

# The Hinsdalean

Community journalism the way it was meant to be

Thursday, February 8, 2024

Hinsdale, Illinois

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## They've got spirit

**Emerson Trainor, Emma Besio,** Harper Murray, Wes Gulyas and Simone Hardy get into the swing of things during an all school celebration at St. Isaac Jogues Friday afternoon. The event celebrated Catholic Schools Week and the recent National Blue Ribbon School designation. With DJ Maximus spinning tunes, the Jesse White Tumblers performing and kids, parents and teachers in the stand, the gym was filled with a lot of energy and fun. Please turn to Page 30 for more pictures. (Jim Slonoff photo)



### Striking a chord

Hinsdale teen connects with older residents through music.

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### Learn from failure

Expert in adolescence shares this advice with parents.

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### Dancing queen

Exhibit showcases Hinsdale native who made it big in Paris.

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## Plans change for tollway noise walls

By Ken Knutson  
kknutson@thehinsdalean.com

The installation of new noise walls as part of the widening of the Central Tri-State won't happen until after the old ones are removed, contrary to a deal Hinsdale and Illinois Tollway officials worked out several years ago to minimize the impact on residents.

Instead, as explained by a Tollway representative at the Feb. 1 village board meeting, a temporary 8-foot wooden fence will be erected along the western side of the highway after the existing noise wall is torn down.

"Once the temporary fencing is installed, we anticipate completing a shift of the southbound traffic to the east," Jeff Allen, deputy chief of program implementation, told trustees. "This will allow the contractor to access the work zone from the tollway side ... and significantly reduce the need to utilize local roads or village of Hinsdale streets for any construction activities."

The new walls subsequently will

be installed. Village President Tom Cauley said the intergovernmental agreement between the village and the state agency regarding Tri-State expansion was reached before project details had been fleshed out.

"Now that the tollway has been designed, in a lot of areas, that is unworkable," Cauley said of the altered wall plan. "There's just not enough room to build a new sound wall and then take down the old sound wall afterwards."

Trustee Luke Stifflear, however, pressed Allen on going back on the agreement.

"We had that to the letter that the new sound walls were going to go up before the old ones were taken down," Stifflear said. "We're going to have to report to our constituents why that's not the case."

Allen noted that new walls are up in one area.

"We are pleased to report that we were able to successfully complete the installation of noise walls in advance near Peirce Park to avoid

impacts to the local Little League baseball season," he said.

The \$4 billion widening project extends from Balmoral Avenue in the north to 95th Street in the south to address increasing congestion on the roadway. Reconstructing the BNSF bridge and building the pedestrian walkway along 47th Street linking Hinsdale and Western Springs were early components of the multi-year undertaking. Allen said a majority of the project is done, including concrete and noise wall work on the Western Springs side.

"As of now, we have successfully completed about 70 percent of the corridor construction," he reported.

Work on the Hinsdale side is expected to start in the spring, weather dependent. The temporary fence, intended to screen the work zone from residents' view, is anticipated to be up for at least six months. Installation of new noise walls will need to navigate factors such as underground storm infrastructure and retaining walls, which require

the walls be structure mounted rather than in the ground.

"Our goal is to complete this work as quickly as possible," Allen said.

Allen said he noise walls adhere to or surpass Federal Highway Administration guidelines.

"The height of the new walls will be equal to or greater than the current walls," he said.

Allen informed trustees that Tollway officials have scheduled three meetings with residents of the affected area in the coming weeks.

Trustee Michelle Fisher urged the agency to be proactive in communicating updates to homeowners and the village. Residents also can express concerns through the Tollway's 24-hour hotline at (630) 246-2930. The entire project is expected to be completed in 2025.

"We respect the concerns of the community and remain dedicated to minimizing disruptions to the village and its residents, while understanding that it is a major reconstruction project," Allen said.



## Beyond books

The Hinsdale Public Library's Jazz After Dark event featured the Julia Danielle Quartet Friday evening. Danielle recently was named the winner of the International Ella Fitzgerald vocal competition. The library partnered with WDCB to bring the live music to the free event, which also featured food and drinks. Plans are underway for another After Dark event in May. (Jim Slonoff photos)



ONCE UPON A TIME



**Places from the past** — Hinsdale’s building services supervisor, Jim Piontkowski, a Hinsdale Central graduate, moved to Hinsdale in 1971 and spent many years here in his youth. Having spent more than 40 years with the village, there isn’t a lot about Hinsdale he doesn’t know or hasn’t photographed. This photo from 1979 was taken of 6 W. Hinsdale Ave., where Jewell Mangan and Lee Benkendorf Antique Clocks were located. Indifference Salon now takes up the space where the clock shop was. Airoom and the Dawn McKenna Group occupy the rest of the building. Do you have a Hinsdale photo that is at least 25 years old? We’d love to share it with our readers. Stop by our office at 7 W. First St. or email it to jslonoff@thehinsdalean.com.



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**Happy Birthday!**  
Joseph Sanchez  
turns 13 Feb. 10

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The Hinsdalean

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**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.  
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“ Sean was an extraordinary person full of love, life, joy and promise. He always found the best in others and never said anything bad about anyone. ”

# New foundation launched to spread love

*Richards family announces new Love Like Sean Foundation and its inaugural projects*

By Pamela Lannom  
plannom@thehinsdalean.com

The Richards family will spend Sean's birthday Sunday remembering his loving and generous spirit and doing something to help others.

The family has announced the formation of the Love Like Sean Foundation in memory of 14-year-old Sean Richards, who was hit by a car and killed last July.

"It's almost cliché — everybody seems to start a foundation when their child is killed or died," Sean's dad, Brian, said. "We wanted to do something to honor and memorialize Sean and his memory and carry on his spirit."

The family is kicking off the announcement with two initiatives this weekend. One will supply stuffed animals to kindergartners at St. Isaac Jogues School, where Sean attended elementary and middle school, and to children being treated at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Hinsdale.

Growing up, Sean was a big fan of stuffed animals, Brian said.

"He collected them for years and years. They were his favorite toy. All the stuffed animals had a name. They had a back story. Sometimes he would write it out," he said.

Bringing stuffed animals to the hospital will allow kids to be comforted the way Sean was when he made a trip to the hospital at age 3 or 4 after hurting his leg.

"It was just a sprain, so they wrapped it up and they gave him a stuffed animal," Brian said. "The day he died he still had that stuffed animal on a shelf in his room. That was one of the things we immediately thought about."

Through a friend and fellow member of St. Isaac Jogues who works at Ty Corp., Brian was able to secure a donation of 200 Beanie Bells and Beanie Babies to give away.

"We're forming a partner-

ship with them to buy more and give them away," Brian said.

The family also is collecting children's items to donate to the Migrant Ministry in Oak Park.

"A lot of the kids literally come over with nothing," Brian said.

Donations can be dropped off in the box outside the Richards' home at 306 S. Vine St. through Sunday. The ministry will accept only the following for children of all ages:

- new or gently used coats (clean and ready to wear)
- new or gently used snow pants, winter gear, boots and warm clothing (clean and ready to wear)
- new blankets, socks and underwear
- matchbox cars or small toys that children can take with them

The Richards also plan to fund scholarships at Benet Academy, where Sean would have attended high school, and to support capital projects at Benet, St. Isaac's and other locations.

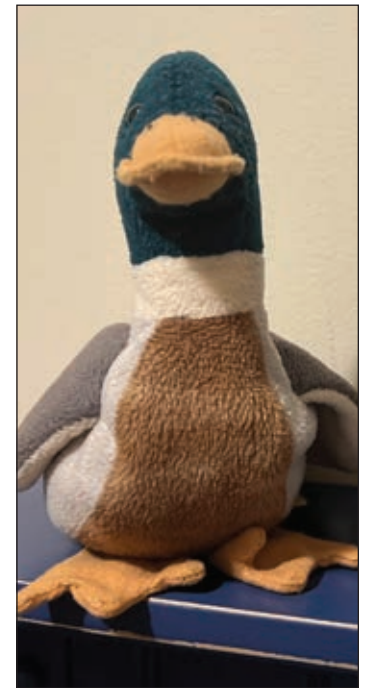
Fundraisers will be part of the plan down the road, but for now, the foundation will be privately funded.

"I've been contemplating retirement for years, and I've decided that I'm going to keep working indefinitely, and everything that I make is going into the foundation," said Brian, who is a partner at Paul Hastings LLP. "It's a way to honor Sean. There's not a lot of things I can do for him right now, so I'm doing what I can."

His wife, Kristi, said she fully supports the decision.

"He's good at what he does and he has a lot to offer, so I'm glad that he's working, and if he finds purpose in doing it for Sean, that's wonderful," she said.

The foundation's first community event will be a 5K sometime the year, the Richards said.



**Sean Richards** — with his siblings Grace and Finn — shows off his sprained leg and the stuffed duck he received after a trip to the hospital when he was a preschooler. That duck, which was still on a shelf in his bedroom when he was killed in July, prompted his parents to donate stuffed animals to kids in the hospital as they launch a new foundation, Love Like Sean, in their son's memory. (photos courtesy of Brian Richards)

"He loved running, and the morning he was killed, he went out and did, I think, four or five miles just around town, because he was going to be on the cross country team and that was part of the training plan," Kristi said. "We just felt it was something that families could do together, and I think family was probably one of the most important things for him."

Kristi said she has a list of organizations the foundation might be able to support, but the organization is still in its early stages.

"Part of this is it's very organic and we're just open to suggestions and ideas," Brian

said.

Those ideas can be submitted on the foundation's website, [www.lovelikesean.org](http://www.lovelikesean.org), which was scheduled to be launched today, Feb. 8. The site will share information about Sean and the foundation's various initiatives. Last week, Brian shared some of the text that will appear on the page.

"What made Sean special was his obvious love and respect for everyone around him," it reads. "Sean was an extraordinary person full of love, life, joy and promise. He always found the best in others and never said anything bad about anyone."

Several of Sean's friends will be at his house Sunday to commemorate his birthday. Spending time with them is comforting, his parents said. "We're going to have his favorite cookie cake and wings, and if I have stuff for them to help me with the foundation, I'm going to put them to work," Kristi said.

She believes the foundation will provide a sense of purpose for the family.

"It's what we have to keep Sean's memory and spirit alive, and, hopefully, if it can just help a few children feel loved, then it's totally worth it," she said.



# NEXT WEEK

## Community Consolidated Elementary Dist. 181 Board

7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12  
Hinsdale Middle School  
100 S. Garfield Ave.  
[www.d181.org](http://www.d181.org)

**On the draft agenda:** approval of full-day kindergarten summer project bids, tax levy abatement resolution, science resource recommendation, staffing report

## Hinsdale High School District 86 Board

6 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 8  
Hinsdale South High School  
7401 Clarendon Hills Road, Darien  
[www.hinsdale86.org/board-of-education/board-meetings](http://www.hinsdale86.org/board-of-education/board-meetings)

**On the agenda:** 2024-25 registration fee, approve 2024-25 school year calendar, new student activity account

## Hinsdale Parks and Recreation Commission

7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 13  
Memorial Building  
19 E. Chicago Ave.  
[www.villageofhinsdale.org](http://www.villageofhinsdale.org)

## Hinsdale Plan Commission

7:30 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 15  
Memorial Building  
19 E. Chicago Ave.  
[www.villageofhinsdale.org](http://www.villageofhinsdale.org)

**On the draft agenda:** public hearing on 945 S. Garfield Ave. (special use permit for child day care), sign permit reviews for 34 E. Hinsdale Ave. (Brasi's Pizzeria) and 50 S. Lincoln St./120 W. Hinsdale Ave. (BMO Bank), schedule public hearings on text amendments for short-term rentals and landscaping and screening standards

## Water bill lock box address has changed

Effective Feb. 1, the Water Bill Lock Box address for Hinsdale residents changed to PO Box 8913, Carol Stream, IL 60197-8913.

All payments to the lock box address must include the water bill stub.

Residents paying with an online bank check should mail it directly to Village Hall, 19 E. Chicago Ave., Hinsdale IL 60521.

Residents also can register

for payments to be automatically debited from a checking account. They should complete the direct debit authorization form available on the village's website at [www.villageofhinsdale.org/departments/finance\\_and\\_administration/water\\_billing.php](http://www.villageofhinsdale.org/departments/finance_and_administration/water_billing.php). Completed forms also can be emailed to [kbuccieri@villageofhinsdale.org](mailto:kbuccieri@villageofhinsdale.org).

