A smashing time

Morton Grove library hosts Super Smash Bros. tournament. Page 4

Competitors for the Super Smash Bros. tournament participate in single-elimination rounds Jan. 5 at the Morton Grove Public Library.

WHAT TO DO

Entertainment for all ages, interests

Be on the lookout for these 10 events in the northern suburbs in 2019. Page B12

SPORTS

Time for a change?

Does high school basketball need a shot clock? Local coaches weigh in. Page 22

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

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Longtime Lincolnwood resident Beverly Friend has become a snowbird for the last few years, spending winters in Coconut Creek, Fla. Wherever she is, the retired Oakton Community College professor leads an active social life with her partner Irv Kaplan and pursues many interests, including painting and amassing an unusual collection.

Q: How long have you lived in Lincolnwood?
A: More than 50 years. My daughter was born in '64, and that's when we moved there.

Q: What do you like best about living in Lincolnwood?
A: The people. I love living in a condo and a townhouse before that.

Q: How much time do you spend in Coconut Creek each year?
A: About 5½ months — from my birthday Oct. 26 until Passover.

Q: How long did you teach at Oakton Community College?
A: About 25 years.

Q: What did you teach?
A: English, journalism, and I advised the student newspaper, which was a wonderful experience.

Q: When did you retire?
A: When I was 64, and I'm 84.

Q: When and why did you start painting?
A: They offered a class at Coconut Creek, three sessions for $30. I signed up and then they called me and said that they didn't have enough people, they were going to give me back my $30. I said, "Keep it. I'll have one lesson just with me." I painted a very ugly lady's face. I was going to stop right there, but people said, "You can't leave one painting for two daughters." So I started doing more.

Q: How long have you been collecting rubber ducks?
A: A long time. I have hundreds.

Q: What's your most unusual rubber duck?
A: Darth Vader — a very dark, sinister-looking duck. One I like has her hair in curlers.

Q: How many children do you have?
A: I have two daughters, Tracy and Marla, and two more by extension. One was an APS (intercultural student program) from Yugoslavia for high school, and one was my late husband's student in China. They now live in Skokie and Chicago. I have four grandchildren plus four more by extension and one great-granddaughter.

Q: What movie would you recommend?
A: "Crazy Rich Asians." I saw it twice. The first thing I did when I got out was go on my phone and try to find out where that hotel was.

Q: What was your favorite travel destination?
A: A year ago last summer, we took a cruise from Boston to Montreal. My family was from Montreal. I wanted to make a dinner party for all of the relatives I could find there, and I found 20 of them.

Q: What's your favorite saying?
A: There's nothing to fear but fear itself.

—Myrna Petlicki, Pioneer Press
A ‘Smash’ hit

Morton Grove library stages Super Smash Bros. tournament

Staff report

Organizers said 28 competitors answered the Morton Grove Public Library’s challenge on Jan. 5, participating in a Super Smash Bros. video game tournament.

The Nintendo game pits popular characters against each other in a combat format. James Facer, the library’s teen librarian, said the game was chosen “because Super Smash Bros. is a wildly popular franchise that, with every release, grows in popularity.”

Facer said the tournament was run in a single-game elimination format, so participants were out with one loss.

He said the library has organized Nintendo Switch programs in the past, and they have been successful. He noted “it has an appeal that reaches kids to adults unlike other consoles that tend to cater to teens and adults.”

He said last spring, a Mario Kart 8 Deluxe tournament drew more than 50 competitors.

“Mario Kart was our introduction to gaming tournaments, and based on its success, we learned that we serve a lot of gamers in our library and they were receptive not only to our collection development practices (we circulate video games in all formats), but also our video game programs,” Facer stated in an email.

“We try to constantly bring in patrons who might not normally visit our library and video games, and video game programs was one way we thought we could accomplish that.”

He said another Super Smash Bros. tournament would be scheduled for the spring.

“Multiple patrons, and a few parents, inquired about it and mentioned how much they enjoyed it,” he said.

He said every month, a “New Game Wednesday” event features new releases.

“It’s important for our library to include as great a variety of programs as possible to attract patrons from all walks of life and interests,” Facer said.

“Our library works to incorporate the interests of the community we serve into our public programming and library services,” he said, “and we’ve found that video game programs and games in the library are what our patrons want.”

Information on the library is available online at www.mgpl.org.
New grocery store planned for former Toys R Us site

BY MEGANN HORSTEAD
Pioneer Press

The former Toys R Us site on Milwaukee Avenue is expected to become the location for a new grocery store. Plans are in the works for the Indian grocery store Patel Brothers to set up shop, Niles Economic Development Coordinator Ross Klicker said.

Patel Brothers is anticipated to open for business by the end of spring 2019, according to the company’s website. Company officials did not immediately respond to a request seeking comment.

“We know it’s a strong retail corner, and the fact that the Patel Brothers are looking to come and put in a grocery store proves it,” Klicker said.

At Patel Brothers, patrons will have the ability to peruse regional grocery and spice products from around the world, according to its website.

“Especially when it comes to groceries, Niles has a very ethnic and diverse offering, and this will only continue to add to those offerings, which will only help our very diverse population,” Klicker said.

Klicker said Patel Brothers has been a good partner to the village as far as communicating its plans in advance and obtaining the necessary permits. Klicker said the site over time drew interest from several users, ranging from auto dealers to land speculators, and those would have been acceptable uses.

The village imposes a 2.5 percent sales tax to all businesses selling food. Klicker said he could not offer a projection as to how much tax revenue Patel Brothers could generate, but those numbers will become more firm once they open for business.

Patel Brothers also has locations in Chicago, Naperville and Schaumburg.

“This is a great use for the village,” Klicker said. “We’re very confident it’s going to be an outstanding location. It’ll be very successful for all parties involved.”

Megann Horstead is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Police say mushrooms, not poison, responsible for dog’s sickness

BY MEGANN HORSTEAD
Pioneer Press

A police investigation determined that a dog ate mushrooms, not poisonous laced treats, when it became sick last month after a visit to a Morton Grove trail, according to an official with the Forest Preserve District of Cook County.

Stacina Stagner, communications manager for the forest preserve district, said police investigated after a social media post suggested that there were reports of “treats laced with rat poison” found on the trails of Linne Woods in Morton Grove.

Stagner said the police probe has closed.

“What they found was that the dog owner whose dog was sick, he ate mushrooms,” Stagner said. “It had gotten sick from that.”

A post on the Morton Grove Animal Hospital and Boarding Kennels Facebook page, dated Dec. 24, had stated there were reports of treats laced with rat poison on the trails. A few days later, a new post was added to the group’s Facebook page, stating “we are relieved to find out that it was not poison the dogs were exposed to, but rather mushrooms” and added that “the dogs will make a full recovery.”

Officials had said police from the Forest Preserve of Cook County were in the area on Dec. 24 and Dec. 25. Stagner said the police investigation shows there was no evidence to support the concerns.

“When our detective went to the site, he discovered that there were three different types of mushrooms — all that are native to our area,” she said, adding the mushrooms were photographed and, “our chief wildlife biologist reviewed those mushrooms and said that the dog’s symptoms were consistent with having eaten mushrooms.”

Megann Horstead is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

CORRECTION

A Page 1 item on Dec. 20 incorrectly indicated that there was a story in the B section about the “American Girl Live” musical. As a result of a production error, the story did not appear in that edition. The Niles Herald-Spectator regrets the error.
From low-key uses to high-octane options

Niles residents view ideas for site near community rain garden

BY DANIEL I. DORFMAN
Pioneer Press

From low-key uses, such as walking paths and benches, ranging all the way to high-octane options like splash pads and outdoor fitness equipment, Niles residents last week received a sneak peek on how the area adjacent to the Niles community rain garden could be developed.

Held Jan. 3 at the police department, a village ad hoc committee hosted an open house for community members, showcasing ideas on what could be on the 1.5-acre site, which includes the existing rain garden on the 7100 block of West Touhy Avenue.

Whatever is selected would replace a public works garage that was demolished last year. A proposal to construct affordable senior housing fizzled out last year in the face of community opposition.

The village is now seeking other ideas for what to do with the land. Amid large conceptual drawings, individuals could get an idea of what the different uses could be, such as art murals, a children's play area and a performance pavilion.

"The idea of this open house would be to gauge interest in the different elements and see what the feedback is, and try to narrow the scope a little more," noted Hadley Skeffington-Vos, the deputy village manager and a member of the ad hoc committee.

Attendees were asked to post comments on sticky notes placed next to the individual drawings. Most of the small-scale uses, such as murals, historical elements with statues and plaques or walking trails with benches, generated mostly positive feedback, according to the written comments. Mixed reaction was left for the more intense uses, such as a splash pad for children, an amphitheater or food trucks, with some concerns regarding possible congestion.

Mayor Andrew Przybylo viewed the concepts and thought the high-intensity ideas may not be the right fit. He preferred the idea of a solarium, "so that people can sit there in the summer and not be burnt because in the summer it would be cooled, and in the winter it would be heated."

Niles Trustee Denise McCreery also viewed the concepts, but did not state a strong preference.

"I'd like to see it as a green space, but I'm keeping my options open to development opportunities -- mainly that which have high levels of parking, which is always a concern," she said.

Also on hand was Barbara Mendelson, a 20-year resident of the village, who said she lives in the neighboring condominiums.

"I would like to stay in the prairie theme, but there are things that could fit in," she said. "I hope something can be done because that is what I'll be seeing."

Using the feedback generated at the open house, the village will now out a request for proposal from design firms for conceptual plans due by Jan. 16, according to Skeffington-Vos. The village board could then approve a design contract in February, following the submission of the design proposals.

"We'll see what comes up. It will be done professionally, with a great look to it and something people will enjoy," Przybylo said.

The total construction cost is dependent on what elements are selected, Skeffington-Vos added. Some of the elements, such as an amphitheater or the murals, would not be eligible for TIF funds and would have to be paid through general funds if selected.

Daniel I. Dorfman is a freelance reporter.
Neighbor's tip leads to arrest of 3 Chicago residents charged with burglary in Lincolnwood

Police say they were witnessed on surveillance system

BY DANIEL I. DORFMAN
Pioneer Press

Three Chicago residents face a series of charges including felony residential burglary after Lincolnwood police said they were witnessed on a home video surveillance system forcibly entering a home on 6700 block of Kostner Avenue on New Year's Day.

At 7 a.m. on Jan. 1, police received notification that a burglary might be occurring at the Kostner Avenue residence, as a neighbor knew the homeowner was out of town and noticed activity at the home where the video system was installed, police said.

"One neighbor knew the homeowner was not at home, and he contacted that neighbor, who then contacted the police," Lincolnwood Police Lt. Travis Raypole added.

Raypole noted after police arrived, the suspects were seen running from the backdoor of the home, according to the video.

"We looked at the footage, and then we got word from other neighbors that there were two suspicious individuals in the backyard," he said.

"The citizens were our eyes and ears, and they helped us apprehend the suspects," Raypole added. "This is where our positive community outreach helps."

Kashawn Block, 18, of the 1700 block of 71st Place, Chicago; Kenchari J. Thigpen, 18 of the 7200 block of South Phillips Avenue, Chicago; and Anthania Upchurch, 21, of the 4800 block of South Prairie Avenue, Chicago; were all charged with felony residential burglary, according to police.

