an old saying, "If you don't give a dog a job, he will become self-employed." Apparently, Magento's made it his full-time job to landscape your yard and prune your trees.

Start by giving Magento more super-

vised time outdoors, since it sounds like he does listen to you when he gets caught. He wants to please you, so follow up your quick verbal corrections with treats and praise to show him you approve. I promise it's a behavior he will want to see you repeat.

As for why he does it, your enterprising dog may be feeling bored or suffering from anxiety. Bored dogs often entertain themselves by resorting to destructive behaviors, like digging holes, chewing on things or tearing up the house. Anxious dogs may exhibit the same behaviors, but for reasons related to being separated from you. Thankfully, both problems can be addressed in similar ways.

Dogs need exercise and clever activities to stay physically fit and mentally healthy. Keep Magento active by walking him a few times a day or teaching him to play fetch or some other active game. Keep his mind busy by introducing puzzle toys where he must figure out for himself how to push a toy over or open a secret compartment to get a treat.

Finally, teach him something for at least 10 minutes a day, like sit, down or retrieve a ball. Dogs often are more relaxed after training sessions because it requires a lot of brain power to listen and learn new things.

If you feel he might suffer from anxiety, talk to your veterinarian about medication to help him during this training/transition period. The goal is to keep Magento's body relaxed and his mind busy, so he doesn't feel compelled to re-design your backyard.

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.

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- Our adoptable animals blog featuring photos and descriptions of Chicagoland pets in need of homes.
- Our suburban and city pet events calendar
- Photo galleries, videos, more

D.R. Horton homeowners still struggling

Since my column two weeks ago, "Naperville senior community residents complain of poor quality construction," focusing on a housing development built by D.R. Horton, I have received emails from concerned consumers, as well as updates from the four residents featured in that column.

Concerned consumers

A reader contacted me to say he had considered buying a home at Naperville's Carillon Club but was concerned about the quality of the concrete used for the homes' foundations. He stated he hadn't seen a home without at least one crack in the foundation, and though the cracks were often filled, the repairs were visible. He also was concerned the insulation installed on basement interior walls might be hiding additional defects.

Another reader wrote in expressing great concern: "I just read your Help Squad article about the problem with the Carillon Homes in Naperville. I'm very concerned because we have purchased a home at the Carillon in Pingree Grove (Elgin). The builder there is also D.R. Horton. Our

home should be complete in May. Were any of the problems mentioned in your article from the Carillon? We're wondering if we made a mistake by buying there." I advised the home owner that I had not received any complaints from residents of D.R. Horton's Elgin, but told him he can feel free to contact me should any issues arise.

Updates from current Carillon Club residents

Joyanne: (Horton warranty manager) Tom Tuhy came to my home again to address the window situation. I shared with them the comments made by the home inspector and (the sales rep) offered to get new screws for the locks and tighten them, and again stated these windows were great. Tuhy would not concede these are very poor windows and gave me no hope of replacing them. He dismissed the comments from Energy Diagnostics where they



CATHY CUNNINGHAM
Help Squad

said I should buy thermal curtains to help stop the breeze. Tuhy wanted me to send in the notes from Energy Diagnostics and said he would research it further. Tuhy keeps stating that he is trying to work with me, but he is not.

Dominic: I haven't heard from anyone [regarding my chipped and improperly installed wood floors].

Warren: On my end, there is no further development. [Warren replaced all 19 of his home's windows at his own expense].

Kim: Tuhy asked me for "proof" that my garage door opener was undersized and had to be replaced. I told him I had no proof per se, since the unit was removed and disposed of over a year ago, but the company that replaced it told me it was because (the door was too heavy for the opener). Several other (Carillon Club residents) told me they had the same problem in about the same time frame. I am still waiting for Tuhy to get back to me with his decision. I also heard from Shirley who stated that large amounts of cold air blow

in through the sides of all her windows, and the caulk and paint surrounding each is cracked. She said her wood floors are uneven, chipped and require constant filling and staining. And because of improper pitch, she said there is no run-off from her sidewalk, which has resulted in a dangerous ice patch at her front entry.

I emailed Tuhy and D.R. Horton spokesperson Marissa Ann Awtry for an update on where things stand but received no response. Kim, however, forwarded me an email containing an offer from Tuhy who wrote he would "ask my office if we could offer to pay half of the costs you incurred (for your bath fan, electric, fireplace and garage door opener)."

Perhaps in the future there will be something positive to report regarding the homes owned by these residents of D.R. Horton's Naperville Carillon Club.

Need help?

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

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

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Kennerly vs. Pritzker | The White Face of Hip-Hop Poetry | Dim Sum Rebooted

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AL BEHRMAN/AP

The decline of blue-collar communities has more to do with domestic corporate raiders than foreign competition or immigration.

Economy of our own making

'Glass House' and 'Lower Ed' explore how attempts to create new profits have hurt workers

By John Warner
Chicago Tribune

Capitalism won. In the modern age, it has proven to be the most dynamic and sustainable economic and political system around. Even the Chinese are flirting with it now. The United States as a country is wealthier today than at any time in its existence. That is until tomorrow, when it will be wealthier still.

And yet, for many, American capitalism isn't working. The disconnect between a wealthy country and the individual fortunes of a significant proportion of its citizens was exploited by President Donald Trump, who promises we're going to "win" again.

But it's hard to win when you don't actually understand the game, and the president's understanding, for all his vaunted business success, seems pretty darn limited.

In Trump's America, foreigners have been eating the lunch of "real Americans." We are in the midst of a horror story, and the bad guys are stampeding through the door unchecked.

But two recent books show that the causes and consequences of inequality

aren't quite so simple; the wounds we are trying to heal are largely self-inflicted, and yet we keep engaging in this kind of self-harm over and over again.

In Brian Alexander's "Glass House: The 1% Economy and the Shattering of an All-American Town," we get the story of Lancaster, Ohio, once a thriving small town, home to the Anchor Hocking Glass Co. For generations, Anchor Hocking literally anchored the town, providing high-paying executive jobs to some and at least decent-paying blue-collar jobs to others. The town lived in a kind of equilibrium, everyone benefiting from the presence of Anchor Hocking, and Anchor Hocking benefiting from the loyalty and dedication of the townspeople.

Today, Lancaster is one of many depressed pockets of the white working class that has turned to Trump as its savior. But as Alexander carefully documents, Anchor Hocking and Lancaster were not undone by foreign competition but by domestic corporate raiders, unshackled from regulations during the Reagan administration. Anchor Hocking became a tool for financiers through which they could engineer profits while loading the company with debt. Still a viable business, but crippled by the increased debt, Anchor Hocking limps along, a shell of its former self.

Tressie McMillan Cottom's "Lower Ed: The Troubling Rise of For-Profit Colleges in the New Economy" peels back the lid on the financialization of

post-secondary education. "Lower Ed" is Cottom's term for for-profit colleges — places like DeVry University and the University of Phoenix being among the largest ones — a segment that experienced a boom that enriched a lot of financiers and stockholders.

Unfortunately, that boom came on the backs of students, many from already disadvantaged backgrounds who took on debt in the hopes that a degree or additional training would allow them to compete in an increasingly tight labor market. Many of those degrees were, for all practical purposes, worthless. In the book, Cottom makes the case that for-profit education boomed because the previous avenues of training — public schools and corporations themselves — were shunted aside because powerful interests sensed there was money to be made on the hopes and dreams of individuals.

These stories are merely a repeat of the 2008 mortgage crisis where, using the tools of capitalism, a small handful of people made obscene amounts of money on the everyday lives of others. And when that came crashing down, somehow all of us have to pay the price.

When it comes to the exploitation of American workers, we need not look across our borders. The call is coming from inside the house.

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

Book recommendations from the Biblioracle

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

1. "The Nest" by Cynthia D'Apris Sweeney
 2. "Truly Madly Guilty" by Liane Moriarty
 3. "Rules of Civility" by Amor Towles
 4. "The Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead
 5. "The Girl You Left Behind" by Jojo Moyes
- Andi T., Chicago

Domestic tension and mystery is the prevailing theme here. Lauren Groff's "Arcadia" is set in a utopian commune, but we see some very common, yet still surprising tensions play out on the page. I think Andi will dig it.

1. "Unbroken" by Laura Hillenbrand
 2. "When Breath Becomes Air" by Paul Kalanithi
 3. "The Zookeeper's Wife" by Diane Ackerman
 4. "The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins
 5. "A Dog's Purpose" by W. Bruce Cameron
- Jane P., Northfield

An interesting mix of pretty popular books. "Everything I Never Told You" by Celeste Ng it is.

1. "Siddhartha" by Hermann Hesse
 2. "Galapagos" by Kurt Vonnegut
 3. "Stranger in a Strange Land" by Robert Heinlein
 4. "The Doors of Perception" by Aldous Huxley
 5. "Something Wicked This Way Comes" by Ray Bradbury
- Todd T., St. Louis

A quest for the meaning of life and a desire to wrestle with some philosophical questions here. Chris Adrian's "The Children's Hospital," a strange novel about a strange place, may be what Todd is looking for.

Get a reading from the Biblioracle!

Send a list of the last five books you've read to printersrow@chicagotribune.com. Write "Biblioracle" in the subject line.



puzzle island

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

3/19

PLAY TIME: Members of the Toy Hall of Fame

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

Across

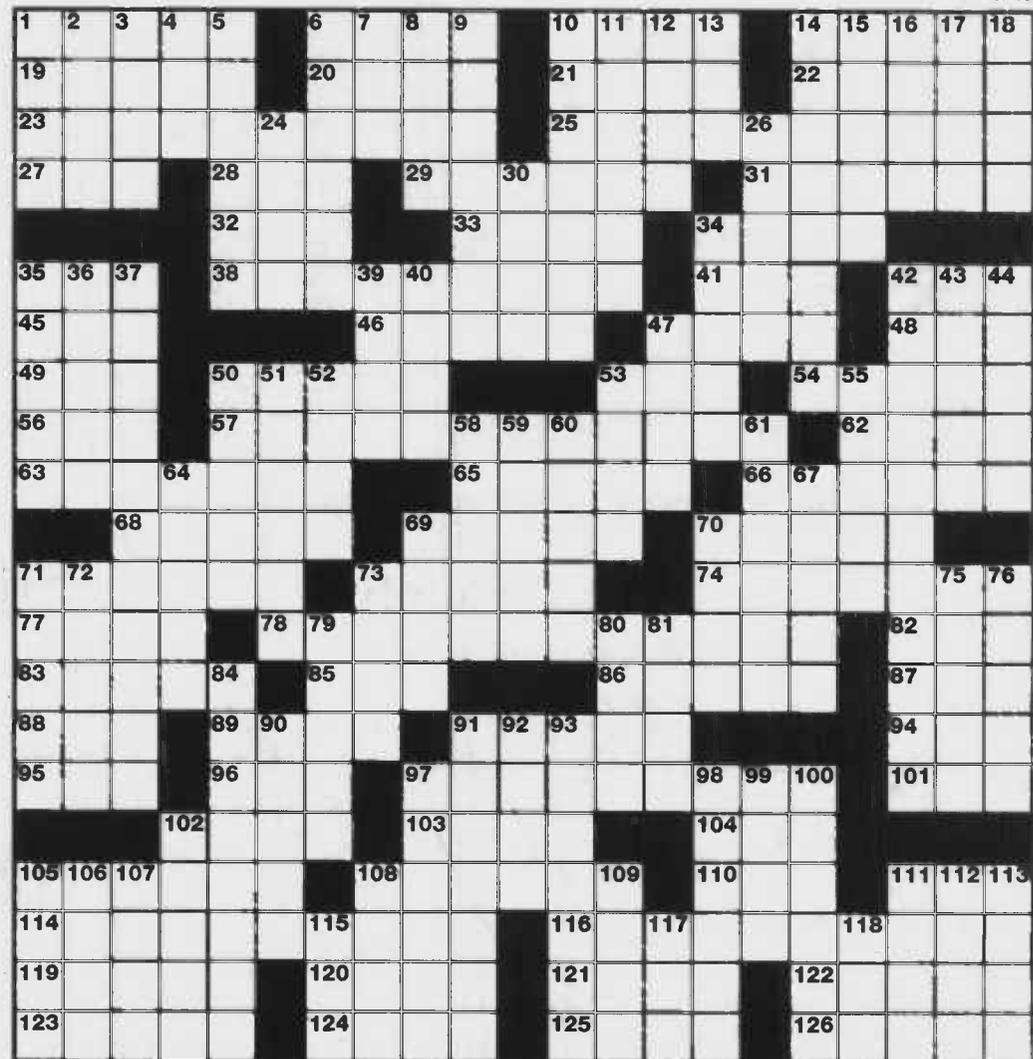
- 1 Rodeo gear
6 Joke response, informally
10 Pork serving
14 Very small sums
19 Childish comeback
20 Sweet sandwich
21 Regatta implements
22 Collectively
23 Toy with 3-D slides
25 Six-faced toy
27 Dinner host's exhortation
28 Shelter adoptee
29 Catches wind of
31 Overjoyed
32 NL West team
33 Petty squabble
34 Greenish-blue hue
35 Barn dance attendee
38 Model car toy
41 Well-worn pencil
42 Flow back
45 — Baba
46 Pays attention to
47 Rodeo gear
48 Business card no.
49 California wine, for short
50 Guide a ride
53 Jacuzzi feature
54 Spandex alias
56 List shortener
57 Toy for aspiring chefs
62 "Beg pardon ..."
63 Greenhouse woe
65 Toy holders
66 Highly decorated

- 68 Hopping mad
69 Gourmet mushroom
70 Secluded spots
71 French film festival city
73 In a worse mood
74 Sobriquet
77 Stare at
78 Toy with stick-on shoes
82 Before, to bards
83 In a bad mood
85 Mare morsel
86 Cruise crew
87 Flat hat
88 Beer holder
89 Some 124 Across debuts
91 Actress Watts
94 15-season CBS drama
95 "You bet!"
96 Talk trash to
97 Game-board toy for preschoolers
101 Witch's work
102 Euro fraction
103 May race, familiarly
104 Links standard
105 Overshoot
108 Black Sea port
110 Debate side
111 Sun's name
114 Toy for aspiring architects
116 Toy in an egg
119 Shaping tool
120 Place to shop
121 Buffalo's water
122 Aloft
123 Energy-saving computer mode

- 124 11 Wall St. institution
125 Longings
126 Earliest Icelanders

Down

- 1 Broadcast as it happens
2 Tajikistan's locale
3 Proofer's mark
4 Piglet's parent
5 Tuba sound
6 Went ballistic
7 Museum piece
8 Know innately
9 Expect in the future
10 Rodeo enclosures
11 Regular hangouts
12 Celestial spheres
13 Air-pump letters
14 Tag incorrectly
15 From Machu Picchu
16 With no slack
17 Dresden's river
18 Winter coaster
24 Sleek, in auto lingo
26 Intensify
30 Acted like
34 Grand fraction
35 Telescope devotee
36 Justice Samuel
37 Toy for future carpenters
39 Dairy byproduct
40 Parsley or sage
42 Toy for aspiring painters
43 Flat hat
44 Culpability
47 Tach reading
50 Be of use
51 Chinese belief



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

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- 52 Founded: Abbr.
53 One of the Coen brothers
55 Greek New Age musician
58 Scrap the mission
59 Pacific Rim peninsula
60 Put forth
61 Fee-free, as mutual funds
64 Pitchfork parts
67 Tears apart
69 No longer relevant
70 FBI guys
71 Too sure of oneself
72 Coincide
73 Vacation spots
75 Demagnetize, maybe
76 Dance-club arrangement
79 Place to perch
80 "This isn't good!"
81 Icy fall
84 Deftly avoid
90 Burrito bean
91 Half of the "Tea for Two" duet
92 Added stipulations
93 Homeric epic
97 Autumn beverages
98 97 Down sources
99 — a soul (no one)
100 Visit unannounced
102 Hidden trope
105 Some toothpastes
106 — arguments (court rituals)
107 Sampras of tennis
108 Anthem opener
109 Suffix for zillion
111 Marquee name
112 Company that trademarked "escalator"
113 Guitar ancestor
115 LBJ successor
117 Architect Maya
118 Argentine article

Quote-Acrossic

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

Clues

Words

- A. NFL Hall of Famer turned political candidate
 31 145 173 3
 139 161 126 76 38
- B. Bardeen, Shockley, Brattain invention
 155 75 59 104 53
 28 10 91 141 120
- C. Kuwait and Fujairah
 143 40 110 157 66 19 4 90
- D. Influenced by remote ancestors
 137 73 30 118 17 169 164 84 42
- E. Slouch: hyph.
 70 26 115 56 99 43 152
- F. Preliminary boxing bout
 112 163 122 86 44 23 63 12 97
- G. Sixties sex symbol
 129 25 174 81
 61 154 109 18 136 101

