

The Hinsdalean

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Community journalism the way it was meant to be



What a smile! — Even at 6 months, Cormac Real is a natural in front of the camera. The cheerful youngster, the 2021 Happiest Baby contest winner, and his parents, Maureen and Conor, are featured in the 60 Seconds story on Page 9, in which the couple talk about first-time parenthood and their move to Hinsdale to start their family. (Jim Slonoff photo)



D181 superintendent shares look back at highlights of 2021.

Page 5



Hinsdale woman helps others start new year with purpose.

Page 14



Still not too late to make plans for New Year's Eve.

Page 15





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NEWS

Shopping season a gift for merchants

Hinsdale retailers saw strong sales, good foot traffic in weeks leading up to Dec. 25

By Pamela Lannom
plannom@thehinsdalean.com

Kim Fuller, owner of Meredith Jaye, was uncertain how her newest store would fare this holiday shopping season.

"It could not have gone any better," she said Tuesday. "Being our first season in Hinsdale, I wasn't sure what to expect. We've been very accepted by the community and other businesses, and so we feel very thankful and grateful for that."

Fuller also owns, in Glen Ellyn, M and Em's, which she opened 21 years ago, and the first Meredith Jaye, which opened in 2016. Her Hinsdale shop opened in May and has outperformed her other stores.

"Coming right out of the gate, I would say the trajectory has been more than I ever could have anticipated," she remarked.

Customers have enjoyed the

curated selection of gifts and apparel, Fuller said. She noted that efforts were made to skirt the supply chain issues some retailers faced in order to have enough product in the stores.

Shoppers also appreciate the store's full-service offerings, including year-round gift wrapping.

"We're very thankful and excited to be in the community. We can't wait to see where it takes us going forward," Fuller said. "We're ready for the new season to start."

Sales were also brisk at Fuller's Home and Hardware, where its inventory of 1,000 live Christmas trees sold out about a week earlier than usual. Between 600 and 700 were sold Thanksgiving weekend, said co-owner Paula Goss. She said it seemed more residents were in town over the holiday weekend and noted a shortage of artificial trees due to supply chain issues.

"If they wanted artificial trees,

they couldn't get them," Goss said.

More people seemed to be doing their own decorating this year, she said, which meant indoor and outdoor lights flew off the shelves.

"Whatever we had in stock sold," Goss said.

Support for small businesses was strong this year, she noted.

"We had a lot of foot traffic and it was really nice," she said. "It was a total blessing."

The surge in COVID-19 cases this month resulted in increased orders for fruit baskets at The Fruit Store, said co-owner John Yurchak.

"A lot of people stayed home. A lot of people canceled parties," he said. "A lot of people sent gift baskets to family."

Coffee gift baskets at Café la Fortuna also were popular, selling out in fact, according to owner Angela Lavelli. She said noticed the crowds thinning a bit as it got closer to Christmas.

"We are in a town that people are so supportive, I can't complain," Lavelli said.

Alixandra Collections also felt the love from local shoppers, store manager Toni Gentleman said.

"We've had a ton of community support, which has just been amazing," she said. "We cannot be more thankful and grateful for the people that supported us. We really appreciate everybody shopping local."

Clothing, jewelry and handbags were popular gifts this year, she said, adding that many more customers were comfortable shopping in the store this Christmas. The warm weather and lack of snow also brought more people to town.

"It was really nice to see a lot of people shopping local," Gentleman said. "It was great to see a lot of action in the downtown again."

The night the music played



The Hinsdale Middle School band held its first performance in quite some time Dec. 9. Because of COVID-19, the band had not had a program for 686 days. The program included "Rondeau," "The Fires of Bandai" and "Rockin' with Frosty." Please turn to Page 5 for more pictures. (Jim Slonoff photo)

ONCE UPON A TIME



First park — Sandy Williams' book, "Images of America — Hinsdale," mentions that Burlington Park was the site of the first public landscaping in the village. "After the railroad granted use of the site in 1877, fencing and evergreens were installed. When the new depot was built in 1899, the village acquired the remainder of the block, setting the stage for walkways and flower beds to showcase Hinsdale's 'front yard.' In this early photograph, Flagg Creek, covered in 1934, is still visible on the right."

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Alana Vargo
turns 13 Jan. 4

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Corrections

The Hinsdalean staff strives to provide an error-free newspaper each week. If a mistake is published, however, we are happy to correct it. Call or email Pamela Lannom to report errors requiring correction or clarification.

Letters to the editor

Our letters policy is published on Page 11.

Obituaries

Obituaries are published free each week in The Hinsdalean. Information may be mailed, faxed or emailed to news@thehinsdalean.com. Obituaries may be edited for style and space.

Photo reprint policy

Photographs that appear in The Hinsdalean may be purchased on our Web site at thehinsdalean.com. Occasionally additional photographs that have not been published in the paper may be published on the site; these also will be available for purchase.

Advertising policy

We reserve the right to edit and/or refuse all advertising submitted to The Hinsdalean.

District 181 has reasons to celebrate

It's not just holiday cheer you can feel throughout District 181 schools this month.

This school year, many of our staff have been recognized for prestigious awards, our students are showing outstanding growth and achievement when compared to their peers at similar schools, and for the third consecutive year, one of our schools (Prospect Elementary) was named a National Blue Ribbon School. All D181 schools also earned the "Best Elementary" or "Best Middle" school badge from U.S. News and World Report for placing among the top 30 percent in the state this year.

These accomplishments aren't due to a string of good luck or fortunate circumstances. We've been working diligently to create a positive learning

environment for students amidst some of the most challenging circumstances and making wise choices amongst a vast array of information and sometimes conflicting viewpoints.

All year long, we've also been celebrating successes at every level — and I'd like to take a moment to say thank you. The creativity, skillful execution and thoughtful stewardship of our support staff, teachers, administrators and board of education are a gift to our students.

To that end, I want to acknowledge how much of a difference the collective hard work of every member of the District 181 team makes. In fact,



Hector Garcia

we've started a special recognition program this year, which shines a spotlight on a staff member or a team from each of our schools. Our principals have nominated these extraordinary individuals and it's been my privilege to sit down with them, get to know them and personally thank them for their work. We've been highlighting these stories in our Staff Spotlight, which our school community will continue to see via email. (If you don't already receive our updates, you can sign up at <https://www.d181.org/enews>.)

I'd also like to thank our students and families for the level of commitment and engagement I see

throughout the district. Whenever I visit a classroom, I see our students enthusiastically raising their hands to participate in a lesson and treating one another with care and respect in the hallways. This sense of community based on excellence and belonging is something we pride ourselves on in District 181, and it is a joy to see everyone from different perspectives put differences aside in recognition of our efforts and results.

To our entire community: I'd like to wish you a peaceful and happy holiday season, with plenty of relaxation and the good company of family and friends. I look forward to continuing the success in D181 in 2022.

— by Dr. Hector Garcia, superintendent, Community Consolidated Elementary District 181

HMS band gets back into the swing of things



In their first concert in 686 days, Hinsdale Middle School Band members, under the direction of George Andrikokus and Meaghan Fulton, played two concerts Dec. 9. Among the musicians were Sarah Stirlen on flute, Greta Dannhausen-Brun on tenor saxophone and Kasey Quast on tuba. (Jim Slonoff photos)

NEXT WEEK

Hinsdale Village Board

7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 4
Memorial Building
19 E. Chicago Ave.
<https://www.villageofhinsdale.org>

On the draft agenda: special use permit to allow martial arts studio in B-1 business district, purchase of two Peterbilt 548 trucks, final plat of subdivision for residential lot, approve exterior appearance and site plans for 4 N. Washington St. and 36 E. Hinsdale Ave.

One happy baby!



This is the photo that earned 6-month-old Cormac Real the title of Hinsdale's happiest baby for 2021. His photo appears on the cover of today's issue, and his family is profiled in the 60 Seconds feature on Page 9. Let's hope 2022 has smiles in store for all.

Village sees spike in new COVID-19 cases

Two hundred and sixteen Hinsdale residents have tested positive for COVID-19 over the past week.

The DuPage County Health Department reported 208 new cases, and the Cook County Health Department reported eight new cases.

That brings the total number of reported cases in the village to 2,675, compared to 2,459 last week.

Amita Hinsdale Hospital had 33 confirmed COVID-19 patients and no patients awaiting test results as of Tuesday, a spokeswoman said.

Hinsdale Central High School reported 50 positive cases, 56 in isolation and 10 in quarantine as of Dec. 21, the last day before winter break. Vaccination rates are holding at 81 percent for

Central students and 95 percent for Hinsdale High School District 86 staff.

Community Consolidated Elementary District 181 has not posted an update since Dec. 17, the last day before students went on winter break.

The rolling seven-day positivity rate for Region 8, which includes DuPage County, was 12.1 percent on Dec. 25, compared to 7.7 percent the previous week.

Illinois has administered more than 19 million doses of vaccines. An average of 48,152 doses are being administered daily, compared to about 65,165 last week.

The percentage of individuals fully vaccinated is 70.5 percent in DuPage County and about 74 percent in the 60521 ZIP code.

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D86 community survived, thrived in 2021

As I reflect on the past year, one word that comes to mind is community. As the world endured another year in a global pandemic, the District 86 community continued to display strength and overcome adversity while achieving great success both in and out of the classroom.

District 86 remained committed to preserving and protecting the health and safety of our students and staff in the face of COVID-19. We implemented layered mitigation strategies in our buildings, hosted several community vaccination events and partnered with Northshore Clinical Labs to provide on-site COVID-19 testing services at both high schools. As a result of our diligent efforts, our district was able to keep people in school and offer traditional in-person learning all year long.

Despite the challenges this year brought, our students and staff

earned a number of impressive honors and accolades as they continued to strive for excellence. Below is a sampling of those achievements.

Hinsdale Central was named a 2021 National Blue Ribbon School.

Nearly 300 District 86 students were named Illinois State Scholars.

More than 90 District 86 students earned the Seal of Biliteracy during the first semester of the 2021-22 school year.

Hinsdale South increased its English language arts scores on the SAT at a time when most high schools have seen their scores decline.

We made positive steps toward improving equity across the district in conjunction with our strategic plan. In January, our board of education



Tammy Prentiss

approved the district's equity statement to ensure all of our students have the tools they need to meet their learning and well-being requirements. We also appointed Dr. Patrice Payne as the district's director of instructional equity.

Payne's work is focused, in part, on supporting the goals of our equity statement, and providing professional development opportunities for staff members that are helping create an engaging and inclusive learning environment for all students.

We continued making progress on our three-year Future Ready Facilities plan, which is scheduled for completion in 2023. Some of the projects we finished this year include:

- addition and renovation of the

special education area at Hinsdale Central

- renovations to the existing fine arts space at both schools
- renovation of the cafeteria at Hinsdale South
- addition of the natatorium at Hinsdale Central

In addition to this work, the district also renovated a second location for the Transition Center located in Burr Ridge.