In addition to the residential burglary charges, Block also faced one felony count of possession of a stolen motor vehicle and misdemeanor counts of obstructing identification and resisting/obstructing arrest, police said.

Thigpen was also charged with one felony count of possession of a controlled substance and misdemeanor counts of criminal trespass to vehicle and resisting/obstructing arrest, police said.

Upchurch also faced misdemeanor charges of criminal trespass to vehicle and resisting/obstructing arrest, police added.

All three were held on a $25,000 bond, according to Samuel Randall, a spokesman for the Cook County Sheriff's Office.

Upchurch had a scheduled court date of Jan. 10, and Block and Thigpen had their next scheduled court date on Jan. 18, Randall added.

Daniel I. Dorfman is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Police: Family of Morton Grove man killed in hit-and-run offering $10K reward for information

Morton Grove police said the family of an 86-year-old man killed the night of Jan. 4 in a hit-and-run crash will offer a $10,000 reward for information that leads to a conviction.

Leonid Belogur, a Morton Grove resident, was struck at 5:02 p.m. Jan. 4 as he crossed Shermer Road at Greenwood Street, according to police, who were looking for information about the vehicle that struck Belogur.

Anyone with information about the crash can call Morton Grove police at 847-470-5200.

Police hoped to hear from those who might have traveled in the area between 5 and 5:20 p.m. that day. Police said the vehicle would have "significant windshield or front end damage."

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

BURGLARY
- Eddy Pizarro, 48, of the 4500 block of Michigan Avenue, Chicago, was charged with residential burglary and possession of burglary tools on Dec. 31, police said. According to police, Pizarro was detained by officers after a resident of the 6800 block of West Harts Road saw a man inside his home and called 911. Police said Pizarro admitted to committing burglaries at “multiple residences,” and some stolen items were found inside his car, which was parked near the Harts Road home. Pizarro remained in Cook County Jail custody with a Jan. 17 court date scheduled, according to the Sheriff’s Department.

THEFT
- Arriola Daisy Barrales, 20, of the 2000 block of West 52nd Street, Chicago, was charged with retail theft on Dec. 30 after she was accused of stealing two vacuums, valued at $480, from Target, 6150 W. Touhy Ave., police said. She was given a Feb. 15 court date.
- Pamela J. Cote, 58, of the 1600 block of West Farwell Avenue, Chicago, was charged with retail theft on Dec. 31 after she was accused of stealing $263 worth of merchandise from Walmart, 5630 W. Touhy Ave., police said. She was given a Feb. 19 court date.

DUI
- Anthony G. Nance, 46, of the 10000 block of Holly Lane, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with driving under the influence, leaving the scene of an accident, theft, criminal trespass to a vehicle and possession of drug paraphernalia on the night of Jan. 2, police said. According to police, Nance was identified as the suspect in a hit-and-run crash that occurred that day, and the owner of the car reported that Nance did not have permission to be driving her car. Police said Nance was taken into custody after he boarded a Pace bus on Milwaukee Avenue shortly after the crash. He was given a Feb. 20 court date.
- Grzegorz T. Kuprowski, 50, of the 8300 block of North Milwaukee Avenue, Niles, was charged with driving under the influence, obstruction, resisting arrest and driving with a suspended or revoked license on the night of Jan. 1, police said. According to police, Kuprowski attempted to roll up his window and tried to put his car in gear during a traffic stop on the 8300 block of North Milwaukee Avenue at 11:15 p.m. He was given a Feb. 15 court date.

WARRANT
- Dean Malambri, 49, of the 6100 block of South Illinois Route 47, Woodstock, was taken into custody on a Niles arrest warrant for theft of labor or services on Dec. 27, police said. Court information was not included.
- Andrew G. Seat, 33, of the 7300 block of North Claremont Avenue, Chicago, was taken into custody on a Niles arrest warrant for domestic battery on Dec. 27, police said. Court information was not included.

PUBLIC INTOXICATION
- A 56-year-old man was ticketed for public intoxication on the night of Dec. 28 after police said he was found unconscious on the 10000 block of South 79th Street, Chicago. He was taken to a hospital, police said.

THEFT
- Surveillance video at Target, Golf Mill, showed a woman stealing 10 boxes of Nicorette gum valued at $600, on the morning of Dec. 29, police said.
- On Dec. 31, an unidentified person was seen on surveillance video stealing $840 worth of Nicorette gum from the store, according to police.

BURGLARY TO VEHICLE
- A cordless drill was reported stolen from a van parked on the 6600 block of Wood River Drive overnight between Dec. 28 and Dec. 29.

PROPERTY DAMAGE
- A man told police his passenger-side tires were slashed on Dec. 27 after he took the car to Walmart, 5630 W. Touhy Ave., for service.
- Six bus stop benches, four flower pots and a bicycle rack were overturned outside JCPenney, Golf Mill, during the early morning hours of Dec. 30, police said.
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New members sought for Niles Electoral Board

Objections to trustee candidates have been filed

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

A hearing to consider an allegation of election fraud and other objections filed in connection with the village board race in Niles was scheduled for Jan. 18 in order to seek the appointment of two outside decision-makers to the local electoral board.

Keri-Lyn Krafthefer, attorney for the Niles Electoral Board, said Mayor Andrew Przybylo, who was present for the Jan. 8 appointment hearing, and Trustee Joe LoVerde, who was not, have agreed to disqualify themselves from serving on the three-member electoral board and considering a request to remove the slate of Neighbors Party candidates from the April 2 ballot.

Krafthefer said Przybylo and LoVerde will step down in order to avoid the appearance of impropriety.

The Village Clerk Marlene Vicil, who was in the middle of her four-year mayoral term, circulated nominating petitions for Neighbors Party candidates Apostolos “Paul” Drakontaidis, Melic Roza, Belogur, and Israel “Izzy” Pacheco — the slate that is facing objections.

The Voice of Niles Party consists of incumbent trustees Dean Strzelecki and Denise McCurey, and newcomer Craig Niedermaier. Incumbent LoVerde did not file to seek re-election.

The next step will be to ask the chief judge of the Cook County Circuit Court to appoint two people to serve on the Niles Electoral Board and consider the objections, Krafthefer said.

Typically, election lawyers are appointed in these cases, she added.

According to the objection filed Dec. 24 by Ralph Albanito of Niles, Chicago resident Daniel Mulkerin denies he collected signatures from residents to get the Drakontaidis, Bookstein and Pacheco on the ballot, though his name is listed as a circulator on four sheets of signatures that were filed with the clerk’s office.

Albanito’s objection alleges that the notary who notarized Mulkerin’s signature as a circulator did not actually see him sign the papers. This, the objection states, “demonstrates a pattern of fraud” and the petitioner asks that all signature sheets notarized by this individual be thrown out.

A signed affidavit from Mulkerin, submitted with the objections, also states that he did not circulate any petitions for the Neighbors Party.

When contacted about the allegation last week, Mulkerin said he had “no time for that right now” and hung up on a reporter.

A review of the petitions filed with the clerk’s office show that the sheets with Mulkerin’s name are missing the printed names of the residents who signed them and the residents’ addresses are written in the boxes reserved for printed names.

In an email dated Jan. 5, attorney James Nally, representing the objector, wrote that there is a belief that Przybylo or his campaign fund are financially supporting the Neighbors Party candidates.

“He is not doing that,” replied Krafthefer.

But Przybylo’s participation as a collector of signatures for the Neighbors Party suggests a shift in alliances from the 2015 election.

That year, Przybylo was a contributor to the Niles Forward Party, which included candidates LoVerde, McCurey and Strzelecki, according to filings with the Illinois State Board of Elections.

In addition to the allegation of fraud, Albanito’s objection also alleges that the Neighbors Party supporters obtained signatures from people who are not registered voters at the addresses they provided and from people who are not residents of Niles. Some signatures, the objection alleges, are “not genuine and are forgeries.”

Andrew Finko, the attorney representing the Neighbors Party slate, said he plans to dispute the objections.

“I think there are far more valid signatures [submitted] than necessary,” he said, but declined to comment on the claim concerning Mulkerin.

The electoral board hearing is scheduled to resume on Friday, Jan. 18, at 10 a.m. at Niles Village Hall.

According to the Cook County Clerk’s Office, objections against petitions filed against four candidates running for the Niles Park District Board.

Two outside decision-makers are being sought for the Niles Electoral Board.

No charges in pedestrian fatality as police await investigation’s completion

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

No charges have been filed or tickets issued in connection with a Niles man’s death that police initially investigated as a possible hit-and-run.

Niles Police Cmdr. Robert Tornabene said Jan. 7 that the department awaiting a completed report from the crash investigation team of the North Regional Major Crimes Task Force before proceeding with the next steps, which may include referring the case to the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office.

Michael Potwora, 72, of the 8500 block of North Chester Avenue, was killed on the night of Dec. 27 after police said he was struck by a car while crossing Greenwood Avenue at Betty Terrace shortly before 6:30 p.m.

A driver at the scene told police his own car had rear-ended the vehicle that struck Potwora and that the car fled the scene, police said. But investigators soon began to doubt this version of events, Tornabene said.

“It was determined, based upon the accident reconstruction and the damage to his vehicle ... there was no other vehicle involved,” Tornabene said.

When the investigation could be complete is not yet known, Tornabene said.

Also unknown is what exactly caused Potwora to be struck, he said. Investigators were looking to see if distracted driving played a part, though other conditions — like the time of day, low lighting and Potwora’s dark clothing — may have made him harder to see,

Tornabene said.

Potwora was one of two pedestrians killed in the area in the last two weeks.

On Jan. 4, Morton Grove police reported that Leo Belogur, 86, died after he was struck by a car while crossing Shermer Road at Greenwood Street, just north of Dempster Street, around 5 p.m.

“Highly aware” of traffic in the area, particularly after dusk. Drivers should always exercise care, slow down and be attentive behind the wheel, he added.

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Crews demolish vacant Dominick's store

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

A former Dominick's grocery store in Morton Grove has been reduced to rubble ahead of future plans to redevelop the partially vacant Prairie View Plaza shopping center.

Crews began demolishing the vacant building at the southeast corner of Dempster Street and Waukegan Road in late December, less than four months after the village of Morton Grove announced the 26-acre plaza had been purchased by Kensington Development Partners, of Oak Brook, and IM Properties, based in the United Kingdom.

Morton Grove Village Administrator Ralph Czerwinski said that while no formal development plans have been submitted for the property, the demolition work is part of the "progression" between the village and owner to "modernize that shopping center."

"The village is working with the developer very intently to develop a 'lifestyle center' that balances residential, entertainment, retail and restaurant options for the community," Czerwinski said.

No potential new tenants have been floated, and no additional demolition permits for other storefronts on the site have been requested at this time, the village administrator said. However, he predicted that additional demolition work could take place this year, along with "announcements about some new businesses that will be coming in there."

Dominick's closed in late 2013 after the company shuttered all of its remaining Chicago area stores. While other nearby Dominick's locations in Niles, Park Ridge and Glenview reopened as other grocery stores, the Morton Grove location remained vacant over the last five years.

The demolition of the building came about after a team of village inspectors noted code violations and necessary repairs last year, Czerwinski said. The new owners, who acquired the property in September, were given the option of correcting the violations or demolishing the structure, he said.

Last summer, a building that once housed a KFC was torn down as well.

