A perfect fit
Niles Township High School District 219 hires director of equity. Page 4

Turn chores into cheers
Busy parents may think they have no time left to spend with their children, but in a child's mind, quality is more valuable than quantity, says one expert. Make that moment count, even if it's spent in front of the dishwasher. Inside

Musical menu
Northwestern University's Winter Chamber Music Festival offers variety for fans of classical music from Jan. 12-28. Page 20

2017's top tips
From avoiding email scams to buying a car from a reputable dealer, Cathy Cunningham revisits her most helpful advice from the past 12 months to ensure consumers make the most of their money and protect investments. Page 17

Holiday hoops
From Dundee-Crown to Pontiac, local teams take part in annual tournaments with an eye on preparing for the new year. Page 27
SHOUT OUT

Jimmy Borto, fiction writer, coach

Morton Grove resident Jimmy Borto—or “Coach Jimmy” as he is called by the kids he coaches at the Morton Grove Park District—also writes fiction and screenplays and has many other interests. As an employee for Hot Shots Sports, however, Borto is best known locally for the different sports classes he coaches.

Q: How long have you lived in Morton Grove?
A: We came out here in 1993 so it's been awhile. We're a transplant from Chicago.

Q: What book are you currently reading and what book would you like to read next?
A: I am reading John Grisham's "Playing for Pizza." I'm also reading my own books, which I have to do on a daily basis. I write, and I have a book out called "Trampled by the Gods." The book I'm working on now is called "Fruition," and I've written a children's book.

Q: First job?
A: My first job ever was as a security guard. It was in Niles. They created hair products, household items like dishwashing liquid. My GPA in college skyrocketed.

Q: As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?
A: I'd say Wildfire. There's so many great eateries in the Chicagoland area it's hard to narrow it down. In Morton Grove, I frequent Giordano's quite often.

Q: Favorite charity?
A: St. Jude (Children's Hospital) I'd say is up there. Any charity that helps the families defray the costs when children are sick.

Q: Words of wisdom?
A: There's two things: Try to be as less petty as you can be and never disappoint a child.

Q: Favorite local restaurant?
A: I'd say Wildfire. There's so many great eateries in the Chicagoland area it's hard to narrow it down. In Morton Grove, I frequent Giordano's quite often.

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Q: Favorite local restaurant?
A: I'd say Wildfire. There's so many great eateries in the Chicagoland area it's hard to narrow it down. In Morton Grove, I frequent Giordano's quite often.

Q: What is an Interesting factoid about yourself?
A: A lot of people don't know that I've entered long-drive contests in golf. I have a documented 406-yard drive at a charity outing. I do have witnesses. The fairway was 399 and we couldn't find the ball. It was the long-drive hole, but I didn't win it because I wasn't technically on the fairway.
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District 219 hires new equity director

'This was made for me,' Wells says of new position

BY MIKE ISAACS 
Pioneer Press

When a friend told La Wanna Wells about a job opening at Niles Township High School District 219, she immediately took interest — even if she says she didn't know exactly what the "director of equity" was all about.

"A good friend of mine said there's a position at Niles and it's a director of equity position," Wells recalled. "When he said it, it was like, 'What is that?'"

What she soon learned, however, is that this job was everything she was about.

"My exact words when I learned more about this job is that this was made for me," she said.

She was hired in the position starting in the 2017-18 school year.

Wells works to create a school experience equitable for all students who attend NTTHS Dist. 219. A large part is addressing the achievement gap, which she says is addressing the achievement gap, which she says is addressing the achievement gap, which she says is addressing the achievement gap, which she says is addressing the achievement gap, which she says is addressing the achievement gap.

"I feel like I'm the glue, actually," she said because of how widespread her work extends.

Wells recently met with the Niles North School principal to talk about achievement and programs offered for students. The district needs to get black students to graduate at the same rate as everyone else so she looks to create new programs, she said.

At Niles West High School, she is focusing on "a sense of belonging for every student," she said.

"When students feel like they don't belong, really, they just don't see his or her culture at the school," Wells said. Working with district educators, she said, the goal is "to get equity in all layers of the school."

Wells said other school districts miss out on not having an equity director or similar position.

"Education is so fluid and so broad," she said. "Most of the time, equity falls under curriculum and instruction. It's picking out text, it's creating syllabi, it's creating curriculum. Equity needs its own voice."

Wells is the second permanent director of equity at District 219 following Corrie Wallace, the former director of the Niles Township Schools' ELL Parent Center. There was an interim director before Wells.

She credits her parents for instilling in her a sense of justice and compassion. When she was a child, she said, people in need from her church would stay with the family for a short time. Her mother would pack her large school lunches so she could give food to those who didn't have it.

When Wells entered college, she said, she thought her career was headed more toward political science. She attended Northern Illinois University in DeKalb.

"I remember as a freshman in college, there were a lot of kids in our dorm struggling with their English work," she said. "I was her English tutor, so I started helping people on my floor."

She worked with a couple of football players not able to play because of their

grades, and they were able to get back on the field, she said.

"It was just little moments of satisfaction," she said. "I started to wonder why didn't they learn this — not because there was something wrong with them but how did they get into college without knowing it? So I started looking at the inadequacies."

Wells said she has always had a mindset to ask what is missing. "I don't like people to hurt," she said.

According to school district information announcing her hire, Wells came to District 219 from Homewood-Flossmoor Community High School where she had been an English teacher since 2005.

She served the school as the social-emotional academic intervention leader on the School Improvement Planning Committee and coordinated professional development for teachers and staff on improving the academic achievement of underperforming students, according to her biography.

She also served as the school's staff development and literacy content coach and conference speaker.

Wells was named Student Teacher of the Year at NIU while obtaining her undergraduate degree in English teacher certification, according to District 219.

She was named summer cum laude for her master's degree in educational administration, and she was inducted into the Alpha Sigma Nu Honor Society for civic leadership and academic distinction in her doctoral studies for the degree of Administration and Supervision at Loyola University. She continues her professional studies there as a third-year candidate to become a National Board Certified teacher, she said.

Wells's new job in the school district requires long days as she travels among the three schools and district office, and meets with administrators, teachers, parents and students.

"I'm a creative person, so I like the freedom to create programs I know are going to work," she said. "I like getting rid of the red tape and having conversations with all of the stakeholders and getting something done. Here, I can do that."

misacs@pioneerpress.com

POLICE BLOTTER

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

WEAPON

Desmond J. James, 19, of the 7800 block of Keeler Ave., Skokie, was charged with aggravated unlawful use of a weapon on Dec. 19. According to police, officers began investigating a suspicious car parked in the 7400 block of West Oakton Street and found a loaded firearm inside.

RETAIL THEFT

Perry M. Marks, 29, of the 5700 block of North Elston Avenue, Chicago, and sonny G. Wanko, 25, of the 4900 block of Marrona Avenue, Chicago, were each charged with retail theft and contributing to the delinquency of a minor on Dec. 21. According to police, the pair stole a total of $1,719 worth of merchandise from a retailer in the 200 block of Golf Mill Center while using a 6-year-old child acted as a "lookout." The Department of Children and Family Services was notified, police said.

DUI

Waldemar Klimek, 49, of the 8200 block of North Washington Street, was charged with driving under the influence on Dec. 23. He was taken into custody in the 8000 block of North Merrill Street and later transported to the hospital, police said.

Hormoz Moghadasivardeh, 51, of the 9400 block of North Park Lane, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with driving under the influence and damage to village property on Dec. 24. According to police, Moghadasivardeh was involved in a crash near Village Hall, 1000 Civic Center Drive, and his car became stuck in a snowbank.

PUBLIC INTOXICATION

A 25-year-old man from unincorporated Maine Township was ticketed with public intoxication on Dec. 21 after police were called to the 200 block of Golf Mill Center for a report of an intoxicated customer. The man was taken to the hospital, police said.

A 47-year-old woman from unincorporated Maine Township was ticketed with public intoxication and improper serving of alcohol on Dec. 18. According to police, the woman was intoxicated while serving customers at a restaurant in the 9000 block of West Oakton Road on Dec. 22.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

A 29-year-old Chicago man and a 36-year-old Blue Island man were ticketed with disorderly conduct and public intoxication on Dec. 21 after they were allegedly involved in a verbal altercation inside a bar in the 8000 block of West Oakton Street.

ARSON

A car reported stolen out of Evanston on Dec. 9 was discovered on fire Dec. 25 inside a building in the 7700 block of North Lehigh Avenue. According to police, it appeared that the car had crashed into the building before being set on fire.

THEFT

Five unknown people allegedly stole approximately $600 worth of merchandise from a retailer in the 9500 block of North Milwaukee Avenue on Dec. 19.

A woman reported her purse was stolen on the afternoon of Dec. 19 while it was hanging on the back of a chair inside a restaurant in the 9400 block of North Milwaukee Avenue.

More than $500 worth of power tools were reported stolen Dec. 19 from a retailer in the 7100 block of West Dempster Street.

Police said lockers were reported burglarized at a fitness center in the 9200 block of North Milwaukee Avenue on Dec. 24. Credit cards reportedly stolen from the lockers were used at a nearby store, police said.
Lincolnwood police: Man found dead under bridge

Incident similar to nearby occurrence 2 weeks earlier

BY KYRA SENESE
Pioneer Press

Lincolnwood police are investigating the death of a man found unresponsive on a village street Dec. 27 — almost two weeks to the day after a similar report one mile away.

Police responded around 3:55 p.m. to the vicinity of North McCormick Boulevard and West Devon Avenue following a report of a man on the ground, according to a village news release about the incident.

He was found lying under a bridge, unresponsive on the ground.

“Almost two weeks from the incident remains under investigation,” said Beverly Kinowski, administrative assistant to the Nues Fire Department chief, the department had not publicly identified the man or told how he may have died.

“Almost two weeks to the day” follows a similar incident on Dec. 27 after firefighters arrived.

 nginx following a report of a man found unresponsive on the ground near the intersection of North McCormick Boulevard and West Touhy Avenue.

“We didn’t know what they were walking into, so they had to be prepared,” Abraham said. "There was a problem with the burner," she said. "It got overheated and there was lots of smoke."

Abraham said she doesn’t know the full extent of the damage yet, but explained that a lot of family belongings were ruined.

“The whole house had our belongings — my kids’, my husband’s, my mom’s,” she said. “There was damage to things in the whole house. It started in the basement, but the smoke went into all the rooms — the living room, the kitchen, the basement.”

Niles fire officials said the incident remains under investigation.

Kyra Senese is a freelancer.

Basement furnace fire leaves Niles house uninhabitable

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

Fire investigators believe a furnace in the basement of a two-story Niles house was the source of the fire Dec. 27 that has left the residence uninhabitable, authorities said.

According Beverly Kinowski, administrative assistant to the Niles Fire Department chief, the department received a call just before 1 p.m. about the blaze in the 8300 block of Harrison Street. Kinowski said about 60 firefighters responded to the scene.

Kinowski said the source of the fire was a furnace, which caused extensive smoke damage, the primary reason the house cannot be lived in right now. While the fire was contained to the furnace in the basement, she said, the smoke moved to other rooms and floors in the house.

“Smoke got into the whole house — even on the second floor,” she said.

Kinowski said it took between 50 minutes and an hour for firefighters to put out the fire and contain the damage.

Family members and friends were taking away some of the belongings from the damaged house Dec. 27 after firefighters had left the scene. It was unclear immediately after the fire was extinguished how many people had been in the home and escaped.

Densy Abraham said her mother first detected the fire when she saw smoke coming from one of the upstairs vents.

“Smoke got into the whole house — even on the second floor,” she said. "It got overheated and there was lots of smoke."

Abraham said she doesn’t know the full extent of the damage yet, but explained that a lot of family belongings were ruined.

“The whole house had our belongings — my kids’, my husband’s, my mom’s,” she said. “There was damage to things in the whole house. It started in the basement, but the smoke went into all the rooms — the living room, the kitchen, the basement.”

Niles fire officials said the incident remains under investigation.

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Keshet program boosts disabled adults

Offer employment resources for the learning impaired

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

The young adults gathered in Skokie before heading off to their morning jobs were exuberant about the day ahead and ready to share with the Keshet staff recent happenings in their lives.

Keshet, based in Northbrook, offers programs for more than 1,000 children and adults with intellectual challenges, according to the organization's website.

The GADOL program, which stands for "giving adults daily opportunities for living," at Keshet provides vocational and life skills to those with learning disabilities. Every weekday, young adults ages 22 or older meet in Skokie before heading off to workplaces with a sense of purpose and confidence, program leaders say.

They return for lunch as some work part-time and others head off to new afternoon jobs. "We have programs in a number of schools, but that's the educational component," said Keshet board of directors Chairman Shalom Klein, a Skokie resident. "These are adults ready to go to work. They all have jobs."

GADOL is only one program under Keshet, which provides multiple services. Although the program is international, leaders say Keshet has a decidedly local presence within the Chicago area.