Questions? Call (630) 789-7020.



**BIRTHDAY SHOUT OUT!**

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Simply email your child's name and birthday (day, month and year) to [news@thehinsdalean.com](mailto:news@thehinsdalean.com) for a chance for his or her name to appear on Page 4 under a birthday greeting.

**The Hinsdalean**

## February Fish Dates

There are a lot of events in February that warrant great fresh seafood - plan ahead! For special days with high demand, we strongly recommend placing an order, 630-887-4700.

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# Little eyes search Black History Month

*I Spy case at the library is one of several activities putting Black heritage in the spotlight*

By Ken Knutson

kknutson@thehinsdalean.com

Hinsdale's Liz Ewing said creating the I Spy case to honor Black History Month at the Hinsdale Public Library was an enlightening undertaking.

"I definitely brushed up on my history," said Ewing, the daughter of a Black father and white mother. "I knew a lot of the well-known figures. But when you start delving into it more and learn what people have overcome and understand things, like the first black astronaut doing something that had never been done, it's amazing to think about."

Ewing is part of Hinsdale Junior Woman's Club, members of which take turns putting together small dioramas each month for kids to search for hidden objects. Ewing said she claimed February as soon as sign-ups opened.

"I definitely wanted to make

sure that (Black history) was covered," said Ewing, adding that her artist mom was a key consultant.

The case features more than a dozen prominent Black Americans, from Frederick Douglas and Harriet Tubman to Rosa Parks and Guion Bluford, the astronaut. Next to the case are short bios of each person.

"Hopefully people can expand their Black history knowledge," Ewing said.

Working with such a diminutive area also presented challenges.

"There was only space for so many so it was tough," she said.

The library's Katherine Wessel said the cases have become a popular attraction.

"It's just a constant flow of people stopping by. We get some adults coming down, too, and looking at them,"

Ewing actually took on double duty for February by making a Valentine's Day I Spy diorama, as well.

ma, as well.

Ewing and husband Van have two young sons, Van, 6, and Wolf, 4. She hopes they feel inspired to grow their understanding as they grow in age.

"My sons were excited about it when we dropped it off at the library," she said. "It's part of my heritage, and I want to pass along these things to our two sons."

In addition to the I Spy case, the library also offers a Black History Month scavenger hunt and a display of books on the topic. Visit [www.hinsdalelibrary.org](http://www.hinsdalelibrary.org) for details.

Other programs in the area are paying tribute to Black History Month:

- Actress Pamela Welcome will portray the famous abolitionist in Harriet Tubman: Alive and Free at 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 11, at the Elmhurst History Museum, 120 E. Park Ave.

This heart rendering, emotion packed characterization



Liz Ewing and her sons pose next to the I Spy case she created for Black History Month at the Hinsdale Public Library. (Jim Slonoff photo)

of the trials and tribulations of the phenomenal and renowned leader of the Underground Railroad will focus on specific hardships that Tubman had to endure and eventually overcome throughout her life. The program concludes with a

powerful spirit and song-filled first-person characterization.

The program is \$5. Visit [www.elmhursthistory.org](http://www.elmhursthistory.org) to reserve a spot.

- Film historian John LeGear will host Movie Music Tribute to

**Please turn to Page 8**



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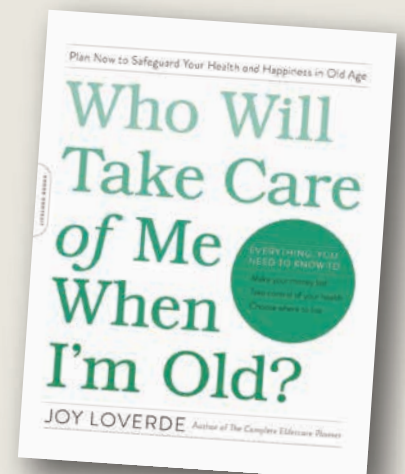
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# POLICE BEAT

Hinsdale police released the following reports Feb. 6.

## Suspended license violation

Dwayne M. Liberty, 27, 2101 S. Paulina, Chicago, was cited for driving with a suspended license at 2:46 a.m. Feb. 1 in the 200 block of East Ogden Avenue. He was charged and released to appear in court.

## Suspected DUI

A driver with a revoked license was observed to be under the influence of alcohol at 10:11 a.m. Jan. 30 in the 200 block of East Ogden Avenue. The suspect submitted a urine sample for testing and was released. Charges are pending the lab results.

## Laptop stolen

A victim of the 100 block of East Ogden Avenue reported that a company laptop was delivered to the wrong address Jan. 19. IT staff discovered the laptop was being used, and the victim has been unable to retrieve it. The theft was reported Jan. 31.

## Identity theft reported

Someone used the identity of a resident of the 200 block of South Madison Street to open a cell phone account. The incident was reported Jan. 30.

## Fraud cases reported

- Someone gained access to the online banking account of a resident of the 200 block of South Adams Street and attempted to make fraudulent transactions at 2:06 p.m. Jan. 29.
- A resident of the 300 block of North Oak Street reported that someone made fraudulent transactions using his bank account between Jan. 31 and Feb. 4.

## Threatening messages sent

- A resident of the 900 block of South Grant Street reported receiving text messages of a threatening nature from an unknown individual between Jan. 25 and 30.
- A known individual sent a threatening email to a resident of the 10 block of East First Street at 11:02 a.m. Feb. 5.

# Black History Month

## Continued from Page 7

Black history at 7 p.m. Monday, Feb. 12, at the Clarendon Hills Public Library, 7 N. Prospect Ave.

LeGear will reveal the ways African American writers, musicians and performers have enriched the American experience by sharing a collection of film clips, music and photos. A brief question and answer period will follow the show.

Reservations are required. Visit [www.clarendonhillslibrary.org](http://www.clarendonhillslibrary.org) or call (630) 323-8188.

- Check out the Black Trailblazers Exhibit open now through Wednesday, Feb. 28, at the DuPage County Historical Museum, 102 E. Wesley St., Wheaton.

Learn about several African

Americans who significantly impacted DuPage County through their contributions in the fields of education, sports, Civil Rights and the arts.

Admission is free; the museum is closed Mondays. Visit [www.dupagemuseum.org](http://www.dupagemuseum.org) for more information.

- Visit the Black History Month Exhibit now through Thursday, Feb. 29, at the Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, 12545 W. 111th St. in Lemont.

Learn about African-American skiers and the challenges they faced in winter sports.

The exhibit is open from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit [www.fpdcc.com](http://www.fpdcc.com) or call (630) 257-2045 for more information.

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■ “I played a lot of old jazz standards, which most of the seniors recognized, and their faces lit up with each new song.” — **Charlie Russ**

# Teen leverages music’s power to touch others’ lives

During Charlie Russ’ visits to his family’s longtime priest’s retirement home, the teen pianist took note of how his playing had a way of resonating through the elderly man Alzheimer’s disease haze. Russ then offered a performance for other residents who cared to listen. Dozens turned out.

“They were serving wine and treats,” he recounted of the Ravinia-like scene. “I played a lot of old jazz standards, which most of the seniors recognized, and their faces lit up with each new song.”

Moved by the experience, Russ, of Hinsdale, now a junior at Hinsdale Central, launched the outreach Tunes for Seniors last fall to bring live music to assisted living facilities for cognitive stimulation and nostalgic pleasure.

“Every time we play, we always see people clapping. There are some people who struggle to even move, but you can see them tapping along with their feet,” he said. “There always is such joy in the room.”

Usually joined by buddies Alex Barbu and Andrew Kim on saxophone and Manny Eden on trombone, the group plays almost every week, rotating

among a venue list that has grown to seven area senior facilities.

“We were all in jazz ensemble (at Central) and really enjoyed playing music,” Russ said. “We already had kind of a built-up repertoire beforehand.”

Their hour-long playlist features classics like “Misty,” “Fly Me to the Moon,” “Autumn Leaves” and “Splanky.”

“I sometimes end off the performance by playing ‘Bohemian Rhapsody’ — kind of a dramatic ending,” he remarked.

One the most meaningful aspects is connecting with audience members who have deep associations with the pieces.

“One guy told me when he was young, he used to sneak into jazz bars and listen to the performances during the night,” Russ said. “It brings them back to a point in time, which is really cool.”

The considerable age gap seems to fade into the background, he suggested, as everyone shares common delight in, say, Vince Guaraldi’s “Linus & Lucy.”

“It’s a win-win. We’re enjoying playing the song and everyone’s enjoying a classic



**CHARLIE RUSS**  
CHICAGO YOUTH SYMPHONY JAZZ ORCHESTRA MEMBER • SON OF CHARLIE & ADRIANA • HAS PLAYED PIANO SINCE AGE 5 • STUDIED UNDER HIS FATHER’S FORMER PIANO TEACHER • ENJOYS ARTISTS MCCOY TYNER & BILL EVANS

‘Charlie Brown’ tune,” Russ said.

Of course, this kind of community service doesn’t hurt the high schoolers’ National Honor Society credentials, he acknowledged. But it also makes them better musicians.

“It helps students better their performance skills overall. As you do it more and more, you get better at it,” noted Russ, recalling an

instructor’s maxim that “one minute of public performance is like one hour of practicing.”

Tunes for Seniors is now on the verge of becoming an official Central activity. “The idea is to have a self-sustaining club,” he said, and even extend the network to other schools. “We’re contacting middle schools and other high schools to have team leaders within each school that would

also be able to coordinate and schedule performances with students there.”

For Russ, Tunes for Seniors is more than a passing riff.

“I don’t see any point in stopping,” he said. “It’s really inspirational to see that the work that we’re doing is actually making a difference and really affecting people,”

— story by Ken Knutson,  
photo by Jim Slonoff



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# OPINION

## EDITORIAL

### A little bit of love goes a long way to help others

As is The Hinsdalean's tradition the week before Valentine's Day (next Wednesday, don't forget!), we hereby issue our own "valentines" to those helping to make the community a more kindhearted place. Here are this year's honorees as nominated by organizations in the village.

- Amy and Emily Lohan, the mother-daughter team that works with the Hinsdale Humane Society's trap/neuter/return program, manage a colony of feral cats to help reduce cat overpopulation and euthanasia. It's a side of rescue work that many people may not know about, and while it's exhausting and unglamorous, Amy and Emily will say it's rewarding.

- John Creber, HCS Family Services board member, is working tirelessly on leading the building project to prepare 22 N. Elm St. for the agency's move. His leadership, expertise and savvy business acumen is keeping the project progressing at a rapid pace.

- Claudia Moffet, Union Church of Hinsdale member, uses her amazing talent to lovingly make a handmade quilt for every single baby who is baptized and welcomed by the congrega-

tion.

- Brad Smith, Candor Health Education Board member, has served on the organization's board since 2017. As board secretary he played an integral role in the overhaul of the agency's by-laws. He also served as board chair for two years and has been a very dedicated source of leadership during a critical time.

- Mike and Sammie Knutte are a volunteer dad-and-daughter team for HCS Family Services. Mike leads the Hinsdale grocery distribution on Mondays with incredible heart and passion, while 15-year-old Sammie leads inside cart preparation at Willowbrook on Wednesdays with humor and dedication. They make all the difference.

- Joe Craig serves as the administration committee chair at Hinsdale Covenant Church, is a Scoutmaster and serves the community in many ways. He has an excellent servant's heart.

- Nancy Kelley, a volunteer with Wellness House, was often the first point of contact at the front desk for people visiting after learning of a cancer diagnosis, offering a compassionate ear and connecting them to free programs and

services. She recently redirected her efforts to updating and refreshing the Wellness House library for participants to use and is working her organizational magic in other areas as well.

- James Lang helps with Union Church of Hinsdale's mission work at DuPage PADS, making sure the children at their Interim Housing Center experiencing homelessness have birthday toys, and prepared homemade meals.

- Rianna Amin and Sloan Newlin, HCS Junior Board co-chairs, motivate, influence and provide support to the rest of the board, making an incredible impact on food insecurity in the community.

- Janet Miller is deeply appreciated by the Hinsdale Historical Society staff and board of trustees for her 23 years of volunteer work and never-ending support of the historical society.

- Erin Buddig selflessly gives back to the community through her work with Young Life Eastern DuPage, touching the lives of middle schoolers and high schoolers in the area. She creates a safe space for teens to ask questions and continue their faith journey, along with leading super-fun weekly events for the youth.