Eventually, plans call for the shopping center to be demolished and new buildings constructed as part of a redevelopment of the site, Czerwinski said. The only building not likely to be impacted is the Bank of America building at 8745 Waukegan Road, he said.

"I think the demolition of the Dominick's actually shows other retailers that progress is being made," Czerwinski said. "It's going to be a [redeveloped], new center."

Businesses currently operating within Prairie View Plaza include Dollar Tree, LA Fitness, the Room Place, Salvation Army Family Store, Starbucks, L.A. Tan, Athletic and Great Clips. Several storefronts are vacant.

Six cited with selling vaping products, cigarettes to minors

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Six adults were cited for allegedly selling tobacco products to minors during recent undercover operations conducted by Niles and Park Ridge police, the departments reported.

Niles police said five out of 29 businesses that were visited in December were found in violation of the law when underage informants from the Niles Police Explorer Post were able to purchase cigarettes and vaping products. Each of the employees was issued a local ordinance citation, and the incidents have been reported to the village's deputy liquor commissioner for review, Niles police said.

In Park Ridge, one business out of 14 that were visited by undercover, teenage volunteers during a compliance check on Dec. 17 was accused of selling tobacco products to a minor, police said. An employee at 7-Eleven, 976 N. Northwest Highway, was issued a local ordinance citation for allegedly selling cigarettes to the informant.

According to police reports, employees of four of the businesses said they incorrectly read the birth date on the underage customer's ID card, while an employee of the fifth business admitted he had not checked the buyer's identification prior to the sale.
I bought marijuana and body wash and learned about gendered advertising along the way

SALLY HIGGINSON

The world is a confusing place to live right now, and I'm not even referring to politics.

I'm talking about the drug store and the beauty aisle and how advertisers always find puzzling ways to insert gender into their marketing efforts. I came to this realization after buying some pot. I'll explain.

Let's start with the drug store. That used to mean Walgreens. Then last summer, I visited a friend in Telluride, where going to the drug store meant something else entirely. I was in Colorado, after all, where recreational marijuana is as readily available as antacids.

Strolling down Spruce Street, something about "when in Rome" kept crossing my mind. That's how, for the sake of research, I found myself walking into a local marijuana shop.

What follows is my recollection of our conversation.

"I'd like to buy some pot, please," I said to the clerk, who sat nearly recumbent behind the glass case in the store.

"Awesome. What kind of high are you looking for?"

"Um," I said, realizing I had no idea how to answer.

"A legal one."

My relaxed sales clerk chuckled a little. "Awesome. They're all legal. But like, you want a working buzz? A gentle buzz? A busy buzz?"

"Um," I said, again realizing I had no idea how to answer. "A legal one."

"No worries," I recall the clerk saying; without a muscle. "Do you want to blend into the couch, or, like, clean the house?"

I thought my eyes popped out of my head. "I can choose?"

A slow-motion smile crossed my legal dealer's face.

"For sure. Like, most guys, they just want to get a little buzz and blend into the couch. You know. Watch the game and not move." I nodded, like I knew that. "But, like, a lot of women. They'll come in here and ask for something that will work them up so that, like, they can fold a week's worth of laundry. I call that the busy buzz."

After a little more banter, I settled on a product and made my purchase. What followed doesn't matter; let's just say that what happened in Telluride stays in Telluride. And God bless Colorado.

What I learned in the Rocky Mountains is that in the world of marijuana, men want to relax, and women want to get stuff done. Men want soothing and gentle. Women want invigorating and vital.

So how come, in Madison Avenue's world of gender-specific bath and beauty, it's 100 percent the other way around? I'm back here in Illinois, sober and clear-thinking, and I'm, like, so confused.

Take a walk through the old-fashioned kind of drug store and you'll see what I mean. Body wash for women promises to soothe, relax and calm. Doesn't that sound like the sudsy equivalent of blending into the couch?

Meanwhile, body wash for men is energizing, vibrant and testosterone filled. One brand literally claims to be turbo charged. How come those lathered guys aren't looking to tidy up?

It makes no sense.

All I can say is this Colorado, take me away. But please, make sure that the place you take me to is Colorado.

In this 2017 file photo, a worker waters marijuana plants in Denver. A Colorado reports shows marijuana sales in the state have exceeded $1 billion as of August 2018, with tax revenue from those sales reaching $200 million.

Sally Higginson is a freelance columnist.
Many laws were passed in Illinois last year. I wish they would have focused on the big ones.

Randy Blaser

If you took a break during the holiday revelry to glance at the newspaper in recent weeks, you may have seen a story about new state laws taking effect Jan. 1.

Ever alert for news, I've seen the story several times in different publications and online.

Each story pretty much highlights what I presume to be the most important pieces of new legislation in Illinois. But are they the most important laws?

Let's take a look.

The No. 1 important new law regards children under the age of 2. These are not your habitual lawbreakers. But their parents will be if their baby is not sitting in a rear-facing car seat while riding in a car.

That's obviously a good law, because it keeps the child safe while riding in a car. Back when I had little kids, the rear-facing car seat was only necessary when the child was riding in the front seat.

And back when I was a kid, standing on the front seat and eating a chocolate bar was A-OK. So, we're making progress.

But that's about the most significant thing our General Assembly has been able to accomplish last year while the state drowns in red ink. They kicked the can of unfunded pensions down the road. Meanwhile, more than 45,000 people fled the state in 2018.

You might think the General Assembly would change the state pension laws. You might think they would address ways to stimulate our sagging economy.

You might think they would pass some new laws to reform our repressive property tax system, which places an extreme burden on property owners.

You might think they would figure out a better way of funding schools, or providing schools with more state money so they can rely less on local property taxes.

You might think there would be new laws about getting illegal guns off the streets of Chicago, where a 12-year-old boy looking out a window became the first shooting victim of 2019 at 12:10 a.m. on Jan. 1.

You might think those things. But you would be wrong. All they can do is pass laws that tackle issues that may be important to some individuals, but not a whole lot to most folks. I'm not saying these new laws are unnecessary or that the General Assembly shouldn't have bothered passing them. The laws are probably good and necessary. But they have no impact on the big issues that making Illinois the No. 2 place in the United States for people to leave.

What are some of these laws?

Hunters can now wear blaze pink, not just orange, to avoid being accidentally shot by fellow hunters.

The state is going to publish a brochure that talks about concussions in young people and how to recognize the warning signs. Football and repetitive head blows during football games and practices are still allowed.

Police can now take custodians of a dog or pet left outside and in potential danger because of the weather conditions. (This is new?)

Background checks will be required for every ride operator at carnivals and amusement parks.

Nursing mothers may be excused from jury duty if they request it.

Like I said, these new laws are not frivolous or a waste of time. And I'm not saying it is a waste of time for the General Assembly to pass them. These laws are important and necessary.

What I am saying is there should be more, or at least more weighty laws among them.


Those statistics show there is a lot of important work to do for Illinois. Maybe they've just given up.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist.
Classes aim to get you and your dog in shape

Let me guess. You’re diligently sticking to your New Year’s resolution of working out and losing weight this year. But with snow and cold temperatures, and leftover Christmas cookies and chocolates lying around, staying disciplined and getting to the gym can be challenging.

But Debbie Sciortino might make getting in shape a whole lot easier by adding some perks to your workouts: fun, laughter, and bonding with the furry friend you adore — your dog.

Addison-based Sciortino is a certified dog trainer and certified master trainer for K9 Fit Club, a St. Louis-based lifestyle company that offers exercise classes for pet owners and their dogs via trainers all over the country. That’s right, maybe Pido had a few too many holiday meal leftovers, and he, too, needs to slim down.

“When you work out with your dog, you are giving them undivided attention,” said Sciortino, a former restoration company manager and lifelong dog lover who got into the business last year because she wanted to spend more time with her own dogs. “It’s a time to bond and have fun with no stress, and you forget that you’re working out. You’re not thinking, ‘How much longer?’ because you are focused on playing with your dog.”

Sciortino teaches a variety of 45-minute classes for people of all fitness levels. Classes are held either at A Closer Bond, a dog training, day care and pet boarding facility in Palatine, or she’ll come to your home.

Classes offered include: “Bark & Burn,” a workout that includes plyometric drills and intervals of strength, power and resistance moves; “Bow Wow Bootcamp,” a high-intensity class that combines strength, agility and cardio; “Namasitstay,” a form of yoga that combines massage and gentle stretching; “Funicity,” an obstacle course with games, hurdles, scale ramps, pole weaves and tunnels; “Puplates,” a class that focuses on stretching, obedience and bonding; and “Sit Stay & Get Fit,” a program intended for seniors or those with certain types of injuries or disabilities.

“I love seeing people bond with their dog in a situation where they wouldn’t otherwise be bonding,” Sciortino said. “We’re in a time now where it’s all about social media and computers, and no one takes time to break away. This is giving unconditional love back to the dog — what the dog gives to his owner every day.”

We all know the benefits and effects of working out for humans, but what’s in it for dogs? In other words, why do they need to stay in shape? Sciortino said there are several reasons:

■ Improved reaction and control.
■ Stabilization of weak areas.
■ Increased trunk and core strength.
■ Improved balance.
■ Increased range of motion in joints and elongation of the muscles, which prevents the onset of arthritis.
■ Increased confidence.

In other words, all the benefits that we get from working out are no different for our dogs. With a regular fitness program, dogs essentially live longer, better quality lives.

“We’re giving them the ability to do something besides walk or run,” Sciortino said. “We’re stimulating their minds, and at the same time making them feel special and loved.”

Sciortino’s classes can be purchased in packages, or clients can pay a monthly fee for unlimited classes. Also, according to Sciortino, if you have approval from your veterinarian, insurance companies might pay a percentage.

As I write this, I have just glanced over at my sleeping dog. His post-holiday midday looks a little bit like mine, and I’m thinking we might both benefit from K9 Fit Club classes. He is so demanding of my attention and enjoys playing fetch and going for long walks, which is great, but this just might be a way for me to show him some more love, and at the same time set us both on a path to better health and wellness in 2019.

To learn more or to hire Debbie, visit ACloserBond.com.

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist for Chicago Tribune Media Group.
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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHAMBERY DIVISION COMMUNITY SAVINGS BANK Plaintiff,

vs.

SALOMON M. AUKA, SALUMO M. M. M. WEST, OWEN H. WEST, WEST GORDON STREET GORDON WEST, NORTHEAST 90TH NOTICE OF SALE - PUBLIC.

REVERSE MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS, INC. Planter.

BEVERLY MOS MASON, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS - DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING OF HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD AND LEG.

HOUSING OF HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD AND LEG.

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHAMBERY DIVISION REVERSE MORTGAGE SOLUTIONS, INC. Planter.

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BEVERLY MOS MASON, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF ILLINOIS - DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND DEVELOPMENT URBAN NEIGHBORHOOD AND LEG.
NOTICE TO BIDDERS Request for Bids 019-001-003 Tree Planting Program

The Village of Winnetka is requesting sealed proposals for the Tree Planting Program. Bid documentation, including the complete specifications, may be obtained at the Village of Winnetka website by visiting http://www.villageofwinnetka.org/departments/finance/bid-opportunities.

