'Coming Together'
Annual program set to spotlight Muslim-American cultures. Page 5

Diinaz Waraich, of the Muslim Community Center in Morton Grove, talks about this year’s Coming Together in Skokie and Niles Township program Jan. 11 at the Skokie Public Library. The program offers more than six weeks of diverse ways to celebrate a single culture. This year’s events kick off Jan. 28 with a ceremony of music, art and refreshments at Niles West High School.

LIVING

Persistence leads to gains
So many wondered “What next?” after the Women’s March kicked off 2017. Since, women in the U.S. and around the globe have made massive strides toward equality. Inside

WHAT TO DO

Something new at every show
Audiences will meet Patricia Musker’s high-energy Roxy Bellows Jan. 20 at the Skokie Theatre. Page 20

OPINION

Enough with reality TV star presidents
Oprah Winfrey has a huge fan base and has proved herself as a smart, successful woman, but Randy Blaser says he’s had enough of political newcomers seeking the top job. Page 14

SPORTS

Nearing the fourth quarter
Area basketball teams are making final adjustments before postseason play begins. Page 27
SHOUT OUT

Freddie Feldman, entrepreneur, vocalist

Freddie Feldman loves the sound of a cappella music. He sings it with Listen Up, a Jewish vocal band, records it at Vocomotion, his Skokie recording studio and record label and creates microphones for beatboxers through his company BeatboxMics. The Skokie resident is also in the process of creating assistive device microphones for the disabled through his VocoLabs Inc.

Q: What initially attracted you to a cappella music?
A: I started singing in an a cappella group in high school. We had seen the very famous Spike Lee “Do It A Cappella” PBS special which ran in the 1990s and that got us hooked.

Q: When did you join Listen Up?!
A: About four years ago. It was started around 1992 by Steve Singer. Over the years, the lineup has changed.

Q: What do you enjoy most about being part of Listen Up?!
A: We’re like family. We love each other all the time and lots of times we argue like family. We have a really good time when we’re onstage. We love recording and making music.

Q: When and why did you start Vocomotion?
A: Around 1997 or ’98. There weren’t too many dedicated a cappella recording studios in the country.

Q: Do you have any hobbies?
A: I have two rather large, unusual collections. I collect Tic Tacs. I have 102 flavors. I get them from all over the world. I also have the largest collection of military and industrial throat microphones anywhere in the world.

— Myrna Petlicki, Pioneer Press
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On Tuesdays, Niles nabs drivers on phones

Weekly crackdown not aimed at fines but at changing behavior, police say

Niles police Officer John Gaba has heard it all — tears, protests that it was a medical emergency, and even the guy who said he was holding his wallet up to his cheek.

It doesn’t matter — if Gaba sees you driving while holding a phone, you’re likely getting a ticket.

“Did I just prevent a major accident from happening?” said Gaba, after citing a construction worker for talking on his cellphone while driving past Clarence E. Culver Elementary School on Oakton Street in the northwest suburb.

“Maybe. That’s the whole point of it. It’s all about education and safety. Hopefully, it’s making a difference.”

Gaba was out on patrol last week for “no texting Tuesdays,” a program started by Niles police last summer to crack down on drivers violating state law and local ordinance by talking while holding a cellphone in your hand, texting or otherwise fiddling with a mobile. In less than three hours, Gaba issued 16 tickets to a variety of drivers, including three commercial truckers, a firefighter and two Chicago police officers.

Niles police Cmdr. Robert Tornabene said the department started targeting the offense because it had become such a common cause of crashes.

The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration found that distracted driving led to 3,450 of 37,461 fatalities in 2016, or 9.2 percent. Fatal distracted driving crashes are up 8.5 percent since 2014. The National Safety Council, an Itasca-based safety advocacy group, has said that distraction is vastly underreported and could be double what is officially recorded.

Cellphone use is highest among drivers ages 16-24, according to the NHTSA. But Tornabene said his officers are seeing drivers of all ages on their phones.

“They’re not hard to find,” Tornabene said. “Pretty much everybody’s doing it. It’s like Pavlov’s dog; they hear the ‘ding’ (on the phone) and they look.”

Tornabene said Niles police are trying to address what safety advocates say is a key problem in preventing distracted driving — lack of enforcement.

One local example is the Chicago police, which gave out 186 tickets for distracted driving in 2016, a huge drop from 25,884 in 2015 and 45,594 in 2014, according to the department. The drop followed a policy change that required the presence of the citing officer in traffic court, a Chicago police spokesman said.

Chicago’s City Council last week discussed the concept of arming police with devices called “textalyzers” to tell how recently drivers had used their cellphones. The technology is still being developed.

Tornabene said his officers mostly write ordinance violations — which mean a fine but does not impact a person’s driving record or require a trip to court. It can be paid by mail. More serious violations such as one that results in a crash or involves a commercial truck driver with another problem such as an expired license, can mean a state ticket, which requires a court appearance and a minimum $240 fee. Tornabene said officers also can give verbal warnings but usually write tickets.

“We want public awareness to be raised, and unfortunately sometimes warning tickets don’t do it. Sometimes the only way you get people’s attention is when you hit them in the pocketbook,” Tornabene said. “Our goal is not to issue fines; it’s to change behavior.”

“Getting Around” and a Tribune photographer tagged along Jan. 9 with Gaba and saw him use up his whole ticket book.

Gaba stationed himself in a few different places — at the police station on Touhy Avenue, at a bank parking lot on Milwaukee Avenue and on a side street off of Oakton Street. Gaba needed only a few minutes before spotting an offending driver. Then it was blue lights on.

The drivers were, for the most part, sheepish and apologetic. Everyone gave Gaba some reason for using the phone, but admitted it was not right.

“I’ll be honest with you — it was an inordinate guy who’s calling me looking for work — he has no money,” explained Arthur Rousseau, 60, of Chicago, as he handed over his license through the window of his gray Chevrolet Impala.

“The thing is, it’s all got to be Bluetooth nowadays. Wireless, hands-free,” said Gaba, a tall, lean figure with a blond buzzcut. “You can buy a Bluetooth device for about $25.”

Rousseau admitted it was dangerous to use the phone and drive. “You know what? You should ticket me,” he told Gaba. “You’re right.”

“Ninety-nine percent of the time it’s like this,” said Gaba, back in his squad car. “You catch them on the phone, you explain why you’re doing this and they have no problem with it.”

He said many people claim a phone call was an emergency — but unless the caller is actually dialing 911, it’s still illegal. He said he’ll ask people who claim it’s an emergency if they are on the phone with 911 — and they’ll say no, and then decline Gaba’s offer to call for them.

“Believe it or not, a lot of times people will lie to us,” Gaba said laconically.

One of the police officers Gaba cited, who did not wish to be named, admitted he should have known better. “It was stupid,” he said. “I shouldn’t have taken the call.”

Gaba said he is especially aggravated when he sees commercial truck drivers violate the law, since their vehicles weigh so much and can cause so much damage in a crash.

Rafael Alvarez, 40, of Chicago, driving a white-painted box truck, admitted that he had been talking to a customer and that he should get a Bluetooth earpiece. “I’m going to get it today,” he said after getting his ticket.

Not every driver vowed to sin no more. Tom Prusszynski, 43, of Lakewood, a construction contractor driving a Ford pickup, admitted that he was checking his phone for a customer’s address, and it was too hard to keep pulling over on the way to a job.

“It’s hard to stop,” he said with a shrug. “I know it’s dangerous.”

“People like that probably won’t break the habit,” Gaba said.

An officer for 16 years, Gaba said he saw a big surge in distracted driving in the past five years as people traded their flip phones for smartphones. “There are a lot of things people feel they need to check,” Gaba said.

Mayor Gaba said he typically does not cite people for checking a phone at a stoplight — though this is only legal if a car is in park. He will give verbal warnings.

A young woman beside his squad car was so absorbed in texting that he had to sound his horn repeatedly — she looked up as if coming out of a dream. He told her to put down the phone.

“They get in a zone,” Gaba said.

Another woman, pulled over for talking on the phone while driving, wept and pleaded to be let off. She had recently gotten another ticket for the same offense. She said her son was home sick and she had just taken a call about how he was doing. Gaba was sympathetic, but cited her anyway.

“We see a lot of tears ...” Gaba said. “Maybe she’ll think twice next time.”

Cicero Avenue lane closures

Southwest Side drivers take note — starting Monday, a stretch of Cicero Avenue will narrow to allow for construction at Midway Airport.

One lane in each direction will be shut down on Cicero through early 2020.

Transportation song quiz

Last week’s transportation song makes a snider offer — come inside my car because I have candy. The group’s hometown is often referenced on “Svengoolie.” The song is “Vehicle” by Berwyn’s own Ides of March. Tom Nall of Chicago (whose mom is from Berwyn) is the winner.

This week’s song is from the point of view of a royal figure, who knows which locks are not locked. What’s the song and who sang it? The first reader with the correct answer gets a Tribune notebook and glory.
Annual ‘Coming Together’ program set to spotlight Muslim-American cultures

In choosing this year’s culture for the annual “Coming Together in Skokie and Niles Township” program, organizers said they felt obliged to add a capital “s” at the end of the title.

Coming Together, which every year offers six-plus weeks of diverse programming usually focusing on a single culture, is calling the 2018 installment “Celebrating Muslim-American Cultures.”

“We say American Muslims with a big 's' because Muslims are from so many different cultures,” said Susan Van Dusen, one of the co-founders of the Coming Together program.

“Coming Together” kicks off Jan. 28 with a ceremony of music, art, refreshments and more hosted by NBC Chicago reporter Ash-har Quraishi at Niles West High School.

From there, more than 50 programs, including author visits, discussions, film, music, history and more are scheduled through March. Venues throughout the township include public libraries, the high schools, Oakton Community College and many others, according to organizers.

A lineup of the diverse programming on tap can be found at comingtogether in, and program booklets are available at the Skokie Public Library and other locations.

This year marks the ninth Coming Together in Skokie, whose title was expanded several years ago to add Niles Township.

A news conference Jan. 11 unveiled the 2018 program, and, for the first time, three of four township mayors attended and the other sent a welcoming message.

“I look forward to the coming months and how we can all work together for diversity and equal rights and justice in our community, and I’m there for you,” said Niles mayor Andrew Przyblo.

The program began nearly a decade ago when five women leaders in Skokie joined forces, Susan Van Dusen said. Coming Together would be a way to expand on the village’s annual Festival of Cultures weekend, allowing the community to plunge deeper into studying and learning about the backgrounds of the community’s diverse population one culture at a time.

“Since the first year of Coming Together in Skokie, a big part of this program series and this initiative and this project has been this acknowledgment that one of the ways that we can come together is through literature and through reading,” said Skokie Public Library Director Richard Kong.

Niles Township High School District 219 Supt. Steven Isoye called the program “a special gift for this community” and said it supports the school district’s diverse students. Multiple events are scheduled at NTHS Dist. 219 schools, in addition to the opening.

The Coming Together committee every year includes representatives of the culture selected. The Muslim Community Center in Morton Grove played a major role in creating this year’s program, organizers said.

“I think that this township is a model that should be adopted by other communities,” Susan Van Dusen said. “We just have a feeling of peace and good will that goes around this township that is amazing to me that I don’t experience anywhere.”
Students’ visit offers interfaith experience

Jews and Catholics attend event at Muslim Center

BY ALEX NITKIN
Pioneer Press

Jack, a sixth-grader from Chicago’s Zell Jewish Day School, threw himself like a rag doll onto the rubber gym floor of the Muslim Community Center Academy in Morton Grove Jan. 11, pantomiming a Christmas tree being felled by a gang of Irish-dancing squirrels.

The 11-year-old’s theatrics drew giggles from the dozen or so pre-teens in his group — some wearing hijabs, others plaid skirts — who were brought together by the Olive Tree Arts Network and tasked with combining their imaginations into a single, wacky story.

Jack’s group was among 150 students brought together by the network’s Poetry Pals program, which every year has students from Catholic, Muslim and Jewish day schools participate in a shared curriculum focused on creative expression and cultural learning.

Getting the students to act out fantastical stories based on their religious customs is a subtle way of building tighter bonds across faiths, according to Ilene Siemer, director of the arts network.

“This is a really important stage in kids’ lives, because they don’t really have pre-seeded notions of each other yet,” Siemer said. “So we’re able to effectively convey how much we all have in common without having to deal with any of the baggage that many adults may carry.”

Earlier this year, students from Zell and the Muslim academy visited St. John Fisher School in Chicago’s Morgan Park neighborhood, where students led presentations on Catholic rituals and beliefs.

On Jan. 11, it was the Muslim students’ turn to educate their peers.