## COMMENTARY

### Why bad blood between football fans and Swift?

I wouldn't describe myself as a huge Taylor Swift fan — although I do know all the words to most of the songs on "1989," as it was the only music we listened to driving through Colorado on a family vacation in 2015.

Of course, you don't have to be a huge fan to know something about her. Sunday night she claimed her fourth Album of the Year Grammy, making history by surpassing the likes of three-time winners Frank Sinatra, Paul Simon and Stevie Wonder. She's won a total of 14 Grammys, which is pretty impressive.

The Time Magazine 2023 Person of the Year and 2019 Billboard Woman of the Decade has broken a number of records, from highest grossing tour of all time, highest grossing concert film and Spotify's most-streamed artist globally. As of November 2023, she is the female musician with the most charted songs (231), most top-40 songs (137), most top-20 songs (85), most top-10 songs (49) and most top-10 debuts (38).

I could go on, but I would run out of space.

I've been thinking about Swift with all the controversy surround-

ing her appearances at Kansas City Chiefs games to cheer on her boyfriend, Travis Kelce. I like what Colin Cowherd had to say about it on his show, "The Herd."

"I think if you're getting upset about 25 seconds of video over 3.5 hours, you need to get over it. We put guys on sports all the time," he said, offering a list of male celebrities seen at NFL or NBA games.

Cowherd shared that his mom, wife, sister and daughter are all strong women and noted they would be horrified if he had a bad reaction to Swift.

Is that what all this backlash is about? Swift is too strong a woman for some fans' taste?

Think about it. I haven't heard any men complain when they cut to the team's cheerleaders during a broadcast. Have you? (Interestingly, I saw a Today Show piece about the Kansas City Chiefs cheerleaders on Monday. One was a professor and neuroscientist, one a financial analyst and one a vet pathologist and Ph.D. student.)

And while it is completely unrelat-



Pamela Lannom

ed, I can't help but share a tweet a friend of mine posted on her Facebook page about the "Barbie" Oscar snub.

"You have to be a leading lady but you can't be nominated for best actress. You have to be a strong female director but you can't be nominated for best director. You have to have a wildly popular dance song but you can't

be nominated for best original song."

You have to be a loyal girlfriend but you can't be caught attending your boyfriend's games. Doesn't make any sense, does it?

I don't think this issue really is about Taylor Swift. If it were, true fans would be thrilled at the brand value of \$310 million to \$330 million she is estimated to have brought to the NFL since she started going to games.

And it's not about politics, either. (I refuse to entertain any conspiracy theories about how she is going to keep Joe Biden in office. It's ridiculous.)

The issue just might be that in all her success, Taylor Swift is a threat

to some. And that's really a shame.

There's an opportunity here to celebrate — not only what appears to be a sweet relationship between two very famous people — but a singer/songwriter who also is an amazing businesswoman. And all the young girls who have developed an interest in football thanks to her.

I love what former University of Montana football player Kevin Van Valkenburg posted on social media (despite the oddly used question marks):

"I actually feel bad for the Brads, Chads and Angry Dads who spent the year complaining about Taylor Swift interrupting their football because I spent the season trading Swift/Kelce memes with my 14-year-old daughter (who previously didn't care about football) and now it's like a fun thing we share? Which is freaking awesome?"

Girlfriends going to their boyfriends' football games is nothing new. What's new is now the girlfriend has more money and more power than her pro-football boyfriend. But that's something to celebrate, not hate.

— Pamela Lannom is editor of The Hinsdalean. Readers can email her at [plannom@thehinsdalean.com](mailto:plannom@thehinsdalean.com).



GUEST COMMENTARY

Wordle together,  
stay together

It's 6 a.m. My phone dings once. A few seconds later, a second ding. I roll over and see the familiar green and yellow squares. And so the day begins, the family Wordle group texts are activated.



Carissa Kapcar

I smile, assessing my mom's score. I know she played at midnight, unable to sleep. She's mentioned once, twice — or a dozen times — that she politely waits until 7 her time, before hitting "share" to not disturb the few of us who are an hour behind, living in the central time zone. The second ding will be on the other family group text and from my father-in-law, who like my mother held off on sharing his score until an appropriate hour. I'm sure he played three hours earlier when his day began at 5 a.m.

Both the night owls and early birds of our families flock to the game requiring five letters of successful strategy and sometimes just luck. There are two Wordle groups on my phone, one for my family, one for my husband's. Each named with an inside joke, funny only to the members in it.

For the past two years, this casual touch-point with our siblings and parents is how I feel anchored daily to the people who I love most. Not living close to our families, the rhythm of this ritual is comforting.

With a smart play, my brother's wife will be next. Then comes my husband's score from downstairs, enjoying his morning coffee and news. Celebratory emoji claps

are shared when someone hits a low score of two.

Another ding. It'll be my husband's sister. A natural competitor, she's ready to get her rank reported. Her husband quickly follows as GIF exchanges light up the screen about

unfair advantages (they "allegedly" know each other's starter words). My husband calls it "cheating," his sister says it's "using resources". The familiar banter of a know-it-all-older-brother and taunting kid-sister unfolds, as it has for over four decades now.

Their middle brother, true to his birth order, and I kindly stay out of the accusations, as does another sister-in-law. Her husband, the youngest of their siblings, was banned from the group after spoiling the word once. After all, this is serious Wordle-ing.

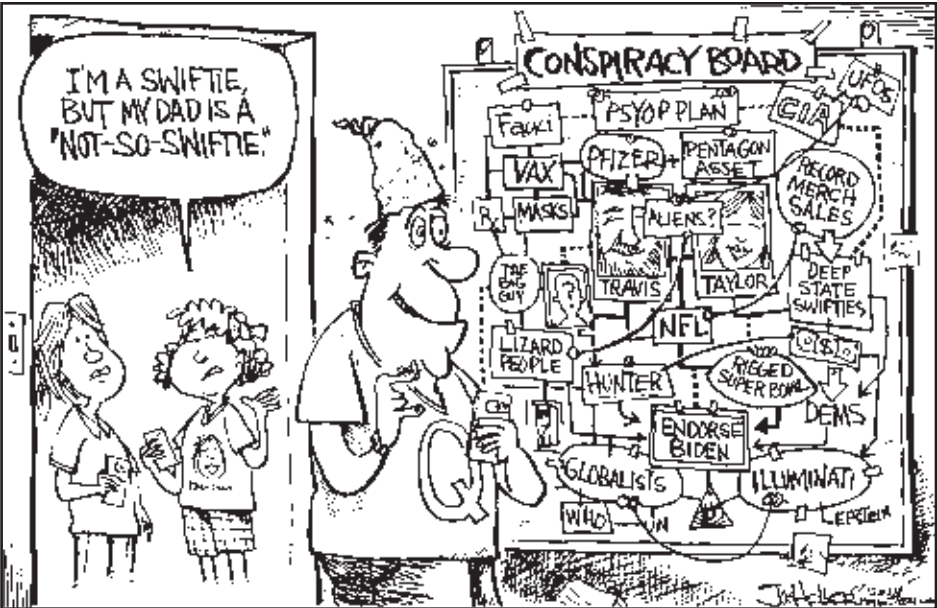
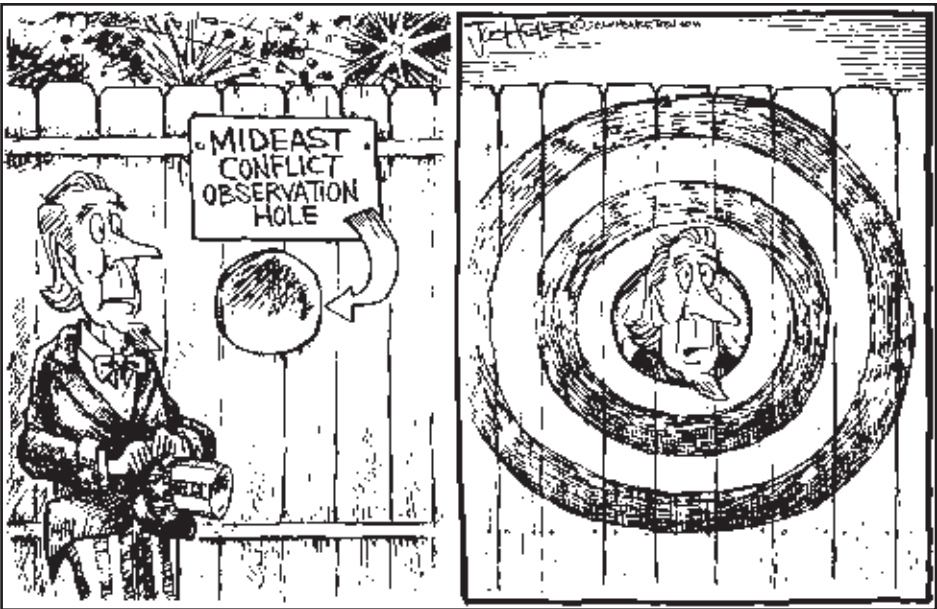
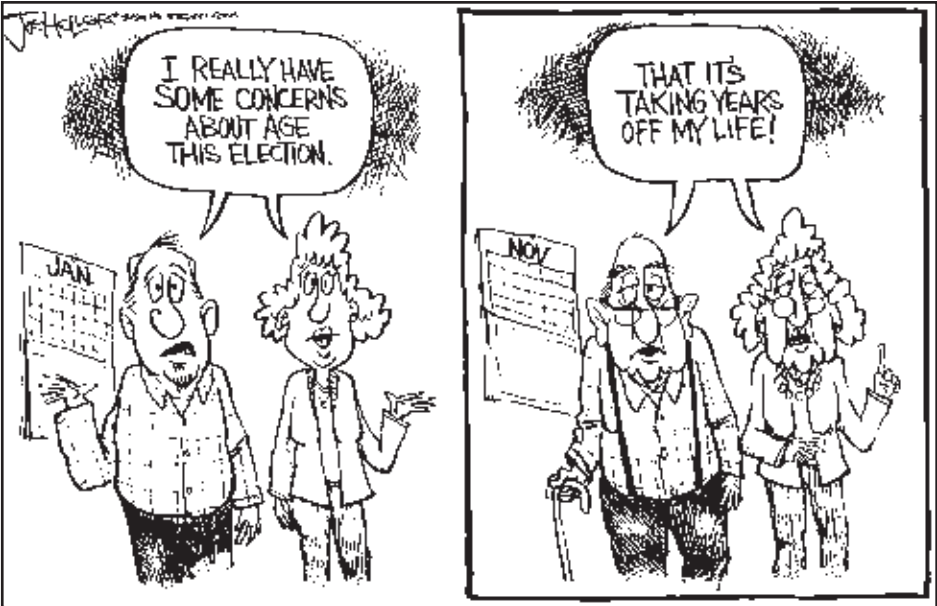
My mother-in-law and dad spend some time working theirs out, fiddling with letters throughout the day. My brother has busy mornings and will send an afternoon score.

As I wind down the day, I finally sit down, relax, pick letters and watch my gray squares turn green. Looking at the time, I'm careful to not share my score past 9 p.m. Back in the eastern time zone, our families are headed to bed.

A few hours later, it all starts again.

— Carissa Kapcar of Hinsdale is a contributing columnist. Readers can email her at [news@thehinsdalean.com](mailto:news@thehinsdalean.com).

CARTOONS



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# OBITUARIES

## Dianne Wagner Bingaman

Dianne Wagner Bingaman, 86, a life-long resident of Hinsdale and Western Springs, passed away peacefully with family at her side Feb. 2, 2024, at The Birches in Clarendon Hills.

She was born in Salem, Wis., to Eleanor and Leo Wagner. Dianne graduated with a bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin School of Education with academic honors and a minor in botany. She was a member of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority. Her teaching career began in Madison as a new graduate. In 1960 she married Robert Bingaman, who grew up in Western Springs, where they moved to and started a family. Dianne taught first grade for 35 years, retiring from Cass Elementary School in 2004. During this time, she completed a master's degree in elementary education from Roosevelt University. She served as a member of the AAUW and has been a lifelong member of St. John of the Cross Catholic Church in Clarendon Hills.

Dianne was a loving mother and grandmother. She was a loving sister to her brother Edward. She loved to travel the world with her sister and brother-in-law, Nancy and Chuck, the United States with her sister, Mary, and spending time with her sister, Ellen, and her husband, Tom,



Bingaman

as well as her brother, Mike, and his wife, Sarah.