Bid Opening: All Proposals shall be publicly opened on Monday, January 21, 2019 at 7:00 p.m., at Village Hall, 510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, Illinois 60093. The village reserves the right to reject any and all Proposals, for any reason and for no reason.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

The Rockford Building, 645 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, Illinois, 60093, is offering a 2 bedroom, 2 bath apartment available for immediate occupancy.

Address: 645 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, IL 60093

Phone: 847-557-5111

Email: info@645greenbayroad.com

Website: www.645greenbayroad.com

Newly renovated, this apartment features hardwood floors, a modern kitchen, and a balcony. Contact us for more information and to schedule a viewing.

SPECIALAD: Available upon request for the disabled. Call 847-557-5111.

Contact: Rockford Building

645 Green Bay Road

Winnetka, IL 60093

Phone: 847-557-5111

Email: info@645greenbayroad.com

Website: www.645greenbayroad.com

Newly renovated, this apartment features hardwood floors, a modern kitchen, and a balcony. Contact us for more information and to schedule a viewing.
A CENTURY AGO:
What happened in 1919

BY S.N. | EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN

(stanxwords.com)

Across
1 Throat bug, for short
6 Woodcutter Ali
10 Painter of ballet scenes
15 Front of a ship
19 Basketball venue
20 Wide-eyed
21 Writer Wharton
22 Mechanical learning
23 First woman in the House of Commons (1919)
25 Home of The Thinker, which opened in 1919
27 Mask cutouts
28 Novelist Segal
30 Makeup exam
31 Ancient, in a 1/1 song
32 Formation fliers
33 Indian attire
34 Repetitive cries
37 Disposed (to)
38 Awaited instead of sleeping
42 Top-level dwellings
43 National Park established in 1919
45 New Haven student
46 Measures of work
47 Timely benefit
48 Major nuisance
49 Minor anomaly
50 Hardwood tree
51 Prohibition legislation enacted in 1919
55 Still in contention
56 Back-wheel connector
58 Subatomic particle
59 Dinesen's real surname
60 Meddlesome

61 Cooked for too long
62 Celebrity elite
63 Induced improperly
65 Assumed name
66 Unpretentious pub
69 Can't find
70 Thoroughbred racing coup first achieved in 1919
72 Have a lapse
73 Dollar sums, for short
74 Den — Netherlands Purposes
76 Berry from palms
77 Teachers' org.
78 Rebel leader at the 1919 Battle of Juárez
82 Empty talk
83 Erstwhile Heathrow lander
85 Talk-show group
86 Coated with chrome, say
87 Grand Ole
88 Star in Cygnus
89 Erstwhile Heathrow lander
90 Impertinent
91 One with no hope
94 Lefty
98 Treaty-signing site of 1919
100 Babe Ruth's 1919 league-leading homer count

Down
1 Sound-minded
2 Cafeteria carrier
3 Actress Russo
4 Casts a spell on
5 Disbursements
6 Stationed (in)
7 CIA operatives
8 Cry of disapproval
9 Come to terms about
10 Somewhat dry, in wine-speak
11 Draw forth
12 Major silents star
13 Eroded
14 Hilton alternative
15 Golf magazine staple
16 Traveled by bus or bike
17 Elevator innovator
18 Traveled
24 Bard comedy title
26 Episode's second showing
29 Pull to pieces
32 Foundation donation
33 “Speak up!”
34 Cloudless
35 Carousel carving
36 Asian nation that declared independence in 1919
37 Ordinary writing
38 Cinema counter purchase
39 Toon debuting in 1919
40 Greenish hue
41 Approach maturity
42 Admits, informally
44 To pieces
47 How some chocolate is sold
49 Supreme joy
51 Florist's accessories
52 Supply what's needed to
53 Of hearing
54 Performance in un ballet
55 Calibrate
57 Choir attire
59 Gusts of air
61 Bounty captain
62 Allure in the air
63 Bugs Bunny's voice
64 Bard tragedy title
65 In ... against time
66 Barbecue hardware
67 Give an address
68 Was 60 Across
70 Driving Miss Daisy
71 Novelist Carr
74 Being a nuisance to
76 Spider or scorpion
78 Family nickname
79 Water far from land
80 Wind-powered spinner
81 Disinclination to act
82 Symbols of Australia
84 Admits, informally
85 Look sulky
88 Old-time
90 First-century despot
91 First-century despot
92 Land on the Caspian
93 Far-from-gourmet fare
94 Dispose of for cash
95 Needle producer
96 "Farm" animals
97 Novelist Nathanael
98 Teammate of the Babe
101 GPS reading
Sweet Notes

BY CHARLES PRESTON

ACROSS
1 Prince Charles' pastime
5 Heeling
10 Monks
14 Box-office biggy
15 "I___ girl just like ___"
16 Budget item
17 Kahn-Heusen hit of '55
20 "Maid of Athens ___ we part ___"
21 Fall quaff
22 Stage direction
23 Niche occupant
25 Wine and dine
26 Despooil
29 Coxcomb
30 In the works
31 Bugged
33 Testing spot
36 Endure
37 Dracula, for one.
38 Thirtysomething's Mel
39 Giant, of yore
40 Subject
41 Judge's need
42 Hawk's opposite
43 Name, in Wilde play
45 Rock salt

DOWN
1 Heap
2 Kitchen emanation
3 '73 Bluenotes hit with The
4 Bull or Miss
5 Sunblind
6 Shane star
7 Gypsy, Porter tune
8 Have the lead
9 Feather's partner
10 The Surrey With the ___ on Top
11 Ranch, in "Giant"
12 Broadway backer
13 Cordwood measure
18 "... and he made him ___ of many colors"
19 Nasal
24 Coagulate
25 Corrode
26 Alto lead-in
27 "first you don't succeed ___"
28 Marry in haste
29 Punishing cap
32 Arles assent
33 '62 Sondheim song
34 Jungle swingers
35 Bible or Sun
37 Inlet
38 Do museum work
40 Kind of pole
41 Persona non
42 Abridgement
44 City on the Somme
45 Stems
46 Think the world of
47 Agitate
50 Israeli dance
51 Smell ___
52 Downcast
54 Madame Bovary
55 Paper quantity
57 Wane
58 Bigwig

Last week's answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island © 2019 Creators News Service.
**But is it Art?**

**By Garry Morse**

**Edited by Rich Norris and Joyce Nichols Lewis**

**Across**

1. Ohm reciprocal
2. With 123-Across, speaker of the quip
3. Heads of the
4. Calrissian of "Star Wars" films
5. Putting out
6. Laker or Raptor, briefly
7. Bass-baritone
8. Trolley sound
9. 1950s tennis great Lew
10. Lowest points
11. "War of the Worlds" target plays
12. War of the quip (Afterthoughts)
13. Loch with a
14. Rhythmic box
15. Shower head borders?
16. Bass-baritone
17. Indian titles
18. Indian garment
19. European carrier
20. Kilauea Point Refuge denizen
21. "Wedding Bell Blues" soloist
22. Crosses
23. Beauty goddesses
24. Crunchy snack
25. Big Apple
26. Chef's amounts
27. Dressy pasta?
28. "Wedding Bell Blues" soloist
29. Creepy looks
30. Fast sailing ship
31. Fast sailing ship
32. Org. with an Acid
33. "Wedding Bell Blues" soloist
34. Balkan capital
35. Three before
36. Expecting results
37. Think (over)
38. Elec., e.g.
39. Mount Olympus
40. Matchless one's
41. 1950s tennis great Lew
42. Dior creations
43. Shakespearean title city
44. Applies, as pressure
45. Rhyming boxer
46. "Wedding Bell Blues" soloist
47. "Wedding Bell Blues" soloist
48. "Wedding Bell Blues" soloist
49. Bring out
50. Whse. unit
51. Chain with syrup
52. NYC line that stops at Yankee Stadium, familiarly
53. Truce
54. Eng. ship title
55. Quip, part 3
56. Eng. ship title
57. 1950s tennis great Lew
58. Glee club member
59. Expected results
60. "...-so you!"
61. Out of shape
62. Indian titles
63. Indian titles
64. Indian titles
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112. Indian titles

**Down**

1. Indian titles
2. Indian titles
3. Hosp. "room" (afterthoughts)
4. 400+ million of them are produced daily
5. Draw in
6. "spill" (afterthoughts)
7. Princes' island partner (afterthoughts)
8. Italian inclusions
9. "Wedding Bell Blues" soloist (afterthoughts)
10. Old-fashioned editing tool (afterthoughts)
11. Carved wood in bold borders contains every digit from 1 to 9
12. Indian titles (afterthoughts)
13. Indian titles (afterthoughts)
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111. Indian titles (afterthoughts)
112. Indian titles (afterthoughts)

**Jumble**

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

**Sudoku**

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

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Crossword

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
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21 22
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27 28 29
30 31
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33 34 35
36

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1/9/19

Solutions

ACROSS
1 Boost
5 Felt put--_; was resentful
9 Store away
13 TV's "Green --"
15 Rectangular
16 Clerical error
17 90s hips
18 Sugar or Splenda
20 Schwarzkopf's initials
21 Feasted
23 Rely
24 Implied, but not spoken
26 Kind of dog
27 Umpire's cry
29 Court break
32 _ out
33 Word attached to light or back
35 Cushion
37 Painting, dancing, etc.
38 Meanders
39 Zero
40 Prefix for heat or view
41 Locates
42 Teeming crowd
43 Floating
45 John the Baptist or Joan of Arc, e.g.

6 Tiny fellow
47 Papers to be filled in
48 "The __ in the Dell"
51 "__ Lazy River"
52 Energy
54 Weight revealer
61 Get an "F"
62 Sorority letter
63 Cleaning cloths
64 Passing crazes
65 Writing table

DOWN
1 Whip
2 "__ See Clearly"
3 Fed up
4__ Aviv
5 Agitated
6 Fido's foot
7 Half and half
8 Unnecessary
9 Treeless tract of land
10 Tim Daly's sister
11__ house
12 Dictionary entry
14 Piles
15 Instruct
16 Suit accessory
18 Sugar or Splenda
19 Sugar or Splenda
21 Feasted
22 Suit accessory
23 Rely
24 Implied, but not spoken
25 Haughtiness
26 Kind of dog
27 Umpire's cry
28__ firma, dry land
29 Los Angeles team
30 Where to find game scores
31 Koutus or Duncan
32 _ out
33 Word attached to light or back
34 Boy
35 Locates
36 Forest animal
37 Floating
38 Meanders
39 Zero
40 Prefix for heat or view
41__ mignon
42 Badger
43 Floating
44 Sends in
45 Janitor's item
46 Tiny fellow
47 Papers to be filled in
48 "The __ in the Dell"
51 "__ Lazy River"
52 Energy
54 Weight revealer
61 Get an "F"
62 Sorority letter
63 Cleaning cloths
64 Passing crazes
65 Writing table

This week's Jumble

STIGMA GARISH MULLET GOSSIP FUTURE WORTHY

The computer coder wanted his lazy co-worker to--

GET WITH THE PROGRAM

Interactive puzzles and games
The author you need to read

Cottom embodies intelligence, humor

BY JOHN WARNER
Chicago Tribune

January can be a slow month for publishers. Having digested their premium titles and projects from big-name authors in the fall, and with readers potentially sated from holiday book gifts, the pace of new releases seems to slacken.

But there is a new book coming out Jan. 8 that signals the arrival of a writer who should be listened to. The book? "Thick: And Other Essays." The author? Tressie McMillan Cottom.