The middle schoolers followed up their storytelling projects by shedding their shoes and packing into the school’s attached mosque, where seventh-grader Ibrahim and four other students demonstrated their daily prayers and led a crash course on the basic tenets of the Islamic faith.

“I feel like I’ve gotten to teach (the other students) a lot more about our religion, and how even though there are differences between our religions, the differences are very small and we can all still be friends,” the Glenview 11-year-old said after the presentation. “I wish more people could understand that Islam is a religion of peace more than anything else.”

Fighting Islamophobia has always been front-of-mind for the Muslim day school, according to Principal Habeeb Quadri.

Administrators met resistance from neighbors leading up to the school’s opening in 2002, and again when they applied to build their mosque attachment in 2003 and 2004, Quadri said.

In 2012, a Morton Grove resident faced felony charges after shooting an air rifle at the side of the building, the principal explained.

“We know that people can have fear, and sometimes that fear can be dangerous,” Quadri said. “So our duty is to be proactive about developing new relationships before something like that comes up again ... even if it’s just by getting to hang out and have fun together.”

At the end of the presentation, the students again broke into small groups and the Muslim children fielded questions from their Jewish and Christian peers, explaining the meaning behind little details of the sprawling mosque around them.

Offering students a “safe place to ask questions” about how others practice their faiths has the power to head off prejudice before it has the chance to emerge, Siemer said.

“We have our sights set on some substantial growth in the future, because we truly believe this is an antidote to a lot of the hate and bigotry that is prevailing in our country right now,” Siemer said.

“We’re showing that discrimination is not inevitable,” he said.

Alex Nitkin is a freelancer.
Mayor: Lincolnwood searching, hopes to have police chief by March

BY KYRA SENESSE
Pioneer Press

Following the departure of former Lincolnwood police Chief Robert LaMantia on Dec. 1, the village is now accepting applications for a new top cop.

Lincolnwood has retained the Northbrook-based human resources consulting firm GovHR USA to help recruit for the sworn, exempt-level role of overseeing the police department, according to information on the village website.

If everything goes as planned, Mayor Barry Bass said interviews will be conducted in the coming weeks.

“We'll probably appoint that short list of top candidates in mid-March,” Bass said. "I would say sometime in March is a realistic goal to have our future police chief in place."

Bass said the village's choice for the next chief of police will take into consideration what is in the best interest of the residents of Lincolnwood.

"Public safety is a big issue with me, and we're dealing with a lot of types of crime that did not typically exist a couple years ago," the mayor said. "We have a border on 75% percent of Chicago, so it's important that not only our public is protected but we have full collaboration with our sister suburbs, which mainly are Chicago, Skokie and a bit of Evanston."

Bass said he hopes the new police chief will be in place by the end of March. He would make his pick for the position, and the appointment would require Village Board approval.

The mayor noted the importance of the chief of police, explaining that the police department, with its $8 million budget, is staffed by 32 full-time sworn police personnel, six full-time civilian employees and two part-time civilian workers.

"We're looking for candidates right now, and it appears we're getting some cream of the crop candidates, because obviously Lincolnwood is an extremely desirable suburb," Bass said.

"Those candidates will have to have the utmost integrity and a strong commitment to teamwork and customer service to serve as the village's next chief of police."

Successful candidates will need to have a bachelor's degree in criminal justice, or a background in public, business and administrative fields, Bass said, adding that a master's degree is "strongly preferred."

He added that the village prefers candidates with strong labor relations experience and who are able to adapt to situations involving news and media relations.

"They should have a history of successful intergovernmental cooperation, relationship building and experience interacting and collaborating with our sister law enforcement agencies and mutual aid entities throughout the suburbs and the city of Chicago," Bass said.

Applications for the post are being accepted through Jan. 26, officials said.

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

DUI
Mark Bandemer, 25, of the 8800 block of North Cumberland Avenue, was charged with driving under the influence on Jan. 2 following a crash near his home.

Mitchell Grzenia Jr., 71, of the 2100 block of Walnut Court, Glenview, was charged with driving under the influence and driving without a valid license on Jan. 4. According to police, Grzenia was involved in a crash in the 8400 block of Harlem Avenue and taken to the hospital for alcohol-related issues.

George Pilafas, 53, of the 4800 block of North Washtenaw Avenue, Chicago, was taken into custody on an arrest warrant for a disorderly conduct charge on Jan. 4. According to police, officers made contact with Pilafas after he allegedly pulled a fire alarm in the public area of a condominium building in the 7000 block of West Touby Avenue and told police he did so because he was "cold."

PUBLIC INTOXICATION
A 49-year-old Niles man was ticketed with public intoxication Jan. 2 after police were called to a bar in the 9000 block of North Milwaukee Avenue on a report of a customer who entered the bar intoxicated and was attempting to drive his car after he was denied service. Police said the man was later driven home.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT
A 29-year-old Chicago man was ticketed with disorderly conduct and criminal trespass on Jan. 4 after police said he caused a disturbance at a bar in the 8000 block of West Oakton Street after being kicked out of the bar on two previous occasions for similar behavior. Officers located the man near the bar and he was also transported to the hospital for alcohol-related issues, police said.

DRUGS
A 24-year-old Chicago man was ticketed with possession of marijuana on Jan. 4 after police responded to a suspicious car parked behind a retailer in the 5600 block of West Touby Avenue.

BURGLARY
A home in the 8400 block of North Olesander Avenue was reported burglarized Jan. 5. According to police, residents returned home to find their front door damaged and a man running in the direction of Milwaukee Avenue. Nothing was reported missing at the time of the report.

RUSE ENTRY
A resident told police that two people entered her home Jan. 5 under the guise of checking her pipes, but she later found jewelry and cash missing from a bedroom.

THEFT
A wallet was reported stolen Jan. 4 from a locker in the 9200 block of North Milwaukee Avenue. Credit cards in the wallet were reportedly used at a store in Niles.

An employee of a retailer in the 5700 block of West Touby Avenue told police a man entered the store and stole a $1,000 cellphone from a display on Jan. 4.

A baby Jesus statue was stolen between Jan. 3 and 8 from a nativity display outside a church in the 8300 block of North Harlem Avenue.

Police identify woman killed by car

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

A Buffalo Grove woman was killed Jan. 10 after police say she was struck by a car while crossing a major street in Niles.

According to police, Svetlana Gerovaya, 68, was pronounced dead at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge about 40 minutes after the collision, which occurred at 7:22 p.m. in the 8300 block of Golf Road near the Four Flags shopping center.

Niles police said Gerovaya was attempting to cross Golf Road from the south side of the street when she was hit by a Kia Sorento SUV that was headed east on Golf.

Police described Gerovaya as wearing dark clothing and crossing the four-lane road in an area that did not have a crosswalk or traffic signal.

The driver of the SUV, identified as a 30-year-old man from Evanston, called 911 after the collision and remained on the scene, police said.

According to police, he did not appear to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs, and was not using an electronic device at the time of the incident.

There were no changes in the incident as of late Jan. 10, police said.

This is the second pedestrian fatality reported in Niles since October.

On Oct. 13, a 63-year-old woman from Lincolnwood was killed on Touhy Avenue when police said she was hit by a car while crossing against traffic at Central Avenue shortly before 6 a.m.

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Flu season hits earlier, with worse symptoms

The number of reported cases is up sharply over recent years

BY VIKKI ORTIZ HEALY
AND WILLIAM LEE
Chicago Tribune

If you feel like everyone around you is sick, you may have good reason.

Flu season seems to be peaking early in Illinois, with more than 100 more influenza outbreaks across the state this season compared with last season at this time. And the most common strain of flu this year is one associated with more severe symptoms, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health.

"Last year we saw the peak in February," said Melanie Arnold, spokeswoman for the state health department. "It might just be starting earlier."

The current levels also are higher than most flu seasons since 2009-10, state records show.

From the start of 2017 through Dec. 31, there were 344 total flu-related intensive-care unit admissions across the state, and 135 outbreaks, defined as two or more cases of the flu in a group setting reporting to the state, and at least one confirmed through testing.

Those numbers are much higher than the same intensive care unit admissions and outbreak statistics from the last two seasons: 40 and 11 in 2016; 56 and two in 2015.

In 2014 there was a similar spike, with 497 intensive care unit admissions across the state and 123 outbreaks, according to health department statistics.

But the year before that, in 2013, there were far fewer, with 216 intensive care unit admissions and five outbreaks.

Cook County public health officials began seeing an increase in cases in the county's suburbs and at Stroger and Provident hospitals in Chicago in December, with the number of emergency room visits above the average in the last two weeks, though there has only been one death for a person with flu-like symptoms. Doctors believe they may see more flu cases this year than last year, which they called average.

The high number of cases prompted state health officials on Dec. 27 to recommend that hospitals limit visitors and put precautions into place aimed at preventing and controlling the further spread of the flu. Several hospital systems, including Northwestern Medicine hospitals and the 12 Advocate Health Care hospitals across Chicagoland and central Illinois, have done so.

The precautions include restricting hospital visits for anyone younger than 18, limiting the number of visitors to two per patient, promoting hand washing and assessing visitors for symptoms of acute respiratory illness and asking them to leave, or at the very least, wear a mask.

Cook County public health officials on Jan. 5 also instituted a screening policy at its hospitals to cut the risk of transmission to already ill people. Effective immediately, visitors were to be screened for flu-like symptoms before being allowed to see patients. Children under 12 were to not be allowed to visit patients at Stroger or Provident hospitals at all.

The most common strain of influenza this year is H3N2 (A), which was covered by this year's flu vaccine. While strains can still mutate in individual cases and render the vaccine ineffective for some people, the flu vaccine can also help lessen the severity of illness in some of these cases, said Dr. Robert Citronberg, infectious disease physician with Advocate Health Care.

Health officials caution that the flu vaccine can take up to 10 days to be effective after it is administered.

At Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, Citronberg has seen a steady influx of patients with the flu, which presents itself with symptoms including high fever, chills, muscle aches and fatigue, he said.

"People who have genuinely true influenza say that they feel like they got run over by a truck," Citronberg said.

An anti-viral prescription medication known as Tamiflu is available to both children and adults suffering from the flu. Doctors recommend plenty of rest, drinking fluids and staying away from other people, as people with the flu are typically contagious for about seven days, Citronberg said.

Health officials also recommend that people who have not yet received a flu vaccine do so. It would be effective for the rest of the season, which typically lasts through April. The vaccine is especially important for people with chronic disease, or those who are very old or young, whose risk of getting much sicker is higher, officials said. The vaccine that Cook County health officials have on hand has an effective rate of 32 percent, which physicians say would prevent complications in chronically ill patients.

"Even with that effective rate, you're still saving lives," said the Cook County Department of Public Health senior medical officer, Dr. Kiran Joshi.

In Chicago, emergency rooms busy dealing with the flu have led to a backup in the admission of ambulance patients. This forces ambulances to hold patients longer, and, in turn, a slowed response from Chicago Fire Department responders to new emergencies, said Larry Langford, spokesman for the Fire Department.

"We're seeing a high level of stress right now, where at any given time hospitals are on complete bypass saying don't bring anybody here," Langford said.

To help the situation, the Fire Department has brought five extra ambulances out of reserve to keep responding to calls, Langford said.

Eureva Walker, director of Stroger Hospital's pharmacy department, checks on flu vaccine stored in refrigerators.

ERIN HOOLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

ILLINOIS FLU-RELATED INTENSIVE CARE ADMISSIONS
Weekly

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SOURCE: Illinois Department of Public Health

CHICAGO TRIBUNE

ILLINOIS FLU OUTBREAKS
When there are more than two cases reported in a group setting that reports to the state, with one of those cases showing a positive test.

Weekly

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D219 to assess administrator salary structure

Wants to ensure employees' pay is 'fair and equitable'

Staff report

Niles Township High School District 219 has hired a firm to make sure it is paying its administrators in a "fair and equitable manner," according to Superintendent Steven Isoye.

During a special meeting Jan. 10, the school board approved paying $41,500 to the Korn Ferry Hay Group for a 14-week Administrator Analysis Study.

"The administration has expressed concern that there may be discrepancies in the administrative salaries," Isoye and Assistant Superintendent of Human Resources Edmund Murphy said in a letter to the board. "The study would provide the district with a job factor analysis, a market comparable study, the creation of a compensation and benefits philosophy and the development of a new compensation structure for D219 administration."

The most recent state report card from the Illinois State Board of Education shows that NTHS District 219 administrators—which includes the superintendent, assistant superintendents and other top-level leaders—are paid on average $131,238 compared with the state average of $106,273.

