Coming Together
Niles West hosts celebration of Polish culture for 2019.

August Wilson's work 'always a joy'
"Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" reveals the struggles of entertainers.

'Ready to rock and roll'
Local reaction to a change at the top for Northern Illinois football.

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Lincolnwood
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J. Linn Allen, writer of musicals

When it comes to creating musical theater, J. Linn Allen can do it all. The Evanston resident wrote book, lyrics and music for "Cancerman," which will be presented for five performances at Under-score Theatre Company's Chicago Musical Theatre Festival, Feb. 4-24, at three Chicago locations. Visit www.cmtl.org for details.

Q: What inspired you to write "Cancerman"?
A: I read a book called "Being Mortal," by Atul Gawande, who was a physician and a writer for The New Yorker, all about the practicalities of facing the end. It follows a few people and how they cope with cancer. I was moved by the book and why it turned in my mind to a musical I can't say, but it did.

Q: How many shows have you produced?

Q: Why do you write book, lyrics and music?
A: I've always written the book and the lyrics but I've also worked with composers on four other musicals I've done in the last five or six years. The more I work with composers, the more I realize I have my own music voice that I want to use for my musicals.

Q: What's your favorite Evanston restaurant?
A: Cross-Rhodes. It has been ever since Cross-Rhodes was in existence.

Q: What's the best thing about living in Evanston?
A: There's so many great things about living in Evanston. I love the beaches, I love the schools, I love the diversity. My wife and I walk a lot and it's like being in a wonderful world.

Q: What recent movie would you recommend?
A: We're going to see "Green Book."

Q: Do you have children?
A: I have three kids. They went through the Evanston school system. They're very successful adults.

Q: Do you have any pets?
A: We have fish.

Q: What's your idea of a perfect day?
A: Going to Starbucks on Sherman Avenue and writing. Then going for a walk with my wife in the afternoon, and then playing tennis with my friends.

Q: What's your favorite saying?
A: I have one that I use on my email but it's in Latin. It basically means, "Power without wisdom will destroy itself."

Q: What would be your dream vacation destination?
A: The Florida Keys.

Q: What is your most prized possession?
A: My Taylor guitar. I play the guitar

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Coming Together kicks off at Niles West

Event celebrates Polish culture

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

Polish pride was on display Jan. 27 at the opening ceremonies for the annual Coming Together celebration at Niles West High School in Skokie.

Each year, Coming Together includes programs geared toward a designated culture — which is Polish this year — with events taking place throughout Skokie and Niles Township.

At the opening ceremony, many of the 1,400 seats were filled in the Robert L. Johnson Auditorium.

The Jan. 27 event included Polish cuisine, dancing, musical performances and more.

“It’s a great event,” said planning committee member and volunteer Samra Masood of Skokie.

Supported by institutions in Skokie, Niles, Morton Grove and Lincolnwood, Coming Together studies a different ethnicity annually. During the past decade, Coming Together has also featured Asian Indian, Filipino, Assyrian, Greek, Korean, “Voices of Race,” Latino/Hispanic, Chinese and Muslim-American cultures.

“Everybody truly works together,” said Skokie Mayor George Van Dusen.

Events are planned through April.

“We have the most diverse community here,” said Rosamin Bhanpuri of Lincolnwood, coordinator for the Coming Together program.

About the township, “we have over 50 countries represented; we have people from all over the world,” she said.

“This is a big deal for us,” Bhanpuri said of the 10th anniversary of Coming Together.

The opening ceremonies featured speakers, including members and dignitaries of the Polish community and local officials.

“Here in this community, we join hands several times a year,” said Congresswoman Jan Schakowsky of the 9th District. “We make a special point of saying that we stand together as one people as proud Americans from everywhere around the world.”

Coming Together offers more than 60 events, such as book discussions, film screenings and craft demonstrations.

“This is the first time that I’ve seen this,” said Linda Goll of Glenview. “I am of Polish descent and I brought my grandchildren and my son, so we’re excited.”

Goll hoped her family would “learn about their Polish history.”

The Jan. 27 kickoff also featured artwork by Polish artisans in an exhibition shown upstairs along the auditorium.

“It’s amazing and really interesting, vibrant and fun. Some of it is whimsical,” said Lisa Edelson of Skokie, describing the art show.

Performances included appearances by the Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra.

“It’s a pleasure to play,” said violinist Margarita Solomensky of Skokie, who performed with other musicians in the auditorium lobby.

Dancers from the Whispers Center for Artistic Expression of Bartlett opened the program on stage.

“We love to be a part of it; we’re very honored,” said Margaret Skrzypkowski of Arlington Heights, Whispers’ artistic director.

Since 2014, she has encouraged students to explore Polish dancing and heritage.

“Since most of our parents are either immigrants, or their parents were immigrants from Poland, it’s very important for us, as parents, to further the traditions and to show other people what Poland is about,” Skrzypkowski said.

“A lot of Polish dances have a story of their own,” Skrzypkowski added. “Poland has such a rich history.”

To view events for 2019 showcasing Polish culture, visit www.comingtogether.in.

Karie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Dancers from the Whispers Center for Artistic Expression of Bartlett performed Jan. 27 at the opening ceremonies of the 10th annual Coming Together event, a celebration of Polish culture for 2019.

Center, in line for Polish cuisine with her extended family is Linda Goll of Glenview.

Performing in the lobby of the Robert L. Johnson auditorium is Skokie Valley Symphony Orchestra violinist Margarita Solomensky.
Police probe theft of $650K in lobster tails

Stock was on its way to a refrigerated warehouse in Chicago

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON  
Pioneer Press

Morton Grove police and an insurance company are investigating the reported theft of a large amount of lobster tails that were on their way to a refrigerated warehouse on Chicago's South Side.

According to police, an insurance company investigator reported that 20 pallets of lobster tails, valued at $650,000, were missing from a shipment that was delivered to Preferred Freezer Services in Chicago on Jan. 8.

The investigator told Morton Grove police that the man hauling the lobster tails had delivered only three of the 23 pallets to the warehouse and reportedly said he did not know what had happened to the others. The 31-year-old driver had also delivered the shipment one day late, stating he had mechanical problems with his truck, police said.

The insurance investigator told police that a plastic band used to secure the boxes of lobster tails was found on the ground behind a tractor trailer parked in a lot on the 6300 block of Oakton Street. According to police, the investigator identified the tractor trailer as the vehicle that had been hauling the lobster tails.

A second plastic band, also containing the name of the market from where the lobster tails originated, was visible inside a white Chevy Tahoe that was parked next to the tractor trailer in the lot, police said.

The delivery driver in charge of hauling the shipment admitted that the truck and the Chevy Tahoe belonged to him and allowed police to search the vehicles, but refused to answer questions about the delivery, police said.

The case has been turned over to Morton Grove detectives, police said.

Guitars, computers stolen from hospital's music therapy office

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON  
Pioneer Press

A hospital’s music therapy program has been forced to replace instruments and other equipment after the items were stolen earlier this month, police said.

Two acoustic guitars, an iPod and a MacBook computer were reported stolen between Jan. 11 and Jan. 16 from Advocate Lutheran General Hospital campus, 1775 W. Dempster St. in Park Ridge, police said.

According to police, the items were taken from a locked office inside the hospital and no evidence of forced entry was found.

The equipment was valued at $2,900, police said. No arrests were made.

Kate Eller, spokeswoman for Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, said the guitars and computer equipment were used to “play and record music for therapy sessions” and were being replaced.

According to the hospital’s website, music therapy is used to “improve, maintain, or restore the physical, mental, or emotional functioning of patients” and can be paired with other types of therapy.

A spokeswoman for Advocate Lutheran General Hospital says the hospital had to replace instruments and other items that were stolen earlier this month from its Park Ridge campus.

A hospital's music therapy program has been forced to replace instruments and other equipment after the items were stolen earlier this month, police said.

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Fire department prevails against police cooks

Lincolnwood holds third annual ‘Iron Chiefs’ competition

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

At the third annual Iron Chiefs Cook-Off, Lincolnwood's police and fire personnel battled it out with fiery skillets and other tools as they tested their culinary skills in an "Iron Chef"-style cooking competition based on the hit TV show.

The village of Lincolnwood's third annual event turned up the heat indoors on a snowy 13-degree Saturday night on Jan. 26. The police made a pasta dish with meatballs. Fire personnel made a Parmesan crusted chicken pasta with breaded zucchini.

Each team, with four cooks, had a timed 25 minutes to pull it off with their on-the-spot homemade pasta. This year's event was the tiebreaker between the departments following the police department's 2018 victory.

There was a tie by the four judges, then overtime. So emcee Paul Guerrero of Lisle, a cooking skills academy company owner, was asked to break the tie.

"It feels great. The cops gave us one heck of a battle," said Bryan Pierce, Lincolnwood fire battalion chief who held the trophy moments after the announcement.

The recipe is a preferred Sunday meal often prepared at the Lincolnwood Fire Department, officials said. Pierce said his department had planned to make the dish for dinner on Jan. 27.

"We were pretty nervous all the way up until it was announced," Pierce said.

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 Additional tickets were $40, and tickets were $50 at the door.

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Bryan Pierce, a Lincolnwood fire battalion chief, celebrates moments after learning the fire department won.

KARIE ANGELL LUC/PIONEER PRESS PHOTOS

Left, representing Wildwood Tavern of Niles is server James Conroy of Evanston at the third annual Iron Chiefs Cook-Off at the Lincolnwood Community Center.
Doctor accused of sexual assaults

BY LISA SCHENCKER
Chicago Tribune

Two Cook County women have filed lawsuits against NorthShore University HealthSystem and a former gynecologist there, alleging he failed to protect them and other patients from being sexually assaulted by the doctor.

The women separately filed their lawsuits in Cook County Circuit Court; both women anonymously as "Jane Doe." In one suit, filed Jan. 23, one of the women alleges Dr. Fabio Ortega sexually assaulted her during a January 2012 appointment at a Lincolnwood medical office after the birth of her second child. In the other suit, filed Jan. 11, the other woman accuses Ortega of assaulting her during her annual gynecological exam in January 2017 at his Skokie office. That suit also lists NorthShore Medical Group as a defendant.