- H. Major uranium source
 156 41 78 93 20
 98 58 74 138 105 8
- I. Madam Secretary Madeleine
 89 49 127 125 68 27 170 160
- J. Philosopher/mathematician Blaise
 11 131 165 36 106 83
- K. Basic
 117 72 22 5 35 151 133 103 88
- L. Staten Island's county
 9 50 146 114 140 162 69 102
- M. Consumers of almost anything
 150 113 168 45 80 13 96 134 60
- N. All-star employee
 142 121 158 111 123 6 65 52 171
- O. Good news: hyph.
 62 124 29 7 135 46 108 87
- P. One who induces and deduces
 128 39 57 172 14 79 100 159
- Q. Prizewinner
 71 1 32 148 48 119 21
- R. Pivotal encounter
 132 144 95 64 85 34 153 116 51
- S. Lesser Antilles island
 130 55 149 16 67 37
- T. Sea and islands of Europe
 2 166 47 92 77 33
- U. Super-duper
 94 24 107 167 82 54 147 15

1	Q	2	T	3	A	4	C	5	K	6	N	7	O	8	H	9	L	10	B
		11	J	12	F	13	M	14	P	15	U	16	S	17	D	18	G		
19	C	20	H	21	Q			22	K	23	F	24	U	25	G	26	E	27	I
28	B	29	O	30	D	31	A			32	Q	33	T	34	R			35	K
36	J	37	S	38	A	39	P	40	C	41	H	42	D			43	E	44	F
45	M	46	O	47	T	48	Q	49	I	50	L	51	R	52	N	53	B	54	U
		55	S	56	E			57	P	58	H	59	B	60	M	61	G		
62	O	63	F	64	R	65	N	66	C	67	S	68	I	69	L	70	E		
71	Q	72	K	73	D	74	H	75	B	76	A	77	T	78	H	79	P	80	M
81	G	82	U			83	J	84	D	85	R	86	F			87	O	88	K
89	I	90	C	91	B	92	T	93	H			94	U	95	R	96	M	97	F
98	H	99	E	100	P	101	G	102	L			103	K	104	B	105	H		
106	J	107	U	108	O	109	G	110	C	111	N	112	F	113	M			114	L
115	E	116	R	117	K	118	D	119	Q	120	B			121	N	122	F	123	N
124	O	125	I	126	A	127	I	128	P	129	G			130	S	131	J	132	R
133	K	134	M			135	O	136	G	137	D	138	H	139	A			140	L
141	B	142	N	143	C			144	R	145	A			146	L	147	U	148	O
149	S	150	M	151	K			152	E	153	R	154	G	155	B	156	H	157	C
158	N	159	P	160	T			161	A	162	L	163	F	164	D			165	J
166	T	167	U	168	M			169	D	170	I	171	N	172	P	173	A	174	G

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

By Robert O'Neill.
 Edited by Linda and Charles Preston.
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Getting Around

BY CHARLES PRESTON

Across

- 1 Giant tea urn
 8 Knish ingredient
 14 Put to work
 15 Bowed out
 16 Aurora ____ : northern lights
 17 Irish county
 18 Horse of a certain color
 19 Relative of Abraham
 20 Males
 21 A police radio code: abbr.
 22 Famed
 25 Englishman's exclamation
 27 Maugham short story
 28 Military concern
 31 Middle Eastern rice dish: var.
 33 Quiche Lorraine ingredient
 34 Where Oberlin is
 35 Like a ballerina
 37 Little fellers
 39 Receptions
 40 Barbecue favorite
 42 International commitment
 43 Ring or drum
- 44 Where the Pearl Mosque is
 45 Imparted
 46 Flowering climber
 48 Receptacle
 51 Where Lambarene is
 54 Highly seasoned
 55 Greek city
 56 Astronomy's muse
 58 Daytime movies
 60 Round of publicity
 61 Potter's field of the Bible
 62 Take charge of
 63 Weaves in and out
- 13 Pindar creations
 14 ____ cadabra
 22 Arrangement of logs
 23 Jokers
 24 Special communication
 26 Weakens
 28 Grocery list item
 29 Direction: Scots
 30 Promising
 31 Tasty meat spread
 32 Virginia willow genus
 34 Hot place
 36 England's neighbor
 38 Locale
 41 Saturday night accessory
 44 Sun shelter
 46 Russian girl's name
 47 Steal, in a way
 49 Particulars
 50 Other-worldly govt. agcy.
 51 US island naval base
 52 Oratorio solo
 53 Robin Hood's, for instance
 55 Forever ____ day
 57 Ripen
 59 ____ aux Noix, Quebec

Down

- 1 Serving of tutti-frutti
 2 Moody
 3 Bearing
 4 Egg-shaped ornaments
 5 Remembered from the winter of 1777-78
 6 Suffix for action words
 7 Put in shape
 8 Hamster or budgie
 9 What ozone is
 10 Spent
 11 Sun god of Egypt
 12 Carnival canvas

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11	12	13
14										15				
16										17				
18						19					20			
21					22				23	24				
		25	26				27					28	29	30
31	32						33				34			
35						36		37		38				
39					40		41		42					
43				44					45					
			46					47				48	49	50
51	52	53					54				55			
56					57			58		59				
60								61						
62								63						

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

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Big Appetite

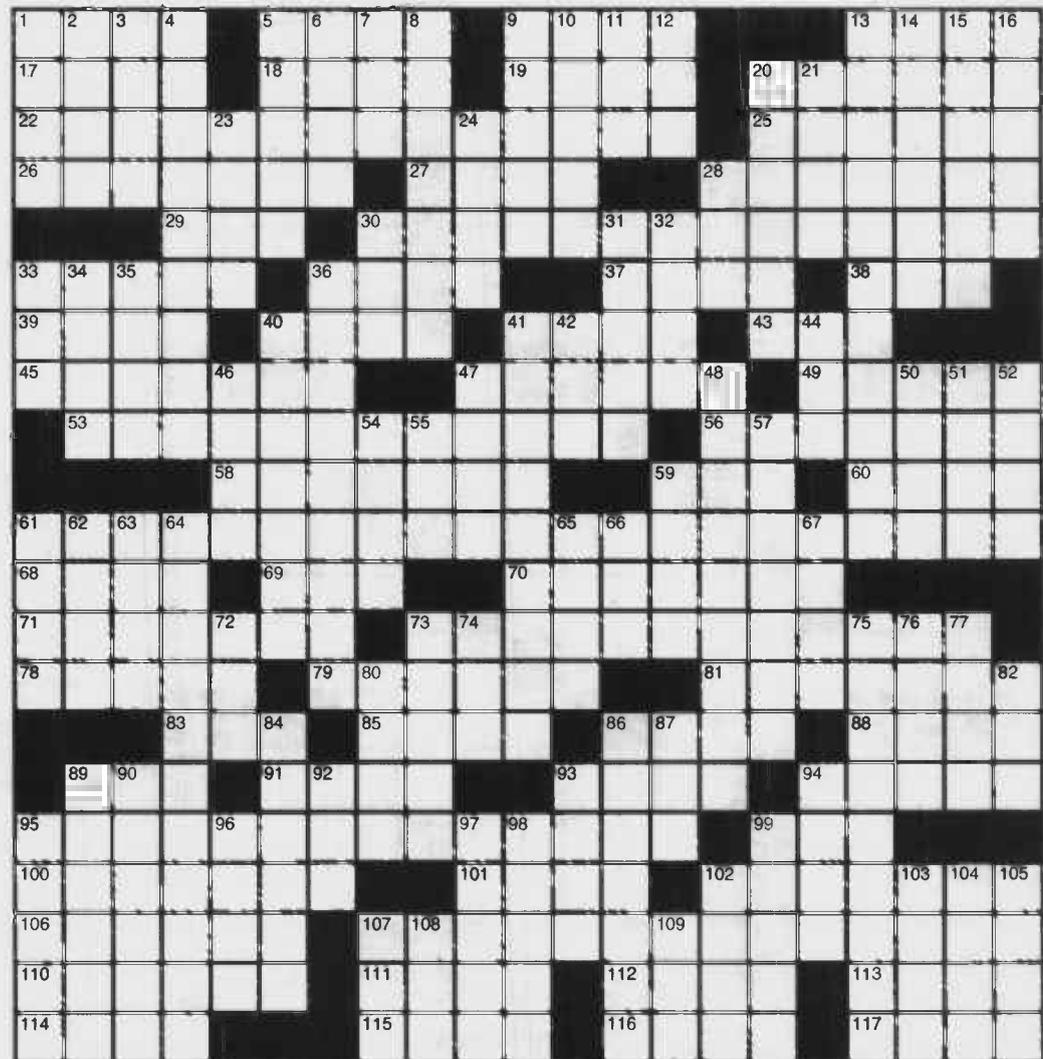
BY CHERI KEDROWSKI AND VICTOR BAROCAS
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across

- 1 Plymouth Reliant, e.g.
5 Spanish cathedral city
9 Yawner
13 Flakes in geology class
17 Language that gave us "bard"
18 Magazine founder Eric
19 Graceful leap
20 Wasn't plumb
22 Practice good web courtesy?
25 With merchandise, say, as payments
26 Snack cake that can be deep-fried
27 Author Morrison
28 Bening of "The Kids Are All Right"
29 Proof-ending abbr.
30 Description of the start of some Road Runner cartoons?
33 Foot bone
36 Graceful leap
37 Clarifying words
38 Non-discriminatory hiring abbr.
39 Et _
40 Cruised through
41 Cool play area, maybe
43 "Erie Canal" mule
45 Frequent mother-and-child painter
47 Last verb in the Gettysburg Address
49 Bar game
53 Nibbles on Friskies?
56 Supreme Roman
58 Pamplona's kingdom
59 '70s extremist gp.
60 Boast opener
61 Warning for a snoopy Snoopy?
68 Scads
69 Chilean pronoun
70 Cellphone setting
71 Rock band member
73 Treatment for a milk hangover?
78 1921 Valentino role
79 Breastbones
81 Not let go of
83 _ Moines
85 Jackie's designer
86 Tobacco plug
88 Record, in a way
89 Mystery author Grafton
91 Distinctive flavor
- 93 Like details you'd rather be spared
94 In the stars.
95 Line that might not calm down Richard III?
99 Tool for Cinderella
100 Remove from the box
101 The _; Horace works
102 Small detail
106 1958 hit that won the first Song of the Year Grammy
107 Song that inspired this puzzle
110 Puts up
111 Level
112 Humor that evokes wincing
113 Myrtle or hazel
114 Thing to do
115 Postulates
116 Joint for jumping
117 Large septet
- 41 Warehouse job
42 Savings plan letters
44 European peak
46 "This comes _ surprise"
47 Leave in the garage;
48 Kept down
50 Sitcom with the episode "Stable for Three"
51 Lead singer on "The Joshua Tree"
52 Not a copy: Abbr.
54 Green Hornet's driver
55 Trick ending?
57 First book of the New Testament
59 Feudal peasant
61 Pickup artists?
62 Bountiful locale
63 Left the ground
64 Advantage
65 Turkish coin
66 Corp. raider's ploy
67 Cad
72 Devastating 2008 hurricane
73 Comic strip mother of Hamlet and Honi
74 "You _": Lionel Richie hit
75 Launches
76 Departure notice?
77 Emulated Arachne
80 Word with musical or muscle
82 Reel partner
84 With 92-Down, Monopoly prop. bordering the Electric Company
86 Russian Civil War fighter
87 Maximilian I's realm: Abbr.
89 Chihuahua neighbor
90 Ben and Sam
92 See 84-Down
93 Gathered steam
94 Affectionate
95 Bed cover
96 Playwright Moss
97 Baklava sweetener
98 Glade targets
99 "The Wrong Sort of Bees" author
102 Seconds
103 Shipping deduction
104 Planning session input
105 Positive words
107 " _ Not Easy Being Green"
108 Soul seller
109 Nantes negative

Down

- 1 Surrey neighbor
2 Fox's fabled flattery victim
3 Italian sparkler
4 Burger successor
5 Shocking
6 Kitchen extension?
7 Bump-log link
8 Snugly situated
9 Muslim spirit
10 Make anew, as a trench
11 Downed
12 Lang. of Luther
13 Pretend
14 Ab _; from the start
15 Middle of England?
16 Threw in
20 Housekeeping concern
21 Sicilian province or its capital
23 Maui music makers
24 Combine
28 Port-au-Prince pal
30 Pink-slip
31 "That's enough!"
32 Posés
33 Middle X, in a game
34 Roman wings
35 Hall of Fame WNBA star _ Leslie
36 Ones seeking change
40 Books with legends



Last week's answers appear on the next page

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Jumble

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

WDOTAR
SAGINS
GONELU
DULCED
HAYWON
TGRINS

Check out the new, free JUST JUMBLE app

PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW

○ ○ ○ "○ ○ ○" ○ ○ ○, ○ ○ ○ "○ ○ ○" ○ ○ ○

This week's answers appear on the next page

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

Sudoku

3/19

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

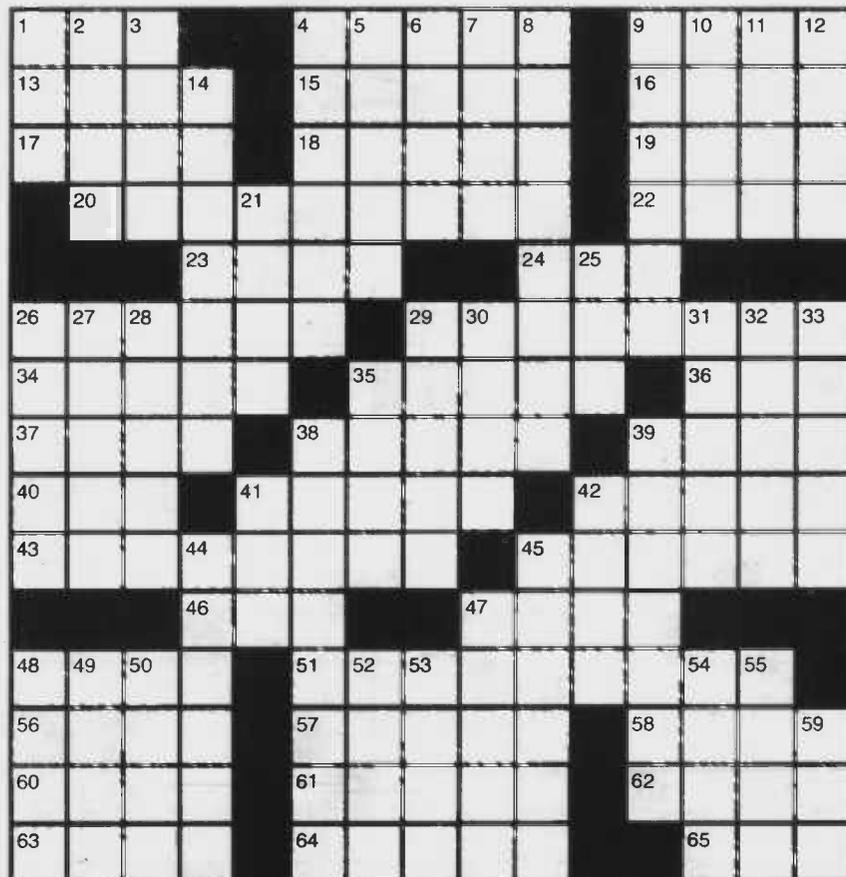
Level: **1 2 3 4**

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

Last week's answers appear on the next page

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Crossword



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

3/22/17

ACROSS

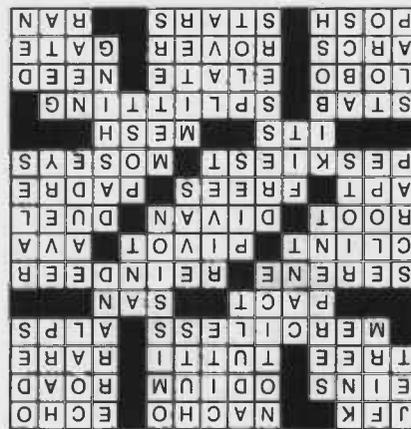
- 1 DDE's follower
4 Cheese-topped tortilla chip
9 Resound
13 __, zwei, drei...
15 Hatred
16 Hit the __; set out on a trip
17 Willow or alder
18 __-frutti
19 Infrequent
20 Cruel
22 Mont Blanc's range
23 Treaty
24 __ Jose, CA
26 Peaceful
29 Dasher or Blitzen, e.g.
34 Actor Eastwood
35 Turn on a fixed point
36 Wife to Mickey, Artie and Frank
37 __ for; cheer on
38 Sofa
39 Sword fight
40 Tenement unit; abbr.
41 Liberates
42 Chaplain's title
43 Most annoying
45 Walks leisurely
46 "___ a Wonderful Life"

