Coming together
Polish community in the spotlight during 10-week celebration. Page 5

Niles Mayor Andrew Przybylo speaks to the audience at the Niles-Maine District Library as event chairwoman Susan Van Dusen and her husband, George Van Dusen, listen.

WHAT TO DO

“Nina Simone: Four Women” shines light on the jazz legend's inner life. Page B13

SPORTS

Girls wrestling is gaining in popularity at Chicago-area schools. Page 21

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Richard Lyon recently was awarded director of the year award at the Township Officials of Illinois Education Conference.

Richard Lyon is the director at MaineStay Youth and Family Services. He recently was awarded director of the year at the Township Officials of Illinois Education Conference in Springfield. According to the group's website, its mission "is to support the growth of healthier families in the Maine Township community by providing affordable strength-based counseling and comprehensive programs focused on prevention and education."

Q: Where did you grow up and go to school?
A: I grew up in Massachusetts. I came to Chicago for college. I went to Wheaton College. I went to graduate school at Wheaton College, as well, receiving a master's degree in clinical psychology.

Q: When did you get involved with MaineStay Youth and Family Services?
A: I did my internship during graduate school at MaineStay back in 2004 as an intern therapist. Then, I was hired as a family therapist in 2005. I became the assistant director in 2011 and the director in 2015.

Q: Tell me about MaineStay and the services that it offers.
A: MaineStay has been around since 1975. We address the mental health needs of the Maine Township community. Everything that we do is either free or low cost.

We don't believe that lack of finances should be a barrier for people accessing mental health treatment. We also don’t just provide counseling. We offer a lot of additional programs to the community, as well.

Q: What do people like the most about MaineStay?
A: We offer counseling in English, Spanish and Polish, so we try to meet the needs of the community. Also, everything we do is very strength focused. We treat people very kindly.

Q: What are your responsibilities as the director?
A: I oversee all of the programs that we offer for the community, including our affordable strength-based counseling program. We also offer psychiatric services and programs for at-risk youth in the community.

Q: How did you feel about winning director of the year at the Township Officials of Illinois Education Conference?
A: The ceremony was at the annual Township Officials of Illinois Education Conference in Springfield. They give out awards to various townships across the state. The most significant thing I took away from this award is the work we do at MaineStay is deeply personal to me. I consider it an honor to be in this position and be able to do this work. I am working on a single mom raised me. She struggled financially, with mental illness and physical disabilities. Being in this current position and serving the families and kids from similar backgrounds is an incredible privilege. I look at the job as a mission, and not just a job. It's a way to give back. We try to make a difference in people's lives as best we can.

Q: What do you like to do for fun?
A: I like to do anything outdoors. I have two daughters that are amazing.

—Maryann Pisano
From line dancing to Zumba

Morton Grove Park District showcases offerings at Fit and Fun Fair

Staff report

From linedancing to Zumba, several of the Morton Grove Park District's offerings were on display on Jan. 12 as its Prairie View Community Center hosted a Fit and Fun Fair event.

Approximately 20 families participated in the event, said Sue Braubach, the park district's wellness and fitness manager.

"Our goal was to let people know that the park district understands the importance of staying fit and healthy," Braubach said. "The Fit and Fun Fair provided a venue for families to speak with organizations involved in health and wellness."

Participants were able to view demonstrations of activities such as tae kwon do, yoga for kids, gymnastics and more, at a time when some might be interested in learning how they could follow through with fitness-related New Year's resolutions.

"We do see a spike in fitness memberships during the month of January, so it is a good time of year to promote our fitness center," Braubach said. "In addition, we wanted to make parents aware of all the wonderful youth programs the park district offers during the winter months to keep kids active."

For information on the park district's offerings, visit mortongroveparks.com.

Patrizia Tavet (right) gives a Zumba demonstration during the Fit and Fun Fair at the Prairie View Community Center on Jan. 12. Participating are Rebecca Pollack, Scott Resnick, and their children, Felicity, 6, and Owen, 2.

Rhonda Bidne leads a line dance demonstration.

Felicity Resnick, 6, is shown during a Zumba demonstration.
Polish community in the spotlight in 10-week celebration

BY DANIEL I. DORFMAN
Pioneer Press

Over the last decade, the organizers of the Coming Together program have celebrated the cultures of Filipinos, Greeks and last year Muslim-Americans. In 2019, the focus will be on the Polish community.

Officials gathered Jan. 10 at the Niles-Maine District Library heralding the upcoming Coming Together, an annual program designed to promote ethnic and cultural diversity in Skokie and Niles Township.

The opening ceremony for Coming Together is set for Jan. 27 at Niles West High School.

With the convergence of two major anniversaries in Poland's history, organizers believed this was the right time to pay homage to the eastern European nation.

"Going along with the 30 years since the collapse of communism in Poland and the centennial of their independence (Poland became an independent nation at the end of World War I in 1918), we decided it would be a very good year to celebrate the Polish community," said Susan Van Dusen, the event's chairwoman.

Van Dusen added Illinois has the second-largest Polish population of any state, behind New York, and the local Polish presence is significant.

"If you go north on Milwaukee Avenue, you see delis, bakeries and Polish restaurants on every block," Van Dusen said.

Bernadetta Koryciarz, a digital services assistant at the Niles-Maine library, believes the festival will have great appeal for all.

"We are like one big family where everyone belongs, so we can learn from each other," Koryciarz said. "I know we are different, we look and speak differently and we celebrate different holidays, but we, in fact, we are the same people."

The Jan. 27 event is scheduled to be emceed by WLS-TV news anchor Alan Krashesky at Niles West High School, leading into a 10-week series of events highlighting Polish art, theater and food.

"We have 10 weeks of wonderful programs," Koryciarz said. "We invite you to take part in our Coming Together event so you can learn more about our culture and history."

Among the slanted programs will be a focus on arts and crafts, including a March 18 book discussion by William Kowalski, the author of "The Best Polish Restaurant in Buffalo," one of five highlighted designated by local librarians at showcasing Polish life.

Beyond the conversation about his book, local culinary arts students at Niles West High School will cook Polish food for Kowalski and members of the event's planning committee.

Other events include folk art painting, a song and dance ensemble, film presentations, a fitness workout, lectures and more.

The Jan. 10 press conference also featured Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen, Lincolnwood Mayor Barry Bass and Niles Mayor Andrew Przybylo, who spoke of being a Polish-American.

"I am a better American for my ethnic diversity," Przybylo said.

He said he was happy with the way Coming Together has evolved.

"For 10 years now, our community has become closer," Przybylo noted. "In 10 additional years, we will be even closer in our understanding of cultural diversity."

Daniel I. Dorfman is a freelance reporter.
J. HERMAN SITRICK 1925-2019

World War II hero, Morton Grove resident, dies at 93

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

A longtime Morton Grove resident and Skokie businessman who was awarded a prestigious French honor in 2017 for his single-handed capture of 21 Nazi soldiers during World War II has died.

Jules Herman Sitrick died Jan. 12 of complications from a fall, his son Michael said. He was 93.

A resident of Morton Grove for nearly 50 years, Sitrick in June 2017 was presented with the Legion d'Honneur, France's highest honor for military and civil actions, for capturing German soldiers in a bombed-out farmhouse in Belgium during the Battle of the Bulge in 1945.

The soldiers, Sitrick said during a 2017 interview with the Chicago Tribune, were, like he was, seeking refuge from the snow and frigid cold. He put them in the basement before turning them over to the 3rd Armored Division the next day, he said.

When news of Sitrick receiving the Legion d'Honneur began to circulate, he found himself experiencing a kind of celebrity status around town, Michael Sitrick said.

"People were stopping him on the street and congratulating him, asking to pose for photographs with him, even asking for autographs," Michael said.

But his father was a humble man who found the recognition surprising, particularly because it had come after more than 70 years, Michael said.

"He was honored, but he said, 'Look, there were a lot of heroes in the Second World War,'" Sitrick's son said. "He said, 'I was just doing my job. I never thought of myself as a hero.'"

A native of Davenport, Iowa, Sitrick spent most of his life in the Chicago area, working in broadcasting and, later, advertising.

Sitrick spoke about his military service and his post-war life during a Local Stories Project, in June 2017. That interview can be heard on the My Morton Grove website.

According to Michael Sitrick, his father managed several radio and television stations, both in Chicago and in other areas of the country. His work included launching WNUS, an all-news radio station, in Chicago and serving as executive for WGN, his son said.

In 1981, he opened J. Herman Sitrick Advertising, taking on clients that included the Chicago Cubs, Michael Sitrick said.

Though well past retirement age, Sitrick continued to work at his Skokie-based advertising firm and went into the office nearly every day until his death, Michael said.

"He had remarkable business judgment and the highest ethics of anyone I know," he said. "He's the kind of guy who, if he found a dollar on the floor, he'd spend a week trying to find out whose dollar it was."

"There wasn't anyone I ever spoke with that didn't say what a wonderful person, husband, father, grand-father, and great-grandfather our father was," said his youngest son, Ronald Sitrick. "He cast a shadow hard for anyone to fill — viewing honor and doing the right thing as far more than words. These were the principles by which he lived his life."

An example of this could be seen in how Sitrick, who was Jewish, responded to people who wondered why he had captured, but not killed, the Nazi soldiers he came across in Belgium all those years ago, Michael Sitrick said.

"When he came back from the war ... people said to him, 'You're a Jew. I'm surprised you didn't shoot them.' And he said, 'It never entered my mind,'" Michael Sitrick recalled. "It was foreign to him to think that somebody would do that, just kill someone in cold blood. He said some people might be that way, but he never thought about it."