We cannot look back on all that we accomplished in 2021 without thanking our students, staff and community for their hard work and commitment to excellence. We wish our community happy holidays and look forward to working together to help all of our students pursue their ideal future.

— by Tammy Prentiss,
superintendent, Hinsdale High
School District 86

■ We cannot look back on all that we accomplished in 2021 without thanking our students, staff and community for their hard work and commitment to excellence.

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POLICE BEAT

Hinsdale police released the following reports Dec. 21 and 28.

DUI arrest

Andrius Matulis, 35, 6158 Knollway Drive, Willowbrook, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a blood-alcohol content higher than .08 and improper window tinting at 1:19 a.m. Dec. 23 at Route 83 and Chicago Avenue. He was charged and released to appear in court.

Wallet taken from employee

A wallet containing a drivers license, credit cards and \$10 went missing during an employee's shift at Hinsdale Surgical Center, 10 Salt Creek Lane, between 7:15 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. Dec. 20. No fraudulent activity was reported on the credit cards.

Business check altered

Someone intercepted a check mailed from Foxford LLC, 12 Salt Creek Lane, and altered the payee information between Oct. 13 and 26. The incident was reported Dec. 22.

Decoration stolen

A resident reported a Christmas decoration worth \$50 was taken from the yard of his home in the 500 block of North County Line Road at 5:40 a.m. Dec. 24.

Hit and runs reported

- Someone hit a car parked in the alley in the 100 block of South Washington Street sometime before 3:22 p.m. Dec. 9 and left without providing any information.
- A suspect driving a gray or silver pickup truck was involved in a crash at 4:50 p.m. Dec. 21 at Fuller Road and Elm Street and left the scene.

Identity theft reported

- The identity of a resident of the 10 block of South Springlake Avenue was used to open a credit card account at 3:41 a.m. Dec. 13. No dollar loss was reported.
- Someone used the identity of a resident of the 800 block of Taft Road to open a cell phone account July 26 and accrue charges of \$11,659. The incident was reported Dec. 21.

Credit card fraud

A resident of the 600 block of South Park Avenue on Dec. 21 reported an unauthorized charge on her credit card dated Oct. 3.

Holiday safe driving initiative under way

Hinsdale police are part of a statewide impaired driving awareness campaign that continues through Monday, Jan. 3.

"Driving impaired, whether under the influence of alcohol or drugs, can have catastrophic consequences and is illegal in every state" Deputy Chief Thomas Lillie said.

If a celebration involves alcohol or other impairing substances, keep these tips in mind to ensure a safe holiday.

- Before you head to the

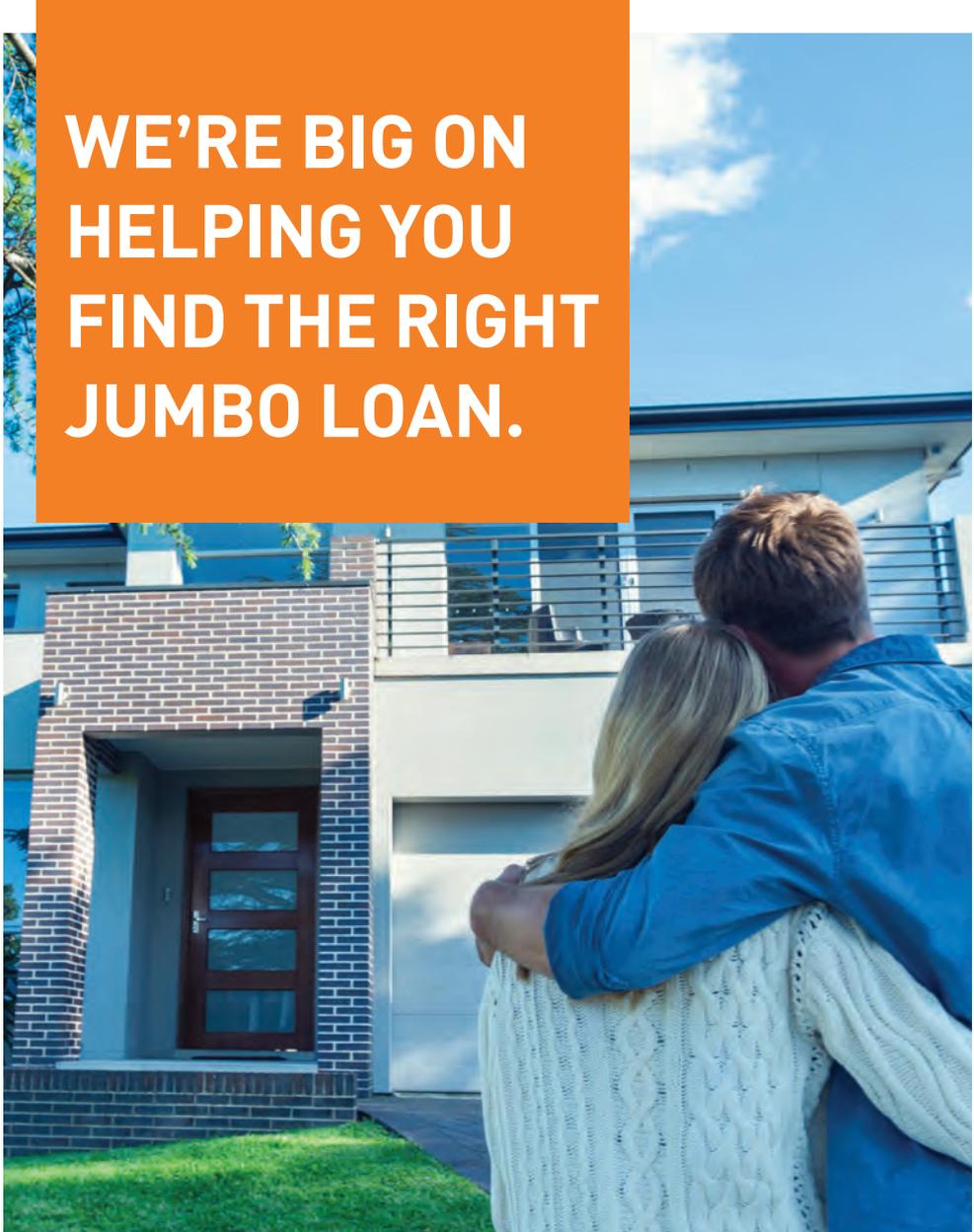
party, designate a sober driver or plan to use public transportation or a ride-sharing service to get home safely.

- If you see an impaired driver on the road, pull over and call 911.

• Have a friend who is about to drive impaired? Take their keys and help them get home safely.

- Always buckle up.

The initiative is made possible by federal traffic safety funds.



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■ “I think the most fun has been once he started smiling and laughing. He’s so engaged.” – **Maureen Real**

Happy baby is central to happy Hinsdale home

Hinsdale’s Conor Real was at a friend’s gathering this fall with some longtime pals. Taking in the scene, he was struck by life’s unfolding phases.

“Five years ago we’re going out in the city. Now all of us are around a backyard fire pit each holding our own kid,” he said.

The little one in Conor’s arms was Cormac, whom he and wife Maureen welcomed in June. Cormac was crowned The Hinsdalean’s Happiest Baby of 2021 (look again at the cover to see why), and he’s certainly brought joy to his mom and dad.

“I think the most fun has been once he started smiling and laughing. He’s so engaged,” Maureen said.

The year has been a particularly transitional one for the Reals. In March the couple migrated from Chicago to the village, not far from Conor’s Burr Ridge roots. About four months later they entered parenthood, able to get the nursery outfitted but with little time for more extensive home decor.

“We have a friend who’s trying to build her interior design portfolio, so she was able to help us out with the entire first floor,” Conor said.

Maureen, a native of Grand Rapids, Mich., and youngest of six siblings, said their pregnancy announcement came around the holidays last year.

“He’s number 17 on my side,” she said of Cormac’s rank in the cousins’ seniority roll.

“No. 1 on my side,” Conor chimed in, “so he’s the star baby.”

The two first met as students at Marquette University. Maureen later transferred to Michigan State, but their relationship was rekindled once both were living in the city. They went suburban house-hunting during the hot spring market, hoping to land along the BNSF line.

“(Our agent) was like, ‘You’ve got seven total homes to look at, basically.’ And we looked at all of them,” Conor said.

Once Cormac and Maureen were released from the hospital, the family could finally settle in. At least for 15 minutes.

“Our power went out the day we got home,” Maureen said.

It was restored after a couple steamy hours, but the episode underscored that a new adventure had begun. Their block also should provide plenty of action.



THE REAL FAMILY

MAUREEN IS A SPEECH PATHOLOGIST • CONOR WORKS FOR AN INSURANCE AGENCY • CONOR’S PARENTS ALSO LIVE IN HINSDALE • MAUREEN HAS SIBLINGS IN HINSDALE AND WESTERN SPRINGS

“We’ve got a lot of kids on the street, which is awesome,” Maureen said.

Her twin brother, who lives in the area, had a baby girl in April. They decided to hold joint baptism to optimize — and economize — the celebration.

Like all fledgling parents they have a newfound appreciation for sleep and an abiding fear of overlooked household hazards. Now 6 months old, Cormac is starting to roll

and showing signs that crawling will soon follow.

“We’re already planning on how to build a kid (enclosure) down in our basement,” Conor said.

“I feel like the development just explodes. Every week is something new,” Maureen added.

Cormac is fascinated by the sound of crinkling chip bags and the magical refrigerator water dispenser.

“He’s pretty much just

grabbing everything and playing peek-a-boo and chewing on everything,” Conor said.

They relish their babysitter and the family support network that enables them to maintain date nights. But no more all-nighters.

“We’re pretty low-key these days,” he acknowledged.

“Probably on New Year’s will be asleep by 10 or 11 o’clock.”

— story by Ken Knutson,
photo by Jim Slonoff



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OPINION

EDITORIAL

The new year prompts new (and old) yearnings

As the finishing touches are being put on 2021, we look ahead to 2022 with hope and, of course, resolutions. Here are resolutions we submit to enhance an already wonderful community.

- Stick to the agenda

Hinsdale High School District 86 Board President Terry Walker should resolve to discuss all items on the meeting agenda. If four board members have agreed to place the item on the agenda, Walker shouldn't change the rules — as she did Dec. 16 — and ask for another vote to determine whether to actually discuss it.

- Avoid a game of "Parking Fury"

More work must be done to manage the central business district's parking capacity. The downtown parking deck's value has become clear since opening 18 months ago. It's often completely filled by midday — in the middle of a pandemic. Can the village offer incentives to move employees to the often empty red permit spaces? Can the commuter lot be better utilized with so many now working remotely? Are there other options worth investigating?

