

# The Hinsdalean

Community journalism the way it was meant to be

Thursday, December 28, 2023 •

Hinsdale, Illinois •

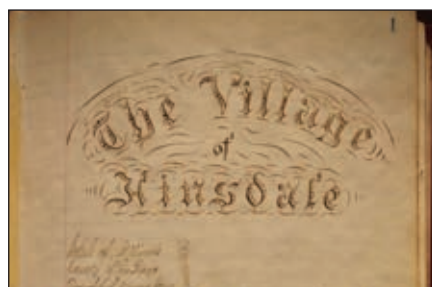
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## Happy New Year!

**Six-month-old** Camden Markowitz was getting ready to celebrate Christmas during the photo shoot for this cover, which he earned a spot on when The Hinsdalean selected him as Hinsdale's happiest baby of 2023. The youngest of three boys, Camden lives in Hinsdale with his parents, Andy and Sara, and his au pair, Caren Campo (pictured with family on Page 9). Turn to Page 6 to see the winning pic his mom sent in. (Jim Slonoff photo)



### Series finale

Final installment in 150 series goes inside 'the vault.'

Page 7



### Take a break

Winter vacation perfect time for teens to focus on self care.

Page 14



### What are you doing?

New Year's Eve options abound here, nearby 'burbs.

Page 15





# HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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# NEWS

## Board member enters, admin exits

By Ken Knutson

kknutson@thehinsdalean.com

Hinsdale's Heather Kartsounes was appointed to the Hinsdale High School District 86 Board Dec. 21, filling the vacancy left when Kay Gallo abruptly stepped down Oct. 26.

The announcement came, however, after the board accepted the sudden resignation of Interim Superintendent Linda Yonke. Yonke and co-Interim Superintendent Ray Lechner were both hired in July to serve 120 days as caretaker administrators for \$1,300 a day after the board and former Superintendent Tammy Prentiss reached agreement on her resignation last spring.

In her farewell remarks, Yonke praised the faculty, staff and board.

"I want to thank the board for letting me work with you these past five months," she said. "I want to thank the administrative team, who are outstanding. I've learned from you and appreciated your hard work and dedication to this district."

Yonke also expressed gratitude for residents' engagement.

"Your input is important, and I

thank you for that," she added.

Several board members expressed their appreciation for Yonke's leadership, including Jeff Waters. But Waters also cautioned against people advancing an "overblown narrative" of friction between Yonke and the board.

"I just encourage the community, perhaps, to turn that baseball hat of pessimism and skepticism around and understand that people are working hard ... to mitigate the overinflated drama that's created by community members simply for the sake of playing keyboard warrior," he said.

Yonke did not specify the reason for her resignation.

Lechner will remain on through the school year as the board prepares to hire the next full-time superintendent. The board had originally planned to conclude its search process with an announcement of its next superintendent that night. Board President Catherine Greenspon, however, said the con-



Kartsounes

tract with the chosen candidate is still being finalized and it will be on the Jan. 11 meeting agenda.

Kartsounes will occupy the seat until the next consolidated election in April 2025. The person elected then will serve out the remainder of Gallo's term through April 2027.

An attorney, Kartsounes has worked as the senior associate general counsel at Rush University Medical Center since 2014. The mother of three has lived in both the Hinsdale Central and Hinsdale South attendance areas, and she thanked the board for trusting her with the position.

"As a proud District 86 community member for more than a decade, I consider it a privilege to serve on this board and have the opportunity to contribute to our district's proud tradition of excellence," she said in statement. "I look forward to working collaboratively with my fellow board members as we continue to move the district in a positive direction that supports the overall success of the students, staff, schools and

community we serve."

Gallo was the second board member to depart this year following the resignation of Debbie Levinthal after the Sept. 18 meeting. Abed Rahman was selected to replace her. Greenspon thanked Gallo for her service and congratulated Kartsounes on her appointment.

"Heather's valuable perspectives, professional expertise and passionate commitment to District 86 will be significant assets that will contribute to our collective success as a board," Greenspon stated. "We are excited to welcome her to our team and look forward to working with each other and the community as a whole to support the continued growth of our students and schools."

The district reported that 22 people had applied for the board opening.

"Once again, our community members demonstrated their willingness to generously volunteer their time to serve on the board," Greenspon said. "I am proud to be part of a community that deeply values and champions public education."