Each woman reported the incident to law enforcement authorities. Ortega, 72, of Chicago, was arrested in September by Skokie police and charged with one count of criminal sexual assault in the case of the woman who alleges she was assaulted in 2017. That case is pending. Police are investigating the other incident, Lincolnwood Police Chief Jay Parrott said.

Ortega has pleaded not guilty to the criminal charge. Douglas Wesler, his attorney in the criminal case, said he couldn't comment on the civil cases because he has not been retained to represent Ortega in those matters and had not seen the lawsuits. Efforts to reach Ortega were unsuccessful.

Ortega's medical license was suspended in September for "engaging in sexual misconduct with patient of his practice," according to the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. That suspension was tied to the woman who alleges Ortega assaulted her in 2017, according to the Jan. 11 lawsuit.

In their lawsuits, both women allege that NorthShore should have done more to protect them, saying they were not the first to accuse him of inappropriate conduct.

In the lawsuit filed this week, the woman alleges that NorthShore was aware of at least four patient complaints about Ortega but failed to take appropriate action. She says in the lawsuit that NorthShore failed "to warn, investigate and protect patients." NorthShore "permitted Ortega to quietly retire rather than fire him," according to the lawsuit filed this week.

The earlier lawsuit alleges that NorthShore placed Ortega on paid leave in 2017.

NorthShore said in a statement Jan. 23 that it cannot comment on the allegations because they are part of an active legal matter, but said it takes the accusations "very seriously." NorthShore said it no longer employs Ortega.

Spokeswoman Colette Urban declined to comment on the circumstances of Ortega's departure from NorthShore.

"We find any professional misconduct of this nature to be deeply disturbing and not reflective of the high standards of care we stand for and that our patients expect from us," NorthShore said in the statement. "We continue to investigate and work with authorities."

According to the civil lawsuit filed this week, Ortega delivered the woman's first child, gaining the trust of her and her husband. But at an appointment after the birth of her second child, he began asking her "prying and personal" questions, according to the lawsuit.

The suit also alleges Ortega sexually assaulted her. The woman initially wasn't concerned about the incident, thinking it was a "legitimate medical procedure," the lawsuit states.

Over time, however, she grew increasingly anxious about the encounter and stopped scheduling appointments with Ortega.

Late last year, she saw a news article about the criminal charge filed against Ortega and contacted Lincolnwood police in hopes of helping the other woman's case, according to the lawsuit.

The attorney for the woman who filed a case this week, Tamara Holder, said Jan. 23 it would be premature to say how much money her client is seeking in damages, including for emotional distress. According to the lawsuit, the woman's "life has crumbled" upon learning she was a victim of sexual abuse.

The other woman's lawsuit alleges that during her exam, Ortega touched her in various ways "without legitimate medical justification" and made "highly inappropriate and outrageous comments of a sexual nature" to her.

Her lawsuit alleges that NorthShore failed to discipline Ortega for "prior alleged acts" of inappropriate conduct toward patients, and failed to investigate prior allegations against him, among other things.

The woman's attorney, Matt Passen, said he couldn't comment on potential damages sought.

Byline: lsschencker@chicagotribune.com

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POLICE REPORT

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

Niles

BATTERY
Police responded to Dunkin' Donuts, 7039 W. Dempster St., on the night of Jan. 17 for a report of a milkshake thrown at an employee. According to police, the employee said a man ordered a milkshake in the drive-thru and complained it was too "watery." When he was told he would need to pay for an additional scoop of ice cream to make it thicker, he allegedly became angry and threw the milkshake at the employee through an open window. Police said the employee was struck by the milkshake thrown at him and chest, but did not sustain any injuries. The man who threw the milkshake was not identified.

FORGERY
Vijaykumar B. Nayee, 29, of the 9000 block of Church Street, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with forgery on Jan. 22, police said. According to police, Nayee was accused of completing multiple fraudulent transactions using credit cards with four different names. He also allegedly made large deposits and withdrawals from multiple bank accounts, police said. Court information was not included.

BATTERY
Valky C. Cabaluna, 27, of the 8200 block of West Dempster Street, Niles, was charged with domestic battery on Jan. 19, police said. Court information was not included.

THEFT
Jessica Lauren Goodman, 29, of the 8900 block of North Laverne Avenue, Skokie, was charged with retail theft on Jan. 17 in connection with four separate incidents, police said. According to police, Goodman was identified in a photo line-up in each of the reported thefts. She was given a March 7 court date.

SPEEDING
Mark T. Paulson, 18, of the 500 block of Thames Parkway, Park Ridge, was charged with excessive speeding on the morning of Jan. 21 after he was stopped on the 9200 block of Milwaukee Avenue for traveling 70 mph in a 35 mph speed zone, police said. According to police, Paulson said he was keeping pace with a car that was driving behind him. He was given a Feb. 28 court date.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT
Three 13-year-old boys from Chicago were each ticketed for disorderly conduct on Jan. 18 following an alleged incident at Target, 6150 W. Touhy Ave., police said. According to police, the teens were accused of being "disrespectful" to employees, discarding merchandise all over the store, refusing to leave the store, and shouting profanities at employees. They were released to their parents, police said.

PUBLIC INTOXICATION
A 26-year-old Niles man was ticketed for public intoxication after police reportedly found him lying in the snow near Ballard Road and Clifton Avenue, attempting to stand up with help from his friend on the afternoon of Jan. 17. A family member was called to take him home, according to police reports.

THEFT
A 2000 pickup truck with an attached snow plow was reported stolen Jan. 18 from a car dealership storage lot on the 7000 block of McCormick Boulevard, police said. The truck was valued at less than $10,000, and the snow plow was valued at $1,500.

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Hillary Clinton recognized by heritage group

New ‘milestone’ added to wall at Hodges Park

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

With the addition of an inscription recognizing the local roots of former senator, secretary of state, presidential candidate and first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, the Park Ridge Heritage Committee has completed its wall of local, historic milestones.

The Heritage Committee announced on Jan. 25 that it has completed its Milestones of History project at Hodges Park with the addition of a block noting Park Ridge native Clinton’s 2016 candidacy for president.

The inscription on the granite stone, which is one of 34 surrounding the park’s Campfire Girls Fountain, also identifies Clinton as U.S. secretary of state, U.S. senator, first lady of the United States and a 1965 graduate of Maine South High School.

"Growing up in Park Ridge and attending our local elementary and high schools, Hillary Rodham Clinton spent her formative years in our city," a press release from the heritage committee said.

Committee Chairman Milton Nelson said the group is "elated" to have completed the milestones project, which began more than a decade ago.

"It’s finally finished with the Hillary Clinton engraving in place," he said.

The new inscription joins a list of other historic happenings in the greater Park Ridge area, dating back to 1832, with the arrival of the the first European settlers.

In addition to Clinton, other individuals named on the milestones are composer John Alden Carpenter; William Black, a Civil War captain and defense attorney during the Chicago Haymarket Riot trial; Raymond Hollis, designer of the city flag; George Carpenter, the first village president, who also donated land for the first village hall; Frederic Goudy, book printer and type designer; Clara Barck Welles, founder of the Kalo Studio; Albert Buchheit, Park Ridge's first mayor; Mother Francis X. Cabrini, the first saint from the United States to be canonized; and artist Alfonso Iannelli, who local historians say designed the Campfire Girls Fountain.

The Heritage Committee, a group of resident volunteers, passed a resolution in April 2017 dedicating the final Hodges Park milestone to Clinton’s achievements. A book published by the Heritage Committee, entitled “Park Ridge: Milestones of History,” features Clinton’s photo on the cover and includes three pages inside on her accomplishments, touching on her childhood and high school years in Park Ridge.

The current facility has 99 patient beds and 49 parking spaces, according to the village. The addition will require 11 parking spaces to be added, but a representative of the property was seeking a variance from the village, citing the inability to add extra parking documents from the village said.

Proceeds from sales of the book, in addition to some private donations, paid for the purchase of Clinton’s milestone, Nelson said.

“Clinton is also recognized on alumni walls of honor at Maine South and Maine East high schools, as she attended both schools, and in 2016, the Learning Resource Center at Field School, where she attended elementary school, was named for her.

The corner of Elm and Waukegan streets, where Clinton grew up, was given the honorary name “Rodham Corner” in 1997. Clinton brought her 2016 presidential campaign to Park Ridge in May of that year when she spoke before a crowd at the Pickwick Theatre and was interviewed by CNN’s Chris Cuomo inside the Park Ridge Public Library.

Chick-fil-A approved for Pointe Plaza in Niles

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Plans are underway to bring a Chick-fil-A to Niles.

The Niles Village Board on Jan. 22 voted to grant a special-use permit allowing the fast-food restaurant chain to build a new, 5,000-square-foot store with a drive-thru in the Pointe Plaza shopping center on Touhy Avenue.

Plans call for the restaurant to be located on the site of the former Brick House Tavern and Tap at 5650 W. Touhy Ave.

Kate Lockerby, interim senior planner for the village of Niles, said the existing building will be demolished and a new Chick-fil-A restaurant built on the eastern edge of the property.

In addition to a drive-thru, the restaurant will include an indoor play area and outside dining, according to the proposal submitted.

When Chick-fil-A could potentially open is not yet known.

“We have a few other approvals and permits to obtain before we will be able to confirm an opening date for the store in Niles," said company representative Jason Hill.

On another Touhy Avenue zoning case, the Village Board voted to send back to the planning and zoning board a request to expand the Grosse Pointe Manor nursing and rehabilitation center due to parking concerns, Lockerby said.

Plans call for constructing an addition onto the building at Touhy Avenue and Gross Point Road to add 21 beds to the fourth floor of the nursing facility.

“There were concerns that there might not be enough parking if beds were added," Lockerby said of the village board. “Residents in the area were also concerned.

The current facility has 99 patient beds and 49 parking spaces, according to the village. The addition will require 11 parking spaces to be added, but a representative of the property was seeking a variance from the village, citing the inability to add extra parking documents from the village said.