"Because we're entrenched in the community, and we're always out with work and taking care of community activities, we consider Skokie one of our major homes," said Keshet CEO Abbie Weisberg, another Skokie resident.

On a December morning, Weisberg stopped by the GADOL space in Skokie, greeting "team members" as Keshet refers to its participants. Some showed their art they had created, others gave a quick hug, a few more played games on computers and tablets they brought along.

"You can tell I'm here all the time," Weisberg said. "I like to be where the action is and see what's going on because it keeps us connected to our real mission." That mission is "to do whatever necessary to allow individuals with disabilities to achieve their potential," according to the organization's website.

More than 30 years ago, a small group of Jewish parents from Skokie and beyond sat around a kitchen table and raised concerns that there were not enough programs for the disabled, Weisberg said.

"Soon after we started, we gained national recognition," she said. "We quickly understood there was a greater need, and we became known not for our Jewish programming — although that was always a key part of our mission — but as being a connector. We became a community."

Keshet board of directors Chairman Shalom Klein and CEO Abbie Weisberg are seen at GADOL Dec. 14 in Skokie. GADOL, a program of the Keshet organization, helps provide vocational and life skills to individuals with learning disabilities.

One workplace for the number of the GADOL adults is Milt's Extra Innings, a kosher restaurant in Chicago. Milt's Barbecue for the Perplexed opened first, employing disabled adults from Keshet, and then the new restaurant was added next door — in part to provide even more work opportunities for Keshet.

Team members also work in funeral homes, book stores, pharmaceutical companies, car dealerships and more. In addition to Milt's, Mariano's, Chicago Jewish Funerals, Home Depot and Weinstein Funeral Homes reflect a sample of employers of Keshet adults, officials said.

Before the adults headed out for their jobs on this December day, art therapist Rita O'Hara worked with a small group at one of the tables. One adult in the program retrieved a watercolor rendering of colorful flowers leading to a peaceful empty bench that she wanted to show off.

"They do some beautiful work," O'Hara said.

One challenge for the program, however, is cost, Weisberg acknowledged. "For every person we take in, there's a $20,000 or $30,000 cost to the organization."

Keshet runs two major fundraisers every year — a concert and a banquet — which raise close to $2 million.

"In reality, I'd like to raise closer to $4 million," she said.

That way, GADOL could serve a lot more than 35 people.

Keshet's educational programs can be found in schools throughout the Chicago area including in Skokie, Northbrook and Chicago. Keshet also runs camps, drawing children from all over the Chicago area and beyond. Keshet has been a consultant for other programs for disabled individuals organized in other countries, leaders say.

Keshet leaders say their success is based on programs that provide children and adults a chance to thrive and join together in a way they never did before.

"These kids are so connected in so many ways," Weisberg said. "There is a sense of friendship, and they walk into whatever program they attend and they feel right at home."
Evgeniev Bookwalter
Pioneer Press

In one of the first court appearances since Evanston Township High School alumni filed civil lawsuits against their former theater teacher, a defense attorney asked for more time Dec. 28 to prepare the cases.

Three former students who graduated from the high school over three decades ago are each suing ETHS theater teacher Bruce Siewerth, alleging that he sexually abused them while they were his students in theater classes and productions.

“They [the school and school district] don’t have records from 1970 in the same quantities that they have from the 2000s,” attorney Stephen Komie said about why he needs more time to prepare his defense.

Komie, of Chicago law firm Komie and Associates, is representing Siewerth in all three lawsuits.

“We have to look for records in storage, dusty old moribund warehouses,” he said.

Cook County Circuit Court Judge Christopher Lawler heard the two cases filed by plaintiffs John Doe 1 and Daniel Roman.

Judge John Callahan Jr. heard the third case, filed by John Doe 2.

All of the cases were heard in a Daley Center courtroom in downtown Chicago. And the judges approved each of the extension requests.

Attorney Mike Mertz, who represents the plaintiffs, said he did not dispute the extension request.

“This is a routine, procedural request,” Mertz said. Siewerth’s attorneys need to “investigate their defense and locate documents.”

Attorneys for the high school, ETHS District 202 and its school board – each also named as defendants in the lawsuits – were not present in court Dec. 28.

Extensions were granted in all three cases. Komie said he expects all three cases to be merged and return before one judge in early March.

Neither Siewerth nor the plaintiffs were in court on Dec. 28.

Komie said the myriad documents he may be trying to access include copies of old ETHS teachers’ union contracts from the years the abuse allegedly happened. Depending on conditions in the contract, attorneys representing the high school, board of education and the school district – also named as defendants in the case – could be required to represent Siewerth as well, the attorney explained.

So far, the retired teacher has retained his own, separate counsel.

“The contracts that existed at the time have to be examined,” Komie said. “There may be a duty to defend.”

Attorneys for ETHS, the district and the board currently do not represent Siewerth, according to court documents.

Siewerth is the focus of an Evanston police investigation and is named in three lawsuits, two filed in October and one in November, all by former students who allege he molested male students during his teaching tenure as an ETHS theater teacher from 1965 to 1999.

Two of the former students and plaintiffs, listed as John Doe 1 and John Doe 2, graduated from ETHS in 1979 and 1980, respectively according to the lawsuits.

Romain, the third plaintiff and former student, graduated in 1985.

Allegations of Siewerth’s alleged sexual misconduct surfaced on Facebook in October, days before ETHS was to host a 60th anniversary tribute to YAMO, its popular student variety show.

School officials said Siewerth had bought a ticket to the tribute show, prompting the issuance of a no-trespassing letter to Siewerth.

It banned him from the school campus and from attending ETHS-sanctioned events.

Siewerth has not been charged with a crime.

Reached by phone in October, Siewerth denied the allegations.

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Lincolnwood officials open emergency warming center

BY GENEVIEVE BOOKWALTER
Pioneer Press

Those in need of a warm respite from the single-digit air temperatures and the sub-zero windchill were invited to the 24-hour warming center in Lincolnwood that opened Dec. 28, village officials announced.

The center will be in the police and fire departments' training room in the Lincolnwood village government complex, and should remain open until temperatures again rise above freezing, said Mike Hansen, Lincolnwood fire chief.

"There's a lot of elderly in town," Hansen said, noting that "pipes freeze, furnaces give out." Some residents use the center as a place to "get some relief until we get family members called" to help, Hansen said.

The shelter doesn't have strict parameters for when it will be open or closed, he said.

Instead, "it's sort of on an as-needed basis," he said. "If it stays below freezing for the third consecutive day is usually when we open them up."

As for when it might close, "we don't expect any heat wave for a while," Hansen said.

The warming center usually isn't heavily used, the fire chief said. But he's still glad the village offers that service for residents who might be in need. Those seeking a warm spot for the night can sleep on the floor and use water from the sink for drinking and washing.

"There's an element of our society that is living outdoors," Hansen said. While some can last for a night or two in the cold, when the freezing temperatures drag on is when homeless folks especially might turn to a warming center.

"It's not the Holiday Inn, but it'll get you out of the cold for a period of time," Hansen said.

Lincolnwood Mayor Barry Bass also stressed the importance of having a 24-hour place where residents can go in case of a cold-weather emergency.

"You never know what can happen," Bass said.

The warming center is at 6900 N. Lincoln Ave., Lincolnwood.

gbookwaler@chicagotribune.com

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Irum Khan, M.D.
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Marlon B. Kleinman, M.D.
Hematology/Oncology of the North Shore

Satyajit Kosuri, M.D.
University of Chicago Medical Center

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District 219 year in review

Leadership changes, lawsuit, football team suspension mark 2017

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

In May, David Ko replaced Mark Sproat as Niles Township High School District 219 school board president at a special meeting at which officials also announced the launch of an independent investigation into accusations of power abuse and unethical conduct by Sproat.

The changing of the guard and subsequent investigation came after girls basketball coach Tony Konsewicz submitted his resignation following the 2016-17 season and maintained he had been harassed by Sproat.

The school board announced it had received five official complaints about Sproat, who did not speak at a special meeting. A lot of other people did. Parents and students came to Konsewicz's defense.

Sproat remained on the board, but he was sent a “letter of directive” in November, according to District 219 officials.

“We are hereby directing you to adhere to the standards described above for the remainder of your service as a board member,” said Ko in the released letter. In November, the board also approved a resolution reinforcing board expectations for conduct by Sproat as a public education trustee.

Then in September, a former NTHS District 219 employee filed a lawsuit against the district and its former head of technology, claiming he was at times required to work overtime, but wasn't paid for it — in violation of state and federal statutes.

Many parents and students attended the Nov. 14 school board meeting when three new auto clubs for Niles West and Niles North high schools were approved.

The approval meant the district was doing away with a popular, but controversial, auto racing club.

The extra-curricular club had been on hold this school year because of insurance concerns raised by administrators. Since the start of school, the district and parents had been talking and researching options to see if the club would continue.

“His club has taught me more than most of my high school career has taught me,” said Niles North student Emily Herczeg, one of many who spoke out. “It's taught me what it's like to be a part of something that's bigger and better.”

Niles North High School student Emily Herczeg spoke during a Nov. 14, 2017 Niles Township High School District 219 school board meeting about how important the extra-curricular auto racing club has been to her. The school board approved new clubs at the meeting, but eliminated the racing club.

The Niles North varsity football team was reinstated to play Oct. 2 following a nearly one-week suspension on allegations of a hazing incident. In this file photo, the Niles North team waits to enter the Prospect High School field for a game on Sept. 9, 2016.
Area senior social organization gets new director

BY KYRA SENESE
Pioneer Press

Marie Dachniwsky was selected to head the Niles MaineStreamers, a social club for seniors age 55 and older, at a recent Maine Township board meeting.

Trustees approved her term at the Nov. 28 meeting.

She had also been recognized as Senior Staff Member of the Year at the annual conference of Township Officials of Illinois, which was held in Springfield in October, according to a township news release.

"My goal is to create programs for all the township residents. We want to make sure to offer fun exciting events (that are) affordable for members of all financial levels," Dachniwsky said.

Dachniwsky takes the helm of the program from Mary Swanson, who retired Nov. 17. Swanson had been the director since 2000, officials said.

The MaineStreamers program serves about 3,000 people at various financial levels, who range in age from 55 to 99, providing a variety of educational programs and recreation that encourage socialization "and promote independence, self-esteem and dignity," according to the organization's website.

Membership is free and open to all Maine Township residents, the website states.

"I am beyond thrilled that our board unanimously approved our choice for the position," said Township Supervisor Laura Morask. "Marie has been an outstanding member of our Maine Township MaineStreamers Department, winning the recent award that recognized her tireless efforts in developing unique, fresh programming for our valued senior members. I am confident she will bring the same steady hand and deep understanding of the unique needs of our senior community to her new leadership role."

Dachniwsky's work with Maine Township began in 2002 at MaineStay Youth and Family Services. She was described as "instrumental" in her efforts to organize the annual garage sale event, which raises money for Adventure Summer Day Camp and the emergency food pantry, according to the release.

Dachniwsky said she plans to include as many volunteers as possible in her efforts as she considers the addition of new programs to attract baby boomers, according to the release.

"I want to keep giving back to the MaineStreamers because I have learned so much from them," Dachniwsky said. "MaineStreamers have taught me about being vital, making new friends and enjoying life. I want to make sure we provide an environment where one huge family that I love can continue to do just that."

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

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Chicago Tribune
More than 200 Illinois laws take effect at start of 2018

BY MONIQUE GARCIA
Chicago Tribune

SPRINGFIELD — It was a dramatic year under the Capitol dome, with Democratic and Republican lawmakers joining together to end the state’s historic budget impasse, raise income taxes and overhaul how money is doled out to school districts, all while clashing with Gov. Bruce Rauner along the way.

Despite the focus on state finances that consumed Illinois politics for much of 2017, lawmakers in Springfield still managed to approve hundreds of other new state laws that didn’t get as much attention but will change what people can and can’t do in 2018. More than 200 take effect Jan. 1.

A measure backed by Mayor Rahm Emanuel to help crack down on repeat gun offenders is among them, as is a change making it easier for transgender people to update the sex listed on their birth certificates. And Aug. 4 now will be designated as Barack Obama Day in Illinois.

Also taking effect is the measure Rauner signed to expand taxpayer-funded abortions, angering some conservative allies in the process. The governor’s move spawned a primary challenge from state Rep. Jeanne Ives, of Wheaton. A lawsuit from anti-abortion groups seeking to delay the law was dismissed by a Springfield judge Dec. 28, but the Thomas More Society said it will appeal.

Here’s a glance at some of the other new rules for 2018.

Criminal justice

Seeking more tools to reduce gun violence in Chicago, Rauner signed a law in March allowing Chicago police Superintendent Eddie Johnson to issue a warrant allows to increase prison sentences for some people who commit repeat gun crimes. Instead of a range of three to 14 years for some repeat gun crimes, judges would hand out sentences of seven to 14 years under the new law. If they want to depart from that guideline, they will have to explain why.

