Sharing the light
Maine Township synagogue erects four community menorahs. Page 4

Rabbi Lazer Hershkovich celebrates the lighting of the menorah Dec. 12. This year, Chabad and F.R.E.E. of Niles put up four large community menorahs in the Niles area to mark Hanukkah, the eight-day Jewish festival of lights.

High-flying adventure

Remember both quiet and revelry
Columnist Randy Blaser reminds people to press pause on the frenetic holiday preparations and appreciate the joy and peace of light entering the world at Christmas. Page 15

Getting a jump start
High school football players now have option of signing with colleges during early period in December. Page 37
BRAND NEW CONSTRUCTION - $459,000!
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Synagogue spreads light of Hanukkah

Puts up four menorahs around Maine Township

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Maine Township's only synagogue is hoping to share the light of Hanukkah this year through a series of community menorahs.

To mark the eight-day Jewish festival of lights, Chabad and F.R.E.E. of Niles erected four large menorahs in the Niles area: In front of its synagogue in unincorporated Maine Township, outside Niles Village Hall, on the grounds of Niles Nursing and Rehabilitation Center on Greenwood Avenue and along Golf Road near Fresh Farms market in Niles, said Rabbi Lazer Hershkovich.

"When we were erecting the menorah on Golf Road, it took us about 45 minutes, and we had at least 10 cars drive by beeping their horns and waving to us in excitement," he said. "The menorah is a message for the Jewish community, but it also has a universal message of spreading light, the way light can triumph over darkness."

"How do we fight all the evil and negativity in the world?" Hershkovich added. "With a little bit of light. That's why I want to go to every single neighborhood to illuminate it."

Next year, Hershkovich said, he would like to add a menorah in Park Ridge as well.

On Dec. 12, the first night of Hanukkah, members of the local Jewish community gathered at Hershkovich's Maine Township synagogue to witness the lighting of the first candle on the giant outside menorah. This was the first time the synagogue used real candles on its outdoor menorah, Hershkovich said.

As Hershkovich climbed a ladder to light the first candle, the Hebrew blessing was recited by Gary Peckler, vice president of the Golf Maine Park District Board.

"Hanukkah is the festival of lights, and it recalls the victory, more than 2,100 years ago, of a militarilly weak, but a spiritually strong, Jewish people over the mighty forces of a ruthless enemy that had overrun the Holy Land and threatened to engulf the land and its people in darkness," Hershkovich told the group gathered for the ceremony. He explained that lighting the menorah is "a symbol and message of the triumph of freedom over oppression, of spirit over matter, of light over darkness," and a reminder that "illumination begins at home, within oneself and one's family." He encouraged the faithful to "share your light," through kindness, good deeds and studying the Torah.

"Let us pray that the message of the Hanukkah lights will illuminate our everyday life, personally, and society at large, for a brighter life in every respect, both materially and spiritually," Hershkovich said.

Attending the synagogue's menorah lighting for the first time was Park Ridge Mayor Marty Maloney, who was presented with a menorah as a gift.

"I was grateful to be included, and I appreciate the invitation," Maloney said. "It was the first (menorah lighting) I attended, so it was a great experience for me to learn a little more about Hanukkah and the Jewish faith."

Following the candle lighting, those gathered enjoyed latkes — potato pancakes typically served during Hanukkah — and helped pack small boxes of cookies and chocolate. These boxes of holiday cheer were distributed by volunteers to 300 people who are homebound or in area hospitals and nursing homes, the rabbi and his wife, Rivky, said.

The distribution is part of Chabad Cares, an outreach initiative started by Chabad and F.R.E.E. (which stands for Friends of Refugees of Eastern Europe) that is aimed at providing food, religious support and comfort to the elderly and sick Jewish population of the Maine Township area.

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KEVIN TANAKA/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

A crowd braves the cold weather during the menorah lighting on Dec. 12.

Marina Goldman, of Skokie, prepares care packages at the Chabad on Dec. 12.
Mall giant Westfield bought for $15.7 billion

Associated Press

PARIS — Westfield, the owner of Skokie’s Old Orchard shopping center, is being bought by French property investor Unibail-Rodamco for $15.7 billion as shop retailers struggle to keep up with the move to online sites like Amazon.

The companies said Dec. 12 that the cash and shares deal would create a company with 104 shopping centers in 13 countries that bring in an estimated 1.2 billion visits a year.

Unibail-Rodamco invests in commercial property, from malls to office space, mainly in mainland Europe. Westfield, which started in Sydney in the 1950s, is known for its 35 upscale shopping centers in major metropolitan areas, particularly in the U.S. and Britain.

Unibail-Rodamco SE said Dec. 12 that its offer values Westfield shares at $7.85 each, a premium of 17.8 percent on the Dec. 11 closing price. Based on the number of outstanding shares, that values the takeover at $15.7 billion.

“The industry is under severe pressure from internet selling and particularly Amazon,” said John Colley, a professor at the Warwick Business School. “As sales fall, so do retail property prices, to the point where they become attractive as a discount to asset value.”

Frank Lowy, Westfield’s chairman, said “the transaction announced today is the culmination of the strategic journey Westfield has been on since its 2014 restructuring.”

In the new company, Lowy would chair an advisory board while the CEO of Unibail-Rodamco, Christophe Cuvillier, would retain that role.

Lincolnwood police: Investigation continues into death of man

Staff report

Authorities are investigating the death of a Chicago man who was initially found unresponsive on the ground in Lincolnwood Dec. 14.

The Cook County medical examiner’s office identified the man, who was eventually pronounced dead, as Tony Chavez, 27, of the 3000 block of North Christiana in Chicago. The medical examiner’s office listed as “pending” the cause of death as of Friday.

Becky Schlikerman, a spokeswoman for the medical examiner’s office, said that “further studies” were being done to determine how the man died. She said the results could take several weeks to come back.

At around 12:26 a.m. Thursday, Lincolnwood police responded to a report of a person lying on the ground near the intersection of North McCormick Boulevard and West Touhy Avenue, according to a Lincolnwood Police Department news release.

Officers found a man who was “unresponsive and did not appear to be breathing” according to the release. His body was lying partially across the sidewalk and grassy parkway in the 7100 block of North McCormick Boulevard.

“There were no outward signs of trauma,” police said in the release.

According to the release, the Lincolnwood Fire Department also responded to the scene.

Police: Man stole a carton of cigarettes from gas station, then fled in a vehicle

Staff report

Morton Grove police said they are investigating the report of a robbery at a local gas station Dec. 16 in which the offender fled, according to a news release.

Morton Grove police said officers responded to the Shell gas station in the 5600 block of Dempster Street around noon after being called about a robbery.

Police said a man entered the gas station and asked for a carton of cigarettes.

When the cashier had the carton of cigarettes in-hand, the man allegedly snatched them and fled. He got into a waiting vehicle that drove off, police said in the release.

“No weapons were implied or displayed and no injuries occurred,” according to the release.
Teacher reacquaints students with cursive

Maine East students show up after school

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

For Maine East High School social science teacher Jennifer Conlon, being able to read cursive is about being able to better connect with the past.

"A lot of historical primary documents are written in longhand; I would hate kids to not be able to experience those firsthand because they couldn't read them," Conlon said, pointing out replicas that are visible in her own classroom. "We have the Constitution on the wall, the Declaration of Independence, the Emancipation Proclamation."

Last month, Conlon invited Maine East students to drop in after school for a refresher course in cursive writing and reading. Though only three students attended, each expressed an eagerness and desire to get better acquainted with a style of writing that was once commonplace.

Sophomore Damaris Tellez said she learned the basics of cursive around second grade, but fell out of practice as teachers never required students to use it. "My seventh-grade teacher, he always, always wrote in cursive and everybody asked him, 'How do you write in cursive, and how do you understand it?' So he kind of taught us," Tellez said. "I want to keep on learning because as (Conlon) said, it's faster (to write in cursive)."

Tellez and classmates Amina Zafar and Raymond Noffz were given practice sheets where they could write and trace cursive letters and words. They were also given a list of words and asked to identify the ones they could read.

"I remember a lot of it: It's coming back," Zafer said.

Noffz said he was never taught cursive in elementary school, but his father gave him lessons. He said he hopes to improve how he signs his name.

"I know people who don't have a signature," Noffz said. "They just (print) their name."

Conlon's cursive-writing workshop was an outgrowth of her "Cursive Club," in which she offered help to her advanced placement U.S. government and politics students who struggled to both read and write cursive.

"A lot of them want to go to competitive schools, and they want to be able to keep up. They want to be able to read notes and not be embarrassed," Conlon said.

In addition to being able to read historical documents, knowing cursive will allow students to read their professors' notes when they get to college, Conlon said. The time it takes to write in cursive is also faster than printing, she noted at the beginning of the workshop, when she challenged students to print a sentence while she wrote the same sentence in cursive.

"I think it's important for them to learn it because they are caught in a transition where they will encounter documents that are handwritten and they'll want to be able to decipher those without help," Conlon said. "My concern is more that they know how to read longhand."

The group will meet at 7:30 p.m. every other Monday at 164 S. Prospect Ave., officials said. Applications, which are available online, are due Jan. 30.

District 64 seeks participants for new focus group

Emphasis placed on social and emotional learning

BY HEATHER CHERONE
Pioneer Press

Residents and parents in Maine Township High School District 64 interested in improving the social and emotional learning of students in kindergarten through eighth grade can join a newly created focus group.

The focus group, which will meet throughout the 2017-18 school year, will be modeled on Superintendent Laurie Heinz's Community Relations Council that formed two years ago to offer input and feedback on District 64's strategic plan, district officials announced in a statement.

Social and emotional learning is defined by the Illinois State Board of Education as "the process through which children develop awareness and management of their emotions, set and achieve important personal and academic goals, use social-awareness and interpersonal skills to establish and maintain positive relationships, and demonstrate decision-making and responsible behaviors to achieve school and life success."

Students who can master those skills demonstrate a greater readiness to learn, better classroom behavior and achieve greater academic performance, according to state education officials.

Members of the focus group should be interested in social emotional learning and want to help district officials implement a new curriculum that "will affect every child," officials said.

The group will meet at least three times, with the kickoff meeting scheduled to take place from 7-9 p.m. Jan. 23. Additional meetings are expected to take place March 14 and April 30, officials said.

Applications, which are available online, are due Dec. 22, officials said.

Electronic applications are preferred, but copies may be hand-delivered to the district's offices at 164 S. Prospect Ave., officials said. Applicants selected to participate will be notified on or after Jan. 10, officials said.

Heather Cherone is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Gunfire hits Niles North as students leave basketball game

By Chicago Tribune Staff

Gunshots fired as students left a basketball game Dec. 15 at Niles North High School against Evanston Township hit the south wall of the school, but no one is believed to have been injured, according to police.

Police were called to the school, 9800 N. Lawler Ave., near the Edens Expressway, just before 10:05 p.m. Dec. 15, when students and others who had been leaving after the game “ran back into the school after hearing” gunshots, according to a news release issued Saturday afternoon.

Officers arriving at the scene were quickly redirected to the 9700 block of LeClaire Avenue when more calls began coming in to police about shots fired on that block.

Police found out that two groups of people were walking south toward LeClaire, from the school, and both groups stopped for a time near Payne Street and LeClaire, police said. Shots were fired and the people in both groups ran off in all directions, with some possibly leaving in a car or cars.

Bullet hit the south wall of the school and a tree in the 9700 block of LeClaire, causing minor damage, police said. No one reported being hit by gunfire by the afternoon of Dec. 16, police said.

Niles Township High Schools District 219 officials were working with Skokie police, sharing information and reviewing safety procedures, according to police.

No one was in custody in the incident, and police asked anyone with information or who saw what happened to call police at 847-982-5900 or 847-933-TIPS (8477), or send a text of the word “Skokie” and the tip to 847411.

School district officials forwarded a copy of the news release to parents, and told them that the district “has been working with the Skokie Police Department” and school officials will update parents if they receive any further information.

FBI arrests ex-IT technician for hacking Lake Forest company

By Frank Anderholden

A Chicago information technology specialist was indicted Dec. 12 in federal court after being arrested by the FBI and was charged with cyberhacking systems at Lake Forest-based WW Grainger Inc., his former place of employment.

Edward Soybel, 34, was charged with 10 counts of intentionally causing damage to protected computers, along with separate counts of attempting to cause damage to protected computers and attempted access to a protected computer without authorization, according to a statement from the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern District of Illinois.

One of the systems Soybel allegedly intentionally damaged was an automated inventory management program that operated an on-site dispensing machine that provides some 18,000 customers across the country with secure access to safety equipment through dispensing machines, according to the indictment.

Soybel had worked as a technical support contractor at Grainger’s facility in Niles until he was terminated in early 2016, according to the indictment. It added that Soybel worked at the facility as a contractor from November 2014 to February 2016, after which his access to Grainger’s servers was deactivated.

Soybel is accused of hacking into the servers on several occasions in July 2016, the indictment states, and he was arrested Dec. 13 by the FBI. He was scheduled to appear Dec. 14 before U.S. District Judge Matthew F. Kennelly in Chicago for a status hearing.

Intentionally causing damage to protected computers and attempting to cause damage are each punishable by up to 10 years in prison, according to John R. Lausch Jr., U.S. attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, and Jeffrey S. Sallet, special agent-in-charge of the Chicago office of the FBI.

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

**BATTERY**
- Neal Jacobs, 36, of the first block of Northfield Terrace, Wheeling, was charged with domestic battery Dec. 7. According to police, the battery occurred in the roadway near Touhy and Lehigh avenues, and Jacobs fled the scene. Jacob was later taken into custody at his home, police said. Jacob is scheduled to appear in court Dec. 22.

**THEFT**
- A 17-year-old Chicago girl is facing a retail theft charge after police said she underrang merchandise while working at a retailer in the 8200 block of West Golf Road.

**DUI**
- Monica Krawczyk, 45, of the 4800 block of North Paulina Street, Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence Dec. 6 following a traffic stop in the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue.
- Dina Todorovic, 31, of the 6100 block of North Campbell, Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence Dec. 11 after police said she was involved in a crash in the 7800 block of Caldwell Avenue.

**POSESSION**
- A 17-year-old Des Plaines boy was ticketed with possession of marijuana on Dec. 7 after police said he was found in possession of 14 grams of suspected marijuana in a parking lot in the 8800 block of West Golf Road.
- A 16-year-old Des Plaines boy was ticketed with possession of marijuana, and four other teens, ages 16 and 17, were ticketed with violating curfew after the car in which they were riding was stopped for alleged speeding in the 8700 block of North Ozark Avenue Dec. 9.
- A 21-year-old Niles man was ticketed with possession of marijuana Dec. 11 following a traffic stop in the 9000 block of West Golf Road. He and a 23-year-old Chicago man were also cited with possession of drug paraphernalia.

**PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY**
- A 30-year-old Chicago woman was ticketed with a local parental responsibility ordinance Dec. 6 following a traffic stop in the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue.
- Dina Todorovic, 31, of the 6100 block of North Campbell, Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence Dec. 11 after police said she was involved in a crash in the 7800 block of Caldwell Avenue.

**PUBLIC INTOXICATION**
- A 37-year-old Chicago man was ticketed with public intoxication and disorderly conduct on Dec. 5 after police were dispatched to a call of a domestic dispute in the 8900 block of West Heathwood Circle. The man was taken to a hospital, police said.
- A 41-year-old Niles man was ticketed with public intoxication and taken to a hospital Dec. 6 after police responded to the 8700 block of Milwaukee Avenue for a report of a person on the ground.
- A 58-year-old Chicago woman was ticketed with public intoxication and taken to a hospital Dec. 7 after police were called to a restaurant in the 7200 block of North Harlem Avenue for a report of an intoxicated person.
- A 53-year-old Chicago man was ticketed with public intoxication and taken to a hospital on Dec. 7 after police were called to a bus stop in the 8700 block of North Milwaukee Avenue.

