‘Homeless experience’
Oakton college students sleep on campus courtyard overnight.

Sargon Dinkha, of Skokie, was with a group of students at Oakton Community College who slept outdoors overnight March 7 on the college's campus as a part of a sociology class project to experience homelessness.

‘Appealing to all ages across society’
“In L-O-V-E with Nat King Cole” celebrates the singer’s career. Page B13

Libertyville grad has famous fan in family
Sophomore Claire Keefe starts to carve out her own legacy at DePauw. Page 30

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Jeff Curry, Niles Chamber of Commerce president

Jeff Curry has been an insurance agent for almost 19 years, where he sells personal and commercial lines. He is in his second year as the Niles Chamber of Commerce president.

Q: How has the business changed over these nearly 20 years?
A: Auto insurance has become one of the top products you see advertised, so you have more competition. Technology obviously has had a huge impact on the underwriting side and the way my office and State Farm does its business. We are at the point now where we text through our phone lines to meet our customers’ needs, and many times that is far more effective than calling somebody.

Q: From a business standpoint, what do you like about Niles?
A: Niles is a nice, smaller community where people know each other and is business friendly. For me, one of its greatest strengths is its location. It is conveniently located between all three major tollways, and it is close to the city of Chicago. It is easy for me to get to if my clients are in the Loop, they are up near Gurnee.

Q: Are there changes you would like to see in Niles in terms of residential and business development?
A: I think Niles in general is trying to make changes in terms of passing some new zoning laws that will allow people to build second additions on their homes. A lot of Niles homes were built in the 1950s, and they are raised ranch or Chicago bungalow-style homes. In an interest to try and attract residents, they are making changes that way. But Niles values businesses because they know that keeps the tax rate down for their residents. I have seen Niles change a lot through the years, and it continues to go in the right direction and evolve. I'd like to see some changes on Milwaukee Avenue and make it more business-friendly for people to walk up and down and shop the various businesses.

—Daniel I. Dorfman, freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Oakton college students learn about homelessness

Students sleep on campus courtyard to feel what homeless people endure every night

BY DANIEL I. DORFMAN
Pioneer Press

Andrew Duback and approximately 20 of his fellow students at Oakton Community College got a firsthand feel for what some homeless people face every night when they slept outdoors overnight March 7.

"There is always someone who needs help," said Duback, who is also president of Oakton's chapter of Habitat for Humanity. "I want them to learn that this is a brutal thing that we should eliminate."

Students enrolled in a sociology course at Oakton's Des Plaines campus set up cardboard boxes in the courtyard there, which served as their living quarters overnight as they braced against the cold temperatures.

"I insist on service learning in all my classes," sociology instructor Cheryl Thayer said. "I don't want them to go out and do things, I want them to develop a different skill, which is empathy, and you can't empathize unless you understand what people are going through."

Additionally, students involved with Oakton's Habitat for Humanity chapter and Student Services participated in the "Urban Homeless Experience," as the event is called. Thayer said she had explained to students who signed up for her class this semester that it would be part of the course work. She subsequently selected a March day.

"I wanted a date when it wasn't too cold or wasn't too warm," she said.

Thayer, who has taught at Oakton for roughly 15 years, spoke of the overall goal of the night on the concrete.

"There are people in our community who need help, and we have to understand that they are there and they may be invisible to us, but they still need help. Also we are raised in a community and in order to give back to a community there is service learning," she said. "If communities raise us, it is incumbent on us to also give back."

The event was scheduled from the evening of March 6 to the morning of March 8. Students were set up to sleep outside overnight March 7.

Participating students gathered in a room inside the college building, received instructions from Thayer, then headed outside to the cardboard shanties where they would bed down for the night—with temperatures still in the 20s.

A little more than three hours later, as the thermometer posted a 19-degree reading, Thayer invited them to come back inside where they checked their phones, played chess or grabbed one of the many peanut butter-and-jelly sandwiches provided by Thayer.

The task of what the homeless face on a nightly basis was sinking in for the college students.

"It's cold," said Justin Limardo, who lives in Park Ridge. "You get your first hour in and think everything is going to be all right but as the cold starts seeping in—and it goes from the outside in...your toes are the first one to go if your fingers are not terribly insulated. Then it is your arms and your chest."

Limardo said he wore three layers.

"You see the homeless walking around the middle of the night but you don't think about it until it is you," Limardo said. "That is what drove me to this experience."

Fellow student Adrian Brown echoed that sentiment.

"I felt this was a good way for me to get a new look at things and put myself in the shoes of something I don't see every day. It is another experience that I can talk about in the future," Brown said.

Brown also spoke of the benefits of the box he made for himself.

"Now I understand the true meaning of how the box helps people," he said. "I didn't really understand how warm a box truly can be when that is all you had at the moment. It was actually pretty warm and we built it to be like that because we needed it to be like that."

After the reprieve, Thayer told the students it was time to head back outside for the night—though she gave them the option to stay inside.

Thayer said all the students stayed out all night.

"I think they did get something out of it besides staying cold," Thayer said. "They could empathize with the homeless."

She said the students would follow up the reality experience by writing papers, including ones focused on offering a solution to easing the problem of homelessness.

"They are the next generation," Thayer said about the students. "And they are going to be the ones that go to school and move into the positions that are going to make the decisions about solving it (homelessness)."

Daniel I. Dorfman is a freelance reporter.

Sandra Kroschel, of Park Ridge, was with a group of students at Oakton Community College who slept outdoors overnight on the campus March 7 as a part of a sociology class project to experience homelessness.

David Kowalkowski, of Chicago, was with a group of students at Oakton Community College who slept outdoors March 7. The temperature was still in the 20s when they headed to their cardboard shanties. The exercise was meant to increase empathy for the homeless.
Delmon Medical College gets OK for classes in Lincolnwood

BY PHIL ROCKROHR
Pioneer Press

Delmon Medical College plans to begin offering classes at the Center for Renal Replacement in Lincolnwood on April 1, College President Richard Delvalle said March 8.

The college, approved by the Village Board on March 5, will open with dialysis technician courses on April 1 and plans to offer training for medical assistants and certified nursing assistants early next year, Delvalle said.

By then, Delmon will also likely offer English as a Second Language courses, he said. An open house for those ESL classes is scheduled for March 13 and March 14 at the college, which will share space with the Center for Renal Replacement at 7301 Lincoln Ave., Delvalle said.

The Village Board approved an ordinance allowing the college to operate in the Center for Renal Replacement and in another 3,400 square feet of office space that is currently vacant. Delmon will not utilize that space until needed, Delvalle said.

“We're anticipating with the growth of students we would be willing to build out and expand the school,” Delvalle said.

The second space would include three classrooms, a reception area, offices and a cafeteria, Lincolnwood Community Development Manager Doug Hammel said. The cafeteria would contain only vending machines and tables for eating, Delvalle said.

Delmon chose to operate with the CRR, a dialysis center, because many dialysis technicians finish their training without externships to prepare them properly for certification, he said.

“They have only academic knowledge,” Delvalle said. “Delmon decided to create a real hands-on college. We created a lab that has functioning dialysis machines for student training only.”

Delmon will occupy 1,400 square feet of the CRR, Hammel told the Plan Commission in February.

The college will operate an office, classroom, resource center and dialysis lab there, Hammel said.

Training for dialysis technicians and medical assistants lasts about 40 weeks, he said. When all four programs are up and running, about 60 students at a time would take courses on a staggered schedule, Delvalle said.

Dialysis technician courses will contain no more than eight students per instructor, he said. Classes for medical assistants and certified nursing assistants will enroll no more than 15 students per instructor, Delvalle said.

The school will teach up to 20 students per ESL instructor, he said.

The college will increase on-site parking at 7301 Lincoln by 13 spaces, bringing the total number of required spaces for the building's multiple uses to 235, Hammel said. About 265 parking spaces are available there, he said.

The Plan Commission approved the proposal by a vote of 4-0 on Feb. 21. Trustees approved the plan as part of their consent agenda by a vote of 5-0 on March 5, with Trustee Georjean Hlepas Nickell absent.

Phil Rockrohr is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
‘It showcases Morton Grove’

Taste fundraiser draws hundreds

By Karie Angell Luc

The Taste of Morton Grove on March 7 satisfied hungry palates via 25 restaurants and food providers, along with a wine-tasting connoisseur.

The event at White Eagle Events & Convention Center in Niles drew an estimated 800 people to the 31st annual fundraiser to benefit the Morton Grove Foundation.

“It showcases Morton Grove, and it showcases the diversity,” said Dan DiMaria, Morton Grove village president.

Terry Liston, the event chairman, said the Taste was, “a testament to the character of who we are.”

“I’ve lived here my whole life, and my family has had five generations of living in Morton Grove and being a part of a welcoming community,” she said. “It is home.”

Officials said the Morton Grove Foundation assisted 23 beneficiaries this year with volunteer support helping to make that possible. Officials reported a net profit of about $75,000 for the Taste.

“Morton Grove is a great community, and I want to give back to the community,” said Brad Voehringr, superintendent of Morton Grove School District 70 and former superintendent of Pennoyer School District 79 in Norridge.

“This is such a nice event that I volunteered to be part of the committee this year,” said Voehringr, who wore tuxedo formal wear and staffed a raffle ticket table.

Providers that Thursday evening donated their food and supplies at the paid ticketed entry event, which included silent auction and raffle amenities.

“Morton Grove is great,” said restaurateur Dolen Yu of Morton Grove, owner/manager of China Chef of Morton Grove.

According to its website, “the Morton Grove Foundation is dedicated to promoting the well-being of the Morton Grove community and surrounding areas.” The foundation’s mission statement also includes, “our purpose is to provide resources to benefit the welfare, health, education, environment and safety of area residents.”

“Everything goes to charity,” Liston said. “Everything we do is volunteer.”

In his red bow tie tuxedo, DiMaria welcomed attendees as they entered the banquet room. As the doors opened, a sizable queue was revealed.

“The nice thing about this is, all of the money donated, pretty much it’s pure profit, goes to local charities, of which almost all of them have a tie to Morton Grove, which is nice,” DiMaria said. “This one here literally hits home.”

Among food providers was the Morton Grove Fire Department.

“We’re all about teamwork,” said Joe Fasolo, a Morton Grove firefighter/paramedic.

Fasolo said 10 fire department cooks made 50 gallons of what they dubbed “Firehouse Chili,” starting the concoction with an estimated 160 pounds of meat at about 8 a.m. in the kitchen at White Eagle.

“It’s on the hotter side,” Fasolo said, adding their chili’s perpetual special ingredient is “love, yes, love.”

Craig Lubrano, a Morton Grove firefighter, agreed that Firehouse Chili “has got some heat.”

“I would say it’s between a two- and a three-alarm chili,” said George Carlson, also with Morton Grove fire personnel.

Checking out the fire department’s chili with fixings table was event attendee Kookie Schultz, a Morton Grove fire personnel.

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Checking out the fire department’s chili with fixings table was event attendee Kookie Schultz, a Morton Grove fire personnel.

“I have been coming here for over 30 years, to this event,” Schultz said. “I’ve watched this dinner go from tuxedos, dresses, nylons and high heels to blue jeans, sweaters … and people enjoying themselves.”

About Morton Grove, “this is home,” Schultz said. “I’ve watched this old, small community grow into this bustling city.” Schultz said, “I was raised here during the time when I could hike down the railroad tracks and go to town.”

Raising glasses, offering back slaps with hugs, and digging into generous sampling taste portions were neighbors, pals plus strangers, all sharing a meal at round tables for a cause.

“It’s good; the food is good,” said Mary Elmer of Lincolnwood, who returned to be a Taste server on behalf of China Chef. “We love giving charity to Morton Grove.”