## One small wave

A group of migrants took the train into Chicago Friday night after arriving in Hinsdale, reportedly from Texas. After the busload of travelers was unloaded at First Street and Garfield Avenue, they walked to the Hinsdale train station. Buses have been dropping off migrants near train stations in several suburbs. After press time Wednesday night, the Clarendon Hills Village Board considered adopting an ordinance regarding charter buses and unscheduled stops. (Jim Slonoff photo)



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 is of Breen’s Cleaners on the south side of First Street, just west of Garfield Avenue, which is now home to a large multipurpose retail and office 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](mailto:jslonoff@thehinsdalean.com).



**Happy Birthday!**  
Edgar Hernandez  
turns 17 Dec. 29

IN THIS ISSUE

ASK AN EXPERT .....	14
CLASSIFIED.....	21
GOOD NEWS.....	13
NEWS.....	3
OBITUARIES.....	12
OPINION .....	10
OUT & ABOUT .....	16
POLICE .....	8
PROFILE .....	9
PULSE.....	15
PUZZLES .....	25
SPORTS.....	26

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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](mailto:news@thehinsdalean.com). Obituaries may be edited for style and space.  
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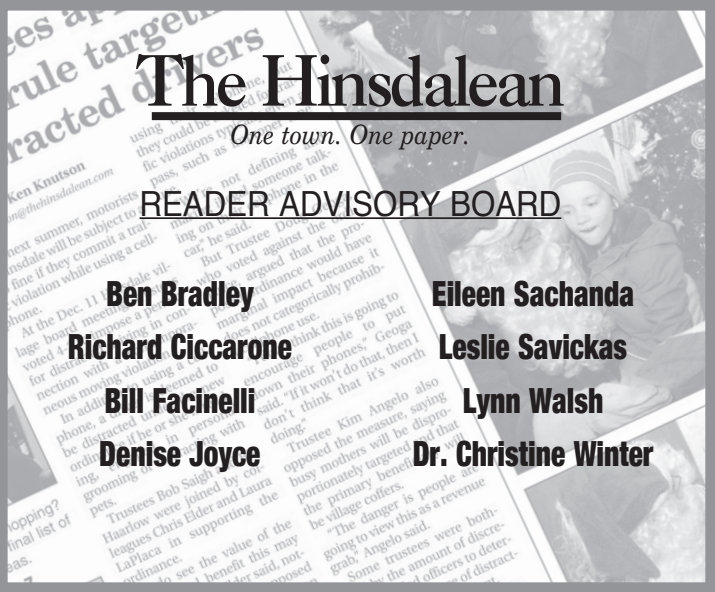
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“

These achievements reflect the tireless dedication of the more than 600 exemplary faculty and staff members who serve our district.

”

## Accomplishments mark year of transition

*District 86 staff, students and administrators continue to build on tradition of excellence*

As District 86 prepares for the arrival of the new year, I want to take this opportunity to celebrate some of the accolades and accomplishments from 2023 that helped us build upon our proud tradition of excellence.

- Thirty of our seniors were named finalists in the 68th annual National Merit Scholarship Program.
- More than 270 of our students were named Illinois State Scholars.
- Hinsdale Central and Hinsdale South were named to the Advanced Placement Program School Honor Roll.
- Eight Hinsdale Central students won the AP Capstone Diploma award.
- Hinsdale Central senior Yanning Jiao was one of 308 students in the world to earn a perfect score on the AP Drawing exam.
- Hinsdale Central teacher Dawn Oler was selected as a grant recipient for the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Research

Program.

- Hinsdale South teacher and theater director Danny Yuska was named the all-state director for the 2025 Illinois High School Theatre Festival.

- Hinsdale Central's Ryan Maita was named the Assistant Principal of the Year for the DuPage Region by the Illinois Principals Association.

- District 86 teachers Wendy Orloff-Bowman, Dan Scheldrup and Vince Doran earned the Outstanding Educator Award from the University of Chicago.

- Both schools won numerous academic and athletic championships, including team or individual state titles in boys swimming and diving, tennis, cross country, and track and field.

- Hinsdale Central's Shannon Stover was among the 26 seniors from



Lechner

across Illinois who were named to the Illinois High School Association's 2023 All-State Academic Team.

- Hinsdale South's yearbook earned an All-American rating from the National Scholastic Press Association, while Hinsdale Central's art and literary magazine was named a finalist for the

Columbia Scholastic Press Association's Crown Award for a fourth straight year.

- Hinsdale Central senior and drum major Deona Julary was chosen to lead the Macy's Great American Marching Band in the 2023 Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City.