In truth, Cottom, a professor of sociology at Virginia Commonwealth University, has been here for quite some time. Her 2017 book, "Lower Ed: The Troubling Rise of For-Profit Colleges in the New Economy," was reviewed in The New York Times but it is not only memoir. Ten years after gaining a Ph.D., a widely respected professor, scholar and writer, Cottom writes.

Consisting of six essays — which cover issues of race, body image, beauty, wealth, real estate, education, segregation, consumerism, meritocracy and HGTV (among others) — "Thick" is an invitation into the life and mind of a person with ferocious intelligence combined with a wicked sense of humor, stunning erudition and a spirit of not giving a hoot about what others think in the best possible way.

Cottom's work is intersectional, a word that some have tried to place in scare quotes, wanting people to believe that intersectionality is a trick pulled by pointy-headed academics who want to make simple things complicated. Don't listen to those people. Cottom's intersectionality is merely the work of a writer seeing the world clearly and deeply, and connecting the dots in fresh and revealing ways.

Critics will reach reflexively for Roxane Gay (who blurbs "Thick") as a comparison and justifiably mean it as a compliment the same way it seems impossible to read about Ta-Nehisi Coates without a mention of James Baldwin. But let's move beyond a world where black writers must be stacked against other black writers, as though our room for those voices is limited, and entry can only be gained through the imprimatur of another.

This is a long book, but its length and breadth is one of its pleasures: "Skippy Dies" by Paul Murray.

Tressie McMillan Cottom is a professor of sociology at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Get a reading from the Biblioracle

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Be on the lookout for these 10 events in 2019

BY MYRNA PETLICIU
Pioneer Press

There are many entertaining ways to spend your nights and days in the local area in 2019, whether your taste runs to theater, music, comedy, festivals, or something else. Here are 10 interesting options to mark on your calendar.

February
Winter Chilly Fest: Ice skating on the pond, hayrides on the trails, snow and ice games, and a chili dinner are just a few of the attractions at the fest from 4 to 8 p.m. Feb. 9-10 at Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie. Admission: $9-$14; $6 without dinner. 847-674-1500, ext. 2500; www.skokieparks.org/emily-oaks-nature-center.

March
Tribute to Frank Sinatra: The singer known as "Old Blue Eyes" will be celebrated when David Halston presents the tribute at 8 p.m. March 1 at the Skokie Theatre, 7924 Lincoln Ave., Skokie. Halston will be accompanied by his 12-piece orchestra. Tickets: $31-$47; 847-677-7761; www.skokietheatre.org.


April
Lionel Hampton Birthday Celebration: Music Institute of Chicago Artists-in-Residence Tammy McCann and jazz vibraphonist Joe Locke will be featured in this concert at 7:30 p.m. April 20 at Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston. Tickets: $15-$50. 847-448-8828; www.musicinst.org.

May
"Next to Normal": The lines between reality and delusion are blurred in the Tony- and Pulitzer Prize-winning musical May 8-June 16 at Writers Theatre, 32S Tudor Court, Glencoe. Tickets: $35-$80. 847-242-6000; www.writerstheatre.org.

June
Wednesdays on the Green Performance Series: The ninth annual series will feature diverse entertainment, including the winners of the Skokie Idol competition June 5-Aug. 21 at Skokie's Village Green, 5125 Oakton St. Admission is free. 847-673-0240; wednesdaysonthe green.com.

July
Island in the City Festival: There will be continuous live entertainment, a carnival, food vendors, and a business expo at the festival from 5 to 10 p.m. July 11, 5 to 11 p.m. July 12, 1 to 11 p.m. July 13, 1 to 10 p.m. July 14 at the Norridge Park District, 4631 N. Overhill Ave., Harwood Heights. Admission is free. 708-457-1244; www.islandinthecity.com.

August
Chicago's Finest Stand-Up: Comics from throughout the Chicago area will keep everyone laughing during a monthly comedy show at 7 p.m. Aug. 31 and the last Saturday of every month, at Ten Ninety Brewing Co., 1025 N. Waukegan Road, Glenview. Tickets: $25; $20 seniors; $5 ages 18 and under. 847-692-7726; www.parkridgecivic.org.

October
Night of 1,000 Jack-o'-Lanterns: The Chicago Botanic Garden will be all aglow during the event from 6:30 to 10:30 p.m. Oct. 16-20 and Oct. 23-27 at 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. Tickets: $16 adults; $13 ages 3-12; $14 and $11 members, plus $20-$25 for parking. 847-835-6803; www.chicagobotanic.org.

December
Mannheim Steamroller: They've sold over 40 million albums and are credited with establishing the genre of New Age music so ticket demand should be heavy for the concert at 8 p.m. Dec. 20 concert at Rosemont Theatre, 5400 N. River Road, Rosemont. Tickets: $39-$95; www.rosemont.com/theatre/.

Myrna Petlicki is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
AUGUST WILSON'S
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BLACK BOTTOM

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Things to Do

**Community Calendar**

**Flow Record Release**: 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Evanston Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $12-$22, 847-492-8860.

**"The Full Monty"**: "The Full Monty" follows a group of unemployed steelworkers who strip for a night out. Jealous when they find out how much their wives enjoy watching the strippers, the men come up with a bold and unclothed way to make some quick cash and learn lessons along the way. Ticket prices regular run: Thursdays and Sundays $39; Fridays and Saturdays $44; $5 discount on regular run prices for seniors and students. Dinner (optional) is additional $25. Advance reservations are required. 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 7 p.m. Sunday, Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre - Evanston, 721 Howard St., Evanston, $34-$44; $25 dinner, 773-347-1109.

**Alliance Francaise du North Shore Cine Club**: Join in for a French film with English subtitles: "La Nuit americaine." Post-screening discussion in French. For more information: Meetup.com/afnorthshore and AFNorthshore.org/events. Individuals with disabilities: let them know 5 working days in advance, for accommodations to be made. 1 p.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library Multipurpose Room, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-858-1274.

**YMCA School Age Art for Grades 1-4**: The North Suburban YMCA Art Academy provides a monthly opportunity for children to get creative. Register at glenviewymca.org/register, call 847-729-7500 ext. 7900 or visit Youth Services. 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

**Adult Literacy Classes: Spring Session Registration**: A unique opportunity for native and non-native English speakers to improve their reading and writing skills. For details on classes given by Oakton Community College at the Glenview Library, call 847-635-1426. 9 a.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free.

**Organizing Your Genealogy**: Learn how to get organized with online tools. Register at glenviewymca.org, 847-729-7500 ext. 7700 or visit Reference Services. 2 p.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

**Animal Secrets**: Families will explore the hidden habitats and secret lives of forest animals. Using imaginative role-play and hands-on activities, children will discover nature from an animal’s point of view in naturalistic environments, including a meadow, woodland, cave and naturalists’ tent. 9:30 a.m. daily, Kohl Children’s Museum, 2100 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, $11-$12, 847-832-6600.

**"Storyland: A Trip Through Childhood Favorites"**: Storyland: A Trip Through Childhood Favorites allows kids to immerse themselves in the livesized worlds of award-winning children’s books. Children can build literacy skills that may (or may not) continue to help them keep their jobs. 10 a.m. daily, Kohl Children’s Museum, 2100 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, free, 847-832-6600.

**Yoga for Kids**: Yoga for children promotes physical strength and muscular endurance. Centered on a weekly theme, children will learn breathing techniques, traditional yoga poses and simple meditation techniques as well as participate in games, partner poses, stories and creative expression. 4 p.m. Thursday, Prairie View Community Center, 6834 Dempster St., Morton Grove, $48 resident; $60 nonresident, 847-965-1200.

**Lot14 Community Auction**: This auction features 300 items never offered here before and lowered or eliminated reserves on about 100 items previously offered. Join for a dynamic live auction in Niles, to benefit Maine Community Youth Assistance Foundation and get good deals while helping great causes. 5 p.m. Thursday, Lot14 Auctions, 7900 N. Milwaukee Ave. #2, Niles, free, 847-625-0555.

**Make Financial Wellness Your New Year's Resolution**: This workshop introduces strategies to put you on a journey to financial success: budgeting, asset protection, managing debt, emergency funds and tax sensitive investing. All attendees are eligible for a free one-hour one-on-one complimentary consultation with the instructor. Free and open to the public; however, registration is required by calling or emailing at NSYMCA.org. Contact Karen Brownlee, kbrownlee@NSYMCA.org for more information. 7 p.m. Thursday, North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techny Road, Northbrook, free, 847-272-7250.

**Stretch and Breathe for Better Health**: This gentle exercise class is designed to teach the benefits of stretching and deep breathing. Regular stretching has benefits that range from increasing flexibility to helping relieve arthritis pain, while deep breathing helps to relax the body and lower stress levels. 11:30 a.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $59 member; $69 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

**Social Regard at Northwestern's Dittmar Gallery**: Drawings, paintings, and a social media project by Chicago artist Paula Henderson will explore the constraints of social constructs and art. Henderson’s exhibit, “Social Regard,” will be on display from Jan. 11 to Feb. 13. “Social Regard” is comprised of two series of works. 10 a.m. daily, Dittmar Memorial Gallery, Northwestern University, 1999 Campus Drive, Evanston, free, 847-491-2348.

**Winter Chamber Music Festival**: The critically acclaimed annual festival celebrates treasured classics and compelling new works. This season, violinist James Ehnes, the Catalyst Quartet and the Gryphon Trio make their Festival debuts. 7:30 p.m. Friday and Sunday, Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, Northwestern University; 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, $10-$30, 847-491-7575.

**Ticketed Baby Signs: Birth to age 3**: Pre-readers and their families learn sign language together through new activities each month. Tickets are given out 20 minutes prior to each session. Preference is given to Glenview Public Library cardholders. 10:30 a.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

**Silver Screen Series: Meet Me In St. Louis**: This 1944 film is not rated and is about: in the year leading up to the 1904 St. Louis World’s Fair, the four Smith sisters learn lessons of life and love, even as they prepare for a reluctant move to New York. The cast includes Judy Garland and Margaret O’Brien. For more information about this event, visit the website or call. 2 p.m. Friday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

**Fisheries and the Future of the Wild Ocean**: The discussion covers wild fish populations, future outlooks for commercial fishing and effective management for a sustainable ocean. Also, explore the possibility of fish farming as an alternative to wild caught foods, including the challenges and triumphs associated with fish farms. 10 a.m. Friday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $24 member; $34 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

**One Hit Wonders**: A fair number of well-known Classical compositions were produced by musicians (for example, Pachelbel, Ponchielli, Delibes, or Boccherini) whose popularity, fame, and/or notoriety are limited to a single piece. Michael Vaughn explores this unique and interesting phenomenon. 1 p.m. Friday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $12 member; $17 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

**Saturday, Jan. 12**

**BimBamBoom at Temperance Beer Co**: This is a night of comedy, magic and dance galore. This show combines an appreciation for the finest brewed beers with the classic American tradition of burlesque! Every performance showcases adult striptease and Chicagoland's finest comedians, along with juggling, comedic songs, magic and more! Featuring the incredible burlesque talents of: Cyn Cat, Kevarl B. Lightning, Saida

**Lot14 Community Auction**: This auction features 300 items never offered here before and lowered or eliminated reserves on about 100 items previously offered. Join for a dynamic live auction in Niles, to benefit Maine Community Youth Assistance Foundation and get good deals while helping great causes. 5 p.m. Thursday, Lot14 Auctions, 7900 N. Milwaukee Ave. #2, Niles, free, 847-625-0555.
Improv Playhouse - Chicken Little:
The sky is falling in this hilarious new take on the classic tale of skepticism and paranoia. Register at glenviewpl.org/register, call 847-729-7500 ext. 7900 or visit youth services. 2 p.m. Sunday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

What’s Old is New: The Leuven Chansonnier: The Newberry Consort performs this concert with music for voices, words and strings from a newly-discovered 15th century Belgian songbook. This is a co-production with Les Délices, co-directed by Debra Nagy. 3 p.m. Sunday, Mary Galvin Recital Hall at Northwestern University, 70 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, $40-$60, 773-677-7335.