- 47 Interlock, as gear teeth
48 Take a __ at; attempt
51 Dividing
56 Mexican wolf
57 Thrill
58 Require
60 Rainbows
61 Wanderer
62 Fence door
63 Luxurious
64 Celebrities
65 Trotted

DOWN

- 1 Fast plane
2 Unyielding
3 Patella's place
4 Catch sight of
5 Grown-up
6 Give a traffic ticket to
7 Shacks
8 Something left out
9 Messenger boy's task
10 Scuttle chunks
11 Stringed instrument
12 Some of Keats' poems
14 Snake
21 Isn't able to
25 Crawling bug

Solutions

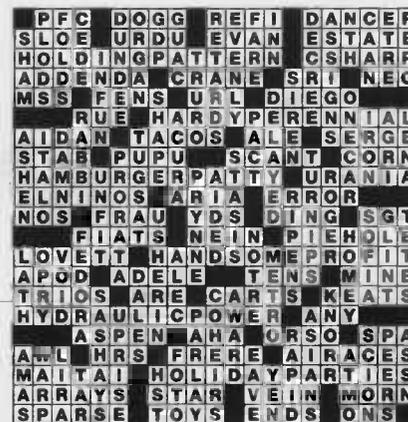


- 26 Leftover fragment
27 Wed privately
28 Mob uprisings
29 Metal bolt
30 Perón & Gabor
31 __ cologne; perfume
32 Each
33 Unhealthy lung sounds
35 Bakery items
38 Chests of drawers
39 Very attractive
41 In good shape
42 Pillar
44 Put the __ on; squelch
45 Devices for coins next to parking spaces
47 Bishop's hat
48 Swat
49 Bull, in Spain
50 Fundamentals
52 Scheme
53 Molten rock
54 Close by
55 "___ move on!"; cry to a loiterer
59 Lion's lair

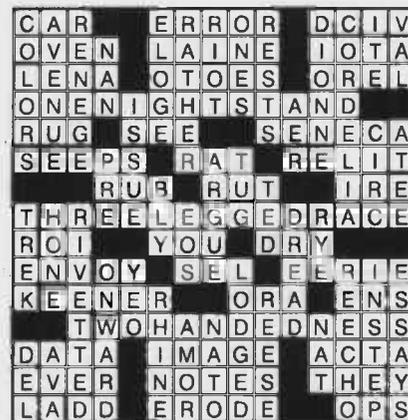


Last week's crosswords

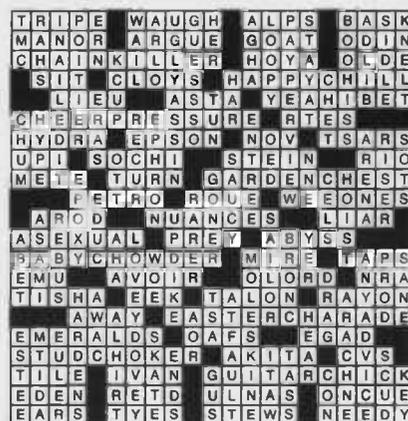
"PALO ALTO PAIR"



"Numerology"



"Peachy"



Last week's Quote-Acrossic

J(aimy) GORDON: LORD OF MISRULE:
The racetrack asleep at night is a live and spooky place, especially if you think somebody might jump out at you. Everywhere light chains clanking, water buckets creaking and sloshing, horses snorting.

Last week's Sudoku

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

This week's Jumble

TOWARD LOUNGE ANYHOW
ASSIGN CUDDLE STRING

The seamstress made one dress ... then another ... then another —

AND "SEW" ON,
AND "SEW" ON



10 tips for single parents

Modern-day superheroes are the words Marika Lindholm uses to describe single moms, or, as she prefers to call them: "solo moms."

"Day in and day out, a solo mom has to be there for the kids," said Lindholm, who is the founder of ESME (Empowering Solo Moms Everywhere), a website that offers support to single moms. "You don't get a day off. You don't get a break. You're juggling work and family and trying to raise your kids with passion and with the best care you know how."

According to Lindholm, a former Northwestern professor who in 2002 became a solo mom of two after her divorce, there are 23 million American kids being raised by single parents.

Lindholm defines a solo mom as someone who parents alone, either all the time or sometimes. That includes those who are solo moms by choice, those who are divorced or widowed, those whose spouse is deployed or incarcerated, or even those whose spouse lives in a different city.

"When I got divorced it was very, very hard," said Lindholm, who has since remarried and now has three more children with her husband. "I was working full-time, the logistics were incredibly difficult, and I was financially struggling. I also got sick and was diagnosed with a blood disorder, which I truly believe was caused by stress."

In honor of National Single Parent Day, which is March 21, here are Lindholm's tips for single parents:

Take care of yourself. Self-care is so important. Too many single parents are dealing with exhaustion and the consequences of their hard work and no breaks. It's hard to be the parent you want to be when you are overworked and exhausted.

Forgive yourself when you're not the best parent you can be. Every parent gets pushed and has a bad day. Let go of the guilt when that happens to you.

Have gratitude. Even though it's a hard time, appreciating your kids will always make the day easier. Focus on what's going well in your life, not what you don't have.

Don't try to be perfect. It's OK if the house is a little messy or if the kids don't have the perfect gadgets and clothes. Love is more important than perfection.

Appreciate nature. There is a lot of



JACKIE PILOSSOPH
Love Essentially

research that shows if you get outside and enjoy nature, it reduces anxiety. To see something beautiful reduces stress. (Marika actually lives on a farm in upstate New York now, so she is practicing what she is preaching.)

Ask for help. Single parents feel very independent and often feel they might be judged for asking for help. Don't ever feel embarrassed to reach out if you need a hand. Married people do it all the time. It's necessary and healthy to ask for help when you need it.

Build a support network. When people go from being married to being a single parent, their friendship circle often falls apart. Just when they need their friends the most, some friends seem to disappear. Try meeting new parents and extending your circle. Find other solo parents. They could end up being some of your best friends.

Laugh. See humor in situations. Laughing is very healthy physically and emotionally. And doesn't it just feel good to laugh?

Make sure you get enough sleep. Lack of sleep makes parenting even harder than it is in the first place. Even if you have to get a baby sitter or ask for help or explain to your kids that you are having quiet time, you need your rest. A rested parent is a much better parent.

Remember how awesome you are.

Of course I have to chime in on these tips, as I have been a solo mom for almost a decade. I want to point out that there are so many positives that come with this role. First, you are providing a peaceful, happy and healthy environment for the kids versus exposing them to the toxicity of a bad marriage. Secondly, single parents get to raise their kids on their terms. However, I would advise any single parent to ask for and heed parenting advice from trusted friends and family members.

Perhaps the most rewarding aspect of being a single parent is that after you've done it for awhile, you acquire a sense of empowerment and independence you never knew you had. You realize your courage and strength and you take pride in these things. You treasure your unexpected gift of looking in the mirror and realizing, "I've got this."

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist.

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HEALTH

ASK THE DOCTORS

Carpal tunnel syndrome usually easily treatable

By Dr. Robert Ashley
Ask the Doctors

Dear Doctor: Sometimes when I awake from a good sleep, one of my hands is asleep, and I have to shake or massage it back to normalcy. It's usually my thumb and the two fingers next to it. Is this normal?

Dear Reader: No, this is not normal. Your symptoms are typical of carpal tunnel syndrome, which occurs because of a compression of the median nerve at the wrist. The median nerve provides sensation to the thumb, index and middle fingers. It also supplies the muscles that control the thumb and the smaller muscles that control the index and middle fingers.

The median nerve is in real cramped quarters as it makes its way through the wrist. As you look at the palm surface of your hand and move your eyes toward your wrist you can see multiple tendons. The median nerve has to share room with nine of these tendons that are within the carpal tunnel. When there is inflammation in the wrist, or the tendons become inflamed, the median nerve gets compressed.

The first symptoms are often noted during sleep, when we have a tendency to flex the wrists, so that our hands curl. This flexion of the wrists causes greater compression of the median nerve, which leads to the sensation of tingling in the thumb and the index and middle fingers, as if your hands are falling asleep.

Carpal tunnel syndrome is very common and can be caused by repetitive work involving recurrent compression on the median nerve. Studies have been



UNIVERSAL IMAGES GROUP/GETTY

Carpal tunnel syndrome develops when a nerve becomes pinched in the wrist. Typing and diseases like arthritis are associated with a higher risk of the condition.

mixed as to the type of work that can cause this. One study showed that recurrent use of a computer mouse was associated with carpal tunnel syndrome, but there has been no consistent association with recurrent keyboard use.

Women are more likely to have carpal tunnel syndrome than are men. The rate is 5 percent in the general population, but women have rates ranging from 7 percent to 18 percent.

One study, published in Environmental Research, for example, found a greater rate of carpal tunnel syndrome in female butchers and meat cutters.

Diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis and hypothyroidism are diseases that are associated with an increased risk of carpal tunnel syndrome.

As for a diagnosis, that can be done through a physical exam or through a nerve conduction study.

For starters, I would consult your doctor. If he or she diagnoses carpal tunnel syndrome, wearing a wrist brace at night

would be the likely recommendation. Whether rigid or of a softer variety, wrist braces help because they don't allow the wrist to curl when you're sleeping. In addition, a physical therapist can teach stretches and range of motion exercises that can ease symptoms.

Finally, pay attention to signs of weakness in the hand. This would be noticed mostly in the use of the thumb, such as if you start dropping keys or begin having difficulty holding a cup. These signs suggest additional treatment, such as surgery, may be needed.

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

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

PEOPLE'S PHARMACY PRESCRIPTIONS AND HOME REMEDIES

Doctor should be specific about when to take a pill

By Joe Graedon
and Teresa Graedon
King Features Syndicate

Q: If a medication is supposed to be taken before meals, how much time before meals does that mean?

A: "Before meals" is much too ambiguous to be useful. If your doctor meant for you to take the medicine on an empty stomach, that would be at least one hour before eating or two hours after finishing a meal. If your doctor meant "take with food," that would be at mealtime. Have your doctor specify exactly what was intended.

Q: I heard your radio show in which you talked about ibuprofen being associated with an increased risk of atrial fibrillation. I have been practicing medicine for more than 20 years, and I've never seen anything about a connection between NSAIDs like ibuprofen and a-fib.

I have seen huge numbers of people with stomach ulcers related to these drugs. I've heard of heart attacks associated with Vioxx, which was taken off the market. But not a-fib.

I think you should not be misleading people with incorrect statements. A lot of people see TV commercials about a-fib, and after listening to you they may be afraid to take ibuprofen. Please get your facts straight.

A: NSAIDs like diclofenac, ibuprofen, meloxicam and naproxen have been on the market for decades. It took a long time before the Food and Drug Administration realized such drugs might increase the risk of heart attacks.

The connection between NSAIDs and the irregular



STOCKBYTE

Spell it out, please. Instructions to take a medication "before meals" is much too ambiguous to be useful.

heart rhythm called a-fib was first reported in the Archives of Internal Medicine (Sept. 13, 2010). A Danish study of more than 32,000 patients found that people taking NSAIDs were about 40 percent more likely to develop this arrhythmia (BMJ, July 4, 2011).

People with hypertension, heart disease or a-fib might benefit from other ways to control pain. Our revised "Guide to Alternatives for Arthritis" provides many nondrug options and is available for purchase at www.peoplespharmacy.com.

Q: I have been taking omeprazole for several years. With all the recent information about nasty side effects of proton-pump inhibitors, I have decided to wean myself off it.

Ranitidine is giving me good results, but I am wondering if this product also is a PPI. When I tried to look it up on the internet, I could not find the answer to this question. Is ranitidine any safer than a doctor-prescribed PPI?

A: Ranitidine (Zantac) is not a proton-pump inhibitor. Like cimetidine (Taga-

met) and famotidine (Pepcid), it blocks stomach-acid production through a different mechanism.

Because these H2 antagonists are less potent, they generally are less likely to cause complications like chronic kidney disease (JAMA Internal Medicine, February 2016).

Q: Bactrim is the only antibiotic that works well for me. Would it interact with the quinapril I take for my blood pressure?

A: Please contact your physician and pharmacist immediately. The combination of an ACE inhibitor like quinapril or lisinopril with an antibiotic such as co-trimoxazole (Bactrim or Septra) could be life-threatening (BMJ, Oct. 30, 2014). Potassium can rise quickly and lead to cardiac arrest.

Symptoms of this condition (hyperkalemia) include heart palpitations; nausea; tingling or numbness in the lips, feet or fingers; trouble breathing; fatigue; weakness; slow pulse; and confusion.

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



MICK JAGGER BRUCE SPRINGSTEEN BEYONCÉ ALISON GASH

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10:45 AM



MODERN ART: What It Is, What It Means, and Why You Couldn't Have Done It

Tina Rivers Ryan • Metropolitan Museum of Art
Undergraduate Teaching Award

POLITICS

11:00 AM
12:15 PM



THE SUPREME COURT: What's Next and Why it Matters

Alison Gash • University of Oregon
Commendation for Excellence in Teaching

LUNCH BREAK: 12:15 PM - 1:30 PM

HISTORY

1:30 PM
2:45 PM



Five Turning Points That Changed American History

Edward O'Donnell • Holy Cross College
Presidential Award for Outstanding Teaching

PSYCHOLOGY

3:00 PM
4:15 PM



THE SCIENCE OF SLEEP: How it Impacts Memory, Creativity, and the Ability to Process New Ideas

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By Danielle Braff

Chicago Tribune

Children don't come with an instruction manual.

And as every new parent learns, it can be a terrifying job — with the feedback erring on the negative side: Your child will scream and cry for hours. Once he can talk, he'll probably tell you how much he hates you. He may even tell you that he wants a new parent.

We compiled advice from seasoned parents, ranging from must-have baby items to emotional support that'll get you through those early years.

Take time for yourself before the baby arrives. Make plans with friends, have a manicure, see a movie, said Lindsay Pinchuk, CEO and founder of Bump Club & Beyond, an organization connecting parents and parents-to-be with resources and products through events in more than 25 cities nationwide. "Having a baby is the best thing that will ever happen to you, but your life will change, and some of the things you are used to doing every day — or every week, simply won't happen anymore because you're now responsible for this little being," Pinchuk said.

Things will be OK. There are many shades of gray when it comes to things like how to get a baby to sleep, to eat and to develop in the best way possible, said Scott Goldstein, pediatrician with The Northwestern Children's Practice, instructor at Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and father of three. "This means that by doing what you feel comfortable with, you — and your baby — will almost always be just fine," Goldstein said. "The issues your child will have when they are an adult will most likely not be traced back to anything you did in the first year."

Connect with your partner. Set aside time each week to connect with your partner, said Janeen Hayward, founder of Swellbeing, a parenting resource in Illinois that helps with everything from potty training to sleep issues. "This is time to talk about what you need, what's working and what's not working." She suggested that couples set a

New parents, take a deep breath

Experts offer tips ranging from must-have baby items to emotional support for the first years



JIM YOUNG/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Lindsay Pinchuk and her husband, Daniel, play with their daughters, Lila, 3, and Jordyn, 6, at their home in Northbrook, Ill.

weekly date, even if you don't leave the house — to stay connected during this transition and appreciate that you're both going through a major identity shift.

Let your child know you. Bring him into your world, and don't be a mystery to him, said John Badalament, author of "The Modern Dad's Dilemma" and director of programs at The Fatherhood Project, a program empowering fathers at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. "Tell them stories about yourself," Badalament said.

"Raise the verbal bar."

Don't let guilt rule you. If you are like most people, you will second-guess your parenting decisions and feel bad about perceived mistakes, Goldstein said. "I often suggest to parents that they commit to memory a few examples of when they felt like really great parents and, when they are having tough moments, to recall those bright examples, so that they have the confidence to know that they do a good job."

A baby doesn't need much.

There are plenty of books, apps and products designed to help your baby, but your baby requires very little, Goldstein said. The Finnish government provides parents a box for newborns containing everything they need: a box doubling as a bassinets, a sleeping bag, outerwear, clothing, toiletries, bedding and diapers. "Some people find the experience of gearing up for a baby to be fun, but if you find it overwhelming, then skip it," Goldstein said. "A place to sleep, clothes to wear and something to eat — that's about all your baby will need initially." He added that you may want some

diapers unless you want to redo your home.

Get a white noise machine. Hayward said she recommends this item for all new parents. "Since babies are used to constant white noise in utero, this sound is very soothing to them and can help with sleep," said Hayward, who recommends the Marpac Dohm (\$49.95).