Supporters contend the tougher penalties will help deter crime. Critics counter that there is little proof longer sentences will work and contend that the proposal could lead to a spike in arrests of African-American and Latino men, while doing nothing to address gun traffickers.

Still, the plan won support from Democrats and Republicans alike, in part because it also includes several provisions aimed at reducing the prison population — a key Rauner priority.

“ These second-time offenders comprise a great majority of the criminals that destroy neighborhoods and high crime areas of the state,” said House Republican leader Jim Durkin, of Western Springs, who helped negotiate the bill with state Sen. Kwame Raoul, a Chicago Democrat now running for attorney general. “This is one of the few moments in the past few years where the General Assembly agreed on a difficult piece of legislation.”

Other new laws

■ Defendants accused of murder will no longer be allowed to try to reduce their possible sentences using what’s known as the "gay panic" defense — saying their violence was an act of passion after learning a victim was gay. And sexual orientation can’t be considered provocation for second-degree murder.

■ Crimes committed at churches, synagogues, mosques and other places of worship can now be tried as hate crimes. The measure came about after an increase in vandalism and racist graffiti was reported at religious facilities across Illinois.

■ Similarly, stalking, cyberstalking and sending obscene messages may be considered hate crimes, a change pushed by Attorney General Lisa Madigan to address the growing role technology plays when it comes to attacking victims.

■ People leaving the state prison system will now receive a copy of their birth certificate free of charge. The idea is to remove hurdles that prevent people from leading productive lives, including finding housing and a job and enrolling in education, mental health and substance abuse programs.

■ Lawmakers also tackled the state’s civil forfeiture law, which allows police and other law enforcement agencies to seize property, money, land, vehicles and other property from those suspected of committing crimes. The items are usually auctioned off.

■ Critics have called the practice "wrongful confiscation for profit." The changes would make it easier for property owners to have their cases adjudicated. It would also shift the burden of proof onto officials, as well as increasing that state’s threshold for animals tragically killed as a result of retribution under a measure aimed at protecting the “right to Yelp.” Under the new law, businesses can’t enforce nondisparagement clauses designed to prevent customers from posting critical reviews by threatening them with fees. Those clauses often are included in the fine print of sales contracts.

■ A change pushed by state Treasurer Michael Frerichs will require life insurance companies to inform families they are owed benefits from policies that date to 2000. Companies will be required to check their electronic records against the Social Security Administration’s Death Master File to determine if families are owed payments.

■ Pet owners will be able to post company and product reviews online without fear of retribution under a measure aimed at protecting the "right to Yelp." Under the new law, businesses can’t enforce nondisparagement clauses designed to prevent customers from posting critical reviews by threatening them with fees. Those clauses often are included in the fine print of sales contracts.

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■ Hair salons, barbers, dry cleaners and tailors will be required to provide consumers with a price list for services upon request. The idea is to provide extra transparency to combat the so-called “pink tax,” in which women are charged more money for the same services provided to men.

Schools

■ Preschool and early childhood education programs can no longer expel students, but rather must find programs and services to help them resolve problems standing in the way of their education.

■ Public schools have to provide a designated space for students to breastfeed and provide feminine hygiene products at no cost, in an attempt to prevent students from missing school.

Health

■ Illinois 16- and 17-year-olds can now sign up to be organ and tissue donors when they receive a driver’s license.

■ Parents and guardians still can keep teens off the registry until they turn 18, but advocates say the change could help spark difficult conversations that can help parents make decisions should their children become potential donors.

■ It will be easier for people who identify as transgender to change the sex designation on their birth certificates. Formerly, state law said transgender people could change their birth certificates only if a doctor said they had transition surgery. The new law allows for a change if a medical or mental health professional confirms someone has received "clinically appropriate" treatment. A range of practices, including hormone therapy, would be covered, using a similar standard that already applies to U.S. passports.

■ Lawmakers also took steps to push back at potential health care changes on the federal level. That includes barring health insurance companies from denying coverage for people with pre-existing conditions and preventing employers from penalizing workers who refuse to disclose genetic information or participate in wellness programs.

■ Insurance providers and health care companies would be required to inform each other of plans that cover the cost of gender confirmation surgery. The new law allows insurance providers and health care companies to inform each other of plans that cover the cost of gender confirmation surgery.

■ Illinois will now recognize Aug. 4 as Barack Obama Day, though state workers won’t get time off to honor the former president.
Village officials give public accolades to now-retired Lincolnwood police chief

BY KYRA SENese
Pioneer Press

Village officials issued a news release announcing Lincolnwood police Chief Robert LaMantia's retirement, but public accolades were bestowed on him when he was in attendance at a recent Village Board meeting.

"We appreciate Chief LaMantia's service and dedication to the community," Mayor Barry Bass said before calling LaMantia out of the audience to receive a plaque at the Dec. 19 meeting.

LaMantia served 11 years with the Lincolnwood Police Department before his Dec. 1 retirement and end of a nearly four-decades-long career in law enforcement, Bass said.

LaMantia was appointed as the Lincolnwood chief of police in October 2006 after serving with the Wilmette Police Department for more than 26 years, according to village officials.

Bruce Rottner, retired deputy chief of Chicago Area 3, was sworn in as interim Lincolnwood police chief on Dec. 5. Village officials are expected to conduct a search for a permanent replacement, said Trustee Jesal Patel.

During LaMantia's tenure in Lincolnwood, he worked as staff liaison to the traffic mission, reviewing traffic safety improvements, public hearings on the Crawford Avenue Reconstruction process and many other policy initiatives, the mayor said.

The mayor also said LaMantia was "instrumental" in the village's coffee with the clergy program. Most recently, the chief was responsible for the transition of the emergency 911 dispatch services to the village of Skokie.

"We wish you the best in health, happiness and success," Bass said.

Kyra Senese is a freelance reporter.
Schools should add to P.E., not cut back

Randy Blaser

I was never a fan of gym class. Throughout high school, it seemed like a horror to be endured.

From changing into gym clothes, wearing a jock strap and skins vs. shirts to the ritual shower afterward, which was boiling hot for the first ones in the line and the water was just lukewarm for everyone else, P.E. was a gauntlet to be endured.

So in general, I would be overjoyed to learn the state is loosening the requirements for our students' participating in physical education. Instead of daily physical education, schools can now opt for physical education on just three days a week.

But I'm not overjoyed. I fear schools will take this change as an opportunity to save money and just do without, rather than see it as an opportunity to provide meaningful and important life skills for students.

Let's face it. If there is a minimum, it is only human nature to strive for that floor.

In an age when so many Americans are overweight, suffering from the many maladies that go with obesity and inactivity, is this really the time to cut back on P.E.?

Instead, I think schools should add to it. I would like to see schools view this change as an opportunity to be innovative, especially in consideration over what physical education is all about.

For certainly it is more than just hitting the gym for an hour a day.

It all starts with developing a healthy diet. Not just eating a salad regularly, but also learning to plan a balanced diet on a daily basis, how to shop for food, how to incorporate fresh vegetables and fruits into a healthy meal, and how much fish, chicken and beef is considered enough or too much. Nutrition and exercise go hand in hand, don't they?

And what about the whole industrial food complex that produces the food we eat? How healthy is it really? What does organic really mean? What are alternatives for shopping for healthy food?

How does one really read a food label? Is there a difference between a cage-free chicken or one raised in a factory farm?

Then there is the debate over the recommended daily allowances of everything and the government recommendations. Did politics rather than science shape any of those government recommendations? Are eggs good for you now, or are they still bad? What about milk? Whole milk or soy milk? There's a lot of ground to cover.

Speaking of ground, my father, who grew up on a farm, used to say that anything that comes out of the garden is good for you. In his day he had a beautiful garden with lettuce, potatoes, asparagus, beans, tomatoes, zucchinis, carrots, radishes, melons, strawberries and grapes. Why not teach kids how to plant a garden, care for it and harvest it?

All of this should be part of physical education, along with proper exercise, for today's students.

We have an industrial food complex in this society that does everything it can to keep us eating the worst foods, health-wise, from the addictive snack foods (you can't eat just one) and the sugar-filled junk to the chemical-laced prepared foods.

That onslaught needs to be opposed with knowledge for today's consumers and soon-to-be consumers.

As we have seen recently, the government wants to tax the food behavior of Americans based on what they consider good vs. poor food choices. That is certainly easier to do than regulate the food industry and a better source of revenue, too.

Since government won't require that, we must take the responsibility to prepare and teach our children all aspects of a healthy lifestyle, including how to plan for a healthy diet, how to choose the healthiest foods and then how to prepare it, in addition to exercise.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist.

Holiday season heightens the cruelty of poverty for children

Paul Sassone

It was something to see: Their broad, sweet smiles as they clutched presents to their tiny chests.

It was a rare treat for these children. They are poor. And at the Christmas season, they feel their poverty more than at any other time of the year.

They are hungry while other children feast. They are cold when other children are warm and secure. They know not to ask as other children make a list for Santa. We shake our head and go about our business.

Thankfully, there are people who do more than sympathize or ignore. For weeks before Christmas, TV news shows aired segments of drives and collections to lessen the cruel effects of poverty on children.

We've seen people — the angels among us — gathering food, clothing and toys for kids who otherwise would do without. It has been wonderful to behold.

But...

While I was moved I also was angered. Why are these children hungry? Why are these children cold? Why don't these children have what other children have and deserve?

I can't think of a good reason.

Can you?

We are embarking on a new year. I'd like to be able to believe that in 2018 we Americans would actually begin to eradicate crushing poverty. Maybe at Christmas in 2018, there won't be any news segments on drives to help poor children because there isn't a need for such efforts.

I hope. But I doubt it.

I keep reading that the Republican-dominated Congress has set goals for 2018 that will "reform" aid to the poor programs, Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security.

So much for hope.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist.

Discussing Deerfield's eighth annual holiday drive-thru charity event are (from left) Deerfield Police Chief John Stolzis, Deerfield resident and event organizer Jack Frigo and Mary Anne Glowacz, the police department's communications manager.
Some basic but important resolutions for the new year

Lynn Pettrak
Home on La Grange

It's not the easiest time of year to start fresh, what with the ground all frozen, the tree branches stripped of color and air that actually hurts your face most days.

As we mull over new beginnings and all that comes with the turning of a new fourth digit in the calendar year, it's also the time we're yanking lights off the branches and bushes in front of our house and packing away things that are shiny and sentimental.

But resolve we do, in an annual effort to take stock and perhaps take steps towards change.

For me, in addition to the ubiquitous pledge to fit into jeans that I stubbornly keep in my closet despite the fact that they are now kind of outdated and have remained folded since roughly 1999, I use this time to think of other ways to better myself.

It's not unlike the beginning of the Lenten season that I observe, another timely opportunity to catch up on being a better person. I like to think of the new year, the beginning of Lent and the back-to-school season as the calendar's way of tripping me up and making me measure my failings and hopes.

So here goes my wish list for 2018:
- To curse less. I didn't always cuss like a sailor. Well, I did until I had my first child, then I pulled back for a few years. But lately, I've allowed swearing to seep back into my everyday conversations. I'll cringe a bit when I hear someone dropping f-bomb after f-bomb near me in a public place when my youngest child is around, then I realize how hypocritical that is given the fact that I dropped the same bomb in traffic a half hour earlier.

Yes, they are just words, but the coarseness adds an unnecessary layer of roughness. My mom wouldn't be proud of that gritty mouth of mine, and I'm keenly, guiltily aware of that. I would like to try and be aware of words that tumble out of my mouth, often without much thought.

- To tolerate others' opinions. We all have opinions, and while social media has allowed them to take over and splinter discourse into millions of uncivilized pieces and shards, it's my goal to respect different points of view. If we all had the same view, we'd lose all dimension, perspective and natural shading.

- To use time wisely. I want to spend more productive time in my work, with my family and on my own, to better all aspects of my life. There's enough time to work on my health, go on dates with my husband, talk to my kids (whether they are in the backseat of my car or a phone/text away at college), and check in with my dad, siblings and godmother.

I just need to arrange it better, and a good way to start is by lifting my head from the daze that is so wrongly the first thing I reach for in the morning and the thing that I panic over when it's missing.

Along those same lines, I'd like to let others know I appreciate them. Beyond the holiday and birthday cards and social media likes, I aim to let others know when their kindness or help has made my life or my family's lives better in some way. I notice, but I don't always tell them so.

Losing extra pounds would be great. But gaining more with 2018 personal goals would be even better.

Lynn Pettrak is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Is spring too long to stow away holiday decorations? Depends on the decorator

Eric Scott

The brighter, the better. That's my take on decorations during the holiday season.

When days start to darken early during the winter, nothing lightens up a gloomy evening more than brightly colored light bulbs strewn around trees, houses, car grills, dog leashes ... hey, if you can put lights on it, go for it!

And no matter what holiday you celebrate, it seems like they all gain more presence with more lights in and outside of homes.