Sunday, Jan. 13

Daniel Miller, Ebb and Flow: Opening Reception: Our lives are awash in rhythms and cycles and the cadences that control our lives. Projects in this exhibition seek to mimic various natural processes and act as a catalyst toward a dialogue around our anthropomorphic footprint. Daniel Miller is an artist who creates generative works that investigate systems and ecologies in the contemporary landscape. 1 p.m. Sunday, Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-5300.

2019 EAC Studio Exhibition: Opening Reception: This exhibition runs from Jan. 5 through Feb. 9, with the opening reception on Jan. 13, from 1-4 p.m. Evanston Art Center students’ artwork is showcased, as students of all ages and from all departments will present work in the wide ranges of media and processes created at the Evanston Art Center. 1 p.m. daily, Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-5300.

Weekly Irish Music Session - John Williams: Join in every Sunday for a feast of Irish music led by world renowned master of many a musical instrument, John Williams and joined by his many talented musical friends. Eat, drink and enjoy free live music at your local pub in lovely downtown Evanston. 3 p.m. Sunday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679.

Monday, Jan. 14

Thomas Hampson Vocal Master Class at Northwestern: Baritone Thomas Hampson has been recognized with numerous honors and awards: in 2010, he was presented with a Living Legend Award from the Library of Congress, and he has been named a Metropolitan Opera “Met Mastersinger” in addition to being inducted into both the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and Gramophone’s Hall of Fame. In this master class, Hampson guides Bienen School voice and opera program students through the intricacies of American art song. 7 p.m. Monday, Mary Galvin Recital Hall at Northwestern University, 70 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, free, 847-467-4000.

Financial Planning Appointments: If you need a financial tune-up, schedule a free, one-hour consultation with a Certified Financial Planner. No online registration. Please call 847-729-7500 ext. 7700 or visit Reference Services. 9 a.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

SCORE Counseling Appointments: A very limited number of one-hour appointments are available from: 5-8p.m. SCORE Chicago provides mentoring to local small business owners and entrepreneurs. Current and potential entrepreneurs can benefit from the experience of retired volunteer executives to develop business plans and grow businesses. Register and schedule your appointment at score.org/find-mentor. 5 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Turn to Calendar, Page 16
Sensory Friendly Film: Monsters University: At this special screening, we will turn the lights up, the volume down and attendees are welcome to move around, talk or sing their way through. A limited supply of noise canceling headphones and fidgets will be available. The intended audience for this program is those with special needs; however, everyone is welcome to attend. (2013, G, 1 hr 44 min.) For more information about this event, visit www.mgp.org or call 847-965-4220. 4 p.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free.

M, M & Mc: Film: This Beautiful Fantastic: A part of the Movies, Munchies, and More series. The cast of This Beautiful Fantastic includes Mia Farkasovskia, and Jessica Brown Findlay; 2016, PG, 1 hr 40 min. 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

Calm Heart, Healthy Heart: Dr. Paul Nevin leads this discussion of mind/body strategies to improve cardiac health. Dr. Nevin is a Mayo Clinic trained and certified wellness coach and a Doctor of Clinical Psychology. He is an expert in stress management and the treatment of depression with decades of experience helping clients with heart issues and other medical conditions. Contact Karen Brownlee, kbrownlee@NSYMCA.org for more information. 11:15 a.m. Tuesday, North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techy Road, Northbrook, free, 847-272-7250.

Yoga for the Rest of Us: Anyone can enjoy the many benefits of yoga, including increased strength, balance, flexibility and mobility. This class is uniquely designed for individuals of all fitness levels to relax and unwind. Our certified yoga instructor accommodates individual needs through the use of chairs, blocks, bolsters and other props to help you develop a more mindful awareness of your body and a sense of overall well-being. 9 a.m. Tuesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $75 member; $89 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

Artists Workshop: Working in Color: This is for the advanced student as well as beginners to explore color and different media using props, photographs and one's own imagination! Students can work in pastel, oil, acrylic, watercolor, cray-pas and colored pencils at their own pace. Participants do need to supply their own art supplies to complete their individual projects. For the student who wants to work independently, the class can be used as a workshop. 10 a.m. Tuesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $225 member, $265 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

Wednesday, Jan. 16

Event and Meeting Showcase: Come network with over 45 event vendors at this historic Clubhouse. This is free and open to the public. 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Woman's Club of Evanston, 1702 Chicago Ave, Evanston, free, 847-475-3800.

Woman's Club of Wilmette January Luncheon: The Woman's Club of Wilmette Luncheon takes place starting at 11:30 a.m. Kathy McCabe gives a talk on "New Year, Real You" (Myths of Resolutions). Members and guests are welcome. 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Hackney's on Lake, 1514 E. Lake Ave., Glenview, $25, 847-251-8330.

Sun and Moon with the Discovery Center Museum: Those ages 3-6 with an adult, play with light and dark, day and night, and shadow and reflection to learn about our cosmic neighbors. Register at glenviewpl.org/register, call 847-729-7500 ext. 7900 or visit Youth Services. Space is limited. 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

All Things Spanish Meets Monthly: On Jan. 16 is Movie Night with The Return - El Regreso (2012). Both native and non-native Spanish speakers are invited to practice their language skills and expand their love of Spanish/Latino culture. Contact cramer@glenviewpl.org for more information. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Photo and Media Club: This is for 9th graders and up; younger photographers must be accompanied by a caregiver. If you are having trouble making your camera do what you want it to, or are curious about how to get your photography to the next level — come drop-in, with no registration required. DSLR cameras are available to use, or you can bring your own. 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277.

Knitting Club: If you want to learn to knit, or you are working on a knitting or crochet project, drop-in to share tips, show off your work and converse with fellow needle arts enthusiasts. Bring your own knitting supplies. 11 a.m. Wednesday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277.

Have an event to submit? Go to www.ChicagoTribune.com/
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<td>Matthew Gulliver</td>
<td>Faruk Fathaleh</td>
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Cozy Corner serves up pancakes, burgers and more in Norwood Park

BY MEGAN HORSTEAD
Pioneer Press

Cozy Corner opened its doors about a month ago on Harlem Avenue in Norwood Park, offering dining options ranging from omelets and French toast to burgers and corned beef.

It is the fourth Cozy Corner location, with other restaurants in Logan Square, Hermosa and Edgewater. The new location is at 5454 N. Harlem Ave., near Harwood Heights. According to its website, the Harlem Avenue restaurant is open from 6 a.m. to 4 p.m., daily.

Other Cozy Corner menu items include Mexican breakfasts, biscuits and gravy, pancakes, chicken, wraps, sandwiches and more.

"We've been doing this for quite some time," owner Peter Iatrides said. "We continuously strive year after year to get better by putting better quality on the plate, continuing to give excellent service, and always giving the people great value through our early bird and all-day specials." Iatrides said setting up an establishment along Harlem Avenue makes sense because "there was a restaurant there for years," referring to Sally's Waffle Shoppe.

"We came in, we brought our brand, and we breathed life into the location," he said, adding that Harlem Avenue provides a high-traffic area, and the location is close to Interstate 90.

"All our restaurants are on the north side of Chicago, so it provided a nice synergy for all the locations," Iatrides said. "Because our other locations are only about five to six miles away from each other, I think altogether now the four locations play an integral part with each other."

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Iatrides said as the Harlem Avenue location's opening date neared, people nearby were "awaiting our opening." He said the restaurant has drawn customers from the nearby area, such as Norridge and Harwood Heights, as well as those in Edison Park, Park Ridge and Niles.

"This being our fourth Chicagoland location, I think people are starting to recognize us as a quality player in the market," Iatrides said.

Megann Horstead is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Maine Township board votes to lower portion of property tax levy

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

The Maine Township Board voted to reduce a portion of its 2018 property-tax levy last month, though for some trustees, the amount was not enough.

The board on Dec. 18 voted 3-2 in favor of setting the general town and general assistance levies at $5.046 million, which reflects a reduction of 5 percent over the 2017 levy, the township said.

At the same time, trustees voted 3-2 to raise the road and bridge levy by 2.1 percent, for a total of $2.6 million.

The tax dollars will be collected through 2019 property-tax bills.

Trustees David Carrabotta and Susan Sweeney voted against the levy motions, each saying that larger reductions should have been considered — as much as 30 percent in the general assistance levy. Both trustees argued that the township has extensive reserves to cover expenses and can function with fewer tax dollars.

"It's been years of accumulation, and we have more than enough money," Sweeney said.

Carrabotta agreed.

"You cannot levy for monies you don't need," he said. "Road and bridge is seeking money they do not need. General assistance and the town fund are seeking money they do not need."

Last year, according to a document provided by Township Supervisor Laura Morask, the township's reserves were projected to total $12.6 million by the end of the 2018-19 fiscal year.

Trustee Claire McKenzie, who has frequently broke ranks with Sweeney and Carrabotta, broke ranks and voted in favor of the levies, cautioning against a drastic reduction "without understanding and knowing all of the budget requests and needs." The township's new fiscal year begins March 1, but typically the board has not adopted a budget until after the year has already begun.

McKenzie said the town board has the option of exploring a tax abatement for residents instead.

"We can use the abatement to fine-tune what we need in the end," she said. "I think that's more responsible."

Also voting in favor of the 2018 property tax levies were Supervisor Morask and Trustee Kim Jones.

Last year, the town board voted 3-2 to reduce the general town fund and general assistance levies by 5 percent as well, but it was Morask and Jones who objected, arguing the levies should remain flat.

The board did vote to keep the 2017 road and bridge levy flat, despite a request by Highway Commissioner Walter Kazmierczak to increase it by 2 percent.

Last month, Kazmierczak said he was seeking a 2.1 percent increase in the 2018 road and bridge levy based on the increase in the consumer price index.

"It allows us to keep up with inflation and capture any new construction [within the township]," he said of his levy request.

"I don't think anything I've asked for is excessive," Kazmierczak added.

The highway commissioner said he typically does not receive the entire levy amount that is approved by the board, suggesting the amount is closer to 70 percent of the total.

"I didn't get the full amount last year; I won't get the full amount this year," he said.

Kazmierczak indicated that the board was required to adopt his proposal based on a provision in the statewide Laws and Duties Handbook for township governments, which says, "The road district's levy is first determined by the highway commissioner and then adopted by the township board (which may not amend the commissioner's levy request)."

Kazmierczak made the same argument in 2017, but trustees voted against his request for a 2 percent increase in the levy.

The Maine Township Highway Department is responsible for 21.8 miles of road within the unincorporated area only, according to the township website, though property taxes are collected from residents living throughout the township.