She had a quick wit and a fantastic work ethic. You could always count on her to take on a big job and be a helper in getting a big task done. She loved to read and cook, frequently bringing meals to neighbors in need. She loved her many godchildren and making Jack Daniel's crab soup for Charlie and Beth's family. She enjoyed playing bridge and Euchre and going on Art Institute outings. Most of all, she loved watching the news and talking about the market.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Robert Bingaman, and her sister, Ellen Lois.

She is survived by her children, Lee (Scott) Gillman of Hinsdale and James; her grandchildren, Emma and Elise; and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation is from 5 to 8 p.m. Friday, Feb. 16, at Sullivan Funeral Home, 60 S. Grant St., Hinsdale.

A funeral Mass will be said at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, at St. Francis Xavier Church, 1704 240th Ave., Brighton, Wis.

Interment will follow, and then a reception.

In lieu of flowers please donate to a charity of choice.

## Robert Hinkle

Robert Hinkle of Hinsdale passed away Jan. 20, 2024.

He was born in Texas in 1930 to Lee and Edith Hinkle. Bob had many happy memories of his childhood and although he lived in Illinois for more than 60 years, he was always a loyal Texan.

Bob graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in civil engineering. After going to work for Chicago Bridge & Iron Co. in Houston, he lived and worked on engineering projects all over the United States. While in Chicago, Bob met and married Barbara in 1964. They lived in Indonesia and Ghana for several years where Bob managed projects for CBI. After returning to Chicago in 1967, Bob and his family settled in Hinsdale and he continued his career at CBI as an expert in construction for the nuclear industry.

Bob and Barbara raised their children in Hinsdale, and Bob was active in the community, serving on the Hinsdale Parks and Recreation



Hinkle

Commission and the vestry of Grace Church. He was a Boy Scout leader for many years and especially enjoyed mentoring the Scouts and getting away on camping trips.

In retirement Bob set up a small consulting and construction firm. He fulfilled a life long dream to fly by earning his private pilot license and spent many happy hours in the air.

Bob was known as a kind and caring gentleman who loved life. He is survived by his wife, Barbara; his children, Robert C. (Jeannemarie ) Hinkle and Kristin (Robert) Caudy; and his grandchildren, Alexandra, Jacqueline and Katherine Hinkle, and Gwyneth and Owen Caudy.

A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 17, at Grace Church, 120 W. First St., Hinsdale. A reception will follow in the parish hall. Brian Powell Funeral Directors of Hinsdale handled the arrangements.

## Richard 'Dick' Lillquist

Richard "Dick" Lillquist, 84, of Willowbrook passed away peacefully surrounded by family Jan. 30, 2024.

Richard was born in 1939 to Ernest Lillquist and Harriet Jenson. He was raised in Glenview, attended Glenbrook North High School and went on to graduate from St. Olaf College.

Richard served in the Army from 1962-68. He was passionate about working with the underserved and spent his professional career at the Illinois Department of Human Services as a caseworker and then supervisor. Throughout his life, Richard was actively involved in community organizing and singing in community choirs. In retirement, he performed in an old-time radio troupe, conducted faith-based anti-racism trainings, continued his sing-



Lillquist

ing and took walks with the many beloved dogs he owned over the years.

He had many dear friends and numerous acquaintances who noticed he was no longer out and about when his health declined.

Richard is survived by his children, Alisa (Frank) Messana of Hinsdale and Rick Lillquist; his grandchildren, Nicholas and Arianna Messana; his brother, Gerald (Joyce) Lillquist; and other immediate family members.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to an animal charity of choice or St. Thomas Hospice at [www.uchicagomedicineadventhealth.org/foundations/st-thomas-hospice](http://www.uchicagomedicineadventhealth.org/foundations/st-thomas-hospice).

Brian Powell Funeral Directors of Hinsdale handled the arrangements.



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# OBITUARIES

## Doris Ann Bartolomei

Doris Ann Bartolomei, nee Johnson, 90, of Oak Brook, died Feb. 5, 2024.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Rudolph Joseph Bartolomei; and her sister, Carol (the late Glen) Hanks.

She is survived by her children, Dino Bartolomei and Maria (Nick D'Avanzo) Ognibene; her grandchildren, Trey Hildebrand, Blake Bartolomei, Jake Ognibene and Ben Ognibene; and her sib-



**Bartolomei**

lings, Bill (Roseanne) Johnson and Deborah (Roger Legel) Johnson.

Visitation is at 9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 9, at Sullivan Funeral Home, 60 S. Grant St. Prayers will follow at 10:15 a.m. at the funeral home.

A Mass will be said at 11 a.m. at St. Isaac Jogues Church, 306 W. Fourth St., Hinsdale. Entombment is at Bronswood Cemetery in Oak Brook.

## Thomas Alfred Jung

Thomas "Tom" Alfred Jung, 86, of Aurora, formerly of Hinsdale, passed away in Naperville Feb. 3, 2024.

Born in 1937 in Hinsdale to Alfred and Agnes Jung, Tom was fun-loving, caring and deeply devoted to his family and Christian faith.

After graduating from Hinsdale Central High School, Tom pursued a successful career as an electrician, working for 42 years with IBEW Local 701. He was highly skilled and dedicated to his profession.

Tom enjoyed various hobbies in his free time, including gardening, playing cards, golfing, tinkering, following his favorite Chicago sports teams and spending quality time with his family and friends. He enjoyed his retirement years, cruising on Saddle Lake in the summer, wintering in Florida, and embarking on many memorable cruises and vacations with his family and close friends.



**Jung**

Tom will be deeply missed by all who knew him. His legacy of love, care and laughter will forever be cherished by his family and friends.

Tom is survived by his wife of 63 years, Judy; his children, Tara (Rick), Bryan (Jody) and Patrick (Missy); and his grandchildren, Amy, Scott and Lindsay. Tom was preceded in death by his brothers, James and Ronald.

Visitation is at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 10, at Knox Presbyterian Church, 1105 Catalpa Lane, Naperville.

A celebration of life will follow at 11 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the IBEW Local 701 Immediate Relief Fund, 28600 Bella Vista Parkway, Suite 1000, Warrenville, IL 60555; or online to the American Cancer Society at [www.donate.cancer.org](http://www.donate.cancer.org).

Brian Powell Funeral Directors of Hinsdale handled the arrangements.

## Ermita Mizen

Ermita "Ernie" Way Mizen of Burr Ridge, formerly of Hinsdale, died peacefully Jan. 25, 2024, surrounded by family.

Ernie, 101, was born in 1922 to Clara and Gilbert Way and grew up in Maywood. The family spent summers at Lake Lawn Resort in Delavan, Wis., a peaceful place she continued to visit as an adult.

She married Ted on Jan. 31, 1942, and together they built a beautiful life, always making service to others a priority. Ernie was dedicated to community involvement, serving as treasurer and trustee of First Christian Church of Maywood as well as den mother, Girl Scout Leader and Sunday School teacher.

After moving to Hinsdale in 1965, Ernie began volunteering in the recovery room at Hinsdale Hospital. The couple found a new church family at Union Church, where Ernie became a vital part of the Women's Association and a faithful participant in the monthly devotion services in the health care unit at King-Bruweart House. She continued providing devotion services at K-B after becoming a resident in 2008.

Throughout her life, Ernie had a keen appreci-



**Mizen**

ation for poetry, classical music and small moments of tranquility found in nature. Ted and Ernie traveled extensively but had an affinity for horseback riding in the mountains of Colorado. Her love of horses led her to join a group of women who rode the trails and laughed together. Ernie's circle of friends is vast, and her legacy will live on in the hearts of those she touched.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ted; her son, Ted Jr.; and her brother, Gilbert (Evelyn) Way Jr.

She is survived by her daughter, Vicki (John) Landstrom; her grandchildren, Dawn (Ervin) Rokosh, Matt Landstrom and Drew Landstrom; and her great-grandchildren, Steven Rokosh, William Rokosh and Trinian Landstrom.

A celebration of life will be held at 11 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, at Union Church of Hinsdale, 137 S. Garfield Ave.

In lieu of flowers, remembrances can be made in Ernie's memory to King-Bruweart House, 6101 S. County Line Road, Burr Ridge, IL 60527, or to Union Church of Hinsdale, 137 S. Garfield Ave., Hinsdale, IL 60521.

## Meg DeBartolo Rogers

Meg DeBartolo Rogers, 61, of Clarendon Hills, passed away unexpectedly Feb. 3, 2024.

Meg's family was the most important thing in the world to her and she was so proud of her boys and grandchildren. She was a devoted friend to many and will be greatly missed.

She is survived by her husband of 33 years, Steve; her children, Michael (Christine), Jack (Courtney) and Sam (Caroline Ketcik); her grandchildren, Andie and Tyler; her mother, Maryellen; her father-in-law, John Rogers; and her nieces and nephews, Kiely and Will Kruse and Matthew and Maeve Rogers.

Meg was preceded in death by her father, Frank



**Rogers**

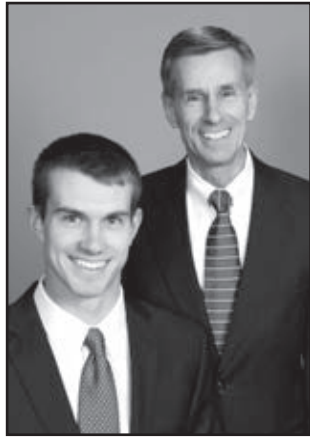
DeBartolo; her sister, Sheela DeBartolo Kruse; and her mother-in-law, Barbara Rogers.

Visitation is from 3 to 8 today, Feb. 8, at Adolf & Powell Funeral Home Ltd., 7000 S. Madison St., Willowbrook.

A funeral service will be held at 10 a.m. Friday, Feb. 9, at Notre Dame Church, 64 Norfolk Ave., Clarendon Hills.

Burial is private.

Memorials made be made online to Wellness House in Hinsdale at [www.wellnesshouse.org](http://www.wellnesshouse.org). Adolf & Powell Funeral Home handled the arrangements.



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# ASK AN EXPERT

MICHELLE ICARD, EXPERT IN ADOLESCENCE

## How can failures help children grow?

Failures and mistakes are part of life, and those inevitable moments also can become character-building opportunities.

That was the message of Michelle Icard, an expert in adolescence and author of three books on the subject, who spoke to parents Jan. 31 at The Community House.

Icard, author of “8 Setbacks That Can Make a Child a Success: What to Do and What to Say to Turn ‘Failures’ into Character-Building Moments,” said a healthy adolescence is one that includes setbacks and the opportunity to overcome them.

“We live in a culture in which we are afraid of failure,” Icard said.

By helping parents to see the growth that can come from failure, she said she hopes to remove stigma and fear from the word and the idea.

“I want every one your children to take the uncomfortable path,” Icard said.

Icard introduced her audience to

the concept of the greenhouse parent. Like a parent, a skilled gardener creates a comfortable, nurturing environment for his seedlings. The gardener occasionally exposes plants to less ideal environments in a method known as hardening. Hardening, or “hardening off,” allows a plant to prepare for and adapt to the harsh outdoor conditions that come once they are planted outside the greenhouse.

“We have to let them out of the greenhouse,” Icard said.

That process involves three steps. The child must be allowed to separate from the group, which in this case is the family, and allowed to face a challenge. Once that challenge is overcome, the child returns to the family as a better, stronger version of himself or herself.

As important as allowing a child the room to fail is the way in which a parent responds to that failure.

“We learn about ourselves based on how people respond to us,” she said.

A parent’s reaction to a child’s setback tells the child something about themselves at a time when they are figuring out who they are.

Icard offered parents a three-step response to help turn a child’s fail-

ure into an opportunity for growth — contain, resolve and evolve.

Containing the problem is taking action to keep it from growing or continuing.

Step two involves the child taking action to resolve the issue.

“It doesn’t really matter what one thing they do,” Icard said, but they must take a step toward bettering the situation.

Finally, the child must be allowed to evolve beyond the situation. Put it behind him and move on, Icard said. Failure to do so can allow the child’s mistake to become part of how that child sees himself.

Icard spoke as part of the Community Speaker Series presented by Hinsdale High School District 86 and Community Consolidated Elementary District 181.

Icard left her audience with a message of encouragement. In preparation for her book, Icard interviewed 30 parents about their children’s struggles. Asked whether they would take those struggles away if given the chance, all but one said they would not. They see now what was learned, she said.