But now comes the big question: When should you take down holiday decorations? Well, I Googled that exact query and was surprised by the number of answers — and reasons — that came up.

It's not just about when the weather gets warm enough to take the lights down or because you get tired of the eye-rolls your neighbors give you when you walk by your place ... in July.

According to my highly unscientific research, the decision can be tied to whether you have a Christmas tree, and the timing of when you'd presumably be taking down the lights on the Christmas tree and other decorations.

One superstition floating around is that to take down Christmas trees on New Year's Eve before midnight. Otherwise, it's said, you'll be dragging baggage and bad luck from last year into the new year.

Another belief is that you should take down your Christmas tree on Jan. 5 because it's traditionally considered the 12th day of Christmas. I know, I know. Now, you've got that song stuck in your head.

Then there are traditionalists who time their tree removal to the day of or after the religious holiday Epiphany, which happens Jan. 6. But others believe leaving the tree up beyond Jan. 5 or Jan. 6 brings bad luck.

For many others, removing outdoor decorations all depends on when it warms up enough to spend a lot of time outside unhooking strands of lights from gutters and tree branches.

If it's below freezing for a good part of the new year, I don't blame anyone for waiting until the cold snap breaks long enough to get the job done.

Then there are people who want to stretch their decoration displays all the way into the next greeting card holiday of Valentine's Day — maybe with the addition of some more red lights as we get closer.

So, it appears that if you've got holiday lights up after Feb. 14, we're either sunk into a deep freeze that just won't break, or you really, really like your lights.

And in almost every neighborhood, there's always one home where you can still see holiday lights hanging around well into the spring.

Some are still lit up at night while others keep the lights off — maybe hoping no one will notice while saving the trouble of putting everything back up in the fall. It is either that or the nail gun they used to get the light strands up was more powerful than they thought.

To those of you who take the time to put up holiday lights each season, thanks for making long dark winter days a little brighter.

And for those who need some more incentive to take their lights down before St. Patrick's Day, think about what all those showers in March and April will do to your strands of bulbs.

Plus, absolutely no one looks good taking down holiday lights while wearing a tank top and cargo shorts.

Eric Scott is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
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Chicago Tribune

OPINION

Amid the ugliness of ALS lies the beauty of love

Everything is an opportunity for something. That's what Holly Kahan told a group of women at a recent networking meeting I attended.

That seemed like a reasonable statement that can be applicable to many difficult situations. But what if the situation is that your husband of 50 years has ALS? Does such a devastating illness have room for an opportunity?

I sat down with Holly and her husband, Barry, who in 2015 was diagnosed with ALS (also known as Lou Gehrig's disease) and learned that over the past few years, the couple not only managed to discover opportunities, but they found incredible strength, courage, and of course, a never-ending love.

"The opportunity is that we are spending quality time together with an appreciation of how special it is," Holly Kahan said.

"We make each other happy just by being together," Barry Kahan said. "So when we do anything together — visit our grandchildren, shop, see a movie, go out for dinner or have friends over, we tend to have a ball."

The Kahans, both 72, live in Riverwoods and have three children and seven grandchildren. They met in 1961 at a resort in Wisconsin while vacationing with their families. Barry was 14 and Holly was 13.

"I was tall and Barry was even taller," Holly said. "He was tan and gorgeous and I was afraid to talk to him."

"She was like a little doe. Big brown eyes and tall and thin," Barry said.

When the vacation ended, the two went back to their hometowns and it wasn't until a year and half later that they met again through a mutual friend.

The couple told me their first kiss was in a friend's car, and according to Barry, he went home that night and told his mother, "I met the girl I am going to marry."

Both are University of Illinois graduates. Barry, who graduated from Northwestern law school, has been a real estate and business attorney for 47 years, and Holly is an entrepreneur at heart. She has had a few different businesses, including an ad agency and her current business of 23 years, Holly Kahan House, which focuses on acknowledging people with individualized gifts.

Barry said he first knew something wasn't right with his health several years ago, when he was playing with his grandchildren on the floor and found himself unable to get up off the floor.

"I had been ridiculously active, and I knew something was different," said Barry, whose wife calls him a "home improvement guru." "I'd told my doctors something was off and they'd tell me, 'You're just getting..."
Make time with kids count

Turn chores into games and put the screens away, experts advise. Page 3
Sometimes, cats are ‘top dog’ in the house

By Cathy M. Rosenthal
Tribune Content Agency

A: We recently got a cat from our local Humane Society. He is a 3-year-old male. His cage card said he wasn't good with other cats. It wasn't until we got home that we saw the paperwork also said he doesn't like dogs either. We don't have cats, but we do have a 5-year-old shar-pei. He bloodied the dog's nose during the first encounter.

It has been more than six months now. The cat is otherwise very sociable with people and loves to be brushed and cuddled in our bed. But he is like a ninja with the dog. They aren't big battles anymore; the dog knows to give the cat space. But the cat seems to taunt the dog. He waits behind corners to attack the poor dog and sits in the dog's favorite spots. I think he does this on purpose. What can we do to discourage this behavior? — Chuck, St. Paul, Minn.

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A: Your cat is the dominant “dog” in the house and has set the tone for his interactions with your shar-pei.

Even though your dog gives the cat a wide berth, you can discourage the cat's intimidating behavior by gently moving him along when he looks like he is about to chase or pounce. Then rub a little dab of hairball gel onto his top paw. He will begin licking it off and should lose interest in intimidating other animals.

Q: I have four indoor only cats. They range in age from 2- to 6-years-old. Our problem child is a 5-year-old female cat named Trinity. Before we adopted her at 4 months old, Trinity lost a leg from a dog bite. When we brought her home, she didn't use the litter box. She used the couch instead. After three days, we took her to the vet who said she had ringworm. Trinity was put into isolation and given sulfur baths for the ringworm for almost two months. We visited her regularly to keep her familiar with us. When we brought her home, we noticed that loud noises sent her running. She began to use the litter box regularly, and we had no more issues. We had a rescue cat that lived with us for six months, and a second cat that was injured. We moved almost two years ago, and everything was fine.

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A: I am glad you ruled out health issues first. Trinity's early traumatic life, however, may have shaped her poor litter box habits. When cats are sick or stressed, they often avoid the litter box. Stress, like the temporary cats coming in and out of the home or the strangers working in your home, can all be triggers for her urinating outside the box.

If you need to foster other cats, just know this is a likely trigger for her.

Leave the rug off the floor for now and sprinkle a litter box attractant (available online or at a pet store) to entice her back to the box. When the litter box habit is fully restored, put the carpets out again one at a time to see how she reacts, keeping the carpets away from the litter box area for now.

Also, put several boxes throughout the home and in places where she can't be startled. With cats, it often takes a combination of strategies to bring them back to the box.

Cathy M. Rosenthal is a longtime animal advocate, author, columnist and pet expert who has more than 25 years in the animal welfare field. Send your pet questions, stories and tips to cathy@petpundit.com. Please include your name, city, and state. You can follow her @cathymrosenthal.
Make time with kids count

Turn chores into games and put the screens away, experts advise

By Danielle Braff
Chicago Tribune

Shayna Harris works incredibly long hours at her startup, which leaves very little time to play with her 2½-year-old daughter, whose bedtime is 7 p.m., just 1½ hours after Harris gets home from work.

Harris, a chief operating officer for a Chicago-based startup that stocks healthy food in vending machines, realized very quickly that she'd need to be creative, or her memories with her toddler would consist of a frantic dinner, a hurried bath and an angry bedtime story.

"We cook together when I get home from work," Harris said. "I bought her cooking utensils for kids, and I let her make a mess — salt is her favorite."

Thirty minutes later, they sit down to a homemade meal that was made from scratch.

Mothers spend an average of 104 minutes a day with their children, while fathers spend 59 minutes, compared with the 54 minutes and 16 minutes mothers and fathers, respectively, spent with them in 1965, according to a 2016 University of California at Irvine study.

But those parents didn't hang out front of electronics (a 2016 report finds that parents of tweens and teens spend about nine hours daily using screens), and it's doubtful that they used their parenting time to squeeze in a day's worth of errands.

So while 104 minutes may sound like a lot of time, it may not feel like it to parents, especially when they're being bombarded with Pinterest craft ideas they should be doing with their kids.

Still, there are ways to spend true quality time with your children — even if you're a working parent who feels you can't squeeze another minute from your day.

"If, however, you can snag just five minutes a day beyond chore time to spend with your kids, that would have a significant positive impact on them, said Dan Wolfson, a staff psychologist who specializes in children and families with New York Rennick & Associates.

A form of therapy called parent child interaction therapy, which focuses on improving children's behaviors through the foundation of a positive parent-child relationship, assigns five minutes per day of child-led play, Wolfson said.

"Children often have many demands and expectations placed on them, so providing a space for the child to lead the play can be extremely powerful," he said. "Rather than trying to develop elaborate opportunities for quality time, parents merely need to be present, engaged and attentive to their children to help the child feel connected and cared for."

As the children get older, the goal remains to create the space for them to feel safe expressing themselves.

Wolfson said taking some quiet time in the evenings to sit with your child without an agenda or electronics can lead to meaningful interactions.

"Ask simple open-ended questions, or prompt them with frames such as the high and low of their days," Wolfson said.

"Overall, children just want to feel connected to their parents, so don't worry about the photo opportunities. Simply making yourself fully available for a short amount of time each day will help to create the foundation of safety and care that children long for," Aimee Sahlas owns her own company, The Stage Staging Co. She said spending time with her children often takes a back seat.

"One thing that I try to be consistent with is walking them to and from school," Sahlas said. "We look for nature, play games, chat about our day to come or the one we just had."

With her older preteen, convincing her to walk is more difficult, so she relishes volunteering as the carpool mom.

"It's my only chance to be a fly on the wall to catch all of what those kids are talking about," Sahlas said.
Viral story a timely reminder

'Cat Person' very much of the moment but also shows fiction's vitality

By John Warner
Chicago Tribune

I am trying to identify the proper sound to characterize 2017. Has it been a year for wailing? Quiet sobbing? What about a good, old-fashioned raspberry? THHBBPYTHBPT!

For me, I think it's a kind of exhausted sigh where the exhale goes on so long you feel a little queasy afterward. Some-thing like: Phwoooohoooooo.

Back in August, I wrote about publishing industry worries over a Donald Trump-induced sales slump. I said the Trump presidency was a collective test of our character to see how much of our selves we can maintain as he careens through the public consciousness.

I give myself a C-minus on my own test. I read fewer novels and short story collections than in any of the previous five years (when I started formally tracking my reading). My poetry intake was five years (when I started formally tracking my reading). My poetry intake was five years (when I started formally tracking my reading). My poetry intake was five years (when I started formally tracking my reading).

Maybe I wasn't alone. Early returns on holiday sales have books down 4 percent on year-to-year sales, according to Publishers Weekly. The economy is supposedly booming; something else must explain the slump, right?

So in a year when fiction seems to have less purchase, I was initially surprised when a New Yorker short story went viral recently. "Cat Person" seems about as likely as "Trump apolo-gy," but for a period, Kristen Roupenian's "Cat Person" — a story told from the perspective of 20-year-old college student Margot as she navigates a relationship with the much older Robert — captured audiences' fancy and even spawned numerous think pieces debating Margot's actions.

It's a very well-crafted story, somewhat old-school (in a good way) in its plain language and the way it holds tension as Margot and Robert first flirt at the movie theater where Margot works, before more exchanges via text, until there is finally a date and sex and the aftermath of that sex. I've spoiled nothing with my outline because the power of the story is in the specifics of its execution, how Roupenian puts us so close to Margot.

"Cat Person" would not have gone viral if it wasn't well-crafted, but it also seems especially attuned to the zeitgeist. The ways men and women get entangled as well as questions of power and consent are part of public discourse in a wholly new way. At the National Review, Kyle Smith took the story as an occasion to caution Margot about having so much sex, ignoring that Margot is a fictional character.

The hot takes connecting the story to the zeitgeist are somewhat odd. Writing at The Village Voice, Larissa Pham expressed distress over readers' failure to discern fact from fiction. We lose sight of the potential for art when it's reduced to a cultural football to be tossed around. Roupenian landed a seven-figure book deal with Scout Press for a debut short story collection and novel, according to The Associated Press.

I'm happy anytime serious writing gets serious public attention, but rather than focusing on the phenomenon, I'm going to choose to remember the 15 minutes "Cat Person" took me out of the world of my cares and put me into those of another — baby steps on my way back to a healthy reading life.

John Warner is the author of "Tough Day for the Army."

Twitter @biblioracle

Al Franken's book was heading for a Biblio Award and then, well, everyone knows what happened there. For Paul, I think Michael Faber's "The Book of Strange New Things" will intrigue.

For Anne M., Dwight, Chris Matthews, Al Franken, Giant of the Senate" by Al Franken
2. "A Fine Balance" by Rohinton Mistry
3. "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood
4. "The Underground Railroad" by Colson Whitehead
5. "A Man Called Ove" by Fredrik Backman

— Paul H., Highland Park

Marilynne Robinson's "Gilead" manages to cover a broad swath of American history while intimately tying us to indelible characters.