Buy diaper pails. Keep a diaper pail on every floor of the house if you have multiple levels. "No explanation necessary — just trust me," Pinchuk said.

Snag a free breast pump. Insurance plans are required to cover the cost of a breast pump. Pinchuk recommends getting your pump through a durable medical equipment center. Often insurance companies will provide a preferred list. "At no charge, they facilitate the entire process between you and your insurance company to get you the best pump possible," Pinchuk said, and that will save you time.

Understand that nursing is hard. Yes, it's supposed to be the most natural thing in the world, but getting the baby to breast-feed can be difficult and even impossible for some mothers. So all expectant moms should have the number of an international board-certified lactation consultant (www.iblce.org) on hand if they plan to nurse, Pinchuk said.

Your best is good enough. "We can be very hard on ourselves and compare ourselves and our babies to others," Pinchuk said. "Don't forget to do your best, what works for you and your family, and to trust your gut."

Ask for help. We are wired to want to do it all and to think we can do it all, but you can't do it all right now. When friends and family ask what they can do to help, make sure you have an answer ready, whether it's picking up coffee, holding the baby so you can shower, or throwing in a load of laundry. If you say, "Nothing," the help is going to go away, and you're going to regret it, Pinchuk said.

Danielle Braff is a freelancer.



MEG BERGER/VHT STUDIOS PHOTOS

Log-style Barrington Hills home: \$795,000

ADDRESS: 62 Surrey Lane in Barrington Hills

ASKING PRICE: \$795,000

Listed on July 1, 2016

Cherry Woodharbor beadboard cabinets in updated chef's island kitchen with Venetian gold honed granite counters, commercial-grade stainless appliances. Sunroom/dining room has slate floor, natural log and knotty pine walls, skylights, radiant heated floor and two walls of windows and doors. Master wing with dressing room, spa bath and adjacent study. Finished English lower level with recreation area, Chicago brick fireplace, limestone bath and fifth bedroom. Exterior features include gardens, a treehouse, pond and stream.

Agent: Lori Rowe of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, 847-465-3664

At press time, this home was still for sale.

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trbcht-129712

MUSIC

Peter Frampton brings 'raw,' intimate acoustic tour to town

BY PHIL ROCKROHR

Pioneer Press

A few years ago, rocker Peter Frampton realized how much he enjoyed strumming his acoustic guitar and singing his songs alone.

Frampton figured why not share the simple pleasure with his longtime fans? So in spring 2015 he embarked on the first of a series of small-theater concerts showcasing his catalog, including his biggest hits, in an intimate acoustic setting.

"I loved it," he said. "It was a completely different way of doing my stuff."

Frampton decided to embark on the all-acoustic event every fall and spring. This month he embarks on his fifth such tour, dubbed Raw: An Acoustic Tour, which brings him to the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie on April 1.

At each show, Frampton, 66, plays about 20 minutes alone on an acoustic guitar and then is joined by songwriting partner Gordon Kennedy, co-producer of his Grammy Award-winning album "Fingerprints," and Frampton's son, singer and guitarist Julian Frampton.

"It's stories about my songs and my life," Peter Frampton said. "It's basically a journey through my life."

With the spirit of these shows in mind, Frampton released the 2016 album "Acoustic Classics," a collection of acoustic versions of songs throughout his career, including "Show Me the Way," "Do You Feel Like I Do" and "Baby, I Love Your Way," and one previously unreleased song.

Targeted at 900- to 1,200-seat theaters, the Raw shows are the "perfect setting for a just-acoustic evening," Frampton said.

The Raw shows draw heavily from "Acoustic Classics," where most of the songs are just Frampton and his guitar.

While experiencing loss and change throughout his career, Frampton said he has mostly learned about himself.

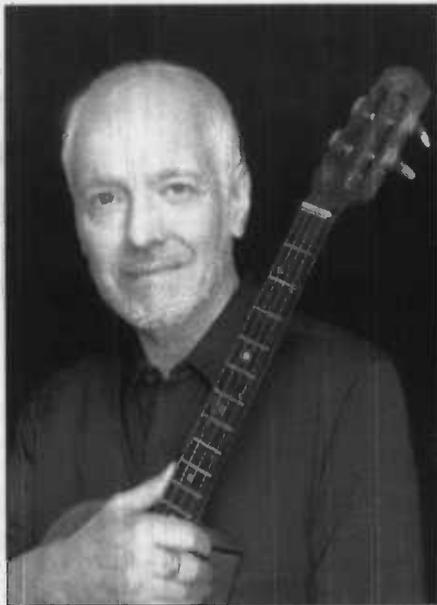
"Everything that happens to you feeds your soul in a certain way to make you more aware, especially in today's world," he said.

Frampton's new single titled "I Saved a Bird Today," based on a true story, delves into that spiritual realm.

A bird flew into a window on Frampton's ninth-floor residence in Nashville and crashed onto the balcony, he said.

"It was alive but stunned," Frampton said. "I Googled 'save a bird' and came up with a number of a help line locally. The woman who answered said, 'If it's a big bird, it's just stunned. Go about your day and come back and it will be gone.'"

Because it was larger than average, Frampton left, but returned to find it "pea-



GREGG ROTH PHOTO

Peter Frampton will play some of his biggest hits in an acoustic setting for a concert at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts.

Peter Frampton — Raw: An Acoustic Tour

When: 8 p.m. April 1

Where: North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie

Tickets: \$59-\$99

Contact: 847-673-6300;

www.northshorecenter.org

cocking around my balcony."

"I said to myself, 'Why hasn't it flown away?' " he said. "I called back and said, 'It's very well but hasn't flown away.' I described its features. ... She said, 'You have an American coot. I hate to tell you this, but it's one of the species that will only take off from water.'"

Frampton obliged, placing a towel over the bird and taking it in a box to a nearby river. "It went 40 yards across the water and took off."

Frampton told Kennedy the story and by the time they got together again, Frampton had written music and Kennedy the first verse.

"There are a couple of lines in the song — 'to care for one another is the reason we are here' and 'perhaps that day she was on her way to rescue me' that capture it," Frampton said. "I can't explain the feeling, but it gives me goosebumps to realize I saved a life. It's a bird, but it's a life."

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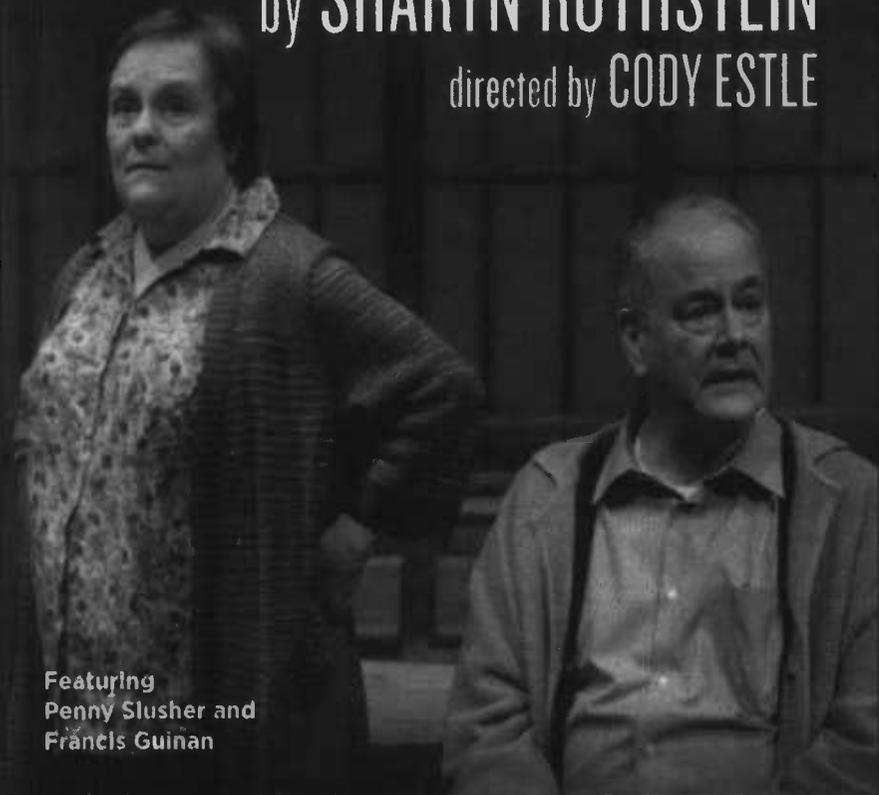
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BOBBY HUNT PHOTO

Circus Boy Bobby Hunt will perform amazing tricks he learned under the Big Top at his April 8 show at the Eisenhower Library.

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Circus Boy performance offers thrills, laughs for all

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

The feats performed by the Incredible Circus Boy are amazing but Bobby Hunt plans to make you and your children laugh, too, 1 p.m. April 8 at Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights.

"I worked at Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, so I do a lot of circus tricks," Hunt said. "Besides riding the world's smallest bike, I spin on a tall unicycle, balance on a ladder and juggle ping pong balls with my mouth. Sometimes I eat fire — but not inside. But my focal point is to make people laugh. That's what it's all about."

Hunt said he never gets tired of performing as Circus Boy. "It's a big ego boost for me to make a room of people laugh," he said.

Not only are Hunt's audience members amused, they are active participants in the hijinks. "I try to engage the entire crowd," he said. "It's all about having fun."

Registration is required.

For details, call 708-867-2298 or go to www.eisenhowerlibrary.org.

What a wonderful world

Children will learn an appreciation for the environment at Playdate with Nature, 9-9:45 a.m. April 1 at Wildwood Nature Center, 529 Forestview Ave., Park Ridge. There will be family games, crafts and educational activities based on the season. Registration is required.

For details call 847-692-3570 or go to

www.parkridgeparkdistrict.com/facilities/wildwood-nature-center.

Picture this

A variety of materials and tools will be provided for the "Mission BOOMbox: Family Portrait Challenge," 1:30-2:30 p.m. April 1 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. The event is for kids in kindergarten through 5th grade with an adult. Registration is required.

For details, call 847-673-7774 or go to www.skokieilibrary.info.

Tale as old as time

Celebrate the release of the new "Beauty and the Beast" movie at a special storytime, 11 a.m. April 1 at Barnes and Noble, 55 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. Families will hear stories about that couple and there will be a sing-along of songs from the movie's soundtrack and other activities. Attendees will receive a mini poster and bookmark.

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

Joint effort

Children ages 5 and older can share a story on a triangle during a Community Quilt Extravaganza, 4-6:30 p.m. March 24 at Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St. Registered art therapist Larry Crost, founder of Art Colony, will lead the no-sew project. A caregiver must stay with children in second grade or younger.

For details, call 847-663-1234 or go to www.nileslibrary.org.

Gala raises \$250K for Avenues to Independence

Event: 'An Evening at the Derby,' a Love Affair Gala

Benefiting: Avenues to Independence, Park Ridge

Location: Loews Hotel, Rosemont

Date: Feb. 18

Attendees: 250

Raised: \$250,000, which will help bring educational and fitness programs along with other meaningful and creative opportunities to the more than 200 adults with developmental disabilities Avenues to Independence serves

Website: www.avenuestoindependence.org



JOHN J. BEUSSE/AVENUES TO INDEPENDENCE

Fred Sasser of Park Ridge, from left, Alice Murphy of River Forest, Al Bartel of Park Ridge, Jane and Albert Wohlers, Visionary Award winner, Nancy Malk of Arlington Heights, Joe Herbst, formerly of Barrington and Robert Okazaki of Barrington, executive director



AMANDA SCOTT/AVENUES TO INDEPENDENCE

Ann and Kevin Cassidy, from left, with Kevin and Linda Buggy, all of Park Ridge



JOHN J. BEUSSE/AVENUES TO INDEPENDENCE

Mark and Susan Matekja of Wilmette, from left, Joni Sjms of Glen Ellyn and Mike Bruni of La Grange



LAURA ALLWORTH/AVENUES TO INDEPENDENCE

John DiMeo, from left, Beth DiMeo, gala chairman, Molly Dietlin, gala co-chairman and Tim Dietlin, all of Park Ridge



JOHN J. BEUSSE/AVENUES TO INDEPENDENCE

Heather Friedman, from left, Susanne Strotman and Lara Miller, all of Park Ridge



AMANDA SCOTT/AVENUES TO INDEPENDENCE

Carol and Steve Bachert of Park Ridge



LAURA ALLWORTH/AVENUES TO INDEPENDENCE

Michelle and Jim Keefe of Park Ridge

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.

**ARLINGTON HEIGHTS**

Three-bedroom, two-bath split level built in 1952. New siding, new asphalt driveway. Two-car garage. New landscaping, piping for electrical service. Newer roof and high efficient windows. Remodeled kitchen with stainless steel appliances. Hardwood floors. Remodeled bathrooms, fireplace. Separate laundry and utility area.

Address: 926 N. Douglas Ave.
Price: \$295,000
Schools: John Hersey High School
Taxes: \$5,906
Agent: Christian Kleiner, RE/MAX Unlimited Northwest

**LAKE ZURICH**

Five-bedroom, 3.5-bath traditional style built in 1978. Remodeled kitchen with new cabinets and flooring and newer stainless steel appliances. Kitchen opens to family room with wood-burning fireplace, first floor also has formal living and dining room. Master bedroom with private bath, patio, two-car attached garage.

Address: 558 Applegate Lane
Price: \$439,900
Schools: Lake Zurich High School
Taxes: \$9,254
Agent: Denise Gaffney, Baird & Warner Barrington

**GLENVIEW**

Four-bedroom, two-bath Cape Cod design built in 1942. Wide-plank hardwood floors, living room has a fireplace, original sconces and built-in corner cabinets. Dining room has greenhouse window. Kitchen has maple cabinetry and large pantry. Vaulted family room has patio doors out to deck overlooking landscaped backyard and garage.

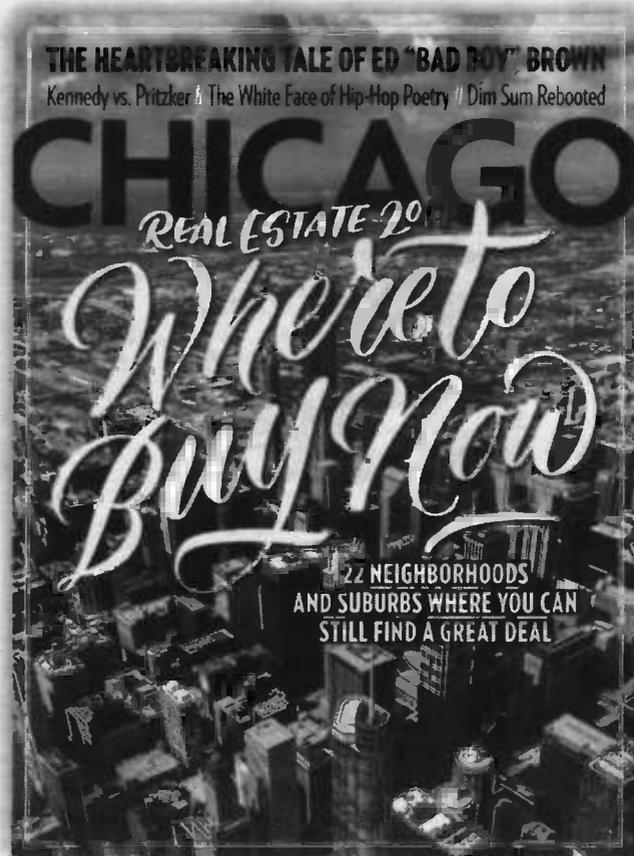
Address: 1413 Canterbury Lane
Price: \$549,000
Schools: Glenbrook South High School
Taxes: \$8,993
Agent: Christine Drimalla, Baird & Warner Winnetka

**HIGHLAND PARK**

Three-bedroom, 3.5-bath home with view of Lake Michigan. Foyer, game room, new roof, soffit, fascia and exterior paint, patio, garage built on wooded lot.

Address: 89 S. Deere Park Drive
Price: \$1,000,000
Schools: Highland Park High School
Taxes: \$23,084
Agent: Lou Zucaro, Baird & Warner Barrington

Listings from Homefinder.com

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Elevate your bathroom with some small accents

BY GABRIELLE SAVOIE
MyDomaine

For many, a sprawling bathroom with marble tiles, an extra-wide soaking tub and a roaring fireplace is the stuff of dreams. But whether a bathroom renovation is in reach or your rental apartment restroom hasn't been rehabbed since the '70s, a few small accents can take your space from plain to polished with minimal effort.

All you need is an edited selection of products, a functional space and matching linens. These accents can help.

Pay attention to your shower curtain and liner. It's not enough to have a shower curtain, and a liner alone is a rookie mistake. What you need is a combination of both, and ideally a curtain that falls to the floor for a more sophisticated look.