A Chick-fil-A restaurant is proposed for 5650 W. Touhy Ave. in Niles, the site of the vacant Brick House Tavern and Tap at Pointe Plaza.
78-year-old man killed while crossing street near Park Ridge hospital, police say

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

A 78-year-old man has died after police say he was struck by a vehicle near Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge.

The man was walking north across Dempster Street at Western Avenue, just east of the hospital, around 6:20 a.m. Jan. 25 when he was hit by a vehicle traveling west on Dempster, said Niles police Cmdr. Robert Tornabene.

The victim has been identified as Michael Horcher of Niles, police said.

The driver, identified as an 18-year-old man, remained at the scene and cooperated with investigators, police said. He showed no signs of impairment and no citations have been issued to him, according to police.

He was reportedly traveling with his mother at the time of the crash. A witness in the area reported seeing the pedestrian walk directly in front of the teen's 2001 Ford SUV, police said.

A red SUV could be seen stopped about 200 feet west of the intersection of Dempster and Western on Jan. 25.

Traffic signals at the intersection appeared to be functioning, but it was not immediately known if the pedestrian signal was activated at the time the man was in the crosswalk, Tornabene said.

Horcher was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital, where he died from his injuries, police said.

Westbound Dempster Street between Greenwood Avenue and Luther Lane was closed for much of the morning as Niles police and the Major Crash Assistance Team of the North Regional Major Crimes Task Force investigated. The road reopened to traffic shortly before 10 a.m.

This is the third pedestrian fatality to occur in the area since late December.

On Dec. 27, 72-year-old Michael Potwora, of Niles, died after he was hit by a vehicle while crossing Greenwood Avenue at Betty Terrace shortly before 6:30 p.m., police said. Initially, Niles police were investigating the incident as a hit-and-run, but later said the driver had remained at the scene. There have been no charges filed or citations issued in connection with Potwora's death.

On Jan. 4, Leonid Belogur, 86, of Morton Grove, was killed by a hit-and-run driver while crossing Sherman Road at Greenwood Street near the Morton Grove-Niles border, police said.

The driver has not yet been identified.

Morton Grove police said this week that the investigation into Belogur's death continues and video surveillance from the area, which is believed to contain images of the vehicle that hit Belogur, will soon be released to the public.

Tornabene cautioned both drivers and pedestrians to be more aware of their surroundings.

jjohnson@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @Jen_Tribune

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As Super Bowl approaches, some thoughts on football and fairness

PAT LENHOFF

As the Super Bowl approaches, football has seen its fair share of recent controversy.

The debates have included whether one of the teams that should be competing is instead at home watching due to a horrible blown call that basically ended their season one game short. America's sport seems to be at a crossroads of change, not dissimilar to society in general.

Let's backtrack a bit and reflect.

Since this is Chicago Bears nation, and I'm part of a diehard Bears family, let's begin with our own hometown controversy. I am specifically talking about kicker (or likely ex-kicker, based on some reports) Cody Parkey. After a very spotty season where he racked up missed field goals and wide extra points, it was bad karma that our chance to move forward in the playoffs would hinge on a last second field goal by Parkey.

We all know how that played out with the now infamous "double doink" miss. The football hit not one, but two portions of the goal post after chewing up missed field goals and wide extra points, it was bad karma that our chance to move forward in the playoffs would hinge on a last second field goal by Parkey.

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I give credit to the rest of the team. They all stood up for him, comforted him and stressed that they won — and lost — as a team. Stories were written, including in the Tribune, praising Parkey's example to young children as he lost gracefully as part of a team.

Well, that story among others was written perhaps a bit too soon. Days later, Parkey appeared on the "Today Show," the purpose of which seemed to be singing him out for empathy and awarding him an "MHP" (most honorable player) from Savannah Guthrie.

It sure didn't come off as good teamwork, and according to reporters in the locker room, exaggerated his actual participation in post-game interviews. So, was it the best example of honorable behavior for the kids after all? Probably not.

Then you have the blown non-call by an official standing feet away from the New Orleans Saints player who not only was interfered with, but also got clocked on his helmet by the Los Angeles Rams defender. Even my 90-year-old mother-in-law knew there were penalties committed. If called, they would have resulted in just enough time to run down the clock, kick a short field goal (unless it were Cody Parkey) as time expired, and get the Saints into the Super Bowl. But we know that wasn't the outcome.

So here's my thought: use the basic challenge structure as exists, but additionally, let a coach challenge any play for any reason. After all, sometimes plays that are outside of the current list of allowed challenges do determine the game's outcome.

And with 50 million television camera angles for every play, there's no good reason not to. Those older, slower referees can't possibly keep up with everything happening on the field of play, so let's help them get it right. Fairness should rule the day.

As enjoyable as the game may be, the off season may be even more entertaining.

Pat Lenhoff is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

viewfromvh@yahoo.com
From politics to social media storms, it's hard to find an adult in the room

Are there any adults left? If you look around the big room that is America, it sure seems like there aren't any.

I am looking for grown-up adults who take the long view of life. Adults who value the past, work to preserve the present and plan to secure a future that is better and more equitable for all.

But if you look around, such adult views are missing.

Let's start with politics. Is there any politician more petulant when he doesn't get his way than President Donald Trump? He whines when no one pays attention to him, calls others names when criticized and seeks vengeance over every perceived slight. It's the behavior of a spoiled child.

But he's not the first. Despite his appearance of ultimate cool, President Barack Obama never hesitated to lecture and harangue the rest of us, his empty-headed siblings who couldn't understand all that he does.

The character Bluto Blutarsky in the classic film "Animal House" could have been modeled after the young George W. Bush, or so I've been told. Enough said.

Bill Clinton was our first older brother president. He was always just Bill, never William. He played saxophone on late night television.

Trump has plenty of company in today's political playpen. What is shutting down the government other than taking the ball and going home? Duty requires Trump to give a State of the Union address that tradition dictates is before Congress. But his rival siblings say too bad, Congress is closed. It's a case of siblings fighting.

The poet Robert Bly was one of the first to acknowledge the adults have left the room. Some 20 years ago, he wrote a book called "The Sibling Society" where he described a society of horizontal rather than vertical development. He noted the baby boomer culture would never give up its protest mentality, our lifelong obsession with pop culture, consumerism and media stars, and the constant pursuit of immediate pleasure and excitement.

In a sibling society, the watchword is envy. Siblings pit themselves against each other, always measuring one against the other and watching out for who gets more or who is favored by the parents. Empathy for children and respect for elders disappears in a sibling society.

That one sentence describes the latest social media controversy that erupted last week.

No respect was shown for a native American elder and no empathy given to a teenager as they confronted each other in that now famous viral video.

It should be of no surprise when teenagers act their age. Teens test the limits of polite society, they love to mock authority and they look to adults for answers on how far they should go. But when there are no adults in the room, there is no guidance. There is just vain criticism. Knocking a favored sibling down a peg is what the envious do.

These teens were privileged, the say, they got more than the rest, somebody should punch them in the face.

That was the essence of some of the sentiment that flew on social media. That's how juveniles react. Adults hold their tongues, wait to get the whole story and then decide the best way to correct wayward youth.

But there are no adults in the room.

What about the tribal elder, you ask? He deserved more respect than he got from those kids, but he's not blameless either.

Society's real elders don't provoke children or pick fights with them. They provide examples of adult behavior. If drumming and chanting was the peaceful behavior the elder tried to model, the lesson was lost when he did so two inches from a kid's face.

But in the sibling society, where there are no adults to give guidance, no parental figures to trust, tearing down is the best we're going to get.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist.
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When did men stop being gentlemen?

When it comes to men, I'm old school. I like a gentleman. I like a man who walks around and opens the car door for his date, a man who gives up his seat for a woman on the train, a man who asks a woman out on a date and pays for dinner, and a man who takes off his jacket and puts it on the woman he's with if it's cold outside.

So when my girlfriend told me about a date she had last Saturday night, I found myself crying. Why? Because her date was anything but a gentleman.

Here's what happened. My friend connected with a man on the popular dating app, Bumble. The two set up a dinner date in the city, close to where the guy lives. My friend lives in the suburbs, but said she enjoys driving to the city for a night out.

It was the night of the big snowstorm, so her drive was long and a little bit stressful. When she got to the restaurant, she found a metered spot close by, but was having trouble with her credit card payment. She decided to leave the car, go into the restaurant, and ask her date to come out and try the machine.

"You mean you want me to pay for your parking?" he asked.

This is the point when I probably would have said "Bu-bye," but she didn't.

"No, I'm just asking if you will take my credit card and see if you can get it to work," she replied.

The guy obliged and headed outside. Second red flag: the guy (who had a short Uber ride to the restaurant) should not have accepted her card. He should have just paid with his own card.

A few minutes later, he comes back in, successfully having paid for her parking (with his card) and they sit down for dinner. He insists on ordering "all of his favorites," and never asked my friend what she liked. Was she vegan? Did she have any food allergies? Did she have a distaste for anything in particular? He didn't seem to care. He even ordered the dessert he liked — some apple pie thing, and never asked her what she wanted, even though she told him she was a "dessert girl" and that she loves chocolate.

Throughout dinner, he talked about himself, told her his stories, and explained his job to her in detail. He made multiple mentions of free tickets he gets from time to time as a job perk and how much the tickets cost. She said at the end of the meal, he knew nothing about her, her past, her job, her children, etc. He did pay for dinner, but then, listen to this. He took the left-overs and didn't ask my friend if she wanted them. Here is the cherry on top for me: When they were leaving the restaurant, he asked her for a ride home!

Hearing my friend describe this date was sad and depressing. OK, maybe you think she could have spoken up and ordered what she wanted, including a chocolate dessert. She could have volunteered information about herself during the meal, and she could have asked him for the left over Brussels sprouts. But why should she have to do any of those things? In other words, does a woman have to ask a guy to be chivalrous? Would Clark Gable, James Stewart, Humphrey Bogart, Cary Grant, Dean Martin, or Paul Newman have acted this way? Hell no. These guys were no saints when it came to women, but I bet every one of them would have had a car pick up my friend in the suburbs, they would have paid attention to her every word during the dinner conversation, and you better believe there would have been some kind of chocolate dessert on the table.