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ASK THE DOCTORS

Getting IUD to reduce cervical cancer risk may not be necessary

By Dr. Robert Ashley

Dear Doctor: I'm too old (almost 30) for the HPV vaccination that can reduce my risk of cervical cancer. But I read that an IUD could do the same thing. Should I think about getting one, even though I prefer other forms of contraception?

Dear Reader: What a good question — and a relevant one. Cervical cancer is the third most-common cancer among women worldwide. The majority of cases and deaths occur in countries with poor access to regular Pap smears; in the United States, where Pap smears are more readily available, the rates of cervical cancer and cervical cancer deaths are dramatically lower. Vaccination against the human papilloma virus (HPV) — the causative virus that leads to inflammation and eventually cancer of the cervix — has the potential to reduce those rates even further, but the vaccine is given only to young people with no prior exposure to the virus.

The possibility of IUDs as a risk reducer is an intriguing notion that has been raised before. Intrauterine devices, or IUDs, prevent sperm from joining with the egg by either damaging the sperm or creating a hostile environment for it. One study, one that followed 676 sexually active women in San Francisco from 2000 to 2014, conflict with this theory. The average age of the women at the beginning of the study was about 18. The women were routinely tested for HPV, and 85 of them used an IUD at some point during the study. No benefit was seen in either the acquisition or the clearance of HPV in women using an IUD. The authors of this study wondered if IUDs decreased the incidence of cervical cancer by somehow clearing precancerous lesions in the cervix.

In conclusion, I'm not certain that getting an IUD for the purpose of decreasing cervical cancer risk is necessary. It seems even less necessary if you have had multiple negative HPV tests and Pap smears. Nonetheless, for women making an initial birth control choice who are weighing the risks and benefits of an IUD, these studies may be an influencing factor.

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

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

PEOPLE'S PHARMACY PRESCRIPTIONS AND HOME REMEDIES

Antiviral flu medications can help fight off infection

By Joe Graedon and Teresa Graedon

Q: Please remind your readers that there is an effective anti-flu medication, Tamiflu. Two days ago, I noticed a sore throat coming on, and before long I was sniffing, sneezing, coughing and feeling terrible. I had a fever and went to bed, though I couldn't sleep well.

I was in bed shape yesterday, and I realized this might be more than just a cold. Even though I got a flu shot two months ago, I suspected influenza.

I went into my medicine chest and found some Tamiflu. By the time I'd taken the second tablet at the end of the day, I was feeling better, and I actually slept all night. The flu shot didn't protect me, but the Tamiflu made an almost immediate difference. Why isn't this medicine better known?

A: This year's flu shot may not be as effective as people would hope. Australia experiences influenza outbreaks six months ahead of North America. Their data suggest that the flu virus has mutated; the vaccine had low effectiveness.

Oseltamivir (Tamiflu) is an oral pill that blocks viral replication. As a result, your immune system is better able to fight off the infection.

We have never understood why health professionals seem resistant to the idea of antiviral flu medicines. Long before Tamiflu, amantadine was shown to be effective against type A influenza. It never caught on.

Q: I have a friend who fell off a ladder and injured his back. He is not a complainer, so he took big doses of ibuprofen for the pain and kept on with his daily activities.

He then suddenly started losing a lot of blood in his stool. He felt weak, and his wife had him rushed to the hospital. The doctors discovered that he had serious bleeding ulcers as a result of the ibuprofen. He needed several units of blood. This drug is more dangerous than most people recognize.

A: You are quite right about the dangers of NSAIDs such as ibuprofen (Advil, Motrin IB) and naproxen (Aleve). They can irritate the digestive tract. Bleeding ulcers can be a life-threatening adverse reaction.

Q: Can you tell me if there are any eyedrops without preservatives? I heard on your radio show that I should avoid benzalkonium chloride. I can't find eyedrops that do not contain that chemical. Can you help?

A: Look for a product that is labeled "preservative-free." One such is TheraTears. Others include Systane Ultra, Refresh Optive Advanced and NanoTears TF. Our guest expert, Dr. Peter McDonnell, director of the Wilmer Eye Institute, suggested a product with hyaluronic acid. One such is Hylo-Vision HD.

In their column, Joe and Teresa Graedon answer letters from readers. Send questions to them via www.peoplespharmacy.com.
Custom home in Naperville: $2 million

ADDRESS: 463 S. Julian St. in Naperville
ASKING PRICE: $2,150,000
Listed on Oct. 12, 2017
First floor features family room, custom chef’s kitchen with breakfast area, dining room and first floor master suite. Upstairs you’ll find three bedrooms each with en suite baths. Bonus exercise room with adjacent second-floor sport court. Finished basement with full bath. Screened backyard porch with fireplace. Close to downtown Naperville.
Agent: Vicki Hacker of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, 630-476-9455

At press time, this home was still for sale.

To feature your luxury listing of $800,000 or more in Chicago Tribune’s Dream Homes, send listing information and high-resolution photos to ctc-realestate@chicagotribune.com.
ATLAS HUGGED:  
a.k.a. 118 Across

By Fred PiscoP | Edited by Stanley Newman
(stanxwords.com)

Across
1 Taters
6 Gather bit by bit
11 S&L amenity
14 Big Brother
17 Portraitist's prop
18 Transitional state
19 Tangible
21 Two-purpose
22 Boot sole material
24 Singer Del Rey
26 Eerie
27 Number-aligning mark
29 Stun gun
30 Street vendor's vehicle
31 Friend in the 'hood
35 Ukraine's capital
37 Turf Builder seller
41 Unbooked slot
45 Soprano-range
46 Leave quickly, so to speak
47 Vivacity
48 Language suffix
52 Sticky stuff
54 NFL Live channel
57 FireMLaced adjunct
59 Jellied garnish
60 Fourth one counted, perhaps
61 Cabinet department
63 Pedometer reset reading
64 BOGO event
65 Walesa's homeland
67 _-proof (easy to operate)
69 Undercover worker
70 Diarist Nin
71 Fireplace adjunct
73 Italian wine city
75 Good bud
77 Warehouse
80 "Just as I thought!"
81 Thermometer
85 Make known
86 Brown shades
88 Navigation device
90 Roofing piece
93 Sneezmn' reason,
95 Shaved-ice treats
97 Unhappy looks
98 Navigation device
99 Nest eggs, briefly
101 Takes, as advice
105 Tossed fare
106 Italian cheese city
107 As You Like It forest

Down
1 Dry, as vermouth
2 Up to _ (adequate)
3 Takes off the shelf
4 Captain Sparrow portrait
5 Fell in pellets
6 Overfills
7 Cuba _ (cocktail)
8 Board a ship
9 Genesis shepherd
10 Likewise not
11 Van Gogh hangout
12 Show the ropes to
13 Fanatical
14 Fringe group
15 Ole Miss rival
16 Unkempt one
20 Asian priests
21 Shoulder muscle
23 Elvis record label
27 Ava who directed
28 Structure with a keystone
29 _-sized worker
31 Red Monopoly piece
32 Puccini genre
33 Minnesota's iron source
34 Helpful connections
36 News story
38 "Common Sense" pamphleteer
39 Raptor's gripper
40 Knight's mount
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Last week's answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island

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Alien Nation

BY ROBERT E. LEE MORRIS
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

ACROSS

1 Turn in the box
2 Hemsworth of
3 Justice replaced by
4 Remote region ...
5 Remote region ... and what literally ends each answer to a starred clue
6 Wheel connector
7 "In that case ..."
8 Leg up
9 Body shop application
10 Close by
11 Legal document
12 What Jack Sprat's wife couldn't eat
13 Hands over
14 "Can I have a ... of your drink?"
15 "That was close!"
16 Coll. term
17 "Immediately, if not sooner!"
18 Diamond slip-up
19 Factory with
20 "By Jove!"
21 "In that case...
22 AorAngel
23 "That was close!"
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Down

1 Power-increasing gadget
2 19th Greek letter
3 Lobster eater's accessory
4 Aid in planning a trip
5 Follow
6 One percent of a D.C. group—or the group itself
7 Earnest request
8 O'Neill's "Desire Under the ..."
9 Winning by a mile
10 Six-pack set
11 Italian Riviera resort
12 Friend of Jerry, George and Cosmo
13 Comparable
14 Idaho nickname
15 Actress Thurman
16 Best friend
17 Silent — White
18 House nickname
19 Factory with frozen assets
20 "Dr." with MVP awards
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Jumble

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

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

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This week's answers appear on the next page

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I Smiled derisively
44 Babble
43 In this place
42 Griffey Sr. and
41 Banana; ice
40 Cleaning cloth
39 State ones right
36 Trick
35 Tidbit on a relish
24 All
30 Hates
26 Infuriates
23 Suffix for decor
22 Observes
21 Underhanded
19 Remained
18 Optimistic
16 Burial site
15 ___; to: awake
after surgery
14 Sworn promise
13 Cincinnati
12 Burial site
11 Record
10 Cut short
9 Oscar hopeful
8 Illegally
7 To
6 Eatery
5window
4 Take a nap
3 Remain
2 Ar Hofliman
1 Soft drinks

Solutions
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“Tis the Season”
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AVAIL IRON EDEN
SONIA NASA POLE
TWASTHENIGHT
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NOTACREATURE
STEEN RUST MAR
ARMS MOORE MOTO
MAI MACR FARES
BYTHECHIMNEY
ASSAM AES LOY
WOULDBEHERE
ASIS POKE IONIA
LACE ORAL VEINS
AGER NETS ERNST

“MAGNETISM”
WAD MAGAN HAPAP SHEE
SOPA ELLIE AMING ANA
APDOMO KOREE OKLA
SHARP NO ADHE MERE
SARL DIFT LIT MAN
SPINOUTS CONTROL SCAR
ENTREPOSE-KID MAID
THEM WEASEL HALE
ADAM PETE DOOD
KOZU MASH OPEDS
AMMONITE HAT EAS
TAPE STICK ORI TAC
DRAG NICE CODE
POOLS IVE STAG
PSC MANED FEAR
CIAMO TEES ATTACH
DEAN SAG FIBRE

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Last week's crosswords

“SWEET CAROL LINES”
SHEER DECEIT ACTS ASTO
ORATE IRATE SHOP READ
WITH A CORRODIPE BEY
ECUADOR HURSES DES
DANNY ML TIM LEAD PRS
TIMERS GOLF ALONE
ROWBOAT TO WHIF ONE DAY
UNION SENATE DUCK
AMERICA NAS EREN
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NEON DANGLAROUND NODO
SALT BASS STUFF
DEBIT POST SLALOM
ONUS ENTRE OPERA
ILL BE BACK AGAIN SOMEDAY
GAUSSELNIS IN COOT
OBSESS INTERNAL TEAM BAC
TETANUS LOQ EARKAKE
COLD RAPID RIVER
HUES READ APT AT WAEK
AFRO SPRY LOTUS LOTTO
MOSY

Last week's Quote-Acrostic

(Lin) YUTANG: SHEDDING OF A TEAR:
Let him cry whoever feels like it, (for)
we were animals before we became
reasoning beings, and the shedding of a
tear, whether of forgiveness or of pity or
of sheer delight at beauty, will do him a
lot of good.

Last week's Sudoku

This week's Jumble

INSIST OCTANE GYRATE
SLEEPY LOUNGE GERBIL
The weightlifters were in their 70s
and 80s, but they were —

STILL GOING
STRONG

chicago
tribune.com
/games

Interactive puzzles and
games
EMPLOYMENT
Help Wanted Full Time
Auto & Equipment Repair & Maintenance
4468230
Wheeling, IL www.signatureflight.com/employment

Junior Database Administrator
4455359
Skokie, IL Resume to careers@paynetonline.com
KNOWLEDGE WORKS, INC DBA PAYNET, INC Education requirement: bachelor's degree in business administration, accounting or computer info system. Experience requirement: minimum one year. Skill requirement: SQL scripting and administration. Responsibilities: Maintain SQL Server database under the guidance of the Senior Database Administrator; Provide needed database support to software developers and all other technology sources; Implement change requests and work orders through development, quality assurance and production environments; Customize and execute ad-hoc scripts to fix data where need be; Write and implement queries to fulfill customer requests, learn PayNet's operational process, and troubleshoot when failures occur.

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NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on September 27, 2018, an order of the Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois, to sell at public auction to the highest bidder for cash, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

Cook County, Illinois, sale at public auction to The Judicial Sales Corporation, No third party check for 10% of the successful bidder's deposit shall be accepted. The balance in certified funds/or wire transfer payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.judicialsales.com for further information. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver’s license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in any other county venue where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. You may also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.judicialsales.com for a 7 day report of pending sales.