— by Sandy Illian Bosch



**Author Michelle Icard** spoke to parents Jan. 31 about the eight archetypes of teens and the types of struggle often associated with the rebel, the daredevil, the misfit, the ego, the loner, the sensitive one, the black sheep and the benchwarmer. (photo provided)

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# GOOD NEWS

## SCOUT FINISHES AWARD PROJECT

Troop 10 Eagle Scout Shreemann Patel of Hinsdale recently finished a project for the Distinguished Conservation Service Award.

His project was designed to improve conditions at Lyman Woods in Downers Grove, where a polluted natural pond was surrounded by invasive buckhorn trees, which were choking out native plants, and the water was filled with particles and dirt. There was also suspected nitrogen within the pond that could promote algae growth, and the water source was runoff from nearby residences as well as the Midwestern University parking lot.

Patel made two sand filters to slowly clean the water over time, removed the invasive buckhorn in a 10-foot radius and planted a buffer of native plants around the garden. Removing invasives is good for sunlight, and also for the animals in the area that will be

able to access the pond more easily. The native buffer will provide a shelter and habitat for birds and small mammals, as well as amphibians and reptiles. It will also strengthen the eroded and damaged soil. Buckhorn, which was covering the area, injects a chemical in the ground preventing other things from growing, so herbicide and thorough removal was involved.

Patel also installed a pond aerator.

This is the first of two projects required for the scouting award, which is rarely given.

## D181 RECEIVES LIBRARY GRANT

Community Consolidated Elementary District 181 will receive \$2,741 in state grants for public school libraries to support programs and the acquisition of library books, e-books, audiobooks, periodicals, multilingual materials and learning technology.

"School libraries are an essential component for a

quality education, and this funding will help to directly support their mission," state Rep. Jenn Ladisch Douglass (D-45, Elmhurst) said in announcing the grants. "Libraries continue to evolve, and it's critical that they receive the resources they need to provide a modern learning experience for students."

The grants were issued under Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias, who also serves as state librarian. Across the state, more than \$1.4 million in grants were awarded to 2,713 qualified school libraries.

## NFL PLAYER HELPS LOCAL FOUNDATION

Brian Allen, a 2014 Hinsdale Central graduate and center for the LA Rams, supported the Just1mike foundation by wearing custom cleats for the NFL's "My Cause My Cleats" initiative at the Rams game Dec. 3. He joined in the mission of raising awareness for sudden cardiac arrest in youth

and adults.

The foundation is named after Michael Brindley, a 16-year-old who died of sudden cardiac arrest in 2016.

His brother, Robbie, and friends attended the game on behalf of the foundation. Just1mike sponsors Young Hearts for Life heart screenings at Hinsdale Central and Hinsdale South high schools, with the next one at Central slated for April 23.

*Photos appear online at [www.facebook.com/thehinsdalean](http://www.facebook.com/thehinsdalean).*

## HOLIDAY BALL A GREAT SUCCESS

The annual Holiday Ball in December raised more than \$600,000 for The Community House.

About 450 people attended the black-tie fundraising event, whose theme was "A Roaring Holiday Ball," in support of the Willowbrook Youth Development Initiative.

Emily and Sean Maissami, Mary and Michael Osanloo,

Sabrina and Aluizio Ribeiro and Nicole and Rick Schroeder served as co-chairs of the event.

The money raised will help fund child care, after-school and summer camps to improve literacy, career exploration, financial education, and trauma-informed counseling and community-based recreation through athletics, the arts and enrichment programming for kids who live in an unincorporated and under-resourced area in Willowbrook.

"At the Holiday Ball, the power of community shined brighter than ever," said Dan Janowick, executive director of The Community House. "The love and support our guests showed through their generous donations for kids and families in Willowbrook will help build our capacity to provide life-changing services, unlock limitless potential and spark many bright futures."

*Photos appear online at [www.facebook.com/thehinsdalean](http://www.facebook.com/thehinsdalean).*

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## From local youth to poster child

*Loïe Fuller shined brightest in Paris, but Hinsdale pays homage to famous native*

By Ken Knutson

kknutson@thehinsdalean.com

"Loïe Fuller was not just popular. She wasn't just famous. She was a phenomenon."

Born near the present-day York Road and Ogden Avenue intersection, Loïe Fuller whirled her way to international stardom around the turn of the century with her modern dance style and revolutionary use of fabric and stage lighting. Finding an audience in Paris for her visionary artistry, Fuller was the subject of colorful posters across the city — the social media of the age — promoting her performances.

Last week at Immanuel Hall, the Hinsdale Historical Society hosted "Lights of Paris," a three-day antique poster event and fundraiser celebrating Fuller and the profound era with an exhibit of these vibrant pieces blending art and advertisement.

"People don't always get how significant her contribution was," society Trustee Kristen Laakso said of Fuller's enduring influence. "In Taylor Swift's Reputation tour, she had a whole dance where there were imitators of Loïe Fuller on stage, and at the very end there was a projected image that said, 'Dedicated to Loïe Fuller, who supported artists and the rights to their work,' because she patented everything she did."

Like a page out of Fuller's book of theatrics, the Immanuel Hall's chapel interior was transformed by projected period footage of strolling Parisians. Even the static poster imagery came to life thanks to high-tech animation.

"These (posters) would have been in the streets of Paris," Laakso said, credit-

ing society volunteer Matt Stockmal with the immersive backdrop. "These posters brought color to a gray city."

Six among the display featured Fuller, lent by the estate of Beverly Erickson, a Clarendon Hills resident and owner of more than 20 such posters who passed away last fall. Laakso and fellow Trustee Carrie Rozich approached the family about making the posters the centerpiece of the "Lights" event, in partnership with Heritage Auctions, the firm handling the eventual sale of Erickson's collection.

"She had this passion for Loïe Fuller. So we thought, 'How do we do this and make it interesting and try to raise funds for the society?' " Laakso said.

Hinsdale's Greg Bloch and Hope Lloyd Brown, art dealers and consultants with Triad Art Group, brought pieces from this same time period to sell, with a portion of the proceeds going to the society. Bloch also gave a talk on advances in color lithography in the late 19th century that dovetailed with France's "Belle Époque" of high artistic and cultural development.

"They would print (the posters) in the middle of the night and send kids out to put them up with paste on (building) walls. Within minutes, people would be running through the streets, tearing them off and taking them home," explained Bloch, noting that printers consequently made extra copies. "All of a sudden Paris became a colorful city, filled with posters everywhere ... and became a center for the arts, where artists flocked in from all over the world wanting to be part of the scene."

That included Fuller, who befriended the likes



**Projected images** set the scene for Lights of Paris at Immanuel Hall showcasing turn-of-the-century posters promoting influential dancer and Hinsdale native Loïe Fuller. Hinsdale art dealer Greg Bloch spoke on printing methods. (Jim Slonoff photos)



of sculptor Auguste Rodin, novelist Alexander Dumas and scientist Marie Curie. It was Fuller's collaboration with Curie, explored in the book "Radiant" by Liz Heinecke, that produced many of the chemical illumination methods that dazzled her audiences.

"She transformed the science of performing," said Hope Lloyd Brown, an art dealer and society leader. "She was working in lights before anyone."

The quote above appeared in a trailer for the forthcoming documentary on Fuller, "Obsessed with Light," shown at the end of Friday's gathering. The documentary chronicles how the one-time vaudeville performer became a global star "and the embodiment of the Art

Nouveau movement with her elaborate productions of ephemeral, shape-shifting abstractions," according to the filmmakers. It is currently making the rounds of film festivals before its wider release.

Erickson's daughter, Alice Johnson, said her mom, who never flaunted her collection, would be surprised at the surge of attention that Fuller is receiving.

"She just loved learning about history and digging and making sure that she had good quality information," Johnson said. Johnson was told of a smaller-scale documentary, "Loïe Fuller: Dancing in the Light Fantastic," that was produced several years ago.

"So I rented it and

watched it. And my mom's in it!" she exclaimed, later recalling her mom talking of being interviewed on camera. "I had forgotten."

Laakso, a former 15-year Paris resident, said Fuller enjoys much greater acclaim in her adopted home than that of her birth.

"There are sculptures of her face on the outside of buildings there. The French know who she is," Laakso said.

Lloyd Brown said that may be changing.

"Her posters are really sought after. And Bev Erickson spent her adult life collecting specifically Loïe things," she said. "(Fuller) was from a farmer's family, a girl from Illinois. But she never fit here, I don't think. She had bigger ambitions."







**Spend a date night in** nature with a romantic night hike through Fullersburg Woods this weekend. See Page 22 for details. (photo courtesy of the DuPage County Forest Preserve District)

## ARTFULLY DONE

### ■ Acrylic Painting

Sundays, Feb. 11-March 17  
The Community House  
415 W. Eighth St.  
[www.thecommunityhouse.org](http://www.thecommunityhouse.org)  
(630) 323-7500

Be introduced to the technical and expressive possibilities of working with acrylic paints, including color mixing and the application of a variety of techniques applied to a variety of subject matters. A list of materials will be provided. Time: 3 to 4:30 p.m. Cost: \$175. RR, MD

### ■ Later Impressions

Through Feb. 17  
Mayslake Peabody Estate  
1717 W. 31st St., Oak Brook  
[www.dupageforest.org](http://www.dupageforest.org)  
(630) 206-9566

Explore the connection between nature and art at this free exhibit featuring 60 works by local artists of the Chicago Area Visual Artists. Hours: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

### ■ 'James and The Giant Peach'

Feb. 9 & 10  
Hinsdale Central auditorium  
5500 S. Grant St.  
[www.ticketpeak.co/hcdrama](http://www.ticketpeak.co/hcdrama)  
Hinsdale Central Drama invites audiences to enjoy "80 minutes of adventure" with a student-directed adaptation of Roald Dahl's classic tale. Times: 7 p.m. Feb. 9, 5 p.m. Feb. 10. Tickets: \$10, \$5 for students and children.

## FAITH COMMUNITIES

### ■ Adult Inter-Faith Fellowship

Feb. 14  
Union Church  
137 S. Garfield Ave.  
[ejung@uchinsdale.org](mailto:ejung@uchinsdale.org)  
(630) 688-1706

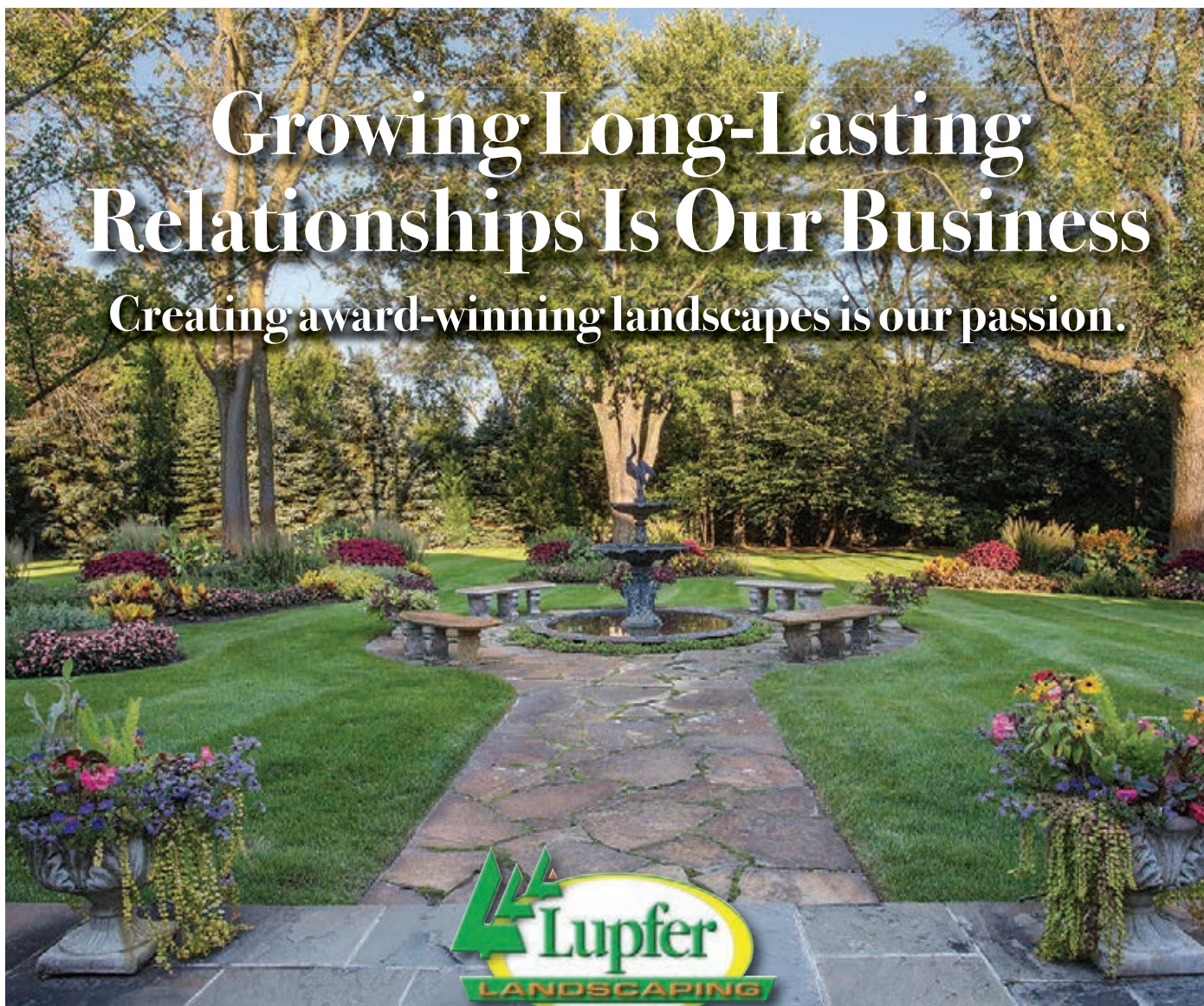
Enjoy the choral music from the women's group Cantate at this monthly gathering along with lunch and fellowship. AIFF aims to promote inclusivity while also supporting charities that reduce hunger, domestic violence and other worthy causes through contributions. Reservations are due