- Music students from both schools earned All District and All State selections.

These achievements reflect the tireless dedication of the more than 600

exemplary faculty and staff members who serve our district. They exemplify the vital and valuable role that our families play in the success of our schools. Most importantly, they remind us of how strongly committed our students are to their education, and how hard they work to reach their goals and realize their potential both in and out of the classroom.

As we bid farewell to 2023 and look ahead to 2024, I want to thank everyone for their patience and understanding during what has been a critical period of transition for our district. I hope you will continue to support our efforts in the months ahead as we work to ensure that the rest of the school year is a deeply rewarding and enriching experience for every member of the District 86 community.

For now, though, I want to wish you the happiest of holidays and a joyous new year.

— Dr. Ray Lechner, interim superintendent

“

Our efforts have resulted in impressive academic outcomes on the state assessment and our ranking on multiple platforms used to evaluate schools.

”

## D181 continues to build brighter future

*Academic achievement, safety, and social-emotional learning focus of efforts in 2023*

As the final bell rings on the 2023-24 calendar year, District 181 celebrates a year of remarkable achievements and success. Over the past year, I have seen our students grow and shine in various areas, from the stage to the classroom and everything in between. I'm immensely proud of our students, staff, and those who have joined us in making District 181 a premier learning environment.

We are proud of our continuous efforts of finding new ways of enhancing our students' learning and overall experience. Our efforts have resulted in impressive academic outcomes on the state assessment and our ranking on multiple platforms used to evaluate schools.

According to the Illinois Assessment of Readiness targets, we are one of the highest-performing

elementary districts in the State.

Last school year (2022-23), 78 percent of our students were proficient in English language arts (state average 35 percent), 74 percent were proficient in math (state average of 27 percent) and 82 percent were proficient in science (state average 52 percent) on the Illinois Assessment of Readiness.

All D181 schools ranked in the top 20 schools in Illinois on The U.S. News & World Report Rankings, and our district continues to rank among the best school districts by all other rating organizations.

We also received accolades for our efforts in ensuring the success of all students. In the last year, two of our



Garcia

schools were recognized for their focus on student performance and the staff's level of collaboration. Prospect and The Lane have both been recognized as Model Professional Learning Communities at Work schools, and we are confident that we'll be announcing other schools in the near future. This sort of achievement, plus all of the others, would not have

been achieved without the deep commitment of our outstanding staff and elite administrators. We are also thankful for our board members, who have been critical thought partners, a source of stability and unwavering in their support.

We are keenly aware of the importance of providing a safe and wel-

coming atmosphere. To this end, we have strengthened our comprehensive safety protocols and practices throughout the district and continue to look for more ways to enhance our efforts. The D181 Foundation and PTOs have been amazing partners in helping us in our Social Emotional Learning for Academic Success efforts. Every school has focused on lessons and activities that bring kids together and encourage kindness.

I look forward to continuing our partnership with our terrific parents and communities next year. I hope the following two weeks are filled with joy, family and relaxation.

We send our best wishes for a joyful holiday season and a happy new year.

— by Dr. Hector Garcia, superintendent



## NEXT WEEK

The Hinsdale Village Board, Community Consolidated District 181 Board and Hinsdale High School District 86 Board are not scheduled to meet the week of Jan. 1-5.

## MEETING ROUNDUP

### Community Consolidated District 181 Board

Among other business Dec. 18, board members

- held a public hearing on and adopted the 2023 property tax levy of \$76.7 million for operating funds. The board plans to abate about \$2 million of that total and will finalize that number in February.
- listened to a report on Illinois Assessment of Readiness and Illinois Science Assessment results that showed D181 students significantly outperformed the state average in reading, math and science and demonstrated growth exceeding the state average percentile in all three subjects
- learned bids for summer construction projects will be on the agenda for approval at the board's Jan. 22 meeting. The original estimate of \$2.5 million for the various projects has been lowered to \$2.2 million.
- amended the 2024-25 draft calendar to make Nov. 5, Election Day, a non-attendance day. As a result, the first day of student attendance will be Aug. 20.
- approved the 2025-26 draft calendar, which lists the first day of school on Aug. 20, Thanksgiving break Nov. 26-28, winter break Dec. 22 to Jan. 2, spring break March 30 to April 3 and the final day of school and graduation June 2. Both calendars align with Hinsdale High School District 86 breaks.