Karie Angell Luc is a freelance photographer and reporter for Pioneer Press.
Reward offered in case of Morton Grove homicide victim

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

A reward is being offered in the case of a Chicago man found shot to death outside a Morton Grove home in January as police urge anyone who knew the victim to come forward.

Family members of Anthony Del Barrio are offering $2,500 for information leading to the arrest of the person responsible for the 30-year-old's death on the night of Jan. 19, said Morton Grove Police Cmdr. Paul Yaras. An additional monetary reward is being offered by Crime Stoppers, police said.

Marilyn Vargas, Del Barrio's sister, said the family hopes the reward will motivate someone who might have information about her brother's death to step up and talk to police.

"We're really desperate for answers as we do not have any at all," she said.

Del Barrio's frozen body was found on the morning of Jan. 20 between two houses on the 8800 block of Oleander Avenue, police said. An autopsy later determined he had died of a gunshot wound and his death was ruled a homicide, authorities said.

Morton Grove police, working with the North Regional Major Crimes Task Force, believe Del Barrio was shot while he was outside with a friend who lives in the area, Yaras said. The shooting is believed to have occurred around 10:15 p.m., about a block from where Del Barrio's body was found, he said.

Investigators are seeking out friends and acquaintances of Del Barrio as the investigation enters its second month.

"We're looking for anyone who knows our victim who can shed some light on relationships," Yaras said. "We're really missing some real key pieces here that can help us."

Anthony Del Barrio

Investigators are also combing through phone records and awaiting responses to subpoenas for social media records, Yaras said.

Police have not yet concluded whether Del Barrio was the intended target of the shooting, he added.

"There's still a possibility that the other guy was a target," Yaras said. "We haven't canceled out that the other guy was the intended victim."

Yaras acknowledged that police feel Del Barrio's friend is not being as cooperative as they would like.

"There's still a lot more information we'd like to get from him," he said.

The man did not call 911 after Del Barrio was shot, Yaras said, but at this time, investigators have not classified him as a suspect, he added.

Investigators obtained security and doorbell video from homes in the area, but none appeared to have captured the gunman, Yaras said.

Del Barrio owned a debris removal business and was described by his sister as a devoted family man.

Vargas urged the person responsible for shooting her brother to surrender to police.

"I hope they have it in their heart to come forward," she said. "If he was in my shoes, I'm sure he would want the same thing. Our brother was taken away from us, and he did not deserve to be taken away so soon."

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Morton Grove Police Department at 847-470-5200 or the Cook County Crime Stoppers line at 800-535-STOP.
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The following items were taken from the local police reports. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt.

**Niles**

**PROPERTY DAMAGE**

- Miriam Tello, 18, of the 3300 block of North Ridgeway Avenue, Chicago, was charged with criminal damage to state property on March 5 after she was taken into custody three days earlier on an obstruction charge, police said. According to police, "gang-style" graffiti was discovered etched into a holding cell door frame inside the Niles Police Station, 7000 W. Touhy Ave., on March 5, and the damage was tied to Tello.

**WEAPONS**

- Victor U. Valle Jr., 25, of the 4400 block of Rockwell Street, Chicago, was charged with unlawful possession of a firearm by a convicted felon, unlawful use of a weapon and possession of a stolen vehicle on March 2 after officers responded to a gas station on the 6900 block of North Milwaukee Avenue for a call of an erratic driver shortly after 7 a.m. He also had an outstanding arrest warrant, police said. Valle remained in Cook County Jail custody with bond set at $100,000, according to Cook County Sheriff's Department.

**BATTERY**

- Scott L. Micek, 52, of the 5600 block of North Meade Avenue, Chicago, was charged with battery on Feb. 28 after he was accused of shoving another man in a parking lot outside Jewel-Osco, 5667 W. Touhy Ave., police said. He was given a March 22 court date.

**DISORDERLY CONDUCT**

- A 14-year-old Niles boy was ticketed for disorderly conduct on March 1 after he was accused of punching another 14-year-old boy in the face during a basketball game at Niles Family Fitness Center.

**PUBLIC INTOXICATION**

- A 52-year-old Chicago man was ticketed for public intoxication on the night of March 4 after police said he was discovered crying at the Niles-Maine District Library, 6960 W. Oakton St. He admitted to drinking alcohol and was taken to the hospital, according to police reports.

**DUI**

- Sabin Gurung, 37, of the 5000 block of Culver Street, Skokie, was charged with driving under the influence on March 3 following a traffic stop at Golf Road and Washington Street at 9:08 p.m., police said. He was given an April 3 court date.

**UNDERAGE DRINKING**

- A 17-year-old boy and a 17-year-old girl, both of Chicago, were ticketed for underage drinking on the night of March 1 after police responded to Target, 6150 W. Touhy Ave., for a report of a girl lying on the ground. The boy admitted to having alcohol in his backpack, police said.

**THEFT**

- Police said $432 was reported stolen from a safe at Little Caesars Pizza, 7201 W. Dempster St., on March 4.

**BURGLARY FROM MOTOR VEHICLE**

- A winter jacket was reported stolen March 6 from an unlocked car parked on the 6600 block of Minnehaha Avenue, police said. The jacket had an estimated value of $850.

**BURGLARY**

- The garage area of Cito, 8120 W. Oakton St., was forcibly entered during the early morning hours of March 2, police said. Nothing was reported stolen.

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

**Lincolnwood**

**PROPERTY DAMAGE**

- A woman reported her purse was stolen March 1 from Walmart, 8500 W. Golf Road, after she left it behind in a shopping cart.

**BURGLARY**

- The garage area of Cito, 8120 W. Oakton St., was forcibly entered during the early morning hours of March 2, police said. Nothing was reported stolen.

**THROWDOWN**

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Officials: Oakton to focus on academic advising services

BY KYRA SENESE
Pioneer Press

After previously focusing more on ramping up the college's student orientation programming, student service leaders at Oakton Community College told trustees that more student attention is being paid to academic advising.

Sebastian Contreras Jr., dean of Student Success, and Lisa Harris, interim manager of transitions and persistence in the office of Advising, Transitions, and Student Success, presented information at the Feb. 19 board of trustees meeting about where the community college stands with its advising initiatives and how far the it needs to go to meet the goals advising office leaders have set.

Contreras said past discussions had often focused on new student registration and orientation. He said it is now time to emphasize the college's academic advising and educational planning work, adding that ongoing advising efforts are proving beneficial to students.

"About five years ago, we made the shift from optional orientation for new students to mandatory orientation programming, and that required a lot of institutional bandwidth and the board was involved in that decision making process," Harris told Pioneer Press after the presentation to the board.

Now that the college's orientation programming has solidified, Harris said, more time is planned to be spent on academic advising.

Contreras explained that at OCC, academic advising focuses on three things: helping students set goals based on their transfer and/or career goals, enabling them to develop academic plans to achieve those goals and helping students stay on track while they work toward accomplishing their goals.

The leaders said in their presentation that approximately 8,000 students attend Oakton Community College - and like at most colleges, not all of them utilize their advising opportunities.

"There are always going to be the students that think they know how to do it themselves, and those are the students we're always outreaching to, to try and make sure they're coming in to see us," Harris said. "We also have a number of adult students... We do a lot with them in terms of advising, but they are probably some of the students who aren't coming in for academic advising as frequently."

However, according to Contreras, the college's current advising staff level isn't enough to handle the case load of students who do seek the services.

Currently, there are 10 full-time professional academic advisors, allowing for five advisors each on the Des Plaines and Skokie campuses. The college employs one part-time advising and enrollment specialist, as well as one part-time office coordinator and one part-time, seasonal orientation specialist, Contreras and Harris explained at the meeting.

They said that, in contrast to many other colleges, like at Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas, NACADA "promotes and supports quality academic advising in institutions of higher education to enhance the educational development of students," according to its website.

NACADA recommends that colleges aim to meet an advisor to student ratio of 441 to 1. Oakton's current advisor to student ratio is at about 800 to 1, Contreras said.

That proportion is down from the nearly 1300 students for every 1 academic advisor Oakton saw for the 2012 academic year, Contreras explained.

Harris said NACADA has "done so much research and assessment of what makes academic advising successful."

"They know through their interaction with colleges, both four-year and two-year colleges across the country, that a lower student-to-advisor ratio makes students persist and makes them more successful," she said.

Contreras and Harris said that even with more work to be done in the area of academic advising, Oakton is on an optimal path.

"We have a number of benchmarks now that do reveal some good things and some representation that what we're doing is working," Harris said. "The biggest sign is the persistence rates from fall to fall."

While Harris explained that the college cannot point to academic advising as the sole factor as to why students stay the course and return each academic year - or semester, she said it is clear that improved advising has made an impact.

"When students are creating an educational plan with an academic advisor, their persistence rates are going up significantly," she said.

Harris also explained during the presentation that since 2017, Oakton's advising focus has been on educational planning and supporting what the college calls its "wildly important goal" set in 2015 to boost fall-to-fall persistence rate from 45 percent to 54 percent.

"We set a departmental initiative of completing educational plans for 50 percent of incoming degree-seeking students in 2017 to 2018 and 52 percent of incoming degree-seeking students this academic year," Harris explained.

Last year, the college nearly met the goal with a 91 percent completion rate, she said. She added that this year, Oakton is focusing on its black and LatinX student populations.

"We know that historically, these students have persisted and completed at lower rates than their peers," Harris said. "So far, we have made 85 percent progress towards the goal with the majority of spring semester still remaining."

Going forward, the college also aims to bolster its advising by reaching out more to academic departments and faculty, and through additional collaboration with adult and continuing education students, Contreras explained.

An additional goal toward improving advising is implementing upgrades to online or virtual services. Contreras noted that the college's current version of virtual advising includes using Skype, which he said has become "antiquated."

Harris added that virtual advising makes the ability to receive the service more accessible to all.

She acknowledged that more funding would help support the advising staff's goals of continuing to improve and that asking for money was not the purpose of the presentation to trustees.

Kyra Senese is a freelancer.
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Architects hired to design new park, ‘festival’ space in Niles

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Designs for a new and expanded Golf Mill Park are set to be created following the hiring of an architectural firm by the Niles Village Board.

Trustees last month unanimously approved an $18,750 contract with Hitchcock Design Group for “park planning and design services” related to the existing Golf Mill Park, Church Street and Cumberland Avenue, and village-owned property to the west.

The 9-acre site is bordered by Greenwood Avenue, Church Street, Cumberland Avenue and Davis Street.

The project, which is a joint one between the village and the Niles Park District, will involve developing a “multi-use park plan” while incorporating stormwater detention below and/or above ground, according to the village.

The two governmental bodies are splitting the cost 50/50, the village said. The village sought bids for the design work last summer.

Niles in 2015 purchased the westernmost portion of the property, which includes a parking lot — currently being used as a car lot by Golf Mill Ford — and was also the site of a former bank along Greenwood Avenue.

A sign near the parking lot declares the property the “future home of Niles Festival Market.”

Ross Klicker, coordinator of economic development for the village of Niles, said the festival area would accommodate outdoor entertainment events.

“It will basically be a permanent set-up, if you will, for those types of events to operate,” he explained.

For the last three years, the site has been home to a popular Italian religious festival, the Feast of Maria SS Lauretana.

Niles Village Manager Steve Vinezeano said Niles residents will be involved in the project’s design.

“The public will have a big say in how this park develops,” he said.

Eric Hornig of Hitchcock Design Group said the design process will include demographic research, documenting the goals of village and park district leadership staff, and performing a site analysis, which will include observing how people use the current Golf Mill Park.

In addition to open fields, Golf Mill Park includes a playground, two tennis courts, basketball courts, a shelter and tables.

During the design phase, there will be community meetings to give the public opportunities to offer input, he said.