## CENTRAL TIME

*Please turn to Page 20*

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—Tom Lupfer  
Owner & President  
Lupfer Landscaping





# Spread love to help community at benefit fundraisers

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, things are heating up in Hinsdale — especially where benefit fundraising events are concerned.

In thinking about all things pink-and-red-related, I would be remiss not to mention Misericordia Women's League's annual Heart of Gold Benefit, this year titled, "As Gold as It Gets." Since its inception in 1996, the Misericordia Women's League has hosted this benefit gala, which has grown to attract more than 650 guests. This year's sold-out "festive not fancy" event will be held on Friday, Feb. 24, at the Westin Hotel in Lombard.

I had heard of the Misericordia name and knew of its connection with the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago, but I decided to look a little more closely at what exactly this organization does. While it is an official Catholic charity, its mission is to provide a community of care to all people — regardless of their faith tradition — who have mild to profound developmental disabilities, many of whom are also physically challenged. Through a spectrum of residential options on its 37-acre Chicago cam-

pus, as well as a wide variety of programs in the area, Misericordia serves more than 600 children and adults residentially (as well as their families) from diverse racial, religious and socio-economic backgrounds. The hope is always that each resident can live as independently as possible in their community. Misericordia provides therapy, employment support, health and wellness programs and social and recreational activities to create a full life.

This year's event also honors two local women: Cathy Hofmann of Hinsdale and JoMarie Ferro of Oak Brook. These two longtime friends and supporters of Misericordia have earned the 2024 Heart of Gold Award for outstanding service to the Women's League.

Even though individual tickets are sold out, there are still ways to be involved, including sponsorships, advertising opportunities and split-the-pot raffle tickets. Or you could join the Women's League and connect with



**Allison Peters**  
Society spotlight

more than 180 women from around the western suburbs who share a passion for Misericordia's mission. Find out more at [www.heartof-golddbenefit.org](http://www.heartof-golddbenefit.org)

## Our four-legged friends

While "Heart of Gold" might be a longstanding tradition, the Hinsdale Humane Society will hold its relatively new event — "Unleashed" — from 6 to 9 p.m. Saturday, March 2, at the Tuthill Family Pet Rescue & Resource Center, 21 Salt Creek Lane, Hinsdale.

This year, you're invited to attend either in-person or virtually. In-person guests (\$100/ticket) will enjoy all of the elements of the gala — live music, cocktails, appetizers, dessert, live auction and more, as well as the opportunity to take a tour and meet the furry, four-legged friends who are waiting to be adopted. Online attendees can experience all of the animal stories and bid in a silent auction, among other

activities, at no charge from 7 to 8 p.m.

You might know that the Hinsdale Humane Society started as a dog pound (the first humane society in DuPage County), and, after a colorful history (including being home to the famous Morris the Cat), now places hundreds of animals in their forever homes. But did you know that they offer a full suite of programs, including three different pet therapy programs (memory care patients, literacy promotion, hospital and hospice visits), behavioral dog training and youth programs (including birthday parties)? In the past week alone, I've seen posts from three different Hinsdale residents who have found lost dogs and taken them to the Hinsdale Humane Society. How lucky are we to live in an area with this resource in our own backyard! For more information about "Unleashed" or other ways to get involved check out [www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org](http://www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org).

— Allison Peters of Hinsdale is the paper's society columnist. Readers can email her at [news@thehinsdalean.com](mailto:news@thehinsdalean.com).



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## Continued from Page 18

today, Feb. 8. Contact Elizabeth Jung using the information above. Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost: \$15 per person (cash or check).

### ■ UCECP fundraising event

February 24  
The Elm  
23 W. Harris Ave., La Grange  
[www.ucecp.betterworld.org](http://www.ucecp.betterworld.org)  
Help raise funds for the

Union Church Early Childhood Program at the “Merry on the Mountain” apres ski-themed benefit featuring an evening of live entertainment, food, drinks, bourbon tasting, silent auction, raffle and more. Proceeds will pay for building upgrades, staff development, winter and end-of-year carnivals and scholarships. Time: 7 to 10 p.m. Tickets: \$125.

### FAMILY FUN

### ■ Lunar New Year Festival

Feb. 10  
Hinsdale Public Library  
20 E. Maple St.  
[www.hinsdalelibrary.info](http://www.hinsdalelibrary.info)  
(630) 986-1976

Celebrate the Year of the Dragon with crafts, games and a talent show for elementary-age children. Hours: 2 to 4 p.m.

### ■ Fencing Olympic Swordplay

Fridays, Feb. 23-April 5

The Community House  
415 W. Eighth St.  
[www.thecommunityhouse.org](http://www.thecommunityhouse.org)  
(630) 323-7500

Participants ages 7 and up will learn the basics of attack and defense as well as strategies that create the foundation for their fencing game. To arrange for equipment rental (\$35 to \$42), call the Fencing Sports Club at (630) 678-0035. Time: 5 to 5:45 p.m. Cost: \$70.

RR, MD

### FILL YOUR PLATE

#### ■ Pancake supper

Grace Episcopal Church  
120 E. First St.  
(630) 323-9400

The Grace Church youth will be cooking and serving a Shrove Tuesday pancake supper to raise funds for their

*Please turn to Page 22*

## HINSDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY • WINTER HIGHLIGHTS



### Celebrate the Year of the Dragon at Hinsdale Public Library!

Sat., Feb. 10, 2–4 p.m.

We'll have crafts, games, food, and performances by elementary-age kids focusing on Lunar New Year. The Library's event parallels other celebrations this month at Hinsdale Central and Hinsdale Covenant Church.

Want more? Families can also enjoy a story stroll around the Youth Department and adults can also register for “Soup, Eggroll, Stir Fry, and Rice: Messages in Chinese Food,” presented on Feb. 29.

Register for all events online unless otherwise noted. See dozens of other programs at [hinsdalelibrary.info/events](http://hinsdalelibrary.info/events).



teens

### East Asian Pop Culture Club

Fri., Feb. 9, 4 p.m.

Let's talk about your favorite manhwa comics, danmei novels, anime shows, and anything else! The Library will even provide snacks.



kids

### Fleece Blankets for Hinsdale Humane Society

Sat., Feb. 24, 1 p.m.

Spread the love by making fleece blankets for animals at the Hinsdale Humane Society! Kids of all ages are welcome at this event.



adults

### In the Belly of the Beast: King in Chicago

Wed., Feb. 28, 7 p.m.

Chicago historian, musician, and storyteller Clarence Goodman guides us through Martin Luther King Jr.'s work in Chicago from 1956 on.



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630.986.1976  
[www.hinsdalelibrary.info](http://www.hinsdalelibrary.info)

SEE ALL  
EVENTS







In honor of what would be Sean's 15th birthday, we would like to announce the Love Like Sean Foundation, a 501(c)(3) that has been established to carry on Sean's legacy of joy and love in the world. Learn more about Sean and the Foundation at [www.lovelikesean.org](http://www.lovelikesean.org) and follow us on Instagram @LoveLikeSean.

Sean, we miss you terribly and love you with all of our hearts.

Please join us in loving like Sean.

Love,  
The Richards Family





## Continued from Page 20

annual mission trip. Time: 5 to 7 p.m. Cost: \$10 a person, \$25 a family at the door.

## GAME ON

### ■ Floor Hockey

Tuesdays, Feb. 13-March 19  
Monroe School  
210 N. Madison St.  
[www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr](http://www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr)  
(630) 887-1320

Kids ages 6-8, experienced and beginners, will develop shooting, passing and teamwork skills along with positioning and game strategies in a fast-paced, low-competition atmosphere. Sticks and pucks are provided; safety goggles and mouth guards are recommended. Time: 6 to 6:45 p.m. Cost: \$62. RR

### ■ Indoor Beginning Golf

Wednesdays, Feb. 14-March 20  
Monroe School  
210 N. Madison St.  
[www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr](http://www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr)  
(630) 887-1320

Kids ages 5-7 will use special

equipment to learn the basics of the complete swing, putting and chipping in a safe and stress-free atmosphere. Time: 5 to 5:45 p.m. Cost: \$62. RR

## GREAT OUTDOORS

### ■ Romantic Night Hike

Feb. 10  
Fullersburg Woods  
3609 Spring Road, Oak Brook  
[www.dupageforest.org](http://www.dupageforest.org)  
(630) 933-7248

Experience the magic of an evening walk along lantern-lit trails on a self-guided, 1- to 2-mile journey, concluding with a roaring fire, roasting marshmallows and hot chocolate. The program is for ages 18 and up. Times: 6, 7 & 8 p.m. Cost: \$12 per person. RR

### ■ Resident Raptors

Feb. 17  
Little Red Schoolhouse  
Nature Center  
9800 Willow Springs Road,  
Willow Springs  
[www.fpdcc.com](http://www.fpdcc.com)  
(708) 839-6897

Learn about the natural and individual histories and husbandry of the center's ambassador raptors. Time: 1:30 p.m. RR

## HEALTH & WELLNESS

### ■ Morning of Beauty & Wellness

Feb. 24  
Wellness House  
131 N. County Line Road  
[www.wellnesshouse.org](http://www.wellnesshouse.org)  
(630) 323-5150

Come to Wellness House's Unique Boutique for a morning of pampering to help those on the cancer journey feel refreshed and empowered. Participants will enjoy a variety of beauty and wellness activities during the event. Time: 9:30 a.m. to noon. RR

## HELP WANTED

### ■ Join the Jolly Boys

(708) 302-7350  
[frankiejoe4@hotmail.com](mailto:frankiejoe4@hotmail.com)

The Hinsdale-based men's choral group The Jolly Boys invite those who enjoy singing a variety of fun music, from

George M. Cohan to Elvis Presley, Ray Charles to Richard Carpenter, to join them. Practices are held Thursday evenings at The Community House and include extra time for socializing. Recordings also are made for each vocal part for home practice. Public performances are in April, May, June and December. Annual dues are \$175. Contact Frank Kobes using the information above.