Among goals to be performed by the Korn Ferry Hay Group, according to its proposal, is to set a grade and base salary structure for administrative positions by mid-April 2018.

"Hopefully, there's more than just money that District 219 offers potential employees with respect to opportunity, with respect to working in our diverse district and the resources the district provides."

--Brian Novak

Under the proposal, the study will be performed in five phases: project planning and discovery, job analysis and work measurement, compensation benchmarking and structure, summary of findings and administrative guidelines.

A representative of Korn Ferry Hay Group said that issue will be addressed through interviews with employees.

Isoye said one of his performance goals as superintendent is "to begin to look at some of these structures we have in place."

Three firms were interviewed for the job before Korn Ferry Hay Group was recommended to the board, he said.
When the Pickwick Theatre in Park Ridge opened in 1928, it debuted as a full-fledged suburban movie palace meant to rival the grandest theaters in the Chicago area.

Now owner Dino Vlahakis plans to celebrate the theater's 90th anniversary with an upgrade designed to keep it special in the future. Namely, a new screen that will be four times the size of the already sizable screen in the Pickwick's main auditorium.

"It's almost going to be like having an IMAX theater in Park Ridge," Vlahakis said. "Not quite, but close."

The installation of the new mega movie screen is scheduled, with crossed fingers, to debut in May with the new Avengers movie "Infinity Wars."

The Pickwick has enjoyed highlights during the Vlahakis family ownership. Vlahakis recently restored the marquee to its original paint scheme. The Pickwick received its best publicity boost, however, when it was featured in the introduction to "At the Movies," hosted by Gene Siskel and Roger Ebert.

Vlahakis noted that the celebration of the 90th anniversary had begun early in a sense last June, when he celebrated the 50th anniversary of Vlahakis family ownership by placing a statue of a sprite, created by Pickwick designer Alfonso Iannelli in the building's back courtyard.

"We've also been bringing back the classics in our Classic Film Series, programmed by Matthew Hoffman (who also programs a long-running film series at the Park Ridge Public Library)," Vlahakis said. "We're going to be showing 'The Godfather' this month with 'Some Like it Hot' and the original 'King Kong' coming up, and we're working on a really big screening of '2001' in the spring with star Keir Dullea in attendance."

Vlahakis said his booking style boils down to choosing films he personally enjoys.

"We've been able to maintain a faithful audience in town and from surrounding areas because they know I won't show the garbage films," he said. "I won't book a run-of-the-mill horror film, for example. I'll book a good one, but they're few and far between, in my opinion. A lot of times, I'll play a movie just because I like it, even if I know it's not going to be a big grosser."

Vlahakis said he is thinking of each month of this year's Classic Film Series as another celebratory event to mark the 90th anniversary — with the possibility of a silent film in October to commemorate the theater's opening. Vlahakis said he is saving the silent film "Lilac Time," which he said was the first movie shown at the theater, for the 100th anniversary.

And is he excited to make plans for the Pickwick's 100th anniversary?

"Well, since my father's still alive at 93 and I'm only 58, I'm hoping I'll still be around — and I'm looking forward to it," he said. "I think it will be something especially worth celebrating. We've had a great run. Theaters come and go, but the Pickwick is still here. And I expect it'll be here for a long time to come."
Medieval Times now features woman in lead role

BY AMANDA MARRAZZO
Chicago Tribune

There is a new ruler in town, and she is not backing down.

For the first time in more than three decades, a queen is in charge of Schaumburg's castle.

“I love it, it's awesome,” 11-year-old Jacob Serrano, said in the crowd as he wore a crown, waved his yellow flag and declared the scene before him “revolutionary.”

Jacob was present last month when Medieval Times Dinner and Tournament in Schaumburg debuted its new show featuring Queen Dona Isabel in the lead. Before this, the lead role in the dinner theater's 35-year history has always gone to a man, the king.

The updated narrative has aptly landed, if not by design, in a cultural moment of women's marches, #metoo reckonings and female superheroes — something Jacob's 12-year-old brother, Jeremiah, also picked up on.

It's “important for the boys to appreciate that women can hold the same roles as men,” said their father, Juan Serrano.

The role reversal “goes along with modern-day people wanting equality for men and women,” he said.

“I am proud to say I was working on this show 18 months ago,” he said. “We are ahead of the trend.”

Blazing that trail involved the creation and handcrafted costumes for the cast and horses and months of learning new jousting and fight choreography taught by Tim Baker, director of stunts and choreography, who has been with the show since its beginnings in Kissimmee, Fla., in 1983.

While still presenting the last show, hundreds of team members and horses were trained. And the actors rehearsed new lines and scenes.

It took two months to teach the performers portraying queens to ride Andalusian stallions.

And when the queen entered the arena on horseback opening night in Schaumburg, wearing a flowing gown of gold and burgundy and a jeweled crown, the crowd erupted with shouts from the audience, especially from young girls.

She demanded to be treated in the same manner as her father, the late king. She exerted her authority when necessary but in a steady and even-tempered tone.

Her authority was at times challenged by the knights, but she didn't shy from reminding them she was in charge, and each time she did, the crowd cheered her on. Alyssa O'Donnell, one of four performers who play the queen in Schaumburg, does not let the position of power get to her head but requires her court to act honorably.

Amanda Marrazzo is a freelance reporter.
Not everyone loves Oprah — for president, that is

"Everybody loves Oprah."

That was the tagline for the promotions advancing a new host of the WLS morning show “AM Chicago” back in 1983.

If it wasn't true then, it certainly is now.

And why not?

She's one of the most successful and beloved media personalities in the world. She built an empire out of nothing. She's been successful and beloved throughout her lifetime achievement award. And the topic — rampant sex abuse in Hollywood — was right in Oprah's wheelhouse from years of daytime TV.

She delivered. She gave a great speech. Wise and informative, she identified the problem, put it in historical context and pointed a way out. That's what a leader does.

This rush to proclaim her presidential material shouldn't be so surprising, should it then? Even if it is misguided. We've already elected one reality TV star, why not another?

But one giant mistake can't be solved by another.

Oprah Winfrey may be a beloved media personality, but columnist Randy Blaser thinks she shouldn't take a shot at the presidency.

Oprah may be huddling with mega-coach Tony Robbins right now, but no matter what her next move might be, it shouldn't be toward the White House.

Even though she has many talents, she also has plenty of liabilities. Oprah's not ready to lead the free world.

She has no political experience. We've seen billionaire before who decide to start at the top and fail. I won't mention you-know-who again, but we don't have to look very far to find another example. Just look to our governor's mansion.

And why do they fail? Politics is about relationships. And while I'm sure Oprah is an expert at making relationships, she doesn't have many on Capitol Hill right now.

We are on our fourth president who entered the office with no political capital in the legislative branch, and you've seen where that has gotten us.

We've reached a point in our politics where they only way to profit is to destroy your opponent. Maybe Oprah could bring the country together.

But how? Have us all join her book club? Preach about how "The Secret" can transform our lives? Put Dr. Oz and Dr. Phil in her cabinet?

And what about foreign policy? I know Oprah has traveled to other countries, so that's a start. And some policy issues are no-brainers. I believe any red-blooded American would have pulled the trigger on Osama bin Laden.

But the world and our standing in it is very complex.

If all we expect of our presidents is to articulate a certain point of view in an eloquent (or outrageous) manner, then Oprah fits the bill.

But if we want a president who can create and articulate policy, move and inspire Congress to action, navigate the world's powder kegs and keep America on top and keep the peace, then Oprah is some crazy fantasy.

We already have one of those.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist.

Kids, experts at salvaging the scraps of Christmas

Paul Sassone

Here it comes.

Christmas. It arrives — and then departs again — so quickly.

But kids are clever. They're pretty good at finding ways to make Christmas last longer. Like us. Building Christmas tree forts was one of the ways we kept the holiday going a little while longer.

In the weeks just after Christmas, kids would scour curbs and alleys and drag discarded Christmas trees to the nearest vacant lot to erect a fort.

It would take 10 trees or so to make a snowball-resistant structure. Finding that many discarded trees wasn't a problem. Just about every house in my neighborhood had a Christmas tree, a real tree — though my aunt was a pioneer with her pink plastic tree that nicely complemented the form-fitting plastic covers with which she mummified her living-room furniture.

My mom couldn't afford such modernizations, though she made a valiant effort with a rotating wheel that shone lights upon our tree, turning it blue, then red, then yellow.

Today, I still see many cast-off Christmas trees lying forlornly at curbs and in alleys. So gathering trees shouldn't be much of a problem.

What I don't see are Christmas tree forts, perhaps because I don't see many vacant lots any more.

Then, too, Christmas trees aren't electronic. So, maybe kids today aren't interested in them, or in building forts of any kind.

Also, most municipalities are so fast and efficient these days at collecting and mulching Christmas trees, the window for gathering material for those forts has narrowed considerably.

And who knows, perhaps making Christmas trees into forts might violate some ecology ordinance. That's too bad.

Hurling snowballs while surrounded — almost submerged — by fragrant pine trees is a true treat for the senses.

And like so many treats, not for adults.

Probably what I really miss is not Christmas tree forts.

What I miss is being a kid.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist.
Oak Park author offers a peek ‘Inside Great Chicago Buildings’

If you think 2018 might be scary, turn the clock back to ’68
FACT #341
The folks who brought us Reddi-wip whipped cream had another brainstorm in the 1960s: Reddi-Bacon.

10 Things You Might Not Know About Nearly Everything contains a plethora of tidbits and trivia that will appeal to everyone, from history buffs to sports fans to foodies. From lighthearted topics such as misspellings and extreme eating, to serious subjects such as WWII and prison, this book leaves readers brighter and wittier than ever before.

FACT #84: A cardigan worn by a man is sometimes called a mandigan.

FACT #178: Genuphobia is the fear of knees.

FACT #238: Actress Marilyn Monroe colored her hair using a shade of blond called dirty pillow slip.

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OPINION

‘Divorce’ returns, toeing the line between darkness, light

I had mixed emotions last year when I heard Sarah Jessica Parker was starring in a new HBO show called “Divorce.”

On one hand, it was tough to imagine Parker playing any role other than Carrie Bradshaw in “Sex and The City.” I would love to imagine that Carrie and Big are still blissfully married, 14 years after the wildly successful comedy about four best friends living and dating in New York City ended. But at the same time, Parker is such a gifted and likable actor, I’d watch any show with her in it.

Season one of “Divorce” aired in the fall of 2016, and not only did viewers accept Parker as Frances DuFresne, a character who is completely unlike Bradshaw, but the show got picked up for a second season, which starts this Sunday. And, with the new season comes the show’s new showrunner and executive producer, Jenny Bicks, who just happens to have been a writer, executive producer and Emmy-winner for “Sex and The City.” I spent some time talking with Bicks to learn more about “Divorce,” and what we can expect in season two.

According to Bicks, “Divorce,” a half-hour-long dark comedy, was created by producer Sharon Horgan and Sarah Jessica Parker - even in her more serious role as Frances, still has the same likability that made you want to go out for a glass of wine with her. There’s more joy and more possibility in every moment. I actually laughed out loud quite a few times. I also found myself relating to and rooting for the characters in their quest for happiness after divorce. And of course, Sarah Jessica Parker - even in her more serious role as Frances, still has the same likability that made you want to go out for a couple cosmos with her, Miranda, Samantha and Charlotte.

Bicks referred to the first season of “Divorce” as “an explosion,” as it begins when Frances and Robert DuFresne (played by Sarah Jessica Parker and Thomas Haden Church), an unhappy couple with two children, decide their marriage isn’t working. They then endure the roller-coaster ride of becoming separated and going through a divorce. Bicks said season two is the aftermath.

“Now that the smoke has cleared and Frances and Robert are officially divorced, they are trying to figure out what they are left with and what makes them happy,” she said. “This season is a more hopeful season. There’s more joy and more possibilities. Even with a bad ending, there’s always a new beginning. If you are 45 or 50 and single, there’s a world out there for you. It’s not the end and you’re not alone.”

Bicks said we can expect season two to be a little bit more comedic, but that she still aimed to maintain the intensity and complexity of the show.

“It was important not to make it so simple. This is not a goofy show,” she said. “Tonally, I always walk the line between drama and comedy. I like to have a balance and that’s what we did in ‘Sex and The City.’ We did outrageous, but in the end it was about grounded emotions and relationships. The goal is to tell stories in the most truthful way and the most unique way.”

Bicks has never gone through a divorce, and neither has Parker nor Church, but Bicks said many of the cast and crew members either have or are children of divorce.

When asked what she hopes viewers will get from the show, Bicks said “Divorce” is a piece of entertainment meant for anyone (not just divorced people), and that viewers can expect some shocking moments.