Jules Herman Sitrick is survived by sons Michael, David and Ronald; daughters-in-law Nancy, Miriam and Shelly; grandchildren Julie Sitrick Fahn (Terry), Sheri Sitrick Field (Kevin), Alison Sitrick Grasse (Jesse), Greg Sitrick, Suzanne Sitrick Sosnowski (Matt) and Arielle Sitrick; and great-grandchildren, Sarah, Hannah and Matthew Fahn, Oliver, Stella and Layla Field, Anabelle Grasse, and Spencer and Summer Sitrick; and his brother Joseph Sitrick.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 71 years, Marcia.

Memorial services will be held at Hillside Memorial Park in Los Angeles, Calif., on Jan. 20.

Franklin Park teen charged in six-car crash that injured 5

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

A 17-year-old boy who was allegedly driving a stolen car at the time of a multi-vehicle chain-reaction crash in Niles last fall is facing charges in juvenile court.

Niles police on Jan. 11 announced that the teen, of Franklin Park, had been charged with possession of a stolen motor vehicle in connection with a six-car crash that occurred shortly after 10 a.m. Nov. 8, at Oakton Street and Oconto Avenue, just west of Harlem Avenue.

Days earlier, the teen was issued 10 different citations related to the crash, including driving without a valid license, driving with more than one passenger under age 20, driving without a seat belt and disregarding a stop sign, police said.

The teen has been petitioned to Cook County Juvenile Court, police said.

According to police, the 17-year-old was driving a maroon Volkswagen SUV that had been reported stolen out of Chicago when he disobeyed a stop sign on northbound Oconto Avenue and drove into traffic on Oakton Street, hitting a Chrysler 300 that was east on Oakton and causing that car to strike a second vehicle.

The Volkswagen then continued north, hitting two more cars on Oakton Street before flipping onto its side and sliding into a fifth vehicle, according to police.

The teenage driver was seriously injured in the crash and taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, where he was initially unable to speak with investigators, police said. His two passengers, identified as a 16-year-old boy from Schiller Park and a 17-year-old girl from Chicago, as well as the drivers of two other cars, were also treated at area hospitals, according to police.

Niles police are investigating a six-vehicle collision that occurred Nov. 8 at the intersection of Oakton Street and Oconto Avenue in Niles, and involved an SUV that was reportedly stolen out of Chicago.
Police seek public's help to identify driver in hit-and-run

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Morton Grove police say they believe commercial and residential surveillance camera videos have captured images of the car that struck and killed an elderly man on Jan. 4, but investigators are still seeking help from the public in order to identify the driver responsible.

Morton Grove Police Cmdr. Paul Yaras said the department has received "a series of videos from up and down Shermer Road" around the time the hit-and-run occurred and is working with the FBI to review them and "clean up" the images in an effort to identify the suspect car and its owner.

Leonid Belogur, 86, of the 9000 block of Waukegan Road, Morton Grove, was killed while crossing Shermer in a marked crosswalk at Greenwood Avenue, a residential street just north of Dempster, around 5:02 p.m., police said. The car that struck Belogur allegedly fled the scene, but left windshield glass behind, Yaras said.

"Evidence indicates the car's windshield was extensively damaged, and, in addition to reviewing video of area traffic, investigators have been contacting car repair shops, vehicle glass repair businesses and insurance companies in an effort to locate the car," Yaras said.

"We're really starting to zero in on the offending vehicle," he said. "We figure the vehicle right now is probably hidden somewhere and we're hoping a neighbor, family member or friend has seen it and seen the major damage to the windshield."

The police department placed electronic message boards near the crash site, asking anyone who may have witnessed it to contact police. Investigators have spoken with some witnesses and were re-inter-viewing them to see if they could provide additional information, Yaras said.

"We are also imploring the person who struck our victim to do the right thing and come in and see us," he said. "We understand the crash was not on purpose. We understand it was an accident, but you struck someone and you need to talk to us."

Belogur's family is offering a $10,000 reward for information leading to the identification of the driver, the police department said.

Anyone with information should contact Morton Grove Police at 847-470-5200.

A statement released by police on behalf of Belogur's family described him as a father of three and grandfather of seven who immigrated to the United States in the late 1980s and "worked tirelessly to provide for his family."

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

AARP working to prevent tragic deaths like recent hit-and-run


As investigators search for the careless driver responsible, the senseless death is a tragic example of the fact that while older Americans make up only 13 percent of the population, they represent a significantly higher percentage of pedestrian fatalities. One-fifth of people 65 and older do not drive, which often leaves walking as the main way of getting around. Yet almost half of respondents to an AARP survey of people 50 and older said that they cannot safely cross the main roads in their neighborhoods.

AARP is working to find innovative solutions to keep pedestrians safe and our communities more livable by aligning with Vision Zero, visionzeronet-work.org, an international nonprofit doing groundbreaking education and research to eliminate all traffic fatalities and severe injuries, while increasing safe, healthy, equitable mobility for all. It is also important that community leaders adopt policies that ensure our streets are designed for all who use them — pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and public transportation users.

In the meantime, let the heartbreaking loss of Mr. Belogur serve as a reminder to everyone: use caution and own the responsibility of being behind the wheel. And slow down.

Bob Gallo,
State Director
AARP Illinois
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Chicago Tribune
chicagotribune.com/suburbs
The following items were taken from the Niles and Lincolnwood Police Department reports. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt.

Niles

FRAUD
Police said a woman on Jan. 5 reported losing $50,997 in a phone scam that began in November. According to police, the woman received a phone call from a person who told her she had won a prize of $3.5 million and needed to pay a processing fee of $497 in order to claim it. The woman reportedly mailed the cash payment, but over the next several weeks she continued receiving requests to send more money, totaling $50,997, police said.

ASSAULT
Ramiro Torres, 35, of the 8400 block of West Dempster Street, Niles, was charged with aggravated assault on Jan. 6, police said. According to police, a woman reported that Torres was following her around a residence with a large kitchen knife and threatened to kill her if she did not make her food. He was given a Feb. 6 court date.

THEFT
Amy M. Santiago, 42, of the 8400 block of Ballard Road, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with driving under the influence on Jan. 6 following a traffic stop on the 7200 block of North Milwaukee Avenue, police said. He was given a Jan. 24 court date.

LEAVING THE SCENE
Telmen Batsaikhan, 24, of the 8700 block of Ballard Street, Park Ridge, was ticketed for disorderly conduct on Jan. 4 after he allegedly threw his ID at May's Lounge, 9192 W. Golf Road.

BURGLARY
Lottery tickets and alcohol were reported stolen during a burglary of Niles Pantry Food and Liquor, 7041 W. Oakton St., around 2:30 a.m. Jan. 4, police said.

BURGLARY FROM MOTOR VEHICLE
A sanding machine and miscellaneous tools were reported stolen Jan. 4 from two separate trucks parked on the 6400 block of Ridgeway Avenue. The combined approximate value of the stolen items was $2,000. A damage estimate was not available.

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Des Plaines aldermen propose raising age for tobacco sales

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Des Plaines city officials are a step closer to raising the legal age to not only buy tobacco products, but to use them as well.

Aldermen on Jan. 7 voted 7-0 in favor of new local legislation that would ban anyone under the age of 21 from buying, using or possessing cigarettes, vaping products and other tobacco and "alternative nicotine" products.

The measure is expected to return before the council for a final vote on Jan. 22, according to the Des Plaines City Clerk's Office. Aldermen did not address when the measure will officially take effect if it receives final approval.

According to a memo to the City Council from Des Plaines Police Chief Bill Kushner, raising the age of tobacco sales, use and possession from 18 to 21 has been "shown to reduce the use of [these] products," which carry "significant health risks."

Initially, the council was considering raising the age for the sale and purchase of tobacco only, but the ordinance was amended to attach the new age restriction to use and possession as well.

"The question is, how strong of a statement do we want to make on the topic? That's what it boils down to," said 6th Ward Ald. Malcolm Chester. "I'd like to make the strongest statement possible."

Chester addressed the practice of vaping and said products other than tobacco, like marijuana and harder drugs, are "making their way into vaping equipment."

Vaping in particular has been embraced by many teenagers, according to a survey conducted by the University of Michigan's Institute for Social Research, which found that vaping among high school seniors doubled in 2018, and among students in grades 9-12, there were at least 1.3 million new users of vaping products this year.

Kushner acknowledged enforcement of city's new tobacco ordinance could be an issue due to other area communities allowing 18- to 20-year-olds to purchase tobacco or possess it.

"We feel the sale and the purchase would be enforceable, where possession would not," he said. But Kushner added that if the law for use and possession is raised to 21, officers will "enforce it to the best of our ability."

According to the ordinance, employees of businesses that sell tobacco products must also be 21 in order to handle the transaction.

If approved, businesses in violation could face fines of up to $750, according to the ordinance.

Fines for underage possession are $250, though students attending school in Des Plaines have the option of attending an educational program offered by Maine Township High School District 207 or Township High School District 214, according to the city.

In December, neighboring Park Ridge voted to raise the minimum tobacco-buying age from 18 to 21, but kept possession and use at 18.

The village of Niles has not increased its tobacco sale age and there has been no recent proposal to consider it, said Mitchell Johnson, spokesman for the village.