**BURGLARY TO VEHICLE**
- A loaded, 45 caliber semi-automatic gun was reported stolen Dec. 7 from an unlocked car parked in the 9200 block of North Milwaukee Avenue.

**PROPERTY DAMAGE**
- An unknown man allegedly caused $3,000 in damage to the doors of a bank in the 5600 block of West Touhy Avenue on Dec. 6. Police said the man became enraged because the bank would not cash his personal check without two valid forms of identification.

**THEFT**
- A purse was reported stolen Dec. 6 from an employee locker in the 6600 block of North Milwaukee Avenue.
- A man told police that someone stole his wallet from a locker at fitness facility in the 9200 block of North Milwaukee Avenue Dec. 10. Later, it was learned that a credit card inside the wallet was used to purchase more than $800 worth of merchandise from two stores, police said.
- Two men allegedly purchased food from a restaurant in the 7000 block of West Dempster Street using counterfeit $20 bills on Dec. 10.
- Police said a truck was reported stolen Dec. 2 from a business in the 7600 block of North Milwaukee Avenue after the company discovered that someone used the identity of a deceased person to rent the vehicle and then never returned it.

**BURGLARY**
- A resident in the 6300 block of West Touhy Avenue reported that someone burglarized his apartment between Dec. 3 and 7 and stole two bottles of prescription medication.
- Someone attempted to break into a home in the 8300 block of North Odell Avenue on Dec. 4, a resident told police.
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Thousands honor Virgin Mary at shrine

Celebration includes Masses, music, dances

BY ELIZABETH OWENS-SCHIELE
Pioneer Press

Leading up to the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Des Plaines five years ago, Marcos Miguel said he prayed to the Virgin Mary for a better paying job that would allow him to support his extended family.

His prayers were answered later that year, when he was hired as a truck driver that provided him with additional wages.

Five years later, near the anniversary of his hire, Miguel returned Dec. 11 for the opening day of the annual Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, hosted by the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Des Plaines, with his wife, two young children, and his extended family to give thanks and celebrate the Virgin Mary.

 "When we make a promise, we try to keep it," said Miguel, 31, of the South Side of Chicago.

The Miguel family was among the more than 200,000 Catholics from the region — many of Mexican descent — who made the pilgrimage to Des Plaines in single-digit temperatures to the campus of Maryville Academy in Des Plaines to celebrate and honor the Virgin Mary.

Every year since 1986, the Shrine of Our Lady Guadalupe has hosted the local celebration to commemorate the apparition of the Virgin Mary to peasant farmer Juan Diego, who saw the Virgin Mary and brought roses that they laid at the base of the stone shrine honoring the Virgin Mary.

Many kneeled before the statue, prayed and wept, as others took photos and captured the event on their cellphones. Despite the frigid temperatures, many of the Mexican Americans who made the journey came together to celebrate tradition, culture and devotion, said Susan Mazur, 52, of Western Springs.

"It's such a beautiful feast to see this devotion and love of the blessed Virgin Mary," Mazur said. "People travel far to be here. It's cold. It's snowing, but here, in front of the Virgin Mary, you don't feel the cold and the snow. You feel the love of the people. It's like stepping into another world."

Very Rev. Esequiel Sanchez, rector of the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Des Plaines, said the religious feast is important for many of his parishioners since the image of the Virgin Mary still connects with many of them.

"She's an image who is universal and represents the search for peace, help and protection," Sanchez said. "A lot of people have a great devotion to Our Lady of Guadalupe. They make a pledge in gratitude to say thank you for grace received or come asking for grace. I'm going through a hard time. I'm going to put my flowers, my candle and open myself to grace."

Leading up to the feast this year, and after listening to many residents, Sanchez said many are concerned lately about access to affordable health care and the state of immigration.

"There's more anxiety in the heart and mind of the community with immigration reform now there's a threat of losing DACA (the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program). It's more than just a political issue. It's the lives of families and people," Sanchez said.

LOU FOGGIA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

A man lays flowers near the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe during the annual Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, which was hosted by the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Des Plaines.

"That anxiety needs to be channelled into this more spiritual, communal way to find solace to keep going. We're happy we're a service to that."

The feast, which requires hundreds of volunteers, as well as the assistance of the Des Plaines Police Department and FBI to ensure safety and ease traffic congestion, costs the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe an estimated $200,000 to $300,000 to host, organizers said.

Many pilgrims make donations, some of which will be used as a fundraiser for St. Joseph church on the campus that could see up to 1,100 worshippers.

During the opening day of the feast Dec. 11, bilingual Masses were held throughout the evening in a big top tent, and many stayed for the midnight Mass, when congregants sang happy birthday.

The Reyes family, of Rosemont, who arrived early the night of Dec. 11, planned to stay all night for the birthday celebration.

"We believe in her and for taking care of our family, having a job and food to feed our family," said Jazzy Reyes, 18, who translated for her parents.

"We have a lot of faith in her, so every year, it's our tradition and our promise to come and have her bless us."

Since being named rector nearly two years ago, Sanchez said he always has been struck by the devotion of the pilgrims during the feast.

"Many walking from Chicago — some walking on their knees. That's a physical sign of the inner stress they're going through," Sanchez said. "Why would you come unless you don't have something really important you're worried about. We're not here to judge it, but to welcome them."

Elizabeth Owens-Schiele is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
D219 still searching for bus space

Planned site sits vacant as district explores options

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

Niles Township High School District 219 continues to look for property to store some or all of its buses – even though it acquired property for a bus terminal and maintenance facility for that purpose two years ago, said school district Assistant Superintendent of Business Eric Trimberger.

The school district's original plan was to park all 75 of its buses on newly acquired property at 6119 Howard St. in Niles, officials said.

"We could not get zoning approval to park 75 buses there," Trimberger said.

In total, Trimberger said, the bus terminal and maintenance facility was to serve 4,200 students daily, including kids from Niles School District 71, Morton Grove School District 70 and Lincolnwood School District 74.

Instead, the Niles Village Board rejected the district's original plan, reducing the allowable number of stored buses to 55.

Niles officials worked with the school district on a scaled-back plan, Trimberger said.

Then Village Board approval came after months of pushing the school board's request to future Niles Planning and Zoning Board meetings. Planning officials repeatedly had expressed concerns over the district's project.

"The village's Planning and Zoning Board was concerned that the proposed bus storage facility would affect traffic, particularly because most of the buses will be crossing over the railroad tracks each way at Lehigh every day," said Bruce Sylvester, a Niles Economic Development Department senior planner.

In February, Niles village trustees approved a package of special-use requests from NTHS Dist. 219 to allow the school district to build the bus terminal and maintenance facility on the purchased property – albeit in a smaller project than the district initially conceived.

Even after receiving the approval needed, district officials say work has not started at the site because other options are still being considered.

"We want to have some resolution on where all the buses are going to be parked before we break ground on the Niles site," Trimberger said.

That site, as of today, contains an empty building and remains quiet with building permits from the village of Niles in the window. Whether the school district will move ahead and build the facility there for 55 of its buses, and then add property elsewhere, remains to be seen, Trimberger said.

He said the district's preference is to acquire a different property for its entire fleet.

"We need a home for either all the buses or for the other buses we can't park on the property," Trimberger said.

The school district bought the land where the facility was to be located in August 2015 for about $2.5 million, Trimberger said.

District 219 officials say they are confident that the district will not lose money – even if it buys or rents new property for all its buses and abandons the Howard Street site.

"We'll be able to sell the property and recover our costs," Trimberger said. "We're sure of that. The property values have appreciated since we bought that land. We strongly believe we'd be able to sell it."

Following the Niles Village Board's approval for the smaller project, district officials were talking about developing construction drawings and bid documents for renovation work on the 35,000-square-foot building by last May or June. But that never happened and in the interim, Trimberger said, district officials thought it best to explore other options.

"We've identified some properties, and we're presenting ideas to the Board of Education," he said.

NTHS Dist. 219 has stored its buses on the Niles West High School campus in Skokie since August 2015.

That storage agreement with the village of Skokie was only supposed to last a year, but Skokie officials have said they understand the situation, and are giving the district time to find a permanent solution.
Skokie pays former homeowner $41K

HUD says discrimination complaint settled

By Mike Isaacs
Pioneer Press

A former Skokie homeowner who filed a federal housing discrimination complaint against the village of Skokie in 2016 after trying to sell his house has reached a settlement with the village, according to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development documents.

A conciliation agreement obtained from HUD by the Skokie Review through the Freedom of Information Act states that the village was to pay Mark Goldberg $41,500 to settle the claim he filed in fall 2016. The settlement also requires that the village designate an employee as a "fair housing complaint specialist" to attend at least five hours of training related to fair housing and to train staff.

The agreement also states that the former homeowner will not take further legal action against the village.

Goldberg, formerly of 4229 Lee St., said he was set to sell his house for use as a group home occupied by people with special needs when the village interfered and the deal fell through.

Village officials denied any discrimination.

The settlement appears to have been signed Sept. 29 by Goldberg and Oct. 2 by Skokie Village Manager John Lockerby, according to the HUD documents. It also states that the village admits to no wrongdoing.

The village "denies all of the allegations of the complaint, admits no wrongdoing, and no evidence of wrongdoing was elicited in any proceeding but agrees to settle the claims . . . in order to avoid the time and expense of protracted litigation by entering into this conciliation agreement," according to terms of the settlement.

The documents include a non-disclosure provision prohibiting the parties from talking to the media about the settlement.

"We're unable to provide comment," Skokie Director of Marketing and Communications Ann Tennis said when the village was contacted about the settlement.

"There is language in the agreement that restricts me from what I can say to the media," Goldberg said.

In Goldberg's 2016 complaint using HUD's online filing process, he said the village discriminated by "not allowing a house to be used (as) a group home, even though the property (met) village criteria."

The home sits on a narrow one-way street facing a golf course not far from Meyer School near Main Street and Crawford Avenue. It includes five bedrooms and 3½ bathrooms.

Goldberg said The Libenu Foundation, a nonprofit agency that serves Jewish adults with developmental disabilities, was set to purchase the house before the village stepped in.

Further, Clearbrook, an organization that bills itself as a leader in creating opportunities, services and supports for people with disabilities, was to provide programming, he said.

Goldberg said talks with the organizations — mostly The Libenu Foundation — broke down after village officials signaled that a needed special permit would not be approved.

In his complaint, Goldberg maintained that when he first contacted the village about the potential sale, he was informed about the process without any objections being raised during a preliminary review by the Planning Department.

His house met all other village regulations including being at least 800 feet from another group home, he said. He accused the village of trying to stop the sale, saying officials did not want a group home there.

The complaint alleges that some nearby residents complained that making the house a group home would reduce property values and increase property taxes.

It was then, he said, that Village Attorney Michael Lorge indicated to the agency that the group home would not be approved by the Village Board.

Lorge has denied that neighboring complaints caused the village to steer the agency away from moving forward with buying the property. While concerns were raised through the review process, which is standard, he previously said, the agencies were not told the site plan would be voted down.

"There were concerns raised, but there was no question that if they had chosen to pursue the process, they would have had a full opportunity to make it work," Lorge said.

One HUD document obtained by the Skokie Review through the Freedom of Information Act is said to be a letter sent from Lorge to a lawyer representing Libenu.

Dated Oct. 14, 2016, the letter reads, "I hold out no expectation that the site plan approval required for this facility will be approved. I reach this opinion for many reasons, but the most critical factors are the size of the street and the operations which will be under the auspices of Clearwater."

In the same correspondence, however, it says "this letter does not in any way determine what the board may decide." It also says "your client is welcome to continue the site plan approval process, and some factors could possibly be worked out. It will take at least another 150 days."

Goldberg said he eventually sold his house in March for $760,000 — $10,000 less than what the Libenu Foundation was to pay, and four or five months later.

According to Goldberg, his losses were greater than the village's payout for multiple reasons, including having to delay purchasing property in his current home city of San Diego, where real estate prices have increased.
Marijuana legalization on March ballot

By Hal Dardick  
Chicago Tribune

Cook County voters will get their say on whether recreational marijuana use should be made legal for adults in Illinois, after commissioners on Dec. 13 voted to put that question on the March primary ballot.

Commissioners voted unanimously to approve the advisory referendum. Board President Toni Preckwinkle also supports it, and the longtime critic of the war on drugs on Dec. 13 reiterated her support for marijuana legalization. She said current drug laws have a disparate impact on minorities — causing them to languish in jail, courts and circuit court clerk's offices.

He said Dec. 13 that "tens of thousands" of people are arrested each year on minor pot possession charges, only to see those charges later dropped in a vast majority of cases, which he called a "grave injustice."

"All these people are still left with an arrest record, which makes it very difficult for them to seek employment, to seek housing, seek student loans, things along those lines," he said. Not everyone who voted for the referendum is necessarily in favor legalizing marijuana. Commissioner Sean Morrison, a Palos Park Republican, said he was supporting putting the question on the ballot "mainly" to let voters have their say. "I think it should go before the public, and we'll see what they tell us," he said.

The referendum question approved by the board reads as follows: "Shall the state of Illinois legalize the cultivation, manufacture, distribution, testing, and sale of marijuana and marijuana products for recreational use by adults 21 and older subject to state regulation, taxation and local ordinance?"

In other action, the board approved new rules banning sexual harassment and requiring all county officials, workers and lobbyists to undergo training to prevent such offenses. That comes after commissioners last month created a new job in the inspector general's office for someone to focus on sexual harassment complaints, an addition proposed by Commissioner Richard Boykin, an Oak Park Democrat.

Preckwinkle maintained that a ban on sexual harassment "has long been the policy of the county," but also noted there's a new state requirement "to codify sexual harassment protocols" in light of the scandals dogging well-known politicians, entertainers and journalists.

"Protecting your employees from harassment is the bare minimum," she added, saying she had fired unidentified employees for sexual harassment during her first two years in office. "Ensuring diversity in your workplace, particularly in management, is the goal, because to dismiss smart, talented, professional people because they don't look like the people who have held these jobs for decades does a disservice to all of us."
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At Christmas time, remember both light and dark, quiet and revelry

RANDY BLASER

Here we are at Christmas time and, after 20 centuries, it seems everything has come full circle.

It is said that the early Christians, in their attempt to convert more pagans to the new religion, took the superstitions, rites and rituals of the pagans and adapted them to Christianity. So we have a midwinter holiday celebrating fertility rites with decorated evergreen trees, kissing under the mistletoe, caroling and a mythical being that mysteriously travels the world at night delivering gifts.

None of that is in the Gospel stories that tell the birth of Jesus, which is purportedly what we celebrate at Christmas. We're not told the date or the time of year. There were no Christmas trees, no holiday songs and the only gifts were delivered by so-called wise men weeks and maybe months after the birth of Jesus. The gold I can see, but who wants frankincense and myrrh?

So in a way, we have come full circle, from the early Christians adopting the pagan rituals to their new faith to today where we won't say the word “Christmas” and we decorate holiday trees.

The playlist of holiday songs on a local radio station is rather short. Why is that? No songs with religious themes, I noticed. OK, but I can only take Jose Feliciano, the Percy Faith Singers and Mariah Carey once or twice a day.

The divine and the secular will always be in conflict with one another whenever they come in such close proximity. That's why the angels always greet humans with the words, “Be not afraid.” And that's why there's the very early Bible story about Jacob, who wrestled with God.