Goals for the project include developing it for diverse uses and community-driven recreation, as well as making it unique to Niles, Hornig told the Village Board last month.

“Whatever we design, we want it to make sense here,” he said. “We want it to be yours.”

The development could also become an “economic catalyst” for the area — particularly the adjacent Golf Mill Shopping Center, Hornig said.

Mayor Andrew Przybylo encouraged Hitchcock Design to survey Niles residents and conduct outreach in addition to hosting community meetings, which he said have not always attracted many participants.

“This is a legacy project; this is a driver project,” he said. “It's got to be magnificent.”

Jennifer Johnson/Pioneer Press

The village of Niles and the Niles Park District are working together to design a new Golf Mill Park concept with an outdoor entertainment area.

Hornig

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Careful before pulling ‘weeds’ that may be native plants

Sara Clarkson
Date

Every spring and summer, I wage war with something nasty. I believe it is invasive and would happily take over the rest of my landscaping if the assortment of plants I have could be called a garden.

In fact, the few times a year I actually “garden,” I definitely yank out what I have come to learn is called Compass Plant. I have been calling this large and awkward looking thingy “tall, hairy weed with yellow” and have certainly not been respecting it as a native flowering plant.

This is just one of several native species of plants I recently learned about when I attended the Native Landscaping program at Fullersburg Woods. All About Plants program at Fullersburg Woods on a winter Sunday in February, Dave Andrusyk, a naturalist at the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, gave the presentation to about 20 people.

We met in the room down the stairs from the main center, and Andrusyk explained that that space was used as the boathouse and stored canoes and kayaks when the building was constructed in the 1930’s, which gave some added atmosphere to the talk.

A winter Sunday in February is actually not too early to be thinking about next season’s landscaping, Andrusyk insisted, and while he wanted to encourage the use of native plants, he had to explain what makes a plant native.

He uses a definition common to ecologists and botanists: native plants have ecological value to the ecosystems in which they are a part. Animals, insects and other forms of wildlife enjoy that plant. It won’t overpower a place and take over, neither will it detract or make toxic the soil in which it sits. That Compass Plant I keep dislodging has value for the soil, wildlife and insects it attracts. Using native plants for landscaping can help you save money and time and attract all sorts of creatures including butterflies, bees and hummingbirds.

Native plants, Andrusyk said, reduce the need for harmful chemicals because they don’t require fertilizer, herbicides or insecticides. Done correctly, they can beautify the landscape, and provide windbreaks, shade and privacy.

You can have blooms throughout the season, attract pollinators and wildlife, and even have color without allergies, he insisted. Goldenrod, Andrusyk said, is essentially hypoallergenic but ragweed is not, and many people confuse the two.

Before planning your native garden, or any garden for that matter, pick your plot and get to know the sun. Here is something important about that sun: where it hits on a day in February, March or even April may not be very useful information for your summer plot. For one thing, the trees will no longer be bare and for another, the sun is higher in the sky in the summer.

“Native plants are pretty forgiving,” Andrusyk said. So if you are not quite sure if your spot is “sunny” with five or more hours of direct sunlight or “shade” with fewer than two hours of sun or “part sun” with two to five hours of direct sunlight, know that most plants will be fine in partial sun.

You also have to find out what kind of soil you have and how moist is the soil, is it sand, which will not adhere when clumped together, or loam or clay? What do you hope to achieve with your plot: ground cover, windbreak, shade, beauty? Andrusyk spent a fair amount of time talking about the dozens of plants both flowering and not which thrive in and contribute to our environment.

Yes, some of them looked exactly like the weeds I have been yanking, but many are just gorgeous. I wish I had attended this program 10 years ago.

Several more gardening programs are being offered at Fullersburg, including Native Landscaping Design from 6-8 p.m. on March 20. This is the time that you can bring your hand-drawn or computer-generated landscaping designs to show the experts and they will offer suggestions and guidance. The cost is $15 a person. Sessions run 40 minutes and will be offered at 6 p.m., 6:40 p.m. and 7:20 p.m.

Another Native Landscaping class will be offered from 1-3:30 p.m. on April 7 at the Education Center and costs $10; and a Native Landscaping Design session will be offered from 6-8 p.m. April 10, and costs $15.

For more information or to register, go to www.dupageforest.org; click on calendar of events and then look for Fullersburg Woods.

Finally, two books that Andrusyk recommended are “Native Plants of the Midwest” and the tome “Flora of the Chicago Region.”

Sara Clarkson is a freelancer.
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Illinois should tax plastic bags — as long as stores are paying for it

Randy Blaser

Gov. J.B. Pritzker has proposed a statewide tax on plastic grocery bags as a way to help clean up the environment and increase needed state revenue.

He claimed in his budget message to the General Assembly that such a statewide tax, which would make Illinois the only state in the nation to impose such a tax, could generate between $19 million and $23 million in new revenue.

But when you're spending more than $35 billion in the operating budget, as the new governor proposes, $23 million doesn't really go too far.

My issue with the proposal is not necessarily taxing plastic bags. Anyone can see that the revenue from such a tax is needed by the state. And everyone also knows that such bags are bad for the environment.

My issue is who pays the tax.

In the governor's plan, it is the shoppers who pay the tax of several cents on each bag. I believe that is an extremely unfair way to levy the proposed tax.

I never asked the stores to use plastic bags. I never wanted them. From the first day I saw a plastic grocery bag, way back in the 1970s, I thought they had to be bad for the environment.

So why should I pay for them? They're not my idea.

And here's another thing. I don't pack the groceries. The store employees pack the groceries. If they put one item in a bag or double the bag to make sure it doesn't break on a heavy item, like a frozen chicken or a liter of ginger ale, I will have to pay even more under the Pritzker plan.

The solution to this is obvious. The store should pay any tax for plastic bags.

They buy the plastic bags, they own the plastic bags, they put their store logos on the bags and they distribute the bags. It only stands to reason that they should pay any tax on the bags. And I prefer a stiff tax.

I'm not just saying this because I'm cheap and don't want to pay more under the Pritzker plan.

The solution to this is obvious. The store should pay any tax for plastic bags.

But back to the bags. Just ban the plastic bags altogether. They are bad for the environment. They break. No one likes them, so just make them illegal.

Then the state should sell reusable grocery bags. Surely, a brilliant businessman like J.B. Pritzker can figure out a way for the state to buy thousands of reusable grocery bags, at a discount, and then pretty them up with the state logo or even his handsome picture. They could then turn around and sell them to us at a profit.

Big business moguls like Pritzker are always talking about thinking outside of the box to address our state's fiscal woes, but raising taxes and imposing new taxes is always the first thing they think about. And in the world of politics, more taxes is the box.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist.
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ADVICE

Be kind to the perimenopausal women in your life

“Can someone take out the garbage?” “Would you mind emptying the dishwasher?” “The dog needs to go out.” If you’re a mom, I bet, like me, you can’t even count the number of times you’ve asked your family for help around the house, only to give up, do it yourself, and then resent the people who although you love and adore, you wish so badly could comprehend something really significant: You’re tired!

I’m not saying that husbands and kids don’t bring any value to a family. I’m just saying that Mom needs you to chip in more — especially as she starts aging. When I say aging, I’m talking about perimenopause, the time in a woman’s life when her body is making a transition into menopause, the end of her reproductive years.

According to the Mayo Clinic website, perimenopause typically begins when a woman is in her 40s, but can occur earlier for some women. Symptoms include: irregular periods, hot flashes, sleep problems, mood changes, vaginal and bladder problems, decreasing fertility, a decrease in sex drive, loss of bone, or a change in cholesterol levels.

No offense to the Mayo Clinic or the medical profession, in general, but any woman over 40 will tell you there are so many more symptoms to perimenopause that aren’t published in medical journals.

Cheri Stefanelli is a Glenview-based community health educator, a personal trainer and fitness and yoga instructor. She’s also a close friend of mine. Cheri and I sat down to talk about perimenopause (Cheri is 50; I’m 53), about the challenges of this phase of our lives, and what would make life a little easier.

“Besides the tell-all signs: hot flashes, emotional swings, sleep issues, and so on, there are things that happen that we don’t immediately associate with the fact that we are going into perimenopause,” said Cheri, who holds a bachelor’s degree in community health education. “Everything is unpredictable and inconsistent, and you can’t pinpoint it. It can mess with your head and whatever you have known to be normal.”

Cheri said the unexplained symptoms can cause stress and fear, which can then lead to fatigue, sadness, or burnout.

For several years, Cheri has been keeping a journal (a list) of some symptoms that she, her friends and her clients have experienced, which they feel might be due to perimenopause. Some of the things on the list are classic symptoms we hear from doctors, others are not. Can you relate to any of these? I sure can.

- Unable to fall asleep or not able to stay asleep.
- Gaining a lot of water weight before your period.
- Weight gain, in general.
- Larger breasts.
- Mystery cramps.
- Crying (real, full tears) at commercials, TV shows or movies.
- Uncontrollable aggravation and impatience — looking at your family and wondering where the gratitude is and why you’re the only one doing anything around the house, being resentful of it, continuing to do it and being frustrated by it.
- Dry skin.
- Rooster-like skin underneath your chin.
- Frizzy hair.
- Deep sadness at times.
- Frustration and the urge to scream as loud as you can.
- Crying during Shavasana in yoga class.
- Bloating.
- Being unable to eat certain foods because of digestive issues.

Even just a few of these can impact quality of life. So, is there any solution? Cheri said the key is learning to love and respect yourself, which includes not feeling responsible for all the household chores.

“Ask yourself, ‘Who gave me all these jobs?’ and ‘Why is my level of expectation unrealistically high?’” she said. “That leads to ‘I’m not taking care of myself. Why is that?’”

Perimenopausal women need self-care more than ever because of hormonal changes and inconsistent symptoms that are ultimately causing stress and fatigue. In other words, we might have a little less to give. Not less love to give, but physically, we get a little more drained than we used to.

So, we need others to be kind to us.

“Sometimes it has to be about Mom,” Cheri said. “Ask how her day was and listen. If she tells you she’s overwhelmed, pick up the ball. Even if it’s a couple small chores a day — folding laundry, making your own bed, emptying the dishwasher without giving her a hard time about it.”

All people — not just perimenopausal women — have less stress and more happiness when we argue less and laugh more. But the biggest gift you can give a perimenopausal woman is to show some gratitude. Say thank you for all the wonderful things she does. When someone feels valued, respected, and appreciated, the person stays motivated, energized, and enthused about the life they live. What I’m saying is, a genuine thank you or a hug can offset the discomfort of a hot flash instantly.