Men reading this might think I'm being unfair to this guy, given the fact that we're not living in the early to mid-1900s anymore, and that it's popular in today's society for women to seek equality in so many other ways. But while I respect a woman's right to be treated fairly and in the same way as men when it comes to certain things, I hope that no one ever forgets this: A woman is still a woman and a man is still a man, and happy and healthy romantic love has some dependence on gallantry. In other words, relationships thrive when men show that they can be gentlemen and women display a little bit of ladylike behavior.

Fortunately, I do think there are plenty of men out there who haven't forgotten how to be a gentleman; who still treat a woman courteously, attentively and adoringly. They hold doors for women, they take a woman's hand to cross the street, they bring her flowers every now and again. Because of that, I think gentlemen receive affection, warmth and loyalty from their women. After all, like my friend, most women are "dessert girls." We want to be treated deliciously.

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist for Chicago Tribune Media Group. She is also the creator of her divorce support website, Divorced Girl Smiling. Pilossoph lives in Chicago with her two children.
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NOTICE OF SALE
PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on October 12, 2018, an order was entered for the sale of the real estate described in the above complaint, located at 33 West Monroe Street, Chicago, Illinois 60603.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector at-

The property is vacant and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Property owners are admonished to check the court file to verify all information.

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND AVAILABILITY OF CDBG ACTION PLAN**

The Village of Skokie will be conducting a public hearing to receive citizen comments and approve the 1-Year Action Plan related to the Village's 5-Year Consolidated Plan for Federally-funded programs. The Consolidated Plan describes the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program administered by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The Consolidated Plan will address three statutory goals that principally benefit low/moderate-income residents:

1. Provide decent housing; assist homeless persons to obtain affordable housing, retain the affordable housing previously provided, and support assistance services for low-income and very low-income households, including the prevention of displacement, relocation, and harmful effects.
2. Provide a suitable living environment; improve the safety and livability of neighborhoods, increase access to vital community services and facilities, reduce the isolation of low/moderate-income groups by providing more housing opportunities and revitalizing neighborhoods and historic preservation districts, and improve access to transportation systems, roadside and service areas, and natural and cultural resources.
3. Foster self-sufficiency.

The proposed Action Plan for Fiscal Year 2020 (FY20) includes the following recommended activities:

- **Program Administration and Assessment of Fair Housing**
  - Home improvement Program ($500,000), owner-occupied home repair, low/middle-income households
  - Affordable housing initiatives ($540,000) activities for further affordable housing in Skokie. Projects may include property acquisition, rehab, and building improvements.

Street illustrating ($2,000) Resurfacing of State St between Gros Point and Skokie (IL).

- **CDBG**
  - Affordable Housing initiatives ($540,000) Activities for further affordable housing in Skokie. Projects may include property acquisition, rehab, and building improvements.

- **School Improvement**
  - City of Skokie, Rehabilitation and Public Improvements Program
  - Meetings of neighbors
  - Projects may include rehabilitation and replacement of siding, windows, gutters, etc.

For further information, please contact Carrie Haberschtz, AICP, Planner/CDBG Administrator, in writing at 5214 Church St. Skokie, IL 60076, or by phone at 847-877-2022.

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SERVES 8
PREP: UNDER 15 MIN
TOTAL: UNDER 30 MIN

INGREDIENTS
2 (10-ounce) cans HORMEL® Premium Chicken Breast or VALLEY FRESH® Chicken Breast, drained
2 (8-ounce) packages cream cheese, softened
1 cup ranch salad dressing
3/4 cup hot buffalo sauce
1 cup shredded Cheddar cheese
Crackers, tortilla chips, bread and celery sticks

DIRECTIONS
1. Heat oven to 400°F. In large bowl, combine cream cheese, dressing, hot sauce and shredded cheese until well blended. Gently stir in chicken.
2. Spoon dip into 2-quart casserole. Bake 20 minutes or until hot and bubbly. Serve with crackers, tortilla chips, bread and celery sticks for dipping.

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3 4 STEVIA OF FRUIT TASTE

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Lower Sugar Than Leading Brands

Lower Sugar Than Leading Brands

Lower Sugar Than Leading Brands

Bolthouse FARMS

Strawberry Banana Smoothie

Protein Plus Smoothie

Protein Plus Smoothie

Protein Plus Smoothie

3 4 STEVIA OF FRUIT TASTE

3 4 STEVIA OF FRUIT TASTE

3 4 STEVIA OF FRUIT TASTE

3 4 STEVIA OF FRUIT TASTE

Bolthouse FARMS

Strawberry Banana Smoothie

Protein Plus Smoothie

Protein Plus Smoothie

Protein Plus Smoothie

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Strawberry Banana Smoothie

Protein Plus Smoothie

Protein Plus Smoothie

Protein Plus Smoothie

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Cacique

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The Taste Your Family Loves with Honey Nut Cheerios cereal. The NEW! taste you love, now with the added fiber you need. Enjoy the taste you love, with benefits you can see and feel. The NEW! Taste Your Family Loves!

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2 for $5*
18 oz. Assorted varieties
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SALE Lipton®
$2.50 ea.
Iced Tea 1 Gallon Assorted varieties
Reg. $3 ea.

SALE PEPSI® OR MTN DEW®
$5.50 ea.
18-pk. cans
Assorted varieties
Must purchase 3 to get discount price.

SALE DORITOS® CHIPS
2 for $6*
9 oz. Assorted varieties
Reg. $3.35 ea.
Must purchase 2 to get discount price.

SALE TOSTITOS® DIPS
2 for $6*
8.5 - 16.5 oz. Assorted varieties
Reg. $3.75 ea.
Must purchase 2 to get discount price.

SALE AQUAFINA®
$4.50 ea.
16.9 oz. bottle 24-pk.

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SALE PEPSI® OR MTN DEW®
95¢** when you buy 3
2 Liters
Assorted varieties
Excludes MTN DEW® CODE RED® and MTN DEW® VOLTAGE®
Must purchase 3 to get discount price.

SALE TOSTITOS® DIPS
2 for $6*
8.5 oz. Assorted varieties
Reg. $3.75 ea.
Must purchase 2 to get discount price.

Sale Prices Effective January 27th - February 2nd
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"FOR DR. KING"

MASCOT SHRUBS PUS MAAN
ITALIA HOUSE LAW AMOS
RONALD REAGAN IRA PEAS
ELSA CLEVER MEANS HHAM
SILHAPPY THUNDERDAY
ASOF BEETS ELMS
DONATE AT AGE FEDERAL
I HAVE A HAT MEG STOLE
ASTFALL SEEDS KNOTS
NOODLES ILLS VASCAR
LINCOLN MEMORIAL
STAVED REAP SYLLA
ARE PATH COB DANS
NERFBALL CIVIL RIGHTS
GEOLOGY CHORAL BAND
JONCONVERS STEREO
OPC NAMED GLEN CHAP
LEAH CHA EDWARD DADE
ESTD VSL TOWEL CHEESE

"Musical Musings"

BRED BASES ALDA
LIME ALTAR CAEN
IF I WERE A RICHMAN
PET DREGS LIBRA
IN TUN
ITS ALL IN THE GAME
CHOSE MARIS GAL
ERLE POLES BORI
NET GOLDA CONCH
I WILL WAIT FOR YOU
LAS ARE
SPEAR ASTRO PSI
IREMEMBERITWELL
BOLA AARRAN ORAL
SASS LIBYA NEWS

Last week's Quote-Acrostic

PETER DRUCKER: TAKES TIME: Time is always in short supply. There is no substitute for time. Everything requires time. All work takes place in and uses up time. Yet most people do take for granted this unique and necessary source.

Last week's Sudoku

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

This week's Jumble

UNFAIR DOCTOR VANDAL
WISDOM OUTLET HEYDAY
The returning Scrabble champion guaranteed another victory by saying —

YOU HAVE MY WORD ON IT

chicago
tribune.com
/games
Interactive puzzles and games

21 Strong metal fastener
25 Wrath
26 Citrus fruits
27 Astaire's dancing sister
28 Lively Czech dance
29 Leaked out
30 Competed
31 Actor Cibrian
32 Second U.S. president
33 Lure; entice
35 Dogcatcher's danger
38 Timetable
39 Gofers' chores
41 Author Doyle's monogram
42 Wild feline
44 NASCAR cars
45 Ma or pa
47 Linear measure
48 Noisy bird
49 Honey factory
50 Tea
52 SMU or USC
53 Levee
54 Soft drink
55 Period of time
59 Strasbourg Sra.
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'Ma Rainey' reveals struggles of entertainers

August Wilson play comes to Writers Theatre

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

It's the 1920s and things aren't going well for blues singer Gertrude "Ma" Rainey and her band. It's apparent that the white owners of the studio where the band is recording are planning to take advantage of the singer and musicians. Rainey fights back in "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" by August Wilson Feb. 6 - March 17 at Writers Theatre in Glencoe.

Performances are 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays - Fridays, except Feb. 28 and March 7; 3 and 7:30 p.m. Saturdays, except there's no matinee Feb. 9; and 2 and 6 p.m. Sundays, except there's no evening performances on Feb. 10, March 3 and 17; plus 3 p.m. Feb. 27 and March 13.

Felicia P. Fields, who plays Ma Rainey, performed that role at Goodman Theatre in 1997. Fields laughingly noted that this performance will be different from her earlier one because "I'm a lot older now."

On a more serious note, Fields added, "A lot of the things that go on within the story are much more realistic to me; things that I can identify with better than I could then." She noted that performers still struggle to get their fair share.

The actor indicated that her character, who is based on a real person, was in a unique position for a woman of that time as the leader of a band comprised of men. "In order to do that, she is experience-wise, tough," Fields said. "She has so many levels. She is very family-oriented. She's a very complex person. She's constantly in a battle for being on top."

Fields added that the show subtly reveals that Ma Rainey was gay. "It's not full-fledged in-your-face," she said. "She was married yet she had that other side."

Fields said that like Ma Rainey, "I'm pretty tough myself. There are a lot of things that Ma says that I feel the same way about."