So it is not unusual that this is the most holy time of the year, but also the busiest and most distracting time of year.

In a way, we've turned the holiday into this burden of decorating the house the day after Thanksgiving when the weather is still warm and then shopping like mad beginning on a day called “Black Friday.” You don't have to be religious to hate that particular pagan ritual.

Nevertheless, at this time of year, the Church urges us to take an opposite tack. The faithful are instructed to prepare for the big day with simplicity and to take on a more somber and subdued tone.

That’s the dichotomy. Our live become more frenetic this time of year. There are parties and social events to attend. There's raising a glass and feasting. But spiritually, we are advised to be simple, quiet and reserved to prepare us for the joy of Christmas Day.

Opposites again. Revelry in the physical world, but reserved spiritually.

Amid this confusion, amid this dichotomy and amid this inner debate of whether it is “Merry Christmas” and Christ, or “Happy Holidays” and Santa Claus, we have to ask: What is the reason for the season?

The pagan fertility rituals came at the darkest time of the year. The nights are long and the days are short. There is a longing for something new to come into the world.

The darkness is important to the religiously inclined, also. Just when life seems to be at its lowest, salvation comes into the world. The Christians mark the coming of the light of the world. And the Jews celebrate Hanukkah, the Festival of Lights.

So many of us take opposite paths during this holiday season.

Enjoying the decorations, the parties and celebrations, the shopping, the gift-giving, the wrapping paper and boughs of holly, and the carols and holiday songs.

And our inner life strikes a different pose, one of reflection and quiet as we prepare for the coming of something joyous. It is the hope that we will be rescued from the dreary and dismal and perhaps meaningless life of chasing happiness with the pursuit of more and more merchandise.

There are less than two weeks left to the big day. Which path will you take?

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist.

What rules when it comes to Christmas movies

PAUL SASSONE

Perhaps it's because I was raised Catholic. Or maybe it's because I studied philosophy in college. Whatever the reason, I always have been someone who likes order, system, rules.

I'm always trying — with varying degrees of success — to find, or impose, order and method onto the world around me. Something as pleasant and ordinary as selecting what Christmas movies to watch brings out the system-tizer and rule-maker in me. I have plenty of rules for my holiday entertainment. Among them:

■ No coarse or smutty films that heap ugliness onto the holiday, then attempt warm redemption in the last few minutes.
■ No animated movies. These, and their cousin, the illustrated novel, are of little use to anyone over the age of 12.
■ No remakes. If it's a remake, it's a mistake. How many classic films have been vandalized by remakes? Remember such clinkers as the remake of “It's a Wonderful Life”?
■ No black-and-white classics colorized.

So, what Christmas movies meet my picky standards?

Let me start with an exception to one of my own rules. Heaven knows how many versions there are of “A Christmas Carol.” I've seen animated versions, puppet versions, 20th Century versions. I've even seen a Western version with Jack Palance as Scrooge.

Mervyn Johns and Alastair Sims starred in the 1951 version of “A Christmas Carol.” Paul Sassone gives this movie — as long as it's not the colorized version — the thumbs up.

But, for me, there are three terrific film versions of “A Christmas Carol.”

They are the 1938 film with Reginald Owen as Scrooge, the 1951 movie with Alastair Sim as Scrooge, and — best of all — the 1984 “A Christmas Carol” with an incendiary performance by George C. Scott as Scrooge.

My other favorite Christmas movies, ones I heartily recommend to you, are:

■ “A Christmas Story”
■ “It's a Wonderful Life”
■ “Christmas Vacation”
■ “Miracle on 34th Street”
■ “3 Godfathers”
■ “A Child's Christmas in Wales”
■ “Home Alone”
■ “Elf”

But whatever Christmas movies fit into your personal system, there's one rule I hope you follow: Enjoy.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist.
## Holiday Worship

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### The true meaning of Christmas

With the light of the menorah's candles burning out as the eight-day Hanukkah celebration winds down, Christmas is ready for center stage.

If ever there was a holiday synonymous with peace, a deep-in-the-soul kind of emotional spirituality, it is Christmas. Add to that the other holidays occurring in the same season, and it would seem that the template for world peace could be found in the elements of this time of year.

Sadly, that is not the case these days, with turbulence and discord around the globe. Countries that were once our allies are critical of us. Political discussions have reached a disturbing new normal of nasty, partisan sniping and self-interest. Issues of hate, prejudice and inequality, which seemed to finally be moving in the right direction in recent decades, have flared up in nasty fashion, both in our own back yards and across the world.

Not for a long time has it felt like peace was so far away and unattainable.

And yet, still we hope and still we celebrate joyously. If we don't, we lose the belief that humanity can effect positive and needed change in world, glacial as that change may be. Perseverance and patience are the two most important weapons needed by those crusaders for a peaceful, tolerant world. Many desired changes may not come during one or two or 20 lifetimes. That makes it hard to carry on, not being able to experience the benefits of the struggle. It can seem fruitless. But carry on we must, because those positive strides forward are the basis of our unique species.

I'm pretty sure that is the babe in the manger's message, not only on Dec. 25, but every day. I highly doubt his intention was to divide people into warring factions. And I have no doubt that he would never sanction anger and violence as a method to convince people to choose one belief over another. If we were intended to behave like lemmings, what a waste of the most marvelous gift God gave to man: our miraculous brain.

As families join together over the next several days in churches and homes across the land, I hope the sense of awe and joy nourishes and provides inner peace. Change often begins within one heart and radiates outward like a water ripple to connect countless other hearts of similar sentiment.

Together, the shift toward a kinder, gentler and more tolerant world will continue. If we can keep the special, soulful feeling of this holiday for longer than one or two days, we stand a good chance of reflecting that spirituality into the world. Just try to capture a tiny bit of the essence of the holiday, like children capture fireflies in grass-filled glasses, to store and revisit once the holiday season is over. If we can do that, change will come.

Have a joyful and merry Christmas.

*Pat Lenhoff is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.*

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**An illuminated peace dove hangs over Las Ramblas during the inauguration of this year's Christmas lights in Barcelona on Nov. 23.**

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**OPINION**

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**JOSEP LAGO/GETTY-IMAGES**  
The true meaning of Christmas

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Books to read or give

Sara Clarkson
Dateline

It only took us 13 years to read Ron Chernow's "Hamilton." Its size intimidated us, but the desire to see the very expensive Lin-Manuel Miranda production meant we felt compelled to know what we were going to see. Days and weeks spent with "Hamilton" made the theater production and our appreciation of the founding fathers that much better. So, to hear that "Grant" by Ron Chernow is supposed to be a more readable and important biography — if just as long and weighty — is attractive.

The book apparently reveals the Civil War general and president in new light. According to one interview I read with Chernow, this is his favorite book so far and not just because "it's wall-to-wall drama," he said, but because Grant was once a defeated man who ultimately soared.

"Lincoln at the Bardo" by George Saunders is a must-read for me. Saunders is a compelling writer with a vivid and original imagination. In this story, our 16th president, Abraham Lincoln, has just lost his son Willie, and he and Mary are heartbroken. These are facts. But Saunders creates a supernatural fictional world that is competing for young Willie's soul. Saunders' approach is supposed to be groundbreaking.

This is Saunders' first novel. He is an award-winning short story writer and essayist, and I bought a tiny little book called "Congratulations by the Way: Some Thoughts on Kindness" which is the commencement speech Saunders gave at Syracuse University, where he teaches creative writing. In it he urged the graduates to live lives of meaning and to be kind, respectful and civil. This message cannot be emphasized enough in today's environment.

As a fan of short stories and a fan of actor Tom Hanks, his "Uncommon Type: Some Stories" looks good, and reviews of the collection were solid. It is possible to get the audio version of the stories with Hanks narrating them. "Pachinko" by Min Jin Lee is a novel which starts early in the 20th century. A pregnant out-of-wedlock young Korean woman with no husband in sight agrees to marry a sickly minister who will go to Japan. There she must settle in without language, culture or the comfort of being among her own people. The long, absorbing story follows to great acclaim.

"Sing, Unburied, Sing" by Jesmyn Ward, award-winning author of "Salvage The Bones," is supposed to be the archetypal road novel, featuring a family where the white father has just been let out of the penitentiary. The black mother is addicted to drugs, and the protagonist is their 13-year-old son. It was a National Book Award Winner.

Our family has become interested in all things African, specifically West African, and so the debut novel "Stay With Me" by Ayobami Adebayo, a Nigerian writer, is on my list, as is the very thin "Lonely Planet West Africa" guidebook, which covers 15 West African nations and includes "local secrets" and "expert recommendations."

One of the young adults in our family, only a few years in the workforce, is open to learning some life lessons. That in itself is a cause for celebration. He asked recently, "Have you ever heard of Dale Carnegie?" My husband and I kept our groan and our eye-rolling to ourselves.

"How to Win Friends and Influence People" by Dale Carnegie, that classic on listening to people, influencing and affecting them, is already wrapped.

This same young adult and his father are exceedingly goal-oriented, and so the book "Principles: Life and Work" by Ray Dalio, the billionaire founder of Bridgewater, was on their Christmas list. For goal-driven people, it sets up an outline about how to achieve and succeed. This book isn't for everyone (please do not give this to me or expect me to read it) but will be an appreciated read for those two.

Finally, for my sister, who spends a fair amount of time each week on an airplane and enduring delays, there is nothing like bubblegum for the brain. For pure, well-written and plotted, glibly fun, "The Hating Game" by Sally Thorne is a romantic chick-lit type book, extremely enjoyable and appropriate for someone who travels quite a bit.

Sara Clarkson is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
Deciding what to buy friends and family for the holidays isn't easy.
If you're like me, what usually ends up happening is, the week before Christmas or Hanukkah, you find yourself walking aimlessly around the mall, looking for last-minute gifts and hoping a great idea will hit you when you walk by a certain store.

But this season, as I pondered some gift possibilities, I started thinking about the irony of material gifts during the holidays. We buy gifts for the ones we love because we want to make them happy. We want to show them that they are special or important or appreciated or cherished, or loved, of course.

And while a cashmere sweater, a bottle of cologne, an Apple watch, tickets to Hamilton or a gorgeous piece of jewelry can accomplish the goal of bringing joy to the recipient, there are other kinds of gifts that can impact someone in a truly extraordinary way.

These gifts don't come in a box and they don't cost a dime. They don't come from a store, but rather from within. They are non-material gifts that can be powerfully inspiring and memorable. Here are three you might want to consider giving those you care for, not just during the holiday season, but anytime:

1. Your time. I bet if you asked certain people who really love you — your spouse, your kids, elderly relatives, friends who are alone, and even acquaintances — what they’d like for Christmas, they’d choose you. What I mean by that is your presence. Your kids would love to just sit around and watch a movie with you, your husband or wife would love more date nights, people who live alone just want company, to have you over for tea or to go for a walk.

   I think people appreciate other people's time so much more than we realize. I can still remember that look I used to get from my kids when they were little. They didn't care so much about receiving a new toy, but rather they wanted me to play with it alongside them. Also, so many nonprofit organizations appreciate volunteers just as much as not more than monetary donations.

   Lastly, think about the loneliness that some elderly people bear, and how much they enjoy just having people around and not feeling so isolated. When I see elderly people in the facilities I visit for my job, all they want to do is talk. It can be heartbreaking to see the loneliness in someone's face.

   I can't stand it when someone says "I'm so busy," because everyone is busy. And I
do realize that time is precious. I strive to use my time efficiently and wisely. But if you think about it, how much more valuable are the times you use to visit someone who really, really appreciates you and who benefits from seeing you?

2. Your wisdom. When I was young and someone who was older and experienced offered to give me professional advice, I was very grateful in most cases. So, now that I am an older, experienced person, it gives me great satisfaction to help others.

   Whether it's editing a resume, offering job interview techniques or helping someone network, it makes me feel great to give back. It's also rewarding to help my peers when they have a problem and need my advice. Getting old isn't easy, but there are so many benefits, one being all this wisdom you now have thanks to years of mistakes!

   Imparting your wisdom on others is a gift for which a person might end up thanking you for years. The gift of your wisdom could end up changing someone's life for the better.

3. Your authentic self. Perhaps the most valuable gift you can give your loved ones is you. I'm referring to the you who isn't afraid to tell the truth in a difficult situation, no matter how scary it might be. I'm talking about the you who doesn't hold back laughter, tears or an opinion for fear of judgment, and the you who isn't shy about communicating feelings for the other for fear of rejection.

   Your authentic self is the person who shows others who you really are as opposed to who you think they want you to be. Your authentic self isn't afraid that the other person might not accept you, but rather confident that he or she prefers the real you.

   When it comes to romantic relationships, I think the best ones are those in which both people show vulnerability, each putting their core on the table and not regretting it no matter what happens.

   Being vulnerable isn't easy. It takes courage to really put yourself out there. But the gift of vulnerability doesn't just benefit the recipient, it creates a richer, deeper and more meaningful bond, which in turn benefits you, too.

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist for Chicago Tribune Media Group. She is also the creator of her divorce support website, Divorced Girl Smiling. Pilossoph lives in Chicago with her two children.
Navigating ins and outs of the sharing economy

Last week's column addressed a liability issue that letter-writer Thomas had with car-sharing company Turo.

As a result of renting out his car through the peer-to-peer service, Thomas' vehicle was damaged by an underaged driver, who, according to Turo, committed fraud in order to reserve the car. Though Thomas' problem was ultimately resolved, it made me wonder about a few things with regard to the growing sharing economy, namely quality control, the regulatory environment, consumer protections and user motivations.

Because Turo's email explanations were inconsistent and the technical bug was ultimately blamed for an underage driver being hired to get Thomas' car, I asked "The Sharing Economy" author and New York University Stern School of Business Professor Arun Sundararajan if scaling tended to be a problem for larger peer-to-peer companies. He told me quality issues most commonly arise when a large influx of new employees is hired and/or the company moves to a new city or state where regulations differ slightly from those in the previous locations.

"For platforms like Google and Facebook, which preceded today's peer-to-peer businesses, growing big was easier because they were all about information and didn't involve the physical world," said Sundararajan. "Sharing companies, on the other hand, deal with providers, borrowers, products and geographically inconsistent regulations, so there are going to be bumps in the road."

That's not to say peer-to-peer businesses don't have to worry about quality.

"Consumers who participate in the sharing economy just have to come to terms with the idea that this isn't like getting a service from a large, branded company," explained Sundararajan. "The responsibility for providing the service is split between the platform (e.g., Turo or Airbnb) and the provider (the individual renting out the product), and people need to get comfortable with who's responsible for what."

On the topic of responsibility, insurance is one subject about which both providers and borrowers need to be familiar.

Though coverage options vary from insurer to insurer, personal insurance policies tend to be invalidated if damage occurs in the context of a commercial transaction. For this reason, companies like Turo and Airbnb offer their own insurance options for providers and borrowers. For more complete coverage beyond a platform's basic offerings, though, providers may want to consider commercial policies. And for rental-car customers used to having credit card-provided liability insurance for their traditional car rentals, this type of insurance almost never extends to car-share rentals.

So with all these caveats, concerns and qualifications, why do so many people still opt to participate in the sharing economy?

I asked Kent Grayson, associate professor of marketing at Northwestern University's Kellogg School of Management and director of the Trust Project at Northwestern,  "For providers, barriers to entry are much lower," he said. "You don't have to build a hotel, you have one in your house. You don't have to get a city certification, you can start driving for Uber."