“We’ve laid in little breadcrumbs for you,” she said. “Just wait.”

HBO gave me a sneak peak and I ended up watching four episodes of the new season. The story lines were realistic, and therefore occasionally depressing. That said, the show is peppered with some really funny moments. I actually laughed out loud quite a few times.

I also found myself relating to and rooting for the characters in their quest for happiness after divorce. And of course, Sarah Jessica Parker - even in her more serious role as Frances, still has the same likability that made you want to go out for a couple cosmos with her, Miranda, Samantha and Charlotte.

I couldn’t help but ask Bicks, who has known Parker since 1997, what Parker’s marriage to Matthew Broderick is like. The couple has three children.

“They are a really good example of a modern couple,” Bicks said. “They both work hard, they adore their kids, they appreciate each other, and they have grown up together, too. They respect each other and they make each other laugh.”

“Divorce,” season two, premieres on Sunday, Jan. 14 on HBO at 9 p.m.

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist for Chicago Tribune Media Group. She is also the creator of her divorce support website, Divorced Girl Smiling. She lives in Chicago.
Reasons women persisted in 2017

From athletic contests to political ones, entertainment to activism, women achieved milestones throughout the year.
Oral hygiene options for your dog and cat

By Cathy M. Rosenthal
Tribune Content Agency

Q: My dog is 6'/2 years old and had to have her teeth cleaned about a year ago. Since then, I had started brushing her teeth almost every day, as the vet suggested. Now she will not let me get near her mouth to brush her teeth. She doesn't growl or try to bite, but has clearly grown tired of me brushing them. Are there other options out there to insure her teeth are being cleaned without having to brush them?

— Jennifer, Mineola, NY

A: While brushing your dog's teeth with an enzymatic toothpaste made just for dogs is the No. 1 way to maintain good oral hygiene, there are other options available to keep her mouth healthy and clean.

There are dental sprays, wipes and gels that you can apply to her teeth to reduce plaque and act as a preventative. There are also dental sprays, wipes and gels that you can apply to her teeth to reduce plaque and act as a preventative.

If a toothbrush is unacceptable to your dog, there are alternative ways to keep their teeth in shape, including dental sprays, wipes and gels that you can apply to the teeth to reduce plaque and act as a preventative.

A toothbrush is unacceptable to your dog, there are alternative ways to keep their teeth in shape, including dental sprays, wipes and gels that you can apply to the teeth to reduce plaque and act as a preventative.

showed no needle, so the cat was sent home. The next day, the cat was much sicker. Emergency surgery revealed the cat swallowed sewing thread, which required the removal of 18 inches of intestine. The cat now has chronic diarrhea and must eat special food. Even though they missed the proper diagnosis, the vet charged my friend $10,000 for the treatment and surgery. It seems that threads act like a knife, so be careful what your cat swallows. Plants are not the only thing that can be harmful to your cats.

— Nancy, Shoreham, New York

Q: You recently wrote a column about felines forming strong bonds, and it reminded me of my two cats. They were sisters, just weeks old when I acquired them. After 16 years, one died, and the other one searched every corner of my apartment for more than six months. The situation was very sad. The other cat died the following year.

Now comes the part of the story I don't generally tell anyone because they wouldn't understand. I wanted to bury that cat with dignity and choose a beautiful spot in my parents' suburban rose garden. But the cat died in winter. When I lived in upstate New York, people who died in the winter would be "stored" until the spring thaws. Without telling my parents, I "stored" my beloved cat in the bottom of their chest freezer in a container marked with my name. They never excavated their chest freezer and never knew. In the spring, when they were away for the weekend, I successfully buried my cat in their rose garden.

— Jan, Wheaton, IL

A: I can personally attest to your cautionary tale about sewing thread. I had a cat who once ate thread from a spool of thread on a sewing machine. I was only away from the machine for two minutes, but it was long enough for him to swallow enough thread to require emergency surgery. Sewing thread can cut like a knife, so be careful what your cat swallows. Plants are not the only thing that can be harmful to your cats.

Send your pet questions, stories and tips to cathypetpundit.com. Please include your name, city, and state. You can follow her @cathymrosenthal.
Reasons women persisted in 2017

From athletic contests to political ones, entertainment to activism, women achieved milestones throughout the year

International Women’s Day on March 8 was the most-talked-about moment of the year on Facebook (sorry, No. 2 Super Bowl). According to the social media giant, chatter around the globe doubled from last year, all in celebration of women and related issues. Also worth a mention, 500,000 people joined the Jan. 21 Women’s March event on Facebook, making it the site’s largest event of 2017.

In August, Nobel Prize-winning Pakistani activist Malala Yousafzai tweeted about her acceptance to the University of Oxford, five years after Taliban gunmen shot her for advocating for girls’ right to an education. Yousafzai — who is the youngest Nobel laureate — said she planned to study philosophy, economics and politics.

Saudi Arabia announced in September that it will finally allow women to obtain driver’s licenses. The change will take effect in June, thanks in part to the many Saudi women who participated in the #Women2Drive campaign. The movement used social media — including YouTube videos of women illegally driving — to gain support and force the change.

New York Times reported Jodi Kantor and Megan Twohey sparked a national conversation about sexual harassment in October, when they published a story detailing sexual misconduct allegations against Hollywood producer Harvey Weinstein. Millions of women responded by sharing their own experiences of sexual harassment, using the hashtag #MeToo. Women also came forward to allege inappropriate sexual behavior by a series of high-profile men, including “Today” show host Matt Lauer, who was fired, and U.S. Sen. Al Franken, who resigned effective Jan. 2.

Time magazine named “The Silence Breakers” its Person of the Year.

Women broke new ground in the Nov. 8 election — just look at the Virginia legislature, which now includes two Latinas, an open lesbian, a female refugee from Vietnam and an open transgender woman. Several of those ousted were white men who had held office for years.

“Wonder Woman,” directed by Patty Jenkins, became the highest-grossing superhero origin film of all time in November. Gal Gadot’s Diana Prince had her detractors, but no one can deny the connection women had with the heroine, nor the battle cry that seemed to sum up the film: I am woman, hear me roar.

Ibtihaj Muhammad made history in Rio de Janeiro in 2016 as the first American athlete to compete in the Olympics while wearing a hijab. In November 2017, Mattel announced a new doll modeled on her likeness for the company’s Sheroes collection. That’s two big wins for representation and breaking boundaries.

New Orleans is known for many things: Mardi Gras, scrumptious beignets, grand mansions dotting the Garden District. As of Nov. 18, the city can also be recognized for electing its first woman mayor, Democrat LaToya Cantrell, 45. A former City Council member, Cantrell pushed through a smoke-free ordinance at casinos and bars, which she said was to protect hospitality workers from secondhand smoke.

Certain things about Tiny Tim in “A Christmas Carol” never change. He is lovable and kindhearted, sickly and frail. This winter, in the Chicago Goodman Theatre’s annual production, Tiny Tim is still the aforementioned — but with an extra X chromosome. Paris Strickland, 10, a fourth-grader who spent the first chunk of her life battling cancer, is the first girl to land the role. From what we hear, she nailed it.

African-American women again were the superheroes of the U.S. Senate election Dec. 12 in Alabama. Determined to stop Republican Roy Moore — accused of being a pedophile and who also has a soiled record on civil rights — from winning the seat, black women turned out in a higher percentage than any other group. Ninety-eight percent of them voted for Democrat Doug Jones, giving him a narrow victory in a solidly red state.

Dahleen Glanton, Nneka McGuirere, Alison Bowen, Darcel Rockett, Nara Schenning, Randi Stevenson, Lauren Chval, Sade Carpenter, KT Hawbaker and Christen A. Johnson contributed.
Is reinventing the book needed?

By John Warner
Chicago Tribune

Having forged a virtual monopoly on the e-book market, purchased Whole Foods to extend its empire into the brick-and-mortar world and achieved earnings that have made Jeff Bezos the richest man in the world ($90 billion net worth), Amazon’s next mission is, apparently, to revolutionize the book.

This is according to David Pierce, writing in Wired, who charts the 10-year arc of the Kindle from weird- and clunky-looking to slim and waterproof. Pierce sees a “crossroads” for the device, where one mission is to “perfectly mimic a paper book,” and the other “to extend and improve the reading experience.”

One option will be to make the Kindle more “like paper” — flexible, crumpleable. A digitally connected sheet on which text of any kind can be downloaded seems inevitable.

But the other potential path imagines books as a wholly new form, an “improved” version of the book, and one Amazon is uniquely positioned to enact with its stranglehold on digital distribution.

I wish them luck, I suppose, but count me a skeptic on their chances at improving on the physical book, one of the most durable technologies around. It was supposed to have been killed off multiple times in relatively recent history, first by the motion picture and then by the Kindle.

But e-book sales have stabilized, perhaps even declined: E-books account for about 25 percent of all books and roughly 50 percent of fiction sales, according to Nielsen.

Our brains appear to be hard-wired to respond to stories, and reading appears to be a uniquely powerful way to experience narrative. Martin Puchner’s recently released “The Power of Stories to Shape People, History, Civilization” makes a case that stories are the building blocks of civilization itself, that literature has “shaped the lives of most humans on planet Earth.”

On its release, the Kindle was touted as an improved version of the book, but many readers remained loyal to the physical object. Others — and I’m among them — were initial Kindle enthusiasts but gradually migrated back to physical books. Now, I read only digital copies when physical copies are otherwise unavailable. The Kindle revolution is about ease of distribution, not an improved format.

“The Silent History,” a 2012 collaboration by Eli Horowitz, Matthew Derby and Kevin Moffett, sold as an app, was billed a “groundbreaking novel” that uses “serialization, exploration, and collaboration” and included location-based content triggered when you were near the site described in the text. A fascinating experiment — and well ahead of its time — it failed to announce a revolution in the reading experience anymore than Pokemon Go has permanently revolutionized gaming.

While these hypothetical book innovations could easily integrate various interactive elements, each of those changes moves whatever this new thing is further away from its life as a book.

John Gardner argued that fiction should read like a “vivid and continuous dream,” and it is hard to imagine any kind of technological enhancement that would improve on what books deliver.

Books are already a virtual reality experience with the capability of separating us from our senses of time and place. This technology works on humans of every age, even from before we can read the words for ourselves.

I’m not betting against the engineers at Amazon creating something interesting. At best, I think they may devise something that functions like 3-D technology at the movies, a kind of fun add-on for certain movies at certain times, but nothing that offers fundamental change.

When it comes to books, nothing is broken that needs innovating.

John Warner is the author of “Tough Day for the Army.”

Twitter @biblioracle

Book recommendations from the Biblioracle

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

1. “The Alice Network” by Kate Quinn
2. “The Handmaid’s Tale” by Margaret Atwood
3. “Born a Crime: Stories From a South African Childhood” by Trevor Noah
4. “Bruno, Chief of Police” by Martin Walker
5. “My Grandmother Asked Me to Tell You She’s Sorry” by Fredrik Backman
— Nancy S., Bloomington, Ill., on behalf of the BALS GALS book group

Dennis Lehane’s “Since We Fell” feels like a good fit here.

1. “Bryant and May on the Loose” by Christopher Fowler
2. “Beartown” by Fredrik Backman
3. “Saints for All Occasions” by J. Courtney Sullivan
4. “Catalina Eddy” by Daniel Pyne
5. “Just Another Day in Paradise” by A.E. Maxwell
— Jan N., Mount Prospect

Jan looks like she has the mystery side of her reading self covered, so I’m giving her something for the other half. “The White Tiger” by Aravind Adiga.

1. “Lincoln in the Bardo” by George Saunders
2. “Little Fires Everywhere” by Celeste Ng
3. “Pieces of Happiness” by Anne Ostby
4. “After This” by Alice McDermott
5. “A Gentleman In Moscow” by Amor Towles
— Phyllis C., Mount Prospect

I’m wondering if Phyllis has read Hilary Mantel’s masterful “Wolf Hall.” If so, she should write me back and tell me how on target this recommendation is.

Get a reading from the Biblioracle

To get a reading from the Biblioracle, send a list of the last five books you’ve read to books@chicagotribune.com. Write “Biblioracle” in the subject line.
ASK THE DOCTORS

No matter the time of day, always wear sunscreen

By Dr. Eve Glazier and Dr. Elizabeth Ko

Ask The Doctors

Dear Doctor: Because I have fair skin and live in an area with a lot of sun, I try to do my outdoor activities early in the day (before 9 a.m.) or late in the afternoon (after 4 p.m.). Do I still need to wear sunscreen?