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This document contains several notices and legal notices, including:

- A notice of a foreclosure sale for a property located at 2011 5th Avenue, Maywood, Illinois 60153.
- A notice of a special use permit for a property at 5000 West Lake Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60202.
- A notice of a zoning variance for a property at 5000 West Lake Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60202.
- A notice of a zoning variance for a property at 5000 West Lake Avenue, Evanston, Illinois 60202.

In addition, there are several advertisements, including:

- An advertisement for a real estate agency, with contact information provided.
- An advertisement for a real estate investment opportunity, with contact information provided.
- An advertisement for a real estate development opportunity, with contact information provided.

There are also several legal notices and notices of sale, with contact information provided for each.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
CONCERNING THE INTENT TO
Ssell bonds of the District in the
amount of $8,000,000 for the
purpose of increasing the working
fund of the District.

The hearing will be held in the
Learning Center of Field School,
26100 Landwehr Road, Skokie, Illinois,
2055 Landwehr Road, Skokie, Illinois,
the entrance being located at the
Cook County, Illinois, from
believing located at the District Office,
field School, Skokie, Illinois, the entrance be-
held in the Learning Center of Field School,
26100 Landwehr Road, Skokie, Illinois,
the entrance being located at the
District Office, Skokie, Illinois, the entrance be-
the purpose of increasing the working
fund of the District.

This hearing notice is hereby given in accordance with the
purpose of increasing the working
fund of the District.

DATED the 14th day of December, 2018, at 7:30 o'clock PM.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIV-
EN that School District Number 31, Cook County, Illinois,

The hearing will be held in the
Learning Center of Field School,
26100 Landwehr Road, Skokie, Illinois,
the entrance being located at the
District Office, Skokie, Illinois, the entrance be-
the purpose of increasing the working
fund of the District.

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DATED the 14th day of December, 2018, at 7:30 o'clock PM.

THE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIV-
EN that School District Number 31, Cook County, Illinois,
We are about building a better future FOR ALL

Be part of improving the story.

Your gift to Chicago Tribune Charities Holiday Campaign
- **Encourages** at-risk youth to succeed in school
- **Builds** job and literacy skills for unemployed adults
- **Protects** vulnerable families and children from domestic abuse

**MAIL** Return this form • **VISIT** chicagotribune.com/donate

Name ____________________________________________
Address __________________________________________
City __________________________ State ________ ZIP ______
Telephone __________________________ E-mail ________

Enclosed is my donation for:  □ $35  □ $50  □ $75  □ $100  □ Other $ ______

Paymen Options:

□ My check is enclosed, payable to: Chicago Tribune Charities - CCF

□ Please charge my credit card:  □ Visa  □ MasterCard  □ American Express  □ Discover Card

Card # __________________________ Expiration Date ________ Signature ________

Mail to: CHICAGO TRIBUNE CHARITIES - CCF

C/O THE CHICAGO COMMUNITY TRUST

225 N. MICHIGAN AVENUE

SUITE 2200

CHICAGO, IL 60601


Chicago Tribune Charities is a donor advised fund of The Chicago Community Foundation, a corporate affiliate of The Chicago Community Trust.
The top 8 consumer tips of the year

In wrapping up 2017, I pulled together some of Help Squad's top consumer tips from the past 12 months. Thanks for reading and happy 2018!

USE SOCIAL MEDIA TO YOUR CONSUMER ADVANTAGE

There's a new twist on the old saying, "The squeaky wheel gets the grease." In the age of the internet and social media, this saying has morphed into, "The publicly posted complaint gets the resolution." Post directly to companies' social media pages, their online user communities and/or the Better Business Bureau for prompt attention to your consumer issues.

REACH AN ACTUAL HUMAN

Quickly locate customer service phone numbers, live chat links, email addresses and help desk contact information for thousands of companies with the highly-rated GetHuman app for iOS and Android (also on the web at gethuman.com). Enter your number and GetHuman will call you back when you're first in the customer service queue. Also find Twitter handles and Facebook page names for easy access to companies' social media pages.

BE SMART WHEN PURCHASING A USED CAR

- If a dealership doesn't allow you a third party mechanic inspection, think twice before purchasing.
- Inspection costs range from $65 to $130 and should include raising the vehicle, pulling off the wheels, checking fluids, looking for leaks, checking for worn suspension parts, scanning modules and doing a good road test.
- If a vehicle is within factory warranty, check its history for collision. The warranty may be void where repairs were made.

Walk away from any dealership that says you must:
- First qualify for a rebate.
- Purchase an extended service contract to get the advertised price.
- Pay additional "dealer prep" or "lot fees."

SPOT PHISHING EMAILS

- Check the originating email address, not just the sender name. Don't be fooled by an address that at first glance appears legit.
- Verify embedded URLs before clicking. Hover your cursor over the link, or click the drop-down arrow that appears.
- Forward phishing emails to the company being spoofed. See companies' customer support web pages for guidance.
- Report scam messages to your email provider. Search "Report phishing to (provider name)" for directions.
- Don't ever reply with sensitive information, such as your bank account, username, password, Social Security number or credit card number. Companies don't ask for this via email.

STOP SPAM TEXT MESSAGES

- If you are an AT&T, T-Mobile, Verizon or Sprint subscriber, report spam to your carrier by copying the message and forwarding it to 7726 (SPAM), free of charge.

DON'T PURCHASE AN EXTENDED WARRANTY

Most credit card issuers offer extended product warranties to their cardholders — a benefit many consumers are unaware they have. Many have no annual fee and offer charge less than $60. Some cards will double an original warranty up to one year, while others will extend it up to two. Typically neither will exclude a claim based on wear and tear or the fact that an item was refurbished. Examples of cards providing this protection include Capital One Venture and Citi Thank You Premier.

MOST GIFT CARDS DON'T EXPIRE BUT SOME CAN BE TURNED OVER AS UNCLAIMED PROPERTY

As of Jan. 1, 2008, no gift certificate/card issued by a single merchant or affiliated group of merchants (i.e., a group of stores owned by a single corporate entity) can expire. In Illinois, if a stored-value card such as a prepaid Visa or Mastercard, is not used within five years, it's considered abandoned, and by law must be turned over to the Illinois State Treasurer's office as unclaimed property. A card's five-year countdown can be reset, however, if additional funds are added or the cardholder calls the 800 number to check the balance.

ALWAYS PAY WITH A CREDIT CARD

Do not make major purchases with a debit card, check or cash — none provide the same consumer protections as a credit card. Your credit card issuer can investigate on your behalf and, as necessary, work to get you a charge-back.

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

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist.
COMMUNITY REAL ESTATE HOMES IN YOUR AREA

LAKE ZURICH
Address: 21388 W. Highland Drive
Price: $279,900
Schools: Lake Zurich High School
Taxes: $4,237
Agent: Joan Couris/Keller Williams

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS
Reconfigured home with three above-grade bedrooms, one basement bedrooms and four bathrooms. Master suite with built-in cabinetry, hardwood, gas fireplace, master bath and washer/dryer area. Open concept first floor with plantation shutters in living room. Island kitchen with classic cabinets. Finished partial basement with laundry area and recreation room. Large deck overlooking fully fenced yard. Attached two-car garage.
Address: 1304 W. Vine St.
Price: $599,900
Schools: Rolling Meadows High School
Taxes: $9,303
Agent: Bill Brucks/RE/MAX Suburban

MORTON GROVE
Six-bedroom, three-bathroom colonial home. Refinished hardwood floors throughout. Fireplace in main level family room. Five bedrooms upstairs with sixth on main level which could be used for other purposes. Newer appliances. Master suite has California closets, custom shoe bench and TV stand. Dual sinks in master bathroom. Basement finished in 2016. Concrete driveway leads to attached two-car garage.
Address: 8825 Moody Ave.
Price: $549,900
Schools: Niles West High School
Taxes: $13,969
Agent: Patrick Alvarez/Jameson Sotheby's International Realty

GURNEE
Five-bedroom, four-bathroom home. Renovated white kitchen with granite counters, stainless appliances, breakfast bar, island and eating area. Family room has fireplace and vaulted ceilings. Formal living and dining rooms. Master suite with enclosed shower and tub and two walk-in closets. Finished basement with recreation room. Fenced yard.
Address: 575 Kingsport Drive
Price: $379,900
Schools: Warren Township High School
Taxes: $11,099
Agent: Doug Anderson/Blue Fence Real Estate
Listing from Homefinder.com

VOTE AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM/ATHLETES

Celebrating success.
Celebrating the journey.

COUNTRY FINANCIAL PRESENTS:
HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETE
OF THE MONTH

Celebrating success.
Celebrating the journey.

VOTE AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM/ATHLETES
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<th>ADDRESS</th>
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<td>1177 Everett Ln, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Mehrdad Bullin</td>
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<td>1675 Mill St, #501, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Bohdan Pawlik &amp; Anna Pawlik</td>
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<td>1352 Evergreen Ave, Des Plaines</td>
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<td>2215 Douglas Ave, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Tadeusz Gavel &amp; Mieczyslawa Gavel</td>
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<td>Kevin M Johnson &amp; Kathleen M Johnson</td>
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<td>921 Carlow Dr, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Ayasha Bulaji &amp; Myla Sagbo Bag</td>
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<td>1504 E Walnut Ave, Des Plaines</td>
<td>Joseph F Eisenhart &amp; Amber N Enkkin</td>
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<td>547 E Lincoln Ave, Des Plaines</td>
<td>James W Lowery &amp; Christine L Silva</td>
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<td>8272 Ferris Ave, Morton Grove</td>
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<td>6640 Wauggan Rd, #529, Morton Grove</td>
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<td>5801 Warren St, Morton Grove</td>
<td>Linda Noriega</td>
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<td>8113 Callie Ave, Morton Grove</td>
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<td>8542 Georgiana Ave, Morton Grove</td>
<td>Annmar Syed Azeem &amp; Ali Azeem</td>
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<td>7040 Foster St, Morton Grove</td>
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<td>9731 N Feil Glen Dr, #2E, Niles</td>
<td>John Puhn</td>
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<td>8001 W Courto Dr, #101, Niles</td>
<td>Habibollah Latash &amp; Asif Labash</td>
<td>Sophia Berman</td>
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<td>7566 Nicollet Ave, Niles</td>
<td>Matthew T Smith &amp; Kristina M Trevino</td>
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<td>6955 W Jarvis Ave, Niles</td>
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<td>7424 W Jonquil Ter, Niles</td>
<td>Machele S Manog &amp; Charles D Manog</td>
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<td>41 Morris St, Park Ridge</td>
<td>Nicholas A Marino &amp; Kelsey E Marino</td>
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<td>1475 W Holley Ave, #202, Park Ridge</td>
<td>Marian Delhi&amp;udes &amp; Helen Douda</td>
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<td>41117 Delphi Ave, Park Ridge</td>
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<td>1217 Bev Dr, Park Ridge</td>
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<td>217 Lathem St, Park Ridge</td>
<td>Preston Sprague &amp; Elizabeth Scruggs</td>
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<td>217 S Hamlin Ave, Park Ridge</td>
<td>Dane S Placzak</td>
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<td>10 N Northwest Hwy, #308, Park Ridge</td>
<td>Kevin Velan</td>
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<td>331 Warren Ave, Park Ridge</td>
<td>Martin Friel</td>
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<td>2024 Oakton St, Park Ridge</td>
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<td>315 S Lincoln Ave, Park Ridge</td>
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<td>925 S Home Ave, Park Ridge</td>
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<td>313 S Fairview Ave, Park Ridge</td>
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<td>1340 S Crescent Ave, Park Ridge</td>
<td>Lisa Lamachira &amp; Garth Johnson</td>
<td>Pasquale A Frittetti</td>
<td>10-20-17</td>
<td>$735,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>509 S Fairview Ave, Park Ridge</td>
<td>Paul Lisowsky &amp; Mova Lisowsky</td>
<td>Raymond S Saska</td>
<td>10-17-17</td>
<td>$900,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>415 S Vine Ave, Park Ridge</td>
<td>Daniel Press &amp; Sara Press</td>
<td>Ashley Hendrickson</td>
<td>10-24-17</td>
<td>$830,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>500 Warren Ave, Park Ridge</td>
<td>David &amp; McBride &amp; Magalakhan Wroniak</td>
<td>Zachary Judd</td>
<td>10-23-17</td>
<td>$865,000</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 • 630-557-1000 • public-record.com
Northwestern University's Winter Chamber Music Festival at Pick-Staiger Concert Hall in Evanston is serving a musical menu for classical fans of every taste from Jan. 12-28.

All concerts are at 7:30 p.m., with the addition of a 3 p.m. concert the final day by violinist Jennifer Koh.


The second weekend of this 22nd annual festival also includes two chamber music programs Jan. 19 and Jan. 21 featuring members of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, faculty from Northwestern's Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music and guests.

The festival closes Jan. 28 with violinist Jennifer Koh, who studied at the Music Institute of Chicago in Winnetka, doing two concerts, at 3 and 7:30 p.m. The concert is titled "Shared Madness," focusing on Paganini's 24 virtuosic caprices.