And though Sundararajan identified convenience, affordability and connectedness as factors driving the sharing economy, Grayson interestingly pointed to one other. "Though it may seem counterintuitive, lack of consistency is actually why many people participate in the sharing economy," Grayson said. "They don't want the cookie-cutter experience; for some people, that's not a bug, it's a feature. They like the fun, the surprise, the adventure."

So how does one perform their sharing economy due diligence? Whether brand-new to the peer-to-peer marketplace or an old hand curious about a new offering, Sundararajan offered this advice:

"Thoroughly review the company's website, taking special care to read the terms and conditions; talk to your friends to see if they have used it; ask questions on the company's social media pages," he said.

He added this clever tip: "Whenever I learn of a new peer-to-peer business, I always look them up on crunchbase.com, which reports how much venture capital companies have received. If they have no venture financing, chances are they are relatively new and should be approached with greater caution.

Grayson concluded, "If you're a little nervous, maybe start with a short trip with a ride-hailing company. This is how trust works. You make a small sacrifice to see if you get burned. If you don't, then you make larger and larger sacrifices until you're confident everything is OK."

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Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist.
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Michelle Forbes, center, with her sons Jonny, 18, left, and Jacob, 16, in New Berlin. Michelle Forbes was sexually abused by a high school teacher starting at age 15. She's now 46 and only two years ago told her parents the details of her abuse.

STEVIE WARNOWSKI
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Feeling safe gets kids to talk
How to create a comfortable climate at home for kids to talk about sexual assault.
Reader takes right steps toward dog-cat introductions

By Cathy M. Rosenthal
Tribune Content Agency

Q: We just took in a 5-year-old dog from a family friend who could not keep him anymore. All is going somewhat well, but he does not get along with my 3-year-old cat at all. We have tried to introduce them with him being held back on a leash, but he constantly keeps going after the cat. The cat pays the dog no mind. But the dog doesn't seem to be improving at all. It has only been about three weeks, but some of my research suggests this may never change. Are there any tips or suggestions you may have on how to get the dog to just be able to live in the same house with my cat?
— Graig, West Babylon, N.Y.

A: I applaud you for keeping the new dog on the leash these last few weeks. I know it's inconvenient to "walk" the dog around the house, but it gives the dog and cat time to get to know each other without the dog chasing and scaring the cat.

In addition, use a baby gate around the house to keep the dog from chasing the cat. The baby gate provides the dog and cat some much-needed nose-to-nose time, which can help further cement their friendship. Animals learn a lot through scent.

At the same time, reinforce "sit" and "stay" commands with your new dog all throughout the day, so he learns to listen to you.

He doesn't have to love the cat (and vice versa), they just need to respect each other. Once they are comfortable together, keep the leash on the collar for a few more days, so you can grab it, if needed. If after all this, the dog is still acting like he wants to hurt the cat, then you may have to re-home the dog.

Q: We have a 3-year-old domestic cat. She has always had a picky appetite, and has times of affection and aloofness. We recently acquired a ragdoll kitten. For the last month, our older cat's appetite and playfulness have diminished appreciably. The two of them interact very minimally; the older cat seems to allow the kitten to have the run of the house. Basically, we would just like to bring back her personality. Any tips?
— Mike, Newington, Conn.

A: If the new kitten got the run of the house from the start, the older cat may be feeling stressed by the new household dynamics. Cats are very territorial, and it would be easy for a dominant personality to change the mood of the entire household. Introductions go best when cats have time to adjust to each other more slowly.

Go back to making proper introductions by putting the new kitten in a room with a litter box and toys for a few days, giving your older feline the chance to relax and roam the house again. During this time, take turns sitting on each side of the door, using a feather toy under the door to play with whichever cat is on the other side.

Fingers crossed they will connect each other's scent with something fun, and reintroductions will go easier.

Once they are around each other again, make sure there are at least two litter boxes.

Also, don't feed them near each other until you are sure they are friends. They need to have their separate spaces.

If your older cat continues to have a poor appetite, however, please get her checked by a veterinarian.

Q: I have a cat who is 5 years old that we rescued from the Humane Society. He is a Russian Blue and a great cat, except he will not eat any wet foods. The only thing he will eat is dry food. My vet has no answer. He is very healthy, but wonder what we would do if he needs a pill or other oral medication. We have tried all kinds of food, including tuna and chicken, and he will only drink the juice.
— Harry, Marana, Ariz.

A: Even cats who eat wet foods know how to eat around their pills. If you ever need to give your cat a pill, use a pill popper, available online and at pet stores. It looks intimidating but is easy to use. Ask your veterinarian or watch an online video tutorial to learn how to use it.

Cathy M. Rosenthal is a longtime animal advocate, author, columnist and pet expert. Send your pet questions, stories and tips to cathy@petpundit.com. Please include your name, city, and state.

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Feeling safe gets kids to talk

Establish trust to halt or cope with sex abuse

By Daniele Braff
Chicago Tribune

When she was 15, Michelle Forbes' high school teacher reached up her skirt between her legs. Shortly after, the same teacher brought her to a secluded area in the woods and taught her how to perform oral sex on him. And on her 17th birthday, he had intercourse with her. Forbes was pregnant with the teacher's child, he called her into his office and berated her, She's not alone. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey found that 8.5 million women and 1.5 million men experienced sexual violence before age 18. According to Darkness to Light, a nonprofit organization committed to preventing child sex abuse, only 38 percent of child victims disclose their abuse, and many of those tell a friend, not a parent.

To help kids recognize and stop the abuse, parents need to create a climate at home where children feel comfortable talking about it — even when a predator is threatening them.

“Children should start learning about sexual harassment at an early age, but use developmental language to avoid scaring them,” said Kelsey Torgerson, a licensed clinical social worker and childhood trauma specialist at Compassionate Counseling in St. Louis.

That means teaching them about the private-part rule: no touching other people's private parts, no looking at other people's private parts, no showing your private parts to other people, Torgerson said.

“By letting them know that these are rules that grown-ups already know, you can help identify safe people to tell if someone breaks a private-part rule on them.”

Parents can bring this up naturally when young kids are taking a bath, said Natasha Daniels, a child therapist in Phoenix.

“Just like we teach kids how to be safe around water or when riding a bike, it is important that we teach kids how to keep their bodies safe,” she said.

This should begin in the toddler years, as children need to be comfortable talking about body parts and sex so there is no shame or secrecy concerning any part of the body, said Kathryn Stamoulis, a New York-based licensed mental health counselor specializing in female adolescent sexuality.

They need to be equipped with the ability to articulate anything they need to communicate, Stamoulis said.

“Talking about sex and sexuality in an age-appropriate manner throughout childhood provides a child with a trusted adult that they can turn to when they need it,” Stamoulis said. “If sex is taboo in the household, a child is not going to tell his or her parent about harassment they experienced or ask questions about consent.”

Once a child enters school, it's time to talk about boundaries. For example, when someone hugs your child when he doesn't want to be hugged, you can use that as an opening lesson on consent, Stamoulis said.

That's why Amy Pagliarella, a mother of an 8- and a 10-year-old in Chicago, uses the times when her sons don’t want to hold her hand as teaching moments.

“I've been building trust with my kids before we need it,” Pagliarella said.

If they are taking a walk and she wants to hold hands with her sons, but they pull away, she lets go of their hands, explaining that they get to decide when someone holds them or touches them or kisses them. The same goes for how they treat other people.

She also constantly reminds her children that they can tell her anything without getting in trouble, even if they've made a mistake.

For example, Pagliarella said, one of her sons constantly lies to her about brushing his teeth.

"I say, 'Buddy, you can always tell me the truth — I have your back, and you can be honest with me,'” Pagliarella said.

Since many kids fear getting in trouble or upsetting their parents after something negative happens, it's important to continually reassure them that they can say anything without repercussions, Torgerson said.

"Make your child feel comfortable by letting them know that if something scary, yucky or confusing happens, your biggest job is keeping them safe,” Torgerson said.

"They won't get in trouble.”

Sometimes, however, parents or teachers will be able to figure out something is wrong by the child's body language. They might avoid eye contact, start acting differently or tell stories about friends having something bad happening to them, Torgerson said.

But, she said, there are some kids who will do their best to hide any issues.

Six-time Olympic medal-winning gymnast Aly Raisman, for example, recently spoke out against Larry Nassar, the USA Gymnastics physician, who she said had sexually molested her — yet while this was occurring, she was still able to become one of the greatest gymnasts in the world.

"Typically, you either have kids who are displaying obvious signs — they're acting out or shutting down,” Torgerson said.

"But you also have kids who want to be on their best behavior because a scary thing is going on and they are trying to keep the secret.”

The best thing you can do is to keep letting your children know that you're a safe person to speak with, no matter what, Torgerson said.

"Keep having the conversation, whether in early childhood or in their teen years. You're on their side, no matter what.”

Daniele Braff is a freelancer.
The Biblioracle Awards

Best books? Who's to say. But these titles from 2017 are certainly worthy.

By John Warner | Chicago Tribune

It's time for the annual Biblioracle Awards, when I recognize books released in 2017 that I read and had an impact on me in some way or another.

I know that sounds uninspiring, but the Biblios are explicitly meant to challenge the whole notion of "best-of" lists. No list of books, particularly one from a single person, could be properly labeled "best." As much as I wish I could read all the books published this past year, I didn't.

Still, these are all good books. You should read them if they strike your fancy.

The "This Is Why We Need Books, Not Just Movies And Television" Book of the Year: "Sticky Fingers: The Life and Times of Jann Wenner and Rolling Stone Magazine" by Joe Hagan (Knopf)

Around the same time as publication of Hagan's initially authorized and later not-so-authorized account of one of the most important magazines in history and its editor, a highly authorized version of the same story aired on HBO. Hagan's book is more interesting by several million times, and Wenner should be grateful someone cared enough to tell his story properly.

Runner-up: "All: A Life" by Jonathan Eig (Houghton Mifflin Harcourt)

Muhammad Ali was of the most scrutinized and dramatized figures in history and yet Eig's definitive take throws a lot of fresh insight.

Emotional Comfort Food Book of the Year: "Anything Is Possible" by Elizabeth Strout (Random House) A series of linked stories set in the world of Strout's previous, marvelous novel "My Name Is Lucy Barton," each installment concerns people attempting to be kind to one another and themselves as well -- a more difficult proposition than we seem to realize.

The "I'm Still Trying to Figure It Out" Book of the Year: "Smile" by Roddy Doyle (Viking)

The story of a man sorting through his life has an end that throws everything you've read into doubt.

Glimmers of Hope In the Face of Despair Book of the Year: "The New Education: How to Revolutionize the University to Prepare Students for a World In Flux" by Cathy N. David- son (Basic) Rather than necessarily "revolutionizing" the university, Davidson's plan for putting student learning at the forefront of higher ed is a vision for returning institutions to the missions on which they were founded.

Book of the Year: "Sting-Ray Afternoons" by Steve Rushin (Little, Brown)

Substitute suburban Chicago for suburban Minneapolis, and a red Schwinn Stingray for blue, and this is my childhood.

Read It In a Day, Probably Going to Read It Again Book of the Year: "Chemistry" by Welike Wang (Knopf) A promising female Ph.D. student realizes she's not certain she wants what's been promised. A simultaneously funny and poignant story of a young person's quiet crisis.

Most LOLs Per Page Book of the Year: "We Are Never Meeting in real life" by Samantha Irby (Vintage) And not just LOLs. Irby has some things to say about the world.

Just Start Reading This Guy's Books Already Book of the Year: "So Much Blue" by Percival Everett (Graywolf) I called Everett our greatest living novelist earlier this year. I stand by it now, stand by me, by reading his books.

Best Book with a Terrible Ending Book of the Year: "Obama: An Intimate Portrait" by Pete Souza (Little, Brown) This is an amazing coffee-table picture book from President Barack Obama's official photographer. "Intimate" is exactly the right word, as we see glimpses of what it is like to assume the burdens of the office. Fantastic until the end, when the human president is replaced by a monster.

Book recommendations from the Biblioracle

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

1. "Lincoln in the Bardo" by George Saunders
2. "The Sellout" by Paul Beatty
3. "When Breath Becomes Air" by Paul Kalanithi
4. "Trustee from the Toolroom" by Nevil Shute
5. "Nemesis" by Philip Roth -- Maureen G., Chicago

Whenever someone has read "The Sellout," presuming they liked it, I now tell them they have to read "Oreo" by Fran Ross. If they read "The Sellout" and didn't like it, I just don't what I can do about that.

Get a reading from the Biblioracle!

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

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

Clues

Across
A. Moreover
B. Emphasizes strongly: 2 wds.
C. Bulge
D. Bulge
E. His novel inspired 'Cabaret'
F. U.K. coal site, once
G. Kindness: 2 wds.
H. Way it is, and always will be: 3 wds.
I. Happy
J. Benchmarks

Words

1. Swabs
2. Cryptogamic plant
3. Prepared
4. "Tat" reply
5. Eastern church title
6. Base of a mountain
7. Beacon
8. Poker stake
9. Pepper-picker Peter
10. More spacious
11. Deficiency in feeling
12. Aspect
13. Direction
14. Alarm
15. Monster
16. Ancient region of Asia Minor
17. Narrow opening
18. Sets side by side
19. Distinct part
20. Basic material
21. Lessen
22. Emerald Isle
23. Part of TNT
24. Young sty dweller
25. Biblical high priest
26. Monk
27. Part of TNT
28. Always
29. Biblical high priest
30. Isaac's son
31. Made a derisive sound
32. Noise
33. Height: abbr.
34. Distress
35. Title of respect: Sp.
36. Cleft
37. Baseball Hall of Fame member, elected 1951
38. Swabs
39. Cryptogamic plant
40. Base of a mountain
41. "Tat" reply
42. Dry
43. Above: prefix
44. Above; prefix
45. Want
46. Kind of computer
47. Nickname for Antoinette
48. Confined in a small space
49. Sound
50. Word with word or wurst
51. Turkish titles
52. Decorative grating
53. Ironic or ridiculing compositions
54. Acquires
55. Ability to instigate activity
56. Antitoxins
57. Titles of respect: Sp.
58. Above
59. Egyptian goddess
60. Hearth
61. Late war correspondent Ernie
62. Uraeuses
63. Cryptogamic plant
64. Stare
65. Delaying
66. Certain dogs
67. Variety of pear
68. Bound
69. Container
70. Poker stake
71. Pepper-picker Peter
72. More spacious
73. Deficiency in feeling
74. Aspect
75. Direction
76. Alarm
77. Monster
78. Ancient region of Asia Minor
79. Narrow opening
80. Sets side by side
81. Distinct part
82. Basic material
83. Lessen
84. Emerald Isle
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110. Antitoxins
111. Titles of respect: Sp.
112. Above
113. Egyptian goddess
114. Hearth
115. Late war correspondent Ernie
116. Uraeuses
117. Cryptogamic plant
118. Stare
119. Delaying
120. Certain dogs
121. Variety of pear
122. Bound
123. Container
124. Poker stake

Down
1. Cryptogamic plant
2. Stare
3. Delaying
4. Certain dogs
5. Variety of pear
6. Bound
7. Container
8. Poker stake
9. Pepper-picker Peter
10. More spacious
11. Deficiency in feeling
12. Aspect
13. Direction
14. Alarm
15. Monster
16. Ancient region of Asia Minor
17. Narrow opening
18. Sets side by side
19. Distinct part
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54. Acquires
55. Ability to instigate activity
56. Antitoxins
57. Titles of respect: Sp.
58. Above
59. Egyptian goddess
60. Hearth
61. Late war correspondent Ernie
62. Uraeuses