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist.
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LIKE CLOCKWORK: Explained at 113 Down

BY GAIL GRABOWSKI | EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN

Across
1. Rounds for weapons
5. “Not interested”
10. Beside oneself
15. Be concerned
19. Lute-shaped fruit
20. Landlocked Himalayan land
21. Water Lilies painter
22. Extremely dry
23. Not set in stone
25. Sideline for some media personalities
27. 2016 Olympics host
28. Sushi fish
29. Authenticate
31. Trifle with
32. Kilt pattern
34. Starts the bidding
35. Rotated rapidly
37. Between ports
40. Common Easter candy shape
41. Rather long time
42. Book jacket part
45. Back-of-check signature
48. A question of technique
51. Removable cover
52. Ham’s helper
53. Toward the dawn
54. Far-ranging
55. Off-road rides, briefly
57. Certain metalworker
61. Inn, informally
62. Kids’ backyard play area
65. British art patron
66. Humbly yielding
67. “Deep” kitchen appliance
68. Can’t tolerate
69. Brook swimmer
70. Sore throat culprit, perhaps
71. Feudal peasant
72. Paper package
73. Informal top
topper
74. Change to a lower gear
75. Inventor Sikorsky (Emmy category)
76. Toy for windy weather
77. Gush forth
78. Parisian pal
79. Coloration
80. Far from congenial
85. Hush-hush
86. URL opener
87. Piece of flatware
88. Jam-packed
89. Jam-packed
90. _Competition (Emmy category)
91. Spring for lunch
92. Twist the truth
95. Radio-active employee
96. Boxing biz adjective
97. Hungarian composer
98. Reasonable
99. Tear apart
100. New England seafood
101. Acquit
102. Spring for lunch
103. Boxing biz adjective
104. Hungarian composer
105. Reasonable
106. Tear apart
107. New England seafood
60. Inventory list
61. Crunchy sandwiches, for short
62. Stone Age discovery
63. Sugar source
64. Displeased look
65. State the meaning of
66. Brook swimmer
67. Sore throat culprit, perhaps
68. Lacking confidence
69. Brit. lexicon
70. Free verse’s lack
71. Too-late understanding
72. Organic fly trap
73. Extremely harsh
74. Game with greens
75. Scattered about
76. Ruby or cardinal
77. Ruby or cardinal
78. Lacking confidence
79. Brit. lexicon
80. Free verse’s lack
81. Organic fly trap
82. Extremely harsh
83. Game with greens
84. Scattered about
85. Ruby or cardinal
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89. Organic fly trap
90. Extremely harsh
91. Game with greens
92. Scattered about
93. Ruby or cardinal
94. Lacking confidence
95. Brit. lexicon
96. Free verse’s lack
97. Organic fly trap
98. Extremely harsh
99. Game with greens
100. Scattered about

Down
1. In separate pieces
2. News sources
3. Captain’s superior
4. Tulsa Sch.
5. High-powered
6. Ring loudly
7. PD alert
8. Battleship barrage
9. Surprise success
10. Encroach
11. Shingled sites
12. Tennis great Roddick
13. Gumshoe
14. Frat letter
15. Indulges, with “to”
16. Common computer font
17. Dishwasher cycle
18. Moved sideways
20. Couch or bench
21. Batter instruction
22. Measure of power
23. Cash drawer slot
24. Utilize, with “into”
25. Petrol measure
26. Something to rise above
27. Brit. lexicon
28. Free verse’s lack
29. Too-late understanding
30. Organic fly trap
31. Extremely harsh
32. Game with greens
33. Scattered about
34. Ruby or cardinal
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98. Lacking confidence
99. Brit. lexicon
100. Free verse’s lack

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Quote-Acrostic

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

Clues

A. Military designations
B. Garland's signature song: 3 wds.
C. 1944 Crosby movie: 3 wds.
D. Birthplace for western culture
E. Complete destruction: 3 wds.
F. Clumsy
G. Foul
H. Like some roofs
I. Watery arm

Words

10 151 122 17 28
33 115 15 86 61 77 6
85 19 27 54 123 108 95 41 80 49
130 111 147 43 66 92
72 146 56 38 13 83 138 34 101 50 18
118 32 48 16 65 152 12
91 82 145 128 63
71 99 149 143 57 8
98 127 64 142 87 112 81

BY CHARLES PRESTON

Two of a Kind

ACROSS
16 Construct
6 Fill with wonder
10 Shortening meas.
14 Pilasters
15 Information
16 Pelvic bones
17 Frets
18 Mystery writer Ross or singer Jeanette
20 Terrible
22 Knocks down
23 He was: L.
24 Camera
26 Filmmaker Jack or Coach "Pop"
28 Dramatist Maxwell or journalist Jack
32 Elicit
33 Contemptuous glance
34 Join
35 Liturgical vestment
36 Fads
37 Infiltrator
38 Medieval tale
39 Assistants
40 Dined's companion
41 Novelists May or Upton
43 Soprano Roberta or actress Jean

DOWN
1 Dark fur
9 Baby's balm
46 Plant fiber
48 Capacious receptacle
52 Actor McLean or writer Robert L.
55 Sun: prefix
56 Author Wiesel
57 The Silver
58 Santa's helpers
59 Ages and ages
60 Mind
61 Bias

13 Staffs
19 More peculiar
21 Distant
24 Joints
25 Poetic effusions
26 Wells
27 Two-time loser to Dwight
28 Pianist Arthur or beautician Helena
29 Wrath
30 Tanker
31 Requirements
33 Hawkins or Thompson
36 Iranian coin
37 Aviator "Billy" or writer Margaret
39 Seaside playwright
40 Reneges
42 Elephants' young
43 One way to stand
45 1989 Oscar winner
46 Words of comprehension
47 Town of northern France
48 Central part
49 Edison's middle name
50 Legal claim
51 Like Bo-Peep's sheep
52 Stg., e.g.
54 Cry noisily

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EU Trade

BY JIM HOLLAND
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across
1 Dutch actress Verbeek of "Outlander"
6 "Chews (on)"
11 “Point Break” plot, e.g.
16 One coming out
19 Type of eye layer
20 348-seat Parisian body
21 _ drab
22 Talkative fighter
23 Red misplays?
26 Three sheets to the wind
27 Completely
28 Lab do-over
29 Gophers and gardeners, say
31 Word from the French for “clear the table”
33 DDE’s domain
35 Cry during an argument between siblings
37 Golf pro’s instructive stroke?
43 Hard shoe
48 Inventory acronym
50 Greek portico
51 Slaughter of old baseball
52 Loser who finds a silver lining?
55 Online marketplace
58 “_Believer”?: 60s hit
59 Prius producer
60 Becoming an item, maybe
63 Worrisome engine sound
65 _ Paulo
66 Furious state
68 Thieves’ home?
69 Major Hindu deity
70 Mysteriously appearing debris?
78 Mark not to play
79 Red or Black
80 Red Baron’s conflict, briefly
81 Berlin article
83 Like Earth
86 Call for assistance
89 Annoying type
92 “_ du lieber!”?
93 The littlest bit
95 Groans from a Russian egg producer?
97 Virginia _
99 End notes
102 Level-headed
103 Takeoff times?
104 Big Apple mongrels?
108 Easy mark
110 Short brew?
111 Indian wraps
113 Lowered in dignity
119 Marshmallow-filled snack
123 Medium condition?
125 Looking up
126 Many get snacks during them
127 Confusion about who really won an international competition?
130 Med. lab letters
131 “So long”
132 Small-truck company
133 Freshwater burulus
134 Menu general
135 Pelé’s first name
136 Snidely Whiplash look
137 Playoff rankings

Down
1 Clear
2 Sheepish?
3 Big tops, e.g.
4 Folded food
5 Upper crust
6 “Catch 21” aircr., initially
7 Approaching
8 Starting a pot
9 Stay put until the storm ends
10 “Venerable” Eng. monk
11 Something in your eye
12 Mor. neighbor
13 Stack
14 Score-tying shot
15 Starts over
16 “Lobster”
17 Tahari of fashion
18 Pieces’ partners
24 Regular at Sam’s bar
25 “_ directed”
30 Gloomy Gus
31 Vegan staple
32 Fungal plant coating
38 Low-tech weed whacker
39 Consumes without cooking
40 _ price
41 One in a researcher’s stack
42 Title derived from “Caesar”
43 Some NCOs
44 Like a delicious crowd
45 Catfish habitat
46 Nebraska native
47 Saigon holiday
49 OTC drug regulator
53 Is unsuccessful in
54 Finished 50% (of)
55 Typographer’s concern
57 Arizona county or its seat
58 _ Paulo
60 Becoming an item, “_ Believer”: ’60s
61 Classic beginning
62 African antelope
64 19th Greek letter
65 Furious state
66 _ Paulo
67 Follow again
71 Frat guy
72 Composer Bartók
73 Language suffix
74 Good place for driving
75 Some junior high students
76 Marsh plant
77 Word before ball or after figure
79 Red or Black
80 Red Baron’s conflict, briefly
81 Berlin article
83 Like Earth
86 Call for assistance
89 Annoying type
92 “_ du lieber!”?
93 The littlest bit
95 Groans from a Russian egg producer?
97 Virginia _
99 End notes
102 Level-headed
103 Takeoff times?
106 Complained
107 Expanses of land
108 Easy mark
109 Salon offering
110 Short brew?
112 Quick bread choice
114 Ring features
115 When required
116 Move like a crab
117 Fished with pots
118 Scoled, with “down”
119 Parlor purchase
120 What gamblers weigh
121 Scandinavian capital
122 See 98-Down
124 Somer of cinema
125 Looking up
126 Many get snacks during them
127 Confusion about who really won an international competition?
130 Med. lab letters
131 “So long”
132 Small-truck company
133 Freshwater burulus
134 Menu general
135 Pelé’s first name
136 Snidely Whiplash look
137 Playoff rankings

Sudoku

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

Jumble

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

Print your answer in the circles below

PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW

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Crossword

**Solutions**

By Jacqueline E. Mathews. © 2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

**ACROSS**

1 Dirty person's need
5 "... well that ends well"
9 Up in ..., irate
13 Coffee sweetener
15 In ... of, as a substitute for
16 Ivory or Dial
17 Sudden increase
18 Make laws
20 Touch lightly
21 "Murder, ... Wrote"
23 ... up; joined forces
24 Prose writing
26 Cheap container
27 Boone or Day-Lewis
29 Stockholm's sea
32 Church table
33 Pile up
35 Short sleep
37 Slender
38 Means of travel
39 Office note
40 Egg producer
41 Storm & Gordon
42 Rescued
43 Almost
45 Dangers

**Solutions**

46 Sinatra's third wife
47 Leigh or Jackson
48 Sudden
51 "Cat ... Hot Tin Roof"
52 Next month: abbr.
55 Undergarment
58 Put aside for now
60 Freeway division
61 Out of town
62 Actress Pompeo
63 Bacon accompaniment
64 "Why don't we!

**DOWN**

1 Finest
2 Greenish-blue
3 Paint thinner
4 Wilchy woman
5 Narrow street
6 Commit perjury
7 Call's place
8 Valise
9 Titled
10 Wander
11 Spouse
12 Ran fast
14 Inferior; secondary
19 Marine mammals
22 Holbrook or Linden
25 Thailand, once
27 Punctuation mark
28 Steve or Tim
29 Prohibits
30 Sure to happen
31 Desert transport
33 Friendly nation
34 Ms. West
36 Pea casings
38 Grand; luxurious
39 Female animal
41 Clasps
42 Group of 100
44 Entertain
45 "Peter ..."
47 Baby kangaroos
48 Up to the task
49 Boast
50 Chimed
53 Tearful request
54 Monthly expense
56 Lamb's mother
57 Traitor
59 Capone & Pacino

**Last week's crosswords**

"BOARD MEETING"

ALAS REST FLEW HERO METERS ELITIS LIMO ORAL
PAWNTICKETS AKIN MIND SPATULAS LUMBER MEETS
TRIPETTA A LIP NOV CASSIE LEONACLOU
IFS RUMOR IGLOO ANTITHEIST ALIAS GAST ATEY
SEGO RIAL NAO MAO ORGRE EXACT BANE
FRITZEN PEEL PIGETS LAMB TISHOP LATHO
EDGER LOPE OWIE NOEL CIAO REALIS ELECT NEE
PUT ARE E PAPAYA ZAGOR REDAM YARDSALE
THOR HAZ QUEMOTHER SYFF SHAM EARS ROTO

"More or Less"

AMA ESOP HELOT ACDG SOLI ARENA
BRIDE RADS RODEO
NOCIGARETTES NAGERS ARM IAN
TOS TO SC IDLE
NEARLY SLEEP IN
NEGAN LINES TOWN
HER GALES TOWN
AL LARM TOWN
BARR IN

"Revisiting the Past"

BASE AIRY HAY HOME LANE
FAMILY PAIN AT REEDS
HEAD WAYS BEEDE REEDS
SENIO STREETCEBES
WAGGERS DVD CEB DEEDS
Gaines NOOM CRUN TEDS
VARNA NGUEV OIM
NAPTADOTUP TEDS
CLIMB TADOTUP TEDS
DIE ADVANCE ED S OFTEN
EREAD RE SWEETADERLINE
DUMPANY A RANKING
SEGRET DAMIRE NOKAB
CINCO CAN BACH INA
KANG LENS PANT TAN

**Last week's Quote-Acrostic**

JOSEPH CONRAD: SO WELCOME: It's extraordinary how we go through life with eyes half shut. Perhaps it's just as well; and it may be that it is this dullness that makes life to the incalculable majority so supportable and so welcome.