The imaginative programming is the brainchild of the festival's founder, Chicago Symphony violinist Blair Milton, associate professor of violin at the Bienen School. Every four years he heads to Canada for Banff International Chamber Music Competition, the prestigious proving ground for emerging quartets.

"That's where I found the Rolston," Milton explained. "They won in 2016 and are the first (quartet) winners since the Dover Quartet, which is now our quarter-in-residence here at Northwestern."

He discovered the Dudok Kwartet Amsterdam back in the fall of 2012. "I was serving on the panel for the Joseph Joachim Chamber Music Competition in Weimar, Germany," he explained. "The Dudok was the quartet winner that year, and we've been trying to get them here ever since."

Like Milton himself, the Rolston String Quartet is from Canada. The Rolston String Quartet was formed in the summer of 2013 during a chamber music residency at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. "The name was chosen to honor Thomas Rolston," said the quartet's second violin Jeff Dyrdal. Rolston was the late Canadian violinist, founder and longtime director of the Music and Sound Programs at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity. "It's something to live up to."

The festival concludes with a stunning display of violin virtuosity. At 3 and 7:30 p.m. Jan. 28 Jennifer Koh will take on the challenge of Paganini's 24 caprices, composed between 1802 and 1817 and regarded as a technical summit for solo violinists. But there is a twist. She commissioned 24 composers to write caprices inspired by Paganini and called the effort "Shared Madness."

"Well, it has turned out to be 30 composers," admitted Koh, who was named Instrumentalist of the Year by Musical America in 2016. "Each one of my programs is different. It was suggested that the pieces be about three minutes long, but some are longer. Some are lyrical, some are electronic, others have extended techniques. Each has a different voice." Koh expressed the belief that these two programs will give audiences a window into the future of music in the 21st century.

"Shared Madness" tickets are $30 for a single performance or $50 for both, and $10 each for students with a valid ID. Festival subscribers receive tickets to both performances for the price of one.

Tickets are available on the Concerts at Bienen website, by phone at 847-467-4000 or by visiting the Pick-Staiger Concert Hall box office at 50 Arts Circle Drive on the Evanston campus.

Milton's done the math on his festival and come up with some impressive numbers. "In our 22 years we've had 20 different string quartets and 147 composers," he said, obviously pleased. "Yes, I invite the performers, but I also hear from agents who would like me to hear their clients and include them in the festival."

Dorothy Andries is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
WHAT TO DO COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Thursday, Jan. 4

Google Expeditions Augmented Reality Demonstrations: Be one of the first in the world to experience Google's latest augmented reality technology with a free demonstration. Experts from The Google Expeditions Pioneer Program provide hands-on presentations of this exciting 3D equipment. Virtual reality topics include dinosaurs, forces of nature and the ocean floor. For more information, call. 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Thursday, The Grove's Interpretive Center, 1421 Milwaukee Ave., Glenview, free, 847-299-6096

Sing-a-Long “Moana”: Set a course to worlds unknown and make your whole family proud. You know the way (but just in case you forget the words, we'll have them on display). You're welcome. Shiny accessories encouraged but not required. Please register at glenviewpl.org/register or call. 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Sew Cool: Beret, Scarf & Mittens: Get into the winter spirit by making a beret, scarf, and mittens in this three-part series. Come to one class or all three. Materials provided. 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

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. It is rated PG, 90 minutes. 1 p.m. Thursday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Winter Break: Enviro-STEM: Get your child's brain in gear before school starts! Kids will learn about animals, plants and the earth through science experiments, Lego projects, and natural observation. Most projects will be done indoors, but we will go outside for a short time. Register for one or both sections (morning session runs 9:00-noon and afternoon section runs noon-3:00) by bringing a packed lunch to the afternoon session. Ages 6-10. 9 a.m. and noon Thursday, Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, $18 (Skokie resident); $23 (non-resident), 847-677-7001

Friday, Jan. 5

Miles Nielsen & The Rusted Hearts: 8 p.m. Friday, Evanston Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $12-$22, 847-492-8860

“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 Mitz?” 8 p.m. Fridays and 3 p.m. Sunday, Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2815 Central Park Ave., Evanston, $20-$25, 847-869-9210

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. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Creator Studio: Boredom buster in a creative paradise. Bring your ideas to fruition with our craft supplies. Just drop in at 10 a.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Groove3 Dance Fitness Party: To celebrate the New Year and Park Center Health and Fitness' 17th anniversary, fitness instructors Kristy and Molly offer a free Groove3 dance fitness party for 90 minutes of Los Angeles' hottest choreography. For more information, visit gefitglencoe.org or call. 7 p.m. Friday, Park Center Health & Fitness—Studio I, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, free, 224-521-2608

Friday Night Salon Concert: Baritone Leo Radosavljevic performs, accompanied on piano by George Radosavljevic.

Saturday, Jan. 6

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

Restoration Work Days: Make a difference in the environment by collecting seeds or removing non-native, invasive plants. This makes way for native wildflowers, grasses and trees. No advance registration necessary, but bring your work gloves. Work parties may be cancelled in case of inclement weather. 9 a.m. Saturday, Fuller Air Station Prairie/Tyners Interpretive Center, 2400 Campus Road, Glenview, free

Saturday Kids Club for Ages 2 and up with Adult: Co-sponsored by The Glen Town Center Registration: theglentowncenter.com. Stories, crafts, and loads of fun! 10:30 a.m. Saturday, The Book Market at Hangar One, 2651 Navy Blvd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

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. Saturday, 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!

Sunday, Jan. 7

American English: 6 p.m. Sunday, Evanston Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $16-$36, 847-492-8860

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. Sunday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Stem Class—Wacky Winter Wonderland Science: This is for ages 5-10 to investigate the science of winter: making fluffy snow, exploring pine cone 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. Sunday, 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 fun for the whole family. 2 p.m. Sunday, Parkway Bank Park, 5501 Park Place, Rosemont, free, 847-349-5008

Monday, Jan. 8

Game On—Board Gaming for Adults: Play their assortment of board, dice and card games featuring strategy favorites like “Settlers of Catan,” “Ticket to Ride” and “Pandemic.” Library staff (and fellow gamers) will be on hand to help show you the ropes. Just drop in with your friends or make new ones. 6:30 p.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Turn to Calendar, Page 22
ية هو الاستمرار في البحث والتعليم والتعلم، وتعزيز الوعي والثقافة في المجتمع. كل يوم، ننمي معرفتنا وتزداد ثقافتنا، وكأننا نعيش في عالم مبكرًا. من خلال هذه المحافل، نستطيع نشر المعرفة وتعميق التفاهم مع الآخرين. هذه هي قيمة كبيرة يتطلع إليها الجميع.

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WHAT TO DO COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Calendar, from Page 22

Homeschool Open House: Meet other homeschooling families and learn about the many and varied library resources available to homeschoolers. Just drop in 10 a.m. Jan. 12, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Valentines for Veterans: Put a smile on a hero's face. Create special valentines that will be distributed to hospitalized veterans during National Salute to Veterans Week. Just drop in 3 p.m. Jan. 12, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, free, 847-729-7500

Video Games, Pizza & More (Ages 13-18): Play video games on big screens using the Library's game consoles and game collections— including Wii, Xbox 360 and PS4. Pizza is generously donated by Marco's Pizza. Just drop in 5 p.m. Jan. 12, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, free, 847-729-7500

Saturday, Jan. 13

"The Wizard of Oz": Big Noise Theatre "Especially For Kids" brings to life, on stage, the most beloved tale of all time! Dorothy and her three friends trot delightfully and tunefully down the fabled road of yellow brick to meet the Wizard of Oz. 10 a.m. and noon Jan. 13, Prairie Lakes Theatre, 515 E. Thacker St., Des Plaines, $15, 847-604-0275

Kate Voegele & Tyler Hilton: 8 p.m. Jan. 13, Evanston Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $20-$50, 847-492-8860

Artemis Singers Rise Up Concert — Jan. 13: Artemis Singers, Chicago's lesbian feminist chorus, present "Rise Up," a call-to-action concert of progressive, energizing music. The guest artist is Melanie DeMore and students from Evanston Township High School. The Artemis Singers specialize in performing music written or arranged by women. The concert tickets are a suggested donation of $20 advanced for adults; $25 at the door; for seniors age 65 and older, students; and children 12 and younger, tickets are a suggested donation of $15, with ID, in advance or at the door. 7 p.m. Jan. 13, Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Ave., free, 847-729-7500

Stage Russia HD: "Uncle Vanya": This unique adaptation is about what Chekhov's characters think and what they admit to only at moments of emotional turmoil. A Golden Mask Winner for Best Drama, "Uncle Vanya" features the inimitable Sergiy Makovetsky as Voyntitsky. This is presented in Russian with English subtitles. 2 p.m. Jan. 13, Evanston Township High School, 1600 Dodge Ave., Evanston, $10-$20, 847-491-7282

Move Your Feet: Hoedown — Square Dancing 101: Do-si-do and allemande left with the help of the Glenview Squares dancers and callers. No experience is needed, no special outfits required, and no partner is expected. Just come and laugh the afternoon away. Co-sponsored by the Glenview Park District and families are welcome. Please register at glenviewpl.org/register or call 2 p.m. Jan. 13, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, free, 847-729-7500

Miss Jamie's Farm: Sing, dance, laugh and learn with Miss Jamie and her (puppet) farm friends during an interactive family concert. Please register at glenviewpl.org/register or call 10:30 a.m. Jan. 13, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, free, 847-729-7500

Saturday First Run Feature: "Battle of the Sexes": The true story of the 1973 tennis match between World No.1 Billie Jean King (Emma Stone) and ex-champ and serial hustler Bobby Riggs (Steve Carell). Call or visit the library's website to reserve a spot. 2 p.m. and 7 p.m. Jan. 13, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, free, 847-272-6224

Havdallah, Dinner and a Movie — January: Discussion leader Reid Schultz reviews the film, "Tikkun" (Directed by Avishai Sivan, 2015). Come watch the film, and join in for dinner, movie snacks and Havdallah. RSVP to Bernie 847-498-5601 at extension 46 or bbalbot@bethshalomnb.org. 5:30 p.m. Jan. 13, Congregation Beth Shalom, 3433 Walters Ave., Northbrook, $25 nonmembers, $22 family, 847-498-4100

Twenty-first Star Chapter NSDAR January 2018 Meeting: A luncheon is served at noon with a meeting and program to follow. Vice Regent, Sheilla Azzling, presents a program entitled, "Your Family Heirloom." Contact Second Vice Regent Dorothy Wilson at 847-328-6946 for further details. 11:30 a.m. Jan. 13, Park Ridge Country Club, 636 North Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, $22.50, 847-328-6946

Professional Bull Riders: The PBR will be celebrating 25 years during the 2018 season. The top bull riders in the world will converge on The Windy City. 6:45 p.m. Jan. 13, Allstate Arena, 6920 Mannheim Road, Rosemont, $20, 847-635-6601

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Maine South's Gardiner 'all the way back' after tearing ACL

BY GARY LARSEN
Pioneer Press

Maine South senior Tommy Gardiner said he feels like he's 100 percent healthy again after tearing his ACL and missing nearly all of last season. His performance in a 62-49 win over Richards suggests that he's right.

Gardiner, a 6-foot-7 forward, had 15 points, a team-high nine rebounds and four assists in the opening-round game at the Hinsdale Central Holiday Classic on Dec. 27.

"It feels good to get back," Gardiner said. "I had surgery in January and then physical therapy, which was mentally and physically exhausting for sure. It's a lot of work but I just wanted to come back and play basketball."

Gardiner injured his knee in the sixth game of his junior year, disrupting what began as a breakout season. He was averaging 17 points and eight rebounds at the time of the injury.

"He was arguably our best player," Maine South coach Tony Lavorato said.

Gardiner was cleared to play in August and began the slow journey back to basketball. Gardiner's skills were rusted after after a year off.

"He got cleared and he started slow," Lavorato said. "We put a lot of pressure on him early in the season and he just wasn't ready. But he's getting better and better and (on Dec. 27) you saw him take the ball real strong and finish strong. And he has defended well without fouling too."

Gardiner did a little of everything in the first quarter of the Hawks' win over Richards. He had four points, two rebounds and two assists as the Hawks built a 15-3 lead.

"I feel like I'm all the way back," Gardiner said.

Maine South junior guard Essam Hamwi led all scorers with 18 points and after the game he spoke to Gardiner's value to the team.

"He's a big post presence and a good defender, and he can bring the ball up a little too," Hamwi said. "He's also got a nice shot from the outside."

Gardiner, a Park Ridge resident, finished 7-for-12 from the field, including 0-for-1 from behind the arc, and picked up just one foul in 26 minutes.

Even though Gardiner believes his conditioning, confidence and feel for the game have all returned, Lavorato sees an even brighter future for him on the horizon.