Dear Reader: In a word, yes. If your goal is to protect your skin from sun damage, which includes sunburn, wrinkles and a range of cancers, our advice is to wear sunscreen during the daylight hours. In fact, research now shows that even a light tan is a sign of sun damage.

This dawn-to-dusk timing for sunscreen application may appear counterintuitive; after all, sunlight looks and feels markedly weaker during the early morning and late afternoon than at midday. While it's true that the sun's rays are strongest between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., the fact is that from the moment it appears above the horizon to the instant it vanishes from sight, our closest star is sending a full dose of skin-damaging ultraviolet radiation our way.

How can that be?

Sun damage is caused by two types of radiation — ultraviolet A and B, better known as UVA and UVB. These are part of a broad spectrum of light, which includes the light we can see. But because ultraviolet rays are shorter than rays of visible light, they can't be seen with the naked eye. However, what you can't see definitely can hurt you. The so-called "sunburn ray" is UVB. It has a slightly shorter wavelength than UVA, and is not as concentrated in the early morning and late afternoon. The highest amounts of UVB radiation reach us between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. in the months of April through October. And while UVB accounts for only 5 to 10 percent of all UV radiation that reaches us, it plays a key part in the onset of skin cancer.

By contrast, UVA maintains the same intensity all day, which makes dawn-to-dusk sunscreen use important. UVA is responsible for signs of aging, such as wrinkles and dark spots. It also damages certain cells in the basal layer of the epidermis, which is where most skin cancers form. In the past, UVA was absorbed as a cancer connection. Now, however, researchers believe that it plays a role in cellular changes that lead to cancer.

The other thing to know is that UVA can penetrate clouds and glass. When you're riding in a car, sitting near a window or spending time outdoors in poor weather, you're still in the path of UVA rays. Reflective surfaces, such as water, snow, ice and glass, refract up to 80 percent of the UVA and UVB rays that hit them. That means you're getting close to a double dose of the sun's harmful rays. And don't forget that the sun's rays become more potent at higher altitudes.

Our final word of advice is to be sure to use sunscreen rated for both UVA and UVB radiation. It will be clearly marked on the label. Use it generously and reapply according to product instructions. Your skin will thank you.

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

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

PEOPLE'S PHARMACY PRESCRIPTIONS AND HOME REMEDIES

Cocoa in oatmeal may help ease arthritis pain

By Joe Graedon and Teresa Graedon

King Features Syndicate

Q: After reading that dark chocolate has health benefits, I learned to enjoy it. Eating it didn’t reduce my arthritis aches, though.

Then I read in the newspaper that researchers discovered that gut microbes convert some chocolate ingredients into anti-inflammatory compounds.

Apparently, 2 tablespoons of cocoa powder a day is sufficient. This must be plain 100 percent cocoa powder, such as is used in baking, not Dutch-processed cocoa.

Chemist John Finley, the researcher, said he avoids the sugar and fat that would come from eating too much chocolate candy by putting cocoa in his oatmeal. Since following his example, I’ve rarely had arthritis pain.

A: Your letter sent us on a search for Dr. Finley’s research. We found a press release regarding Bifidobacterium in the digestive tract producing anti-inflammatory compounds by fermenting cocoa powder. Other research has demonstrated that cocoa compounds can reduce immunoglobulin secretion in the intestine (Frontiers in Nutrition, June 27, 2017). This research demonstrated a benefit in experimental arthritis in rats, but we don’t have clinical trials in humans.

We’re delighted to learn how well you are doing by adding 2 tablespoons of cocoa to your morning oatmeal. We have documented a number of other nondrug approaches to alleviating arthritis pain in our new 104-page book, "The Graedons’ Guide to Alternatives for Arthritis." It may be purchased at www.peoplespharmacy.com.

Cocoa powder may help ease arthritis pain, but there have been no known clinical trials on humans.

Q: I used Advair to treat my asthma for several years. Bit by bit, I started getting hoarse. It got so bad that people constantly were asking me to repeat myself, and no one could understand me over the phone.

I stopped using Advair, and the hoarseness went away, but my breathing got worse. Do you know of a solution?

A: Inhaled corticosteroids and bronchodilators are a cornerstone for treating breathing problems like asthma and COPD (chronic obstructive pulmonary disease). Drugs like Advair (fluticasone plus salmeterol), Breo (fluticasone plus vilanterol) and Symbicort (budesonide plus formoterol) have become very popular. They are a convenient way to relieve airway inflammation and make breathing easier.

Inhaled steroids are less likely to cause systemic side effects, such as osteoporosis, diabetes and low potassium, than oral drugs like prednisone. However, many people report hoarseness or other voice problems as a side effect (Journal of Voice, May 2017). Unfortunately, researchers have made little, if any, progress on understanding and treating this problem.

Patients often are advised to gargle after inhaling their medicine. It is not clear, though, that this is particularly effective.

Q: I had a hideous cold with a racking cough on a layover at the Amsterdam airport about 20 years ago. I went to the pharmacy for help and was given a cough medicine that tasted exactly like a thymol-based cough syrup that worked well on chronic bronchitis when I was a kid. This Dutch elixir worked just as well. I’m guessing oil of thyme may be the magical ingredient.

A: Thymol, essential oil of thyme, is an effective cough suppressant. To make your own thyme cough syrup at home, here is Dr. Tieraona Low Dog’s recipe.

Add 2 tablespoons dried thyme to 1 cup near-boiling water and steep for 10 minutes. Strain and add 1 teaspoon of lemon juice and 1/2 cup organic honey. Take 1 tablespoon as needed. Store in the refrigerator.

In their column, Joe and Teresa Graedon answer letters from readers. Send questions to them via www.peoplespharmacy.com.
Deep hues, different sinks, simple bedrooms

10 home design trends expected to take hold, or hold on, in 2018

By Megan McDonough
The Washington Post

Rich colors. Concrete and copper sinks. Light fixtures from eras long past. These are just a few of the 2018 home interior trend predictions recently released by design platform Houzz.

The site's forecast, derived from conversations with industry experts as well as trends noticed among its 40 million monthly users, gives an early glimpse of what we might see in our homes—and on our social media feeds.

Houzz editor and writer Mitchell Parker spoke about Houzz's conclusions, and why these particular trends are gaining traction.

1. More colorful kitchens

Although white will always be a classic color for kitchen design, homeowners are shying away from bland hues and injecting rich colors, such as warm wood tones (example: mahogany) and neutrals (example: grays and blues), into the space to give it a warm, fresh and distinctive feel.

Social sites such as Instagram, Pinterest and Houzz have exposed homeowners to "what's possible, what looks fun and what they can personalize themselves," Parker said, and have encouraged them to be bigger risk-takers when it comes to color.

2. Rich tones throughout the home

Warm grays paired with "camel, rust, tobacco (and) brown-blacks," as well as earthy reds and yellows, are expected to edge out cooler neutrals in the coming year.

"These rich colors are not like the avocado green and mustard colors from the 1970s. They won't date quickly," Parker said. "They are rich, moody and work well in home environments where you want a soothing and diverse mix of colors and textures."

3. The end of white sinks

The modern farmhouse style will continue to flourish in 2018 and spread to the bathroom. Parker predicts that there will be "more concrete, stone, copper and granite composite sinks in darker hues of gray, bronze or black."

"As people set out to personalize their spaces, they are kind of bored with seeing a white sink all of the time," Parker said. The rustic home decor trend is "waking people up to trying something new and different."

It harks back to simpler times, he said, "and that feeling of simplicity can be very calming in a home environment."

4. Florals

The tropical palm print may have flooded your Instagram feeds this year, but people aren't yet tired of eye-catching, oversized graphic florals. Houzz expects even more interpretations of over-scaled floral patterns, in high-contrast colors, in the new year.

5. Vintage lighting

Vintage light fixtures, including sconces, lanterns, pendants and chandeliers, are making a comeback as crafty home do-it-yourselfers outfit retro fixtures with new technology.

6. Trough or bucket sinks

Another sign the modern farmhouse trend isn't dying in 2018: Houzz predicts that deep, wide and durable trough and bucket sinks will continue to be popular in the new year. Used commonly in busy laundry rooms and kids' bathrooms, these long, narrow and low-maintenance sinks can help create a rustic aesthetic and maximize minimal space.

7. Concrete accents

Step aside, white marble—it's concrete's time to steal the spotlight.

"It's a really affordable, high-impact design element," Parker said. Already used for floors and countertops, the versatile, accessible material is now being utilized in more interesting and unexpected ways, including in home accessories, such as pendant lighting and furniture.

"We're seeing new uses (of it) on all kinds of hardscaping surfaces," Parker added. "On anything you can think of, people are casting it."

8. Millwork feature walls and detailing

The ease and availability of millwork has helped increase its demand and popularity in the design world. "Before, if you wanted to find millwork or reclaimed wood, you really had to know where to go and find somebody who was good at working with it," Parker said. "Now, you can DIY it, and put it right against the drywall behind your bed to create a feature wall."

9. Wallpaper-like backsplash

Looking to refresh your kitchen or bathroom? Stay away from subway or hexagon tiles and instead consider contemporary tiles that look like wood, concrete, resin, fabric or even wallpaper.

10. Casual and calm modern bedrooms

Homeowners are running with the "less is more" notion in the master bedroom and opting for more modern and minimalist furnishings. Instead of bold and busy colors, soothing neutral color palettes are expected to reign supreme, along with soft fabrics and simple furniture pieces.
FIVE IN A ROW: Making for some unusual clusters

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

Across
1 Place for prehistoric paintings
5 Florida Disney attraction
10 Padlock fastener
14 _garde
19 Tons and tons
20 Raptor's gripper
21 With 33 Across, 1820s engineering marvel
22 Barbecue spot
23 Sorcery
25 Beginning of many biographies
27 Poetic time of day
28 Sailor’s call
29 Historical spans
30 Passed over, as a syllable
31 Jeered at
33 See 21 Across
35 Corp. leader
36 To a high degree
37 German-based automaker
38 Sealed
42 Global extremes
45 Apt filmdom rhyme for “unseen”
47 _shoestring (cheaply)
48 Mine extractions
49 Part of many a superhero’s costume
51 Henry Ford rival
52 Make fun of
53 Novelist Deighton
54 Epistolary afterthought
58 Initial extra inning
59 Pilots’ journals
61 Is optimistic
64 Kid-lit elephant
65 A little wet
66 Painter’s pigments
68 Had a go at
69 Collected, as praise
72 Stares (at)
73 Acrobatic maneuver
75 Quarterback Manning
76 San _ Obispo, CA
77 Slalom gear
79 Early pop-music idol Vallée
81 Half a figure eight
82 Gig for a comic
86 Seethes
88 Pizza adjective
89 With the current
91 Leave quickly, soto
95 Crime stats
99 Drill sergeant's order
102 Food-truck fare
103 Sale stipulation
104 Source for beer or water
105 Metaphor for thinness
107 One way to swim
110 Convex navel
111 Natural emollient
112 Concur
113 Place for a roast
114 Wall-frame timbers
115 Compromise
116 Bassoons and oboes
117 Minister (to)

Down
1 Sound like a raven
2 Still a possible winner
3 Electorate member
4 List shortcut
5 Acid artisan
6 Satirical imitation
7 Potter's material
8 Comics sound effect
9 Blaster’s supply
10 Of Israel’s language
11 Sans-serif computer font
12 Round Table figures
13 Adopt-a-thon adoptee
14 Sources of sauces
15 Hand luggage
16 _—_ (not much)
17 Well-mannered
18 — the line (obeys)
19 Greek underworld
20 Wetlands waders
21 Weather for 63 Across
22 Leave quickly, so to speak
23 Track circuits
24 Greek underworld
25 Crime stats
26 Wetlands waders
27 Quarterback Manning
28 San _ Obispo, CA
29 Early pop-music idol Vallée
30 Passed over, as a syllable
31 Jeered at
32 Currier’s partner’s order
33 Casual eateries
34 “_ Wiedersehen!”
35 Besecheched
36 Boston NBAers
37 With the current
38 Join forces
39 Maze options
40 Straw vote
41 Small, sweet sandwich
42 Moving across
43 Declines, with “out”
44 Rodeo contestant
45 Hoists’ pens
46 Looks clarification
47 Annoy playfully
48 Mine extractions
49 French clothes
50 Seeks clarification
52 Annoy playfully
53 Novelist Deighton
54 Epistolary afterthought
55 Many-store retail operation
56 Chid like a grad
57 Some Galaxy competitors
58 What a noun may be
59 Part of many a superhero’s costume
60 Sounds from pounds
61 Is optimistic
62 Cliché-ridden
63 Canvas coverings
64 Kid-lit elephant
65 A little wet
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64 Overly assertive
65 A little wet
66 Painter’s pigments
68 Had a go at
69 Collected, as praise
72 Stares (at)
73 Acrobatic maneuver
75 Quarterback Manning
76 San _ Obispo, CA
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54 Holes in a sponge
55 Many-store retail operation
56 Chid like a grad
57 Some Galaxy competitors
58 What a noun may be
59 Part of many a superhero’s costume
60 Sounds from pounds
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Quote-Acrostic