- Keep doors open to outdoor dining

The village should continue to work with restaurateurs to maintain outdoor dining in the central business district in the spring, summer

and fall months. The al fresco option clearly has appeal beyond simply a COVID-19 coping measure (even if it eats up some parking spots).

- Create the committee

The District 86 board should establish a committee dedicated to academics — like the academic success committee in District 181 — as suggested by board member Debbie Levinthal. We agree a separate forum for discussing academic issues would provide additional information for those who seek it and streamline regular board meetings — so long as all the same information is not repeated before the full board each month.

- Mask and vax

Everyone should follow the CDC recommendations regarding masking and vaccinations. Emergence of the Omicron variant has shown that we still need to do all we can to stay safe.

- Appreciate the past

Stop by the Hinsdale History Museum at 15 S. Clay Street to see the "Remembering Pearl Harbor & WWII" exhibit, which chronicles the efforts of Hinsdaleans at home and abroad. The exhibit is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturdays (except for New Year's Day) through the spring.

- Shop local year-round

Many merchants have commented on how much they appreciated residents' support during the holiday shopping season. Let's give them reason to be grateful all through 2022.

- Sharpen the pencil

Value engineering should be used to eliminate as much as possible of the \$4.5 million referendum deficit related to facilities improvements in District 86. Labor shortages and supply chain issues certainly could not have been anticipated when the referendum was passed in April 2019, but annual construction project funds should be pilfered only as a last resort.

- Give police a hand

Help deter crime in the village by locking your vehicles and taking your key fobs with them. Leave interior lights on when you're not at home and enlist neighbors or friends to ensure items are not left sitting on driveways or porches.

- Keep an open heart

The giving spirit that seems to go hand in hand with the holiday season should continue into the new year, as the need for essentials — food, clothing, shelter, health care — doesn't go away because the calendar has changed. We're in this together!

COMMENTARY

A letter to Ainsley on her 13th birthday

In three days I will be the mother of a teenage girl.

While I've had 13 years to prepare for this moment, I still find it taking me by surprise.

Each December as Ainsley has gotten older, I've wondered whether I've reached the final year of what has been an annual tradition since she was little. On the issue before her birthday, I use this space to pen her a letter. I thank her for her patience in letting me write about her — and yours for your willingness to read about her.

Dear Ainsley,

As you well know, you are on the verge of becoming a teenager. This might be less exciting than expected, seeing as people have mistaken you for a high school student since you were in the fifth grade. But on Sunday you will be the big 1-3.

I know this is a tough time — for you and lots of other kids. Even though the "tween" years are over, you're still stuck in that in-between phase. You're no longer a kid, but you're not yet a young adult.

You've lost much of the fun and freedom of childhood and have yet to gain most of privileges of adulthood.

You and your classmates are going through a lot of changes — physical and emotional — that can result in a bit of insecurity. Unfortunately, thanks to social media, teens today are subjected to relentless commentary on everything from their height to their haircut.

You will realize, as you get older, that most people who are overly critical are that way because they feel bad about themselves. In some twisted way, they believe cutting you down will boost them up. That knowledge doesn't make their words sting any less — whether you are in seventh grade or a grown adult. But hopefully it will help you recover faster.

If I could give you any gift for your birthday, I would give you the gift of seeing yourself as I see you.



Pamela Lannom

You are elegant and beautiful. Your classmates might be giving you grief over your height and build, but that will change as you get older. I've never heard a grownup criticize a woman for being tall and thin. Have patience.

You have a wonderful, quirky sense of humor that makes you so fun

to be around. I especially enjoy your lip syncing, funny faces and witty comments. I love it when you make me laugh.

You are a thoughtful, caring and loyal friend. Those qualities will be more and more appreciated by others as you get older.

More importantly, you are a thoughtful and caring granddaughter, niece and goddaughter who is always willing to spend time with family members — even if it means eating Christmas dinner in the dining room of an assisted living facility.

You are an amazing musician. I can't tell you how proud I am of your accomplishments this year and how much I enjoyed seeing you play and sing in your winter concerts. Don't underestimate — or underappreciate — the gift you've been given.

You have grown up so fast! It seems like yesterday that we celebrated your birthday with lunch and a shopping trip at the American Girl store, and now you're using Christmas and birthday money to buy a new iPhone.

But as much fun as we had when you were little, I wouldn't want time to stop. I so enjoy watching you grow into the marvelous young woman you are becoming. (And so does your father!)

So happy 13th birthday, Ainsley. It is a gift to be your mom.

Love,
Me

— Pamela Lannom is editor of *The Hinsdalean*. Readers can email her at plannom@thehinsdalean.com.

OPINION

GUEST COMMENTARY

Bon temps, part deux

*Your cares will disappear
When you hear
Hallelujah St.
Nicholas is here
When it's Christmas
time
In New Orleans*



Bret Conway

In a column last March, I summarized my travelogue recollections from prior visits to the city not for spectators, but for participants. Taking advantage of my college freshman's holiday break, I joined Maya a few weeks ago in an easy pursuit of "bon temps" in New Orleans.

Day 1 we started in the Bywater District with an outdoor table at Alma Café. Waiting on lunch, I heard an incredible sound system loudly pumping out "Pick up the Pieces" by the Average White Band. I turned expecting to view a decked-out monster SUV navigating the pot-holed streets. Instead, it was an older, nicely dressed gentleman whizzing down Louisa Street on his mobility scooter in style. Lunch arrived and the red beans and rice and Spanish Migas were delicious. I've been following chef Melissa Araujo since meeting her as my Uber driver during a prior visit in 2016, and she opened her Honduran eatery back in the fall of 2020.

Post lunch we strolled through Bywater with its colorful cottages and thriving art scene. We hit Jammola, an immersive 12-room exhibit celebrating New Orleans art, music and culture. Making our way back to the Quarter, we caught a holiday jazz concert by the Original Tuxedo Band in St. Louis Cathedral. From there, we grabbed a late dinner at Cochon Butcher for the city's best mufaletta.

Day 2 we grabbed coffee and beignets at Café du Monde,

then took the St. Charles streetcar, hopping off for lunch at La Boulangerie on Magazine, followed by Beard Papa's amazing cream puffs. We toured Loyola New Orleans and Tulane in the late afternoon, then made our way back to Baru Bistro & Tapas for dinner. We

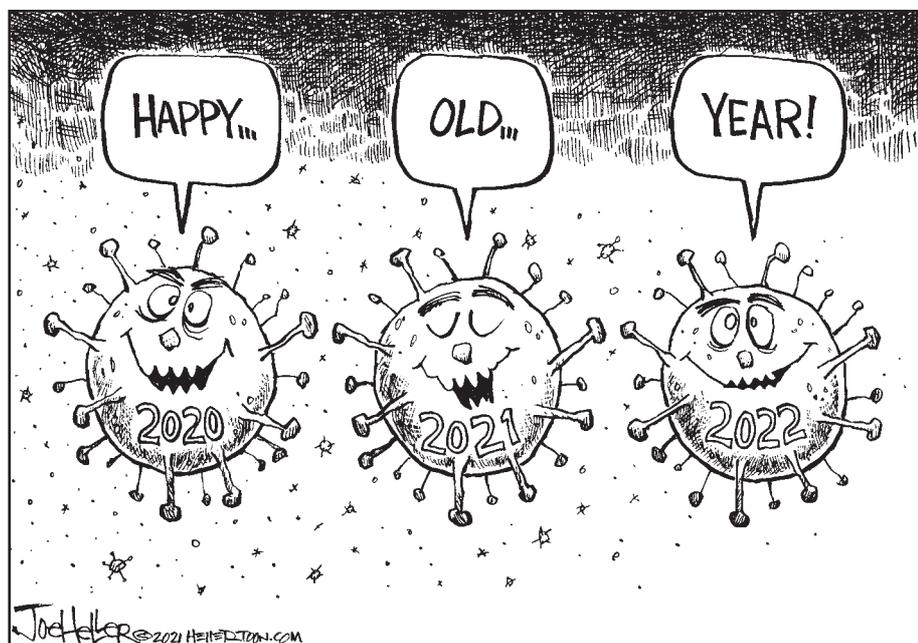
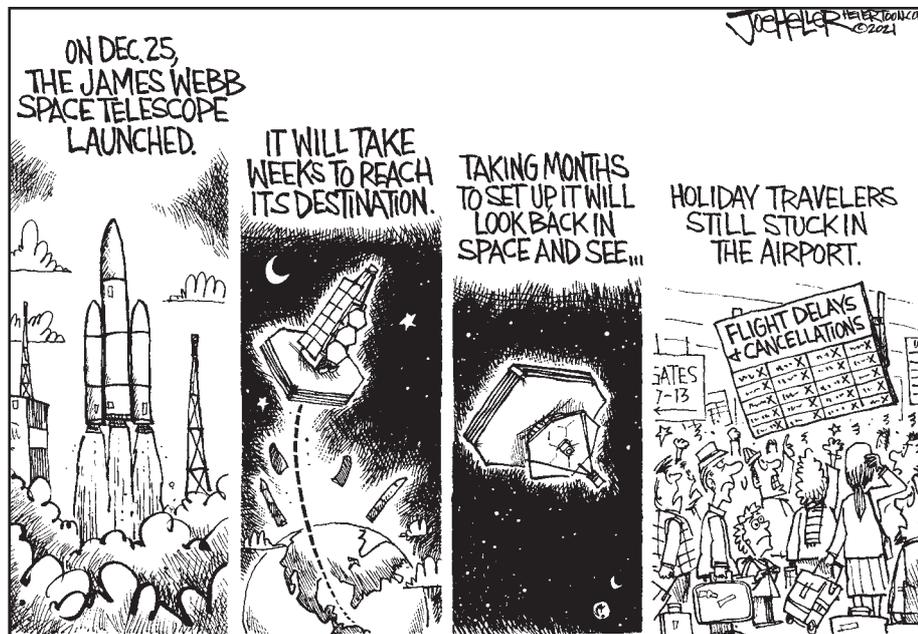
took in holiday decorations of the beautiful homes in the Lower Garden district along St. Charles, then ended at the Roosevelt Hotel, strolling the lobby fully decked out in holiday lights.

Day 3 we hit Napoleon House for lunch and a Pimm's Cup. Later, we strolled up Frenchman Street, then caught a late afternoon Rebirth Brass Band concert at the New Orleans Jazz Museum. We stopped by the New Orleans Historic Collection on Royal for insight into the city's Spanish and French influence and history. We finished with a late dinner at Carmo in the Warehouse District.

Day 4 we popped into French Truck for morning coffee, then had lunch @ Acme (a half dozen raw and half dozen chargrilled oysters). We ended our trip with people watching from an outside table at the Chart Room on Chartres.