Lincolnwood poised to welcome new village manager

BY MARY BETH VERSACI
Pioneer Press

The village of Lincolnwood is expected to have a new village manager come February. The Board of Trustees was expected to vote Jan. 15 on Village President Barry Bass' appointment of Anne Marie Gaura, who serves as interim village manager in Homer Glen.

The resolution under consideration also includes the village's employment agreement with Gaura, who would receive a base salary of $175,000, with the potential for annual increases, according to the agreement.

"I am humbled and excited for this great opportunity to serve the Village of Lincolnwood," Gaura said in a statement. "I look forward to assisting the Mayor and Village Board on a number of significant economic development projects and serving with an extremely professional and dedicated staff."

The term of her employment runs from Feb. 19 until May 2021, at which time her employment could be renewed.

"After an exhaustive search from a pool of talented and experienced candidates, Anne Marie's experience as a professional Village Manager shined brightly, and is our choice to become Lincolnwood's new Village Manager," Bass said in a statement. "Anne Marie has a career of many accomplishments with great communities."

Gaura has more than two decades of village management experience in several towns, including Montgomery and DeKalb. At Montgomery, she managed various capital projects, including the construction of a police department, village hall, water treatment plant, multiple water towers and other water improvements, according to a Lincolnwood news release.

As DeKalb city manager, Gaura worked on a $15 million reinvestment project in downtown DeKalb and the implementation of a 10-year water infrastructure plan, the release stated.

Gaura also helped create the Metro West Council of Governments, an association founded in 2004 that represents 33 towns in DeKalb, Kane and Kendall counties, and she was named Model Administrator of the Year by the American Society of Public Administrators, according to the release.

Former Lincolnwood Village Manager Tim Wiberg resigned in August 2018. Finance Director Robert Merkel was appointed by trustees as interim village manager.

Police: Niles man accused of sexually assaulting child

A Niles man was arrested this month following an investigation into allegations that he had sexually assaulted a child, police said.

Jeronimo Carrasco, 49, of the 8800 block of North Root Street, was taken into custody on Jan. 9 at his home and charged with predatory criminal sexual assault of a child, Niles Police said.

The victim is a girl known to Carrasco, said Niles Police Cnmdr. Robert Tornabene.

The alleged incident occurred in September when the girl was under 13 years old, police said. Carrasco was being held in Cook County Jail without bond, according to the Cook County Sheriff's Department as of Jan. 14. His next court date is scheduled for Jan. 17 at the Cook County Courthouse in Skokie.

—Jennifer Johnson, Pioneer Press
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STAGE AND CINEMA
January brings dark days and darker podcasts

SALLY HIGGINSON

Things are a little bleak here in the dark, frozen tundra months following the holidays. It's as if a winter's worth of cheer got used up in the frenzy called December, and all that's left is a soul-sucking sense of fatigue accompanied by seven pounds of festive weight gain.

In other words, it's January in Chicago. The sun, on the days when it's visible, shines for two, maybe three hours. Then it kind of shrugs and gives up, letting the clouds take over for the rest of the season. By 4 p.m., it's so dark outside that I'm forced to abandon whatever I was supposed to do during the day.

I've done the research: The dim glow of streetlamps inspires nothing beyond bleak and forbidding thoughts. I remember a time when I was unfettered by seasonal darkness. Walking home after school, I looked forward to afternoons of unstructured time. Regardless of the season, my mother's style of greeting her four children was always the same. In we'd trudge, like puppies ready to play, only to find her lying supine on the couch, flipping through Time magazine, and dipping a lazy hand into a bag of jelly beans.

"Mom," we'd whine, starting to beg for something or complain about something or tattle on someone. A woman ahead of her time, she'd offer us the 1973 equivalent of "talk to the hand." Without so much as looking up, she'd make her pronouncement, "Go outside and play. I'll ring the bell when dinner is ready." To be fair, if one of her four kids was crying, she'd also add, "I don't care who started it. I'm stopping it. Now go outside." When my own children were young, the hours after school plagued me in winter. By 3 p.m., my DNA screaming for me to lie on the couch, eat chocolate morsels and read a little something. At precisely the same time, those lovely girls of mine would need to be carpooled across the prairie to playdates or practices or games.

I did the right thing, of course, and ferried my darlings hither and yon. But oh, how I could have benefited from a little dark humor to lighten the mood during what, for me, were the bleakest hours of motherhood.

The reason I'm thinking about all of this is because my adult daughter is home visiting. It's still January in the Midwest, which means it's dark and cold and awful. But this wonderful child of mine has introduced me a podcast that speaks to my inner soul. "My Favorite Murder" feature two women chatting about everything, with true gruesome crimes providing the spaezle that fills in the gaps between subjects. It's divine. Lying on the couch, surrounded by afternoon darkness, listening to friends laugh about mothers and murder, is cathartic in a way that Time magazine and jelly beans must have been for my mom.

Lo, these dark and miserable months, it's better to listen to murder than to commit it.

Sally Higginson is a freelance columnist.
Give every congressperson $1 million — if they can balance the budget

Randy Blaser

A few years ago, I wrote about my simple plan to solve government spending. I'll recount it for you here.

If Congress passes a balanced budget — one where total spending is equal to total revenue — then each member of Congress should get a $1 million bonus. The total cost would be $535 million if each of the 535 members of Congress received such a bonus.

I know what you're thinking. Randy, don't be ridiculous. Handing out $1 million bonuses to Congress? That's nuts. How can we afford it?

This year, one of my fellow Boston University alums has a bit of a different plan to fix things here in America. New U.S. Rep. Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez (D-NY) wants to tax the richest Americans — those making more than $10 million — at a rate of 70 percent on their income above $10 million. The money would fund green energy initiatives.

I know what some of you are thinking about this plan. It sounds great. The rich should pay "their fair share." Why not soak the rich in order to help everyone?

How utilitarian. It reminds me of a school superintendent I once knew who advocated for super high taxes on the rich, boasting that it would affect so few Americans he could name them.

Very funny. But if you look at the numbers, and I predicted to a friend last week that no one in the mainstream media would do so, my plan makes a lot more sense than any soak-the-rich plan that sounds so great on first glance.

Total government spending for fiscal year 2019 is estimated at $4.407 trillion. Projected revenue is estimated to be about $3.422 trillion, leaving a projected $984 billion deficit for this year. Some estimates have it surpassing $1 trillion.

Green initiatives could cost us another $1 trillion annual, at least that's what Green Party presidential candidate Jill Stein estimated for her "Green New Deal."

Ocasio-Cortez has no specifics on her proposal, other than the 70 percent tax. But how much could that raise? Could we get the $1 trillion? I think you know the answer.

Brian Riedl, a senior fellow at the Manhattan institute, writing in the conservative National Review last week, estimated that some 18,000 taxpayers would be hit by the Ocasio-Cortez tax. He estimates such a tax would generate $50 billion in new revenue for the government to spend.

That would only add to the deficit if Green New Deal spending is factored in.

You get the idea. Taxing the rich, soaking the rich, paying their fair share is just meaningless rhetoric.

I just want Congress to balance the budget for starters. I think my $535 million is money well spent. Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist.

Real tax reform would come by treating every single dollar of personal income the same, no matter how it is earned. We can make the tax rate the same for everyone if $1 earned in hourly wage was taxed the same as every $1 earned by other means. But that's another story.
Love of basketball goes a long way for Highland Park teen

When Nathan Bay first started playing basketball at age 5, he found himself unable to dribble or shoot the ball, and therefore decided he "hated the game" and was going to quit. That lasted for three days.

Despite the physical challenges Bay was facing — he was born with a dislocated hip, a club foot, and a tethered spinal cord, and one of his legs was two inches shorter than the other — Bay felt a compulsion to stick with the sport.

"I felt like I should give it my full effort, one hundred percent, so I shot baskets every day outside and practiced dribbling," said Bay. "By the next year, I was good enough to compete with kids my own age."

Bay's lifelong passion and determination to excel as a basketball player has led the now 18-year-old Highland Park High School senior to a dream he's had for as long as he can remember: to be a member of his school's varsity basketball team.

"I always had a mindset that I wanted to be a high school basketball player and be out there on Friday nights in front of my community and in front of lights," said Bay, who has been playing house league and travel basketball since he was 6. He also played on his junior high school team.

"When the coach told me there was a spot for me, it was kind of a blur. I didn't even care what it was, I just knew I was part of the team and was so happy about that."

Bay, who is 5 feet, 8 inches tall, didn't make the Highland Park freshman team, but continued to play competitive basketball for one reason and one reason only: love of the game.

"I just feel like I'm in my element when I'm playing basketball. Shooting and being around my friends, all the outside worries go away," said Bay, who has had 12 surgeries in his life, including his biggest one last summer: a five-hour hip reconstruction and leg lengthening procedure designed to give him complete hip functionality, flexibility, and a more range of motion.

Bay said he made the decision to try out for the varsity basketball team in the spring of last year (his junior year). He reached out to the coach, Paul Harris, to let him know of his interest and goals. He also participated in the school's summer league and tournaments in the months before his surgery.

"It's a lofty goal when you're someone who hasn't played high school basketball, and all of a sudden you want to take this on," Harris said. "Couple that with the surgery, and I was impressed with his courage and willingness to take a risk. Every day over the summer, he showed us this was something that was really important to him."

Because Bay couldn't practice for several months after his surgery, Harris granted him a tryout once the doctor cleared Bay physically.

"At the end of the tryout, I told him he wasn't varsity basketball ready right now, but because of everything he showed us, he earned the opportunity to stay in the program," Harris said. "It was his courage. His courage to meet with me, his courage to try out, his courage to put himself out there and compete on a daily basis — that's why he earned a spot on our team this year."