**Last week's Sudoku**

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

**This week's Jumble**

FROSTY CASHEW EQUITY ADVENT DEGREE HICUP
The successful launch of the first instant lottery tickets just --

SCRATCHED THE SURFACE
The search begins...
A classic is a tough act to follow

‘Olive Kitteridge’ sequel coming this fall, but will it capture same magic?

BY JOHN WARNER
Chicago Tribune

Every reader has experienced that very specific ache at the end of a book, the simultaneous sense of triumph and loss, the knowledge that you’ve just experienced something amazing and beautiful, coupled with the understanding that you can never experience it in the same way again.

Not to be precious or highfalutin about it, but this is one of the ways we know we’ve experienced art. When parting from the experience is both pleasurable and painful, some kind of alchemy beyond rational explanation has been at work.

It doesn’t happen with every book. Heck, it doesn’t even happen with most books, but when it happens, the desire to experience it again can be overwhelming.

Sure, we can and do re-read those books which worked their magic, but the magic is always going to be different the second or third or 20th time. Sometimes those re-reads will uncover previously muted pleasures, but often, the experience is an echo, a memory rooted in nostalgia for the original response.

This is why sequels are often so problematic. On the one hand, I am overjoyed to be reacquainted with the characters and world that moved me so deeply. On the other hand, what if the sequel can’t deliver the same jolt as the original? Does this diminish the power of that first experience?

I’ve been thinking about this, because I recently found out that this fall will bring the release of a sequel to Elizabeth Strout’s “Olive Kitteridge,” to be titled “Olive Again.”

If you have not read this Pulitzer Prize-winning book, you should seek to remedy that shortcoming as quickly as possible, provided you’re prepared for an exquisite series of linked stories set in small-town Maine that explore the lives of people who are haunted by their own desires and the ways their human frailties thwart their ability to realize those desires.

While Olive Kitteridge is not central to each story, the book nonetheless revolves around her, and the way the individual stories accrue results in an experience both wonderful and devastating.

I am doing a bad job cheerleading for the book, but I want to make sure readers understand what kind of book it is, because if you connect with it, you may find yourself floored for a little bit — and not everyone enjoys that particular reading experience.

Personally, I love it, even though it sometimes leaves me not wanting to read anything for a stretch, so I can better linger inside the feeling the book evoked. My response to “Olive Kitteridge” was so powerful that not only have I never re-read the book, I couldn’t bear to watch more than 20 minutes of the highly acclaimed HBO series based on the book, starring Frances McDormand as Olive.

I simply did not want to risk undoing any measure of what I felt (or feel) about having read “Olive Kitteridge.”

But now, here comes “Olive Again,” and I’m thinking about sequels. For sure, some sequels improve upon and advance the original. There’s an argument that the “Harry Potter” series improved with each book: David Lodge followed up his brilliant academic satire “Changing Places” with the even more delightful sequel, “Small World,” before dipping a bit with the third in the trilogy, “Nice Work.” Richard Russo’s “Everybody’s Fool” was a worthy follow-up to “Nobody’s Fool,” even as it fell somewhat short of its predecessor.

I am glad I have so much advance notice to prepare for the arrival of “Olive Again,” which I will definitely be reading.

I will remind myself nothing can erase that first feeling when closing the page and letting loose that little sigh of pleasure and loss.

John Warner is the author of “Why They Can’t Write: Killing the Five-Paragraph Essay and Other Necessities.”

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‘I put him right up there with Sinatra’

Show offers a retrospective of the career of singer Nat King Cole

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Singer Nat King Cole shared an incredible number of beautiful songs in his all-too-brief 45 years. Daryl Nitz thinks that’s something to celebrate on the centennial of Cole’s birth. That’s why Nitz is producing “In L-O-V-E with Nat King Cole,” March 17 at the Skokie Theatre.

“I look at Nat King Cole as one of the greatest American vocalists,” Nitz declared. “I put him right up there with Sinatra.” He praised Cole’s phrasing and diction as well as the breadth of his material.

“I really like Nat King Cole’s voice, but I also like that he stood up for African-America rights,” Nitz added. “He broke a lot of barriers.”

Because Cole was as celebrated a pianist as he was a singer, the majority of Nitz’s cast members will accompany themselves. That includes Mark Burnell, Esther Hana, Beckie Menzie, and Carolyn Wehner. The cast also includes Frieda Lee and Greta Pope (who will play the piano for one number).

“I adore Nat King Cole and I do a lot of his music,” said Milwaukee resident Wehner. “I especially love the fact that he was a singer-pianist, and so good at both. He was one of the best.”

“His voice touches you in a place that makes me want to sing his music,” she added. “He was smoothness and elegance and that’s what I aspire to be in all of my performances.”

Wehner’s solos in the show are “Orange Colored Sky” and “Non Dimentica,” performed in Italian.

Hana has been in four or five shows that Nitz has produced. She likes working with him because “He gives you a little limit but he allows you freedom,” she said.

Hana praised Cole, saying, “He had a wonderful voice and very cool delivery, and he played beautiful piano.”

Go Without You” and perform a medley of Spanish music. In addition, because Cole recorded “Love” in Japanese, Italian, French, German and Spanish, Hana will perform that song in all five languages. She will join Nitz in a duet, “Frim Fram Sauce.”

Pope wanted to be in this show because, “I’m a fan of Nat King Cole and I’m a fan of Daryl. He does a wonderful job of putting together performances.”

She praised Cole’s music as “appealing to all ages across society. His material is timeless.”

Pope noted that she has an indirect history with Nat King Cole. “My mother-in-law, Kay Davis, sang with the Duke Ellington orchestra from 1942 to 1949,” Pope related. “There were two other female singers with the band. One of them was Maria Ellington. She and my mother-in-law were very good friends. Maria Ellington went on to become the wife of Nat King Cole.”

Since the two women were lifelong friends, Pope met Maria Cole. She said that gave her another connection with the music.

Pope’s selections will include “Darling, Je Vous Aime Beaucoup,” “Mona Lisa,” “Too Young,” and possibly “When I Fall in Love.” “They’re beautiful ballads,” Pope said.

Nitz will be singing “Nature Boy,” “Smile,” “Love,” and “Send for Me,” as well as several duets.

The singer/pianists and singers will be accompanied by bassist Jim Cox and Phil Grateau on drums.

Myrna Petlicki is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Carolyn Wehner is coming from Milwaukee to sing and play piano for “In L-O-V-E with Nat King Cole” on March 17 at the Skokie Theatre.
Thursday, March 14

The Barn Steakhouse Nightly Specials: This cozy and chic modern restaurant offers New American fare and craft cocktails, tucked away in a rustic, restored stable in Evanston. Owner and founder of The Barn Steakhouse and Found Kitchen, Amy Morton, has created a meat-centric eatery, delivering only the finest quality ingredients, meats and Heritage Angus Beef. Open Monday through Thursday 5 p.m. - 10 p.m., Friday through Saturday 5 p.m. - 11 p.m. and Sunday 5 p.m. - 9 p.m. Visit The Barn Steakhouse's website to see the menu and nightly specials, and follow the restaurant on Facebook and Instagram. 5 p.m. daily, The Barn, 1016 Church St., Evanston, see the menu, 847-868-8041.

Wanda Jackson: 8 p.m. Thursday, Evanston Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $22-$40, 847-492-8860.

Karl Johnson: Karl Johnson currently works and studies at the Chicago Industrial Arts and Design Center in Chicago. Many of the materials that he uses are sourced from society's discarded and outdated objects; saws, car and truck parts, shovels and farm equipment. Evanston Art Center Gallery hours: 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday - Thursday; 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday; 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. 9 a.m. daily, Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-5300.

Paula Froehle, Deborah Hirshfield and Laurie LeBreton: This exhibition showcases three artists: Paula Froehle, Deborah Hirshfield and Laurie LeBreton, using fiber materials and sculptural elements to create a cohesive display exploring gender roles, healing and identity. The gallery hours are: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. First and second floor gallery spaces are handicapped accessible. 9 a.m. daily, Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-5300.

C. Stowe Myers (1906-1995): C. Stowe Myers (1906-1995) 20th Century American, artist, industrial designer and photographer will be exhibited in the second floor gallery. Evanston Art Center Gallery hours: 9 a.m.-9 p.m., Monday - Thursday; 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday; 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. 9 a.m. daily, Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-5300.

Enterprising Machines: The primary focus of Jessica Gondek's work is abstract stemming from an interest in technology, geometry, machine aesthetics, architecture and nature. In Enterprising Machines, Gondek explores a dichotomous relationship between the hand and the machine that has evolved over time. Evanston Art Center Gallery hours: 9 a.m. - 9 p.m., Monday - Thursday; 9 a.m. - 5 p.m., Friday; 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday. 9 a.m. daily, Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-5300.

Orchids After Hours: View 10,000 orchids in bloom while sipping on tropical-inspired drinks. Lights fare is available for purchase. 4 p.m. daily, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, $10-$12; $8-$10 (seniors); free (2 and under), 847-835-5440.

Alliance Francaise du North Shore Cine Club: Join in for a French film with English subtitles: “Ette et avoir” Post-film discussion in French. For more information: Meetup.com/ anfrothouse and Afnorthshore.org. Individuals with disabilities: let them know 5 working days in advance so that they can accommodate you. 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library Multipurpose Room, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-859-1274.

YMCA Preschool Art (ages 3-6 w/adult): The North Suburban YMCA Art Academy provides a monthly opportunity for preschoolers to explore and create art. Please register online, call 847-729-7500 x7900 or visit Youth Services. 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free.

YMCA School Age Art (grades 1-4): The North Suburban YMCA Art Academy provides a monthly opportunity for children to explore and create art. Please register online, call 847-729-7500 x7900 or visit Youth Services. 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free.

Much Ado About Mysteries: Just Drop In Discussion Topic - Murder by the Book: Library & Bookshop Mysteries. 7 p.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

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

Build It - at Kohl Children's Museum of Greater Chicago: Kohl Children’s Museum of Greater Chicago celebrates the return of the temporary exhibit “Build It!” a large scale collection of building blocks that allow children to explore their creativity while learning about architecture, science and storytelling. Kids are able to discover, stack, bridge, enclose, make patterns, name and symbolize using blocks, which are the seven stages of block play. 9:30 a.m. daily, Kohl Children’s Museum, 2100 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, adm: $12 children and adults; $12 for senior citizens; children under 1- year-old and members are free, 847-832-6600.

Musical Storytime with the Lucky Trikes: Engage your child's senses through the sounds and rhythms of language with exciting music, stories and interacting with different sounds. Featuring music and stories from the popular musical storytime group The Lucky Trikes. Birth through 5 with caregiver; siblings welcome, drop in. 10 a.m. Thursday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 447-677-5277.