Taking Time

BY CHARLES PRESTON

Across
1. Swabs
5. Eastern church title
9. Kind of number
14. Monster
15. Time of day
16. Ancient region of Asia Minor
17. Narrow opening
18. Sets side by side
20. Distinct part
22. Basic material
23. Lessen
25. Emerald Isle
26. Tangle
28. Always
30. Isaac's son
33. Made a derisive sound
35. Height: abbr.
36. Cleft
37. Baseball Hall of Fame member, elected 1951
38. Prepared
41. "Tat" reply
42. Dry
44. Above: prefix
45. Want
47. Nickname for Antoinette

Down
1. Cryptogamic plant
2. Stare
3. Delaying
4. Certain dogs
5. Variety of pear
6. Bound
7. Container
8. Poker stake
9. Pepper-picker Peter
10. More spacious
11. Deficiency in feeling
12. Aspect
13. Direction
14. Alarm
15. Monster
16. Ancient region of Asia Minor
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18. Sets side by side
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22. Emerald Isle
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Two For One

BY JIM HOLLAND
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across
1   “Don’t panic”                  90 Dadaist collection
7   Lincoln who was the first screen adult Tarzan
11  Adlai’s 1956 running mate
16  Japanese theater form
19  Astronomy Museum
20  “King...”
21  Lacking company
22  “What have we here?”
23  Athlete Jackson discusses immunization options?
26  Put an end to
27  Bit of porch furniture, perhaps
28  Beauty pageant band
29  Cruise purpose
31  Seville: Sra.: Seattle: ...
33  Wee amount
35  Quick, as service
36  Spring spelling event could face cancellation?
44  __ Sea
45  Rotting results
46  General Bradley
47  Writer Baghold
49  Places with courts
52  NBA nickname since the ’70s
53  Actress Gaye of “Ali”
54  Former Renault
56  “Could be trouble”
57  Fugers of a sort
59  Roof rack items
61  Basic French infinitive
62  Greiner of “Shark Tank”
63  Brief moments
65  Denver-to-Omaha dir.
66  What “it takes,” at the start of many macho mantras
68  Nile biter
71  Seaman’s complete canvas expense?
75  Tarzan player Ron
76  How rural areas are populated
78  “More than I wanted to know”
79  Garden invader
81  Actor Diggs
82  Rover’s turf
84  Chooses
86  Checked (out)

90  The Beatles, e.g.
91  Clapton et al.
93  Offer of help
95  Rodeo accessory
96  Borscht veggie
97  Phobia beginning
98  Islamic branch
99  Bean in Hollywood
100 “Friends” friend
103 2 + 2 = 5 problem?
106 Draw
107 CEO’s credential
108 LAX inspection org.
109  Like serious errors
113 Pizzazz
116 Sra.
117 Slowly
121 Tease
122 Writer anticipates a vacation?

Down
1  Pal
2  Cupid, to Plato
3  Actress Blanchett
4  Med school subj.
5  Easy rhythm
6  Arms-folded response
7  Brother of Peyton
8  Camera component
9  Subject of clothed and nude Goya portraits
10  Handel opera written in Italian
11  Absorb, as a loss
12  Unintended revelation
13  Kit set
14  Set of nine
15  Bun choice
16  Situation when a frat room is empty?
17  Tara surname
18  Darling
20  Weekly inspiration
21  No. 5 maker
22  Island birthplace of Pythagoras
23  Gift recipient
24  Grandmas, earlier
25  Podcaster Carolla
26  “Pic-a-nic” basket-seeking toon, familiarly
27  Pal
28  Easy rhythm
29  Detroit team?
30  Sra.
31  Sra.
32  Camera component
33  Easy rhythm
34  Gift recipient
35  Grandmas, earlier
36  “Pic-a-nic” basket-seeking toon, familiarly

39  Avoids like the plague
41  Pinstripes wearer
42  Smarts
43  Certs competitor
44  “More than I
45  Reflective
46  Big name in candy
47  Reflective
48  Tarzan player Ron
49  Nile biter
50  “Friends” friend
51  Reflective
52  Big name in candy
53  Reflective
54  Former Renault
55  Reflective
56  “Could be trouble”
57  Reflective
58  Plot
59  Reflective
60  Defense gp.
61  Reflective
62  Reflective
63  Reflective
64  Toyota Camry model
65  Reflective
66  Reflective
67  Reflective
68  Reflective
69  Reflective
70  Average salary on a Detroit team?
71  Reflective
72  Ira Gershwin’s forte
73  Reflective
74  Chinese evergreen
75  Reflective
76  Reflective
77  Reflective
78  Reflective
79  Reflective
80  Reflective
81  Reflective
82  Reflective
83  Reflective
84  Reflective
85  Reflective
86  Reflective
87  El __, Texas
88  Harrow competitor
89  Mild oath
90  Reflective
91  Reflective
92  Gloomy
93  Reflective
94  Bugs
95  Reflective
96  Reflective
97  Pizazz
98  Reflective
99  Reflective
100  Reflective
101  Brutal
102  Searches all over
103 2 + 2 = 5 problem?
104 “Unto the Sons”
105  Reflective
106  “Get ___!": “Control yourself!”
107  Reflective
108  Reflective
109  Reflective
110  Reflective
111  Reflective
112  Reflective
113  Reflective
114  Reflective
115  Reflective
116  Reflective
117  Reflective
118  Reflective
119  Reflective
120  Reflective
121  Reflective
122  Reflective
123  Reflective
124  Reflective
125  Reflective
126  Reflective
127  Reflective
128  Reflective
129  Reflective
130  Reflective
131  Reflective
132  Reflective
133  Fighting ender

Sudoku

Levels: [1 2 3 4]

Jumble

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

Last week’s answers appear on the next page

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Sudoku

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

Last week’s answers appear on the next page

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

Associate Director

Deerfield, IL

4440239

Associate Director - Associate Director, Health Economics & Outcomes Research (HEOR)US in Deerfield, IL w/ the following requirements: PharmD; Masters degree in epidemiology, health economics, pharmacoepidemiology, or related field or foreign equivalent degree; OR Ph.D. in health economics, epidemiology, pharmacoepidemiology or related field or foreign equivalent degree. 18 months related experience. Required skills: Design & conduct epidemiological studies of health care databases to support improved patient outcomes and market access using ISPOR Good Outcomes Research Practices (1 year); Apply Health Technology Assessment guidelines that are used for real-world evidence generation and health economics research to international markets (1 year); Apply epidemiology of Major Depressive Disorder to guide action by health care decision makers (1 year); Conduct epidemiological and outcomes research projects with different international stakeholders and ensure alignment and execution within defined timelines and budget (1 year). 20% travel required; must live w/in normal commuting distance of Deerfield, IL. Apply online at http://www.lundbeck.com/us/careers/career-opportunities & search for job title "Associate Director, Health Economics and Outcomes Research (HEOR)US".

Hard Chrome Plater

Lincolnwood, IL

4439255

sales@gageassembly.com

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PROBATIONARY CORRECTIONAL OFFICER

Crown Point, IN

www.lakecountysheriff.com

LAKE COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT - will begin screening applicants to establish an eligibility list for employment for the position of Probationary Correctional Officer. Download an application at www.lakecountysheriff.com. AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS JANUARY 5th, 2018. Additional information will be posted after deadline at www.lakecountysheriff.com 219-755-3364.

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PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on October 20, 2011, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on January 19, 2018, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606, sell at public auction to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Property Description:
- Commonly known as 8357 N. KENNETH AVENUE, SKOKIE, IL 60076
- Property Lodges NO. 1O-22-305-05O-.
- The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property.
- Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.
- This property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9)gXtl and lgIl4l. If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments, required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9)gXtl and lgIl4l.
- You are hereby notified that Plaintiff has filed an application for confirmation of the judgment of foreclosure and sale and said application has been set for confirmation by the court on January 19, 2018, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-6500.
- You are hereby notified that Plaintiff’s attorney is deemed to be a debt collector at- tempted to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
- You are hereby notified that Plaintiff’s attorney is deemed to be a debt collector at- tempted to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.
- Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff’s attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

YOU MAY PURCHASE THE PROPERTY AT THE FORECLOSURE SALE ONLY OF A PERSON WHO IS NOT THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER CONFIRMING THE JUDGMENT.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. This property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9)gXtl and lgIl4l. If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments, required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9)gXtl and lgIl4l. You are hereby notified that Plaintiff has filed an application for confirmation of the judgment of foreclosure and sale and said application has been set for confirmation by the court on January 19, 2018, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-6500.

YOU ARE hereby notified that Plaintiff’s attorney is deemed to be a debt collector at- tempted to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff’s attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose.

YOU MAY PURCHASE THE PROPERTY AT THE FORECLOSURE SALE ONLY OF A PERSON WHO IS NOT THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER). IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER CONFIRMING THE JUDGMENT.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. This property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9)gXtl and lgIl4l. If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments, required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9)gXtl and lgIl4l. You are hereby notified that Plaintiff has filed an application for confirmation of the judgment of foreclosure and sale and said application has been set for confirmation by the court on January 19, 2018, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-6500.
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
WEST COUNTY NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
Plaintiff.

NEW APPLACEMENT
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NOTE TO JANUARY 12, 2019

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION
HERALD TRUST N.A., AS TRUSTEE FOR LSP MASTERCARD PARTNERSHIP TRUST

Defendants

NOTICE OF INTEREST

A PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on JUly 17, 2017, at the Circuit Court of Cook County, at the judicial sales corporation, one South Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606, on or before the thirty-first (31st) day of January, 2018, at the time of the sale, the person(s) interested in the property must appear and bid upon it at the sale, and if the highest bidder is the statutory or the mortgagee's attorney, the highest bidder shall be entitled to a Certificate of Sale, which may be confirmed by the Court.

The judgment amount was $282,045.37.

The person(s) interested in the property must appear and bid at the sale; all bidders must present bids at the sale. The person(s) interested in the property must appear and bid at the sale; all bidders must present bids at the sale. The person(s) interested in the property must appear and bid at the sale; all bidders must present bids at the sale. The person(s) interested in the property must appear and bid at the sale; all bidders must present bids at the sale.
NOTICE OF SALE

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

The property will be sold 'as is,' without warranty of any kind, to the highest bidder. The sale is subject to the condition of the property as of the date of the sale.

The sale will be held at the Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, Suite 100, Chicago, IL 60606, at 10:30 AM on January 30, 2018, and will be conducted in accordance with the Illinois Mortgage Foreclosure Law, 705/17-17011.

Upon payment in full of the full amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale.

If you are the mortgagor (homeowner), you have the right to redeem the property for a period of 39 days after entry of the order of possession, in accordance with Section 17-17011 of the Illinois Mortgage Foreclosure Law.

If you need additional information, you should contact our office at 630-750-9115 or visit our website at www.judicialsales.com.

JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION
One South Wacker Drive, Suite 100, Chicago, IL 60606-6501 (312) 236-SALE

TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 39 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF THE ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 17-17011 OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

If you are the mortgagor (homeowner), you have the right to redeem the property for a period of 39 days after entry of the order of possession, in accordance with Section 17-17011 of the Illinois Mortgage Foreclosure Law.

If you need additional information, you should contact our office at 630-750-9115 or visit our website at www.judicialsales.com.

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If you need additional information, you should contact our office at 630-750-9115 or visit our website at www.judicialsales.com.
LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

TO LEARN MORE VISIT
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THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF VARIOUS BOARDS, COMMISSIONS, COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES OF THE VILLAGE OF MORTON GROVE FOR 2018 WILL BE HELD AT VARIOUS TIMES AND LOCATIONS AS LISTED:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Board Name</th>
<th>Meeting Time</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Planning</td>
<td>1st Monday of each month at 6:38pm</td>
<td>Morton Civic Center, Room 4200 of the Lorraine H. Johnson Municipal Center, 200 55th Street, Morton Grove, Illinois 60720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoning</td>
<td>3rd Monday of each month at 7:00pm</td>
<td>Morton Civic Center, Room 4200 of the Lorraine H. Johnson Municipal Center, 200 55th Street, Morton Grove, Illinois 60720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Building</td>
<td>1st Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm</td>
<td>Morton Civic Center, Room 4200 of the Lorraine H. Johnson Municipal Center, 200 55th Street, Morton Grove, Illinois 60720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fire</td>
<td>3rd Wednesday of each month at 6:30pm</td>
<td>Morton Civic Center, Room 4200 of the Lorraine H. Johnson Municipal Center, 200 55th Street, Morton Grove, Illinois 60720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Police</td>
<td>1st Thursday of each month at 6:30pm</td>
<td>Morton Civic Center, Room 4200 of the Lorraine H. Johnson Municipal Center, 200 55th Street, Morton Grove, Illinois 60720</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trustees</td>
<td>1st Monday of each month at 6:30pm</td>
<td>Morton Civic Center, Room 4200 of the Lorraine H. Johnson Municipal Center, 200 55th Street, Morton Grove, Illinois 60720</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To ensure full accessibility and equal participation for all interested citizens, individuals with disabilities who plan to attend and participate in these meetings should indicate the accommodation they require at least 2 business days in advance by calling 708-563-9535.

LEGAL NOTICES

APARTMENT FOR RENT

APARTMENT FOR RENT

RENT?

APARTMENT AVAILABLE FOR RENT

NEW AD PLACEMENT

NEW AD PLACEMENT

FIND A REPAIRMAN

DO YOU NEED YOUR HOUSE PAINTED, VARIOUS HOME SERVICES CLEANED?

NEW AD PLACEMENT

NEW AD PLACEMENT

FIND A REPAIRMAN

DO YOU NEED YOUR HOUSE PAINTED, VARIOUS HOME SERVICES CLEANED?

NEW AD PLACEMENT

NEW AD PLACEMENT

FIND A REPAIRMAN

DO YOU NEED YOUR HOUSE PAINTED, VARIOUS HOME SERVICES CLEANED?

NEW AD PLACEMENT

NEW AD PLACEMENT

FIND A REPAIRMAN

DO YOU NEED YOUR HOUSE PAINTED, VARIOUS HOME SERVICES CLEANED?
## Legal Notices

### RENTAL OR DISBURSEMENT

Rents due to the State of Illinois on December 31, 2017, and January 9, 2018, shall be paid by the Treasurer and Chief Fiscal Officer of the State of Illinois to the State of Illinois, for the fiscal year ending on January 31, 2018.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rent Date</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>December 31, 2017</td>
<td>$304,458.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 9, 2018</td>
<td>$4,260.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 10, 2018</td>
<td>$15,004.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 11, 2018</td>
<td>$15,292.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 12, 2018</td>
<td>$3,361.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 13, 2018</td>
<td>$5,361.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 14, 2018</td>
<td>$53,526.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 15, 2018</td>
<td>$83.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 16, 2018</td>
<td>$51,609.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 17, 2018</td>
<td>$24,909.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 18, 2018</td>
<td>$11,873.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 19, 2018</td>
<td>$5,361.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 20, 2018</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>January 21, 2018</td>
<td>$5,361.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 22, 2018</td>
<td>$5,361.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 23, 2018</td>
<td>$5,361.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 24, 2018</td>
<td>$5,361.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 25, 2018</td>
<td>$5,361.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 26, 2018</td>
<td>$5,361.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 27, 2018</td>
<td>$5,361.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 28, 2018</td>
<td>$5,361.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 29, 2018</td>
<td>$5,361.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 30, 2018</td>
<td>$5,361.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>January 31, 2018</td>
<td>$5,361.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Property

The Mission Brook Sanitary District, Cook County, Illinois, has offered for sale a certain parcel of real property located at 8100 N Western Ave, Chicago, Illinois 60631. The parcel is subject to a courthouse and other public uses. The parcel is listed for sale at $1,100,000.00.