The city is still not fully back since the pandemic, but it was nice to maneuver without crowds (no waiting for beignets). The "joie de vivre" remains ingrained here like no other place, and as always, the locals were nice — except for the one guy who asked me if Maya was my nurse. Even this old guy can appreciate a well-delivered stinging insult like that.

— Bret Conway of Hinsdale is a contributing columnist.
Readers can email him at news@thehinsdalean.com.



LETTERS POLICY

Requirements

- 250 words or fewer
- include writer's name, address and daytime phone number

- documentation must be provided for numbers, statistics and other facts mentioned in the letter
- no form letters

Submission

- e-mail to news@thehinsdalean.com
- fax to (630) 323-4220
- mail to The Hinsdalean,

Letters to the editor, 7 W. First St., Hinsdale IL 60521

Questions?

Call (630) 323-4422

OBITUARIES

Edwige Pierre-Louis

Edwige Pierre-Louis, 65, of Westmont, passed away peacefully Dec. 28, 2021.

She was born in 1956 in Haiti.

She is survived by her husband of 46 years, Lionel Pierre-Louis; her children, Lynn (Steve) Chronicle, Melissa Pierre-Louis and Liona



Pierre-Louis

(Ryan) Trombly of Hinsdale; and her grandchildren, Faith, Sarah, Tiffany, Johnathan, Elijah and Sydney.

Services and interment will be private.

Brian Powell Funeral Directors of Hinsdale handled the arrangements.

Patricia Volsansky

Patricia Volsansky, 82, of Willowbrook, passed away Dec. 22, 2021.

Patricia was loved by many and will be dearly missed by all other friends and family. She was the most selfless mother to fur baby Sasha, with far too many previous pets to count that were given incredible lives.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Bernard Volsansky.

She is survived by her daughter, Cheryl L. (Robert) Kocanda; her son, Martin C. Volsansky; her grandchildren, Matthew and Jakob Kocanda; and her great-grandson,



Volsansky

Emmett Atlas Kocanda.

Visitation will be held from 3 to 7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 4, at Adolf Funeral Home, 7000 S Madison St., Willowbrook.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Jan. 5, at the funeral home.

Interment will follow at Resurrection Cemetery in Justice.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made online to ASPCA at <https://www.memberaspca.org>.

Brian Powell Funeral Directors of Hinsdale handled the arrangements.

Village offers residents reminders now that winter weather is here

The first bout of winter weather has arrived, and village officials would like to share the following reminders with residents.

Personnel and plowing equipment are ready for any snow or ice removal that may be needed throughout the winter season. The village's snow removal plan prioritizes plowing and/or salting operations in the following order — main arterial roads, central business district roads and school routes, train platform, secondary streets, sidewalk circuits, cul-de-sacs, parking lots, alleys and town clean-up.

Residential street parking at any time is not allowed after 3 inches of snowfall; violators are subject to ticketing.

When extremely cold temperatures are forecasted, individuals needing relief are encouraged to seek shelter at any DuPage County heating center, including the Hinsdale Police Department at 121 Symonds Drive. A full list of locations is available online at <https://www.dupagecris.org>.

Prevent frozen pipes

Extreme cold can cause pipes to crack and burst. To avoid this expensive and damaging situation, public services staff are reminding residents to leave their water trickling, to open cabinets in order to expose water pipes to warm air and to eliminate sources of cold air.

If you experience frozen pipes, shut off the water immediately. Do not attempt to thaw frozen pipes unless the water is shut off. Avoid the use of kerosene heaters or open flames.

Resident clean-up reminders

While plow drivers take care of public roads, residents can keep their neighborhoods safe by appropriately clearing sidewalks, driveways, and fire hydrants this winter.

• Sidewalks

Homeowners are responsible for keeping walkways in residential areas safe and clear of snow. Shoveling and the right amount of salt help to keep sidewalks open for students getting to and from school, mail carriers and other residents walking in the neighborhood. Shoveling snow before it gets walked on and compressed helps reduce the amount of ice that forms.

If you choose to use salt, remember that a 12-ounce cup of salt is enough to cover 10 sidewalk squares. Scatter salt sparsely across the squares so it is not clumped together. Rock salt stops working when temperatures are below 15 degrees. Consider switching to a product formulated for colder temperatures.

• Driveways

Unfortunately, as snow is plowed off the streets, it piles up at the end of driveways and crosswalks. It is the responsibility of the homeowner to clear this snow from the end of the driveway or crosswalk in a safe manner. It is illegal and unsafe for snow or ice to be put back on the road.

• Fire hydrants

The Hinsdale Fire Department encourages you to "adopt" your local fire hydrant by clearing snow and ice from around it.

The tank on an engine empties in about 3.5 minutes. Engineers can get water to the engine from the hydrant, on average, in 1.5 minutes under optimal conditions. If the engineer has to dig out a hydrant, the time lost could prove disastrous. Members of the fire department try to clear out as many hydrants as possible, but there are simply too many to get to them all.

Residents' efforts to keep neighborhoods safe during the winter season are appreciated.

For more winter preparedness tips, visit <https://www.ready.illinois.gov>.



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MEETING ROUNDUP

Hinsdale High School District 86 Board

Among other business Dec. 16, board members:

- approved a final levy of \$89.7 million for operations and \$12.2 million to pay off debt. The levy for funds controlled by the tax cap is 2.2 percent higher than it was last year.
- approved a revised 2021-22 school calendar that reflects the decision to hold graduation ceremonies for Hinsdale Central and Hinsdale South on the same date (May 26, at 7 p.m.) and the finalization of spring testing dates (April 13-14).
- listened to an update on Illinois School Report Card from Chris Covino, assistant superintendent for academics, on SAT data for the district. In math, 63 percent of students were in the meets or exceeds categories, compared to an estimated state average of 30 percent. In English/language arts, 65 percent of students were in meets or exceeds, compared to 33 percent state-wide. Those percentages at Central are 72 percent meets/exceeds in math and 73 percent in ELA.
- took an informal vote and decided not to discuss the creation of an academic committee or a task-force to identify solutions for addressing course offerings and scheduling conflicts, even though both items were listed on the agenda. Four members had agreed at the Oct. 28 meeting to add the items to the agenda of a future meeting.
- heard an update on grading, with answers to 14 questions submitted by board members and other information. The presentation can be accessed online at <https://www.bit.ly/3E40cW1>.

Community Consolidated District 181 Board

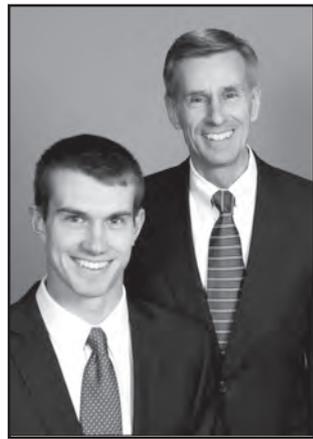
Among other business Dec. 13, board members:

- authorized the list of recommended summer 2022 capital projects. The work, with an estimated total cost of \$2.5 million, includes HVAC upgrades at The Lane School for \$476,000; floor replacement at Prospect School for \$400,00; parking lot, playground and apron resurfacing at Madison School for \$385,560; roof, gutters/downspouts and ice melt system replacement at Clarendon Hills Middle School for \$265,370; and playground upgrades at Elm, Monroe and Oak schools for a combined \$500,000.
- approved advanced and accelerated math criteria and ELA/ACE criteria to guide administrators' placement decisions in grades three through eight for fall 2022. The placement criteria include several assessments, including the NWEA MAP, CogAT, The Iowa Algebra Aptitude Test, Common Unit Assessments, and Common Writing Assessment and Common Literature Assessment and rubric from William & Mary. Students whose scores do not meet the criteria for placement will be eligible for appeal. The placement criteria report is available through the Dec. 13 agenda on Board Docs on the district's website at <https://www.d181.org>.
- heard a presentation on the overall results of the district's spring 2021 administration of the Illinois Assessment of Readiness. The percentage of district students meeting/exceeding state standards on the IAR was 71 percent in both reading and math. Eighteen percent of students scored a level five (exceeding) and 53 percent scored a level four (meeting) in reading, while 21 percent scored a level five and 50 percent scored a level four in math. Tracey Miller, director of assessment, instruction and evaluation, said the district will compare student results of the spring 2021 IAR and MAP testing, and fall 2021 MAP testing will be added into the data analysis as an additional point of reference of students' performance.
- accepted a donation of \$18,243 from the Madison School PTO for enhancements and updates to the school's existing outdoor living classroom

Hinsdale Village Board

Among other business Dec. 14, trustees:

- unanimously approved a final 2022 budget showing \$18.4 million in operating expenses and \$21.4 million in operating revenue, including about \$8 million in property taxes.
- Since the board reviewed the draft budget Nov. 30, some changes were made. The wage and benefits line was reduced by \$133,124 to account for the retirement of a police officer, an \$800,000 transfer from the general fund to the water fund was eliminated because water fund revenue is higher than expected, legal fees were increased by \$615,000 to account for pending litigation and the contingency was increased by \$150,000 to take into account the rising cost goods and services, including gas and oil.
- voted 6-0 to approve a 3-percent increase for village manager Kathleen Gargano, bringing her salary to \$211,465 a year.
- "I think all of you will agree Kathleen has done an outstanding job last year and in prior years," Village President Tom Cauley said, noting her raise and overall compensation package are consistent with those of village managers in comparable communities.
- agreed to participate in a nationwide settlement of \$22.7 billion against opioid manufacturers and distributors. Illinois is expected to receive 3.3 percent of the total, and the village board needed to vote to opt in in order to receive funds. Any proceeds must be used to mitigate the effects of opioid use in the village.
- approved a new 7 p.m. start time for village board meetings, effective Jan. 4



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ASK AN EXPERT

KELLY COX WATKINS, PERSONAL STRATEGIST

How can women be their best selves?

Like so many women, Kelly Cox Watkins was engaged in a battle between the person she was expected to be and the person she was meant to be. As a working mom raising children in Hinsdale, hers were among the few whose mothers didn't meet them each day to walk home for lunch.

She found herself worrying about how others saw her. Yet she knew she was happier when she balanced motherhood with the job she loved.

"I thrived, and I was a better mom," said Watkins, who refers to her decision to live life her way as "congruence."

"Congruence is the secret to conquering that constant nagging, unsettled feeling," said Watkins, principal strategist at Spiritus Strategies, an organization she founded to help women become and be the best, most authentic versions of themselves.

Watkins holds a master's degree in nursing, with a specialty in leadership and administration. A registered nurse for more than 40 years, Watkins works as vice president of

market development at the Shirley Ryan AbilityLab in Chicago and as a trained strategist with The Woman School, a Florida-based organization dedicated to helping women live the lives they want to live and be the people they want to be. A resident of Hinsdale for more than 25 years, she's also a wife, mother and grandmother.