## JUST FOR KIDS

### ■ Kids Safe at Home

Feb. 17  
The Community House  
415 W. Eighth St.  
[www.thecommunityhouse.org](http://www.thecommunityhouse.org)  
(630) 323-7500

In this American Red Cross course, children ages 5-10 who stay at home alone occasionally, care for younger siblings for a short periods or are ready to accept responsibility will learn how to behave responsibly and handle themselves when confronted with a challenge, like

answering the phone or the door when parents are away and other home safety topics. A workbook is included. Those who sign up for both Kids Safe at Home & First Aid for Kids receive a \$5 discount. Time: 10 to 11:30 a.m. Cost: \$50. RR, MD

### ■ First Aid for Kids

Feb. 17  
The Community House  
415 W. Eighth St.  
[www.thecommunityhouse.org](http://www.thecommunityhouse.org)  
(630) 323-7500

In this American Red Cross course, children ages 5-10 will be introduced to first aid skills focusing on recognizing an emergency, calling 911, dealing with cuts, burns, broken bones, poisoning, choking and exploring contents of a first aid kit. A workbook is included. Those who sign up for both Kids Safe at Home & First Aid for Kids receive a \$5 discount. Time: noon to 1:30 p.m. Cost: \$50. RR, MD

## LISTEN & LEARN

*Please turn to Page 24*

# VILLAGE OF HINSDALE ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITIES

- Onsite Vendor Opportunities
- Program Guide Advertising
- Special Event Sponsorship
- Donations & Memorials
- League Sponsorship
- Digital Marketing

[VILLAGEOFHINSDALE.ORG/PR](http://VILLAGEOFHINSDALE.ORG/PR)







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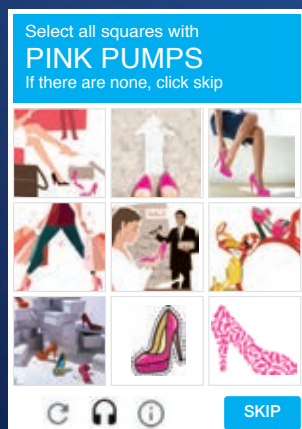
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*All proceeds benefit The Community House,  
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THE COMMUNITY HOUSE



# PULSE

Continued from Page 22

■ **Romance & Regency With Bridgerton's Julia Quinn**  
Feb. 20  
www.hinsdalelibrary.info  
(630) 986-1986

Join bestselling "Bridgerton" novelist Julia Quinn and best-selling historical romance author Sarah MacLean as they discuss regency romance and more in this virtual Illinois Libraries Present program. Quinn's popular series about the Bridgerton family was adapted into an Emmy-nominated series on Netflix. Her newest novel, "Queen Charlotte," is co-written with television pioneer Shonda Rhimes and tells of Queen Charlotte and King George III's great love story and how it sparked a societal shift. MacLean also is the romance columnist for The New York Times and The Washington Post, and co-host of the weekly romance novel podcast Fated Mates. Time: 7 to 8 p.m. RR

## NOTEWORTHY

■ **Piano Honors Recital**  
Feb. 11  
Redeemer Lutheran Church  
139 E. First St., Hinsdale  
www.westernspringsmusic.org

Western Springs Music Club will host 15 talented young pianists, all age 18 or younger, in a varied program of classical music selections. All performers received high scores in the Nola Gustafson Piano Festival or the Parello & Veverka Competition, held earlier this month. Time: 2 to 4 p.m.

■ **Reflections of The Rus**  
Feb. 11  
Wentz Concert Hall  
North Central College  
171 E. Chicago Ave.,  
Naperville  
www.dupagesymphony.org

Flutist Adam Sadberry will join the DuPage Symphony Orchestra to perform Aram Khachaturian's Flute Concerto. The orchestra also will play Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 3, known as "The Polish" for its vibrant Polish dance rhythms.

*Please turn to Page 26*

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# PULSE

## Continued from Page 24

Before the concert, enjoy a DSO Lobby Experience with a photo area and interactive Instrument Petting Zoo. A free open rehearsal for the concert will be held from 7:30 to 9 p.m. Feb. 9. Time: 3 p.m. Tickets: \$38-\$43, \$34-\$39 for seniors, \$15-\$20 for students.

### ■ Jamie Pastman Trio

Feb. 15  
Unitarian Church of Hinsdale  
17 West Maple St.  
darrenhoward1981@hotmail.com  
(815) 383-1065

The band presents "Music Without Boundaries" featuring important musical moments by musicians who changed music forever. Jamie Pastman will narrate as the audience enjoys musical selections and energetic performances by Pastman on piano, Jim Cerceo on bass and Mark Ott on drums. Tickets can be purchased at the door or by contacting Darren Howard using the information above. Time: 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$30, free for ages 18 and under.

## ON SCREEN

### ■ 'La Famille Bélier

Feb. 14  
McAninch Arts Center  
College of DuPage  
425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn  
www.atthemac.org  
(630) 942-4000

Everyone is deaf in the Bélier family except Paula in this 2014 French-Belgian drama/comedy. The high school student discovers she has a gift for singing, and, despite the hardship of being a teenager and being the go-between for her dairy-farmer parents and the hearing world, she must decide if she is brave enough to leave her family to pursue her musical dreams in Paris. The film is subtitled in English. Times: 1:30 and 7:30 p.m.

## ON STAGE

### ■ With Love, from Second City

Feb. 10  
McAninch Arts Center  
College of DuPage  
425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn  
www.atthemac.org  
(630) 942-4000

The world-famous comedy company takes shots at heart-break, missed connections and the mire of human relationships. The show may contain

adult languages and themes. Times: 5 & 8 p.m. Tickets: \$30-\$48.

### ■ 'The Other Place'

Feb. 15-25  
Theatre of Western Springs  
4384 Hampton Ave.  
www.theatrewesternsprings.com  
(708) 246-3380

The life of successful neurologist Juliana Smithton seems to be coming unhinged as she faces divorce, a daughter's elopement with a much older man and personal health struggles. But there's more to the story as the elusive truth about Juliana boils to the surface. Times: 8 p.m. Thursdays to Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Tickets: \$28, \$15 for children & students.

### ■ 'The Outgoing Tide'

Through March 3  
McAninch Arts Center  
College of DuPage  
425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn  
www.atthemac.org  
(630) 942-4000

Set in Chesapeake Bay, this story of a family's struggle with memory loss and aging is sensitive, humorous and uplifting, as Gunner has a plan to safeguard the family's future while his wife and son have other plans. The play contains adult themes and language. A pre-show discussion with the director and designers will be held at 6:45 p.m. today, Feb. 1. A post-show discussion with director, cast and crew will be held following the performance on Friday, Feb. 9. An ASL performance will be held Thursday, Feb. 22. Times: 8 p.m. Thursdays to Saturdays, 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$44, \$42 for seniors.

## SENIOR SCENE

### ■ Bingo & Treats

Feb. 19  
The Community House  
415 W. Eighth St.  
www.thecommunityhouse.org  
(630) 323-7500

Those age 50 and older are invited to enjoy games of Bingo and chocolate mint ice cream, coffee and tea — and bring additional treats to share if so inspired. Prizes will be awarded. Register by Friday, Feb. 16. Time: 1 to 2:30 p.m.

### ■ Prime Time A+

Tuesdays & Thursdays

through April 30  
The Community House  
415 W. Eighth St.  
www.thecommunityhouse.org  
(630) 323-7500

This easy-to-follow class for adults 50 and older features low-impact workouts to improve cardiovascular fitness, strength, balance and flexibility. Time: 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. Cost: \$85 for a 10-class punch card.

## SIGN UP NOW

### ■ Backcountry Navigation

Feb. 17  
Camp Bullfrog Lake  
9600 Wolf Road, Willow Springs  
www.fpdcc.com  
(312) 533-5751

This class, presented by REI, will help participants understand a topographic map and a compass and how to put the two together. Then practice taking a bearing from the terrain and map to determine one's position and plan a route. Bring snacks and water. Those under 18 must be accompanied by a registered adult. Time: 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. RR

## SPECIAL EVENTS

### ■ Movie Music Tribute to Black History

Feb. 12  
Clarendon Hills Public Library  
7 N. Prospect Ave.  
www.clarendonhillslibrary.org  
(630) 323-8188

Film historian John LeGear will reveal the ways African American writers, musicians and performers have enriched the American experience by sharing a collection of film clips, music and photos that reflects a small portion of their contributions over the past 80 years. A brief question and answer period with open discussion will follow the show. Time: 7 p.m. RR

## STEPPING BACK

### ■ 'Miniature Rails, Massive Impact'

Feb. 17  
Hinsdale History Museum  
15 S. Clay St.  
www.hinsdalehistory.org

The exhibit showcases miniature models of trains to tell the story of Hinsdale's railroad history. Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

*Please turn to Page 28*

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Pet pic of the week

**Eleven-month-old** Cal had a rough start to life. He is very shy and timid, but he is so gentle and just wants to be loved. He needs a patient adopter who can spend time with him and show him that the world isn't scary. Cal is 45 pounds, vaccinated, neutered, microchipped and super handsome. He is ready to go home today and his adoption fee is \$300. For more information, stop by the Hinsdale Humane Society Tuthill Family Pet Rescue & Resource Center, visit [www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org](http://www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org) or call (630) 323-5630. (photo by Laura Dajoraite provided)



Continued from Page 26

TEENS & TWEENS

■ East Asian Pop Culture Club

Feb. 9  
Hinsdale Public Library  
20 E. Maple St.  
[www.hinsdalelibrary.info](http://www.hinsdalelibrary.info)  
(630) 986-1976

Discuss favorite manhwa comics, danmei novels, anime shows and anything else with others in the fandom while enjoying snacks together.  
Time: 4 to 5 p.m. RR

WEE ONES

■ Fit 'n' Fun for Kids

Saturdays, Feb. 24-April 6  
The Community House  
415 W. Eighth St.  
[www.thecommunityhouse.org](http://www.thecommunityhouse.org)  
(630) 323-7500

Kids ages 3-6 will have a blast as they run, jump, hop, skip, stretch and play to gain strength, flexibility and cardio awareness as well as improve motor development, spatial

awareness, cognitive ability and socialization skills through all sorts of fun activities. Time: 9 to 9:45 a.m. Cost: \$90. RR, MD

WINE & DINE

■ Corks and Forks

Feb. 16  
The Lodge at KLM Park  
5901 S. County Line Road  
[www.villageofhinsdale.org/departments/parks\\_and\\_recreation/corks\\_forks.php](http://www.villageofhinsdale.org/departments/parks_and_recreation/corks_forks.php)  
(630) 798-7090

Enjoy an evening of spectacular wine, delicious food, great company and a little education led by sommelier Lorenzo Munoz and Christine Munoz, founders of Hinsdale Wine Academy. Participants will taste nine unique wines paired with six tapas-style courses while learning the basics of food and wine pairing to apply at home. Time: 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. Cost: \$150, \$1,100 for table of eight. RR

Key

RR - registration required  
MD - member discount

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Flying high with Blue Ribbon School celebration at SIJ



To cap off Catholic Schools Week, students and staff at St. Isaac Jogues School held a Blue Ribbon celebration assembly Friday afternoon. The children were greeted with a tunnel of cheerleaders as they filed into the gym. DJ Maximus turned the mic over to Kate Mattes, who sang her heart out to — of course — a Taylor Swift song, and the entire school seemed to know the lyrics. A special surprise was the visit from the Jesse White Tumblers, who performed their acrobatic magic. Quinn Sullivan was among the cheerleaders who also had the spotlight. To finish off the event, Principal Carol Burlinski led the staff in a flash mob, proving even teachers can dance. (Jim Slonoff photos)



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tinaw@thehinsdalean.com



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## Hinsdale fans are ready for the big game

*Continued from Page 38*

win for a change of pace, agreed.

"When you don't have a horse in the race, I normally root for a good game," he said.

His favorite Super Bowls — the Giants and the Patriots in 2008 and the Patriots and the Seahawks in 2015 — were both close games.

"Those games that come down to those last plays or last drives or last moments have been a lot of fun," he said. "There was a Super Bowl with the Rams where they got tackled against the Patriots just short of the goal line. That was a lot of fun." (The Patriots won that 2002 edition 20-17 with a last-second field goal for the franchise's first championship.)

Hinsdale Central athletic director Mike Jezioro hopes to make it home in time from his daughter's swim meet to watch the game.

"My children's sports still take precedence over the Super Bowl — unless the Bears were playing in it," he said.

Living in a house with a wife and four daughters, Jezioro said he has no problem with the attention given to Taylor Swift, who's dating Chiefs tight end

Travis Kelce.

"I think that's the only reason I'm allowed to have it on the TV — that and the halftime show," he said.

Working in an office with Kelly Watson and Wanda Swik, he said he hears plenty of conversation about Swift.

"I'm used to it by now," he said.

And he sees the affect her attendance has had on one of his girls.

"It's funny, my youngest, who is only in second grade, asked me almost two weekends ago when Taylor Swift's football team is going to be on TV," he said.

With so many programs available on demand, the Super Bowl is one of the rare times millions of people are all watching the same thing, Griffin said.

"There's nothing like it on television any more," he said. "Everybody is kind of doing it together and it's this spectacle. I think it's unique and something special. I enjoy that part of it, too."