### Payroll

The Mission Brook Sanitary District, Cook County, Illinois, has offered for sale a certain parcel of real property located at 8100 N Western Ave, Chicago, Illinois 60631. The parcel is subject to a courthouse and other public uses. The parcel is listed for sale at $1,100,000.00.

### Disbursements

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### ADVERTISING

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TWO WAYS TO PLACE AN AD!

Call: 866-399-0537
placeanad.tribune subsurbs.com
**Mundelein**


**Address:** 1210 Westfield Way  
**Price:** $349,900  
**Schools:** Mundelein High School  
**Taxes:** $12,025  
**Agent:** Kevin Walsh/RE/MAX Showcase

---

**Parks Ridge**

All brick split-level home with three bedrooms and 1.5 bathrooms. Hardwood floors under living room carpet and in each bedroom. Full finished basement with family room, laundry and storage room. Attached single-car garage with extra space. Kitchen and breakfast room with ceramic/porcelain tile flooring. Within walking distance of Oakton Metra stop.

**Address:** 545 N. Aldine Ave.  
**Price:** $359,900  
**Schools:** Maine South High School  
**Taxes:** $7,202  
**Agent:** Mario DiLorenzo/Keller-Williams

---

**Arlington Heights**

Four bedrooms, two full bathrooms and two half baths on two stories. Great room features cathedral ceilings and hardwood floors. White cabinet kitchen with granite counters. Formal living and dining rooms. Master bedroom has its own loft area. Second loft area also on second level. Freshly painted. New furnace and air conditioning. Partially finished full basement with half bath, recreation room and vinyl flooring. Attached three-car garage and asphalt driveway.

**Address:** 1651 N. Highland Ave.  
**Price:** $714,500  
**Schools:** John Hersey High School  
**Taxes:** $11,332  
**Agent:** Arcenio Salinas/Crosstown Realty

---

**Skokie**


**Address:** 8556 Hamlin Ave.  
**Price:** $475,000  
**Schools:** Niles North High School  
**Taxes:** $13,040  
**Agent:** Patrick Alvarez/Jameson Sotheby's International Realty

---

**Lists from Homefinder.com**

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

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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>BUYER</th>
<th>SELLER</th>
<th>PRICE</th>
<th>DATE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>785 Waukegan Rd, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Anita C Basa</td>
<td>Marek Grbic</td>
<td>$425,000</td>
<td>09-21-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2222 Sprucewood Ave, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Antonio C Prieto</td>
<td>John G Obara</td>
<td>$449,000</td>
<td>09-08-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>700 Waterford Dr, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Michael Dreweb</td>
<td>Riccardo Dvoro</td>
<td>$495,000</td>
<td>09-13-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>9604 Greenwood Ave, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Ashok Kumar B Patel</td>
<td>Max Properties Llc</td>
<td>$550,000</td>
<td>09-15-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8640 Waukegan Rd, #531, Morton Grove</td>
<td>Nathan Youngblood &amp; Elmona Nilson</td>
<td>Aliesa Y Pijal Avila</td>
<td>$157,500</td>
<td>09-21-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1027 Foster St, Morton Grove</td>
<td>Phalguni Patel</td>
<td>Paul A Terzis</td>
<td>$183,000</td>
<td>08-28-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6400 Callie Ave, #605, Morton Grove</td>
<td>Karyn J Taylor</td>
<td>Jorge Lopez</td>
<td>$200,000</td>
<td>09-14-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>582 S Park Ave, Morton Grove</td>
<td>Gulamahmedin Namalwala &amp; Abdal K Begawala</td>
<td>Mohammad Zakaria Mahdadi</td>
<td>$21,950</td>
<td>09-21-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7432 Lake St, Morton Grove</td>
<td>David P Osada &amp; Dina L Osada</td>
<td>Stuart T Shiril</td>
<td>$288,000</td>
<td>09-12-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9120 Cherry Ave, Morton Grove</td>
<td>Shant Taryan</td>
<td>Cvetan Stojetic</td>
<td>$360,000</td>
<td>09-15-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5825 Resto St, Morton Grove</td>
<td>Nousheen Rezaei &amp; Ali</td>
<td>Owais Aqban</td>
<td>$265,000</td>
<td>08-28-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8316 Central Ave, Morton Grove</td>
<td>Woulena Michael Zia</td>
<td>Jonathan Locke</td>
<td>$315,000</td>
<td>09-08-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>9428 Central Ave, Morton Grove</td>
<td>Elias Munoz</td>
<td>Zhu-Hai George</td>
<td>$338,000</td>
<td>09-15-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9290 Orilce Ave, Morton Grove</td>
<td>Muhammad A chaotic &amp; Muhammed Aman</td>
<td>Johnny Gacicia Resto</td>
<td>$37,500</td>
<td>08-26-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8100 Central Ave, Morton Grove</td>
<td>Brian Easter &amp; Donna Easter</td>
<td>Marla Frantik</td>
<td>$134,500</td>
<td>09-11-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9299 Merrill Ave, Morton Grove</td>
<td>Atiq U Rahman &amp; Shamima Aasher</td>
<td>James Joseph Thirunivarambali</td>
<td>$134,700</td>
<td>09-15-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>9113 Washington St, Morton Grove</td>
<td>Mohammad Kasiruddin</td>
<td>James Wngulli Grove</td>
<td>$117,000</td>
<td>09-11-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8925 Menard Ave, Morton Grove</td>
<td>Chris R Mihalopoulous &amp; Toni Mihalopoulous</td>
<td>Nadeem Khalqi</td>
<td>$173,000</td>
<td>09-12-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6037 Cran 3, Morton Grove</td>
<td>Jorge O Lopez &amp; Erica J Lopez</td>
<td>Frederick Winkler III</td>
<td>$470,500</td>
<td>09-15-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6847 Lyons St, Morton Grove</td>
<td>Frank Mette &amp; Linda Mette</td>
<td>Az Home Solutions Llc</td>
<td>$415,000</td>
<td>09-15-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6713 Maple St, Morton Grove</td>
<td>Brian D Bahr &amp; Anna M Bahr</td>
<td>Patrick Hower</td>
<td>$435,000</td>
<td>08-28-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6105 Elm St, Morton Grove</td>
<td>Mathew R Ingram &amp; Katherine A Ingram</td>
<td>Jordan Herzog</td>
<td>$426,000</td>
<td>08-26-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9074 W Terrace Dr, #4K, Niles</td>
<td>Antonio Randazzo</td>
<td>Stanislawa Szwinska</td>
<td>$19,000</td>
<td>09-11-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>6350 N Newland Ave, Niles</td>
<td>Gregory Hanslik</td>
<td>Carl F Hunsen</td>
<td>$375,000</td>
<td>09-13-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9000 W Foster Dr, #210, Niles</td>
<td>Mikhail Tokar &amp; Yovena Tokar</td>
<td>Fadiyu R Arifia</td>
<td>$183,000</td>
<td>09-18-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9139 N Washington St, Niles</td>
<td>Osama David &amp; Nabila Kouiat</td>
<td>Mohammad W Dossan</td>
<td>$124,000</td>
<td>09-11-17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7835 N OArizona Ave, Niles</td>
<td>Mohammed A Ibrahim &amp; Ali A Abdulla Kalemken</td>
<td>Stanley Dobie Trustee</td>
<td>$123,000</td>
<td>09-12-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>7839 N Nordica Ave, Niles</td>
<td>Robert Rodriguez</td>
<td>Yevka Tokar</td>
<td>$19,000</td>
<td>09-11-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>9027 N Clifton Ave, Niles</td>
<td>Catina Allen</td>
<td>Sophia Solar Calli</td>
<td>$268,500</td>
<td>09-13-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>732 W Greenleaf St, Niles</td>
<td>Peter Khio</td>
<td>Jose Luis Marin</td>
<td>$126,000</td>
<td>09-12-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>8143 N Clifton Ave, Niles</td>
<td>Teresa Bozick &amp; Craig Hoffman</td>
<td>Robert Gattuso</td>
<td>$216,000</td>
<td>09-11-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>6642 W Altion Ave, Niles</td>
<td>Mikalo Obaikin &amp; Stylianos Stavrevskik</td>
<td>Matthew J Dillingfer</td>
<td>$270,000</td>
<td>09-11-17</td>
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<tr>
<td>715 Busse Hwy, #52, Park Ridge</td>
<td>Michael Trosin &amp; Angela Trosin</td>
<td>Emilia Helen Pizer</td>
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<td>2212 S Clifton Ave, Park Ridge</td>
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<td>Olbon Trust</td>
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<td>Martin J Goss</td>
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<td>Antonio R Randazzo</td>
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<td>Deborah K Smith</td>
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<td>405 S Rose Ave, Park Ridge</td>
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<td>Suzanne E Oberheide Theriosk</td>
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<td>John W Dobslins</td>
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<td>Larry A Shatzli</td>
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<td>415 S Crescent Ave, Park Ridge</td>
<td>Michael J Marzolo &amp; Kathryn Feleniezel</td>
<td>Jeffrey S Owen</td>
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This list is not intended to be a complete record of all real estate transactions. 
Data compiled by Record Information Services. [800-557-0000] [public-record.com]
Special holiday performance schedule through New Year's Eve!

"HIGHLY RECOMMENDED"
- CHICAGO NOW

"JOHNSTONE'S PERFORMANCE IS PARTICULARLY REMARKABLE...A VALUABLE EXPLORATION OF A MAN WHO IN MANY WAYS WAS AHEAD OF HIS TIME"
- CHICAGO SUN-TIMES

"A MUST SEE"
- AROUND THE TOWN CHICAGO

"TELLS A MOVING STORY ABOUT A COMPLEX MAN, ONE WHO'S MORE THAN WORTH REMEMBERING"
- PERFORMINK

"A TOUR DE FORCE"
- MILWAUKEE JOURNAL SENTINEL

"JOHNSTONE'S PERFORMANCE IS ACCOMPLISHED AND MOVING. A FASCINATING CHARACTER STUDY...ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED WHEN ALDRIDGE STRUCK A BLOW AT THE VERY HEART OF THEATRICAL ESTABLISHMENT"
- CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Go behind the scenes of London's West End. In 1833, the greatest Shakespearean actor of the time collapses—but the real drama begins when his replacement steps in. Discover the provocative true story of Ira Aldridge, the first black actor to play Othello on the London stage.

SPECIAL HOLIDAY PERFORMANCES

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7:30 8:00

Enjoy a free glass of champagne at intermission of our 8:00 New Year's Eve performance.

NOW PLAYING
312.595.5600
chicagoshakes.com
Blast from the past

Music Theater Works' 'Peter Pan' takes audience on a high-flying adventure

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Aubrey Adams will soar across the stage as the title character in Music Theater Works' production of "Peter Pan," Dec. 23-Jan. 1 at Cahn Auditorium in Evanston. This is Adams' second airborne acting adventure. She played the boy who never grows up eight years ago in her hometown of Norman, Okla.

Adams' connection to the story goes back much further. "I grew up watching the old Mary Martin version," she said. "I grew up watching movie musicals in general but this one my brothers and I memorized."

That's why Adams is once again looking forward to playing the boy she described as curious, adventurous and fearless. In addition to studying her character, Adams has been in discussions with director Rudy Hogenmiller about J. M. Barrie's novel in which her character first appeared.

The family Peter visits had lost a child. "Peter is kind of like the spirit of the child that comes back to the nursery to hear the stories," Adams said. "There's kind of a longing to be part of a family but he decided from a young age that it's not for him."

Elizabeth Stenholt plays Wendy, the oldest of the three Darling children who travel to Neverland with Peter Pan. Stenholt began prepping for this role a long time ago. As a child, she would flop belly-first on a swing and pretend she was flying. She said that flying on stage "is going to be one of the highlights of my acting career."

Stenholt indicated that they are "trying to make it super fun for the kids and also entertaining for the parents. It's brightly colored and the costumes are unique and interesting."

"Sets and costumes are a little over the top," Hogenmiller said. "Once you get to Neverland, anything goes!"

Myrna Petlicki is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Jerome Robbins, left, and Mary Martin, dressed in her "Peter Pan" outfit, fly through the air during a rehearsal for a television program in 1955. Music Theater Works' Aubrey Adams grew up watching Martin perform in the title role, which Adams will assume Dec. 23-Jan. 1.
Thursday, Dec. 21

Marc Broussard with Mia Borders: 8 p.m. Thursday, Evanston Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, Sold out, 847-492-8860

Excel 2013 Intermediate: Basic Excel skills are required to learn to do more with your spreadsheets. Several intermediate skills including tables and charts, conditional formatting and absolute/relative cell references are taught. A Glenview Library card is required and register at glnview.org/register or call. 10 a.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

“Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales”: The library gives the hottest movies a second run for free on the third Thursday of every month. In this rip-roaring adventure, down-on-his-luck Captain Jack feels the winds of ill-fortune blowing strongly in his way when Deadly ghost sailors, led by terrifying Captain Salazar, are bent on killing every pirate at sea — notably Jack. 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Photography Exhibit to Benefit North Suburban YMCA Art Department: “My Rest of The West Color Explosion — Landscape Photos of Western Europe and North America with Vivid Colors that Jump from the Canvas,” an exhibit of framed photographs shot by award-winning photographer Michael Greenberg. Ten percent of proceeds go to the North Suburban YMCA Art Department. The artist also created a mosaic for donations to the local VFW. 9:30 a.m. Thursday-Dec. 28, North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techny Road, Northbrook, free, 847-272-7250

Books Down Under: Gently used coffee table books, for only $2 each, are offered at Books Down Under, Wilmette Public Library’s used book store during the month of December. Visit on Facebook for future promotions. Friends of Wilmette Library. All the sales benefit library programming. 11 a.m. Thursday-Dec. 31, Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-256-5025

Vivid Art Gallery Jewelry Pop-up Shop: Vivid has assembled an impressive array of wearable art in a pop-up shop within the gallery. For the month of December, shoppers will find the hand-crafted work of artists Edith Robertson, Olivia Shih, Lisa Slodki, Dora Winchester and Rebecca Zemans. 11 a.m. Thursday-Saturday, Vivid Art Gallery, 895 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, free

Friday, Dec. 22

Dolly Varden with Rachel Drew: 8 p.m. Friday, Evanston Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $15-$27, 847-492-8860

17th Annual Winter Carnival: The Glenview Ice Center’s 17th annual Winter Carnival takes place during winter break from school during various hours from Dec. 22-Jan. 7, with special events, activities and loads of public skating sessions. For a full schedule, visit glenviewicerCenter.org. Admission to extended public skating sessions is $8, or use your season pass. Skate rental is $4. 1:45 p.m. daily, Glenview Ice Center, 1851 Landwehr Road, Glenview, free, 847-724-2800

Holiday Figure Skating Exhibition: The 2017 Winter Carnival includes this free Holiday Figure Skating Exhibition. Watch soloists, synchronized skating teams and Glenview Skate skaters showcase their talents. 5 p.m. Friday, Glenview Ice Center, 1851 Landwehr Road, Glenview, free, 847-724-2800

Saturday, Dec. 23

Ouray: 8 p.m. Saturday, Evanston Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $12-$22, 847-492-8860

Krampus and St. Nicholas Visit Hofbrauhaus Chicago: Visitors can solidify their spot on the “nice” or “naughty” list at Hofbrauhaus Chicago this season with a little help from German holiday folklore icons, St. Nicholas and his devilish companion Krampus. The pair will visit Hofbrauhaus. Derived from Germanic folklore, Krampus is a beast-like creature said to punish those who are naughty throughout the yule season. 6 p.m. Saturday, Hofbrauhaus Chicago, 500 Park Place, Evanston, $10 suggested donation, 847-724-7255