ESL Book Reading and Discussion Group: Practice your English conversation and reading skills while expanding your vocabulary as the group discusses: The House On Mango Street (25th Anniversary Edition) by Sandra Cisneros. Each week, participants read and discuss selected chapters from this book. This program is most suitable for Adult ESL intermediate level speakers. To register for this event, visit the website or call. 2 p.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

Hearty and Healthy Polish Cooking with Michael Niksic: Teens, from 7th grade and up to 12th grade and adults are invited to sign up. Chef and author of Hearty & Healthy Polish Cooking, Michael Niksic shares some new takes on Polish Cuisine. Samples of recipes from his newest cookbook will be featured. This program is offered in conjunction with the Cooking Together in Skokie and Niles Township initiative. For more information and other programming information, visit comingtogether.in or mgpl.org. 7 p.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

Prairie Grass Cafe Brunch: Highlighting fresh, seasonal ingredients sourced from local sustainable farms, Prairie Grass Cafe’s creations are fresh and delicious. From hearty brunch favorites to light and healthy fare and everything in between, with chefs-owners Sarah Stegner and George Bumbatis at the helm, there is something to satisfy any type of brunch craving. 9 a.m. daily, Prairie Grass Cafe, 601 Skokie Blvd., Northbrook, see website, 847-205-4433.

Tai Chi: Practice the ancient, healing art of Tai Chi, which is the practice of controlled, relaxed body movements. Increase your understanding of the mind-body connection, breathing techniques and flexibility. 9 a.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Rd., Northfield, $75 member, $89 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

My Invisible Hollywood Career or How I Became FDR: RJ Lindsey reveals invisible moments in his Hollywood career as an extra. 1 p.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Rd., Northfield, $12 (member); $17 (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, Alexa 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.

Seren Lenten Worship Service: On Thursday evenings, consider beginning a new spiritual practice of mid-week worship during Lent this year. At 7 p.m. on March 14, 21, 28 and April 4 and 11 is a meditative worship service in the style of Taizé. The service of about 40 min...
Ave., Wilmette, free.

TICKETED: Just drop in. 3:30 p.m. Friday, Glenview (grades 5-8): Helping Hands for the Homeless

XD, 1715 Maple Ave., Evanston, $11 families and the world. 7 p.m. daily, and resilience, and in particular, a trib-

The 6th Annual JCC Chicago Jewish

credit and publications. Winnetka Community House, 620 Lincoln Ave., Winnetka, IL. 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

Conceptualizing the Short Story:

Another workshop in the long educati-
onal series of Thursday morning chats put together by the Off Campus Writers' Workshop (OCWW). Mary Rob-

inette Kowal, this week’s speaker, has received the Campbell Award for Best New Writer, three Hugo awards for Best Fantasy Novel, plus a long list of credits and publications. Winnetka Community House, 620 Lincoln Ave., Winnetka, IL. 9:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. $20 at the door or $10 for members. For more info, visit www.ocww.info. 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Winnetka Community House, 620 Lincoln Ave., Winnetka, $20, 847-446-0537.

Friday, March 15

JCC Chicago Jewish Film Festival: The 6th Annual JCC Chicago Jewish Film Festival runs March 1 – 17 and features 43 films at venues across the city and suburbs. This year’s Jewish Film Festival is a celebration of strength and resilience, and in particular, a tribute to strong female protagonists whose experiences made a difference for their families and the world. 7 p.m. daily, Century 12 Evanston/Cinéarts 6 And XD, 1715 Maple Ave., Evanston, $11 seniors and students, $13 general admittance, 844-452-2244.

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

Friday Fun (ages 3-5 w/adult) - TICKETED: Finish the week with stories and hands-on fun with the Youth Services Librarians. Tickets given out 20 minutes prior to each session. Preference given to Glenview Public Library cardholders. 10:30 a.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Chair Yoga: This program is a part of the Let’s Get Together series for older adults. Chair Yoga is one of the gentlest forms of yoga available. Students perform postures and breathing exercises with the aid of a chair and experience the many benefits of yoga without having to get up or down from the floor. All equipment is provided, wear comfortable clothes. To register for this event, visit the website or call. 10 a.m. Friday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

St. Patrick's Day Clover Hunt: Join in for a St. Patrick’s Day hunt outside for free. Prizes will be given to children who find the special clovers. This event will be held rain or shine. 4 p.m. Friday, Morton Grove Park District, 6834 Dempster St., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-1200.

CrossFit RPE Friday Night Lights: CrossFit RPE invites the community to its weekly CrossFit Open workouts. Hundreds of thousands of Crossfitters around the world will complete the same five workouts between Feb. 21 and March 26. The Open allows every athlete regardless of age or fitness level to see how they compare among their peers throughout the world, the country, the region and within their own gym. Email Nicole@crossfitrpe to join. CrossFit RPE offers memberships: 151 S. Pfingsten Rd., Unit W, in Deerfield; and 1852 Janke Dr., Suite B, in Northbrook. 5 p.m. Friday, free, 847-471-1601.

Fish Fry Fridays: Enjoy $5 half liters with a purchase of a fish platter. 11 a.m. Friday, Hofbrauhaus Chicago, 5509 Park Pl., Rosemont, free, 847-677-5277.

Saturday, March 16

Liam Davis & Steve Frisbie: 8 p.m. Saturday, The Wine Goddess, 702 Main St., Evanston, $20, 847-475-9463.

Bach Cantatas: Volunteer here. An Evening with J.S. Bach “One Prelude and Two Cantatas for Our Times” Tocca-

ta, Adagio and Pugne in C Major BWV 564 Weinen, Klagen, Sorgen, Zagen BWV 12 Wachet! Betet! Betet! Wachtet! BWV 70 Featuring the Trebles of the St. Luke’s Choir with members of Bella Voce and the Bella Voce Sinfonia on period instruments. Stephen Buzard will also perform on the historic EM Skinner OPUS 327 Pipe Organ. Proceeds from this event will help the ongoing preservation and promotion of this soon-to-be 100-year-old masterpiece. 7 p.m. Saturday, St. Luke’s Episcopal Church, 939 Hinman Ave., Evanston, $25; student discount available.

SAT Practice Test - Grades 9-12: Experience the SAT, now mandated in the state of Illinois. C2 Education facilitates a full-length, timed practice test. Register online, call 847-729-7500 x7600 or visit Reader Services. Noon Saturday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free.

Tea (Rex) Party (ages 3+ w/adult): How do dinosaurs have a tea party? Enjoy tea and treats while listening to stories, followed by a visit from everyone's favorite Cretaceous period creature. Fancy party and/or dinosaur clothing encouraged, but not required. Space is limited. Please register online, call 847-729-7500 x7900 or visit Youth Services. 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free.


Church, 939 Hinman Ave., Evanston. $255+, 847-635-6601.


Weekly Irish Music Session - John Williams: Join in 6-9 p.m. Sunday for a feast of Irish music led by world-renowned master of many a musical instrument, John Williams and joined by his many talented musical friends. Eat, drink and enjoy free live music at your local pub in lovely downtown Evanston. 3 p.m. Sunday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679.

St. Joseph Table: The Annual St. Joseph Table and Live Auction begins with dinner, followed by a live auction of merchandise, crafts, gift certificates, services, tickets and much more. A great family event. Noon Sunday, St. Martha Church, 8523 Georgiana Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-0262.

Michael Bublé: 8 p.m. Sunday, Allstate Arena, 6920 Mannheim Rd., Rosemont, $255+, 847-635-6601.

Monday, March 18

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.

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous: This is for those who have trouble controlling the way they eat. You are not alone. Today, there is a solution. Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA) is a free Twelve Step recovery program for anyone suffering from food obsession, overeating, undereating or bulimia. The following meeting is held in Evanston every week: Mondays at 6:45 p.m. in room 1711 of the Evanston Hospital. 6:45 p.m. Monday, Evanston Hospital, 2650 Ridge Ave., Evanston, free.

JCC Chicago Open Game Room: JCC Chicago offers free game rooms at the Bernard Weinger JCC in Northbrook.

Turn to Calendar, Page 16
**Tuesday, March 19**

**Smile & Rhyme at Heinen's (ages 2+ w/adult):** Join us for stories, rhymes and songs in the Café, then stay for a snack and to chat. Just drop in. 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Heinen's Grocery Store, 1020 Waukegan Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

**Facebook Basics:** For beginners — Create a profile and get started with the basics of this popular social media site. This class focuses on Facebook for personal use. Sign up for a Facebook account before class. Register at glenviewpl.org, 847-729-7500 x7700 or visit Reference Services. Registration and Glenview Library card required. Participants must be 18 years or older. Classes in the Tech Lab, unless otherwise noted. 2 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

**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 Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

**Financial Planning Appointments:** Need a financial tune-up? Schedule a free, one-hour consultation with a Certified Financial Planner®. No online registration. Call 847-729-7500 x7700 or visit Reference Services. 9 a.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

**LEGO Club (Grades 3-6):** Calling all builders! Join us for our monthly free build. We provide the LEGOs; you bring the ideas. Please register online, call 847-729-7500 x7900 or visit Youth Services. 4:15 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

**Wednesday, March 20**

**TAG: Tween Advisory Group (grades 5-8):** Join TAG and earn service hours for sharing your ideas with Library staff while also enjoying snacks, talking about books and meeting new people. Just drop in. 4 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

**All Things Spanish: Current Events:** Both native and non-native Spanish speakers are invited to practice their language skills and expand their love of Spanish/Latino culture. Contact cramirez@glenviewpl.org for more information. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

**Photo and Media Club:** Having trouble making your camera do what you want it to? Curious how to get your photography to the next level? We have DSLR cameras available to use, or you can bring your own! Drop-in event; no registration required. 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

**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 Dr., Northbrook, free for Lustbader members; $10 nonmembers, 224-406-9257.

**Megillah Mania:** Our Young Family Dinner begins at 5:30 p.m., followed by our family-friendly Purim Celebration at 6:15 p.m., which includes songs, music, costume parade and Megillah reading. Or join us at 6:15 p.m., for the Megillah reading and costume parade and stay for the dinner at 7:30 p.m., followed by our Shushan Rhapsody Purim Spiel. 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Congregation Beth Shalom, 3433 Walters Ave., Northbrook, free, 847-498-4100.

**John Lennon: The Solo Years:** Gary Wenstrup explores Lennon's music from "Imagine" to "Just Like Starting Over," his controversial immigration struggle, his wild lost weekend and the quiet house-husband years culminating with the release of his final album, "Double Fantasy." 10 a.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Rd., Northfield, $12 member; $17 nonmember, 847-948-6030.

*Have an event to submit? Go to ChicagoTribune.com/Calendar.*
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Kids fill up ‘passports’ at Niles Cultural Fair

BY STAFF REPORT
Pioneer Press

An inaugural Cultural Fair put on by the Niles Township District for Special Education brought out about 200 people, including more than 50 kids who were able to fill up their “passports” with stickers for exploring exhibits at the event, officials said.

The fair took place March 7 at the Molloy Educational Center in Morton Grove. It included booths that featured activities, food, posters and information. Children received a sticker for visiting a booth.

Besset Sabourin, coordinator of the Niles Township District for Special Education, said the event was larger than organizers expected. Sabourin said the goal was to have about 50 people in attendance.

“The event booths and activities were created by families, classrooms, and staff as well,” Sabourin said. “Some families made posters and brought in traditional foods. We had a few classrooms make booths as a classroom project.”

Sabourin said there were more than 17 cultural booths. Among those at the event were a refugee dance group, a line dance offered by the Muslim Community Center, an Irish music group and the Sol Azteca Folkloric Ensemble.

“As a district we were looking for ways to connect more with our families,” Sabourin said. “We have over 90 languages spoken in our communities, and we were looking for a way to bring our families together and to celebrate our unique traditions and heritages.”
A decade-by-decade history of the Chicago Bears. Al Capone and a look into Chicago's criminal underworld. Delectable cookie recipes from Tribune readers. Find these selections and more original reporting and photography from the Tribune's curated book collection.