Boggs said the game really is more than just a contest between two teams — it's the culmination of six months of football. At the party he attended last year, a college student started yelling at

the end of the third quarter for everyone to be quiet so he could share this thought.

"Hey, this is the last time we're going to watch football for six months," Boggs recalled him saying. "Let's listen to the game and have fun."

Jack DiNardo usually watches the Super Bowl with his wife and friends at a party, but she will be out of town this year. So he'll make the quick trip from his home on Eighth Street to his childhood home on Oak to watch the game with his parents and sister and her family. His dad, Larry — a two-time All-American and co-captain at Notre Dame — is another big football fan.

DiNardo said he doesn't mind all the hoopla that surrounds the big game.

"I'm definitely a big football fan, but the pageantry for the Super Bowl is just kind of fun," he said. "The commercials, the halftime show, I don't see it as a distraction. I see it as a fun, national event."

But he wouldn't want every football game to be broadcast the same way. "I'm glad every game is not five hours long, but once a year it's no big deal," he said. "It's fun."

### Super fan lineup

#### Craig Boggs

Played: Havana High School

Coached: Falcon Football  
Also: Hinsdale Central Football Club board member, past president (2020-23)

Favorite NFL team: Minnesota Vikings  
Rooting for: Chiefs  
Prediction: Chiefs

#### Jack DiNardo

Played: Hinsdale Central, Northwestern University  
Favorite team: Chicago Bears

Rooting for: 49ers  
Prediction: Chiefs by 3

#### Brian Griffin

Played: Hinsdale Central, Wheaton College  
Coached: Hinsdale Central — varsity coach since 2019, assistant for 11 years  
Favorite teams: Chicago Bears in the NFC and Miami Dolphins in the AFC  
Rooting for: 49ers  
Prediction: 49ers by 3

#### Mike Jezioro

Played: Glenbard East, Elmhurst College  
Coached: South Elgin, Glenbard East and Oswego East high schools  
Also: Hinsdale Central athletic director  
Favorite team: Chicago Bears  
Rooting for: Chiefs  
Prediction: Chiefs

#### Kay Sharples

Mom to: Falcon Football player  
Also: Falcons board member  
Favorite teams: Detroit Lions (husband likes), LA Rams (son likes), Chicago Bears  
Rooting for: 49ers  
Prediction: Chiefs

#### Jim Zajicek

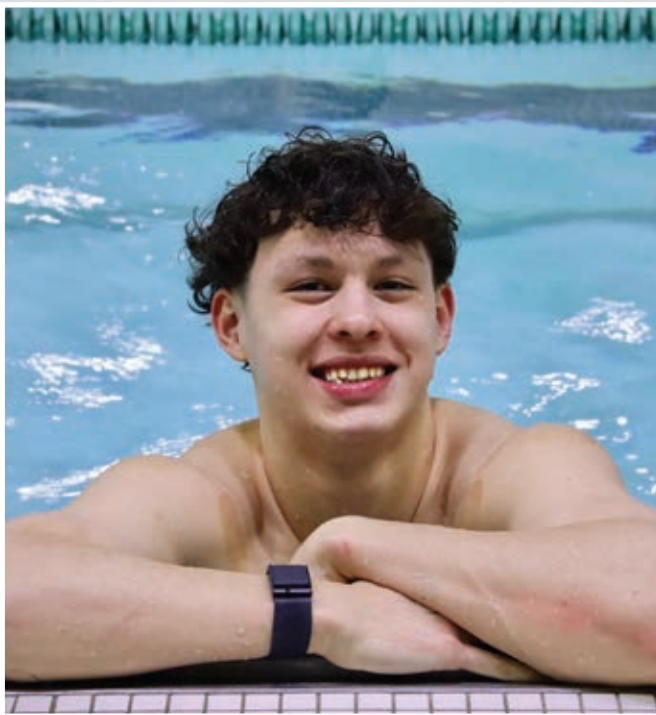
Played: Falcon Football, Hinsdale Central, Northwestern University, Augustana College  
Coached: Falcons, Hinsdale Central, North Central College  
Also: Falcons board member  
Favorite team: L.A. Rams  
Rooting for: neither team  
Prediction: 49ers



**Jack DiNardo**, a star defensive end for Hinsdale Central who went on to play at Northwestern University, plans to watch the Super Bowl at his parents' house. He moved back to town with his wife Stevie, also a Central alum, and their two children C. J. and Joey. (file photo, photo provided)



STUDENT ATHLETE PROFILE



Nate Harris  
Willowbrook

What’s the mood as the team enters the postseason?

Definitely a lot more excitement. We’ve really started swimming a lot faster and doing a lot more sprinting and fast-paced work rather than yardage. It helps boost our morale.

When did you start swimming competitively?

I joined a summer team at a really young age, maybe 5 or 6. My older brother was doing it so I kind of just followed in his footsteps. I just stuck with it through all these years.

What does it take to be a successful swimmer?

A lot of determination and definitely perseverance. If you have a bad practice, you’ve got to stick with it because there are going to be better days ahead.

How have you evolved as an athlete?

I think I’ve learned a lot more about my body and how to recover and maximize my performance through diet and getting enough sleep.

How would your teammates describe you?

I think I lead by example. Sometimes I’ll use my voice, but normally I just try to set a good example for all the kids to model.

Do you have any pre-meet rituals?

Before Saturday meets my mom always cooks up some scrambled eggs. It’s my preferred breakfast.

What’s the key to Central swimming’s success?

When you bring in so many talented swimmers, they kind of just feed off each other. We use each other to get faster. We hang out a lot on weekends and build those bonds that allow us to push each other even more.

Siblings?

I have an older brother, Ben, who is at the University of Minnesota.

Where are you headed next?

I’ve committed to swim at the University of Wisconsin. For Christmas, my brother and each got a T-shirt of a badger and a gopher fighting each other.

Why does head coach Bob Barber like having Harris on the squad?

He is the one I turn to for advice this year. Whether it be lineup writing to team morale, Nate has had his finger on the pulse of this program. His hard work and enthusiasm carry this program to the next level. He has been able to compete at the highest level in all of the events we have here in high school.

— profile by Ken Knutson,  
photo by Jim Slonoff

RESULTS

<b>Basketball, boys</b> Feb. 6 @ Prospect V loses 51-57 Feb. 3 vs. Proviso West V wins 90-66 Daniel Orozco, 20 points, rebound, 3 assists Buzelis, 18 points, 6 rebounds, 3 assists Thick, 13 points, 5 rebounds, block Dillon Orozco, 8 points, 6 rebounds, 2 assists Howell, 8 points, 4 rebounds, assist Kozys, 7 points, 2 steals Stach, 4 points, 2 rebounds Dell, 3 points, 2 rebounds, 3 assists, block Reddy, 3 points Bilenko, 2 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists Deftos, 2 points,	rebound, 2 assists, steal Banks, 2 points Kusak, 5 rebounds, 7 assists Pohlentz, rebound Feb. 2 vs. OP-RF V wins 80-47	<b>Basketball, girls</b> Feb. 6 vs. Leyden V wins 53-34 Feb. 2 vs. OP-RF V wins 81-23	<b>Bowling, girls</b> Feb. 3 @ IHSA regional V places 9th with 3,762 pins Wu, 13th, 969 Montanye, 32nd, 779 Liu, 41st, 703 Oranu, 44th, 687 Groom, 51st, 624	<b>Gymnastics, girls</b> Feb. 5 @ IHSA sectional	Vault Hamelka, 5th, 9.3	<b>Hockey</b> Feb. 3 vs. LT V loses 0-7	<b>Swimming, boys</b> Feb. 2 @ WSC Silver meet V places 1st with 323 points 1-meter diving Turek, 2nd, 377.75 Brown, 3rd, 372.65 200-yard medley relay L. Vatev, M. Vatev, Feiro, Chase, 1st, 1:35.52 200-yard freestyle Tarnauskas, 1st, 1:43.81 Bertulis, 2nd, 1:44.56 200-yard IM Guo, 1st, 1:54.36 Benington, 2nd, 1:55.39 50-yard freestyle Hou, 1st, 21.69	Newcomer, 3rd, 22.38 100-yard butterfly Shiell, 1st, 52.53 Newcomer, 2nd, 52.63 100-yard freestyle Tarnauskas, 1st, 48.16 Chase, 3rd, 48.35 500-yard freestyle Feiro, 1st, 4:43.06 Bey, 2nd, 4:45.89 200-yard freestyle relay Bertulis, Harris, Hou, Guo, 1st, 1:25.15 100-yard backstroke Shiell, 2nd, 52.98 Bey, 5th, 54.97 100-yard breaststroke Harris, 1st, 59.38 Benington, 2nd, 1:00.01 400-yard freestyle relay Chase, Feiro, L. Vatev, M. Vatev, 1st, 3:11.23	Feb. 3 @ IHSA regional V places 2nd with 125.5 points 285 pounds Ivanisevic, 1st, 24 points 113 pounds Murante, 1st, 23.5 points 175 pounds Kruse, 2nd, 18 points 144 pounds Ravanasa, 3rd, 13 points 150 pounds Menendez, 3rd, 12 points 165 pounds Howard, 4th, 11 points 190 pounds Galeckas, 4th, 11 points 215 pounds Koschik, 4th, 10 points 126 pounds Martinez, 2 points 138 pounds Barrios, 1 point
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Instant replay



Hinsdale Central teammates and juniors Noah Pelinkovic (top) and Ronan Byrne go head to head in the junior varsity 200-yard freestyle race, while senior swimmer Nojus Bertulis competes in the finals of the varsity edition of the 200 free at the WSC Silver Conference Meet Feb. 1 at York High School. The Red Devils varsity squad captured first-place honors. (Jim Slonoff photos)



# SPORTS

“ It’s funny, my youngest, who is only in second grade, asked me almost two weekends ago when Taylor Swift’s football team is going to be on TV. — **Mike Jezioro** ”



**Jim Zajicek (far left with his son, Luke)** said his favorite Super Bowl was in 2022, when he got to cheer on his nephew, L.A. Rams center Brian Allen (not pictured) with Brian’s brothers, Jack and Matt, and his brother and sister-in-law, John and Leslie Allen. (photo provided)

## Hinsdale fans ready for the big game

*Most more interested in great football than whether the Chiefs or 49ers win the title*

**By Pamela Lannom**  
plannom@thehinsdalean.com

Jim Zajicek isn’t too invested in who wins the Super Bowl on Sunday, since his nephew Brian Allen won’t be on the field.

“If the Rams aren’t playing, I don’t really care,” he said.

Zajicek watched his nephew and the L.A. Rams beat the Cincinnati Bengals 23-20 at SoFi Stadium in Inglewood, Calif., in Super Bowl LVI two years ago. Allen, a Hinsdale native and Hinsdale Central graduate, is the team’s center.

“I was there with my older boy, Luke. It was awesome,” Zajicek

said. “It was in their home stadium, too, so we got a chance to see Brian the day before the game.

“My son, just seeing him take it all in was really special,” he said. “The Super Bowl is a once-in-a-lifetime experience to a 12-year-old. Watching their cousin play is out of this world.”

Zajicek wasn’t the only football fan who wasn’t overly concerned with who takes home the Vince Lombardi Trophy Sunday when the Kansas City Chiefs face the San Francisco 49ers at Allegiant Stadium in Las Vegas. Hinsdale’s Craig Boggs will be rooting for the Chiefs because of their quarterback, Patrick Mahomes.

“They’ve been fun to watch this season,” he said. “Mahomes is just so solid in these situations. I think San Francisco might have the better team, but I think Mahomes will conquer in this one.”

Boggs typically roots for the Vikings, a team he’s loved since he was a kid.

“In 1970, my favorite color was purple and they were in the Super Bowl,” he said. “Their quarterback was a guy named Joe Kapp. I don’t know why I was so fascinated with him.”

Kay Sharples, a Hinsdale Falcon Football Board member, is rooting for the 49ers because of the team’s connection to her home state of

Iowa. Quarterback Brock Purdy and tight end George Kittle both played college ball there, Purdy for Iowa State University and Kittle for rival University of Iowa.

“They’ve got an Iowa Hawkeye and an Iowa State Cyclone on the same team,” Sharples noted.

She hopes for a good, evenly matched game.

“I like having a reason to watch it all the way through to the fourth quarter — when it’s a fun game to watch,” Sharples said.

Hinsdale Central varsity football head coach Brian Griffin, who’d like to see the San Francisco 49ers

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