Sunday, Dec. 24

Holiday Lights and Glittering Gifts: A special shopping Sunday is planned from 1-5 p.m. where Eve and “her elves” are on hand. They will help you find the perfect original fine art jewelry to light up her holiday as a gift. 1 p.m. Sunday,

Eve J. Alfille Gallery and Studio, 623 Grove St., Evanston, see the website, 847-869-7920

Christmas Eve Services: The Christmas Eve Services include: 4 p.m. Family service with puppet show; 7 p.m., 9 p.m. and 11 p.m. candlelight services featuring various choirs at the Village Church. 4 p.m. Sunday, The Village Presbyterian Church of Northbrook, 1300Shermer Road, Northbrook, free, 847-272-0900

Monday, Dec. 25

Brunch on the Twenty-Fifth: Can a religious Jew and a believing Christian be BFF’s? Join Rabbi Karsh of the Sidney and Francis Avner Torah Learning Center for this fascinating talk. 11 a.m. Monday, Darchei Noam of Glenbrook, 3465 Techny Road, Northbrook, $10 suggested donation, 847-727-7285

Tuesday, Dec. 26

Music Theater Works — “Peter Pan” Presentation: This performance is suitable for those ages 6 and older to experience the story of Peter and his mischievous fairy sidekick Tinkerbell. They visit the nursery of the Darling children late one night and, with a sprinkle of pixie dust, begin a magical journey. 2 p.m. Tuesday, 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 29, 8 p.m. Dec. 30, 2 p.m. Dec. 31 and 2 p.m. Jan. 1, Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson St., Evanston, $34-$97, half price under 25 years old, 847-920-5360

Current Events Club: Current Events Discussion Group is welcoming new members and meets Tuesdays at the Northbrook Park District Senior Center inside the Leisure Center. Drop by the Senior Center to call to learn more. 1 p.m. Tuesdays, Northbrook Park District Leisure Center, 3223 Walters Ave., Northbrook, free, 847-291-2988

Wednesday, Dec. 27

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. Wednesdays, Round Kitchen & Social House, 1631 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $10, 847-868-8945

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. Wednesdays, Lincolnwood Public Library, 1000 West Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Free Film: “How Green Was My Valley”: This film from 1941, was directed by John Ford and stars Walter Pidgeon. The film tells the story of one family’s dreams, struggles and triumphs in a small Welsh mining town. 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Thursday, Dec. 28

Anne Heaton with Andrew Kerr: 8 p.m. Dec. 28, Evanston Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $15-$25, 847-492-8860

Make It and Take It: Just drop in to decorate a party hat to celebrate the New Year in style. 10 a.m. Dec. 28, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Sew Cool: Beret, Scarf and Mittens: For ages 13-18 to make a beret, scarf and mittens in this three-part series. Come to one class or all three. Materials are provided, but registrations are needed to Readers Services Desk by Dec. 27, and a Glenview Library card is required. One-time liability waivers need to be on file, and are available at the Reader Reference, Youth or Circulation Desks. 1:30 p.m. Dec. 28, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Friday, Dec. 29

Bob Mould: With Helen Money. 8 p.m. Dec. 29, 8 p.m. Dec. 30 and 10 p.m. Dec. 31 Evanston Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $5-$15, 847-492-8860

Movie Morning: Just drop in to enjoy a family film on the library’s big screen. Look for the movie title. 10 a.m. Dec. 29,
Comedy Magician Trent James: Comedy magician Trent James is bringing a fresh feel to the “classic magic show.” Trent’s high-energy performance combines mind-boggling magic with gut-busting humor, earning rave reviews in over 20 states. 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Dec. 30, Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, $35, 847-677-7761.

New Year’s Eve at Bub City: New Year’s Eve at Bub City Rosemont debuts “Blue Over You” (a mysterious story) and “The River’s Edge,” in which a woman’s husband, Ben, is struggling to come to terms with life. But when her ex Nardo (Ray Milian) seeks to answer the question “Where is Mitzi?” she finds her husband Ben (Quinn) ranch and is it getting too much for her to bear. But when her ex Nardo (Ray Milland) shows up wanting Ben to help him across the border, it becomes much more complicated as she ends up torn between the two men. Call or visit the library’s website to reserve a spot. 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Jan. 3, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224.

New Year’s Eve at Kohl Children’s Museum: To kick-off 2018, an entire wing of the museum will be decorated “to the nines” for the full Times Square experience, complete with giant confetti drops at “midnight” and festive activities designed specifically for children throughout the day. 8:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Dec. 31, Kohl Children’s Museum, 2100 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, $23-$33, 847-832-6600.

New Year's Eve at Bub City Rosemont: Kick off New Year’s Eve with a decadent brunch at Bub City from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., where Southern staples and the DIY Bloody Mary Bar will prepare you for the night’s festivities. 2 p.m. Dec. 31, Bub City, 5441 Park Place, Rosemont, See website for pricing information, 847-261-0399.

Tai Chi: Participants should wear loose clothing. 9 a.m. Jan. 4, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $75 member, $89 nonmember, 847-784-6000.

Gentle Balance: Enhance your core strength, balance, coordination, stability, and flexibility with low intensity, gentle exercises that may be done seated or standing. This class is great for those with mobility, stamina, or balance limitations, and is suitable for participants using canes, walkers and wheelchairs. 1 p.m. Jan. 2, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $35 member; $45 nonmember, 847-784-6000.

Intergenerational Service Night: Adults, teens and children are invited to join in on the first Wednesday of the month to work on a community service project and enjoy a meal together. 6 p.m. Jan. 3, First Congregational Church of Wilmette, 1125 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-251-6660.

Sensory Family Movie — “Despicable Me 3”: Sensory-friendly screenings are designed for children with special needs. The films have quieter volume and turned-up lights. The environment is welcoming towards kids who need to move around, talk and sing during the screening. (Rated PG, 90 minutes). 1 p.m. Jan. 4, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224.


Blue Over You: Spot On Company debuts “Blue Over You” (a mysterious one-man love story with musical bits). Michael Joseph Mitchell stars in this one-man play, where Francis, a high school drama teacher, comes home to discover his wife is missing. The play seeks to answer the question “Where is Mitzi?” 8 p.m. Jan. 5 and 3 p.m. Jan. 7, Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2515 Central Park Ave., Evanston, $20-$25, 847-869-9210.

Turn to Calendar, Page 29.
Itty Bitty New Year 2018
Thursday, December 28 • 10 a.m.–noon
Oakton Community Center

Ring in 2018 at this annual family event! Festivities include a DJ, games, prizes, crafts, Exploratorium play, family entertainment and a countdown and balloon drop at 12 Noon.

SkokieParks.org (847) 674-1500

Pre-registration is required for this event. Space is limited.
Kids 1 and older: 410221-01 $13/$16 • Adults 16+: 410221-02 $2

Skokie Parks and Recreation

HAWKEYE TOWN

Relive all of the magic of the Chicago Blackhawks in this comprehensive decade-by-decade collection of stories and photos from the Chicago Tribune. Finally you can revisit the players you love and the moments you treasure from all 90 years of franchise history.

Bobby Hull | Stan Mikita | 6 Stanley Cups
Jonathan Toews | Patrick Kane | Madhouse on Madison And more!

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*Annual Percentage Yield (APY) is effective as of 12/21/2017 and is subject to change without notice. Offer valid for new money only. A $1,000 minimum deposit is required for investment in the Certificate of Deposit (CD). Interest is compounded quarterly and credited quarterly. A penalty for early withdrawal may be imposed and withdrawal may reduce earnings. Additional Certificate of Deposit rates and terms are available.
**WHAT TO DO COMMUNITY CALENDAR**

*Calendar, from Page 27*

**Glenbrook Hospital: Past, Present and Future:** Hear about the hospital's history and future with Dave Rahija, Senior Vice-President, NorthShore University HealthSystem, Glenbrook Hospital. Register at glenviewpl.org/register or call 1 p.m. Jan. 5, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Friday Night Salon Concert:** Baritone Leo Radosavljevic performs, accompanied on piano by George Radosavljevic. 7 p.m. Jan. 5, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

**Shabbat with a Twist:** Taking place both on Jan. 5 and 19, from 11:15 a.m. families with children up to Pre-K join the clergy for stories, songs and projects. Then participants may twist their own challah with the dough provided and take it home to bake. All are welcome. 11 a.m. Jan. 5, Congregation Beth Shalom, 3433 Walters Ave., Northbrook, free, 847-498-4100

**Amahi and the Night Visitors:** To celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, Our Lady of Hope presents two performances of Menotti's holiday opera, “Amahi and the Night Visitors.” A free-will offering will be collected to benefit the church. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 5, Our Lady of Hope, 9711 W Devon Ave., Rosemont, free, 847-825-4673

**American English**

**Elvis and Friends:** Rock out to the hits of Elvis, Bill Haley and His Comets, Chuck Berry and Jerry Lee Lewis. Croon with the soaring songs of Dean Martin, Frank Sinatra, Nat King Cole, and Johnny Mathis. Matt and Cynthia Gruel of Nostalgia Entertainment share fascinating stories behind the music while swaying to the hits in this cabaret-style performance. Please register at glenviewpl.org/register or call 2 p.m. Jan. 7, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Saturday, Jan. 6**

**Eddy “The Chief” Clearwater Birthday Celebration:** 8 p.m. Jan. 6, Evanston Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $20-$34, 847-492-8860

**ACT Prep Test:** This if for grades 9-12, with a limit of 40. Professional tutors from College Nannies & Tutors of Glenview guide attendees through a practice ACT test. Bring pencils and a calculator. Register by Jan. 5. Please register at glenviewpl.org/register or call. 9 a.m. Jan. 6, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Satuday Kids Club for Ages 2 and up with Adult:** Co-sponsored by The Glen Town Center Registration: theglenown.com. Stories, crafts, and loads of fun! These programs will be awesome. 10:30 a.m. Jan. 6, The Book Market at The Grand One, 2651 Navy Blvd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Skating in the Park:** Skating in the Park returns to the Chicago Wolves Ice Rink at Parkway Bank Park (formerly known as MB Financial Park). The park's great lawn will be transformed into an NHL-sized, outdoor skating rink where visitors can skate under breathtaking lights for a magical experience this winter. It is free for the whole family. 2 p.m. Jan. 7, Parkway Bank Park, 5501 Park Place, Rosemont, free, 847-349-5008

**Get the Wiggles Out – Family Storytime:** This movement-based and sensory-aware storytime is for ages 3 years to 8 years with caregiver. It features various forms of movement, dance and play, using books, music and sensory toys. No registration is required. 10 a.m. Jan. 6, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

**Family Concert: Little Miss Ann:** Join award-winning kids musician Little Miss Ann for an upbeat, interactive kids concert for your whole family! 11 a.m. Jan. 6, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

**“Amahi and the Night Visitors”:** To celebrate the Feast of the Epiphany, Our Lady of Hope presents two performances of Menotti's holiday opera, “Amahi and the Night Visitors.” A free-will offering will be collected to benefit the church. 7:30 p.m. Jan. 6, Our Lady of Hope, 9711 W Devon Ave., Rosemont, free, 847-825-4673

**Sunday, Jan. 7**

**American English**

**Elvis and Friends**

**Stem Class – Wacky Winter Wonderland Science:** This is for ages 5-10 to investigate the science of winter with: making fluffy snow, exploring pinecone science, learning the anatomy and care of rabbits, along with the mystery of how icicles grow so long. What does winter taste, smell and feel like? Lastly, explore the physics of a festive winter carnival with a Funhouse lesson. 1 p.m. Jan. 7, Prairie View Community Center, 6834 Dempster St., Morton Grove, $39 resident; $49 nonresident, 847-965-1200

**Skating in the Park:** Skating in the Park returns to the Chicago Wolves Ice Rink at Parkway Bank Park (formerly known as MB Financial Park). The park's great lawn will be transformed into an NHL-sized, outdoor skating rink where visitors can skate under breathtaking lights for a magical experience this winter. It is free for the whole family. 2 p.m. Jan. 7, Parkway Bank Park, 5501 Park Place, Rosemont, free, 847-349-5008

**Have an event to submit? Go to**

www.ChicagoTribune.com/Calendar.
Ebner, Alma Joan
On December 9, 2017 Alma Joan Ebner (nee Swanson) died peacefully at home in Park Ridge, Illinois from complications related to Parkinson’s Disease. Born in Sterling, Illinois on September 13, 1929, Joan was raised in the rural farming community of nearby Morrison, Illinois. Her parents, Walter Frederick Swanson and Edna Catherine Swanson (nee McLennan) raised strawberries and cultivated gladiolus. Her father was also a rural mail carrier, Joan was preceded in death by both of her parents as well as her sister Betty Lorraine Gray. Joan was an inspiration to everyone she met. A natural leader, she was at ease in front of a crowd, whether she was playing the accordion or moderating a political debate. She was kind, compassionate, understanding, witty, tidy, tactful and frugal yet generous. Joan enjoyed handcrafts of all kinds and shared her passion with her children and grandchildren. She told great stories, played the piano, and organized her closet according to color. She loved ice cream and was a wonderful listener. Joan earned her B.S. as well as her M.S. in Psychology at Northwestern University in Evanston, IL, focusing her studies on early childhood development. Joan was devoted to enriching the lives of others through her involvement in the community. She was the first woman awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Park Ridge Jaycees and held both local and national leadership roles in Camp Fire Girls. She served as the President of the League of Women Voters of Park Ridge for many years and was also active in the Cook County League. After raising her children and earning her MBA at The Keller Graduate School of Management, Joan re-entered the workforce, focusing her career on fundraising for not-for-profit service organizations. She held Executive Development positions at Uihlein Children’s Home, Chicago Child Care Society, Literacy Chicago, and the Center of Concern. Joan was survived by her four children, Martha Lynn Ebner of Evanston, IL, focusing her studies on early child development. Joan was awarded the Distinguished Service Award by the Park Ridge Community Church on Sunday, December 17th from 1pm to 3pm. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions can be made to Advocate Older Adult Services, 9375 Church Street, Des Plaines, IL 60016.

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Passaneau, Robert J.
Robert J. Passaneau, July 16, 1937 to December 15, 2017. Bob passed away peacefully in the comfort of his home surrounded by his family in Park Ridge, IL after a courageous two and a half year battle with cancer. Bob grew up in Park Ridge and attended St. Paul of the Cross Elementary School and St. George High School in Evanston. He graduated from the University of Illinois' College of Business at Urbana-Champaign where he was a member of the Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity. Bob met the love of his life, Carol Peterson, while at Illinois. After college, he and Carol married and settled back in Park Ridge to raise their family. Bob was an active member of Mary Seat of Wisdom Parish and Park Ridge Country Club. He served on the board of the Park Ridge Youth Campus for many years and also coached several youth sports teams for his sons, Michael and Stephen. Bob enjoyed a successful career in the computer industry, beginning at IBM, where he worked for over 20 years. He left IBM in 1980 to join XL/Datametrics, where he spent the rest of his career serving as President and later, CEO. Bob was highly respected among his peers for his leadership and work ethic. Bob's love for the Illini and the Chicago Cubs was second to none. He also enjoyed golf, traveling, reading and spending time with his family, many friends and grand-dogs. A devoted son, father, grandfather, uncle, and friend. Bob will always be remembered for his amazing sense of humor and practical jokes, loyalty, wisdom, philanthropic spirit and living each day to the fullest. Bob is survived by his beloved Carol, nee Peterson; children: Michael (Kelly), Michele "Missy" (Mike) McBain, and Stephen; grandchildren: Allison, David, and Luke Passaneau, Matthew, and Kathryn "Katie" McBain; sister, Jean McCuin and many nieces and nephews. Bob was preceded in death by his parents, Harold and Kathryn. Visitation was held Monday, December 18, 3-9 p.m., at Ryan-Parke Funeral Home, 120 S. Northwest Hwy., Park Ridge. Funeral Mass was held Tuesday, at Mary Seat of Wisdom Church. Interment followed in Town of Maine Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials to The Cara Program, www.carachicago.org or Have Dreams, Park Ridge, www.havedreams.org are appreciated.