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Chicago Tribune
D64 board candidates weigh in on failed resource officer program

By Jennifer Johnson
Pioneer Press

A failed attempt to pilot a program that would place police officers in local middle schools is getting a lukewarm response from most candidates running for seats on the Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 Board of Education.

Candidates Rebecca Little and Gareth Kennedy, who are running for one, two-year term on the board, and candidates Denise Pearl, Lisa Page, and Carolina Sales, running for three, four-year seats on the board, each answered “no” when asked if the school board should reconsider a proposal to bring school resource officers to Emerson and Lincoln Middle Schools.

“I advocated against adopting this expensive, poorly designed program because it didn’t meet a specific need and had many flaws.”

—Candidate Rebecca Little

Kennedy agreed, saying an “adequate reason or purpose has not been provided to the board for a school resource officer program.”

Pearl said the board’s “energy should be spent on other issues and concerns,” while Page said she remains “unclear about the purpose of the school resource officer program.”

“I have heard many parents complain and not want armed officers in the school system, so I believe there would have to be significant further research completed before this determination could be made,” Page said.

Sales said that while the board should not reconsider the program at this time, it could be revisited in the future “if circumstances in the district change ... and such a need actually exists.”

After more than one year of discussions and initial support, the current board of education in November scrapped plans to begin a pilot program that would have placed a police officer in each of the middle schools four hours a day, two days per week. Board members struggled to agree on rules that would govern the officers and were met with resistance from some parents.

A mission statement supported by the board in May 2018 said the resource officers would “act as educational resources to teachers, parents and students; help build awareness of community policing; and help school staff promote a safe and secure learning environment for both staff and students.”

Several parents, in objecting to the proposed program, told the school board a need had not been demonstrated. Some expressed concerns about potential interactions between police and students with behavioral issues.

School board candidate Steven Blindauer, a teacher in a western suburban middle school that has a resource officer program, said he would not advocate for SROs in District 64 “without the following: Input of parents, community members, staff and administration; a defined need and clear goals that include student social-emotional learning as part of success metrics; and a plan for data-based and collaborative decision making.”

Tom Sotos, the only incumbent running for re-election to the board, acknowledged that he has supported an SRO program in the district, adding that it must be “handled with great care.”

“If we bring in armed security, it would strictly be for the protection of the students, not policing them,” he said. “In talking to neighbors, most people are open to the idea of security if done with no intention of policing students. I would be excited to have that conversation in a productive way with the community.”

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State Rep. Yehiel Kalish reflects on his priorities

BY STEVE SADIN
Pioneer Press

As state Rep. Yehiel Kalish (D-Chicago) gets used to his new job in the Illinois General Assembly, he is examining the issues he wants to put at the top of his legislative agenda.

Kalish was appointed to complete the House term of Lou Lang on Jan. 20 after Lang resigned his seat Jan. 7 to become a lobbyist.

Lang represented the 16th District for more than 30 years. The district includes about half of Skokie, most of Lincolnwood and parts of Morton Grove, along with a portion of Chicago.

Though Kalish says he is still determining which issues he will champion, it took him just over three weeks to become a co-sponsor of legislation increasing Illinois' minimum wage to $15 per hour over the next six years.

An ordained orthodox Jewish rabbi, Kalish also has business and community service experience including advocating for education and First Amendment rights, he said. When he learned of the legislative vacancy in his district, he saw an opportunity.

"I was very interested," Kalish said. "Lou Lang was a mentor to me and a good representative of the community he served. I looked up to him."

When a member of the state legislature resigns midterm, Lang said state law mandates the selection process. Chairpersons of the former lawmaker's political party within the district vote on a replacement. They cast weighted votes based on the number of people who voted in the last primary.

Lang, of the Niles Township Democratic Organization, former state Sen. Ira Silverstein, who is the chair for Chicago's 50th Ward and Ald. Patrick O'Connor, the 40th Ward head, did the voting. Lang had a 53 percent vote, Silverstein 45 percent and O'Connor 2 percent.

The district includes much of Niles Township, all of Chicago's 50th Ward and a slice of the 49th Ward.

Kalish was one of 21 people to apply for the job and go through the interview process. He submitted his resume and a letter of reference before his interview. Lang said the sessions lasted at least 30 minutes. Kalish was everyone's first choice.

"I first met him many years ago when he was an advocate for an orthodox Jewish organization," Lang said. "I helped him learn how things go through the (legislative) process. That experience will help him hit the ground running."

Now that he is a member of the General Assembly, Kalish is formulating his list of issues to emphasize.

Community safety, health care — particularly affordable access to prescription medication — and controlling gun violence are three things near the top of his list.

"There has been an increase in hate crimes in Chicago and the United States" Kalish said. "There are a lot of Jews and Muslims in the district. That makes the issue important."

Kalish said he believes his skills as a rabbi will help him be a better lawmaker.

"You do a lot of communicating in my profession," Kalish said. "I feel comfortable talking to people."

Kalish lives in West Rogers Park with his wife and family. He has six children ranging in ages from 7 to 21.

Though reelected to his 17th term, Lang said after the Nov. 6 election that he received an "offer I couldn't refuse" to join a lobbying firm.

He resigned from the legislature Jan. 7, and took the new job. His term would have started Jan. 9.

Steve Sadin is a freelance reporter.

REGIONAL BRIEFS

Candidates forum set in Lincolnwood

A Village of Lincolnwood Candidates Forum is set for 7 p.m. Monday, March 18, in the auditorium of Lincoln Hall Middle School.

The school is at 6855 N. Crawford Ave., Lincolnwood. The forum, which is presented by School District 74, is open to all Lincolnwood residents, and the school's website has a link in which residents can submit questions that might be asked during a Q-and-A segment.

According to a post on the school's website, residents will be able to write questions for candidates on an index card on the evening of the forum.

It features village trustee candidates. Candidates include Jennifer Costantino, Craig L. Klatzco, Jesal Patel, Atour Toma Sargon, Joseph Spagnoli and Renan I. Sugarman. The candidates are vying for three available seats.

For information, visit www.sd74.org/lincoln.

East Maine kindergarten registration

Full-day kindergarten registration will take place on Wednesday, April 10, and Thursday, April 11, for residents of East Maine School District 63. Children must be 5 years old on or before Sept. 1, 2019.

Registration for the 2019-2020 school year will run from 9 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 3 p.m. on April 10, and from 1 to 3 p.m. and 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on April 11.

Registration takes place at all District 63 elementary schools: Apollo, Mark Twain, Melzer, Nelson and Washington. Parents should register their child at the school she or he will attend in the fall, and must bring a birth certificate, proof of district residency and completed health information forms.

To download kindergarten registration forms, learn more about documents that meet the proof of residency requirement, and find out which school your child will attend, visit www.emsd63.org/Page/5309. Or, contact the District 63 main office at 847-299-1900 with questions.

—Staff reports
GM builds on its core

Automaker focuses on cutting operations, redesigning vehicles, investing in EV

BY JAMIE L. LAREAU
Detroit Free Press

In the summer of 2015, about a dozen of General Motors' top brass flew to Silicon Valley for some not-your-father's auto industry meetings. The leaders sat down with Google, Facebook, venture capitalists and Stanford University experts to talk technology and its impact on mobility.

"We were seeing this massive disruption coming to the auto industry," said Tony Cervone, referring to electric and self-driving vehicles. Cervone, GM's head of communications, was on the Silicon Valley trip. "We came back asking, how do we lead the disruption by disrupting ourselves?"

It was a profound question for CEO Mary Barra, still relatively new at the time. She was working to fix GM's finances and dodge the profit pitfalls that led it into bankruptcy and a government bailout in 2009.

But the trip to Silicon Valley signaled that GM's leaders knew the future was going to mean behaving very differently.

So while GM's recent job cuts and plant closings dominate today's headlines, the roots of its restructuring took shape five years ago as GM changed its global business, selling some operations, restructuring others and making a big bet on electrification and autonomous cars.

While attention is focused on North America, the company continues reshaping its global operations, cutting and restructuring to ensure profitability.

Here's a look at some of the crucial plays that the 110-year-old automaker made and what its leaders believe it must do to stay relevant for another century or more.

From 2005-08, the "old" GM lost about $86 billion. It ultimately led to filing for federal bankruptcy protection and a government bailout.

GM was forced to make significant structural changes. In 2009, it closed 11 assembly plants in North America and dropped the Hummer, Pontiac, Saturn and Saab brands. In the process it cut production by 1.3 million vehicles, or 22 percent of GM's capacity, according to LMC Automotive's Jeff Schuster.

The "new" GM regained financial footing but when Barra took over in 2014, she walked into a firestorm ultimately requiring her to testify to Congress about the company's ignition switch scandal.

GM had produced more than 2.7 million small cars with faulty ignition switches that could shut off the engine during driving, preventing the air bags from inflating. At least 124 people were killed and 275 were injured. It cost GM close to $120 million for claims and penalties and settlements of an estimated $2.5 billion.

Insiders say that Barra realized GM's culture was too mired in bureaucracy, with ineffective communication among departments. The company was a lethargic behemoth, out of step with the quickly evolving market.

"GM was always a company where making a decision would take 10 weeks when it should take 10 minutes," said Maryann Keller, principal of Maryann Keller & Associates an industry analyst based in New York. "This company couldn't execute quickly. What I see Mary Barra creating is a company where she demands the information that empowers her to make what she believes is the right decision and move quickly."

One of the first things Barra and her team did was assess GM’s strengths and weaknesses around the world. It exited Russia and announced it would cease production of GM-branded cars in Indonesia in 2015.

Then, at GM's Global Business Conference in October 2015, Barra outlined the company's big play: improve GM's core business so it can fund investment in autonomous vehicles, electrification, connectivity and ride-sharing.

As GM looked to the future, it also looked to the Far East to fund it. The company had a solid foothold in the fastest-growing market in the world: China. In 2016, GM said it would roll out about 60 new models through 2020 to meet demand for SUVs, luxury cars and electric vehicles in China. GM also had a long and strong partnership with SAIC Motor in China, where it builds and sells Chevrolet, Buick and Cadillac brands.

GM's growth plan there locked in a large, long-term revenue stream, analysts said.

Last year, GM China reported equity income of $2 billion in China despite a softening market. That's consistent with 2017 and 2016 results. Cadillac sales in China rose 17.2 percent year over year.

"China is the world's largest car market and the world's largest EV market," said Michelle Krebs, executive analyst for Autotrader in Detroit. "Despite last year's setback — the first time sales dipped in 20 years — and a flat year expected for 2019, China will return to growth mode and become the world's largest car and EV market by an even wider margin in the future."

But Europe was a different story.

GM was reporting a pretax loss of at least $1 billion each year since 2012 from its operations in Europe, according to its annual earnings filings. So in March 2017, GM sold its money-losing European operation, Opel-Vauxhall, to French automaker PSA Group for $2.2 billion.

The company decided that cutting loose the operation would allow it to focus on more profitable markets, core products and technology such as electric cars, fuel cells and self-driving vehicles.

Later that year, GM sold its South Africa business to Isuzu and ended sales in India. So far GM's global restructuring and moves to introduce redesigned products, such as the 2019 Chevrolet Silverado and GMC Sierra pickups, have paid off with profits.

Between 2013 and 2018, GM earned $36.5 billion from its continuing operations, a company financial spokesman said.

The company went on a hiring spree for nearly five years, seeking people with new skills to develop automated and add electrified vehicles. It has hired 9,000 people in the past 24 months.

But on Nov. 26, GM announced a further restructuring plan to indefinitely idle five plants in North America and, with previously announced white-collar cuts, ax nearly 14,000 jobs, or 15 percent of its global workforce. GM is discontinuing the sedans two of those plants build to focus on SUVs and pickups, which are in greater demand.