Step it up: Replace your shower curtain liner every few months to keep it fresh.

Opt for soap in a bottle, not a bar. No one wants to wash their hands with a sticky soap bar that's been frothing in a grimy puddle by the sink. Spend a few extra dollars on bottled hand wash that smells pleasant and isn't too harsh on the skin.

Step it up: Pair your hand wash with a moisturizer that all visitors will appreciate.

Replace that bathmat. Elevate your bath with a durable rug in a low-maintenance flat weave.

Step it up: Try a vintage kilim style for an elevated look.

Give guests the gift of hand towels. There is nothing more uncomfortable than washing your hands at someone else's



MOEN PHOTOS

Keep bathroom counters clean, not cluttered with products, and opt for hand soap in a bottle, not a bar.



Hand towels, a bath mat and matching linens can make your bathroom feel more sophisticated and increase guests' comfort.

house and realizing that the only towel in sight is a used bath towel. Hang a set of hand towels for guests by the sink.

Step it up: Get a stack of linen guest towels when throwing a dinner party.

Score enough storage to hide beauty products.

No one wants to know what brand of dental floss you use or how many face masks you own. If your beauty products don't all fit

in a medicine cabinet, store them elsewhere, out of sight.

Step it up: Get a tray to keep a few luxe products for your guests, such as hand soap, moisturizer and mints.

Get the matching towels. If your towels each have a different color — or worse, texture — it may be time to upgrade. Throw out all stained or ratty towels once a year to keep everything fresh. Classic all-white towels are easy to bleach and even easier to replace; you'll never have to worry about matching colors.

Step it up: Complement your white towels with a set of navy, charcoal or black wash towels for removing makeup, ensuring you keep your whites white.

Invest in a towel bar. Hooks are great, but they don't dry towels evenly.

Step it up: A heated towel bar will speed up the drying process and keep your bath towels fresher.

ADDRESS	BUYER	SELLER	DATE	PRICE
1404 S New Wilke Rd, # 2D, Arlington Heights	Aisha Seth	Citibank Na Trustee	02-16-17	\$105,000
2403 S Goebbert Rd, # 104, Arlington Heights	Evelyn Martinez	Max Zakharenko	02-15-17	\$120,000
206 N Somerset Ln, # 2F, Arlington Heights	Mary O Malley Sutter & Michael P O Leary	Douglas M Walker	02-14-17	\$122,000
2315 S Goebbert Rd, # 109, Arlington Heights	Pratima N Patel & Hansa N Patel	Janell Taraszka	02-21-17	\$135,000
1411 W Partridge Ln, # 3, Arlington Heights	Lynnea Knippen	Graciela Andino	02-21-17	\$147,000
1967 N Charter Point Dr, Arlington Heights	John Lundeberg	Dworkin Trust	02-16-17	\$180,000
807 N Harvard Ave, Arlington Heights	Kevin Deleon & Celeste Deleon	Prestigious Home Builder & Rem	02-10-17	\$247,500
151 W Wing St, # 310, Arlington Heights	Brian R Goedke & Ann M Goedke	National Residential Nominee S	02-10-17	\$255,000
42 S Chestnut Ave, Arlington Heights	Darko Gusic	Louis Mack	02-21-17	\$265,000
819 N Walnut Ave, Arlington Heights	Joseph Crimmins & Jennifer H Crimmins	Patrick Thornton Jr	02-15-17	\$329,000
1237 S Ridge Ave, Arlington Heights	Bryan C Reissman & Gabriela Reissman	Valentin Pamoukov	02-17-17	\$333,000
819 S Vail Ave, Arlington Heights	Michael J Ambrosio & Brenda K Ambrosio	Dina M Skinner	02-14-17	\$342,500
1228 W Weston Dr, Arlington Heights	Thomas F Moore & Stephanie M Thomas	Katherine F Karch	02-14-17	\$355,000
409 N Evergreen Ave, Arlington Heights	Jonathan Barry & Christine T Barry	Nancy B Erikson	02-10-17	\$450,000
529 E Suffield Dr, Arlington Heights	John M Pettit & Marian Pettit	Marc Welch	02-21-17	\$640,000
1149 Miller Ln, # 107, Buffalo Grove	Juandy Mena Cruz	James Zimbroff	02-10-17	\$76,500
626 Saint Marys Pkwy, Buffalo Grove	Leonardo Lopez	Mauro Montes	02-16-17	\$185,000
584 Chatham Cir, Buffalo Grove	Paul Breytman	Gilbert E Kroll	02-10-17	\$205,000
840 Weidner Rd, # 401, Buffalo Grove	Grace Lee	Sharon Bearak	02-14-17	\$276,000
77 Timber Hill Rd, Buffalo Grove	Zachary Kahn	3fcb lll Llc Holdings 4	02-21-17	\$319,000
160 University Dr, Buffalo Grove	Tihomir Georgiev & Galya Georgiev	Michael W Peterson	02-21-17	\$332,000
247 Taylor Ct, Buffalo Grove	Rahul Patet & Saïoni Patet	Ashira Johnson	02-13-17	\$400,000
10116 Holly Ln, # GN, Des Plaines	Kyung Hong	Yul Kwon	02-10-17	\$35,000
9332 Landings Ln, # 405, Des Plaines	Tomasz Firlit	Fannie Mae	02-14-17	\$101,500
9009 Golf Rd, # 6H, Des Plaines	Salma A Qamaruddin & Aslam Qamaruddin	Irene Kasperski	02-21-17	\$115,000
815 Pearson St, # 10, Des Plaines	Stepan Slobodyanyuk	Sergei Shkiler	02-14-17	\$122,000
1230 S Leslie Ln, Des Plaines	Natu S Patel & Lila Patel	Manojkumar Patel	02-16-17	\$130,000
386 Alles St, # 303, Des Plaines	John Vander Wagen Iv & Terri Lynne Vander Wagen	Anna Gillmeister	02-21-17	\$139,500
314 Alles St, Des Plaines	Francisco Hurtado	Cuc Thu Tran	02-10-17	\$155,000
711 S River Rd, # 411, Des Plaines	Liliana Cano	Steven Gregomik	02-15-17	\$155,000
1918 Kennelcott Ct, Des Plaines	David M McNulty	Vasant Patel	02-10-17	\$162,500
1600 E Thacker St, # 608, Des Plaines	Agustin E Barrios Arteaga	Joanne R Carlson	02-14-17	\$175,000
8839 Robln Dr, # A, Des Plaines	Yvonne L Freeman	Ilakshi Patel	02-17-17	\$190,000
309 Western Ave, # 608, Des Plaines	Fina Pecoraro	Stone Gate Of Des Plaines Llc	02-14-17	\$204,000
1763 Sycamore St, Des Plaines	Edward Dworakowski & Ailna Dworakowska	Svlatiana Sasnouskaya	02-14-17	\$245,000
755 Sanborn St, Des Plaines	Ngiuk K Lam	Adelina Vidal	02-21-17	\$260,000
201 W Millers Rd, Des Plaines	Mary Jean Casipit	Clayton R Smith	02-14-17	\$268,000
1280 White St, Des Plaines	Maren D Mishal	Eyitayo Oguneye	02-14-17	\$273,000
26 Wisconsin Dr, Des Plaines	Ryan McGreevy & Nicole K McGreevy	Helena Jadzak	02-17-17	\$310,000
318 Wildflower St, Des Plaines	Daniilo Navlamos & Crizelda Naviamos	Hemant K Peddani	02-17-17	\$310,000
1160 Van Buren Ave, Des Plaines	Oscar Vasquez Nunez & Gloria Vazquez	Mariuta Nistoroiu	02-21-17	\$320,000
1309 Evergreen Ave, Des Plaines	Jeffrey M Pycz & Candace N Ramirez	Amy Goodman	02-21-17	\$323,000
271 Cornell Ave, Des Plaines	Andrew Saliga & Cara Saliga	Eric W Bigalke	02-21-17	\$326,500
95 E Thacker St, Des Plaines	Jin Zhao Huang & Zhenxia Wen	Scg Logistics Corp	02-10-17	\$338,000
169 Harvey Ave, Des Plaines	Artur Zadrozny	Richard Mount	02-21-17	\$370,000
134 Clyde Ave, # 3W, Evanston	Robert Murphy & Elisa Juster	Brian Turner	02-16-17	\$78,000
1925 Harrison St, # 3J, Evanston	Joan A Clacken	Wendy Drayer	02-10-17	\$108,500
820 Oakton St, # 4E, Evanston	Teddy Pichardo & Hedy Pichardo	Evanston City (Il) Trustee	02-17-17	\$155,000
528 Sheridan Rd, # 2A, Evanston	Francisco Hohn	Laurie Lee Brown	02-16-17	\$169,500
636 Sherman Ave, # 3, Evanston	David A Dunlap & Joan T Reid	Daniel F Ward	02-15-17	\$184,000

COMMUNITY REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

ADDRESS	BUYER	SELLER	DATE	PRICE
3507 Church St, # B, Evanston	Ovi Wahid & Kazi D Yesmin	Hazel Adella Spence	02-10-17	\$190,000
601 Linden Pl, # 215, Evanston	Mark Podany & Yu Jen Julia Huang	Yelena Dligach	02-16-17	\$222,000
1300 Central St, # 303, Evanston	Catherine Lau	Carin E Kaiser	02-21-17	\$318,000
927 Wesley Ave, Evanston	Maik Bishop & Jill Bishop	Pamela Bridwell Cain	02-16-17	\$320,000
2307 Cowper Ave, Evanston	Matthew E Off	Egner Trust	02-14-17	\$331,500
316 South Blvd, Evanston	Chris Grzych & Rachel Grzych	Susan Taaffe	02-14-17	\$376,500
1414 Hinman Ave, # 3B, Evanston	Yu Lui & Yiqi Hong	Holly G Roeske	02-15-17	\$394,000
1889 Maple Ave, # N2, Evanston	Edwin Choy & Yi Tzu Choy	Kathleen Jackiw	02-10-17	\$448,000
521 Chicago Ave, # F, Evanston	Brian C Hill & Callie A Hill	Cartus Financial Corp	02-16-17	\$470,000
1800 Ridge Ave, # 401, Evanston	Mark E Kaplan & Cheryl B Kaplan	Robert H Canizaro	02-21-17	\$708,500
1123 Asbury Ave, Evanston	Ryan T Cloud	Paul D Friedman	02-14-17	\$780,000
1719 Grove St, # 1, Glenview	Michael Parker Croke & Harriet Croke	Daniel Flynn	02-16-17	\$122,000
830 E Glenwood Rd, Glenview	Chris Koch	Pnc Bank Na	02-21-17	\$249,000
1732 Pickwick Ln, Glenview	Joseph Richard Sheren & Katie R Sheren	David Kahn	02-17-17	\$256,000
4707 Laurel Ave, Glenview	Ewa Luberdia & Pawel Niemotko	Marlene H Harris	02-21-17	\$265,000
233 Nordica Ave, Glenview	Bernadeta Maciuszek & Anatol Maciuszek	233 Nordica Llc	02-17-17	\$280,000
2701 Commons Dr, # 302, Glenview	Bonnie M Doyle	Toll II Iv L P	02-17-17	\$347,500
2701 Commons Dr, # 308, Glenview	Kevin Pime	Toll II Iv L P	02-16-17	\$359,000
2701 Commons Dr, # 202, Glenview	Michael Bembem & Nina Bembem	Toll II Iv Ip	02-10-17	\$381,500
2763 Langley Cir, Glenview	Miguel Wong & Lida Liu Wong	Diptl Sharadendu	02-16-17	\$427,000
2701 Commons Dr, # 204, Glenview	Todd Matthew Gardner	Toll II Iv Lp	02-10-17	\$486,500
2701 Commons Dr, # 209, Glenview	Yi Lin Chiu	Toll II Iv L P	02-16-17	\$503,500
830 Becker Rd, Glenview	Anna Wojdyla & Tomasz Wojdyla	Gallizo Trust	02-21-17	\$555,000
2952 Peachgate Ct, Glenview	Joshua T Scarborough & Nicolette E Scarborough	Erick R Lee	02-21-17	\$687,500
710 Laramie Ave, Glenview	Michael Nobel & Marie McIntire	Nicole E Mckay	02-21-17	\$925,000
2843 Wilson Ln, Glenview	Phillip J Fitzsimons & Dana H Fitzsimons	Development Solutions Gln Llc	02-10-17	\$957,500
10 Victoria Ln, Hawthorn Woods	Stephen Gillen & Kathryn Gillen	Thomas Piitaver	02-15-17	\$35,000
4 Vine St, Hawthorn Woods	Jai Narayan & Nidhi Jain	Pulte Home Co Llc	02-10-17	\$470,000
7 Middledree Ln, Hawthorn Woods	Brent J Barker	Gerald W Schmitz	02-10-17	\$517,500
21 Beverly Ln, Hawthorn Woods	Aparna Kothapalli & Srikant Dronamraju	Pulte Home Co Llc	02-10-17	\$562,500
813 Chimney Rock, Inverness	Jacek Jonski & Apmieszka Soltys	Hfs Llc	02-21-17	\$450,000
3317 Stratford Ct, # 13, Lake Bluff	Eric Eggan & Sally Eggan	Steven T Rusch	02-15-17	\$120,000
105 Hampton Blvd, # 105, Lake Bluff	Santhosh Kumar Santhianesaa	Alison Vance	02-14-17	\$240,000
270 Arden Shore Dr, Lake Bluff	Laurence Booth	Michael R Barrett	02-10-17	\$365,000
1317 Appletree Ln, Libertyville	Karen L Zuke	Seungjin Shin	02-14-17	\$265,000
154 School St, # 201, Libertyville	Susan Bronken	Samuel T Blodgett	02-10-17	\$355,000
5660 Shadowbrook Ct, Libertyville	John P Woolley & Nancy C Woolley	Scott Wilcox	02-15-17	\$430,000
5819 Carol Ave, Morton Grove	Armaghan M Rana & Aaliya Rana	Mike Bartholomew	02-16-17	\$275,000
9326 Murray Ct, Morton Grove	Brian Ibrahim & Cynthia Ibrahim	Francine Driess Estate	02-14-17	\$294,000
9737 N Fox Glen Dr, # 1L, Niles	Lewis Davidson & Nancy Davidson	Dorothy Stawiarski	02-10-17	\$79,000
8915 N Washington St, # A, Niles	Kosta Polo & Enkeleida Polo	Najah Galyana	02-10-17	\$182,000
7030 W Crain St, Niles	Rooyla Hakimi	Wilmington Sav Fund Soc Ttee	02-21-17	\$220,000
9014 N Clifton Ave, Niles	Martin N Alexander & Fedra M Alexander	George Lungu	02-16-17	\$237,500
7338 W Lee St, Niles	Omer Jasarevic & Refija Jasarevic	Fifth Third Bank	02-16-17	\$241,000
8256 N Elmore St, Niles	Assmaa Hassan	Dragisa Kotic	02-15-17	\$465,000
2200 Bouterse St, # 304C, Park Ridge	Radusa Ostojic	Annette Swieton	02-14-17	\$226,000
1606 Elliott St, Park Ridge	Adam Klonsky	Tadeusz Okowinski	02-10-17	\$258,000
125 Boardwalk Pl, # 304, Park Ridge	Madeline Heller	Kathryn C Gramse	02-21-17	\$270,500
600 W Touhy Ave, # 600, Park Ridge	Joanne M Culverwell	Mary F Culverwell	02-14-17	\$300,000
1407 W Talcott Rd, Park Ridge	Frederick C Neslund	Local Properties Llc Series R	02-14-17	\$485,000
103 Gillick St, Park Ridge	Mark Azar & Anne C Azar	Colette Netwig	02-17-17	\$660,000
1780 Elliott St, Park Ridge	Megan Roberts	Jadranko Tomas	02-21-17	\$685,000

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

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

HOME REMEDIES

First-time homeowners looking to save water

BY ED DEL GRANDE
Tribune News Service

Q: We are first-time homeowners. Our home was built in the '80s and has the original plumbing. While our budget is limited, we really want to save some water. Where do we start, and how do you recommend we keep costs down?

A: Home water conservation not only protects a valuable resource, it can also lower your water and sewerage costs. I always say that saving water can be as easy as one, two, three.

First, start with your faucets. This can be the easiest and the least expensive upgrade. At the end of the faucet spout is a control called the aerator. In most cases, existing aerators can be replaced with new, water-saving aerators.

Next, change out the older shower head with a high-efficiency model. Look for replacement shower heads that use under 2 gallons per minute.

Finally, replacing older toilets with new efficient toilets that use less than 1.3 gallons per flush can really add to your water savings.

Since toilet replacements can be pricey, you may want to complete your faucet and shower head upgrades first and save the toilet for the end.