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BOYS BASKETBALL: NOTRE DAME 69, CARMEL 58

Mahorcic’s triple-double draws college attention

BY STEVE REAVEN
Pioneer Press

First-year Notre Dame boys basketball coach Kevin Clancy, a 1998 graduate of the school who spent the last 11 seasons as a Dons assistant, could not recall seeing a performance in Notre Dame’s gym on par with Dusan Mahorcic’s game on Friday.

Mahorcic, a 6-foot-9 senior forward, delivered a masterful 34-point, 22-rebound, 10-block performance in the Dons’ 69-58 East Suburban Catholic win over Carmel in Niles.

Clancy spent much of Saturday morning fielding calls from college coaches inquiring about Mahorcic’s availability. Clancy thinks Mahorcic is a Division I-caliber player.

“If the tempo of the game is right, I can see him getting 20 (points) and 10 (rebounds) every night,” said Clancy, who played collegiately at Bradley and Loyola of Chicago. “I give him all the credit. His work ethic and drive make a night like that possible.”

Mahorcic was understated in the monster game’s aftermath. He said that he would be happy about it for a couple of hours and then he had to get into the proper mindset for a nonconference game at Fremd on Saturday.

Instead of dwelling on the personal significance of the triple-double, Mahorcic was more focused on what the win over Carmel (6-3, 0-2 after Friday) meant for Notre Dame (4-4, 1-1).

“Wins are all I’m concerned with, not with numbers,” Mahorcic said. “I really like our team, partly because all the younger guys are so talented. As we keep putting everything together, I think we’ll surprise a lot of people.”

Notre Dame’s Dusan Mahorcic (13) reacts after dunking the ball against Carmel on Friday in Niles.

He earned a spot in the Dons’ rotation last winter backing up five senior starters. He’s now settling into a new role, that of the seasoned, focal point on an exceedingly young squad.

Like many European transplants, Mahorcic is comfortable on the perimeter despite his 6-9 frame.

Mahorcic traces that to primarily playing on the wing while growing up. He didn’t get a several-inch growth spurt until high school. He was 6-0 entering high school.

Basketball, and the accompanying prospect of eventually playing at an American university, was a primary reason for his move from the Balkan country, and there was a transition to be made on the court as well.

“My sophomore year was very tough, mostly because I only spoke a few words of English when I arrived,” said Mahorcic, who lives in Chicago. “I also had to learn how to play basketball here. Back in Europe, there’s a lot more physical play. Here, a lot more fouls are called.”

Mahorcic’s transition to the more tempered brand of basketball in America factored into him shutting down both Notre Dame’s senior and varsity squads two years ago.

His head and his gut still tell him to go to the perimeter, but we’re constantly on him to get more touches inside,” Clancy said. “But he’s come a long way in how he handles himself and we’re leaning on him to show the younger guys the way.”

Steve Reaven is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @Pioneer_Press

Point guard Kilpatrick embraces role as Corsairs’ senior mentor

BY STEVE REAVEN
Pioneer Press

Other players might score more points, receive more notoriety and have more time left to play for the Carmel boys basketball team.

Nevertheless, senior guard Zion Kilpatrick was a critical player for the Corsairs in his final season in Mundelein. He is arguably the player that Carmel counts on the most.

“Zion sometimes gets lost in the shuffle. He’s sort of an unheralded guy,” Carmel coach Zack Ryan said. “But he’s really important for us. He’s our floor manager who does all the little things for us.”

One of those things is sacrificing individual numbers for the betterment of the team. Ryan brought up the idea with Kilpatrick over the summer, and the point guard from Waukegan admitted that he “wasn’t too big of a fan” of the idea at first.

But Kilpatrick soon realized that being a team leader was an honor that made him an integral part in what the Corsairs would try to accomplish this season, and Kilpatrick is more notoriety and have so much confidence in ourselves that we come into every gym thinking we’re going to win.”

“All five Carmel starters have been the team’s leading scorer at least once this season, and Kilpatrick is first on the squad in plus-minus and drawing offensive fouls. “At the end of the day, we all love each other and are just trying to get better,” Kilpatrick said. “We have so much confidence in ourselves that we come into every gym thinking we’re going to win.”

Steve Reaven is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Notre Dame's Dusan Mahorcic (13) reacts after dunking the ball against Carmel on Friday in Niles.

Carmel's Zion Kilpatrick drive to the basket against Notre Dame on Friday in Niles.
Fiona Spuria is a bit of an oddity. She’s one of only two seniors in the Maine South girls basketball team’s starting five. She’s also the lone post player in the four-guard lineup.

And at 5-foot-9, Spuria regularly gives up a few inches to the girls she battles under the hoop.

Yet, the Park Ridge resident continues to get the job done for the Hawks. On Friday, Spuria had four points and a game-high 11 rebounds to help Maine South overcome a cold start, and earn a 49-36 Central Suburban South win over Niles West in Skokie.

Spuria said she’s happy to do the dirty work for a Hawks team blessed with plenty of perimeter threats.

“My teammates are very good shooters, so I just get in there, try to get a rebound and push it back out because it’s hard to go back up because I’m pretty short,” Spuria said.

A post player throughout her career, Spuria said she has learned how to be more effective when she goes up for a shot against taller opponents.

“I’m pretty short for my position, so it’s just kind of putting a little head fake and putting my body into (a taller opponent),” she said. “And when I box out, I just kind of hold it for a second longer, so (the defender) can see if the person guarding me goes over the back. I have to do that extra step that will give me an advantage.”

To help his team overcome its lack of height, Maine South coach Mark Smith said he has also employed analytics in recent years.

Smith said he’s aware of data that suggests 80 percent of rebounds fall to the weak side, or away from the shooter.

When Smith and his staff have charted Maine South’s shots, the Hawks have produced similar percentages.

Smith said playing these percentages has helped his team outrebound many taller opponents. Maine South had a double-digit rebounding edge over a much bigger Lake Forest team in the Hawks’ 48-30 win on Dec. 2.

“I think a lot of (the rebounds in that game) were just knowing where the ball was going to go, and being on the correct side of the court,” Smith said.

Smith added: “We shoot a lot of 3s. When they go in, it’s pretty. But when they miss, the crowd sees a great offensive rebound and a put-back. But what we see is: ‘Boy, she was in the right spot.’”

Spuria said she has successfully incorporated these theories into her game.

Maine South’s Fiona Spuria (50) shoots over Niles West’s Dahlia Maxwell (10) on Friday in Skokie.

“(Smith) tells us in drills, ‘Go to the weak side,’ because that’s where most of the rebounds go,” Spuria said. “I always try to get over there, find a defender and just box out. A lot of times, that’s where the board does go. Shots are a little too long more than they are short.”

The Hawks’ shots were long and short early in Friday’s game, as Maine South (11-2, 3-1) opened the game 0-for-12 from the floor and fell behind 10-0.

Spuria got her team’s first points when she hit two free throws with 1:32 left in the first quarter.

But Maine South bounced back with a 20-2 run, eventually taking a 22-16 advantage into the break. The Hawks were up by 11, 35-24, after three quarters, and led by as many as 14 in the fourth against the Wolves (5-6, 1-3).

“It was a very slow start,” Spuria said. “We just had a hard time finishing, and had to focus a little more. We were just throwing shots up. We needed to put more effort and concentration into our shots.”

Maine South junior guard Sophia Albano had 10 points and six rebounds. Senior guard Hayley Semple added eight points and seven rebounds.

Notes

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During a fourth-quarter timeout on Friday, first-year Niles West girls basketball coach Kyle Braheny addressed his team. Then, Wolves junior guard Lidia Fakhoury spoke to her teammates.

“I’m pretty short for my position, so it’s just kind of putting a little head fake and putting my body into (a taller opponent),” she said. “And when I box out, I just kind of hold it for a second longer, so (the defender) can see if the person guarding me goes over the back. I have to do that extra step that will give me an advantage.”

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Top local recruits excited about early signing day

BY BOB NARANG
Pioneer Press

To hear some of the area's top football recruits tell it, the institution of an early signing period is an unquestioned positive.

For years, basketball recruits have been able to choose between signing in November or April. Now, football players have two options as well.

Maine South running back Fotis Kokosioulis committed to Northern Illinois in April and planned to sign with the Huskies during a brief ceremony at the Park Ridge school on Wednesday.

"I'm so excited to go to NIU that I want to sign right away," Kokosioulis said. "My coaches said (a scholarship) is worth thousands of dollars, so it's like an early Christmas present. It's a good way to show that you are interested in the school, a good way to get the recruiting process done and over with and you can focus more on working hard to get to the next level."

Kokosioulis rushed for 1,626 yards and scored 29 touchdowns as a senior.

The traditional national signing day for football is on the first Wednesday in February, but in April the NCAA approved a new 72-hour signing period that went into effect this year. It began on Wednesday and ends on Friday. Football recruits can still wait until the February signing period, but many recruits are opting for the first period.

Hinsdale Central senior tight end Matt Bjornson pledged a commitment to Indiana in June. He never wavered on his college selection and, like Kokosioulis, was excited to end his recruiting process.

Bjornson planned to sign with Colgate-bound teammate Garrett Oakey at Hinsdale Central on Wednesday.

"I think it's great because if you know where you are already going at this time, why should you wait any longer?" Bjornson said. "The season is done already, so sign early and you can focus on your future team."

New Trier senior tight end Brian Kaiser was among the legion of recruits excited to seal his commitment. He was scheduled to take part in a signing ceremony at New Trier on Wednesday.

"I'm (happy) to be done with the entire recruiting process early," Kaiser said. "I don't see any (negatives)."

While top area recruits expressed no doubts that the early signing day is a positive development, New Trier coach Brian Doll views it with some trepidation.

The loss of seven weeks of evaluation moved up the recruiting timetable, causing coaches from all levels of college football to put more of an emphasis on a recruit's junior year of film. Thus, the possibility of a late-blooming recruit being overlooked increases.

"I don't think you can really totally evaluate a kid off junior film. A lot of players become stronger and better as seniors," Doll said. "Now, so much is based off junior film, but senior evaluation kids can be really good and they miss out on them."

Doll acknowledged the early signing period is beneficial for college coaches as it "helps turn the page earlier on the 2018 team and focus on the 2019 kids a little bit more earlier."

Chris Bowers, the director of player personnel for the Northwestern football team, said the new signing period is a good development.

"From Northwestern's perspective, it's a huge positive," said Bowers, adding, "It's great for Northwestern because so much of our class is committed before signing day. It changes your January quite a bit. The amount of obsessing, discussing and traveling was a lot in the past. It allows some of the nonsense to get out of the way, and gives us a better time for our coaches in January."

Bowers calls it "non-sense." Elmhurst College football coach Ron Planz has another word for it — "babysitting." College coaches had to make sure players didn't change their mind and verbally commit to a different program.

Planz has coached Elmhurst College, which as a Division III program can't offer athletic scholarships, for the last four seasons.

Prior to that, he was an assistant coach at Minnesota State Mankato, a Division II program, for five seasons.

"Coaches (now) don't have to babysit guys all the way to February," Planz said. "Babysitting is a real thing. I think early signing date is exciting and good for college football and benefits the student-athlete more."

The old system was not without its benefits. If a player committed to a school and then the program underwent a coaching change, there was less pressure to find a new home if the desire, or need, arose before the signing period in February. Six SEC schools have changed coaches just this season.

Lake Forest College football coach Jim Catanzaro can't offer an athletic-based scholarship because the Foresters compete at the Division III level. Also, offers from Division III programs are non-binding.

By comparison Division II coaches can offer the equivalent of 36 full football-specific scholarships, which can be broken up into partial scholarships for more players.

Catanzaro is encouraged by the new signing period. He moved up his calendar to offer kids after conferring with Lake Forest College's admission counselors and directors.

"I like it because you will see a number of kids commit earlier to Division II schools, and it will sort out the recruiting pool for us and be more efficient," he said. "It also affects us because kids want to have the ability to sign with all their buddies, so if the Division I kid is signing and the school's going to do an event at the high school, the smaller-level guys want to be a part of that."

Bob Narang is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Trend setters

Elite college football teams use OPRF grad's recruiting company

BY JONAH ROSENBLUM
Pioneer Press

Many bloggers think they know college sports.

Ben Weiss, who entered Northwestern casually blogging about Wildcats recruiting, may be on the verge of reinventing the recruitment of college athletes.

The company he co-founded at Northwestern, Zcruit, allows college football programs to hone in on realistic prospects.

Zcruit was based off a simple quandary that nagged at Weiss — the average college football program, he said, gets 10 percent of the athletes it recruits. Many of the players a program spends time on, it likely never had a chance of landing.

The athlete that has offers from Alabama and Ohio State probably isn’t heading to Northwestern. The athlete that paid five visits to Georgia Tech and declined numerous invites to visit Wake Forest probably isn’t going to end up as a member of the Demon Deacons.

Weiss turned that thinking — and the data it relies on — into a product that is already being used by 13 “big customers,” including nine Power Five schools, a member of every Power Five conference and one of the four College Football Play-off teams, Weiss said.

“We think we have a really fun, exciting start, and we’re pumped to see what we can do next,” said Weiss, a 2017 Northwestern graduate.

With California-based Reigning Champs’ recent purchase of Zcruit and the treasure trove of data Weiss will have access to as a result — the Oak Park-River Forest graduate has reason to be more excited than ever. Per the Reigning Champs website, the company serves 5 million student-athletes and helps them find opportunities to play in college.

“It will allow us to access more schools with more data,” Weiss said. “It will ultimately allow us to go beyond football recruiting and look beyond Division I football into all divisions and ultimately all sports and really make an impact and make a lasting change in how the recruiting process is handled by schools.”

For Melissa Kaufman, executive director of The Garage, a hub for Northwestern innovation that helped incubate Zcruit, the algorithm was corned at The Garage. The Zcruit team poses for a photo at The Garage in 2017. From left, Alex Cohen, Nicholas Karzmer, Ben Weiss, Dino Mujkic, Gautier Dagan and Danny Baker.

The algorithm was complex, incorporating demographic data like GPA, high school size and hometown population; interaction with the client school; and interaction with other schools.

“All of us were working for free,” Weiss said. “It was a big passion project for all of us. We did just countless hours of work in our spare time, outside of class, outside of school, whenever we could. It’s crazy to think about in retrospect what we put into this without making a penny. We didn’t make a penny off this until two years after I started gathering the data and trying to make this an actual thing.”

The numbers sold themselves when they sampled their product with a new class of Wildcats recruits. Weiss said Zcruit had a 94 percent success rate, with 96 percent of the prospects they expected to commit to Northwestern ending up in Evanston.

“Ben and the Zcruit team are a success story in many ways,” said Hunter Hillenmeyer, a Zcruit mentor, former Chicago Bears linebacker and graduate of Northwestern’s Kellogg School of Management, in a press release. “They saw a market need and built technology around it.”

Jonah Rosenblum is a freelancer for Pioneer Press.

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Check back next week to see who our finalists are for the January Athlete of the Month challenge.

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