The backlash by the UAW and Canada's union, Unifor, has been intense, with the unions demanding GM reverse its decision.

But Barra has held firm. And, in a Feb. 6 earnings call, she reiterated the importance to make such strategic moves.

"We are committed to continuing to strengthen the core business as well as continue to accelerate our work to lead in the future of personal mobility," Barra said. "We are repositioning the company from one that was trying to be all things to all people in all markets to a very strategic, agile and profitable company."
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Death Notices

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Death Notices

Carson, Judith Covey

Judith Covey Carson of Skokie died on January 6, 2019. She was born in Minneapolis on May 15, 1948. She is survived by her husband Tom and two children, Nora and Dan. She received a Ph.D. from Brown University and worked for many years as a software designer/architect. Visitation Saturday, March 16, 2019, 1:00 p.m. until time of her memorial service 2:00 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 3627 Golf Road, Evanston, Illinois 60203. for more information, please visit www.donnellanfuneral.com or call (847) 675-1990

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Evanston races past Loyola 56-42 for the Wildkits’ third straight sectional title

BY MIKE CLARK
Chicago Tribune

You never really know who’s going to do what for Evanston, but everyone usually winds up doing something.

On Friday night, it was Jaylin Gibson’s turn to score and Jaheim Holden’s job to play pesky defense.

As usual, the Wildkits aced their assignments en route to a 56-42 win over Loyola in the Class 4A Niles North Sectional final.

Gibson, a sophomore guard, scored a game-high 20 points on 8-for-10 shooting. Holden added 12 points while limiting Loyola’s Connor Barrett to five points in the first half and 12 for the game. Louis Lesmond added nine points off the bench. Bennett Kwiecinski led Loyola (22-13) with 15 points and eight rebounds.

It was the third straight sectional title for the Wildkits (30-4), who play Stevenson (27-5) in the Hoffman Estates Supersectional on Tuesday at Sears Centre.

Evanston raced to a 21-9 lead in the first seven minutes, hitting 7-for-8 from 3-point range. Gibson, Holden and Lesmond all hit a pair of 3s in the opening surge.

"Before the game (I was thinking), 'If they back off, shoot the ball,'" Gibson said. "In warmups, I was feeling it."

Gibson was willing to take advantage of the extra attention Loyola gave to teammate Blake Peters.

The sophomore guard was content to facilitate his teammates’ scoring and did not take a shot all night.

"I've always told these guys, 'If you use your teammates, we're going to be hard to beat,'" Evanston coach Mike Ellis said. "We don't want to play one-on-one, we want to play five-on-five."

Holden likewise embraced his designated role for the evening.

"I was just trying to lock and trail, don't give (Barrett) any space," Holden said. "Because with any space, he can knock down those 3s. I couldn't let my team down. I know he's their key player."

Barrett wasn't the only Rambler who posed a potential problem for Evanston, whose tallest starter is the 6-foot-3 Gibson. The Kwiecinski twins, Bennett and Jordan, are both 6-8 and pose matchup problems for any opponent, let alone the smaller Wildkits.

That's why Ellis chose to slow the tempo once his team was comfortably ahead of the Ramblers.

"They're used to grinding it out, low-scoring games," Ellis said. "So as long as we've got the basketball, we don't have to go down there and guard 10-12 passes. And they've got two 6-8 guys down low that we don't have. Well, you can be 6-8 down low at our end and it's not going to bother us. Down at their end, it's a different story."

Holden liked the way Evanston's strategy played out.

"They scored a lot off our turnovers," he said. "If we limited them by slowing the ball down and brought them out of the zone defense, it actually helped us stretch the floor and find the open guy."

Loyola got within 27-26 on a 3-pointer by Barrett with 6 minutes, 15 seconds left in the third quarter. But a 6-0 surge gave Evanston some breathing room.

The Ramblers made one more run to cut the deficit to 41-37 early in the fourth. But Isaiah Holden and Lesmond hit 3s to push the margin back to 10.

Evanston was 12-for-23 from 3-point range, getting at least one 3 from five different players.

"We don't rely on one person to score 30," Ellis said.

But the Wildkits do rely on everyone to find a way to contribute and once again, they did.
Why does youth hockey cost so much?

Lawsuits suggest AHAI has refused to give two clubs a membership

BY JOHN KEILMAN
Chicago Tribune

The organization that oversees youth hockey in Illinois is making the sport more expensive and less competitive than it is in other states by preventing new teams from forming, according to a pair of lawsuits recently filed in federal court.

Representatives of two aspiring clubs allege that the Amateur Hockey Association of Illinois, or AHAI, has refused to give them a charter, a decision they say allows existing teams to charge a premium, pay some of their officials six-figure salaries and shut talented children out of full participation.

"It means the kids aren't able to achieve their highest level, which we think is not what people involved in youth athletics should be doing," said Steve Dry, a hockey dad and head of the Reapers Hockey Association, which sued AHAI last month.

The lawsuits illuminate a peculiarity of youth hockey. While travel baseball, soccer and basketball teams can form in a variety of ways, in hockey, there is a single dominant route: Clubs must be granted membership by a state or regional association, which act as affiliates of the governing body USA Hockey.

AHAI, which did not respond to a request for comment, has that authority in Illinois. But according to the lawsuits, it exercises a much tighter control over the sport than other state associations.

Its rules allow only four clubs at the elite level known as Tier 1, where college scouts commonly hunt for talent. No other state has such a restriction, according to the Reapers, a new organization that aims to bring Tier 1 hockey to the North Shore.

They point to USA Hockey figures showing that Illinois has one Tier 1 team for every 5,837 players, a ratio far higher than any other state. The Reapers say the existing programs accept children from outside Illinois, further minimizing opportunities for homegrown kids.

Dry, who also serves as president of the Highland Park-based Falcons Hockey Association, last year filed an application with AHAI to allow the Reapers to become the state's fifth Tier 1 club. But the lawsuit says AHAI board members turned it down, keeping the four-team rule in place.

The Reapers allege that the decision leaves the existing Tier 1 clubs — Team Illinois, Chicago Mission, Chicago Fury and Chicago Young Americans, which are also defendants in the lawsuit — "free to rampantly overcharge and underperform, insulated from competition of any kind."

The lawsuit does not say how much the clubs charge, but parents whose children play Tier 1 hockey told the Tribune it costs around $8,000 to $11,000 a year, not including the cost of travel to out-of-town tournaments.

The Reapers will charge at least 25 percent less than the existing clubs, Dry said in an interview.

The lawsuit also calls attention to the salaries earned by some employees and officers at the state's Tier 1 clubs, which operate as non-profits.

Tax records show that in 2016, all of them had at least one person earning more than $100,000. A contractor providing "management-coaching" to the Chicago Fury topped the list with compensation of $184,750, according to the documents.

The clubs declined comment or did not respond to interview requests.

A second lawsuit, filed in December, takes issue with AHAI's oversight of Tier 2 hockey — the level at which dozens of local travel teams compete.

Black Bear Sports Group, a Maryland-based company that owns and operates ice rinks around the country, wants to create a Tier 2 team at one of its properties — Center Ice of DuPage in Glen Ellyn. It claims AHAI refused to allow that, saying sufficient clubs already exist in the market.

The company disputes that, saying hockey participation in Illinois has boomed in recent years without a corresponding increase in the number of clubs.

That has created a situation where prices charged by Illinois clubs are substantially higher than the prices charged by youth clubs that use other Black Bear rinks in comparable markets, including Maryland, Pennsylvania and New Jersey, the lawsuit claims.

Black Bear says that its prices would be lower than competing Tier 2 clubs. But in a legal filing, AHAI says Black Bear hasn't actually put in an application and thus lacks standing to sue. The company says AHAI made it clear the application would not be accepted.

Black Bear executives declined comment. AHAI's lawyers released a one-sentence statement to the Tribune: "AHAI looks forward to addressing the plaintiffs' specific concerns, while continuing in its mission to serve Illinois' hockey community."

USA Hockey spokesman Dave Fischer said aspiring clubs can seek arbitration if membership decisions don't go their way, and some affiliate decisions have been overturned. Neither the Reapers nor Black Bear have entered that process, he said.

Asked about the lawsuits' portrayal of AHAI as overly controlling, Fischer replied: "Our 34 affiliates all have the best interests in mind for kids and families."
Libertyville’s Claire Keefe has her family’s support at DePauw (Ind.)

By Bob Narang
Pioneer Press

Claire Keefe is starting to carve out her own legacy in her family.

But the DePauw (Ind.) sophomore forward has a long way to go to catch up with her uncle, Brad Ausmus.

Ausmus played 18 years of Major League Baseball and managed the Detroit Tigers from 2014-17. This will be his first season as manager of the Los Angeles Angels.

Keefe, a Libertyville graduate, had another solid season for the DePauw Tigers. The 6-foot Keefe averaged 10.7 points and 6.2 rebounds and blocked 19 shots to go with 19 3-pointers, 31 assists and 16 steals.

Keefe said her uncle, despite a busy spring schedule, managed to watch the Tigers’ 54-52 season-ending loss to Wisconsin-Oshkosh in the second round of the NCAA Division III Tournament on March 2. Keefe missed a short jumper in the lane that would have forced overtime.

“He has been following us this season, and I found out our last game was being watched in (the Angels) locker room, which is pretty cool,” Keefe said. “Overall, I just see him as a real supportive family member.”

The Tigers (25-5) defeated Denison to win the North Coast Athletic Conference Tournament on Feb. 23 and advanced to the Division III tournament for the 16th straight time. Keefe scored 15 points and collected six rebounds to earn the Nan Nichols Most Valuable Player award after the game.

Keefe said her role changed slightly this season — and she expects more of the same next year.

“My role was to have a stronger voice and work as a blue-collar kid,” she said. “I tried my best to be in every hustle play and make sure it would help our team gain another possession. For next year, we all need to get stronger, and that means more time in the weight room.”

There are plenty of Chicago-area players on the DePauw roster. Junior guard Sydney Kopp, a Hinsdale South graduate, led the Tigers in scoring by averaging 15.7 points and making a team-best 73 3-pointers.

Lake Forest alumna Maeve Summerville averaged 3.4 points and 3.4 rebounds in her freshman season.

McKenzie Blaze (Fenwick) played in 14 games and averaged 2.9 points.

Freshman guard Grace Kinsey (Lake Zurich) saw action in 29 games and tallied 24 points.

Kmet off to solid start: Cole Kmet remains busy — and productive — this spring.

After playing key snaps for Notre Dame’s football team, Kmet is off to a strong start on the mound. The St. Viator graduate earned his first save of the season in a win against Charleston Southern on March 1 and added another against Wake Forest on Saturday.

On March 3, he set a career high with 11 strikeouts in a personal-best 7-3 innings in a 2-0 loss to Ball State. He struck out 13 players during the week and was named one of Collegiate Baseball’s National Players of the Week.

In the loss to Ball State, the sophomore left-hander had the most strikeouts by an Irish pitcher since March 23, 2012. The Lake Barrington resident appeared in 26 games during his freshman season and led the Irish with eight saves.

Kuzmanic paces UAB: Senior guard Deanna Kuzmanic, a Mount Prospect resident, scored 21 points by matching her career high of seven 3-pointers and added 10 assists for her second career double-double in UAB’s 95-69 win against Louisiana Tech last Thursday.

The Blazers (24-5) return to action on Thursday in the quarterfinals of the Conference USA Tournament. Thus far, Kuzmanic has started all 29 games and is averaging 12.7 points and 5.1 rebounds per game.

Also suiting up for UAB are freshman guard Emily Frasco (Prospect) and redshirt senior guard Maya Garland (Fenwick).

Have a suggestion for College Notes? Email Bob Narang at bobnarang@yahoo.com.

Bob Narang is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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