"I always look out for people, and I'm good at picking people up when they're down," said Bay. "I have a positive attitude whether we are winning or losing a game. Whether we're up 30 or down 30, I think it's important that everyone looks at the game the same way, meaning don't play the scoreboard, play how you always play and give it your best effort no matter what."

Bay said although he hasn't played in any games so far this season, he loves being part of the team, has gotten close to his teammates, and has become a better player.

"I do whatever is needed of me, whether they need me to play a five-on-five in practice to make sure the starters are prepared for the game, or they might need me to film games, or if players are having a hard time I offer support and help them stay focused," Bay said.

"Nathan has the willingness to be loyal and unselfish and to put the needs of the team ahead of any personal goals he has for himself," Harris said. "To me, that's the sign of someone who just wants to be involved for the right reasons."

Harris said Bay exhibits immense passion, both for the game and for the team.

"He clearly loves what he's doing. Every day, he attacks success and doesn't fear failure and it's the reason he keeps improving," said Harris. "It's a great lesson to all the guys. You can look at challenges as obstacles or as opportunities, and Nathan looks at his personal obstacles as opportunities instead of negative obstacles. The guys have tremendous respect for him. He's humble, he's positive, and he has strong personal discipline."

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist for Chicago Tribune Media Group.
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ANNUAL STATEMENT OF AFFAIRS SUMMARY FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 2018

Salary Range: Less Than $25,000

Also by January 15, annually the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018, will be posted on the Illinois State Board of Education's website @ www.isbe.net.}

Copies of the detailed Annual Statement of Affairs for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 2018 will be available for public inspection in the school district/joint agreement administrative office by December 1, annually.
B6

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
COOK COUNTY MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE JUDICIAL
SALE - REAL ESTATE

236 -SALE
shall be entitled only to a return of the purchase price paid. The Pur-

ILLENOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

The real estate is Improved with a single family residence.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no
pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection

Abandoned Residential Property Municipality Relief Fund, which is calculated on residential real estate at the rate of $1 for each

property to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate:

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no

will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a

required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

THE CLASSIFIEDS

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT
- CHANCERY DIVISION RUSHMORE MANAGEMENT SERVICES LLC, DEBTOR- IN-

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT
- CHANCERY DIVISION RUSHMORE MANAGEMENT SERVICES LLC, DEBTOR-

in full of the amount bid, the purchaser

and to the residential real estate arose prior to the sale. The subject property

in full of the amount bid, the purchaser

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IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT
- CHANCERY DIVISION RUSHMORE MANAGEMENT SERVICES LLC, DEBTOR-

in full of the amount bid, the purchaser

will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a

required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g-1).

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Manufacturer: We will reimburse you the face value of this coupon plus site handling provided it is redeemed by a consumer at the time of purchase on the brand specified. Coupons not properly redeemed will be void and null. Reproduction of this coupon is expressly prohibited. (Any other use constitutes fraud.) Mail to: Inman Dept 70106, Foundation Consumer Healthcare, 1 Fawcett Drive, Del Rio, TX 78840. Cash value $0.00. Void where taxed or restricted. LIMIT ONE COUPON PER ITEM PURCHASED.

SAVE $4.00
on any 2 Neo-Synephrine sprays

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SAVE $1.50
on any 1 Campho-Phenique product

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SAVE $4.00
on any 2 Campho-Phenique products

0854995007-012558

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there's one for everyone!
Simple... NOTHING ARTIFICIAL

Fun... MOVIE THEATRE TASTE AT HOME
Healthy... GREAT FLAVOR WITH FEWER CALORIES

Batteries Never Need Charging.**

**Life Alert defines a life saved, where a subscriber activated the system, had an actual emergency, was home alone, was unable to get to the phone for help, and Life Alert dispatched help. **Batteries never need charging and last up to 10 years.

I've fallen and I can't get up!

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BUTTER 100 CALORIE SINGLES

Blast O' Butter
ULTIMATE THEATRE STYLE BUTTER

NEW FRESH 100 FRESH POPPERS TASTER

BUTTER 100 CALORIE SINGLES

FRESH NEW LOOK... FRESH POPPED TASTE!

MANUFACTURER'S COUPON
EXPIRES 3/17/19

SAVE 50¢
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To Dealer: JOLLY TIME Pop Corn will reimburse 50¢ plus 8¢ for handling if used in accordance with our offer. Other use is illegal. Invoice proving purchase of sufficient stock may be required. Void if copied, taxed, prohibited or restricted. Customer pays sales tax. Cash value 1/20 cent. One coupon per purchase. The transfer or sale of this coupon is strictly prohibited.

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**Crossword**

**ACROSS**
1. Cochlea's place  
2. Toboggans  
9. Unit of farmland  
13. Parishes  
15. WWII hero  
16. TV's Donahue  
17. Strike with the palm  
18. Enjoyed a snow sport  
19. Heavy volume  
20. Popular pasta  
22. Applied frosting  
23. Regrets  
24. PC alternative  
26. Newspaper section  
29. Nice  
34. Tiny skin openings  
36. Newspaper section  
37. Dobbs  
38. In the air  
39. Shapeless mass  
40. Put on an  
42. Do penance  
43. Waterbirds  
45. Killer  
46. Curved edge  
47. Enlarge a hole

**Solutions**

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**Solutions**

48. "Jeremiah... bullfrog..."
49. About to occur
50. Cast... skilet
51. In; prepares to take a close-up
52. Tidy
53. Conceited
54. Albert or Fisher
55. Hearts or Old Maid
56. Excessive publicity
57. Takes a break
58. Threw one's hat in the ring

**DOWN**
1. McMahon & Begley
2. Needs a doctor
3. Gather crops
4. Girl Scout accessories
5. Namesake of actor Perry
6. Correct text
7. Count calories
8. Residue under a liquid
9. Harrets
10. Gator's cousin
11. Capital city in Europe
12. Open... alert
13. Shadowboxed

**Puzzle Island solutions**

**Last week's crosswords**

**A CENTURY AGO**

STEEP 
BARB 
DAYS 
FROM 
ARENA 
ARGG 
EDIT 
ROTE 
NANCY 
ASTOR 
MAC 
RDM 
EXHIBITION 
ERICH 
REST 
AULD 
YEE 
CHEESE 
CAT 
CHATE 
PHONE 
SATURDAY 
PHONE 
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WOOD 
CLIP 
ASK 
VOL 
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REAL 
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ALIAS 
GROUCHOP 
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**Sweet Notes**

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**Last week's Quote-Acronist**

NORMAN THOMAS: OUR FAULTS: To us much has been given; of us much is required. With all our faults, it is our strength in support of the freedom our forefathers loved which has saved mankind from subjection to totalitarian power.

**Last week's Sudoku**

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

**This week's Jumble**

ABACUS KERNEL HERMIT BECKON WALLET STOCKY

When Ray Davies and his brother Dave formed their band in 1964, they had to —

WORK OUT

THE KINKS
**APARTMENT FOR RENT**

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**Newspaper Classifieds**

**411**

A Chicago Tribune Publication. January 10, 2019 - Chicago, IL

**LEGAL NOTICES**

**NOTICE TO BIDDERS**

The Board of Education of Northbrook School District 28 ("District") will receive sealed bids for the construction of a new and improved building to house the District's educational programs. The work shall consist of, but not be limited to: the construction of a new facility and associated improvements; the relocation of existing buildings; the demolition of existing buildings; the provision of utilities and services; and the provision of all materials and labor necessary to complete the project. Bids will be opened at the Board of Education of Northbrook School District 28, 915 Harbor Road, Northbrook, Illinois 60062, at 2:15 p.m. on Monday, March 4, 2019.

**SECURE ENTRIES & REMODELING**

This NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure issued by the Cook County Circuit Court, the property located at 2224 Foster St, Evanston, IL 60201, will be sold at public auction on Thursday, January 17, 2019, at 10:00 a.m. at the office of the Cook County Commissioner of Sale, 5431 North Pulaski Road, Chicago, IL 60630, at which time and place all bids will be publicly read. Bids received after closing time will be returned unopened. The public opening is for informational only, and is not to be construed as an acceptance or rejection of any bid. The property will be sold to the highest bidder, and no bidder will be made worse off than if he had not bid.

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NOTICE TO Bidders Request for Bids #2019-003 Lincolnwood Public Hearing

Notice is hereby given that a public hearing will be held on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. in the Skokie Park District Administration Conference Room located at 900 North Lincoln Avenue, Lincolnwood, Illinois 60712

All interested persons shall have the right to be heard. For further information with regard to the above-mentioned matter, interested parties may contact Mike Chang, Village Manager, at 847-504-3800 or email Mike at mchang@lincolnwood-il.gov.

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Legend’s inner life focus of ‘Nina Simone’

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Nina Simone was a jazz artist, songwriter, and activist in the Civil Rights Movement. Her activism first came to the forefront after the 1963 bombing of the 16th Street Baptist Church in Birmingham, Ala., in which four African American girls were killed, when she wrote the song “Four Women.”

Playwright Christina Ham celebrates Simone’s musical and personal journey in “Nina Simone: Four Women” at Northlight Theatre in Skokie Jan. 24 - March 2, under Kenneth L. Roberson’s direction and Daniel Riley’s music direction.