Vocally, Fields is well-prepared for the role because, when she's between shows, she often performs as a blues singer. "I'm more a blues person than a jazz person," she said.

Ron OJ Parson has directed numerous productions of plays by August Wilson. This is his fifth time directing "Ma Rainey's Black Bottom." Parson said he is drawn to Wilson's work by "the depth of character and the spiritual aspect in all of his plays and the reality of each script. It's always a joy to work with his work."

"The first time I directed it, I played Levee," Parson recalled. That character is the band's gifted trumpet player.

Parson first directed the show 25 years ago and, most recently, 10 years ago at Court Theatre. Each experience is unique, he said.

"I'm older than the last time I did the show. Things change in life that change the way you approach different aspects of the work," Parson said. "I work collaboratively with actors so they bring different things to it, especially if they've never done any August Wilson. They bring new approaches to certain characters."

"Ma Rainey's Black Bottom" is set in Chicago. Parson has made the location more specific, setting the show in a studio housed in a former abandoned church in the Bronzeville neighborhood.

"That added another element to it when there's talk about God," the director said.

Parson explained that he directs August Wilson's plays so often "because of the spirit that he had, and the spirit that I feel and try to bring to the work."
Live Podcast and Mutts Performance: Local music podcast Friskie Morris Sessions will record a special live episode in the Northbrook Public Library's Auditorium. The podcast will feature a live performance and interview with Chicago rock band, Mutts. Learn more or reserve a spot at: https://www.northbrook.info/live-podcast. 7 p.m. Thursday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224.

Three Ideas That Are Stirring Jim: Three “big ideas” to be explored, include: Fascist Backlash in the 21st Century, the Changing Cultural Role of Social Media and the Birth of the “Global Citizen.” 10 a.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $39 member, $49 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

Little Known Stories: From the sister of Jacqueline Kennedy to the man who married the last queen of Hawaii, from the American who became Queen Noor of Jordan to the girl who married a Prince of Russia — these are great, but little known stories of Americans who married into royalty: 1 p.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $12 member, $17 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

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

SAIC Art Exhibition at Fashion Outlets of Chicago - Fashion Outlets of Chicago is featuring the work of three Master of Design graduate students from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC), as part of THE COLLECTION: Where Art Meets Fashion. The three winning students, Alexia Roach, Nick Mashie and Shaly Guo, entered a university-wide competition and were selected to exhibit their artwork as part of THE COLLECTION's rotating exhibition series. 10 a.m. daily, Fashion Outlets of Chicago, 5220 Fashion Outlets Way, Rosemont, free, 847-957-4600.

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. - 3 p.m. and Sunday 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily, Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., free, 847-674-1500.
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, 847-724-3573.

Jewish Learning Institute Class - Crime and Consequence: Rabbi Meir Moscovitz of Lubavitch Chabad of Northbrook offers Crime and Consequence, a new six-session course by the Jewish Learning Institute exploring 3000 years of Jewish perspective on conviction, sentencing and criminal rehabilitation. Especially timely with the Prison reform debates. Three different sessions of six weekly classes to choose from: Sunday, Feb. 3 from 10 a.m.-11:30 a.m. or Tuesday, Feb. 5 from 7:30 p.m.-9 p.m. Both of these sessions meet at Chabad Northbrook – 2095 Landwehr Road, Northbrook. A third session starts on Thursday, Feb. 7 from noon to 1:30 p.m. and will meet at 555 Skokie Blvd., Northbrook. Register at the website or call 10 a.m. Sunday and 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Lubavitch Chabad of Northbrook, 2095 Landwehr Road, Northbrook, $100 CLE Credits are an additional $100, 847-504-8770.

Monday, Feb. 4

Become the Speaker and Leader You Were Meant to Be: Des Plaines Toastmasters 1645 meets monthly from 7-8:45 p.m. on the 1st and 3rd Mondays at Des Plaines Public Library. New members who want to develop public speaking and leadership skills are encouraged to visit as often as they want before deciding to join (new member fees, monthly dues apply). No prior speaking skill is required; new members are assigned a Mentor-coach to guide them; ESLs are welcome; and more details are available on Eventbrite link (tinyurl.com/1645Meetings). 7 p.m. Monday, Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St., Des Plaines, free, 847-823-1777.

Carbon Pricing 101: There's growing support for carbon pricing as a necessary step to address climate change. Learn why pricing is an effective policy for climate action; how pricing will speed a transition to renewable energy; how you can support a carbon pricing policy and more. Call to register. 1 p.m. Monday, Levy Senior Center, 300 Dodge Ave., Evanston, free, 847-448-8250.

Understanding Hospice and Palliative Care: This free workshop explains what hospice and palliative medicine are, the difference between the two and how they are used to manage care, pain and symptoms when dealing with a variety of illnesses and declining health. Free and open to the public, with registration required by calling or visiting NSYMCA.org. This is presented by JourneyCare’s Life Learning Advocate, Eileen Considine Boggins. 11:15 a.m. Monday, North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techy Road, Northbrook, free, 847-272-7250.

Tuesday, Feb. 5

Homework Help Center for Grades 1-8: High school volunteers to the homework rescue. There are thirty-minute sessions for homework, reading and math skills provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Children may be grouped by subject and grade level. Just drop in. 6 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Free Memory Screenings: Cecelia Thomas Izenman, MBA, LNHA, CDP, of Arden Courts Northbrook, provides confidential, individual memory screenings as part of the Alzheimer’s Foundation of America’s National Memory Screening Program. This is not a presentation but an individual 10-minute appointment. While the results are not a diagnosis, scoring below the normal threshold can signal that someone should follow up with a clinician for a full evaluation. Appointments are required by contacting Karen Brownlee at kbrownlee@NSYMCA.org. 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techy Road, Northbrook, free, 847-272-7250.

The Breakfast Club: Rise and shine and start your day off right with networking and breakfast. This is hosted by Park Ridge Chamber Ambassador Dave Donovan. Register at the event website or by contacting the Park Ridge Chamber office by calling. Enjoy breakfast at Lola’s Diner and bring your business cards for networking. 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, Lola’s Diner, 920 Busse Hwy., Park Ridge, $11 members; $15 prospective members, 847-825-3121.
JCC Chicago Community Wednesdays: Every Wednesday, join for a few hours of mind, body and spirit enrichment. They host two, one-hour lectures/classes throughout the day, along with their fitness class offerings at the Marvin Lustbader Center. So, choose how you want to spend your day at the J. 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Bernard Weinger JCC, 300 Revere Drive, Northbrook, free for Lustbader members; $10 nonmembers, 224-406-9257.

The Presidency of Harry Truman: Come to learn about Harry Truman. 10 a.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $24 member; $34 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

Caleb's Crossing by Geraldine Brooks: In 1665, a young man from Martha's Vineyard became the first Native American to graduate from Harvard College. Narrator Bethia Mayfield, a young girl growing up in the mid-1600s, meets Caleb, the son of a chieftain, and the two bond through friendship. Caleb eventually earns his Harvard degree while still honoring his native roots. 1 p.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $12 member, $17 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

Park Ridge Fly Tying Club Meetings: The Chicago Fly Fisher's Club meets at 7 p.m. Wednesdays, from mid-September through May. An experienced demonstrator does demonstrations of fly tying, with members tying the same pattern using tools and materials provided by the club. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Park Ridge Community Church, 100 S. Courtland Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-823-3164.

Skokie Synagogue Sisterhood Offers Lunch, Israeli Film: This is a fun afternoon of lunch and an Israeli movie, "The Band's Visit," which is a comedy but also a serious film about eight Egyptian musicians who comprise the Alexandria Ceremonial Police Orchestra. They arrive by mistake, in a small town in Israel's Negev Desert. Overcoming ethnic barriers, the Egyptians find diversion and companionship with the Israelis through a pervading undercurrent of shared melancholy. For reservations or for further information, contact the synagogue office or go the website. 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Ezra Habonim, Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4600 Dempster St., Skokie, $20 Sisterhood members; $25 nonmembers and at door, 847-675-4141.

Have an event to submit? Go to www.ChicagoTribune.com/Calendar.
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This list is not intended to be a complete record of all real estate transactions. Data compiled by Record Information Services • 630-557-1000 • public-record.com
D64 candidates call for improved communication

Election forum for Board of Education held at Shawarma Inn in Park Ridge

Y JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Improving communication between the school district and community was a common refrain among new candidates running for the Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 Board of Education as they took part in an election forum Jan. 27.

Hosted by parents of special education students, the two-and-a-half-hour forum was attended by first-time candidates Steve Blindauer, Sal Galati and Carol Sales, and incumbent Tom Sotos, who are running for three, four-year seats on the board, and Gareth Kennedy and Rebecca Little, who are running for one, two-year term.

Candidates Lisa Page and Denise Pearl, who are running for a four-year term, were not in attendance.

Communication and trust, particularly when it comes to the district's special education program, were referenced repeatedly by the new candidates over the course of the forum. Blindauer, Kennedy, Little and Sales each said they are parents of children with special education needs.

"Trust needs to be re-established," said Kennedy.

"Parents still feel like they are fighting for their children," added Little, calling for more training for teachers and additional support for students before they transition to their next school.

Last May, an audit conducted for District 64 by an outside consultant found that services offered to special education students had declined over the past two years, and that parents, teachers and staff had a "lack of trust in the district's administration."

Several months prior to the audit, parents had objected to a proposal from administration to have special education students begin middle school one year early — a plan that was scrapped after parents voiced their concerns and disapproval. Plans to bring police officers into the middle schools under a pilot program also rattled some parents of students with special needs.

A new director of special education was hired last summer, promising to improve student service and retrain staff in developing federally mandated plans for each student in the special education program.

Sales said the district should prioritize the best interest of students instead of a "hidden agenda."

"There's an adversarial relationship [with parents]," she said.

Sotos, the only incumbent on the school board seeking re-election, acknowledged that the district had "failed" in the area of special education.

"I will admit my fault was that I'm not in that world, so I didn't see it happening," he said. "When it came to us, it was almost too late to fix it immediately. The fix now is going to take a bit of time."

Due to the array of special needs, Galati said the district cannot try to solve every issue by implementing something "systematic."