Sharing her knowledge and experience, Watkins will help women live the lives they want during two free one-hour seminars on Jan. 5 and 12. "Know Your WHY" will be held at The Community House and will offer a glimpse into Watkins' five-session class, "Jump Start Your Journey to Wholeness." Based on Watkins' own journey to become her own authentic self, the class is intended to help other women discover and embrace the person they want to be.

Held via ZOOM, the first session of "Jump Start Your Journey to Wholeness" is set for Feb. 16 and will serve as an introduction, followed by three weekly classes dedicated to group sessions.

"We'll talk about wholeness, congruence and visualization," Watkins said.

Week four will offer private meetings between each participant and

Watkins to put together a plan to begin the journey toward congruence. During the final session, participants are invited to come together and share their experiences and where their journey is headed.

Participants can learn more and register through The Community House.

"It's my way of giving back to the community," said Watkins, whose family has long benefited from the offerings of The Community House. She said she hopes to see her curriculum become an ongoing part of TCH programming.

The struggle to balance work, family and a woman's personal goals and interests has always been a challenge, but Watkins said the pandemic brought it to a whole new level.

"It was a very challenging time for everyone, but for women, they're drowning," she said.

Watkins said she hopes women will emerge from her class with a new vision of who they are and a clear path toward becoming their best self.

"It's about living in congruence with who you are just dying to be," she said.

— by Sandy Illian Bosch



Kelly Cox Watkins knows the struggle between living the life you're expected to live and the one that makes you your best self. In upcoming events offered through The Community House, she will help women discover who they were meant to be and navigate the path toward becoming that person. (Jim Slonoff photo)



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Finish 2021 with final day of fun

Local venues provide opportunities to give the year a fitting send-off

As we bid farewell to 2021 and prepare to welcome 2022, there are number of ways to celebrate this yearly changing of the, uh, years. Here are some to consider including in your festivities.

Holiday Magic casts its final spell

Holiday Magic continues through New Year's Eve at Brookfield Zoo, 3400 31st St. Visitors will enjoy more than 1 million twinkling LED lights, a 600-foot-long tunnel featuring lights synchronized to music, a 41-foot tree and more at the zoo's 40th annual Holiday Magic. Take memorable photos inside the new illuminated gingerbread house or the luminous 20-foot-tall orb or pose for a selfie next to the Santa Claus cutout.

View the new "Sea of Lights" colorful display on the West Mall and more than 600 decorated community and corporate trees along the malls and around Roosevelt Fountain. Several animal areas will be open, including dolphin presentations at 4 and 6 p.m.

Both guests and zoo members must secure admission and parking tickets in advance. Admission is \$24.95 for adults, \$17.95 for ages 3-11, \$19.95 for seniors 65 and older plus \$15 parking. Reservation times are available in 20-minute increments between 3 and 9 p.m. at <https://www.czs.org/onlineticketing>.

Get bubbly at children's museum

Children can plunge into the festivities at the Bubble Bash from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, at DuPage Children's Museum, 301 N. Washington St., Naperville.

Families can spend time together taking part in spe-



As we bid farewell to 2021 and prepare to welcome 2022, there are number of ways to celebrate this yearly changing of the, uh, years. Here are some to consider including in your festivities.

cial activities, grooving to good music, exploring the museum's hands-on exhibits and counting down at 11 a.m. or 12:30 p.m. with confetti, bubbles and more. This annual year-end celebration, now in its 20th year, has become a holiday tradition.

Tickets are \$30, and advance reservations are required. Visit <https://www.dupagechildrens.org> or call (630) 637-8000.

Lend new year's ear to New Philharmonic

The New Philharmonic will entertain revelers with its New Year's Eve Concert at 1:30, 5 or 8:30 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, at the College of DuPage's McAninch Arts Center, 425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn.

Maestro Kirk Muspratt will lead the orchestra in waltzes, polkas, arias, light classical and pops, reflecting back and looking ahead with music as the medium. The concert will also feature baritone Ted

Allen Pickel, who sang the title role from the New Philharmonic's production of "The Mikado."

The Gold Circle ticket includes a glass of bubbly, premium seats and party favors. A streaming ticket offers one-time access for either the 1:30 p.m. live performance or on demand (available 8 a.m. Jan. 1 through 11:59 p.m. Jan. 2).

Tickets for the in-person performance are \$67, \$65 for seniors, and \$77 for Gold Circle table seating. The streaming/on-demand ticket is \$67. Visit <https://www.atthemac.org> or call (630) 942-4000.

Skate into the new year (with fireworks!)

Take the party outside with Skating in the Park and NYE Fireworks from 11 a.m. Friday, Dec. 31, to 1 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 1, at Parkway Bank Park, 5501 Park Place, Rosemont.

The whole family can enjoy skating in the daytime or under the stars,

with a special fireworks display at midnight.

Admission is free; skate rental is \$8. Visit <https://www.parkwaybankpark.com>.

Il Poggiolo serves appetites of all ages

Hinsdale's Il Poggiolo invites diners to enjoy New Year's Eve family dinner starting at 5 p.m. Friday, Dec. 31, at the 8 E. First St. eatery.

Families with kids are invited to ring in 2022, with a celebration featuring party favors and an early countdown at 7 p.m.

The price for the special menu is \$50 for adults and \$25 for children. Make a reservation at <https://www.ilpoggiolo.com> or by calling (630) 734-9400.

Close the curtain on 2021 at Drury Lane

Drury Lane, 100 Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace, has a full lineup of events

on tap for New Year's. For reservations or tickets, visit <https://drurylaneoakbrook.com>.

- Enjoy Holiday Afternoon Tea at 3 p.m. at the facility's Lucille Restaurant, offering a selection of black, herbal, iced and other teas, and a menu of treats like tea breads, scones, finger sandwiches and sweet desserts.

The cost is \$50 per person.

- If heartier fare is your preference, The restaurant is serving up New Year's Eve Dinner with seatings at 6 and 9 p.m.

Celebrate the last night of 2021 with a decadent multi-course dinner featuring prime Manhattan filet, pan-roasted heirloom chicken or Chilean sea bass as main course options, and white chocolate bundt cake for dessert. Then raise a Champagne toast and enjoy live music and the bar until 1 a.m.

The cost is \$80 per person for the 6 p.m. seating, \$75 for the 9 p.m. seating.

- End the year with a 5 p.m. performance of Irving Berlin's musical "Holiday Inn" at the Drury Lane Theatre.

Based on the classic film, the story follows retired song-and-dance man Jim's efforts to bring entertainment to his small Connecticut town. With the help of talented school-teacher Linda, he turns his farmhouse into an inn and puts on spectacular shows celebrating all holidays. This joyous, family-friendly musical features thrilling dance numbers, laugh-out-loud comedy, and a parade of Irving Berlin's hit songs, including the Academy Award-winning "White Christmas." It runs through Jan. 9.

Tickets are \$57-\$72; dining packages are available.

— compiled by Ken Knutson

PULSE

ARTFULLY DONE

■ Art Journaling

Thursdays, Jan. 6-Feb. 24
Mayslake Peabody Estate
1717 W. 31st St., Oak Brook
<https://www.dupageforest.org>
(630) 206-9566

Savor favorite teas and then reuse the dried tea bags, working with the beauty of flow in life and using the magic of the natural world as inspiration. Participants will receive a supply list with the receipt. Time: 9:30 a.m. to noon. Cost: \$145. RR

■ Introduction to Drawing

Mondays, Jan. 10-Feb. 7
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St., Hinsdale
<https://www.thecommunity-house.org>
(630) 323-7500

Participants age 16 and up will grow in their drawing and sketching techniques. Both beginning and experienced students are welcome and will explore various subject matter, including still life, portrait and figure drawing and landscape. Time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Cost: \$150. RR, MD

FAITH COMMUNITIES

■ Women's Life Village Bible Study

Thursdays, Jan. 6-Feb. 17
The Village Church
4475 Wolf Road, Western Springs
<https://www.wsbc.info/womenlife>

Join this video study of the book of Galatians and explore what it looks like to live for God's approval instead of human approval through the book "Now that Faith Has Come, A Study of Galatians" by Beth & Melissa Moore. Child care is provided up through kindergarten age. Time: 9 to 11 a.m. Cost: \$20. RR

GAME ON

■ Adult Taekwondo

Wednesdays, Jan. 5-March 23
KLM Park Lodge
5901 S. County Line Road, Hinsdale
<https://www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr>
(630) 789-7090

This program for high school students and older concentrates on Taekwondo techniques through the study of forms, stances and the

skills of punching, kicking and blocking. Time: 7:20 to 8:10 p.m. Cost: \$132. RR

■ Intro to Lacrosse

Sundays, Jan. 9-30
East Avenue Training Facility
833 Church Road, Elmhurst
<https://www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr>
(630) 789-7090

Boys in first through eighth grades of all skill levels can get ready for the spring season at this Winter with the Herd program. Equipment will be provided; players must provide mouth guards and footwear. Time: 8 to 9:30 a.m. Cost: \$225. RR

■ Floor Hockey

Mondays, Jan. 10-Feb. 7
Madison School
611 S. Madison St.
<https://www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr>
(630) 789-7090

Beginners and experienced players ages 5-9 will learn shooting, passing, teamwork, positions and game strategies. Sticks and pucks will be provided; goggles and mouth guards are recommended but not required. Time: 5:30 to 6:20 p.m. for ages 5-6, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. for ages 7-9. Cost: \$48. RR

■ Basketball

Wednesdays, Jan. 12-Feb. 9
Madison School
611 S. Madison St.
<https://www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr>
(630) 789-7090

Boys and girls ages 5-7 will enjoy learning the skills to advance them in the world of basketball. Beginners and experienced players will have a ton of fun through games and drills, practicing dribbling, passing, shooting, positions and the importance of teamwork. Games will be played at the end of each class. Time: 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. Cost: \$48. RR

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STEVE HEISLER
CHICAGO SUN TIMES

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Continued from Page 16

restoring habitats as well as your mind, body and spirit. Enjoy a cup of hot chocolate and warm up by the fire afterward.

■ Hard Water Classic

Jan. 8
Blackwell Forest Preserve
Butterfield Road west of
Winfield Road, Warrenville
<https://www.dupageforest.org>
(630) 933-7248

Compete in the only competitive ice-fishing tournament in DuPage, and then stick around for door prizes and awards. Participants should bring their own equipment and bait. All ages are welcome. Time: noon to 3:30 p.m. Cost: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the event.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

■ Zumba!