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

Clues

A. Revolving tray: 2 wds. 161 62 65 148 158 23 106 37 93
B. 'Moby-Dick's' narrator 64 53 123 97 105 87 151
C. Dark beer style 19 136 88 89 6 82
D. Easy winner: hyph. 72 91 128 83 144 40
E. Textiles for sale: 2 wds. 111 43 29 119 68 18 159 143 80
F. Praised or praised or puffed 125 31 20 107 71 16
G. Bulldozer or bulldozer 27 4 113 102 96 132 155 74 140 35
H. Headress or joint 84 7 55 164 142
I. All 36 117 110 21 135 10 49 66 145 122
J. Atlantic arm: 2 wds. 79 98 120 45 157 9 114 133

Words

K. Set of steps 76 156 89 63 104
L. 'Spiderman' movie star 30 116 42 2 22 160 11 96 67 90 52
M. Leave behind 141 99 14 86 77 39 124 112 134 51 24
N. Small sea mollusk 32 109 75 48 154 8
O. 'Young Americans' star 33 85 149 46
P. Thin down 34 28 152 12 138 61
Q. Most helpful hyph. 147 162 130 26 28 70 101 3 94
R. Valid 50 95 137 59 13 25 129 146 103
S. Consequence 92 163 108 15 60 1 81 54 131
T. Watered pattern 38 150 121 47 73
U. Beach 58 139 41 127 118

Across

1 Father, in Britain 45 Overtime pay
6 Entertainment 49 Have ___ : be merciful
10 Selfishness 50 Leisure's opposite
13 Where Apla is 51 French pal
14 Hebrew letter: var. 54 Family monogram
15 French pronoun 55 In every direction
17 Acquiring 58 Underdone
19 Otherwise 59 Repair
20 Feminine ending 60 Distinct parts
21 Disgruntled 61 Transp. systems
22 Temper 62 Utters
24 Designed for amateur construction 63 Garden violet.
26 Air-raid precaution
29 Coalition
30 Not likely
31 Malodorous
33 Undiluted
36 Annoyingly slow
37 Helmsman
38 Where Cienfuegos is
39 Direction: abbr.
40 Ledge of rocks
41 Common mosquito
42 Baseball larceny
44 Two points, in football
45 Overtime pay
49 Have ___ : be merciful
50 Leisure's opposite
51 French pal
54 Family monogram
55 In every direction
58 Underdone
59 Repair
60 Distinct parts
61 Transp. systems
62 Utters
63 Garden violet.

Down

1 Reddish color
2 GIs' addresses
3 Mix and Tryon
4 Samuel's teacher; Bib.
5 Becomes exhausted
6 Go around
7 Term of endearment
8 Make a choice
9 Mystery story
10 Nonetheless
11 Christian precept
12 European blackbird
16 Bondman
18 Conduct one's affairs
22 Bondman
23 Jeune
24 Stupid: var.
25 From among
26 Deceive
27 Participating
28 Celebrates
31 Playing area
32 English unit of length
34 Deter's opposite
35 Plastic
37 Apparitions
38 Buffet
40 Wither
41 Phones
42 Baseball larceny
43 Harasses
44 Windmill part
45 Himalayan wild goat
46 ___ tell: it is rumored
47 ___ rate: at least
48 Contains
49 Contains
51 An uproar
52 Shea Stadium
53 Suburb of Paris
56 Teachers' grp.
57 nutshell

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

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THERE'S A NEW JOB BOARD IN TOWN THAT MAKES HIRING EASIER THAN EVER

TO LEARN MORE VISIT jobnetwork.chicagotribune.com
**Judicial Sales - Real Estate**

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION

NATIONAL TRUST MORTGAGE LLC

Plaintiff

IN SOK NA, YONG S. NA, MORTGAGE ELECTRONIC REGISTRATION SYSTEMS, INC., UNOWNED OWNERS, AND NON-RECORD CLAIMANTS,

Defendants

15 CH 030

NOTICE OF SALE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a judgment of foreclosure and sale entered in the above entitled cause on November 28, 2017, as an agent for the Judicial Sales Corporation, will on the 10th day of April, 2018, at 10:00 AM, at the Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606, sell to the highest bidder, subject to the terms and conditions stated below.

The property is located at 3250 S. Langley Ave., Chicago, IL 60608.

The property is subject to a judgment of foreclosure and sale entered in the above cause, as an agent for the Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, Chicago, IL 60606, sell to the highest bidder, subject to the terms and conditions stated below.

The property will be sold subject to any and all liens, encumbrances, restrictions, easements, and all taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to the condition of the property. The property will be sold at or above the minimum price advertised.

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
Sealed bids for the 2018 Entry of 2017 Standards for the Illinois Sustained Achievement Pilot Program, 1030 South Fairview Avenue, Park Ridge, IL 60068, will be received by the Board of Education, at the Park Ridge-Niles School District 219 Administration Building located at 99 South Fairview Avenue, Park Ridge, IL 60068. Bids must be submitted electronically and reproduced at www.illinoispublicbuildings.com, 10:30 a.m. Monday, January 8, 2018, in the Board Office, 1030 South Fairview Avenue, Park Ridge, IL 60068. The Board of Education reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any irregularities or informalities in bidding.

Bid Notice
The Board of Education of Evanston Township High School (SCHS) is soliciting sealed bids for the 2018 - 2019 District's energy efficiency improvement project. Bids must be submitted to the Board of Education of Evanston Township High School at 164 South Prospect Avenue, Evanston, IL 60201 by 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, February 6, 2018.

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What to do when your iPhone slows or drains battery quickly

I'd had it up to here with the rapid draining of my iPhone battery. It was going from 100 percent to practically nothing in just a few short hours. I also was just beginning to hear reports of Apple's iOS software updates intentionally slowing down older iPhones processing speeds, along with announcements of class action lawsuits against Apple for the same.

In an attempt to avoid being sucked into the planned obsolescence vortex, I decided to Google “iPhone battery loses charge.” Among my findings was a user-friendly post containing a gold mine of battery-preserving recommendations written by David Payette of Payette Forward, a website dedicated to providing solutions to consumers searching for help with their iPhones, Macs and other devices.

I proceeded to spend the next 45 minutes studiously employing Payette’s many “turn off” recommendations. Amazingly, once I had disabled several of the unnecessary default functions that continually run in the background of every iPhone, my battery returned to holding a charge — though the processing speed still lags.

Because I know many of you are currently struggling with the same extremely annoying battery drain/slow processing issues, I decided to contact Payette, a former Apple Genius and technician, to learn more.

As you may have heard, Apple has admitted to intentionally slowing down older iPhones, explaining in its official statement: “On iOS 10.2.1, we delivered a software update that improves power management during peak workloads to avoid unexpected shutdowns on iPhone 6, iPhone 6 Plus, iPhone 6s, iPhone 6s Plus, and iPhone SE ... While these changes may go unnoticed, in some cases users may experience longer launch times for apps and other reductions in performance.”

Apple goes on to say, “We now believe that another contributor to these user experiences is the continued chemical aging of the batteries in older iPhone 6 and iPhone 6s devices, many of which are still running on their original batteries.” In response, Apple is offering iPhone replacement batteries for a steeply discounted price of $29 starting later this month.

So my first question to Payette was this: Is it likely a new battery will completely resolve the battery-depletion, slow processing issues iOS updates have caused for older iPhones?

In a word, Payette’s answer was no. “There is a lot of vague information in Apple’s statement,” said Payette. “In my opinion, it looks like the whole thing is a smoke-screen because batteries have almost nothing to do with the performance of an iPhone.”

He explained that iPhone performance (aka, speed) is determined by the processor, and he provided a slick analogy to make his point.

“Think of your iPhone as a car. The processor is the engine and the battery is the gas tank. The processor (engine) determines how fast the iPhone can go; the battery (gas tank) holds the fuel. If a car came with a 15-gallon tank and three years later, it was replaced with a 10-gallon tank, you wouldn't be able to go as far, but you would still be able to go as fast.”

In Payette's opinion, Apple has essentially placed a governor on people's older, updated iPhones. And once you update with Apple, you can't go back.

He continued, “Unexpected shut-downs rarely ever happen — unless a battery is broken. Having worked with hundreds of thousands of iPhones in an Apple store, I can tell you unexpected shut-downs are a very, very, very rare occurrence.”

So what is an iPhone owner to do? Payette says consumers must weigh the costs against the benefits. If an older iPhone is at the bottom of the compatible devices list that accompanies every iOS update, owners need to ask themselves if they are willing to trade processing speed for the latest updates, which typically include access to new apps, bug fixes and security updates.

For those who have already updated their iPhones, batteries can be preserved against updates' additional processing loads by employing the many step-by-step suggestions found in Payette's post “Why Does My iPhone Battery Die So Fast?” Recommendations include changing email retrieval from “push” to “fetch,” turning off unnecessary location services, closing out apps, turning off unwanted app push notifications, removing unnecessary widgets and turning off “background app refresh,” to name just a few.

Need help?

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

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist.
LAKE ZURICH

Five-bedroom, three-bathroom home. Ceiling fans and new carpet in every bedroom. Open concept kitchen, dining and living areas on second level. Lower level with family room, wood burning, gas start fireplace, laundry and full bath with in-law arrangement. Located on corner lot with waterfront view. New paved driveway leading to attached two-car garage.

Address: 101 Lorraine Drive
Price: $375,000
Schools: Lake Zurich High School
Taxes: $7,391
Agent: Shannon Getz/@properties

LAKE BLUFF


Address: 1120 Muir Ave.
Price: $539,000
Schools: Lake Forest High School
Taxes: $11,340
Agent: Marie Colette/Griffith, Grant & Lackie

MORTON GROVE


Address: 9202 Major Ave.
Price: $550,000
Schools: Niles West High School
Taxes: $10,870
Agent: Pamela Saul/Keller-Williams

NORTHSHORECENTER.ORG

NORTHBROOK


Address: 12 The Court of Hidden Wells
Price: $575,000
Schools: Glenbrook North High School
Taxes: $9,901
Agent: Paul Cionczyk/Baird & Warner

Listings from Homefinder.com

ORANGE IS THE NEW BARACK
JANUARY 25-28, 2018
THU 7:30PM | FRI 8PM | SAT 5PM & 8PM | SUN 2PM

The Capitol Steps are taking on the Trump administration and you'll laugh 'til it hurts. No one is safe from the Steps' skewering musical parodies.

NorthShoreCenter.org 847.673.6300
## Community Real Estate Transfers

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<tr>
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<th>BUYER</th>
<th>SELLER</th>
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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
Roxy Bellows finds success making it up as she goes

By Myrna Petlicki
Pioneer Press

Roxy Bellows Live!

When: 8 p.m. Jan. 20
Where: Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie
Tickets: $17 in advance; $22 at the door
Information: 847-677-7761; www.skokietheater.org

Patricia Musker is a chameleon. Put a habit on her and she becomes the nun who schools audience members about religion in the hilarious, long-running comedy “Late Nite Catechism” at the Royal George Theatre. Give her a black wig and she converts into Roxy Bellows, a witty, larger-than-life entertainer who creates an entire show from scratch every night.

Audiences will meet Musker’s high-energy Roxy Jan. 20 at the Skokie Theatre.

Roxy Bellows first emerged around 1990 in a Free Associates show called “Divamatic.” “The leader of that group asked me if I would fill in for one night,” Musker recalled. “Friends came and told me, ‘This is something you should do.’”

Musker, of Jefferson Park, didn’t act on that suggestion until 2002 when she became one of the founding members of Noble Fool Theater. They had a cabaret space and her fellow performers encouraged her to reprise one of her characters from “Divamatic.” Roxy Bellows became a huge hit and Musker has taken the character to many venues since.

“Roxy speaks her mind and Roxy pushes the envelope,” Musker said. “She’ll walk up to that line but never cross that line.” The actor admitted that personally, “I’m not that bold and brazen. But I do like to talk to people and find out more about them, which is a lot of what Roxy Bellows does.”

Not only does Roxy chat with audience members, she will bring some of them onstage to interview them and have them share in her silliness.

Then she’s off and running telling the onstage participant something like, “I have a song about whittling. It was on album five, track three. Do you remember it?” Musker related. She will invite the person to sing along with her, as she makes up a song on the spot.