"The potential for these students varies widely, so you can't set rigid goals saying, 'If they don't meet this, they have failed,'" he said.

Some of the new candidates were also critical of the current board of education.

Little, who said she has attended school board meetings as a journalist in the past, said there is "something uniquely dysfunctional" about the District 64 board in how it operates.

Meetings should be structured to include public comment at the very beginning and items important to the community should be addressed first, not "after an hour of extraneous things," she said.

"The board should be more responsive and less adversarial when people bring concerns," she added.

When a vote is taken or a decision is made, the topic should end, Little said.

"You can't be discussing it over and over again," she said.

Blindauer, a middle school teacher in Westchester District 92.5, said the board of education needs to better "connect" with the community and that listening to the community is "essential."

"The school board is the public's voice," he said. "It is your voice to be heard in public education."

Sales, an attorney, addressed the length of board meetings, saying, "It is hard to pay attention for five hours," and calling upon members to be better prepared.

"Preparation is key so we don't waste administrators' time asking questions over and over again and that we stay on task," she said.

Kennedy, a current member of the Park Ridge Public Library Board with a background in finance, said board members must be comfortable in order to move forward in making a decision as a board, and to do that, they must question administration, request research, and get answers.

"You need that 'bucket' of comfort full, and then you can cast that vote," he said.

Galati, who has a background in property insurance, said he felt board members were "spending too much time in the weeds" and disagreeing on topics, while not listening to the will of the residents.

Sotos said the board needs to represent a variety of groups, including residents without children in the school district.

"As a board member, you need to be a bridge and not a wall," he said. "You need to bridge all those groups together."

All of the school board candidates but Sotos said the board should not "micromanage" the district's superintendent. Sotos said sometimes it may be required.

"It all depend on who you have managing your district," he said.

The board is currently searching for a new superintendent following last month's announcement that Superintendent Laurie Heinz will be leaving District 64 in June to join Palatine District 15.

Each of the candidates said they have at least one child attending school in District 64, with the exception of Blindauer and Galati. Blindauer said his children attended District 64 schools and are now grown. Galati has a daughter who will begin school next year, he said.

The District 64 school board election is April 2.
East Maine District 63 earns accolades for efforts

Recognized for work with homeless students

BY MEGANN HORSTEAD
Pioneer Press

At East Maine School District 63, officials have turned to new state legislation to help ensure that students and their families remain in district, should they become homeless.

At its Jan. 10 school board meeting, District 63 was recognized by the North Cook Intermediate Service Center and Regional Office of Education as the first district in the state to put the new Illinois Education for Homeless Children Act into use.

Stipulations outlined in an August 2017 amendment to Illinois’ Education for Homeless Children Act allows that students whose families lose housing don’t have to leave their current public school mid-year, even if they perhaps leave district in pursuit of emergency shelter.

Public school districts are allowed, by law, to redirect transportation funds to a local continuum of care nonprofit agency, which allocates the dollars toward housing assistance, rent and security deposits to house students and their families within the district.

“Toward the families to get stable housing, so their kids can be close to their schools of origin and stay with their friends, teachers, and familiar faces,” said Shawn Schleizer, associate superintendent for East Maine School District 63.

In the past, officials said District 63 worked to help support homeless students and their families in different ways.

“Toward are some governmental funds we can use to support homeless families by helping with things, like supplies and winter coats,” Schleizer said.

Schleizer said that definitions of homelessness can vary and said sometimes it’s difficult to pinpoint when a family is homeless, but “our social workers are good at working with families, understanding their situations, and identifying families in transition, so we can provide some support to them.”

Schleizer gave credit to the district’s social workers for driving the effort to support homeless students and their families.

“They serve as the conduit oftentimes between the families and the continuum of care organizations,” he said. “They’ll help coordinate.”

Officials said the district — with support from the amendment — assisted two families to remain living close to their current schools. Officials said the state provides about $800,000 annually to cover the district’s transportation costs.

There is no differentiated fund to cover expenses for students who are homeless, leave the district and require transportation assistance to remain at their current schools. Officials said the initiative is made possible in partnership between District 63, Niles Family Services and Northwest Compass.

Schleizer said he hopes the law will drive more districts to follow suit in the effort to support homeless students and their families.

“Our mission is to provide a high-quality education to children, and part of that is caring for children, building relationships with families, students and teachers, allowing everyone to be a part of the school community,” Schleizer said.

“We support local families in different ways. I think we’ve been fairly successful in supporting not only our families, but the wide range of families that we have in the district.”

Megann Horstead is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Six Flags case spurs public win on data

ALLY MAROTTI
Chicago Tribune

The Illinois Supreme Court on Jan. 25 upheld consumers’ right to sue companies for collecting data like fingerprint or iris scans without telling them how it will be used—a ruling that could have widespread implications for tech giants like Facebook and Google.

The unanimous ruling came in a lawsuit filed against Six Flags Entertainment Corp. by the family of a teenager whose fingerprint data was collected in 2014 when he bought a season pass. The lawsuit alleged violation of the 2008 Illinois Biometric Information Privacy Act, which has gained attention as biometric data are increasingly used for tasks such as tagging photos on social media and clocking in at work.

The law requires companies collecting information such as facial, fingerprint and iris scans to obtain prior consent from consumers or employees, detailing how they’ll use the data and how long the records will be kept. It also allows private citizens to sue, while other states let only the attorney general bring a lawsuit.

The opinion, which overturns an appeals court ruling in favor of Six Flags, has the potential to affect biometrics lawsuits playing out in courtrooms across the country. Defendants in those cases, including Facebook, have argued that individuals shouldn’t have the right to sue if no real damage occurred after they handed over their biometric information. But the state Supreme Court ruled that violation of the law is damage enough.

“This is no mere ‘technicality,’” as the appellate court suggested, Chief Justice Lloyd Karmeier wrote in the opinion. “The injury is real and significant.”

Stacy Rosenbach’s son, then 14, was at Six Flags on a school field trip in 2014 when he scanned his thumb into the amusement park’s biometric data capture system, according to court documents.

Neither Rosenbach nor her son was informed in writing why the thumbprint had been collected or how long it would be stored.

On behalf of her son, Rosenbach sued Six Flags in 2016 in Lake County Circuit Court, alleging a breach of Illinois’ biometrics law. Six Flags argued that since the teen had suffered no actual damages—such as a stolen identity or some monetary loss—there were no grounds to sue. An appellate court ruled in Six Flag’s favor in December 2017.

That argument has been used in several biometric privacy cases, including one filed against Facebook in Illinois in 2015 alleging the social media giant’s photo tagging feature violated the law.

The case was moved to federal court in San Francisco, where a judge ruled last year that an alleged invasion of privacy was injury enough to allow users to sue. Facebook is appealing that decision.

The Jan. 25 Illinois Supreme Court ruling underscores the earlier federal court decision.

The Illinois law is one of the strictest in the nation and has turned the state into a hotbed of lawsuits over alleged misuses of biometric data. Privacy experts say protecting that type of information is critical because, unlike a credit card or bank account number, it’s permanent.

Besides Facebook, companies across a wide range of industries—from other tech giants such as Google, Snapchat and Shutterfly to Chicago-based United Airlines, grocery company Roundy’s and InterContinental Hotels’ Kimpton chain—have faced allegations in Illinois involving improper use of biometrics.

Even before the public became more aware of their online privacy following Facebook’s Cambridge Analytics scandal last year, companies were altering their behavior in Illinois, likely to adhere to the law.

Nest, a maker of smart thermostats and doorbells, sells a doorbell with a camera that can recognize visitors by their faces.

However, Nest, owned by Google parent Alphabet, does not offer that feature in Illinois because of the biometrics law. Google’s Arts & Culture app rolled out a new feature in late 2017 that matched users’ uploaded selfies with portraits or faces depicted in works of art, but it wasn’t available in Illinois, likely due to the state’s biometrics law.

Family Night offers games, magic, rabbits and more

BY MEGANN HORSTEAD
Pioneer Press

The Morton Grove Park District is looking to do its part to bring out the kid in everyone when it hosts its annual Family Night on Feb. 1.

The event starts at 6:30 p.m. at the Prairie View Community Center in Morton Grove.

"It's a place for all the families in the neighborhood to have a place to go, especially in the winter time on a Friday night, to have something to do," said Mary Mucci, recreation supervisor for the park district. "It's indoors. There's not much to do outside with all the snow. It's something different than going to the movies or going bowling.

Attendees will be able to take part in, among other activities, crafts, board games and sports fun.

Officials have invited the KidzMagic by Andrew magic show to take the stage.

"What got me interested is he's bringing live rabbits," Mucci said. "I think that would be nice for the kids who stay. After the show, the kids can play with his rabbits... They're very friendly."

Last year, about 50 people took part in Family Night, officials said.

The event has already drawn people to register, Mucci said. The park district hopes to draw 80 people for the event. There will be a play area set up for younger children. Also at the event, the gym is expected to be available for older children.

The cost is $3 to participate.

Officials encourage those interested in attending to register in advance. For information, visit mortongroveparks.com.

Megann Horstead is a freelance reporter.
THE SHOWSTOPPERS

Ford and Cadillac SUVs plus a Toyota sports car star at Detroit auto exhibition

Associated Press

DETROIT — Redesigned SUVs, and the return of some legendary sports cars headlined the 2020 models launched at the North American International Auto Show in Detroit this year.

This year’s show takes place in January for the final time. In 2020, it switches to June to escape the cold weather and show off more products outside, including autonomous vehicles.

Here are the big unveilings coming to dealers nationwide later this year:

Ford Mustang Shelby GT500

The 2020 fastback Shelby GT500 gets a supercharged 5.2-liter V8 engine with a whopping 700 horsepower. The most powerful street-legal Ford ever built can go from zero to 60 mph in around 3.5 seconds, with a quarter-mile time below 11 seconds, according to the company. It has a seven-speed automatic transmission that Ford says shifts faster than any manual gearbox. Ford said it transferred aerodynamic and chassis technology from the Ford GT and Mustang GT4 racing cars to improve the handling. The GT500 arrives in showrooms this summer. It will start at $49,990.