Sundays & Thursdays, Jan. 2-April 28
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St., Hinsdale
<https://www.thecommunity-house.org>
(630) 323-7500

Join instructor Sima Mehta Madhiwala for easy-to follow moves on Sundays and/or instructor Estela Medina's energizing style on Thursdays to decrease one's waistline and enjoy fellowship. This fitness party mixes low- and high-intensity moves for an interval-style, calorie-burning dance. Time: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Sundays, 9 to 10 a.m. Thursdays. Cost: \$90 for 10-punch card; \$15 drop-in fee. MD

■ Gentle Yoga

Wednesdays or Thursdays, Jan. 5-Feb. 24
KLM Park Lodge
5901 S. County Line Road, Hinsdale
<https://www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr>
(630) 789-7090

This slower paced yoga class for older adults uses poses to promote wellness and improve balance, flexibility and joint stability. Warm-ups are done on seated on a chair, and standing poses include chair access. Time: 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Cost: \$75. RR

■ Fitness Hike

Jan. 5
Brezina Woods
North La Grange Road south of West Cermak Road, near

LaGrange Park
<https://www.fpdcc.com>

Those looking to get some exercise outdoors can join this faster paced 6-mile hike with little to no stopping or interpretation. Time: 10 a.m. RR

■ Buddy's Place Winter Weekly Session

Jan. 11-Feb. 15
<https://pillarscommunity-health.org/services/behavioral-health-and-support-services/buddys-place-grief-support>

This six-week family-based bereavement support group offers children the chance to work through their grief in groups with kids of a similar age while adults gather to learn how to support the children. Those who register will receive the address for the meeting location, which is in Riverside. Registration is due Jan. 4. Time: 6:15 to 7:30 p.m.

JUST FOR KIDS

■ Beginning Voice Class

Mondays, Jan. 3-Feb. 21
Darien Park District
7301 Fairview Ave.
<https://www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr>
(630) 789-7090

Kids ages 6-12 will sing songs from musical theater, Disney, pop music and more. Young singers will learn how to sing together and harmonize and explore musical traditions in a noncompetitive, nurturing environment. Time: 5 to 6 p.m. Cost: \$75. RR

■ Drumming Tots

Mondays, Jan. 10-Feb. 7
Clarendon Hills Community Center
315 Chicago Ave.
<https://www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr>
(630) 789-7090

Kids ages 5-6 will be guided through simple movements enhancing their bilateral coordination while also developing their listening skills, sense of rhythm and following directions. Time: 4 to 5 p.m. Cost: \$44. RR

■ Pinecone Snowy Owls

Jan. 15
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
<https://www.hinsdalelibrary.info>
(630) 986-1976

Come to the library and turn a pinecone into an adorable snowy owl. Times: 1 to 2

p.m. or 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. RR

■ Little Medics — Wilderness Medicine

Jan. 17
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St., Hinsdale
<https://www.thecommunity-house.org>
(630) 323-7500

Youth ages 6-12 will explore some of the dangers in the wild such as big bites, snake bites and poisonous plants and learn how to splint a broken leg, tie a tourniquet, filter dirty water, the effects of hypothermia and 20 ways to use a bandana in emergencies. Time: 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. \$165. RR, MD

■ Snowy Winter Town

Jan. 17
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
<https://www.hinsdalelibrary.info>
(630) 986-1976

Come create your own snowy winter town at the library! Registration required. Limit 10. Time: 11 to 11:45 a.m. RR

LISTEN & LEARN

■ 'Bringing the Zoo to You'

Dec. 30
<https://www.facebook.com/BrookfieldZoo>

This Facebook Live chat from Brookfield Zoo features Peanut and Celia, two of the zoo's gray seals. The program will also be available on the zoo's Facebook page and YouTube channel along with three previous chats in which the zoo's animal care specialists shared fun and interesting facts about reindeer, red pandas and Bactrian camels. Time: 10 a.m.

■ St. Petersburg tour

Jan. 10
Clarendon Hills Library
<https://www.clarendonhillslibrary.org>

St. Petersburg native and licensed tour guide Olga Cardamone will present an armchair Zoom tour of her majestic, history-filled home city. Known also as Petrograd and Leningrad at times in its history, this so-called the "Venice of the North" with its many canals is also the northernmost city in the world with at least 1 million people. Time: 7 p.m. RR

Please turn to Page 18

Continued from Page 17

■ Using Online Calendars

Jan. 11
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
<https://www.hinsdalelibrary.info>
(630) 986-1976

Explore the pros and cons of some of the most versatile and popular calendar applications and learn what apps are best for multiple platforms, multiple users and multiple schedules. Time: 7 to 8 p.m. RR

■ Critical Race Theory: What It is and What it Isn't

Jan. 13
<https://www.cantigny.org>
(630) 260-8257

Dr. Bonnie Laughlin-Schultz, a professor at Eastern Illinois University and a historian who specializes in American women's history, will present this virtual program. Time: 7 to 8 p.m. RR

■ Keep This Toss That

Jan. 15
<https://www.hinsdalelibrary.info>

The Hinsdale Public Library will host organizing humorist and bestselling author Jamie Novak virtually for de-cluttering tips through her humorous approach to what to do with all that stuff — without getting overwhelmed. Time: 2:30 to 3:30 p.m. RR

NOTEWORTHY

■ Sons Of The Never Wrong

Jan. 8
Unitarian Church of Hinsdale
11 W. Maple St.
<http://www.acousticren.com>
(630) 941-7797

This alt-folk trio from Chicago delivers witty, whimsical songs with their signature soaring vocal harmonies and gorgeous arrangements, combining influences of folk, jazz, pop and rock. Their oddball humor and spontaneous stories have earned them a cult-like international following for almost 30 years. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination required. Time: 7 p.m. Tickets: \$20.

■ A Night at the Movies

Jan. 15 & 16
McAninch Arts Center
College of DuPage
425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn
<https://www.atthemac.org>
(630) 942-4000

Maestro Kirk Muspratt will lead the New Philharmonic

in performing favorites from award-winning films including "Gone with the Wind," "Band of Brothers," "Beauty and the Beast," "Midway," "Independence Day" and "Jurassic Park." Pre-show MAC Chats will be held before both performances. Times: 7:30 Jan. 15, 3 p.m. Jan. 16. Tickets: \$53, \$51 for seniors.

ON STAGE

■ The Winter Workshop

Jan. 7-9
Theatre of Western Springs
4384 Hampton Ave.
<https://www.theatreofwesternsprings.com>
(708) 246-4043

The Directors' Workshop presents an evening of one-woman shows, including "Illuminated Dresses" — a collection of pieces by Beth Copeland, Debra Kaufman, Jessica Feder-Birnbaum, Cynthia Strauff Schaub, Gena Rawdon and Margo Rife — and "50 Guns" by Alex Broun. Reservations are required. There will be a post-show discussion with the directors each evening. Time: 8 p.m. Jan. 7 & 8, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 9. Tickets: donations will be accepted at the door.

SIGN UP NOW

■ The Challenge: Live Quiz Game

Jan. 7
Mayslake Peabody Estate
1717 W. 31st St., Oak Brook
<https://www.dupageforest.org>
(630) 206-9566

Show off knowledge and compete for prizes during this friendly quiz game featuring pop culture, music, animals, history, geography and other categories. Register as a team of up to five or be assigned to one. The program is for ages 18 and up. Time: 7 to 8:30 p.m. Cost: \$5 per person. RR

■ Tech to Table: 25 Innovators Reimagining Food

Jan. 13
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
<https://www.hinsdalelibrary.info>
(630) 986-1976

Local author Dick Munson will discuss his new book "Tech to Table: 25 Innovators Reimagining Food," which profiles entrepreneurs redefining what it means to farm

Please turn to Page 20

THE KIDSDALEAN

A little bit of fun for our younger readers

HEY KIDS!

Page through The Hinsdalean to find answers to this week's questions. Fill out the form attached and return. You may copy the form for siblings. Winners will be picked from correct entries received weekly. No cash value.

EACH WEEK'S WINNER WILL RECEIVE a Kid's Pizza Kit from Altamura Pizza!

THIS WEEK'S QUESTIONS

1. Who is the publisher?
2. What does the 'Once upon a time' photo show?
3. Where can you find people to fix your house?
4. How many photos are on the cover?
5. Write the headline from Page 11.

Who's Havin' a Birthday?

Send in your birthday and you may be listed in our Page 4 greeting.

Name: _____ Birthday: ____/____/____

Address: _____

Answers:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

Mail answers to The Kidsdalean - 7 W. First St., Hinsdale, IL 60521 or take a photo of answers and email to tinaw@thehinsdalean.com

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**COLDWELL BANKER
REALTY**

Pet pic of the week

Stella is a retriever mix who is ready to meet you! She would do well with kids 13 and older. She's a super playful and sweet 1-year-old whose adoption fee is \$12 for the rest of 2021. She also comes with six free training sessions with an HHS trainer.

The Hinsdale Humane Society Tuthill Family Pet Rescue & Resource Center has re-opened to the public. Hours are noon to 6 p.m. Thursdays and Fridays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays and 1 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays. Capacity will be limited to about 20 visitors. Interested adopters are encouraged to fill out an online application at <https://www.hinsdale-humane.org> before arriving. Call (630) 323-5630 for more information.

(photo provided)



Continued from Page 18

and even the nature of food. They share an ambition to disrupt the un-digitalized food system and feed a growing population nutritiously and sustainably. The program will take place in person and virtually on Zoom; it will also be recorded and shared online. Copies of the book will be available to purchase during the event. Time: 7 to 8 p.m. RR

TEENS & TWEENS

■ So You Think You Can Dance

Mondays or Wednesdays, Jan. 3-26
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St., Hinsdale
<https://www.thecommunity-house.org>
(630) 323-7500

Youth ages 12-18 will learn a different style of dance each week from lyrical to musical theater. . Time: 6:15 to 7:15 p.m. Mondays, 7 to 8 p.m. Wednesdays. Cost: \$143. RR, MD

■ Teen Switch Up Saturdays

Jan. 8
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
<https://www.hinsdalelibrary.info>
(630) 986-1976

Drop in to play some favorite Switch games at the library. Players are welcome to bring their personal Switch handhelds or use the library's console. Hours: 1 to 4 p.m.

WEE ONES

■ Little Dragons Taekwondo

Wednesdays, Jan. 5-March 23
KLM Park Lodge
5901 S. County Line Road,
Hinsdale
<https://www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr>
(630) 789-7090

This introductory class for ages 4-5 is designed to develop skills through gentle instruction and appropriate games focusing on balance, coordination and respect for the discipline. Time: 4 to 4:40 p.m. Cost: \$132. RR

Key

RR - registration required

MD - member discount

Thinking of moving to Naples or a surrounding city?