“My favorite is when people are reticent, and, by the end, they’ll sing along,” she noted. “The audience loves it. They want to see people come out of their shell.”

One of Musker’s favorite Roxy moments occurred after a performance. “I heard someone in the bathroom saying, ‘That experience changed my life!’ She couldn’t believe how brave she was and how freeing it was to get up and be silly and do something out of her comfort zone.”

Musker, who grew up in Norridge, particularly enjoys reminiscing with older men in the audience about the totally made up time they met in Paris. She will even get them to “recall” their pet name for her.

Not only doesn’t Musker prepare for her shows, she doesn’t even plan anything in advance with accompanist Sarah Porretta. “We don’t talk about anything. We don’t have any hand signals,” Musker insisted. “It is truly 100 percent improvised from what I say to what I sing.”

Because Roxy Bellows has many repeat audience members, Musker has devised a way to make sure she calls new people to the stage each time.

“People are asked at the door, ‘Have you ever seen Roxy before?’” Musker explained. “If they say ‘No,’ they get a Roxy Virgin sticker. I need fresh blood every time.”

Myrna Petlicki is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Entertainer Roxy Bellows performs an all-improvised show.
WHAT TO DO COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, Jan. 18

**Donald Kinsey & The Kinsey Report:** 8 p.m. Thursday, Evanston Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $5-$25, 847-492-8860

**Shape of Nova Work-In-Residence Program:** The Evanston Art Center (EAC) announced its second Shape of Nova Fashion Residency, a collaboration with Anne Guiteau and Katrin Schnabl, who will occupy the upstairs Atrium Gallery at the Art Center through Jan. 28. 9 a.m. daily, Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-5300

**Paint the Eyes Softer: Mummy Portraits from Roman Egypt:** This exhibition presents Roman Egyptian mummy portraits and related materials that are in the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology at the University of California, Berkeley. The exhibition will foreground innovative techniques for the scientific study of objects and reveal to the public how partnerships between art historians, archaeologists, and material scientists can provide new insight. 10 a.m. daily, Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, 4 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, free, 847-491-4000

**Experiments in Form:** Experiments in Form: Sam Gilliam, Alan Shields, Frank Stella. Moving beyond the experiments of other painters of the era, Sam Gilliam saturated raw, unstretched canvas with acrylic to create works that lie at the intersection of painting and sculpture. The Block Museum presents a focused exhibition of works by artists engaged with abstraction and the expansion of painting in the U.S. in the 1960s and 1970s. 10 a.m. daily, Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art, Northwestern University, 4 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, free, 847-491-4000

**Opera Lecture Series:** “Il Puritali” by Vincenzo Bellini: Tales of intrigue, love and death from the 2017/18 Lyric Opera of Chicago season. Moderated by Opera Lovers Lecture Corp. Register at glenviewpl.org. 847-729-7500 extension 7600 or the Reader Services Desk. 7 p.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Sci-Fi/Fantasy Movie Discussion Group:** A man forms an unlikely relationship with an A.I. in “Her.” A discussion will follow the film. 7 p.m. Thursday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

**Intro to ThetaHealing:** The Theta-Healing technique with Julie Sandford is a meditation technique that allows you to train your mind and body to clear limiting beliefs, to experience more love, freedom and expansion. In this seminar, learn how to access a Theta state to identify beliefs keeping you stuck. Takes place from 10 to 11:30 a.m. 10 a.m. Thursday, The Women’s Exchange, 630 Lincoln Ave., Winnetka, $25, 847-441-3406

Friday, Jan. 19

**“The Odd Couple”:** There’s a laugh a second in Neil Simon’s hit Broadway play when two suddenly single pals, a sloppy sportswriter and a compulsively tidy news writer, strain their friendship by turning roommates and driving each other crazy. 7:30 p.m. Friday and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Prairie Lakes Theatre, 515 E. Thacker St., Des Plaines, $16-$30, 847-604-0275

**“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 Mittzi?” 8 p.m. Friday and 3 p.m. Sunday, Northminster Presbyterian Church, 2515 Central Park Ave., Evanston, $20-$25, 847-869-9210

**Devils and Deceit:** Musical mischief and duplicitousness are the focus of this program featuring Bienen School faculty Gerardo Ribeiro, violin; Andrew Raciti, double bass; Stephen Alltop, trombone; and School of Music faculty member Henry Godinez, narrator. The program includes Bartok’s “Contrasts,” Tartini’s Violin Sonata in G Minor (“Devil’s Trill”) and Stravinsky’s “L’histoire du soldat” (“The Soldier’s Tale”). 7:30 p.m. Friday, Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, Northwestern University, 20 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, $10-$30, 847-467-4000

**Stephen Buzzard in Organ Recital:** OPUS 327 presents Stephen Buzzard performing major organ works on the historic Skinner Pipe Organ. Works by Sowerby, Elgar, Dupre, Schumann and Hanchick. 7:30 p.m. Friday, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 939 Hinman Ave., Evanston, $30 premium, $25 adults, $15 students, 312-480-5966

**“Megan Leavey”:** This PG-13 rated film is based on a true story. A young marine corporal deployed in Iraq bonds with her military combat dog to heroically save many lives. Just drop in to this screening. 2:30 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Saturday, Jan. 20

**“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 Saturday, 10 a.m. Sunday and 10 a.m. Wednesday, Prairie Lakes Theatre, 515 E. Thacker St., Des Plaines, $15, 847-604-0275

**David Kadouch at Bienen School’s Skyline Piano Series:** At the age of 13, David Kadouch was invited by Itzhak Perlman to perform under his baton at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. This catapulted Kadouch to an international solo career. This French pianist is quickly becoming one of the most acclaimed pianists of his generation. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Mary Galvin Recital Hall at Northwestern University, 70 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, $10-$30, 847-467-4000

**Service Buddies: Project Cups of Comfort—Grades 1-8:** Fifth- through eighth-graders assist first- through fourth-graders with decorating and filling mugs for hospice and palliative care patients and their families served by JourneyCare. Grades 5-8 must arrive by 2:30 p.m. for a briefing. Please register at glenviewpl.org/register or call 3 p.m. Saturday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Preschool Fair:** This is an opportunity for families to stop in and connect with and receive information from local preschool representatives. Light refreshments are served and a prize pack drawing will be held. A snow date is at the same time on Jan. 27 if needed. 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Things to Know before Filing 2017 Income Tax Returns:** Before filing your 2017 income tax returns, take a moment to listen and ask questions of CPAs Laurie Kaplan and Judy Mason. From the tax accounting firm Michael Silver and Company, they discuss recent changes to Illinois and federal tax laws, allowable itemized deductions and income phase-outs, impact of taxes on your retirement income, current gift and estate tax issues, and tips to minimize estate taxes. For more information, call 312-280-0420 or email info@msc.com.
**Free Intro to Square Dance Party:** Sample a uniquely American dance hobby. No experience is needed, and no partner is required. This is hosted by Glenview Square Dance Club. For more information, visit glenviewsquares.org or call 847-309-1329. 6 p.m. Sunday, Glenview Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, free, 224-521-2257

**Interest in Pinterest:** If you have an interest in Pinterest and you are looking for inspiration, Pinterest is one of the most popular social platforms for creative exploration. Drop-in, as no registration is required for this two-hour presentation. 2 p.m. Sunday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

**I Am Jane Doe:** Documentary and Panel Discussion: Watch "I Am Jane Doe" and learn how communities can stop local trafficking. Cospresented by JCAST Chicago and National Council of Jewish Women. Sunday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

**Indoor Winter Farmers Market:** Come purchase soups, jams, baked goods, salsas, meats, honey, winter-available produce and more to support your local farmers! Link/SNAP benefits and Link Match Coupons are accepted. 10 a.m. Sunday, First United Methodist Church of Park Ridge, 418 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3144

**"Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood Live!":** Everyone’s favorite characters from "Daniel Tiger’s Neighborhood" will sing and dance in this special show. 2 p.m. Sunday, Rosemont Theater, 5400 North River Road, Rosemont, $25.75

**Winter Outing to Starved Rock:** This is for those ages 18 and older to take this outing to Starved Rock State Park near Utica. It is a winter wonderland. Hike the moderate to challenging park trails and enjoy spectacular vistas, deep canyons and ice-sculpted cascades. Brunch at the lodge is included in the trip fee. 7 a.m. Sunday, Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brumell St., Skokie, $69 nonresident, $69 nonmember, 847-677-7001

**Family Play Day: Winter Fun for All Ages:** Drop-in for a morning of nature-based winter play at Emily Oaks. We will provide you with special winter nature tools and play cards to use on your self-guided walk as you enjoy the wonders of the frozen world. 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brumell St., Skokie, $1, 847-677-7001

**Town Hall Meeting About Blood Cancers:** Patients, survivors and their loved ones are invited to bring their questions regarding leukemia, lymphoma, multiple myeloma and myelodysplastic syndromes, to the Leukemia Research Foundation’s Annual Town Hall Meeting. 1 p.m. Sunday, Skokie Banquet & Conference Center at Holiday Inn, 5300 Touhy Ave., Skokie, free, 847-424-6060

**Monday, Jan. 22**

**Fiber Arts Studio: Sew Your Own Sock Creature:** Use your imagination and basic sewing skills to create a one-of-a-kind sock creature. Instructions and materials are provided. Children 12 and under must be accompanied by an adult and please register at glenviewpl.org/register or by calling 6 p.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 130 Glenview Road, Glenview, 847-729-7500

**Embrace the New Year with Meditation:** Learn effective meditation techniques to reduce stress, enhance relaxation and promote inner growth. This is presented by long-time mediator Renate Lanotte. 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. Monday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

**Richard Wagner: Destroyer of Music As We Knew It:** The towering giant of the 19th century pushed music to the breaking point. None could compare with him or with his ego. His music was radical; so was his view of the human race. Examine the multitude of ways he exhibited his genius and listen to excerpts from his magnum opus “The Ring of the Nibelungen.” 10 a.m. Monday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $12 member, $17 nonmember, 847-784-6000

**Medicare Update 2018:** It seems that every year, Medicare is updated — for both the newly enrolled and those who have been participating for years, Melissa Versch helps attendees to understand their benefits. She also highlights any changes to the program, so participants can understand the alphabet soup of Medicare A, B, C and D. 1 p.m. Monday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $12 member; $17 nonmember, 847-784-6000

**Hiring Top Talent for Your Business:** Make your small business thrive by hiring the best people for your team. This is presented by Tanner Morris of IBM. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

**Caring for the Caregiver:** While caring for your loved one is important, your most important commitment must be to take care of your own health and mental well-being. Pat Newmann, licensed clinical professional counselor, leads a supportive conversation about ways to take care of yourself as a caregiver. 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techny Road, Northbrook, free, 847-727-7250

**Yoga for the Rest of Us:** This class is uniquely designed for individuals of all fitness levels to relax and unwind. The certified yoga instructor accommodates individual needs through the use of chairs, blocks, bolsters and other props.
Wednesday, Jan. 24

**Warren Zevon by Members of Androgyous Mustache**: 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Evanston Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $12-$24, 847-492-8860

**Road to College Series**: This is for grades 9-12, with a limit of 40 on Mondays from 7-8:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose Room. C2 Education presents two workshops geared toward students preparing for college life or the workplace. Schedule: Time Management: Jan. 24; Study Skills: Jan. 31. Gain valuable life skills. Register by Jan. 23 and Jan. 30 at: glenviewpl.org/register or call. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**BOOK It Nonfiction Book Group**: For Jan. 24 is "Ashley's War: The Untold Story of a Team of Women Soldiers on the Special Ops Battlefield" by Gayle Tzemach Lemmon. In 2010, the Army created a pilot program to insert women alongside Special Operations soldiers in Afghanistan. "Ashley's War" tells the story of this remarkable unit. Just drop in. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Film: "Viva Zapata"**: Anthony Quinn won a Best Supporting Actor Oscar for his role of Zapata's brother in this John Steinbeck-penned story of Mexican revolutionary Emiliano Zapata. Zapata led a rebellion against the corrupt, oppressive dictatorship of president Porfirio Diaz. Call or visit the library’s website to reserve a spot. 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

**Goldenaires**: Goldenaires chorus is a group of men and women who sing harmony and perform monthly in local retirement communities, senior centers and other venues. Prior singing experience is a plus, but is not mandatory. Choir members need to be available Wednesday afternoons for performances. 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $60 member, $75 nonmember, 847-784-6030

**Let's Face the Music: Jews and Making American Music**: This course explores the musical work of Irving Berlin, Harold Arlen, Aaron Copland, Leonard Bernstein, Bob Dylan, Leonard Cohen, John Zorn, Paul Simon and Carole King. 1 p.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $24 member, $32 nonmember, 847-784-6000