Volkswagen Passat

Rather than exiting the sinking U.S. midsize sedan business like two of its Detroit competitors, Volkswagen is staying in by updating the Passat for 2020. But it’s not spending huge dollars developing a new chassis or replacing engines and transmissions. VW did give the car new sheet metal (except for the roof) to make it look sportier and tweaked the existing 1.8-liter turbocharged 2-liter turbocharged engine. It also revamped the electrical system to handle more advanced driver assist features such as standard automatic emergency braking and blind spot detection. Pricing for the new Passat will be announced nearer to when it arrives in dealerships in mid- to late summer. VW is trying to keep it close to the current base of $25,295 excluding shipping.

Cadillac XT6

The marketing folks at General Motors’ Cadillac brand are hoping the new XT6 big SUV will carve out a niche in the crowded market for utilities with three rows of seats but aren’t so huge they’re considered trucks, such as the Escalade full-size SUV. The six- to seven-passenger XT6 has a chiseled Caddy look and unique premium luxury materials to set it apart, but it’s going against well-appointed luxury versions of the Chevrolet Traverse, GMC Acadia and Buick Enclave, as well as entries from BMW, Audi and other automakers. It’s also got the same engine as the other brands, a 3.6-liter V6 that puts out 310 horsepower, and a nine-speed automatic transmission. Price and mileage will be announced nearer to the summer release date.

Ford Explorer

Last reworked for the 2011 model year, the best-selling three-row SUV gets a top-to-bottom update that includes a switch from front- to rear-wheel-drive, as well as updated engines, a new 10-speed transmission and some nice standard safety features. Added to the lineup are a hybrid and 400-horsepower ST sport variant. The SUV’s appearance doesn’t change much, but the roof line does slope more from front to back. Ford also added more interior space and second-row seats that tip and slide forward with the touch of a button. The base engine is an updated 3.5-liter V6 hybrid system with up to 500 miles of driving range. The base price will rise $400 from the current $32,365 excluding shipping. Ford economy wasn’t announced. The Chicago-built Explorer goes on sale in the summer.

Kia Telluride

The largest Kia ever provides seating up to eight and is powered by a 291-horsepower 3.3-liter V-6 engine with eight-speed transmission in all-wheel drive. Loaded with advanced technology and upscale interior finishes, Kia’s flagship SUV boasts off-road capable elements such as skid plates, self-leveling suspension and on-demand all-wheel drive to distribute torque between front and rear wheels. Kia says its capable of towing 6,000 pounds. Pricing and fuel economy will be announced later this year.

Chicago Tribune autos editor Robert Duffer contributed.
Kohler, Caroline B. and Otto M., Jr.

Caroline "Connie" B. Kohler of Park Ridge, Illinois, passed away on Saturday, November 10, 2018 at the age of 92. Connie was the beloved wife of Otto Kohler and is survived by her dear sister Barbara (Jack) Bobeng and was preceded by her brothers Paul (Jo) and Thomas (Ginny) Brehm. Connie, a member of Phi Beta Kappa and a Bronze Tablet graduate of the University of Illinois, grew up in Villa Park, Illinois. She was the daughter of Thomas Archibald Brehm and Fannie Maude Whallon Brehm.

Otto M. Kohler, Jr. of Park Ridge, Illinois, passed away on Thursday, December 13, 2018 at the age of 92. Otto was the devoted husband of Connie Kohler and was preceded by his sister Marlon Cline and brothers Larry and Jack Kohler. Otto, also a graduate of the University of Illinois, grew up in Wheaton, Illinois, served in the US Navy in WWII and for 40 years was Department Chairman of Social Science at Maine Township High Schools. He was the son of Otto M., Sr. and Alice Palm Kohler.

Connie and Otto are survived by and were the loving parents of Charles (Karen) and John (Patricia) Kohler and the proud grandparents of Ti, Ainsley, Danny, Hunter and Kaley Kohler.

Together 67 years, apart 33 days, together again, forever.


Rink, Dr. Edward J.

Neenah, WI - Dr. Edward "Ed" Rink passed away on Friday, January 18, 2019 at the age of 93. Ed was born and raised, by Edward and Stella Rink, on Crystal St. in Humboldt Park, Chicago. The day he graduated from Crane Tech High School he enlisted in the Army. Ed was identified as academically talented and placed in the Army Specialized Training Program in Niagara Falls. WWII was heating up and more infantry men were needed in Europe, so the program was shut down and Ed was sent on the USS Washington to begin his time in the 104th Infantry Division also known as the Timberwolf Night Fighters. Ed had the great honor of going on a Hero Flight to Washington D.C. a few years back. He was also featured as a Hometown Hero: Edward Rink wearagainbay.com.

Upon his return from the WW2 while working at AM Castle, Inc. in Chicago he met a young secretary named Loretta. Ed and Loretta married on June 5, 1948 and were married for 70 years. While Ed was the regimented soldier to Loretta's free spirit, they shared quite a love for one another and created a large, beautiful family together.

Ed worked many interesting part time jobs while putting himself through Loyola University and Loyola Dental School. The family enjoyed his many stories of being a waiter at the Conrad Hilton in Chicago, an attendant at Cook County Hospital and a wire inspector at Admiral Corporation. After getting his BS in biology/chemistry and with encouragement from his family dentist he went on to graduate from Loyola Dental School in 1955. Ed ran his own private practice in Niles, IL for 50 years and retired at the age of 80. He very much enjoyed hearing about the lives of his patients, their children and even took care of their grandchildren.

Ed and Loretta had such fun with many of their close friends through the years particularly the "Dirty Dozen". He looked forward to his Rotary meetings and enjoyed his weekly lunches with fellow colleagues. Ed had his pilot's license, was an avid gardener and cook. His morning smoothies were legendary. Ed loved the goings on of his 11 grandchildren. He was so very proud of his kids and grandkids.

Ed is survived by his loving wife, Loretta and three children: Gayle (Pete) Kindschuh, Ed (Sharon) Rink, Chris (Kristen) Rink; 11 grandchildren; Jeff (Salena) Kindschuh, Sarah (Nate) Kindschuh-Gill, Mary Kathleen Kindschuh, Hillary Kindschuh, Alexander Rink, Collin Rink, Stephanie Rink, Cameron Rink, Derek Rink, Nicholas Rink and Annie Rink; brother in law: Richard Rozyczki whom he was friends with since the age of 12; niece/nephew: Laurie(Doug) Switzer, Rick Rozyczki. Ed was preceded in death by his parents Edward and Stella Rink and sister Dorothy Rozyczki.

Ed will be inurned at Arlington National Cemetery, Arlington, VA this spring. In lieu of flowers and donations a note of hello for Loretta, better known as "Grandma Rink", would be enjoyed. Mrs. Loretta Rink Island Shores Retirement Center 131E. North Water St. Neenah, WI 54956 Online Condolences may be offered at www.tribuneral.com. Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries.
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BOYS BASKETBALL NOTES

Niles North finds its form by toppling GBS

BY DAN SHALIN
Pioneer Press

With a roster featuring returning players, transfers and newcomers, the Niles North boys basketball team spent the first six weeks of the season learning to play together.

The Vikings were 8-5 at the turn of the year, but they have won eight of their last nine games. On Friday, Niles North outlasted Glenbrook South 73-63 in overtime in Skokie.

When the teams last met in December, the Vikings (16-6, 4-3 Central Suburban South) lost to the Titans (16-6, 3-4) by 11.

"We're meshing," Vikings coach Glenn Olson said. "We're getting more consistent. There is that trust factor, where I trust them, and they trust each other, and that's really important. That's the biggest thing that has been gained."

Perimeter points: Senior guard Omar Policape scored 21 points against Glenbrook South, including going five for nine from 3-point range. The Vikings hit 10 of 20 from 3-point area.

The 6-foot-2 Policape had a bit of a rough shooting stretch earlier in the season, but he's averaging nearly 16 points per game in his last eight contests, according to Olson.

"My teammates kept that confidence in me, and I kept taking shots I know I have to take, and they are falling now," said Policape, who lives in Skokie.

As a junior on a veteran Niles North team, Policape was a designated shooter off the bench. Now, he is one of the team's main scoring threats, and that has taken some getting used to.

"This is (Policape's) first time being in the role where we need him to shoot well," Olson said. "With that, you can put a little more pressure on yourself."

"But (it helped) him to go through a tough stretch and realize we're still going to keep passing him the ball, that we still trust him and still believe in him. He's got the green light, and the kids are good at finding him."

Energetic Vikings: Niles North senior guard Robert Milam-Pryor just finished five points through three quarters, but he hit a big 3-pointer in the fourth, and then scored nine points in overtime.

"He has such great energy," Olson said of Milam-Pryor, who finished with 16 points. "When he's energetic, we feed off of him. He's a really good shooter."

Junior guard Aquan Smart added 13 points and six rebounds for the Vikings.

Dominant Dom: Glenbrook South junior forward Dom Martinelli turned in another memorable performance, going 11-for-12 from the field and finishing with 30 points against the Vikings. He added five rebounds.

However, Titans coach Phil Ralston said his team also missed a few chances to feed their crafty post player, especially when Martinelli was being guarded by Niles North's 5-10 sophomore guard Elijah Bull.

"It's kind of funny to say this, but there were a couple times we thought we could get him the ball, but we just didn't do a good enough job in the first half," Ralston said. "There was a big mismatch, but we couldn't seem to find him to get him the ball and finish inside."

Mac and McMahan: Titans senior guard Mac Hubbard scored 15 points and made three of five 3-pointers. Hubbard is averaging about seven points per game.

"My teammates have been trusting me lately, setting me up with plays, putting me in position to score," Hubbard said. "When I get the ball, it's my job to do what I do and just shoot it."

Senior guard Jimmy McMahan added 11 points and also made three 3-pointers.

Evanston's Blake Peters (15) guards Maine South's Dan Crane (23) on Friday.

Peters once again sinks Maine South with shooting

BY MARK PERLMAN
Pioneer Press

During halftime of Evanston's 68-45 Central Suburban South victory Friday night at Maine South, there was a shooting contest from midcourt with upwards of 20 participants. Try as they might, no one could make the long-distance shot.