Q: I have a remodeling question for my smaller bathroom. I really want to have a whirlpool tub and need to ask: How can I fit a larger-than-standard tub into my new bathroom?

A: For any bathroom layout, you need to get all your fixture specifications first to make sure everything will fit into your space.



ALSONS

To save water, change out the older shower head with a model that will use under 2 gallons per minute.

Now that this basic information is out of the way, I also recommend that you look into a corner bathtub with a built-in apron.

Corner-install tubs can be a little larger than a standard tub, and with the finished apron-front side you may open up even more bathroom space.

More good news is many corner baths can be

ordered with whirlpool or bubble massage features. Also, some corner bath layouts may include lumbar support, heated surfaces and room for two users.

Bottom line: With this space-saving tub, you can put yourself into a corner without being punished.

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

Thursday, March 23

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

Nature vs. Nurture: The Evanston Art Center announces an upcoming exhibit curated by Younsoo Kim Flynn. It features the works by Nathan Braunfeld, Jack Flynn, Sae Jun 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 re-defining the complex relationship between natural and urban landscapes. 9 a.m. All week, Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-5300

If You Remember, I'll Remember: This exhibition presents a selection of works by artists Kristine Aono, Shan Goshorn, Samantha Hill, McCallum & Tarry, Dario Robleto, and Marie Watt, who investigate aspects of 19th and 20th century North American history and resonate with contemporary concerns about war, racism, and xenophobia. 10 a.m. All week, Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, free, 847-467-4602

Mining Pictures: Stories from Above and Below Ground: The exhibition spotlights the mining photography of Bruce Davidson and W. Eugene Smith, and sets their work in conversation with prints, drawings, and photographs from the late 19th century. 10 a.m. All week, Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, free, 847-491-4000

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

Triple T: Thursday evenings is their weekly taco special. That is four chef's choice tacos paired with a flight of their

house-brewed draft beer-- all for \$15. 4 p.m. Peckish Pig, 623 Howard St., Evanston, \$15, 847-491-6778

The Scene: 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, Writers Theatre, 325 Tudor Court, Glencoe, \$35-\$80, 847-242-6000

Thursday Morning with Mrs. Schmitt for ages 2 & up: Mrs. Schmitt brings her stories and fun to the Library. Just drop in with an adult. 10:30 a.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

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

Morning Matinee Film - "Snowden": Disillusioned with the intelligence community, top contractor Edward Snowden leaves his job at the National Security Agency. He now knows that a virtual mountain of data is being assembled to track all forms of digital communication -- not just from foreign governments and terrorist groups, but from ordinary Americans. When Snowden decides to leak this classified information, he becomes a traitor to some, a hero to others and a fugitive from the law. This movie is rated R. 10:30 a.m. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

The Cloud and Digital Storage: What is the "cloud" and how does it work? Learn about the pros and cons of digital storage for your documents and photos in this demonstration-only class. 7 p.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Between the Lines: Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk: This is a book discussion that is held at two different times, and no registration is required. The story is inspired by Margaret Fishback, poet and Macy's ad-writing phenom of the 1930s. The author, Kathleen Rooney, imagines an extraordinary walk through the streets of New York City on the last night of 1984 one that triggers a flood of memories for fictional ad woman Lillian Boxfish. (from NoveList Plus). 10 a.m. Thursday and Tuesday, Morton Grove

Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

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

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

England Coast to Coast: Adventurer John Lynn presents a travelogue of his 200 mile trek across Northern England. Take in the scenery, adventure and sociability of the famed Coast to Coast Path which extends from the Irish Sea to the North Sea via the Lake District, the Yorkshire Dales and the North York Moors. 7 p.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Toddler Time for Two to Three-Year-Olds: Join in a 20 minutes of stories and 25 minutes of creative play. This is for-toddlers with a caregiver. 10 a.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

TEDxNorthbrookLibrary: Rise of the Maker Movement: Join in as we watch pre-recorded TED Talks about the Maker Movement including new and interesting uses for technology. There will be a discussion about the ideas presented afterward. Register to save your seat. 1 p.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Wee Play Birth to 24 months: Music, rhymes, giggles and books for caregiver and baby. 10 a.m. and 11 a.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Lunch and Learn - The Power of the Inbox: One of the biggest challenges for every decision maker is managing the ever-growing sea of daily e-mails. Led by SCORE'S online marketing expert, this informative program demonstrates how, with limited time and resources, small businesses can create an effective e-mail marketing campaign that convinces prospective customers to open their message instead of hitting the delete button. Cost: \$20 for guests and members at the door. 11:45 a.m. Northbrook Chamber of Commerce & Indus-

try, 2002 Walters Ave., Northbrook, \$20, 847-498-5555

Storytime for Threes with Adult - Thursdays: Stories, songs and fun for 3-year-olds. Siblings welcome. 10:15 a.m. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

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

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

"By the Water": Northlight presents the story of a community ready to rebuild after Hurricane Sandy. 7:30 p.m. Thursday and Friday, 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, \$30-\$81, 847-673-6300

Calling Artists for Interfaith Art Show: I Am: The church is looking for artists who are interested in contributing a piece of artwork (all mediums welcome) that illustrates their own understanding of the greatness of God. What does "I Am" mean to you? 4:45 a.m. All week, Winnetka Presbyterian Church, 1255 Willow Road, Winnetka, \$10, 847-446-7777

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, all 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

Friday, March 24

Friday Night Fish Fry at White Pines: White Pines will be hosting a Fish Fry every Friday night from March 3 through April 14. Bring the whole family and enjoy an all-you-can-eat lake Perch dinner for only \$14.99. In addition to fresh fish entrees, there will also be weekly menu specials and delicious desserts. For more information call

Turn to Calendar, Next Page

Calendar, from Previous Page

630-766-0304, Ext. 2. 5 p.m. White Pines Golf Club, 500 W. Jefferson St., Bensenville, \$14.99, 630-766-0304

Southside Johnny and the Asbury Jukes: 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$45-\$75, 847-492-8860

Evanston 2nd Act Players' One-Act Play Festival: The 2nd Act Players premiere two new plays and hold a silent auction-fundraiser. These take place during their One-Act Play Festival from March 11-26. The photo shows the cast of "Last Days of Wonder," a play about an ailing mother and her two daughters. 7:30 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2515 Central Park Ave, Evanston, \$22, 847-571-0235

The World Premiere of "Quest": "Quest" is an original circus-theater production loosely based on Leo Tolstoy's short story "The Three Questions." The protagonist asks three simple (but huge) questions, setting in motion a whirlwind journey to find the answers. 7:30 p.m. Friday-Sunday, Actors Gymnasium, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, \$20 for adults, \$15 for kids, students and seniors, 847-328-2795

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

Friday Film - "Jason Bourne": Jason Bourne is again being hunted by the CIA. This movie is rated PG-13. 1 p.m. Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Gentle Yoga: Due to high demand, two yoga sessions are now offered. Space in each session is limited to the first 50 people. Yoga instructor Olga Rudiak leads a series of yoga sessions for improved physical strength, relaxation and mental clarity. Exercises are done in a chair or standing not on the floor. 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Friday Fish Fry at Allgauer's on the Riverfront: All-you-can-eat Friday Fish Fry with coleslaw, potato cake, French fries on Fridays until 10 p.m. 5 p.m. Allgauer's on the Riverfront/Northbrook Hilton, 2855 N. Milwaukee Ave., Northbrook, \$13 per person, 847-664-7999

Share The Warmth: Join a group of warm, friendly, supportive women (men welcome) to prepare one-of-a-kind fleece blankets for chemo patients. Add a crocheted edge to fleece and send free blankets to new adult chemotherapy patients. A basic crochet stitch can be taught if needed. Bring lunch. Attendees often gather until 2 or 3 p.m. Donations are welcome to this 501(c)3 non-profit organization. 9 a.m. North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, free, 847-293-6755

Saturday, March 25

All Around the House Quilt Show at Fischer Farm: Quilts of all sizes, colors, and ages will be on display, many of which are antique. The barn will be full of items for sale including books, patterns, blocks and quilts. Sherry Branson, A.Q.S. Certified Appraiser, will be at Fischer Farm both Saturday and Sunday. Make an appointment with Sherry at 815-713-1963 to find out. 11 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, Fischer Farm, 16W680 Old Grande Ave., Bensenville, \$4; \$1 (ages 5-17), 630-834-3152

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

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

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

Library Links: Spring Golf Clinic: Glenview Park Golf Club teaching professional Michael Stone offers a two-part group lesson at the library. Chipping and pitching are covered on Saturday, with putting covered on Sunday. There is a limit of 40 participants. Reg-

ister at glenviewpl.org/register or call. 1:30 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Film: "2016 World Series Cubs vs. Indians": Through exclusive access and interviews, this film features all of the moments that defined the Cubs' 2016 historic season and playoff run. It is narrated by long-time Cubs fan and Hollywood icon Vince Vaughn. 2 p.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Petite Opera 2017-18 Season Auditions: General opera auditions are by appointment only for the following dates: from 7-10 p.m., Saturday, March 18, and Tuesday, March 21; also from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Saturday, March 25, to cast open roles for a Rossini opera (Nov. 3-19), and an operetta (TBD, spring 2018). 10 a.m. St. Mary's Episcopal Church, 306 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-553-4442

Not Your Grandma's Bingo: Sisterhood Temple Beth Israel presents a new twist on an all-time favorite with Not Your Grandma's Bingo. The cost includes two cards per game, appetizers, wine, desserts and prizes. Register by March 22 at www.tinyurl.com/tbiskokie. 7 p.m. Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie, \$25 per adult, 847-675-0951

An Evening of Comedy and Spoken Word - Debbie Goodman: This Evening of Comedy and Spoken Word is with Debbie Sue and friends. Debbie Sue Goodman, is the comedian and is an author of "Still Single," "Still Dating" and "My Husband the Stranger." 7 p.m. Euro Echo Cafe, 7919 Lincoln Ave, Skokie, no cover charge, 847-213-0598

Defending The Caveman: The longest running solo show in Broadway history comes to Skokie on its 25th Anniversary tour. Defending the Caveman is a hilariously insightful play about the ways men and women relate. This prehistoric look at the battle of the sexes is full of wonderful scenarios that celebrate the differences between men and women. Use code Metromix for 50 percent off. 8 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, \$50, 847-677-7761

Bunco and Card Party plus Super TV and Sports Raffle: This is a night of family fun with cards, prizes, and the best raffle in town. You can learn to play Bunco in minutes if needed. Over 100 fantastic prizes are raffled from small stuff up to their Super TV/Sports Raffle. The raffle tickets range from \$1-\$10. Snacks, desserts, and table prizes are also available. 7 p.m. St. Peter's United

Church of Christ, 8013 Laramie Ave., Skokie, \$5 at door, 847-673-8166

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 26

Bow-Wow and Alley Cat Bowling: This is a great way to help the animals and have some fun. Join in for bowling, pizza, dessert, games and raffles. Reserve your spots now, as tickets are: \$25 per person in advance, or \$30 per person, the day of event. Mail check to: Heartland Animal Shelter, 2975 Milwaukee Ave., Northbrook, IL 60062, Bow-Wow Bowling. 5:30 p.m. River Rand Bowl, 191 S. Des Plaines River Road, Des Plaines, free

Live Jazz with Chad Willets Trio: On Sundays they have their full brunch menu with live jazz and the Chad Willets Trio from 11:30 a.m. - 2 p.m. 11:30 a.m. Peckish Pig, 623 Howard St., Evanston, free, 847-491-6778

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

Three Chicago Sopranos and a Tenor Concert: St. Paul A.M.E. Church presents the vocal artistry of Dorothy Canady, Joyce Carter, Sandra Leconte, and Henry H. Pleas III. They sing favorite arias and spirituals, with Charles Thomas Hayes, the Music Director. 5 p.m. St. Paul A.M.E. Church, 336 Washington Ave, Glencoe, free, 847-835-4421

Critics' Choice Cinema: "The Mermaid": "The Mermaid" is rated R and is spoke in Mandarin with English subtitles. This is about a real estate developer who threatens an underwater ecosystem and a mermaid who is sent to kill him. The two, however, end up in love instead and fight to save her home. 2 p.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Two Pianos Four Hands Concert: Pianissimo! plays works by Mozart, Dvorak, Khachaturian, Poulenc, Bizet, Lavignac and Levinson. 2 p.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Jazz and Blues Salon Concert: In honor of Women's History Month,

Turn to Calendar, Next Page

Calendar, from Previous Page

featured are: a pair of Chicago jazz composers Juli Wood (sax) and Kelly Brand (piano) who focus on original jazz compositions. This is co-presented by WDCB Public Radio as part of their Jammin' in the Stacks free concert series. 7 p.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Glorious Chorus: The chorus sings an evening of beautiful, rarely performed works. Discover music rich with glowing color, driving energy, and a unique ability to stir the soul. 7:30 p.m. North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, \$27-\$75, 312-551-1414

Monday, March 27

Drop-In Movie: Enjoy a movie on the Library's big screen. Look for title in early March. 2 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Splash Landings Spring Break Swimming Hours: The Splash Landings Aquatic Center Spring Break swimming hours are Monday through Friday, March 27-31. Come by for a few laps, or join in a family swim during the special spring break hours: Lap Swim is 5:30-11 a.m.; Family Swim is 11 a.m.-8 p.m. 5:30 a.m. Monday-Wednesday, Glenview Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, various, 847-724-5670

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

Lego Club: For students in kindergarten through eighth grades to join in this club on the fourth Monday of each month to create masterpieces at this new Lego Club. No registration is necessary. 4:30 p.m. Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Free Film: "The BFG": A girl named Sophie encounters the Big Friendly Giant who, despite his intimidating appearance, turns out to be a kind-hearted soul who is considered an outcast by the other giants because, unlike them, he refuses to eat children. This is rated PG. 1 p.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Storytime for All Ages with Adult: Stories, songs and fingerplays for the whole family. 1:30 p.m. Park Ridge Pub-

lic Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

Teddy Bear Time Ages 12 - 24 Months with Adult: Stories, songs and fingerplays for children from 12 through 24 months with an adult. Siblings are welcome. 9:30 a.m. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

Spring Break Survivor! This is for children in third through fifth grades to shake up their spring break by trying some fun, active adventures. Come to learn outdoor survival skills: create a shelter, find water sources, use a map, work with a team, and build a fire. This program runs Monday through Thursday (March 27-30). 9 a.m. Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, \$140 Skokie resident; \$175 non-resident, 847-677-7001

Tuesday, March 28

Drop-In Crafternoon: Bring your imagination and enjoy a crafternoon of self-guided creativity. Noon, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

CJE Senior Life Counseling for adults 60 and over: Counseling includes: selecting appropriate retirement benefits, picking the right health insurance and Medicare programs, determining housing needs, and identifying supportive resources. For more information and an appointment, call Kathy Gaeding at CJE SeniorLife, 773-508-1054. 9:30 a.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Picasso and Paris: A Salon with Gertrude Stein: Celebrate Women's History Month with an invitation to Gertrude Stein's Paris salon, circa 1920, a place of sanctuary for some of the most famous literati and artists of the time. This is performed by WomanLore actress Betsey Means. Register at glenviewpl.org/register or by calling. 7 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

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

Converting Your VHS Home Movies: Learn how to convert your old home movies on VHS to DVD or digital for-

mat in the Digital Media Lab. Registration limited to four. 10 a.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Film: "The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio": "The Prize Winner of Defiance, Ohio," this film is rated PG-13 and set in the 1950's. Evelyn Ryan, a housewife and mother of 10, becomes the best contender in America, by winning cash and prizes with her entries for advertising jingles and slogans. The cast stars: Julianne Moore, and Woody Harrelson. 11:30 a.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Niles Metropolitan Chorus J.S. Bach's St. John Passion: Singers invited, with rehearsal 7-9 p.m. Tuesdays prior to the performance. Their spring concert of J.S. Bach's St. John Passion is presented on April 2 at 3 p.m. 7 p.m. St. John Brebeuf Parish Church, 8307 N. Harlem Ave., Niles, suggested free will donation, 702-806-8421

Games Outside the Box (All Ages): Calling all gamers, techies, engineers, builders, strategists, creators, geeks and out-of-the-box thinkers, it's time to play. Stop by during winter break to play a different game, activity, hardware or toy. 2:30 p.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Pajama Stories (Familles): Put on your coziest pajamas and join us for a half hour of stories and fun. 6:30 p.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Two-year-old Storytime with Care-giver: This storytime is suitable for children ages 2-3 years. 10:30 a.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Maker Meetup: If you are a maker/DIY-er wanting to share your project, skills, or just get some advice, join this group on the last Tuesday of every month. Come join to share your latest low- and hi-tech projects every month. 6:30 p.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Preschool Storytime Ages 3-5: This storytime is suitable for children ages 3-5 years. 10:30 a.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Baby Bounce Storytime for Birth to 12 months with Adult: Join in for the storytime just for babies. Enjoy stories, songs, rhymes and a playtime at the end. Doors open at 9 a.m. Siblings are welcome. 9:15 a.m. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge,

free, 847-825-3123

Teddy Bear Time Ages 12 to 24 Months with Adult: Stories, songs and fingerplays for children from 12 through 24 months with an adult. Siblings are welcome. 11 a.m. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