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Bridget Smagala

708.927.8217

bridget.smagala@floridamoves.com

Bridget Smagala

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Thank you

clients and friends for a
successful 2021.

Have a happy and healthy
New Year!



HAVE YOU DONE YOUR JANUARY 2022 HOME MAINTENANCE YET?

- ✓ Get ready for snow:
check snowy-weather supplies
- ✓ Place all-weather mats near entry ways
- ✓ Update your emergency kit
- ✓ Check attic insulation
- ✓ Clean the chimney
- ✓ Change your furnace filter
- ✓ Install reflective markers to help snowplows

Elizabeth Burke
REALTOR®

630.430.0876
elizabethburke@atproperties.com



KENNA HOMES



Carrie Kenna
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CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING

The Hinsdalean
7 West First Street,
Hinsdale, IL

(630) 323-4422
Fax: (630) 323-4220

Hours & Deadlines

Monday - Friday
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Classified deadline:
Tuesday 4 p.m. for
Thursday's publication

Email:
tinaw@thehinsdalean.com



So you think you're a *real* Hinsdalean, eh? Tell us where you think this picture was taken and you can win a Fuller's Ultimate Car Wash gift card. Send your answer to: The Hinsdalean, Village Posting Board, 7 West First St., Hinsdale, IL 60521. Winners will be drawn from correct answers received weekly. *Good luck!*

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B	A	R	B	A	D	O	S		B	E	E	N	
		A	I	M	S				G	U	A	V	A
B	E	B	O	P					O	P	U	S	
A	L	B	S		G	R	E	A	T	J	O	B	
C	I	A		P	R	I	S	M		U	M	A	
H	E	S	I	T	A	N	T			F	I	N	N
			F	A	N	G			L	U	C	I	D
P	U	F	F	S					C	O	M	E	
A	L	A	I		F	U	D	G	E	B	A	R	
C	E	D	E		R	A	V	E		A	D	E	
S	E	E	R		I	R	I	S		R	A	F	

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7 W. First St., Hinsdale, IL. 60521
or email: tinaw@thehinsdalean.com

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Legal Notices

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
STATE OF ILLINOIS**

COUNTY OF DU PAGE

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE EIGHTEENTH JUDICIAL CIRCUIT

ESTATE OF GLEN M. GOY

CASE NUMBER 2021 P001353

Notice is given of the death of Glen M. Goy whose address was 821 S. Clay Street, Hinsdale, IL. 60521. Letters of Office were issued on December 13, 2021 to Mary C. Goy, as Independent Executor whose attorney is Dominic J. Mancini.

NOTICE TO HEIRS AND LEGATEES

To probate a Will, and whose name and address is not stated in the petition to admit the Will to probate, an order was entered by the court on December 13, 2021, admitting the Will to Probate. Within 42 days after the effective date of the original order of admission, you may file a petition with the court to require proof of the Will by testimony of the witnesses to the Will in open court or other evidence, as provided in section 6-21 of the Probate Act of 1975 (755 ILCS 5/6-21) You will also have the right, under the Probate Act of 1975 (755 ILCS 5/8-1), to contest the validity of the Will by filing a petition with the court within 6 months after the admission of the Will to probate.

Claims against the estate may be filed in the Office of **CANDICE ADAMS**, Circuit Court Clerk, 505 N. County Farm Rd., Wheaton, Illinois, or with the representative or both on or before *June 30, 2022 any claim not filed within that period is barred. Copies of a claim filed with the Circuit Court Clerk must be mailed or delivered to the representative and to the attorney, if any, within 10 days after it has been filed with the Circuit Court Clerk.

Name: Dominic J. Mancini
DuPage Attorney
Number: 51449
Attorney For: Mary C. Goy
Address: 133 Fuller Road
City/State/Zip: Hinsdale, IL. 60521
Telephone: 630-325-2580
Email: domm1@msn.com

Published in The Hinsdalean
December 30, 2021,
January 6 & 13, 2022.

Public Notices

CERTIFICATE NO. 78488 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of DuPage County on December 13, 2021 wherein the business firm of

THREE OAKS WRITING

Located at 4928 Middaugh Ave., Downers Grove, IL. 60515 was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning the business, with their respective post office address(es), is/are as follows: Susan Devick, 4928 Middaugh Ave., Downers Grove, IL. 60515.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Wheaton, Illinois, this 13th day of December, A.D. 2021.
Jean Kaczmarek
DuPage County Clerk

Published in The Hinsdalean
December 16, 23 & 30, 2021

CERTIFICATE NO. 78472 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of DuPage County on November 29, 2021 wherein the business firm of

BaseLine Echo

Located at 508 Bernie Court, Naperville, IL. 60565 was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning the business, with their respective post office address(es), is/are as follows: Tyrone C. Johnson, 508 Bernie Court, Naperville, IL. 60565.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Wheaton, Illinois, this 29th day of November, A.D. 2021.
Jean Kaczmarek
DuPage County Clerk

Published in The Hinsdalean
December 16, 23 & 30, 2021

Public Notices

CERTIFICATE NO. 78496 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of DuPage County on December 27, 2021 wherein the business firm of

AZURE RENTALS

Located at 175 N. Central Avenue, Wood Dale, IL. 60191-2137 was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning the business, with their respective post office address(es), is/are as follows: Dorothy Francine Reyes, 175 N. Central Avenue, Wood Dale, IL. 60191-2137.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Wheaton, Illinois, this 27th day of December, A.D. 2021.
Jean Kaczmarek
DuPage County Clerk

Published in The Hinsdalean
December 30, 2021
& January 6 & 13, 2022.

New Year's Day is every man's birthday. Charles Lamb

And now we welcome the new year. Full of things that have never been.

Rainer Maria Rilke

Every gift which is given, even though it be small, is in reality great, if it is given with affection. Pindar

An optimist stays up until midnight to see the new year in. A pessimist stays up to make sure the old year leaves. Bill Vaughan

Be at war with your vices, at peace with your neighbors, and let every new year find you a better man. Benjamin Franklin



MIND GAMES

- ACROSS
- 1 STEAL FROM
 - 4 HIGHLANDER
 - 8 STREAMLET
 - 12 HISTORIC PERIOD
 - 13 STRING
 - 14 TOM JOAD, FOR ONE
 - 15 BRIDGETOWN'S ISLAND
 - 17 "IT'S - REAL!"
 - 18 INTENDS
 - 19 TROPICAL FRUIT
 - 20 JAZZ GENRE
 - 22 PIECE OF WORK
 - 24 PRIESTS' GARMENTS
 - 25 "EXCELLENT WORK!"
 - 29 ESPIONAGE ORG.
 - 30 SPECTRUM CREATOR
 - 31 MS. THURMAN
 - 32 WAVERING
 - 34 TWAIN HERO
 - 35 SHARP TOOTH
 - 36 CLEARHEADED
 - 37 CREAM-FILLED PASTRIES
 - 40 ARRIVE
 - 41 JAI -
 - 42 CHOCOLATEY FROZEN TREAT
 - 46 GIVE UP
 - 47 CARRY ON
 - 48 CITRUS DRINK
 - 49 CRYSTAL GAZER
 - 50 EYE PART
 - 51 U.K. FLIERS

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
15			16						17			
		18							19			
20	21					22	23					
24					25					26	27	28
29					30					31		
32			33							34		
			35							36		
37	38	39						40				
41					42	43					44	45
46					47						48	
49					50						51	

- DOWN
- 1 CIVIL WAR SOLDIER
 - 2 MAN-MOUSE LINK
 - 3 WHOM PILATE PARDONED
 - 4 RASCAL
 - 5 ATLANTIC CATCHES
 - 6 GRANADA GOLD
 - 7 QB STATS
 - 8 HEARTY
 - 9 FURNITURE BRAND
 - 10 ACTOR SCHREIBER
 - 11 SULTRY HORNE
 - 16 LIFE STORIES
 - 19 SITE OF APRA HARBOR
 - 20 "COFFEE CANTATA" COMPOSER
 - 21 WRITER WIESEL
 - 22 RUBBER GASKET
 - 23 NUISANCE
 - 25 MOM'S MOM
 - 26 PLACE TO GET A FRUIT SMOOTHIE
 - 27 HOTEL CHAIN
 - 28 COMBO
 - 30 SCHOOL ORGS.
 - 33 NOT AS CERTAIN
 - 34 SEETHE
 - 36 THEATER BOXES
 - 37 CAMPAIGN-FUNDING GPS.
 - 38 FONDA'S BEEKEEPER ROLE
 - 39 LOSE COLOR
 - 40 406, IN ROMAN NUMERALS
 - 42 CALENDAR ABBR. EG. AND SYR., ONCE
 - 44 OKLAHOMA CITY
 - 45 UMP

ANSWERS TO TODAY'S CROSSWORD CAN BE FOUND IN THE CLASSIFIEDS.

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 9-box square contains all of the numbers from one to nine.

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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DOUBLE TROUBLE! Below are six partially spelled words. Four letters are missing from each. In each case, you must find a two-letter word that can be used to fill in the missing letters. Below you'll find some hints.

- 1) Spanish dance. 1. F _ _ D _ _ GO
- 2) Scottish shrub. 2. _ _ AT _ _ R
- 3) Slow mover. 3. _ _ R _ _ ISE
- 4) Sincere remorse. 4. C _ _ TRIT _ _
- 5) It's worn in winter. 5. GRE _ _ CO _ _
- 6) A long hallway. 6. C _ _ RID _ _

1. (AN) Fandango. 2. (HE) Heather. 3. (TO) Toroise.
4. (ON) Contrition. 5. (AT) Greatcoat. 6. (OH) Corridor.

S												A	
													N
U													
D													S
O													W
K													E
U													R

HOROSCOPES

January 2022 Horoscopes • Week 1



CAPRICORN - Dec 22/Jan 20
A long journey is in your near future, Capricorn. It may come by way of a much-needed vacation, or you may make a move across country to follow a job or passion.



ARIES - Mar 21/Apr 20
Your finances need a little extra work, Aries. Start to focus on investments, money and other financial matters. Your mind is quick and you catch on quite fast.



CANCER - Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, you may be longing for an encounter with your romantic partner, but other factors keep getting in the way of your date. You have to make romance a priority.



LIBRA - Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, whether it's a hunch or a tip from someone close to you, you have some valuable information that will come in handy in the coming days.



AQUARIUS - Jan 21/Feb 18
Finances dominate your week, Aquarius. This could be related to a pay raise at work or a personal investment that pans out. One way or another, success isn't too far away.



TAURUS - Apr 21/May 21
Romance is on your mind this week, Taurus. This is the time to focus on solidifying your relationship with someone special in your life or to find that perfect match.



LEO - Jul 23/Aug 23
An unexpected financial windfall lands in your lap, Leo. It is just the good news you need at this point in time. Start thinking about how to invest this unexpected gift.