Jennifer Johnson is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press. Twitter @Jen_Tribune
Evanston water flows to Niles, Morton Grove customers

BY GENEVIEVE BOOKWALTER
Pioneer Press

Evanston started providing Lake Michigan water to new customers in Niles, Morton Grove and unincorporated Maine Township last month, and officials say the new water system is working well so far.

"Everything's going great," said Wally Bobkiewicz, Evanston city manager.

William Balling, superintendent of the Morton Grove-Niles Water Commission, agreed with Bobkiewicz's assessment. Both men said there have been no surprises and things have proceeded as planned.

"We started service on Dec. 27 and will service water continuously now to those communities and supplement with purchases from the City of Chicago until the new pipes, transfer stations and other infrastructure is finished," Balling said. That construction should wrap up this summer.

Lake Michigan water flows through the Evanston Water Treatment Plant on its way to customers. The city began providing water to residents of Niles and Morton Grove on Dec. 27.

The entire project is estimated to cost $96.3 million and is largely funded by the commission and through low-interest loans, Balling said.

"It's been a very successful project. The communities have worked extremely hard to make this possible," Balling said. "It will play importantly into the future success and management of future water systems."

The Morton Grove-Niles Water Commission serves the communities of Morton Grove and Niles. An unincorporated area of Maine Township also receives water from the Village of Niles and will continue to receive water through the Village.

The expansion will increase the number of suburban customers using Evanston water from 400,000 now to about 450,000, according to city figures. Morton Grove and Niles users are expected to make up about 13 percent of those using Evanston water.

The deal is expected to earn Evanston $1.2 million per year by 2022, according to city reports.

Evanston already serves its own city water, and provides it to Skokie and members of the Northwest Water Commission. That group includes Arlington Heights, Buffalo Grove, Palatine and Wheeling.

Evanston and Skokie are in the midst of dueling lawsuits after the two towns failed to agree on a new water price and contract in 2017.

The water deal with Niles and Morton Grove came about after the City of Chicago, which previously supplied water to Niles and Morton Grove, significantly raised its rates over recent years, Evanston officials said.

In 2017, Morton Grove residential water customers paid $10.81 and Niles customers paid $8.44 per 1,000 gallons of water, per the villages' respective websites. One thousand gallons of water is enough for 20 to 40 showers.

Their rate with Evanston should not exceed $1.01 per 1,000 gallons by 2020, according to the contract. Increases after that will be determined by a formula included in the agreement.

Morton Grove officials have said that they expect to save $90 million to $100 million over the life of the 40-year contract, which locks in the suburb's water rates over that time period. The contract includes the option for two, 10-year extensions.

Evanston agreed to provide water to another near north suburb, Lincolnwood, in July 2018. That service is expected to start in 2020.
Italic Institute of America protests 'Godfather II' showing at Pickwick

Group calls mob image 'an obstacle'

BY MARY BETH VERSACI
Pioneer Press

Ella Grasso was the first woman elected governor without first being a governor's wife or widow, A.P. Giannini founded the Bank of America, and Rocco Petrone was director of launch operations at NASA's Kennedy Space Center during the 1969 moon landing.

But despite these contributions to society, many Americans are more familiar with the exploits of the fictional Corleone family than the accomplishments of these real-life Italian-Americans, according to the Italic Institute of America, which is protesting the Jan. 16 showings of "The Godfather: Part II" at the Pickwick Theatre in Park Ridge.

"That image has kind of blocked any kind of diversification of the Italian-American experience," said Bill Dal Cerro, senior analyst and Midwest representative with the institute. "That film has become the Bible, and people just can't get past it. And to us, it's an obstacle. It's like the Berlin Wall. People can't see past it or over it."

The main goal of the institute, which was founded in 1987, is to dismantle that "cultural Berlin Wall" by educating against the Italian-American stereotypes made famous by "The Godfather" and other mobster movies and TV shows, Dal Cerro said.

"This image of 'The Godfather' and the gangster kind of puts this label on us that we're not really American somehow, we're somehow outsiders," he said. "That was the whole premise of 'The Sopranos' too, right? Even though we're in the suburbs, we're assimilated, we're all educated — be careful, that next-door neighbor with the Italian name might be a thug."

The organization's educational outreach primarily involves writing op-eds and letters to the editor for newspapers, holding physical protests with informational handouts and signs, and publishing The Italian Way magazine, which features articles on culture, history and more.

Dal Cerro said he was unsure if the upcoming protest would involve in-person demonstrations at the Pickwick Theatre showings, which are scheduled for 1 and 7 p.m., or if it would focus exclusively on spreading the institute's message through media outreach.

Pickwick owner Dino Vlahakis said he was unaware of the protest but did not see any problems with it.

"It is America; they have the right to protest anything," Vlahakis said. "... To me, publicity is publicity, so it may actually build my audience."

The institute has not previously staged a protest at the theater, but it does track movie showings across the country and considered protesting a screening of "The Godfather" in 2018 at the Pickwick, Dal Cerro said.

The group also has held protests in connection to "The Sopranos" and "Shark Tale," a children's movie in which the villainous sea creatures are made to mimic Italian-American mob stereotypes.

"There's just this one image basically: Italians as criminals or buffoons, and that's it," Dal Cerro said. "And nobody goes beyond that." While some independent filmmakers have tried to break that image, a majority of Hollywood — including Italian-American actors, writers and directors — continue to put out mob movies because that is where the money is, he said.

"It's just a nonstop struggle. We try to get so much positive information out there and educate people, but it all comes back to 'The Godfather,'" Dal Cerro said.

Mary Beth Versaci is a freelance reporter.
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Motivated by tradition, Carmel soars at Lake Forest invite

BY STEVE SADIN
Pioneer Press

A championship tradition acts as both a blessing and a burden for the Carmel girls gymnastics team.

Motivated by their proven track record, the Corsairs came out on top at the 12-team Robin Straus Invitational on Saturday at Lake Forest. Carmel tallied 146.65 points to edge second-place Prairie Ridge (146.30).

Coach Sarah Mikrut Doyle, a member of Carmel's 1992 and 1993 state championship teams, has coached the school to three titles since 2002. The Corsairs have qualified for state as a team in three of the last four seasons.

Lyndsey Basara, a sophomore who was second in the vault, floor exercise and all-around and third in the uneven bars, said competing for a state title each season is part of the team culture. It also presents a challenge.

"It can be nerve-wracking because we all want to help the team get to state," Basara said. "We all help each other to get better to cut down on our misses."

Izzy Kropiwiec, a junior who was second on the beam and fourth in the all-around, said the team also gets positive motivation from the Corsairs' tradition.

"It's really something to look up to," Kropiwiec said. "It makes us all push hard to be a top team."

Joining Basara and Kropiwiec in the top 10 of the all-around were dare Keane (sixth) and Kyla Rapplean (seventh).

Lyndsey Basara performs on the balance beam on Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019.

Lake Forest embraces youth movement

Paced by sophomores Gianna Pasquesi and Kristin Fisch and freshman Taylor Cekay on a team with no seniors, Lake Forest placed seventh at its home meet.

Coach Megan Miles said Cekay hyper-extended her right knee and had to skip her last two events. Still, the young Scouts have plenty to look forward to.

"They are growing up very fast," Miles said.

Pasquesi, who was 10th in the all-around while Fisch was seventh, said tweaking routines is one way the team continues to improve. She has added a tsuk with a back flip to her vault routine and another handstand to her bar routine.

Once Pasquesi has logged enough practice hours in the gym, she knows she's ready to try the new routine in competition.

"I worked on them all summer. In practice, I did a ton of reps," Pasquesi said. "I did it the first two times at home (nixets)."

Carmel's Lyndsey Basara performs on the balance beam on Saturday, Jan. 5, 2019.

Platt is Deerfield's leader

Deerfield junior Joie Platt, who finished 22nd in the all-around, is the team's representative in the Warrior athletic department's leadership program. She helped lead Deerfield (130.575) to an eighth-place finish on Saturday.

The Warriors' first event was floor. Platt said the overall team performance of 33.05 was subpar, and she wanted to do something to buoy Deerfield's spirits as the Warriors moved to vault.

"I told them to forget about it, relax and have fun," Platt said.

The team vault score was 34.525, easily the Warriors' best in any event on Saturday.

Lyons builds during winter break

Lyons coach Darragh McDermott took her team to BIG Gymnastics in Burr Ridge during winter break to help the Lions make their routines more complex.

McDermott said the Burr Ridge gym has a pit with heavy foam and other training equipment that the Lions do not have at their home gym.

"It allowed them to improve their routines in a safe environment," McDermott said.

Lyons placed 11th at Lake Forest with a score of 123.65.

Niles West's Dirks earns 21st on floor

Niles West senior Jasmine Dirks, who placed 21st on floor for the Wolves' best performance at Lake Forest, has added new elements and other techniques to her routine through the year to improve her scores.

"I keep doing (the new flips in practice) until it is ready for competition," Dirks said.

The Wolves placed 12th as a team with 121.30 points.

Steve Sadin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
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Maine South has an identity for the present and future

BY JON J. KERR
Pioneer Press

The Maine South girls basketball team is relying on consistent play from seniors Nicole Scales and Hannah Schilling this season. But two sophomores are emerging, and they share a last name familiar to Maine South basketball fans.

Niamh Gardiner is a 5-foot-11 combo player for the Hawks, and she can play in the frontcourt or backcourt. Her twin sister, Nicole Gardiner, is one inch shorter and similar in skill set and ability.

"Both can rebound and handle the basketball and guard someone in the post," Maine South coach Jeff Hamann said. "I'd say they are very versatile."

At the Dundee-Crown Charger Komaromy Christmas Classic in late December, opponents scouted the well-known Scales. With defenses designed to neutralize her production, Niamh and Nicole Gardiner accepted greater roles on offense and defense.

Maine South went 3-1 at the tournament, and Niamh Gardiner made the all-tournament team. A 20-point, 11-rebound performance by Nicole Gardiner led the Hawks in a Dec. 27 loss to Rockton Hononegah, and Niamh Gardiner followed with a 23-point, nine-rebound game the next day against Trinity.

Hamann coached the JV team last year, and the Gardiner twins were on his squad. Now, they're making a difference on varsity.

"We knew they were going to make an immediate impact," Hamann said.

Of course, Hamann knew that the Gardiner family had already produced a number of basketball standouts.

Some of the Gardiners' earliest basketball memories involve pickup games at their Park Ridge home. Those driveway games often involved their two older brothers: Joe Gardiner, a former Maine South boys basketball player, and John Gardiner, a senior for the Hawks.

Their cousin, Tommy Gardiner, is a freshman on the men's basketball team at Marquette.

"We'd always be competing with each other," said Niamh Gardiner, who was born one minute before her sister.

"Our whole family is always watching basketball on TV," Nicole Gardiner added.

The basketball education for Niamh and Nicole Gardiner eventually moved from the family driveway to the Park Ridge Jr. Hawks feeder program in middle school. They joined the Full Package Athletics program for AAU basketball upon enrolling in high school.

A focus on individual offensive skill development at Full Package helped build upon a foundation of strong rebounding and defensive play.

"We practiced dribbling a lot (at Full Package) and going towards the basket," Niamh Gardiner said.