Maybe someone should have asked Evanston sophomore Blake Peters to hoist one up. He hit practically everything else in the game, as he made nine of 13 3-point attempts to tie a 17-year-old program record for most 3-point field goals in a game.

Scott Horne also made nine 3-pointers for the Wildkits against Niles West in 2001.

"I was really focused this morning and felt locked in," Peters said. "I got to my spots, and my teammates kept finding me."

Peters said that finding his rhythm the morning of a game is critical for him.

"I have a shooting routine that lasts for about an hour to an hour and one half," Peters said. "I'm constantly working on it. And when I feel it, I just feel it."

Peters had a chance to break the Evanston record midway through the final quarter, but he was fouled on his last 3-point attempt. He promptly stepped to the free throw line and netted points number 28, 29 and 30, and then he was taken out.

"He was in a rhythm," Evanston coach Mike Ellis said with a smile. "That was one of the best shooting performances I've seen. He works so hard at it."

Peters lauded the play of his guards who kept finding his open spots, as did Ellis in mentioning seniors Jaheim Holden, Ryan Bost and Lance Jones.

"We like to feed (Peters) when he gets the hot hand," said Holden, who had a game-high six assists. "When he hit that second one, we said, 'Let's give him the ball.' And then he hit the fourth one and we just kept looking for him."

The Hawks were left shaking their heads. Last season against Evanston, Peters made a name for himself by sinking a three-quarter-court shot at the buzzer to defeat the Hawks.

When asked about Peters' shooting prowess, Maine South senior guard Fillip Bulatovic said, "That's just crazy." "Shooting success: It was more than just Peters raining 3s, as the Wildkits (19-4, 6-1) had 14 in all. Bost sank three as part of his 13 points.

Leading 35-23 at halftime, Evanston scored the first seven points of the second half to seal the end of any comeback hopes for Maine South (14-9, 2-5). Jones scored two buckets, and Peters swished a 3-pointer from the top of the key in the surge.

Helping Hawks: Maine South coach Tony Lavorato pointed to the play of senior Dan Crane, who had a team-high 18 points, as well as the play of Bulatovic as highlights.

Bulatovic displayed his all-around game with 14 points, five rebounds, two assists and a blocked shot.

"We're asking more from him this year," Lavorato said. "He's one of our two go-to guys (with Crane). Besides putting up double digits working inside and out, he rebounds and plays good defense."

"I'm a lot more versatile this year," Bulatovic added. "I'm more confident about stepping up and making a big shot if we need it. Doing a number of different things helps me showcase what I can do with colleges taking a look."

Bulatovic said that he has been in contact with Division II and Division III college programs.

Mark Perlman is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
New NIU football coaches reach out to local high schools

BY BOB NARANG
Pioneer Press

Nazareth senior Michael Love received some unexpected guests for Friday's home basketball game against Chicago Hope Academy.

Right before tip-off, Northern Illinois football coach Thomas Hammock walked into the building with four of his assistant coaches. Love, a do-it-all playmaker on Nazareth's Class 7A state championship team and the 2018 Pioneer Press All-Area Football Player of the Year, was excited and seemed excited about running the football program.

Although Hammock starred at Northern Illinois he rushed for 1,000 yards in back-to-back seasons from 2000-01 - and was an assistant at Minnesota and Wisconsin, most Chicago high school coaches had limited contact with him before he accepted the NIU job. Hammock coached the running backs the last five years for the Baltimore Ravens.

Loyola coach John Holecek, who played eight years in the NFL, recalled meeting Hammock once when he coached at Minnesota. Holecek came away impressed with Hammock during his visit to Loyola on Friday. Former Loyola star Ben LeRoy is a junior defensive tackle for the Huskies.

"He's extremely active right now, making sure Northern Illinois is on everyone's radar," Holecek said. "He wants to recruit Illinois first. He's telling all the high school coaches he will be out a lot and going to be around. He's trying to meet everyone. I was extremely impressed. He said, 'Our success depends on Illinois players.' He's a warm, gregarious guy and invited all the coaches to NIU's spring game."

Maine South coach Dave Inserra also met Hammock for the first time on Friday. Inserra, who won four Class 8A state championships from 2008-16, currently has three alumni on NIU's roster.

Inserra said Hammock might have to weather an adjustment period while learning to evaluate high school players.

"He's a positive and energetic guy," Inserra said. "He knows the DeKalb area from his playing and coaching days. He just has to get used to looking at high school kids as opposed to professional athletes. I've heard from my (former) players at professional athletes. He's funny and motivating. He's very engaging. I'm excited."

Fenwick coach Gene Nudo met Northern Illinois offensive coordinator Eric Eidsness on Thursday. Nudo jokingly tossed out a couple of possible catch phrases for NIU's new staff.

"We're going to try and build on our relationship (with NIU)," Nudo said. "We have some guys that potentially could go there in the next few years. Let's face it, if you are going to win in DeKalb, you have to win (by recruiting) in Chicago. You have to recruit the state of Chicago."

Barrington coach Joe Sanchez said Hammock and his staff have sent out a positive message by hitting the road to visit numerous high school coaches so quickly.

"I'm already impressed because their coaches already met us and other schools," he said. "My biggest hope is for them to continue their very strong relationship with the state. NIU has done a great job of recruiting the state of Illinois and trying to get the best players to go to NIU."

New Trier coach Brian Doll talks frequently with Northwestern coach Pat Fitzgerald. Doll said he hopes Hammock will enhance NIU's solid reputation for building relationships with Chicago-area high school coaches.

"I've heard very positive things about Coach Hammock and his style and how he treats people, but I just haven't come across him in my football career," Doll said. "(NIU) has been so good at having a presence in our building, year in and year out. That's critical to build a relationship."

Vernon Hills coach Bill Bellecomo said he received an email from a member of NIU's coaching staff early in the week about visiting his school.

"Northern Illinois really knows this is the area for them to recruit," he said. "I thought them sending out an email was pretty neat that early. That showed they are ready to rock and roll."

Bob Narang is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @Pioneer_Press
Maine South's Anderson sisters shine on the court and in swimming pool

BY BOB NARANG
Pioneer Press

Senior guard Nina Anderson is putting up some solid numbers in her final season with the Illinois Wesleyan women's basketball team.

The Maine South alumna started nine games over the last two seasons before becoming a fixture in the starting lineup as a senior. She's averaging 7.7 points, 2.7 rebounds, 1.2 assists and 0.3 blocks for the Titans.

Illinois Wesleyan, which is ranked No. 13 in Division III, has won 16 of its first 19 games. Anderson said she's enjoying being a key contributor.

"This season has been going great," Anderson said. "We lost two of our leading scorers after last season, so we knew this year we would need to be focused on growing and finding ways to replace that scoring. We have definitely done that, and we continue to emphasize our defense."

The 5-foot-10 Anderson said she has focused on improving her 3-point shooting throughout her career. As a freshman, she made 11 3s, then 33 in her sophomore season before shooting 43-of-98 last season. This season, Anderson has made 22 3s already.

"My 3-point success has a lot to do with the people in my life that continuously have worked with me through the years," Anderson said. "My dad has been the biggest part of my athletic career. He's always encouraging and pushing me to put in extra work and always be the first person to go outside or head to the gym with me to shoot."

"Both of my parents are very motivational and have helped me stay positive and confident throughout my athletic career."

Anderson said the highlight of her season occurred when the Titans defeated then-No. 9 DePauw (Ind.) on Nov. 24. Anderson made two 3s to finish with 14 points.

Sister swimmer: The Anderson family has another daughter to cheer for. Cassie Anderson, also a Maine South graduate, is a junior on the Peppermill swimming team.

Cassie Anderson competed in all nine meets last season and recorded the team's third-best time in the 50-yard backstroke (28.87 seconds). Anderson is already in the top 10 in program history for the fastest time in the 100 backstroke.

"After my race, I didn't get the chance to see my time on the scoreboard because it wasn't working," Cassie Anderson said. "But I felt so tired and did not think I could swim well. Once I went to go see my coach, he told me my time was in the top 10 for Peppermill 100 backstroke, and I was shocked."

"I honestly did not think my time was going to be anywhere near my personal best or make it into the top 10, but I was so excited and proud of myself because all the hard work I was putting in at practices finally was paying off."

Anderson said her remaining goals for the season are to break her personal record in the 100 back, 200 back and 50 back as part of the 200 medley relay.

Charger leading Trojans: Former St. Joseph star center Nick Rakovic continues to be a big factor in USC's solid start to the season.

The 6-11 junior has started 19 of USC's first 20 games and is averaging 15.8 points, a team-high 9.8 rebounds and 1.8 blocks. He is shooting 55 percent from the field.

He scored 27 points and pulled down 12 rebounds in 35 minutes in an 80-57 win against Cal State-Bakersfield on Nov. 2.

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Skokie...Brand New Listing! Original owners True Pride & Joy; Well Maintained. Solid brick English style Cape Cod with 4 Bedrooms & 2 full Baths. Full bath on 1st floor and second floor. Full basement with great finished Family room 21'x15' + 12'x7' "L", large Laundry room and Mechanical/Workshop room + Superb closet/storage space. Recent custom front and rear entry doors. Spacious rear yard with Flagstone patio. Roof approximately 11-12 years old. Exceptional School District 73.5 Middleton & Mc Cracken & Niles North H.S. District 219! Can't beat this Convenient to everything Location! $279,000

GET THE MOST FOR YOUR MONEY!
Morton Grove...In this Spectacular 7 room brick Bi-Level in Popular School District #70; only 4 blocks to Park View School. Sparkling clean + numerous updates all New in 2018: New Anderson windows; New Hot Water heater; New entry door & 2 screen doors; New vinyl floor in Family Room; New Kohler SS sink faucet & New SS wall oven & range hood in eat-in kitchen; 2 New bathroom faucets; 2018; New garage door & opener 2018.; Roof only 10 years old. Newly painted thruout 8/2018. 2½ car garage. Quality construction, Superb Location & Move In Condition! Near forest preserve, walking/bike/bridle trails! $325,000

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

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