Performances are 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays (Jan. 29 only); 1 (except Feb. 20) and 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays; 7:30 p.m. Thursdays; 8 p.m. Fridays; 2:30 (except Jan. 26) and 8 p.m. Saturdays; and 2:30 and 7 p.m. (Jan. 27 and Feb. 24 only) Sundays.

Sydney Charles, who plays Nina Simone, recalls first hearing her music because her mother’s father had a collection of records by jazz artists. She grew up knowing about Simone, she said, “while not knowing how much of a genius she was because I was so young at the time.”

Charles became reacquainted with the artist about five years ago when a friend sent her a Nina Simone album as a birthday gift. The performer learned a lot more about the artist through this role. “I didn’t know about how deep her battle was with her undiagnosed depression or anxiety or bipolar disorder,” Charles said.

Charles praised Simone for her willingness “to sacrifice this standing she had in the jazz community, with predominantly white audiences at the time, to take a stand for Civil Rights.”

She noted that Simone’s music “reflected where she was in her life. She had a song for every time period.”

The play with music includes several of her powerful anthems, including “Mississippi Goddam,” “Go Limp,” “Brown Baby,” and “Young, Gifted, and Black.”

Simone and three other actors embody the four women in Simone’s song of the same name. Melanie Brezill plays Sweet Thing, Deanna Reed-Foster is Sarah, and Ariel Richardson is Sephoria.

“Each one of the women in the piece sort of represents the archetypes that have been put on black women,” Brezill said.

“Sweet Thing, to me, represents the Jezebel. She is a prostitute; she’s oversexualized. But she’s also someone who is trying to elevate her economic status in life. She has dreams. She wants more for herself. While she is in this career that is looked down on she does have a purpose and she is looking to live out her dreams. The core of who she is a woman who is looking for love.”

Brezill was first exposed to Nina Simone’s music at Whitney Young High School. “I was part of a dance piece in which I portrayed the role of Sweet Thing,” the performer noted.

“I love her music,” said director Roberson of Simone. “It’s so layered and relevant — and very brave.”

In terms of the person, Roberson said, “She was very complicated. She was her authentic self.” He revealed that the play inspired him to search for additional information about Simone. He hopes it will also inspire audiences to do the same, “and enjoy the richness of this lady’s life.”

Myrna Petlicki is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Thursday, Jan. 17

**Social Regard at Northwestern's Dittmar Gallery:** Drawings, paintings, installations 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 through Feb. 13. "Social Regard" is comprised of two series of works. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily. Dittmar Memorial Gallery, Northwestern University, 1999 Campus Drive, Evanston; free, 847-491-2348.

**The Full Monty:** The Full Monty follows a group of unemployed steelworkers who spy on their wives at a "Girls' Night Out." Jealous when they see how much their wives enjoy watching male strippers, the men come up with a bold and unclouted way to make some quick cash and learn lessons along the way. Thursdays and Sundays $35; 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 and Friday, 2 and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 7 p.m. Sunday. The Ubique Cabaret Theatre - Evanston; 721 Howard St., Evanston; $34-$44; $25 dinner; 773-347-1109.

**Sick Child at Home:** Call the Youth Services Department, tell them your child's age, their favorite book and movie, and in 60 minutes they will have a selection of items waiting at their Drive-Up Window. So quick and easy, you don't even have to get out of your car. Glenview Public Library, 2200 Golf Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

**Alzheimer's Support Group:** We'll share successful care giving approaches and discuss what works, what doesn't, and how you can care for yourself and your loved one. Debra Feldman, LCSW, MSW, CMC, owner and geriatric care manager of DDF Management, will speak on this topic. 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Belmont Village of Glenview, 2200 Golf Road, Glenview, free, 847-667-7100.

**Free Seminar: Sexual Harassment in the #MeToo Age:** Learn the approaches to avoid, obligations employers have, steps victims can take and much more. Presented by speaker George Savarese, Ph.D., LCSW. Space is limited, so RSVP to Ashley Delaney at wadelaney@whitehalldeerfield.com or call today. Free community seminar sponsored by Whitehall of Deerfield. 5 p.m. Thursday, Whitehall of Deerfield, 300 Waukegan Road, Glenview, free. 847-580-8198.

**Hot Ticket: 'Mamma Mia! Here We Go Again!':** This 2018 film is rated PG-13, and is about a woman grappling with running her mother's villa while also expecting her first child. She also worries that she won't be able to handle everything on her own, so she enlists two of her mother's friends for assurance, help and guidance. Please note for this movie in the Silver Screen Series, there will be only one showing at 6:30 p.m. Morton Grove Public Library, 6410 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free. 847-965-4220.

**Telling a Life Story:** This program is a part of the Let's Get Together series for older adults. Everybody's life story is worth telling and can be told in different ways, whether as a written memoir, an oral history, or even a scrapbook. Come learn how to get started on your own or that of your loved ones using library resources, including our specialized recording equipment. For more information about this event, visit www.mgpl.org or call 847-965-4220. 2 p.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6410 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free. 847-965-4220.

**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 Street, Morton Grove, $48 resident; $60 nonresident. 847-965-4220.

**Free Info Session: Diabetes Prevention Program:** The YMCAs' new Diabetes Prevention Program gives you the skills you need and the support you deserve to reduce your risk of Type 2 diabetes. Come and learn how to make lasting, healthy lifestyle changes from NSYMCA's Senior Director of Wellness, Megan Vazquez. Registration is required by calling or online at NSYMCA.org. Contact Karen Brownlee, KBrownlee@nsymca.org for more information. 7 p.m. Thursday, North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techy 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. 11:30 a.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $59 member; $69 nonmember. 847-784-6030.

Friday, Jan. 18

**Rita Hayworth:** Margarita Carmen Cansino was an impossibly beautiful actress and gifted dancer whose life never was as happy as it seemed on the screen. Not wanting a Hispanic movie star, the studio changed her hair color to red and gave her the name Rita Hayworth. 1 p.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $12 member, $17 nonmember. 847-764-6030.

**Tai Chi:** Wear loose clothing to practice the ancient, healing art of Tai Chi. Increase your understanding of the mind-body connection, breathing techniques, flexibility and all other healthy benefits of Tai Chi. 9 a.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $75 member; $89 nonmember. 847-764-6030.

**Brush with Nature 2018-2019 Exhibition:** This exhibition includes artworks created by local plein air artists who created their pieces while outdoors at the Emily Oaks Nature Center in Skokie. See website for list of exhibiting artists. On display through Feb. 24. Regular viewing hours are Monday through Friday 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Saturday 8 a.m.-4 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, free. 847-674-1500.

**Alliance Française du N. Shore Café Conversation Soirée:** Join in for relaxed French conversation, facilitated by native or fluent speakers. Listening in French is encouraged, all levels are welcome. For more information: Meetup.com/afnorthshore and AFNorthshore.org/events. 7 p.m. Thursday, Panera, 1199 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-858-1274.

**Father Son Mini Golf Night:** This is a night of mini golf fun. Enjoy a light dinner and then hit the links with the staff from Hot Shots Sports. Prizes will be awarded to the lowest scoring pair. 6:30 p.m. Friday, Morton Grove Park District, 6834 Dempster St., Morton Grove, $25 resident; $31 nonresident. 847-965-4220.

**Checking In on Germany's Current Affairs:** Instructor Aneta Isaacs talks 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.

**Helping Hands for the Homeless for Grades 5-8:** Enjoy snacks and earn service hours by creating plarn (plastic yarn) for an upcoming service project. Just drop in. 3:30 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

**'Leave No Trace':** A small mistake derails the life of a father and his 13-year-old daughter who are living off the grid in the forests outside of Portland, Oregon. Just drop in to see this 2018 film that is rated PG. 2 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

**League of Women Voters: Free Seminar: Sexual Harassment in the #MeToo Age:** Learn the approaches to avoid, obligations employers have, steps victims can take and much more. Presented by speaker George Savarese, Ph.D., LCSW. Space is limited, so RSVP to Ashley Delaney at wadelaney@whitehalldeerfield.com or call today. Free community seminar sponsored by Whitehall of Deerfield. 5 p.m. Thursday, Whitehall of Deerfield, 300 Waukegan Road, Glenview, free. 847-580-8198.

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**Ticketed Friday Fun for Ages 3-5 with Adult:** End your week with stories and hands-on fun with the Youth Services Librarians. 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.

**Chair Yoga:** This program is a part of the Let's Get Together series for older adults. Join certified yoga instructor, Cher Walter, for one of the gentlest forms of yoga available – chair yoga! We will practice using the chair for seated poses and as a balance point for standing postures. This class is perfect for students of all levels, no previous yoga experience required. All equipment provided, wear comfortable clothes. To register for this event, visit www.mgpl.org or call 847-965-4220. 10 a.m. Friday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6410 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free. 847-965-4220.

**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
Saturday, Jan. 19

*A Year with Frog and Toad*: A hit on Broadway. A Year with Frog and Toad was nominated for three Tony Awards including Best Musical. Based on Arnold Lobel's well-loved books, this whimsical show follows two great friends—the cheerful, popular Frog and the rather grumpy Toad—through four seasons. Frog and Toad plant gardens, swim, rake leaves, go sledding and learn life lessons along the way. The two best friends celebrate and rejoice in the differences that make them unique and special. This play is for all ages. 10 a.m. Saturday, noon Saturday, 10 a.m. and noon Sunday. Prairie Lakes Theatre, 515 E. Thacker St., Des Plaines, $15, 847-784-6030.