"It was tougher competition and got us ready for varsity," Nicole Gardiner added.

Joe and John Gardiner are regular spectators at their sisters' games. The Gardiner sisters often accompany their brothers to the Park Ridge Community Center to work on their shot or other basketball skills.

If the winter weather permits, Niamh and Nicole Gardiner can be heard bouncing a basketball on the family driveway. Niamh Gardiner likely is posting up her younger sister, while Nicole Gardiner tries to beat her older sister off the bounce.

"We try and help each other out with what we could do better," Niamh Gardiner said.

The rapid development of the Gardiner sisters gives the Hawks a foundation for the future, as Scales and Schilling will graduate in the spring.

Jon J. Kerr is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @Pioneer_Press
Rolling Meadows boys basketball coach Kevin Katovich said he can see both sides of the argument.

On Dec. 28, the North Lawndale boys basketball team created a stir on social media and among Chicago-area coaches by holding the ball for nearly seven minutes in a 35-33 win against Metamora.

The highly touted matchup between two defending Class 3A sectional champions turned into a low-scoring, grind-it-out game due to the second-quarter stall tactic by the Phoenix. Both teams scored two points in the second quarter.

North Lawndale's maneuver would not be possible with a shot clock, but the Illinois High School Association has no requirement for one. Numerous coaches weighed in on the positives and negatives of instituting a shot clock for high school basketball in Illinois.

"The NBA has a 24-second shot clock, while the NCAA has instituted a 30-second shot clock for men's and women's college basketball games. A handful of states use a shot clock in high school basketball, but most do not."

Katovich said he made a habit of slowing down games for years to compete with more talented teams. But Katovich now has one of the best players in the country in Max Christie. The sophomore guard is one of the most sought-after recruits in his class and has already scored 40 points twice this season. Opponents have tried to slow down the high-scoring Christie.

"In years past, we sort of slowed it down, just to control tempo and limit possessions," Katovich said. "I've been thinking about it a lot lately, especially since we have Max. Many teams in the Mid-Suburban (League) tend to slow down games."

Stevenson boys basketball coach Pat Ambrose is a proponent for a shot clock. For three seasons, Ambrose leaned on McDonald's All-American Jalen Brunson to run his offense. Ambrose coached the Patriots to a Class 4A state title in 2015.

Ambrose said his team practiced for nearly a week to prepare for the shot clock. "I would like a shot clock," Ambrose said. "A shot clock would fundamentally change the game, but it could make it uglier. The game might become faster, but I'm not sure it would be better. There's no easy solution."

Hinsdale South boys basketball coach Brett Moore has coached freshmen, sophomore, JV and varsity hoops. He recently coached current Iowa State freshman forward Zion Griffin and Northwestern junior center Barret Benson. The Hornets traditionally push the pace on offense and defense.

"All levels of basketball should have the same setup with a shot clock, from high school to college to the NBA," Moore said. "I probably see 150 games in person or on film a year. Not many teams hold the ball for very long. But it would put more strategy into games, make the end of games a little different."

Besides increasing the pace of games by not allowing teams to stall for minutes at a time, the shot clock could lead to more scoring. It also could change the way that trailing teams foul at the end of a game.

Nazareth girls basketball coach Ed Stritzel is also in favor of implementing a shot clock. His Roadrunners lost in the Class 3A state final last season. His daughter, Annie Stritzel, is averaging 25 points per game this season. All four of his children have played high school basketball, so he's seen the good and bad of not having a shot clock.

"We play fast and intense, so it would help us," Stritzel said. "I think no shot clock helps lesser talented teams. They run the clock, spread you out and shorten games. But that's not basketball. It's meant to be played fast-paced."

Downers Grove North's girls basketball victory over York on Jan. 4 served as the ideal example for shot-clock proponents. The Trojans held the ball for nearly a minute midway through the fourth quarter, forcing the Dukes to foul and make the game longer. The fouling also led to an uptick among Trojans fans because of the suddenly aggressive game.

"Each game you can look at it, it can benefit or hurt you. (Against Downers North), it would have benefited us if we had one," York girls basketball coach Brandon Collings said. "Having a shot clock would change a lot of things we do."

Ambrose said a shot clock would not necessarily affect teams with talented point guards. His experience with Brunson showed him that a reliable point guard can dictate pace. When he coached at Plano, Moore said he casually mentioned to an assistant coach that a shot clock could be introduced for the Plano Christmas Classic.

Moore said one of the main deterrents for a shot clock is cost. He noted that the 32-team Jack Tosh Holiday Classic, hosted by York, would need to spend considerable money to hire shot-clock operators. Moore said a shot clock might also lead to more teams playing zone defense.

During the 2011-12 season, longtime Fenwick girls basketball coach Dave Power switched his philosophy from a traditional offense and defense to his current run-and-gun style, which relies heavily upon 3-pointers. Power said that girls basketball desperately could use an injection of scoring to increase excitement and interest.

The last few seasons, the Friars have lit up the scoreboard and routinely surpass 60 points. Meanwhile, Geneva and Montini combined for 54 points in last season's 4A state final. No team has scored more than 42 points in the last three Class 4A state title games.

"I think it's a long time overdue," Power said. "The flow of the game would be better. A lot of coaches say they have lesser talent, so they work their system and have 15 passes before they shoot, and that lets them run their patterns and sets."

"A shot clock would speed up action and makes games fun for fans. We could use more fans in girls basketball. It would bring excitement. Coaches often say 'patience,' but that often means 'stall.'"
Riley Lees isn't satisfied.
The former Libertyville quarterback is now a receiver at Northwestern, and he made a huge contribution to the Wildcats' comeback win over Utah in the Holiday Bowl.
Lees scored twice — on a 4-yard touchdown pass and an 8-yard TD run — as Northwestern won 31-20 in San Diego on Dec. 31.

"A win like this, it motivates everybody," Lees told the Chicago Tribune. "It makes us want more. We won the West and that's the bar now. We have to keep going."

Lees, a sophomore, helped the Wildcats overcome injuries to top wideouts Flynn Nagel and Bennett Skowronek.
Lees' TD catch started a 28-point surge in the third quarter as Northwestern rallied from a 20-3 deficit.

Eleven-plus minutes later, Lees capped the memorable comeback with an 8-yard run — his first career rushing TD.

The Wildcats finished 9-5, won the Big Ten West and gave the program its first three-game bowl winning streak.

Local duo boosts Boilermakers

Nojel Eastern and Evan Boudreaux have been instrumental in helping Purdue win nine of its first 14 games.

Eastern, a sophomore point guard from Evanston, has started all 14 games this season. The 6-foot-6 Eastern is averaging 5.7 points, 4.1 rebounds and 2.1 assists.

Boudreaux, a junior forward from Lake Forest, has started three times since transferring from Dartmouth. The 6-8, 220-pounder is averaging 7.7 points and 4.6 rebounds.

Eastern had a memorable play in one of Purdue's biggest wins, blocking a shot by Maryland's Anthony Cowan as time expired to secure a 62-60 upset over the No. 23 Terrapins on Dec. 6. Eastern finished with four points, four rebounds and blocked two shots in the win.

Boudreaux's best game this season came with an 18-point effort against No. 16 Virginia Tech on Nov. 18. He shot 7-for-11 from the floor, grabbed seven rebounds and tallied two steals.

Mihalic gets his kicks for Broncos

Niles North graduate Nick Mihalic played a vital role in Western Michigan football's run to the Famous Idaho Potato Bowl game this season. The freshman attempted 56 of the Broncos' 59 punts, averaging 47.3 yards. He had a long punt of 79 yards against Central Michigan and booted 12 inside the 20-yard line.

In Western Michigan's 49-18 bowl loss to BYU on Dec. 21, Mihalic punted six times for an average of 42 yards.

In addition, Carmel alum Zaire Barnes, a freshman defensive back, collected 15 tackles for the Broncos. Redshirt senior offensive lineman Zach Novoselsky, a Stevenson alum, wrapped up his career by playing in 12 games this season.

Illinois State women's basketball update

Former Lyons guard Frannie Corrigan has played seven games for Illinois State this season. The junior is averaging 3.9 minutes per game, hitting one of her four shot attempts while tallying seven rebounds coming off the bench.

Barrington alum Megan Talbot opened the season by playing 21 minutes but has sat out the last 10 games with a broken foot. The 6-foot-2 junior forward started 26 of 30 games last season, averaging 7.4 points and 5.6 rebounds.

Talbot is slated to return to action in a few weeks.

Bob Narang is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Celebrate the Journey...We have our winners!

Check back next week to see who our panel of suburban sports editors chose as your winners for our January Athlete of the Month challenge! The winners will be announced on our Twitter page, so make sure you follow us at @ChiTribAOTM or you can go to chicagotribune.com/suburbs/athletes for more results.
RARE INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITY!!
Morton Grove...incredible opportunity to own 2 Stores & 1 Apartment on second floor. Located in the Busy Dempster Street Business District! Only 1 Block to I-94(Edens Expressway) 4 way interchange: 50' Lot with parking in rear of building. Approximately 40,000 Vehicles Per Day Traffic Count makes for Great Business Exposure and Brand Identity. Approximately 5,600 sq ft of building space. Fully Rented and Well Maintained. Same owner for many years. Separate Furnaces for each Unit-Huge 2 Bedroom Apartment on second floor-Zoned C-1. Ideal for User or Investor! Ask for Nick for more info................................. $449,000

PRICE JUST REDUCED!!
Morton Grove...Fabulous, Quality built brick Ranch in Great Location! Oak floors throughout. Large Living room & Dining room. Gourmet eat-in Kitchen with stainless steel appliances & stone counters. Main floor Family room with cathedral ceiling & skylights with loads of sunlight! 3 large Bedrooms & 2 full Baths. Marvin Windows. Huge full finished Basement with large Rec room, Bar, Workshop, Laundry room, Utility room, Overhead sewer, Sump pump and plenty of storage. 2 car garage with cement side drive. Diligently maintained and updated! Super Location near Niles West HS, Shopping, Transportation, Swift & Edens! Reduced to................................. $324,000

START THE YEAR OFF RIGHT!
Morton Grove...In this Spectacular 7 room brick Bi-Level in Popular School District #70; only 4 blocks to Park View School. Sparkling clean + numerous updates all New in 2018: New Anderson windows; New Hot Water heater; New entry door & 2 screen doors; New vinyl floor in Family Room; New Kohler SS sink faucet & New SS wall oven & range hood in eat-in kitchen; 2 New bathroom faucets; 2018; New garage door & opener 2018. Roof only 10 years old. Newly painted thruout 8/2018. 2½ car garage. Quality construction, Superb Location & Move In Condition! Near forest preserve, walking/bike/bridle trails...... $326,900

OUTSTANDING DOWNTOWN EVANSTON LOCATION!
Evanston...Superb Location! Near Northwestern University, Downtown Evanston, Hospital, Lakefront & Bus/Train. Contemporary condominium building with circular driveway & 2 elevators. Beautiful 2 BR - 2 Bath condo remodeled throughout with hardwood floors, updated insulated windows & crown moldings. Maple cabinet custom kitchen, Granite counter tops & stainless steel appliances. Custom baths with Kohler fixtures, European style tile & Granite vanities. Separate Formal dining rm. 6 panel doors throughout, loads of closets + extra storage on lower level. Parking space. Move in Condition........ $248,000