"He may not be there until he's in college, so that's why anybody that's recruiting him should know that his best basketball is ahead of him," Lavorato said.

"Right now it's a wait-and-see approach and he's being recruited. But they can see him now and they'll see a different player in a month."

Notes

- Gardiner and teammate Filipp Bulatovic each scored 12 points and grabbed five rebounds, but it wasn't enough as the Hawks lost 48-43 to St. Rita in the Hinsdale Central Holiday Classic quarterfinals on Dec. 28.

Maine South led 19-8 after one quarter, but the Hawks were outscored in each of the next three quarters.

Gardiner scored on a layup with 6:53 remaining in the fourth quarter to give Maine South a seven-point lead, 43-36, but St. Rita ended the game on a 12-0 run.

- Bulatovic, a 6-4 junior guard, finished with 10 points against Richards on Dec. 27. Senior guard Michael George added eight assists against three turnovers and grabbed seven rebounds. Senior forward Grant Miller had nine points and seven rebounds.

BY MIKE CLARK
Pioneer Press

Drayvon Clayborn’s shooting eye is more accurate some games than others.

But the Niles North senior’s approach doesn’t waiver.

"I never lose confidence," he said after the 70-43 nonconference win over visiting Lake Zurich on Dec. 23. "Coach always gives me the green light to shoot."

"I mean, if I have a bad shooting game, I just get back to work."

Clayborn, a 6-foot-1 guard, hit a pair of 3-pointers in a 15-0 run that put the Vikings (9-0) in control midway though the first quarter.

He finished with a game-high 22 points on 7-for-12 shooting, making all four of his 3-point attempts and all four of his free throws.

"He hasn't had a shooting night like that in a while," Niles North coach Glenn Olson said. "I think he just hit that first one and was feeling pretty good."

"When a guy’s hitting like that, we let him go," Clayborn, however, said he wasn't the one who deserved the credit for his big game.

"It's really been based on my teammates getting me open," Clayborn said. "If they're making open shots, it opens up for me too."

It wasn't the first big game of the season for Clayborn, who scored 29 in a 76-60 win over Lake Zurich on Dec. 22. But like most of the Vikings, he's been living in the shadow of fellow senior Damaria Franklin.

"We always think it's only Damaria until the game starts," Clayborn said. "They don't realize what they got into."

But the Vikings do have a Plan B, C and D for scoring.

Sophomore Aquan Smart added 15 points on Dec. 23, while senior Demarion Bariffe-Smith had a double-double of 10 points and 10 rebounds. Franklin finished with nine points and six rebounds.

"Teams with (just) a couple kids who can score and or a couple kids who can handle the ball are easy to guard," Olson said. "But with our multiple weapons, we're tough to guard against."

Clayborn knows he'll get his chances to shoot and to showcase his game for college coaches.

He said he has no scholarship offers, but has interest from Division I and Division II programs.

For now, though, recruiting can wait as the Vikings chase some team goals.

Their postseason path goes through a sectional featuring fellow Central Suburban South powers New Trier, Evanston and Maine South, along with St. Viator and Prospect.

But with the IHSA shuffling playoff assignments, there aren't any Public League powers blocking the way to state for Niles North or the other north suburban teams this season.

The focus for the Vikings remains gearing up for the playoffs — not all the attention they're getting.

"It's something we talk about on a daily basis — what our end goal is," Olson said. "And our end goal isn't to be 9-0 or to be ranked or getting media attention. Our goal is to be a real solid team by the end of February and beginning of March." Clayborn agreed.

"We don't really look too much into that," he said of the buzz surrounding the Vikings. "It could be gone (just) that quick."

That's not to say he and his teammates don't enjoy their time in the spotlight.

"We love it," he said. "Somebody is finally recognizing us."

mclark@rydbi.com Twitter @mikeclarkpreps
YEARS IN REVIEW 2017

Q&A: Mike Hennessey, Notre Dame athletic director

By Dan Shalin

Notre Dame athletic director Mike Hennessey reflected on 2017 and looked ahead to 2018 in an interview with Pioneer Press freelance reporter Dan Shalin.

Q: Who was the most dedicated student-athlete at your school over the last year?
A: One of the most dedicated athletes at Notre Dame was senior cross country runner Jeremy Ermilio. He paced the cross country team this year and advanced to the (Class 2A state meet) this past fall. (Ermilio finished 134th with a career-best time of 16:30 at state.) He was a program-player, a good student who utilized all the facets of the program, like coaching and training, and put them together at the right time and ended his career on the best note he could.

Q: Which coach had the biggest impact on the student-athletes he or she worked with in 2017?
A: Mike Jankowski is our track head coach and sophomore football head coach and has impacted many of our student-athletes. Outside his duties as an art teacher, Mike heads up a track program of over 80 athletes. He's unbelievably organized, a must for a track coach, and he designs programs that push our athletes to higher expectations. In addition to teaching five or six classes, he uses his skills to set up all our marketing stuff and logos. He's an extremely busy and talented guy.

Q: Which team surprised you the most in 2017?
A: I can't really think of a team that surprised me, they all did a really good job. There was not one that was more of a surprise than the other. Our tennis team is doing well, and it had (junior) Nick Hebdon downstate (in Class AA), so that was another major accomplishment.

Q: Of all the things that fall under your purview, what are you most proud of when you think about 2017?
A: I'm proud of the consistent hard work and dedication of the Notre Dame student-athletes and the support of our parents and school community.

Q: When you reflect on 2017, what was a teachable moment that really stands out to you?
A: The most teachable moment was last spring when one of our students, Andrew Berghoff, passed away. Andrew was a Burke Scholar, a program for students with special needs, and he was highly involved in our athletic program as a fan and a manager for the hockey team. Our guys really took to him. When he passed, the service our guys put on - the wake, the funeral Mass, giving him an honor guard - it was something else. It was all student-done. I didn't have to set up a meeting, these guys stepped up and made sure Andrew was honored the right way, and that his family saw the love and passion that we had for him.

Q: What was the most challenging part of your job over the last 12 months?
A: The most challenging part of the job is keeping up with social media issues that you can't control. There are so many things going on today outside of school, you hope kids understand them. With technology, there is so much information out there, but also instances where social media can get kids into situations that can be problematic. You're trying to teach that. It's a whole different game because of it. There is always something new coming out. It can be good and useful, but there are points where the tide can turn against you if it's not being used right.

Q: When you think about 2018, what will make you most excited to come to work?
A: I'm excited to come to work at Notre Dame because our student-athletes bring the table. It's been a very nice place to work. I've been here a long time (31 years as the football coach, 24 years as athletic director), you don't stick around to do this if you can't find happiness and joy in what you're doing and (enjoy) the people you're working with. It's a great school, with great support from the administration, faculty and our parents. Our boys academically take to the philosophy of the school is about. It's a great place to come to.

Q: What are the top three things on your to-do list in 2018?
A: I want to continue to find ways to improve our (sports) programs. I also want to stress the importance of sportsmanship and respect. Finally, I want to bring more attention to training and health-related issues. We now have so much more information about how to train better, and what health-related things are good for you, whether it's sleep and rest, diet or dealing with injuries like concussions. It's good to use all that and put it into the program, so you are providing a better service for your guys. You have to stay on top of things and make sure you continue to improve.

Dan Shalin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Rusek earns MAC volleyball player of the year honor

Niles West grad plans to play professionally in Europe

BY STEVE SADIN
Pioneer Press

Being voted the volleyball co-player of the year for the Mid-American Conference is but a stepping stone for 2014 Niles West graduate and Morton Grove resident Olivia Rusek.

After leading her Miami (Ohio) team to both the regular season and MAC tournament championships, Rusek, an outside hitter, is working on an agent in pursuit of a professional volleyball career in Europe after she graduates this spring.

Rusek said her serendipitous opportunity to play for a living came when the RedHawks went to Europe in the summer of 2016 between her sophomore and junior seasons and played a series of games against professional teams in Poland, Germany and the Czech Republic.

The daughter of Polish immigrants, Rusek is fluent in her parents' native language. After losing their only game of the tour to a team from Poland, Rusek found herself walking out of the arena with one of the team's stars.

"She was astounded I spoke Polish," Rusek said. "She said I could play professionally in Europe. She said she had a real good agent who could get me a contract."

Two weeks after the RedHawks' Dec. 1 loss to Baylor in the opening round of the NCAA Tournament, Rusek got a call from the agent.

"He said he watched tapes of me playing and he can get me a contract," Rusek said. "I love playing volleyball. I have a lot of tiers (of league quality) in Europe and I can plan to play in the top tier."

Earnig player of the year honors in the MAC took a recount. Originally the award went to Bowling Green libero Kallie Seimet. Then Heather Klatt, the MAC assistant director of communications, said a data entry error was discovered on Dec. 19.

"We looked over the results again and noticed a score was mistyped," Klatt said in an email. "After making the adjustment, Olivia (Rusek's) total increased to tie with Kallie (Seimet's) resulting in co-player of the year honors being awarded."

Miami coach Carolyn Condit said coaches are not allowed to vote for players on their team. When she learned Rusek had in fact received the honor she said she was glad because of the season her star had.

"She averaged three kills per set (in conference)," Condit said. "That's the kind of consistency you have to have to be player of the year."

Rusek is the first RedHawks player to be named the conference player of the year since 1998. She finished her career with 1,014 kills and 756 digs.

"She was home in Morton Grove helping her father around the house when she got a text from me," Condit said. "He had some really happy news for me. After the call she returned to the kitchen to share it with her father."

"He said, 'That's so great,' Rusek said. "Then she came down off the ladder and gave me a hug."

Olivia Rusek was a standout volleyball player at Niles West and was recently named the co-player of the year in the Mid-American Conference.

Steve Sadin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Highland Park's Sachs steps up for Warhawks

BY SAM BRIEF
Pioneer Press

David Sachs, a Highland Park alumnus and a 6-foot-2 junior guard on the Wisconsin-Whitewater men's basketball team, has been an offensive force for the Warhawks in his first season with the team.

Sachs played his first two seasons of college ball at Barry University in Florida. Through nine games with the Division III Warhawks, Sachs led the team with 13 points and 4.4 assists per game. His 45.2-percent 3-point shooting mark was second on the team among players who had attempted at least five shots.

Sachs' best game came against Redlands on Dec. 2. He scored a season-high 28 points to go along with six assists, six steals and five rebounds. He also made all 13 of his free-throw attempts.

As of Friday, Wisconsin-Whitewater was 8-1 and ranked 11th in NCAA Division III by D3hoops.com.

Kemph, Vliet still pacing St. Louis

Two-time Atlantic 10 Player of the Year and Rolling Meadows alumna Jackie Kemph, a senior guard for the St. Louis women's basketball team, has continued to guide the Billikens offensively.

Kemph's 14.5 points and 7.6 assists per game lead the squad, and she has more assists (99) than any other player in the Atlantic 10. Kemph supplied 16 points and eight rebounds in a 77-66 win against Tulsa on Dec. 19. She is already the program's all-time assists leader and moved within 17 points of the Billikens' all-time scoring record as well.

Fellow senior Jenny Vliet played with Kemph at Rolling Meadows and has also left her mark on the St. Louis program. Through 13 games, Vliet was averaging 9.4 points and 7.9 rebounds per game. She also had 13 blocked shots, which was tied for the team lead.

Vliet scored 13 points and grabbed 12 rebounds against Tulsa. She also made a pair of 3-pointers to pull into a second-place tie on the program's career 3-point list.

The Billikens wrapped up the nonconference portion of their schedule with a 6-7 record.

Concordia's Corr, Thornton reach new heights

Oak Park-River Forest alumnae Crystal Corr and Michaela Thornton both tallied career-high point totals in Concordia University Chicago's 112-73 rout of La Verne (Calif) on Dec. 20. Corr, a sophomore and Concordia's leading rebounder, recorded a double-double with 18 points and 12 rebounds, including five offensive boards. She shot 9-of-15 from the field and also tallied two blocks.

Thornton, also a sophomore, had not scored more than four points in a game this season until she poured in 17 against La Verne. She was 7-for-11 from the field in only 19 minutes off the bench.

The Division III Cougars (6-2) got back on track in the blowout victory after scoring back-to-back contests at home.

Evanston's Bates guides St. Norbert hockey

Peter Bates, an Evanston native and a freshman forward on the St. Norbert men's hockey team, ranked fourth on the squad in scoring through 12 games.

Bates had three goals and five assists for eight points as the Division III Green Knights started 11-0-1. His most recent goal came on Dec. 9 in a 4-0 victory against Augsburg.

Bates played youth hockey for Team Illinois, then suited up for four North American Hockey League teams in four seasons before heading to St. Norbert.

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

Sam Brief is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press. Twitter @PioneerPress

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Thank you to everyone who voted in our January Athlete of the Month challenge. Go to chicagotribune/suburbs/athletes to see which athlete was named the Athlete of the Month, and stay tuned next week for a special feature on our winner! Don't forget to also look out for our February challenge next month!
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