Rainy Days: 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, $12 member, $17 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

Saturday, Jan. 20

Carla Cooke's Ultimate Sam Cooke Experience LIVE! Soul South Entertainment Artist Carla Cooke returns to Evanston Rocks on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 19 and 20, 2019. Also performing is musician Billy Davis who worked with Sam Cooke and Jimi Hendrix. 8 p.m. Saturday, Evanston Rocks, 1012 Church St., Evanston, $25, tickets on sale soon, 630-962-7000.

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.

BYOB Parenting Playgroup For Birth-23 months: Enjoy playtime and meet other growing families. Infant specialists will occasionally be on hand to briefly discuss their areas of expertise and answer questions. Just drop in. 10 a.m. Saturday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Life Lessons: From the bestselling book series, "Pinkalicious" comes a unique American musical for all ages. "Pinkalicious The Musical" features a pink! Based on the popular book series, "Pinkalicious" is about: a sheltered teenager who's spent her whole life confined to her home. She develops a relationship with the boy next door, and their upsetting results. It took almost six years. Storytime followed by coffee, juice, and donuts. This is a drop-in event; with no registration required. 10 a.m. Saturday, Morton Grove Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

Get Hooked Crafts: Glass Etching: Learn how to etch glass using etching cream. Each participant will be given one small glass vase and can bring three other small glass containers to etch. 10 a.m. Saturday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

*Pinkalicious The Musical*: Think pink! Based on the popular book series, "Pinkalicious The Musical" features a fun-loving tale of what happens when a girl's passion for pink goes too far. Performances run 10 a.m. and 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 19-Feb. 23. Tickets are $12 and can be purchased at abeparks.org.

Carla Cooke's Ultimate Sam Cooke Experience LIVE! Soul South Entertainment Artist Carla Cooke returns to Evanston Rocks on Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 19 and 20, 2019. Also performing is musician Billy Davis who worked with Sam Cooke and Jimi Hendrix. 8 p.m. Saturday, Evanston Rocks, 1012 Church St., Evanston, $25, tickets on sale soon, 630-962-7000.

Books in the Woods: "Code Girls": The library's Books in the Woods book club has discussion of "Code Girls: the Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II" by Liza Mundy. Through dazzling research and meticulous reporting, author Liza Mundy takes you on a journey of discovery into the world of cryptography and reveals the true story of the women who operated the ultra-secret East Room,1012 with Sam Cooke and Jimi Hendrix. 8 p.m. Sunday, Evanston Rocks, 1012 Church St., Evanston, $25, tickets on sale soon, 630-962-7000.

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.

Intro to Square Dance Party: Sample a uniquely American dance hobby. No experience needed, no partner required. Hosted by Glenview Square Dance Club. For more information, visit the website or call 847-309-1329 or 224-521-2558. 6 p.m. Sunday, Glenview Park Club, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, free, 847-724-5670.

Semi-Finalist Musicality at Temple Beth Israel: Temple Beth Israel presents America's Got Talent's Semi-Finalist and Chicago's Musicality Show and Dinner. This renowned Chicago vocal group is synonymous with powerful vocals, harmonic sounds, and thrilling performances. 6 p.m. Sunday, Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie, $20 per adult, kids $10 each. Reservations and payment for dinner and the show are due by Jan. 13, 2019, 847-675-0951.

Monday, Jan. 21

Story Jam: In celebrating diversity and individuality, Story Jam strives to meld the colorful worlds of live music and live lit. This is an inspired experience celebrating the legacy of Martin Luther King Jr. The 10-piece band is led by singer/songwriter Stephanie Rogers. This Jan. 21st show features storytellers and podcaster. Tickets are available at eventbrite.com/e/story-jam-tickets-51522231060. For more information at the event website. Contact Stephanie Rogers with any inquiries: by calling or to: steph@hipchick.com. 7:30 a.m. Monday, Evanston Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $18 general admit; $28 and up - reserved table, 773-551-1336.

Books in the Woods: "Code Girls": The library's Books in the Woods book club has discussion of "Code Girls: the Untold Story of the American Women Code Breakers of World War II" by Liza Mundy. Through dazzling research and interviews with surviving code girls, bestselling author Liza Mundy brings to life this riveting and vital story of American courage, service, and scientific accomplishment. Registration is required by calling, visiting the website or stopping by the library; registrants do not need a Lincolnwood Library card to attend. 7 p.m. Monday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277.
romance inspired her to venture into the outside world. Cast: Amanda Stenberg, Nick Robinson. 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

The Power of Meditation - Part I of IV: Join Dr. Paul Nevin, a Doctor of Clinical Psychology and a Wellness Coach trained at the Mayo Clinic, for a free, four-part series teaching attendees how they can use meditation to enhance their life. Register for one or all four installments of this series. Takes place once a month now through April (on Jan. 22, Jan. 19, March 19, April 16). Free and open to the public. Registration is required by calling or online at NSYMCA.org. 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.

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. Tuesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $59 member; $69 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

Artists Workshop: Working In Color - Part II: 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. Tuesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $59 member; $69 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

This Idea Must Die: Notions That Are Blocking Progress: Instructor Jim Kenney discusses author, editor, and publisher of the online science salon Edge.org, John Brockman, who has worked closely with many of the leading scientists and philosophers of our time. In his provocative new book, Brockman invites his collaborators to offer their thoughts on ideas whose time has clearly come to exit the stage. 1 p.m. Tuesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $39 member, $49 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

Yoga for the Rest of Us: Anyone can enjoy the many benefits of yoga, including increased strength, balance, flexibility, and mental clarity. Instructors Billy and Staci will design the class to accommodate all ages and levels of fitness. 11 a.m. Tuesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $39 member, $49 nonmember, 847-784-6030.
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This list is not intended to be a complete record of all real estate transactions.
D64 picks Minnesota-based firm for superintendent search

BY HEATHER CHERONE
Pioneer Press

The Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 Board of Education on Jan. 7 picked a Minnesota-based firm to conduct a search for a new superintendent.

The board voted 4-3 to select Edina, Minn.-based School Exec Connect instead of Libertyville-based BWP & Associates.

Board member Mark Eggeman, who joined board Secretary Tom Sotos, board member Fred Sanchez and Vice President Rick Biagi in picking School Exec Connect, said he was impressed that Harry Rossi, the firm's lead consultant for the search, told the board he was confident they would be able to find a permanent replacement for Superintendent Laurie Heinz before the end of the school year.

Board President Anthony Borrelli and board members Larry Ryles and Bob Johnson voted to pick BWP, which conducted the district's last search for a superintendent.

Heinz plans to leave District 64 at the end of the current school year to become superintendent of Palatine-based Community Consolidated School District 15.

"An interim superintendent would be your last resort," said Rossi, the former superintendent of Northbrook/Glenview School District 30.

The consulting fee for the search will be $16,900, according to the proposal from School Exec Connect presented to board members. Regular expenses would not exceed $1,600, and the proposal also indicated options for advertising costs.

Biagi said his "gut" told him that School Exec Connect was the better choice because of their promise to conduct an aggressive search, and Eggeman said he had a "greater comfort level" with the firm.

At the board's direction, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources Joel Martin will contact Wilmette Public Schools District 39, where the firm recently completed a search for a new superintendent with the Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 Board of Education.

Representatives of School Exec Connect discuss their proposal to conduct a search for a new superintendent with the Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 Board of Education.

New contract, pay increase approved for District 207 superintendent

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Maine Township High School District 207's superintendent will receive a $279,380 raise in 2019-20, the maximum amount of additional merit-based pay he can receive under a new employment contract approved by the board of education this month.

With more than a year to go in the superintendent's current contract, the school board on Jan. 7 approved a new, five-year contract for Ken Wallace, effective July 1, 2019, through June 30, 2024.

The contract was approved by a 5-0 vote with board members Aurora Austracio and Sean Sullivan absent.

No discussion regarding the contract occurred during the board's open session on Jan. 7.

Under the terms of the contract, Wallace's base pay for the 2019-20 school year will be $254,380, which is a $32,583 increase from his base 2018-19 base pay of $221,797, contract documents show.

The bulk of that increase comes from shifting a portion of merit pay, which Wallace was eligible to receive each year under the terms of his last contract, to his base salary, said District 207 spokesman Brett Clark.

About $270,000 in eligible merit-based pay was moved to Wallace's base salary. The remainder of the increase reflects a pay raise of 2.5 percent, Clark said.

At the same time, the amount of additional, merit-based pay available to Wallace each year will decrease from a maximum of $52,000 to a maximum of $25,000, according to the new contract. This will allow Wallace to take home $279,380 during the next school year if the board agrees he has met his merit expectations.

"His base pay is now more in line with that of other superintendents in the area and reflects the board's expectation that Dr. Wallace continue to meet his goals each year without that being explicitly tied to compensation in the contract," said District 207 Board President Carla Owen in a statement released by the district. "He is still eligible for some merit pay performance above and beyond meeting his annual performance goals."

Wallace last year received the full $52,000 in merit pay his contract allowed.

In addition to merit pay, Wallace's annual base salary will also increase by 2.5 percent each year of the contract, according to the terms.

The contract allows Wallace and his spouse to continue to receive health insurance coverage, with premiums paid by the district, following his retirement and until he and his wife reach age 65. Wallace is also entitled to receive $800 per month in travel expenses, according to the contract.

Wallace was hired as District 207's superintendent in 2009. He previously worked as the district's assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction for four years.