Storytime for Fours and Fives: Join in for this storytime, however, no adults or siblings please. 10:15 a.m. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

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

Wednesday, March 29

Ben Caplan & the Casual Smokers: 8 p.m. SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, \$12-\$20, 847-492-8860

Live Music Wednesdays with the Josh Rzepka Trio: Hear the music of Dizzy Gillespie, Charlie Parker, Thelonious Monk and other classics of the era played by the Josh Rzepka Bebop trio. Reservations can be made online or by calling. 6:30 p.m. Found Kitchen & Social House, 1631 Chicago Ave., Evanston, free, 847-868-8945

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

National Theatre Live: "Saint Joan": George Bernard Shaw's modern classic follows the life and trials of a young country girl who declares a bloody mission to drive the English from France. Josie Rourke directs Gemma Arterton as Joan of Arc in this production, broadcast live from the Donmar Warehouse. 7 p.m. Josephine Louis Theater at Northwestern University, 20 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, \$10 - \$20, 847-491-4819

Triple B: Wednesday nights the burger special is of epic proportions. A burger

Turn to Calendar, Next Page

Calendar, from Previous Page

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

Family Lego Challenge: This is suggested for ages 5 and up to enjoy an evening of lighthearted competition full of 3D thinking, surprising twists, and loads of excitement. Space is limited, so register at glenviewpl.org/register or by calling. 7 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Stuffed Animal Slumber Party: Animal Drop Off is 5:30-7 p.m., with Animal Pick Up on March 30, from noon-3 p.m. Bring a stuffed animal to

the Youth Services Desk, kiss them goodnight and wave goodbye. Pick them up the next day and see what antics ensued. 5:30 p.m. Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

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

Super Smash Bros. Brawl Tournament for Grades 5-12: We're hosting a Super Smash Bros. tournament at the library. Choose from your favorite characters including: Link, Donkey Kong and Samus and battle your friends for the title of Tournament Champion. 4:30 p.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Do More with Word 2010: Registration is required for this hands-on workshop and registration is limited to six participants. The prerequisite to setting up page layouts, margins, columns, headers and more is the Introduction to Microsoft Word 2010 work-

shop, or basic familiarity with Word 2010. 7 p.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Baby Play: This new program focuses on babies 12 months and younger with their caregiver. It introduces music, rhymes, and books for this special age in a friendly, cozy setting. 9:15 a.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Two-year-old Storytime with Caregiver: This storytime is suitable for children ages 2-3 years. 10:30 a.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Preschool Storytime Ages 3-5: This storytime is suitable for children ages 3-5 years. 10:30 a.m. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

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

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

Pokemon Club Grades K - 6: Bring your own cards and meet up with fellow Pokemon fans. 4:15 p.m. Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3123

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

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

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

COUNTRY FINANCIAL

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NOW PLAYING

**"Kong: Skull Island" ★★★ 1/2**

PG-13, 2:00, Action/Adventure

"Kong: Skull Island" is better, lighter on its feet and more fun than its reported \$190 million production budget would suggest. I honestly don't know what you'd call it: a franchise reboot? A sequel to Peter Jackson's 2005 "King Kong," which I admired but didn't enjoy like this one? Any movie with the sense, the wit and the visual instincts to introduce Kong the way this one does is fine with me. Boooooom, the mighty paw slams

down on the top of a cliff as Skull Island's landlord rises up to check out, nose to nose, the first humans we see on screen. Director Jordan Vogt-Roberts' film zips along and treats the Kong mythology seriously without getting balled up in the storytelling. — *Michael Phillips*

**"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. — *M.P.*

**"Get Out" ★★★ 1/2**

R, 1:44, horror

Writer-director Jordan Peele's satirically shrewd, bracingly effective thriller finds Chris, played by Daniel Kaluuya, dating Rose, a chipper, easygoing sort portrayed by Allison Williams, for several months. It's time, she determines, to meet her parents. "Get Out" offers some choice comic details in its main character's journey into the land beyond the pale. The surprise comes in how solidly director Peele handles the thriller part. 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 best-selling novel by William P. Young. Mack Phillips (Sam Worthington) is a wayward soul who's been dealt a few bad cards in life. Mack receives a mysterious invitation in the mail: a note asking him to a weekend getaway at the shack

where his daughter was likely killed. There he's greeted not by a child killer but by a trio of groovy spiritual teachers in a tropical wooded paradise. — *Katie Walsh, Tribune News Service*

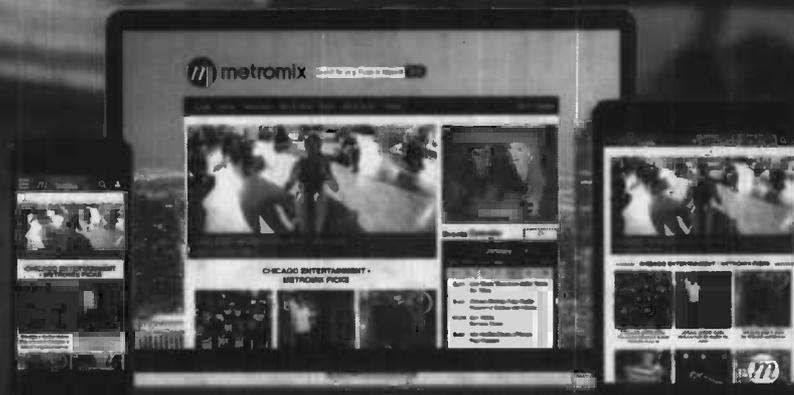
**"The Lego Batman Movie" ★★ 1/2**

PG, 1:46, animated comedy

At its sporadic best, the crazy velocity and wisehelmer 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 ill 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.*

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DEATH NOTICES

*We extend our condolences to the families
and loved ones of those who have passed.*

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Death Notices

Kaye, Leo J.

Leo J. Kaye, 87, passed away March 17, 2017. Beloved husband of the late Ardine, nee Chisholm; loving father of David (Mary) and Marybeth Kaye; cherished grandfather of Jonathan Griffin, Megan, Brendan and Erin Kaye; dearest brother of Edwin and the late Joseph (Adele) Kaye, Eugene (the late Pauline) Koszycki and Ted (Adele) Kaye; fond uncle of many nieces and nephews. Leo enjoyed golf and was an avid ballroom dancer, especially the waltz and polka. Visitation Saturday, April 1st, 9:30 a.m. until time of prayers at 11:45 a.m. at Nelson Funeral Home, 820 Talcott Rd., Park Ridge to St. Paul of the Cross Church, 320 S. Washington Ave., Park Ridge for Mass at 12:30 p.m. Interment Maryhill Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the Wounded Warrior Project, PO Box 758517, Topeka, KS 66675-8517, www.woundedwarriorproject.org. For information 847-823-5122 or www.nelsonfunerals.com.



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Death Notices

Keller, Trudy

Trudy Keller, nee Rickenbacher, 95, passed away on March 14, 2017. Loving wife to the late Rudolph; caring mother of Yvette (Juergen) Heine. Service will be private.



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It's a good time to buy used

Glut of off-lease vehicles to hit lots

BY RICK POPELY
Chicago Tribune

The number of new vehicles that were leased hit a record 4.4 million last year, triple the number in 2009, when auto sales were at their low point during the recession.

New- and used-car sales have increased seven years in a row as the economy has improved, a streak not seen since the 1920s, but industry analysts worry that the used-car market may not be able to easily digest a record number of vehicles with expired leases being listed for sale.

Most leases are for 36 months, so three years after they leave dealerships they come back as used cars, and in 2017 the auto industry is bracing for a record 3.6 million off-lease vehicles.

Michelle Krebs, senior analyst at Cox Automotive's Autotrader, expects new-car sales to drop from a record 17.5 million in 2016 and for used prices to soften. She says more buyers are likely to cross-shop new vehicles against the glut of late-model used vehicles coming off of leases, many of which will wind up as certified pre-owned cars, which can cost on average about \$1,500 more than typical used cars.

"The market really expanded to accommodate the used cars on the market as well as record new-car sales, but now all that is softening. When we have new-car sales softening and this glut of used cars, we

have an increased supply and lower demand, and used-car prices will be down," Krebs said in a telephone interview.

For consumers, the flood of off-lease vehicles could lower the prices on certified pre-owned cars and used cars in general, a boon for budget-conscious shoppers. That, however, also could cut into new-vehicle sales and force manufacturers to hike incentives, which have been rising already.

"It's hard to know how the nearly new or certified pre-owned cars will play against the new cars. We see a lot of cross-shopping between the two on our website, so will the consumer take that over a new car, or will the incentives get richer on new cars so that it makes more sense to buy new rather than nearly new?" Krebs said. "There are just a lot of dynamics going on, and we don't know how it's going to shake out."

The flip side for consumers is that the glut of off-lease vehicles also could make buying or leasing a new vehicle more expensive. An oversupply of used cars could diminish the value of a vehicle they plan to trade in. If they're leasing, lower used values translate to higher lease payments, Jessica Caldwell, senior analyst for Edmunds, said.

"The lease payment is predicated on the residual value, so if those start to decline, then lease payments will go up. If the



HASAN SARBAKSHIAN/BLOOMBERG

Customers check out cars at a CarMax dealership in Brandywine, Md., in 2015. With many leases up in 2017, used-car prices could drop, but buying or leasing new cars could get pricier.

payments go up, that will make it less attractive for people to want to lease. That is what we might see happen, that leasing will stagnate a bit this year," Caldwell said in a phone interview.

Leased vehicles accounted for about 25 percent of total vehicle sales in 2016 and 31 percent of retail sales. Edmunds and Autotrader see leasing declining slightly this year, to 30 percent of retail sales, as manufacturers back off as a hedge against declining used prices. Manufacturers project what a leased vehicle will be worth after three years — the residual value. If the actual resale value is lower at the end of the lease, they lose money.

The flood of off-lease vehicles will continue to grow, to more than 4 million vehicles in 2018. In addition, Manheim, a major used-car auction company, says more than 1.8 million used rental cars will enter the used market this year, mainly 1- and 2-year-old vehicles.

With so many late-model used vehicles that could poach new-car shoppers, Krebs said, Autotrader is forecasting that new-vehicle sales will fall into a range of 16.8 million to 17.3 million, at the lower end of most forecasts.

"A lot of forecasters do not take into account that we are going to see a huge number of off-lease vehicles come onto the market. It's been climbing every year, it's going to climb again this year and keep climbing through 2020 because leasing has been at record levels," she said, adding that the auto industry had to stretch to reach 17.5 million vehicles in 2016. "We had a record last year, but it came at some cost because the incentives got so hefty and the promotions so big in December."

Caldwell says used-car values in the aggregate will increase because of the influx of late-model used vehicles and because new-car transaction prices keep rising, but she thinks the industry will struggle to

manage the higher volume of used vehicles.

"It will certainly be a challenge for dealers to absorb all the near-new used inventory because it doesn't sell as fast as the older vehicles. The older stuff sells very quickly," she said. "That's going to put a lot of pressure on used-car values because the inventory just continues to climb."

Moreover, if manufacturers continue to step up incentives on new cars, that will have a ripple effect on used cars, she said. If new cars become less expensive because of higher discounts, used values fall proportionately.

"If incentives continue to climb, it would definitely prominently affect the near-new used vehicles," Caldwell said.

As more new-car buyers spurn passenger cars in favor of SUVs and pickups, the used values of those vehicles react accordingly. Manheim said the wholesale auction values of compact cars dropped 5.6 per-

cent in 2016, and midsize cars fell 3.7 percent. In comparison, the wholesale value of full-size pickups increased 4.3 percent.

"Used pickup trucks are in big demand," Krebs said, and on Autotrader's website, pickups are among the most sought-after used vehicles.

Used SUVs also have been in high demand and commanding high prices, yet wholesale values dropped 1.2 percent in 2016, according to Manheim.

"They had been in a situation where many hadn't been available from off-lease, and they were selling every one they could get, and new ones weren't getting discounted a lot," Krebs said. "Now there are a lot more entries, everybody is getting real competitive in those segments and there are more incentives going. The (used SUV) supply is catching up with demand."

Rick Popely is a freelance writer.

UC Davis coach Les traces success to Notre Dame

BY BRETT CHRISTIE

Pioneer Press

Jim Les made history again.

Eleven years after leading Bradley to the Sweet 16 for the first time since the NCAA men's basketball tournament expanded to 64 teams, the Niles native and Notre Dame College Prep alumnus etched his name in UC Davis lore by leading the school to its first NCAA Tournament berth.

UC Davis (22-12) defeated UC Irvine 50-47 on March 11 in the Big West tournament championship game to secure an automatic bid.

The Aggies, a 16 seed in the Midwest Regional, defeated North Carolina Central 67-63 in a play-in game in Dayton, Ohio, on March 15. However, UC Davis then suffered a 100-62 loss to top-seeded Kansas on Friday in Tulsa, Okla.

For Les, who just finished his sixth season as the UC Davis coach, qualifying for the NCAA tournament represented a watershed moment for the university.

"I'm just really excited for our university and our community," Les said in a phone interview on March 13 from Dayton. "UC Davis is an elite academic institution and this gives people around the country, (and) around the world, a chance to take a little closer look at UC Davis."

"I think too, so many of our guys grew up watching the tournament. They grew up watching Selection Sunday and watching teams sitting together with their teammates and waiting to hear their name called. And to live out that dream and to watch our guys take part in that was really, really exciting and fun for our staff to witness."

One such player is Joe Mooney, a redshirt freshman for the Aggies who also is a Notre Dame graduate.

"It means a lot," Mooney said. "It was definitely an emotional experience for the team because every guy dreams about playing in the NCAA Tournament when you're younger. Especially with it being the first time for the school, it means so much for the community, the program and the school."

UC Davis defeated Cal Poly 66-55 in the quarterfinals of the conference tournament and won a dramatic 66-64 overtime game



JAE C. HONG/AP

UC Davis men's basketball coach Jim Les fires up his players as he prepares to cut the net after his team's 50-47 win against UC Irvine in the Big West tournament championship game on March 11 in Anaheim, Calif.

over Cal State Fullerton in the semifinals before toppling UC Irvine. It was the same UC Irvine team that beat the Aggies 79-49 just seven days earlier in the regular-season finale.

"I just think we have a group of really competitive guys and they were really disappointed in themselves and how they played in that game and really were on a mission heading into that tournament," Les said.

Mooney had to take in the conference tournament run from the bench. He was out for five weeks with a stress fracture in his

foot. Mooney, who averaged 2.3 points in 16 games this season, said he was cleared to suit up for the NCAA Tournament, but he did not play.

Mooney credited his basketball career to Tom Les, Notre Dame's coach and Jim Les' older brother. The Dons have won three straight regional titles under Tom Les' tutelage.

"He's given me every tool and put me in a position to be successful," Mooney said. He added: "For me it definitely started at ND under Tom Les' leadership and the path he put us on and

what he's done with that program."

Jim Les also said a lot of his success as a player — he played seven years in the NBA as a backup point guard, averaging 3.8 points and 2.9 assists per game while shooting 39.6 percent from behind the 3-point arc — and coach can be credited to his years at Notre Dame.

"Notre Dame has been an unbelievable influence on me as a young high school teenager. Those are the key formative years," Les said. "Going through Notre Dame and the structure and

discipline and college prep that they gave me as a student and as an athlete was really my springboard to be able to do the things that I've been able to do, so I'm forever grateful to Notre Dame for that opportunity.

"Still today, some of my closest friends are guys that I walked the halls at Notre Dame High School with, so that kind of tells you about the bonds that are created at an early age and how they last a lifetime."

Brett Christie is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.



ROB DICKER/PIONEER PRESS

Meet your March winner!

Caleigh Pistorius, Maine South sophomore

Maine South sophomore gymnast Caleigh Pistorius tied for first on the balance beam at the state meet on Feb. 18. She tied New Trier's Maeva Murdock. Pistorius and Murdock each earned a score of 9.425 at Palatine High School. "I tied with one of my best friends," Pistorius said. "It's so much better (to tie with her). It feels so good that I can share it with someone." Pistorius also placed seventh (9.475) on the floor and ninth (9.450) on the vault at state.

CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM/ATHLETES

COLLEGE NOTES

Scheyer selected to US Maccabiah Games team

BY SAM BRIEF
Pioneer Press

Glencoe native **Camille Scheyer**, a freshman on the Yale field hockey team, was chosen to the United States team for the 20th World Maccabiah Games, which will take place in Israel in July. Scheyer, a graduate of North Shore Country Day, is among the 16 athletes on the Open Women's Field Hockey Team.

In addition, Scheyer was named to the NFHCA National Academic Squad on March 15 for the 2016 season. Scheyer played in 14 games for Yale during her freshman season, recording one goal, which was the game-winning score in the Bulldogs' season-opener against Sacred Heart.

Locals contribute for Illinois Wesleyan baseball

Three area graduates have helped the Illinois Wesleyan baseball team get off to a 7-4 start this spring. Maine South graduate and freshman pitcher **Jim O'Brien** received the win against Keene State on March 12, pitching 2.0 scoreless innings with four strikeouts. **Ben Manski**, a Libertyville alumnus, has seven RBIs in seven games played and is slugging .500. Fenwick graduate and Western Springs native **Gino Cavalieri** has one home run and seven RBIs through 11 games.

Notre Dame Prep grad sees Final Four action

Augustana freshman guard **Lucas Simon**, a Notre Dame Prep graduate, helped propel the Vikings to



MICHAEL MCLOONE/UW-WHITEWATER ATHLETICS

Notre Dame Prep graduate Lucas Simon helped Augustana reach the championship game of the Division III men's basketball tournament.

the championship game of the Division III men's basketball tournament. Simon scored six points on 3-of-4 shooting and dished out a pair of assists as Augustana defeated Hanover 77-64 on March 11 to advance to the Final Four in Salem, Va. Simon had two points and two assists in Augustana's 79-78 loss to Babson in the title game Saturday.

Simon averaged 2.3 points and 1.6 assists on the season, shooting 53.1 percent from the floor.

Petrus stand outs for UW-Oshkosh softball

Carmel graduate **Claire Petrus**, a freshman pitcher and utility player on the

Wisconsin-Oshkosh softball team, is off to a fast start in her collegiate career. Through the Titans' first 12 games, Petrus is hitting .417 with a .708 slugging percentage. Seven of her 10 hits have been doubles (most on the team), and she has thrown 14 1/3 shutout innings in four appearances in the circle for the Titans, who started 9-3.

Petrus, a Hawthorn Woods native, is joined by Rolling Meadows graduate and senior pitcher **Sara Brunlieb**, who had a 2.90 ERA through 29 innings and was 2-2 through five starts.

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

Sam Brief is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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SEASON PREVIEW

BASEBALL

By **BRETT CHRISTIE AND JONAH L. ROSENBLUM**
Pioneer Press

Notre Dame

Coach: Nelson Gord
2016 record: 23-12 (11-7 East Suburban Catholic); lost to New Trier in Class 4A sectional semifinal
Key returners: Jr. 1B/C/P Kevin Garcia, Jr. P/OF Paul Bergstrom, Sr. P/OF Max Rimac, Sr. C/OF Justin Cisneroz, Jr. SS Jackson Kaplowitz, Sr. P Aidan French, Sr. OF Matt Doherty, Sr. P Alec Van Pelt, Sr. 3B/DH Will Iacullo

At the plate: Garcia will be the Dons' top power bat, as he hit seven home runs last year as a sophomore and is a consistent run producer. Gord said he expects a big year out of Rimac, who is a dangerous hitter from the left side of the plate. Kaplowitz was a defense-first player for the Dons last year, Gord said, but he's transformed himself into an impact bat.

On the mound: Bergstrom is the ace of the Notre Dame staff and announced Sunday on Twitter that he has verbally committed to Creighton. Rimac is a 6-foot-4 lefty committed to Cisco (Texas) College, a Division I junior college, who can touch 90 mph on the radar gun. Together they give the Dons a formidable one-two punch at the top of the rotation. Junior right-hander Nathan Moore, junior left-hander Charlie Andersen and Van Pelt round out a rotation that Gord anticipates being the club's biggest strength.

Big question: Hitting in the postseason will be Notre Dame's biggest question mark, Gord said. The Dons have suffered a season-ending 2-1 loss in the playoffs four years in a row. Possessing yet another talented

pitching staff, the Dons are capable of a deep run if they are able to generate enough offense in the playoffs.

Niles West

Coach: Garry Gustafson
2016 record: 17-13 (8-8 Central Suburban South); lost to Niles North in Class 4A regional semifinal
Key returners: Sr. SS Bryan Maldonado, Sr. OF Michael Gunartt, Sr. OF Greg Leftakes, Jr. SP/1B Sam Butera, Jr. SP Brandon Kaihara, Sr. 3B Johnny Pabst, Jr. C Diego Acosta

At the plate: The right-handed hitting Gunartt is the team's top batter and Gustafson called him "one of the top outfielders in the area, if not the state." Gunartt has committed to Triton College. Acosta was an all-conference selection a year ago and a dangerous hitter from the right side. Maldonado is poised for a good year at the plate, Gustafson said, and he will switch over from second base to shortstop this season. Pabst is a three-year starter for the Wolves and a middle-of-the-order bat.

On the mound: Butera will be Niles West's No. 1 starter following a successful sophomore campaign. Kaihara is the team's No. 2 starter and Gunartt will be a weapon out of the bullpen for the Wolves, Gustafson said. Gunartt's fastball can reach the upper 80s.

Big question: While the Wolves' one-two punch of Butera and Kaihara is set, questions remain behind the duo. Gustafson said they are the only two pitchers on the staff with significant varsity experience as starters.

Niles North

Coach: Ed Toledo
2016 record: 23-13; lost to

New Trier in Class 4A regional final

Key returners: Sr. SP George Sherman, Sr. SS/SP Gio Sanchez, Sr. OF/SP Cameron Benesch

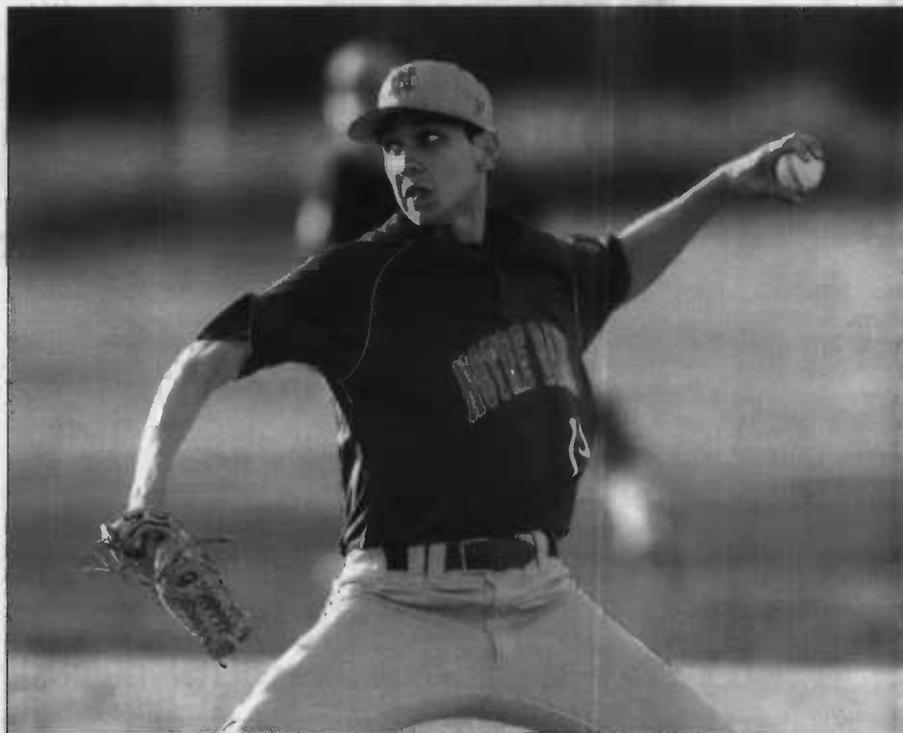
At the plate: Niles North has a trio of hitters who are expected to fuel its offense this season. Sanchez returns for his fourth varsity season and is a power bat for the Vikings. Senior Josh Schoenberg returns as the team's starting catcher and will be relied upon to get on base, Toledo said. Junior second baseman Don Martin also is expected to have a big season.

On the mound: The starting rotation will be the Vikings' strength, Toledo said. Sherman, a 6-foot-3, 235-pound left-hander, returns as a power arm and the ace of Niles North's staff. Sanchez, a 5-10, 196-pound right-hander, is the club's No. 2 option and Benesch, a 5-10, 180-pound right-hander, rounds out a formidable staff.

Big question: The club's biggest question mark is its outfield. Toledo said Niles North will have a brand new outfield this season and the inexperience there is a concern heading into the season. If the Vikings receive quality production in the field and at the plate from those newcomers, it should be able to replicate last season's success. Senior Dillon Leopoldo, junior Mike Egan, Benesch and junior E.T. Steiner are expected to play in the outfield this season.

Maine East

Coach: Ron Clark
2016 record: 10-20 (0-16 Central Suburban North); lost to New Trier in Class 4A regional semifinal
Key returners: Jr. P/1B Antoine Kelly, Jr. C Jusuf Zvizdic, So. P/OF Ashton



KEVIN TANAKA/PIONEER PRESS

In this June 2, 2016, photo, Notre Dame's Paul Bergstrom pitches against New Trier in the Class 4A Loyola Sectional semifinals. New Trier won 2-1 in Glenview.

Schwab, Sr. OF/P Ryan Sands

At the plate: Kelly, Zvizdic, Schwab and Sands are expected to be the Nos. 1-4 hitters and carry the offense for Maine East. Zvizdic had a good summer and has been locked in at the plate in practices leading up to the season, Clark said. Zvizdic will be looked to as a major run producer for the Blue Demons.

On the mound: Maine East returns all four pitchers in its starting rotation. Kelly, a 6-foot-5 lefty who touches 90 mph on the radar gun at times and is an intimidating matchup for opposing hitters, is the clear-cut ace of the staff. Clark said he is a "must watch" when he takes the mound and that college coaches and scouts have been contacting him frequently to inquire about Kelly. Sands should be Maine East's No. 2 option behind Kelly and Clark said there's a chance he could pitch at the next level as well. Zvizdic and Schwab are the other members of the rotation.

Big question: Unlike a lot of teams, pitching shouldn't be an issue for Maine East. It's the other areas that are a

cause for concern. If the Blue Demons can shore up their defense, which was error-prone last season and is still young, and find a way to consistently put runs on the board, they could be vastly improved.

Ida Crown

Coach: Ray Asher
2016 record: 9-5, no postseason

Key returners: Sr. P/C Yoni Asher, Sr. SS Josh Goldrich

At the plate: Senior left fielder Zack Cooper, junior center fielder Noah Perlman and junior third baseman Max Baker are expected to be critical cogs in the Aces' lineup. Goldrich should be a leading run manufacturer on offense, according to Ray Asher. Thanks to Perlman, Goldrich and catcher (as well as pitcher) Yoni Asher, Ida Crown looks to be solid up the middle. Ray Asher said via email he is "looking for big things" from sophomore first baseman Noah Pogonitz, who is a skilled fielder.

On the mound: Yoni Asher serves as the team's ace, but Ida Crown also possesses impressive depth. The team

returns all of its pitchers from last year — and gains two promising freshman hurlers in Zach Paskoff and Myles Derbigny. Ray Asher anticipates big contributions from junior Joseph Dimbert as well. "While the Aces lost some bats to graduation, they lost no pitchers and will be deep this season in the bullpen," Ray Asher said via email.

Extra innings: The Aces have quietly built a strong baseball program despite severe scheduling limitations. Over the last six years, Ida Crown has posted a 74-29 record. Last year, the team could only fit in 14 games. "As the result of religious observance, we do not have the opportunity to play as many games as teams from other high school baseball programs," Ray Asher said via email. Beyond their on-the-field success, the Aces' "Buddy Baseball" program allows the team to mentor ballplayers with special needs.

Brett Christie and Jonah L. Rosenblum are freelance reporters for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @Pioneer_Press

SEASON PREVIEW | SOFTBALL

By JAKUB RUDNIK
Pioneer Press

Niles North

Interim coach: Heather Joyce

2016 record: 18-8 (10-0 Central Suburban North); lost to Fenton in Class 4A regional semifinal

Key returners: Sr. SS Gina Loy, Sr. P Isabella Rolon, Jr. CF Alyssa Aragon

At the plate: Niles North returns 12 players from last year's team, which won its second consecutive CSL North title. Loy is a four-year varsity player and was named third-team all-state in 2016 by the Illinois Coaches Association - Softball. Joyce is still learning the team since she took over earlier this month, but she expects the Vikings to be aggressive in the batter's box. "In the cage we have been working hard on making solid contact, bunting and seeing pitches in the strike zone," Joyce said. "We want our girls to step in the box every time with the mentality that they are going to hit the first strike that they see."

In the circle: Graduation left Rolon as the lone returning pitcher for the Vikings. When she isn't in the circle, it will be freshman Madison Precht. "Both young ladies have worked incredibly hard in the pre-season to gain control over their pitches and the location of their pitches," Joyce said.

Big question: Despite winning conference last season, the Vikings lost their first playoff game. They have the returning talent for a playoff run if it all clicks. Joyce said the team is working on the details of the game every day, and that team communication is a big focus. "Our X-factor is going to be communication," she said. "We have been working on it since Day 1, and will continue to work on it all season."



KEVIN TANAKA/PIONEER PRESS

Niles North's Gina Loy throws to second for the force out in the Vikings' game against Maine East on April 26, 2016, in Skokie.

Niles West

Coach: Nicole Reynolds

2016 record: 8-21 (3-7 Central Suburban South); lost to Trinity in Class 4A regional semifinal

Key returners: Sr. P Hope Cherian, Sr. SS Gianna Mahoney, Jr. Hannah Johnson, So. Grace Bencivenga

At the plate: The Wolves are going to be a young team, but their lineup features Mahoney, who earned all-conference honors a year ago. She had elbow

surgery in the offseason, but is healthy to start the year, Reynolds said. As the Wolves' leadoff hitter, Mahoney is key to sparking the offense. "She always makes plays for us," Reynolds said. Niles West expects to play three freshmen this season: outfielders Alana Mras and Katie Trail, and utility player Julia Ruth. Reynolds said all three will be used in various defensive roles. "Alana offensively will give us the most (of the freshmen)," Reynolds said.

In the circle: In 2016, Niles West felt the effects of being without its No. 1 pitcher, Cherian, who had a hip injury, according to Reynolds. Cherian is back to full health and working to fully regain her stamina. "She's a presence, she's a tall kid," Reynolds said of the 5-foot-10 Cherian. "She's vocal, she's our captain. ... What we were lacking last year was a No. 1 starter."

Extra innings: Each season the Wolves players volunteer at the end of April for

Misericordia's Candy Days. They work in Lincolnwood passing out Jelly Belly candy and informational tags in exchange for donations. Located in Chicago, Misericordia is home to 600 children and adults with mental and physical disabilities.

Maine East

Coach: Emiliano Hernandez

2016 record: 16-8 (5-5 Central Suburban North); lost to

Maine South in Class 4A regional semifinal

Key returners: Sr. P/SS Alex Villalobos, Jr. P/SS Ana Iliopoulos, Jr. OF Alexis Ponzio, Jr. INF Lexi Brion, Sr. INF/OF Tattiana Cabrales

At the plate: The Blue Demons lost some speed with the graduation of Mary Iliopoulos, who is now playing at Aquinas College in Michigan, but the team is still built on quickness and putting the ball in play. Mary's sister, Ana, and fellow senior Villalobos led the team in doubles and triples last season, respectively. "They are our two big bats," Hernandez said. "They're both gap hitters. We don't have many players who will hit home runs."

In the circle: Maine East will alternate two starting pitchers: Ana Iliopoulos and Villalobos, who are both proven arms and were all-conference players a season ago. Last year they caught for each other, but this year they'll take turns playing shortstop. That was made possible by the development of junior Kristin Yousif and sophomore Angela Skoufos behind the plate. Moving the off-day pitcher to shortstop should help Maine East's defense. "Our catchers are developing faster than I thought," Hernandez said. "It's a huge development for us."

Big question: Can Maine East be a great defensive team? Maine East had its best team in years in 2016, and improved fielding was a huge part of that. But Hernandez believes there are many details the Blue Demons can work on to get even better. "We have to play team defense. We have to communicate more. We have to take the next step," he said. "We have to get smarter now, more than just use our physical tools."

Jakub Rudnik is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @Pioneer_Press

Loyola's Andrew Bartholow returns this season and is expected to help lead the offense.

ERIC P. DAVIS/PIONEER PRESS

PLAY BALL

Pioneer Press previews local baseball, softball teams. *Inside*





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