SCORPIO - Oct 24/Nov 22
A relationship reaches new heights, Scorpio. If you are unattached, you might find a partner soon. If you have a significant other, he or she will become even closer.



PISCES - Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, a business partner may contact you with some good news after returning from a trip. Prepare to join this person in a promising venture.



GEMINI - May 22/June 21
Matters involving work are at the forefront of your mind, Gemini. You may need to put in some extra hours on the job this week. Keep your head down and your efforts will be noted.



VIRGO - Aug 24/Sept 22
Business and personal successes are coming your way soon, Virgo. It could be a project that brings you financial gain or the development of a new friendship.



SAGITTARIUS - Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, draw your closest friends together and plan a gathering where you can exchange ideas and rekindle friendships. It's been a while since you socialized.

A RHYMING RIDDLE!
"What's in the church
But not the steeple?
The parson has it,
But not the people."



The letter R.

SPORTS

Central guaranteed a top-four finish in Holiday Classic



Jake Quast (clockwise from top left) grabs an offensive rebound during the Red Devils' opening game victory Dec. 22 against St. Charles East in the 2021 Hinsdale Central Holiday Classic. Ben Oosterbaan and Chase Collignon double team on defense to strip the ball away from a Saint. Oosterbaan goes up for a shot and Collignon works his way in to take a shot. Central's 72-57 win was followed by a hard-fought 45-44 triumph over DePaul Prep Dec. 23. Tournament play continued this week, with Central losing to Oswego East 53-59 in double overtime Tuesday. The Devils faced Stevenson last night, after deadline, vying for a third-place finish among the 16 teams. (Jim Slonoff photos)



CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH



OPINION

EDITORIAL

Juneteenth a day all Americans should celebrate

...is Saturday, and the day com-
...an American emancipation
...never had such a high profile
...nally.
...established June 19 as an offi-
...y last December, and Chicago
...day as an official city holiday on

...ov. JB Pritzker signed legislation
...teenth an official state holiday
...nal Freedom Day. In remarks fol-
...ing, Pritzker highlighted the state's

...ois led the nation as the first state
...thirteenth Amendment, in 2021 we
...e nation in tackling structural rac-
... Pritzker said from the Abraham
...ntial Library. "It brings me excep-
...to sign into law the declaration of
...a formal state holiday in Illinois,
...one of the few states in the nation to
...ll status it deserves."

...h marks the day in 1865 that
...h reached Galveston, Texas, that
...lincoln had signed the Emancipation

Proclamation, abolishing slavery and setting all
slaves free throughout the United States and its
territories.

"The people of Texas are informed that in
accordance with a proclamation from the exec-
utive of the United States, all slaves are free. This
involves an absolute equality of rights and rights
of property between former masters and slaves,
and the connection heretofore existing between
them becomes that between employer and hired
laborer," declared Gen. Gordon Granger to the
people of Galveston.

According to <https://www.juneteenth.com>,
the occasion emphasizes education and achieve-
ment.

"It is a day, a week, and in some areas, a month
marked with celebrations, guest speakers, picnics
and family gatherings. It is a time for reflection
and rejoicing. It is a time for assessment, self-im-
provement and for planning the future. Its grow-
ing popularity signifies a level of maturity and dig-
nity in America long over due. In cities across the
country, people of all races, nationalities and reli-
gions are joining hands to truthfully acknowledge
a period in our history that shaped and continues

to influence our society today. Sensitized to the
conditions and experiences of others, only then
can we make significant and lasting improve-
ments in our society," the site explains.

At the federal level, Juneteenth moved a step
closer to national recognition this week after the
U.S. Senate passed a bill Tuesday that would rec-
ognize it as a federal holiday. The bill now heads
to the House of Representatives.

Illinois will recognize Juneteenth through-
out the state, lowering all flags covered by the Illinois
Flag Display Act to half-staff on Saturday and
on June 19 from this year on. Additionally,
Juneteenth flag will fly over the state capitol
Springfield.

May we all take this opportunity to celebrate
a gift of freedom. It has become routine for a
gift of us to extol the virtues of liberty on July 4,
the upstart Colonies asserted their independ-
ence. But while that was the dawn of freedom for
this country, Blacks would wait
another century for their justice to come.
The struggle continues. May the pain and jo-
y together in the embrace of Juneteenth it
all to do our part.

COMMENTARY

Two dads, one here, one in heaven, to celebra

... Father's Day without
... was almost 20 years ago.
... ed on a beautiful Sunday
... 2002, after decades of
... g from a severe case of
... s and all the complications
... me with it. But on that par-
... day, I had no expectation
... ever it would be his last.
... er's Day was two weeks
... and I'm ashamed to say I
... ed to invite my in-laws over,
... though we had always host-
... barbecue that day. At the
... I resented people who had
... rs to celebrate, including my
... and.

... went to the cookout at my
... laws, but steeled myself against
... ing too much of anything
... ile I was there.

... When we got home, I remem-
... red a friend had given me a gift,
... th instructions to open it on
... ther's Day. I opened the wrap-
... ng to discover a beautiful poem
... x with that wonderful poem
... out how we only see the under-

side of the tapestry God
is weaving with our lives.
Even more touching
were the little cards
he had printed and
placed inside the box.
"Perhaps God is a poet
who writes with words of
flesh and bone and leaf
and flower," one read. I
immediately recognized
the verse from the card I
gave my friend when his
father passed away.

"Every hour of every day, words
pour out of the poet's heart, and
every word is beautiful and true
and worth the telling.

And when each poem is perfect,
and there is no more which ought
to be said, the poet gently takes
the words back into his heart,
where they are safe forever ... and
then begins again."

Best of all, the messages on
the other cards had come from
a request he sent to my closest
friends, asking them to share

words of comfort. So all
their love was in that box
as well.

I wept when I read the
poems. And then I felt
better.

I'm not sure what
emotions will surface
this Father's Day. A
month ago I spent my
first Mother's Day with-
out my mom. I'm now
at the age where I have
a growing list of friends
who have lost both their parents.
It's a club I'd rather not be in.

But as I've written about a few
times in the past several months,
I have been blessed to discover
other family members this past
year. I sent in DNA kits last fall
and found my half-sister and my
birth mother and father.

I have been thrilled to meet all
of them and am lucky that none
of the challenges that can plague
reunions like these have surfaced.
And yet incorporating new family

members in your life!
You don't know all that
I understand all the fa-
ther is making cards for
(I saw one posted on
yet to locate one in
selected a card for
that talks about the
of a good man. (I
know Bob very well.)
one.)

I also saw a c
clearly not me
but it made m
"Anyone w
dads like you
to learn from
love."

I had my
I have my
from and
am luck
— P
Th
ema

... I'm now at the age where I have a growing list of friends who hav
lost both their parents. It's a club I'd rather not be in.

OPINION

GUEST COMMENTARY

Turn and face the strange changes

Today is my husband's birthday (love you, hon!). He is a year older than me, but looks younger by virtue of his hair somehow remaining as golden as it was on our wedding day, whereas mine gets regularly shellacked with dye. It's rather annoying. My weight goes up and down (mostly up, honestly), my hair started graying before we even met, and yet my Sensible Husband has not changed one bit after almost 18 years of marriage. He hasn't even lost a single (non-gray) hair on his head.

I know it's not a competition. I know I should embrace my changing body, though admittedly these days it's a bit more difficult to get my arms all the way around it. Instead I'll just sit back and bemoan the obvious fact that change can be rough.

As if this past year wasn't bad enough on its own, my family had to endure a scary medical (non-COVID) emergency last winter. Note to all non-sympathetic spouses out there: when your Significant Other claims to be in terrible pain, do not simply tell them they've over-eaten and are being a baby. The next thing you know, you'll be learning all about visiting hours at the hospital and how to administer antibiotics at home through a PICC line. In retrospect, I guess my Sensible Husband had been changing after all, only internally and secretly. Which is just like him.

In his famous poem about growing old, WB Yeats wrote that he loved "the sorrows

of (his beloved's) changing face." Which always used to bother me. Why "sorrows"? Why "changing face"? I think I know now. My father died three weeks ago. After his long illness and physical decline, I had thought his passing would come as a relief, the recognition that at least he is no longer in any pain. But it has not.

He and my mom had just recently celebrated their 60th anniversary, with their characteristic downplaying of the milestone event. The shiny balloons, somehow still inflated, have been moved off to the side of the family room. They outlasted Dad; at 92, he was simply too worn out.

My mother, whose hair also started to go gray when she was in her 20s, always used to joke that she would stop dyeing her hair when my father's hair went gray. And although there wasn't a lot of hair on Dad's head in the end, all of it was brown. So now Mom doesn't have to stop applying Preference by L'oreal.

I have not yet processed the absence of my father. Part of me thinks he is merely traveling again, and that I'll see him this weekend, though of course I won't. I'll be celebrating my Sensible Husband's birthday, being profoundly grateful for his improved health, and reveling in the sorrows of our changing faces.

— Susan O'Byrne of Hinsdale is a contributing columnist. Readers can email her at news@thehinsdalean.com.

LETTERS

OPINION

Krehbiel and his passion

Our village has many friends. Those who seek to improve our sense of community, those who work to keep our village safe, those who work to beautify our parks and open spaces and those who strive every day to ensure Hinsdale's heritage and history remain intact.

Mr. Krehbiel — Fred to everyone — cared deeply about our village's history and heritage. His work to help

Don't believe that wealthy

Many who bring up wedge culture war issues do so because framing is the single most powerful tool for persuasion. Likewise, fear mongering, false equivalence and dog whistles are the weapons of those who want to reinforce a sense of white identity under attack. Let's ask ourselves what is left out of the conversation when we allow public discourse to focus on hyped-up terms like cancel culture or backlash

LETTERS POLICY Submission - e-mail to news@thehinsdalean.com - fax to (630) 323-4220 - mail to The Hinsdalean, Requirements - 250 words or fewer - include writer's name, address and daytime phone number Letters to the Editor - documentation must be provided for numbers, statistics and other facts mentioned in the letter - no form letters Letters to the Editor, Hinsdalean.com Question Call (630) 323-4220





*A sincere thank you to my clients,
friends, and family for your support
and business throughout the year.
Wishing everyone a safe, healthy,
and prosperous 2022.*

Chris Dequet

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630.327.5175

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WATCH FOR MY NEW LUXURY LISTINGS COMING SOON IN WESTERN SPRINGS, HINSDALE, & CLARENDON HILLS

**TOP 10 COMPANY PRODUCTION AWARD · #1 HINSDALE AGENT COMPANY AWARD
CRAIN'S 2021 NOTABLE RESIDENTIAL BROKER AWARD · CHICAGO MAGAZINE TOP 100 AGENT AWARD**

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