In a statement, District 207 officials noted the district's selection as one of the 25 most innovative school districts by the American Association of School Administrators, annual instructional coaching plans for each teacher, and the November passage of a $195 million dollar bond referendum for improvements to all three district high schools as occurring under Wallace's leadership.
`Doors of Morton Grove' is the theme for community relations commission's winter photo contest

BY MEGANN HORSTEAD
Pioneer Press

The Morton Grove Community Relations Commission's quarterly photo contest is back.

"We're changing the contest a little bit," said Terry Liston, corporation counsel for the village of Morton Grove. "Every quarter, we'll have a theme."

This time around, the theme is "Doors of Morton Grove." Photographers of all skill levels are encouraged to get involved, and Morton Grove residents, businesses, employees and visitors are seeking entries, and the commission intends to show the village what the theme means to them.

"People interpret the theme in different ways," Liston said. "We like to let our residents tell the story through photography," she said.

The village started the initiative four years ago. Liston said the village logo and tagline changed a couple years ago, "and that's what started the photo contest."

Entrants are allowed to submit up to five photos highlighting ways the village of Morton Grove is both close and open. The rules stipulate that all photos should be taken in the season represented and should be taken in Morton Grove.

The commission intends to include selected photos to feature on the village's Facebook page and website, and five winning photos will be enlarged, framed and displayed at village hall. Typically, the contest recognizes one overall winner and one child winner.

"This is a way for our residents to take pride and ownership in the village and to share their talent," Liston said. "We've got some really talented photographers out there. They send us their pictures depicting the positive aspects of Morton Grove."

The village's Community Relations Commission is sponsoring the photo contest.

The deadline to file photo submissions is March 31. For information, visit mortongroveil.org.

Megann Horstead is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Food pantry opens to workers affected by federal shutdown

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

A local food pantry is opening its doors to federal workers impacted financially by the government shutdown.

The Niles Township Food Pantry, located in Skokie, announced this week that it is offering food assistance to federal employees who live within the township and are affected by job furloughs and missed paychecks.

"These are people who normally don't need our assistance but are now experiencing what it's like to live without a paycheck," Niles Township Supervisor Marilyn Glazer said in a statement. "They may be worried about how to put food on their tables and feeding their family."

Food pantry manager Tony Araque said federal workers in need of food assistance should provide valid federal identification when visiting the pantry. Like other pantry clients, they will be able to access the pantry twice per month, should the shutdown continue, he said.

As of Jan. 14, no federal workers had yet reached out to the pantry requesting help, Araque said.

The Niles Township Food Pantry is located at 8341 Lockwood Ave. in Skokie.

Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday hours are 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Tuesday hours are 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m., 1 p.m. to 3:30 p.m., and 4:15 to 6:30 p.m., according to the township.

Niles Township includes the communities of Skokie and Lincolnwood and Golf, and portions of Niles, Morton Grove and Glenview.

For more information, call 847-983-0073.
Experts: ‘Dry January’ can be healthy choice

But be realistic with challenge’s goals and results

BY KATHERINE ROSENBERG-DOUGLAS
Chicago Tribune

The first time Autumn Myer heard of some friends participating in a month without drinking alcohol, her reaction wasn’t exactly subtle.

“I was like, ‘How could you do this? How could you not drink for a whole month?’” the 40-year-old Lakeview resident said recently, with mock horror in her voice.

But the bar tables have turned. Now Myer has become one of thousands of people who choose to abstain from imbibing alcohol in what’s been dubbed “Dry January,” often referred to by its hashtag, #DryJanuary.

Dr. Stephanie Gorka, associate director at the University of Illinois at Chicago Recovery Clinic, generally has favorable opinions about Dry January, which first was established in 2013 by London-based charity Alcohol Concern. The campaign asks people to sign a pledge to stay sober all month. It’s grown in popularity and reached the United States.

Gorka said any day without alcohol is a healthy choice and choosing to abstain 31 days in a row is generally healthy for most people. It would only be unhealthy for someone who is physically dependent on alcohol. Those people shouldn’t try to quit drinking suddenly, and anyone who thinks they might be alcohol-dependent should consult a doctor before quitting abruptly.

“It’s healthy as long as you’re realistic with yourself, and that means realistic in your goals and your reasoning,” she said. “In the ideal outcome, it would give you a chance to re-evaluate if this is how you want to spend your time.”

Someone who drinks socially should not just try cutting out alcohol for a month on a whim, Gorka said. They should spend some time thinking about how something like Dry January could make them feel — what they hope to gain and whether those changes are realistic. And they should consider how much time they spend drinking and what other activities they intend to focus on instead.

Gorka said people can begin to feel isolated if they haven’t thought of other ways to connect with friends.

Kris Schmelzer, a 29-year-old Lincoln Square resident, fell into that trap the first time he tried Dry January three years ago. His boyfriend was going to try a “comprehensive cleanse” in January with exercise and better food, so Schmelzer decided he’d try to go without alcohol. The digital advertising employee quickly felt lost.

“I didn’t really think about the social aspects of it, like that I have a birthday party I’m supposed to go to or drinks with co-workers planned, and suddenly I can’t participate,” Schmelzer said. “The second time I did it, I went in with, what kind of habits do I want to replace it with?”

He still managed to succeed, but the first year, it was difficult. Now on his third Dry January, Schmelzer said he has learned how to use the time he gains when he’s not hungover or drinking.

“This past Sunday a friend taught me how to sew, I mean, to use a sewing machine,” he said.

Despite Dry January’s positive aspects, Gorka said it isn’t likely a person is going to reap untold health benefits.

“When you read a blog about Dry January, people get this idea that they’re going to feel amazing, and that’s just not true,” she said.

That was accountant Shawn Mangan’s exact experience. The Rogers Park resident, 34, said by the time he read about Dry January last year on a blog, he had missed January. But when Lent came around — and his alma mater Loyola University Chicago was tearing it up in basketball — he decided to stay sober for the month of March.

“I didn’t notice a huge difference except for probably eating a little better. I lost four pounds,” he said. “It’s also easier to go to the gym and do other healthy things.”

January is the perfect month for the challenge, because it offers the chance to evaluate your relationship with drinking and whether you have just been on “auto-pilot,” Gorka said. People who go out drinking with friends may lack creative ideas of what to do, more than actually feeling the need to drink.

Myer, who works in real estate, mainly likes the idea of setting a goal for herself and sticking to it. But it was more difficult in Chicago than when she lived in Asheville, N.C.

“Being in Chicago is kind of different, it’s harder,” Myer said. “Chicago is a drinking town.”

She appreciates the self-reflection that comes with depriving yourself of something, to better understand why you make the choices you do and how that plays into your personality, she said.

“You realize how much other people around you are drinking. You realize what they look like when they’re starting to get drunk. And you wonder, do I look and sound like that?” she said. “You realize how much it’s in your life when you take it away.”

The champagne cocktail, from left, the pomegranate mule and the coconut cucumber mint cooler all contain no alcohol, as photographed at Flight Club on Jan. 9 in Chicago.

Myer all said they noticed the need to drink. But Gorka said people should not assume that 31 days of any practice is going to produce miracle results.

“This is not going to turn back the hands of time,” she said.

And, if anything, there is some evidence to suggest people will just go right back to their typical level of indulgence once Feb. 1 rolls around.

“I have friends who have tried it, and they’ve gone back to their regular alcohol use in February,” Gorka said.

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Colano, Vito

Colano, Vito, age 90, of Waterford, passed away at home on January 11, 2019 with his loving family and friends at his side. Vito was born in Chicago, IL on February 25, 1928, the son of the late Ralph Angelo and Theresa Marie (nee. Urso) Colano. His early life was spent in Skokie, IL where he was a 1945 graduate of Niles Township High School. He entered the U.S. Army and was a veteran of World War II. He married Margaret Marie Kutz in 1955. They lived in Des Plaines, IL where he was a past president of the Art Guild. They moved to the rural Burlington area, Spring Prairie Township, in 1966 where he served on the town board. Vito was a co-owner of Red Barn Ceramic with his wife Margaret. He retired from the Burlington Post Office in 1990. In 1992 they moved to Waterford. He loved his family, sports, American Legion Post 20, motorcycling, lawn mowing and gardening. Vito was a proud member of the Burlington Masonic Lodge, Tripoli Shrine, American Legion Post 20 (past Commander), VFW, American Motorcycle Association, Moose Club, American Legion Riders, and the NRA. Vito is survived by his wife Margaret, son Richard, daughter Linda, grandsons Vito A. Colano and Vincent Colano, daughter-in-law Carrie Colano, sister Grace Perkins, niece Susan (Jeff) Lewis, great nephew David (Sarah) Lewis, special friends Bill Johnson and Heather Gruber. Vito is preceded in death by his parents, and one brother Ralph Colano Jr. Visitation will be held Wednesday, January 16, 2019 from 4-8 PM with Masonic services at 7 PM in Mealy Funeral Home. Services will also be held on Thursday, January 17, 2019 at 10:00 AM in Mealy Funeral Home with burial in Rochester Cemetery to follow. A reception luncheon at the Cotton Exchange in Waterford will follow the burial. In lieu of floral expressions of sympathy, Vito’s family suggests memorials be made to: First Congregational Church in Rochester, American Legion Post 20, Burlington Masonic Lodge or Foundation for Fighting Blindness. 

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Standout sophomores
Sayles, D'Amico guide
Notre Dame past St. Viator

BY PATRICK Z. McGAVIN
Pioneer Press

Coming into the season, the scouting report on Anthony Sayles was to play off him, deny penetration and force him into taking perimeter shots.