**The 40/70 Rule: Having The Talk with Your Children**: While many families think they have had adequate and timely conversations about legal issues, finances, living choices and health, they are often unprepared for the future. Home Instead has created the "40/70 Rule" - An Action Plan for Successful Aging. By the time you are 70, and your children are 40, it's time to have "the talk" about end-of-life issues that too many of us avoid. 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $12 member, $17 nonmember, 847-784-6000

**Heritage: Romanesque and Gothic Masterpieces of France**: Tish Robinson explores the cathedrals, abbeys and churches of France. The fascinating political, cultural and historic associations with these monuments form a backdrop to one of France's richest treasures, her enduring sacred sites. 10 a.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $12 member, $17 nonmember, 847-784-6000

**Buying a Computer 101**: If you feel lost at the computer store, this class with Michael Greshbein can help. From Macs to PCs, from laptops to desktops, he'll tell you what's available and what to look for, with numerous options. Learn how to buy the right computer for your needs. Takes place from 10 to 2:30 p.m. 1 p.m. Wednesday, The Women's Exchange, 630 Lincoln Ave., Winnetka, $25, 847-441-3406

**Financial Wellness for Women: Series of Classes**: This unique series is designed and facilitated by Anne Wieboldt, MBA CFA(R) CFP(R) and Nancy Wieboldt, MBA CFA(R), to help you to become a more confident financial services consumer. Each class covers an independent topic, 10 a.m. Wednesday, The Women's Exchange, 630 Lincoln Ave., Winnetka, $125 for series, $25 per session, 847-441-3406

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Bariffe-Smith ‘the epitome of a team kid’

Niles North senior embraces role in paint despite being undersized

BY DAN SHALIN
Pioneer Press

Throughout the season, Niles North small forward Demarion Bariffe-Smith has had one major directive from Vikings coach Glenn Olson.

"He says I have to be the hardest worker on the floor," said Bariffe-Smith, a senior who lives in Skokie.

"Even though I'm not going to score 30 points a game, rebounding and defense are the keys for me. That's my strong suit. My points (often) come from defense (steals) and rebounding (putbacks)."

With established scorers like seniors Dravon Clayborn, Damaria Franklin and Jamal Stephenson, and a lack of size up front, the 6-foot-4, 167-pound Bariffe-Smith is often counted on to do the dirty work inside for the Vikings, who started the season 13-0 before dropping back-to-back Central Suburban South games against New Trier (60-58 on Jan. 9) and Maine South (79-73 on Friday).

Olson points out that Bariffe-Smith is more than capable on the perimeter, where he projects to play in college. At times this winter, Bariffe-Smith has displayed those outside skills, especially early in the season, when Stephenson was sitting out for academic reasons, according to Olson.

But the Vikings often need Bariffe-Smith’s length — he said he has a 6-11 wingspan — and tenacity down low.

"He's a tough kid. He's definitely a next-level wing, but he is a post player for us because we lack size," Olson said of Bariffe-Smith, who is receiving interest from Division II, Division III and NAIA schools. (Bariffe-Smith) does what it takes to play out on the perimeter, but goes under when we need him to go under the basket. He's the epitome of a team kid."

Through 14 games, Bariffe-Smith was averaging 8.5 points and 8.4 rebounds, despite regularly giving up several inches and pounds to frontcourt opponents.

Against New Trier, Bariffe-Smith regularly found himself matched up versus 6-9, 215-pound junior forward Ciaran Brayboy.

Bariffe-Smith often fronted Brayboy, and in several instances used his reach and athletic ability to prevent the Trevians from throwing the ball over the top.

"I was trying to rebound, rebound, rebound, and play my role to the fullest extent," Bariffe-Smith said. "I wanted to prove that I can guard every position, especially somebody 6-8 or 6-9. It's just about being active and proving you can guard every position."

Bariffe-Smith finished with two points, seven rebounds, one steal and one block.

Brayboy registered 19 points, 13 rebounds and five blocks; however, 11 of his points came in the fourth quarter against a seemingly fatigued Niles North defense. The Vikings missed the energetic and talented Stephenson, who played just six minutes the entire game because of cramps.

Bariffe-Smith has had more productive nights this season. Among the highlights were a 12-point, nine-rebound performance in a 70-43 win over Lake Zurich on Dec. 23 and a nine-point, nine-rebound effort in a 64-52 win over Evanston on Dec. 15.

Olson said he believes Bariffe-Smith’s game will continue to evolve over the next four years.

"His best basketball is ahead of him. He can do more than just battle under the basket. He can shoot, makes good decisions with the ball," Olson said. "He's not one of those kids who grew up playing a ton of ball and was highly touted as a freshman. But he loves to be in the gym, loves to shoot and work on his game, and I'm excited to see where it goes (in college)."

Bariffe-Smith, who started playing organized basketball in seventh grade, said he will need to put on a little more weight in order to be successful on a college basketball court. In college, Bariffe-Smith plans to study civil and structural engineering and he said he possesses a 3.8 GPA.

Though Bariffe-Smith said he has visited a few colleges and been in touch with coaches from others, his main focus remains the Vikings, a team that appears to have a target on its back after its early-season success.

"Every single game, we get the opponent's best game, so we have to come out with the mindset that we have to earn every win," Bariffe-Smith said.

He added: "It's been exciting. I've never been a part of that (a team with so much hype, publicity and attention), and the other kids have not been a part of that. We have to live up to the expectations that other people have of us."

Dan Shalin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Kevin Tanka/Pioneer Press

Niles North’s Demarion Bariffe-Smith (purple jersey) scores against New Trier on Jan. 9 in Winnetka.
Aggressive play helps Singleton put up big numbers

BY STEVE REAVEN
Pioneer Press

The light turned on.

That's the figurative explanation for what has transpired over the past month and a half for Clyde Singleton, who up until that point had a pedestrian basketball career.

The literal result is that Singleton, a Niles West senior guard, has become the Wolves' No. 1 scoring option and one of the Central Suburban South's most productive all-around performers.

He accounted for exactly half of the Wolves' points in a 40-39 home conference win over Glenbrook South on Friday. It was the third straight game that the Skokie resident reached the 20-point plateau.

So what's to credit for this transformation?

"At the beginning of the year, I was searching for a comfort zone," said Singleton, who played sparingly as a junior. "After a few games, I gained more experience and realized that the team needed me."

It did, indeed.

First-year Niles West coach Mike Wasielewski said he liked what he saw from Singleton in summer workouts, but he didn't envision him becoming a difference-maker. Excluding the season's first four games, Singleton has scored in double figures all but once.

The Wolves' dependence on Singleton was evident down the stretch against Glenbrook South (6-10, 0-5 after Friday). After consecutive Titans 3-pointers cut Niles West's lead to 34-33, Wasielewski called for a clear-out, resulting in Singleton coasting by his man for a momentum-reversing layup.

"He was fine in November, but over the last month, he's really come out of his shell," Wasielewski said. "You can see his confidence growing and he's become more and more aggressive."

Singleton's aggressive nature is bolstered by his explosiveness. He first dunked a basketball the summer before his freshman year of high school and he registered a 36-inch vertical jump in physical education class this year, Singleton said.

The 6-foot-2-inch Singleton's leaping ability is the main reason he leads Niles West (5-9, 1-4 after Friday) in rebounding.

"I know I have to fight for every rebound and it's fun to get in there with the bigs and see what I can do," he said.

One thing Singleton seldom does is shoot 3-pointers.

"I've never really been a big shooter, but I've been working on it," Singleton said. "I'd rather drive and kick it out to someone who can knock them down."

"I've never really been a big shooter, but I've been working on it," Singleton said. "I'd rather drive and kick it out to someone who can knock them down."

Steve Reaven is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Jim Neville started out coaching youth football before he jumped to hockey. Coaching was about more than just teaching the game to young players; it helped Neville stay on track.

That's because in the late 1960s and early 1970s, Neville said he was a "big-time drinker." "I was able to kill the drinking, but this filled the void," Neville said of coaching. "And that's kept me occupied and happy and satisfied all this time."

He said he hasn't had a drink since he started coaching hockey.

That was over 40 years ago and kicked off decades of volunteer coaching hockey at a variety of levels, from high school to sled hockey, plus some development camps along the way.

Neville is part of the 2017 class for the Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame. Neville, who grew up in Park Ridge and now lives in Mount Prospect, is being inducted in the builders' category. He'll be inducted at the hall of fame dinner on Jan. 28 at the Belvedere Events & Banquets venue in Elk Grove Village.

Neville's Maine and Notre Dame teams won high school state championships. Some big moments to be sure, "not that I had anything to do with good players," Neville said as his modesty chimed in.

He teaches his players about the game and also about the game of life, doing so in a fun way, according to Jim Smith, Neville's longtime friend and fellow coach. That's why he's getting the hall of fame nod; the builders' category recognizes someone who is more than a volunteer, Smith said.

"It's somebody that goes above and beyond," Smith said. "And Jimmy is probably a true definition of going above and beyond."

For Neville, a 1955 Fenwick graduate, it's the people that stand out. He's made many, many friends in other coaches, within organizations and with former players. To this day, he runs into these various faces, many simply asking "Hey, Mr. Neville. How you doing?" Neville said. He even ran into a former player's father when visiting some friends in Palm Springs, Calif, just before Christmas this year.

One of the closest people to Neville over the years, on the ice and off, is Smith, the current president of USA Hockey.

Smith was the altar boy at Neville's wedding before they became friends, then his best man as Neville and his wife Judy renewed their vows on their 25th anniversary. For their 50th anniversary, Smith surprised them by being an altar boy again for the ceremony, even though he was in his 50s.

In addition to their friendship, Smith, who's also on the board of directors for the Illinois Hockey Hall of Fame, and Neville also coached together for a number of years starting with squirts in Park Ridge.

"He's just been an extraordinary volunteer," Smith said. "One of the best I've ever come across. Whatever you ask him to do, he will do."
Skarzynski paces Minnesota women's hockey

BY SAM BRIEF
Pioneer Press

As of Friday, the Minnesota women's hockey team had cruised to a 16-5-2 record, with an impressive 10-0-0 mark away from home. A major reason for the Golden Gophers' success has been Loyola alumna and Lake Forest native Sophie Skarzynski.

Through 23 games, the junior defenseman ranked second on the team with 21 points, and she was tied for the team lead in assists with 15. She also had tallied six goals on 46 shots. She already has career-highs in goals, assists and points.

Skarzynski, who has played in two Frozen Fours with the Golden Gophers and has appeared for the U.S. Women's National Under-18 Team, most recently tallied a goal and an assist in a Dec. 9 shutout win against Minnesota-Duluth.

Darien native Cara Piazza is also on the team. Piazza, a senior forward, has seven goals and nine assists this season.

Locals win title with NDSU football

For the sixth time in seven years, the North Dakota State football team has won the Football Championship Subdivision national title. Two local graduates on the roster can now call themselves national champions.

Jack Albrecht, a 6-foot-5, 278-pound sophomore offensive guard and a Rolling Meadows native, appeared in two games this season for the Bison. He is joined by Josh Babicz, a 6-6, 225-pound freshman tight end from Barrington who played quarterback, wide receiver and tight end for the Broncos.

The Bison, paced by their stifling defense, took down James Madison 17-13 in the title game.

Karras, Baum lead Maroons basketball

Two former North Shore prep stars have guided the University of Chicago men's basketball team so far this season.

Noah Karras, a junior guard from Lake Forest, and Jordan Baum, a sophomore guard from Deerfield, have become offensive contributors for the Maroons in a season-high 18 points on Dec. 19 in a loss to Illinois Wesleyan.

Baum has averaged 6.7 points per game and is second on the team in 3-point shooting percentage. He also leads the squad with 5.3 assists per game.

Porter Veach, a senior guard from Winnetka and a former Lake Forest Academy student, is also on the University of Chicago men's basketball team.

Evanston's Mertz earns conference honors

Nora Mertz, a sophomore forward on the Division III Carleton College women's soccer team, was one of the top players in the Minnesota Intercollegiate Athletic Conference this season. The Evanston graduate led the Knights in scoring for the second consecutive year. Her 10 goals, the fifth-highest total in Carleton history, also ranked fifth in the MIAC this season.

Three of her goals were game-winners. Mertz also won a national title in ultimate Frisbee at the Women's D-III College Championships in May.

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

Sam Brief is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Check back in two weeks to see who our finalists are for the February Athlete of the Month challenge. Voting begins at noon on Feb. 1 at chicagotribune.com/suburbs/athletes.

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