Sayles worked vigorously to transform that reputation. A sophomore guard at Notre Dame, Sayles shot only 24 percent on 3-point attempts as a freshman.

Sayles is now shooting 39 percent on 3-pointers, and the improved accuracy has made him dangerous in transition, off the dribble and now as a consistent outside scoring threat.

"Teams are not able to guard me one way," Sayles said. "I worked on my shot a lot, and it has opened up my game."

Sayles drilled a 3-pointer and scored a team-best 20 points as the Dons recovered from a 13-point halftime deficit to beat St. Viator 54-52 in East Suburban Catholic play on Friday in Arlington Heights.

An Evanston native, Sayles is a two-sport star. He was the starting quarterback on the Dons' football team that finished 10-3 and reached a Class 6A state semifinal against eventual champion Cary-Grove.

He averaged 91 yards per carry for 763 yards rushing on 84 attempts. Sayles had four rushing touchdowns and eight passing and finished with 111 completions on 190 attempts for 1,241 yards through the air.

His confidence balled after the football success. It only deepened his desire to achieve the same success with basketball.

Sayles made his basketball debut two days after the state semifinal loss in a Thanksgiving tournament without the benefit of a single practice.

"It was obviously a rough transition from football," Sayles said. "Football gave me the winning mentality. From the end of football, I wanted to bring that mentality into basketball and just win at a consistent level."

A 6-foot-2 guard, Sayles combines excellent size, quickness and skill with a strong understanding of the game. Notre Dame coach Kevin Clancy said he has great instincts for the game.

"He's a very gifted athlete," Clancy said. "He has a way of getting to the rim. I think he is one of the best finishers around the rim I have ever seen once he gets there."

"He has a great feel for the game, a great sense of when to give it up and when to go in and attack," Clancy said.

Sayles is not the only impressive sophomore for the Dons. Troy D'Amico, a 6-6 forward, joins Sayles in averaging 15 points per game.

D'Amico scored 13 points for the Dons (11-7, 2-1) against the Lions (14-4, 2-1). Like Sayles, D'Amico started on varsity as a freshman. The learning curve was steep. The experience proved invaluable.

D'Amico is also a lights-out shooter from the perimeter. He has the versatility to play on the wing and the size to play closer to the basket as well.

"I like working with my back to the basket, and I also like working off the ball on the perimeter and getting the catch and shot," D'Amico said.

D'Amico, who lives in the Edison Park neighborhood of Chicago, had a breakout summer and fall, Clancy said.

D'Amico also played with Sayles for a Highland Park-based club basketball program from fourth to eighth grade. The two have a familiarity on the court.

"I have been playing with him for seven or eight years, and we have great chemistry and we are just building on that," D'Amico said.

"The St. Viator game was our team victory of the year. Everybody just stepped up, and that is how we have to be as a team."

Patrick Z. McGavin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Maine South two-sport standout
Halvorsen learns to love wrestling

BY STEVE MILLAR
Pioneer Press

Maine South senior Jon Halvorsen has been wrestling since he was 4 years old, but it took him some time to develop an appreciation for the sport.

"My dad made me do it, and I hated it for a while," Halvorsen said. "Finally after a few years, I just decided I might as well stick to it and try to love it."

"When I got into fifth grade, I started to see more of the way coaches think about the sport and the mental aspect of it. The way they taught that to us made me fall in love with it."

Halvorsen has devoted himself to wrestling ever since, and it's paid off with a highly successful career with the Hawks.

The highlight so far is a third-place finish in Class 3A at 182 pounds last season.

"Making that run at state last year helps with my confidence going into the postseason this year," Halvorsen said. "I know none of that matters anymore because it's a new season and anything can happen, but it gives me a bit of a boost and a mental edge."

Halvorsen, who was also a standout defensive lineman for the Hawks' football team, looks primed for another lengthy postseason run in wrestling.

He's 25-1 and ranked No. 2 at 182 by the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association.

Maine South coach Kevin Hansen said Halvorsen is wrestling at an even higher level than last season.

"He's really improved in all areas," Hansen said. "He did a lot of wrestling in the spring. He's been better on his feet, better down, better on top."

"He's worked on wrestling complete matches and continuing to score points, so he's not just winning but winning by as much as he can."

Halvorsen said having the mentality to keep pushing for points is key.

"I'm staying aggressive all the time and always getting into my offense," he said. "I know now that I have to always be really offensive and keep attacking, because if you let up, a match can turn around.

Halvorsen said he feels fortunate to have teammates to push him. The Hawks are especially strong in the upper weight classes. Sean Kelly is ranked No. 5 at 220, while Jimmy Bartell was previously ranked at 195.

"Bartell has been his training partner since fourth grade," Hansen said. "They just make each other better. Jon probably doesn't have the success he's had without Jim being around.

Halvorsen agreed with that notion, calling Bartell "a tremendous asset to the team and a huge help for me."

The friends will continue to push each other in practice. Halvorsen hopes it all leads to ending his Maine South career on top of the podium at state.

"I just need to be in the best shape I can be in and stay consistent with my offense," Halvorsen said. "I'm definitely shooting for the top this year."

Steve Millar is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @Pioneer_Press
An emerging opportunity

By Steve Millar
Pioneer Press

When Maine East junior Kate Cacho entered high school and began wrestling, chances to compete against other girls were so rare that they were cause for celebration.

"We had a few girls on our team, and we'd pretty much only wrestle boys," Cacho said. "Whenever we saw another girl, we'd get so excited and hope they were at the right weight for one of us to get to wrestle them. We were always hoping for those chances to wrestle other girls."

Cacho and her female teammates are getting more and more opportunities to do that as interest in girls wrestling is increasing rapidly in Illinois and across the country.

Cacho won the 96-pound state championship at the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association's girls state tournament last season. It was the second girls state tournament held by the IWCOA, with the third set for March.

The IHSA has declared girls wrestling an emerging sport, opening up the possibility for a sanctioned girls wrestling state series in the future.

According to the National Wrestling Coaches Association, 13 states currently sponsor a girls state tournament. Meanwhile, 48 colleges have women's wrestling teams.

In Illinois, there are 621 high school girls competing in the sport, compared to 446 last season, according to Homewood-Flossmoor coach Shammy Gillepie, head of the Illinois Girls Wrestling Coaches Alliance.

"We're seeing more and more girls competing, and it's really exciting," Cacho said. "They're all tough girls, and we really like competing against them.

"It's harder to fight against guys. With girls, we all understand each other and it's more of an even fight."

Maine East held its first girls-only dual event in December 2017, and that idea has caught on across the Chicago area this season.

Homewood-Flossmoor has held three girls wrestling events this season, while Batavia and Conant have hosted other meets. Oak Park-River Forest and Shepard are set to host events later this season.

Niles West, which has six girls in its program, has competed in four girls-only events this season and plans to participate in two more.

"It's been awesome," Niles West coach Anthony Genovesi said. "It gives the girls a chance to compete against girls their own size and see where they're at."

"This will help grow the sport. Women's wrestling is an Olympic sport, so having more girls wrestle when they're younger will help our national program at the highest level."

Emiliano Hernandez, who retired as Maine East's wrestling coach following last season but is still on staff as an assistant, helped spark the surge in girls wrestling.

"I believe if the IHSA makes it its own sport, it'll grow in a huge way," Tadelman said.

Lizeth Torres, a 2017 Maine East graduate and 2016-17 IWCOA girls state runner-up, is now an assistant coach at Maine East and has seen firsthand an increased interest from girls.

"The girls feel more motivated to compete knowing there are these girls tournaments," she said. "They feel they have a chance to succeed."

Steve Millar is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Girls wrestling takes off for Chicago-area schools

Lizeth Torres (left) placed second at the first IWCOA girls wrestling state meet. Now, she's an assistant coach at Maine East.
Sydney Kopp paces DePauw women's basketball

By Bob Narang
Pioneer Press

Hinsdale South graduate Sydney Kopp is back to her high-scoring ways. A junior guard at Division III DePauw (Ind.), Kopp is averaging 15.1 points, 5.3 rebounds and 1.8 assists per game and is shooting 42.9 percent on 3-pointers.

As a sophomore, the 5-foot-9 Kopp averaged 12.4 points and shot 35.5 percent on 3-pointers.

In the second game this season, Kopp was 6-for-9 on 3-pointers to finish with 24 points in a win against Otterbein (Ohio).

The Burr Ridge native has scored 24 points twice this season. Her career-high is a 29-point effort against Franklin (Ind.) on Nov. 22, 2016.

The Tigers' roster also includes McKenzie Blaze (Fenwick), Claire Keefe (Libertyville), Maeve Summerville (Lake Forest) and Grace Kinsey (Lake Zurich).

Keefe, a sophomore forward, is averaging 9.1 points and 6.1 rebounds. Summerville, a freshman forward, has played 12 games. She's averaging 3.8 points and 3.8 rebounds.

Blaze, a freshman forward, is averaging 3.3 points and 1.8 rebounds, while shooting 42.9 percent on 3s.

Kinsey, a freshman guard, has played in 15 games.

Millikin man: Evanston graduate Elijah Henry has become a steady contributor for the Millikin men's basketball team.

Henry, who also played at Kirkwood Community College, led Millikin with 17 points and 10 rebounds in a 69-59 win at Carthage College on Jan. 5.

Henry is in his second season with Millikin. The senior forward started 12 of Millikin's first 13 games, leading the team in points (14.4) and rebounds (6.1).

Hinsdale South graduate Sydney Kopp is a leading scorer for the DePauw women's basketball team.
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