### One happy baby!

This is the photo of Camden Markowitz (submitted by mom Sara) that won him the title of Hinsdale's happiest baby for 2023. He appears on the front cover of today's issue, and his family is featured in the 60 Seconds on Page 9.

### Correction

Community Consolidated Elementary District 181 expects to borrow \$26.4 million to pay for construction to allow the district to offer full-day kindergarten for the 2025-26 school year. Numbers in that figure were transposed in a Dec. 21 article.

## New Year's Eve

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# Vault home to village's earliest records

By Pamela Lannom  
plannom@thehinsdalean.com

Imagine a cross between a room-sized safe deposit box and the corner of a basement. That's "the vault" at Hinsdale Village Hall.

Part storage area for village documents and part holding area for items that need to be thrown away (think village vehicle stickers from 2017), the vault is located inside the administrative wing of the Memorial Building.

Village offices originally were in the center part of the building, where there were three vaults, said Jim Piontkowski, building maintenance supervisor. When the new library addition was built on the west side of the building, village offices moved to the library's old space on the east side. One of the original vaults remains upstairs near the old board room.

"One of the vaults was taken out and put here," Piontkowski said. "What happened to the third one, I don't know."

Actually only the front door of the vault was moved to the current location, and a concrete room was built around it.

The vault serves to protect documents

critical to village operations, assistant village manager Andrianna Peterson said.

"It's actually storage for all of our official records of the village, from the beginning to the current day," she said. "We also keep financial records and other important documents regarding village business."

One shelf is lined with bound volumes of village board meeting minutes, handwritten by village clerks. The first page of the first volume begins with the words "The Village of Hinsdale" decorated in such a way as to evoke an illuminated manuscript.

"It's what it looks like, right? I think it's really neat," Peterson said.

The language is equally ornate.

"Best remembered that on the day of (left blank), the citizens of the township of Downers Grove, in the county of DuPage, in the state of Illinois, petitioned the honorable county board of said county, praying that a village organization be granted to the petitioners herein, and that an election be ordered for the requisite officers to make such organization; said village to have corporate powers and so known as the village of Hinsdale in the township,

county and state aforesaid."

Deciphering the minutes is not always easy, between the old-fashioned language and handwritten text.

"Over the years, you can totally see the different clerks — their handwriting, how flowery the language was," Peterson said, noting how critical the position is. "The clerk has an important duty to faithfully keep that historical record for future reference."

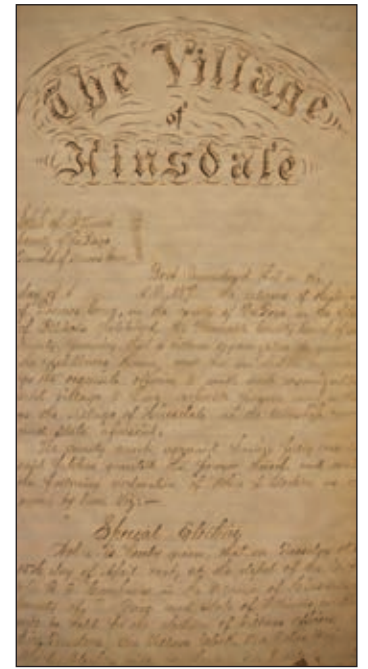
The minutes also include lists of bills to be paid, with one sum totaling \$123.81. (For reference, bills presented at the December meeting totaled \$3.85 million.)

Also stored in the vault are copies of contracts, tax levies and ordinances. Two large boxes contain the initial request from Continental Cablevision for franchising in the village.

"It's like a collector's edition," Peterson quipped.

Some items are a bit of a mystery, such as a box with a note that reads "Disco air fresheners" taped on it. Intriguing, but not accurate, Peterson discovers as she pulls the box off the shelf.

"You're right — there's no air fresheners," she said.



**Early minutes** of village board meetings, like this specimen, show the personality of the clerks who recorded the proceedings by hand. (Jim Slonoff photo)

**HAPPY NEW YEAR**  
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# POLICE BEAT

Hinsdale police distributed the following reports Dec. 27.

## DUI arrests

• Paula A. Sledzik, 45, 1071 W. 15th St., Chicago, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and illegal stopping, standing or parking at 9:46 a.m. Dec. 20 in the 500 block of South Lincoln Street. Police observed her asleep at the wheel of a parked vehicle that was running. She was charged and released to appear in court.

• Michael V. Serpico, 42, 1700 Riverwoods Drive, Melrose Park, was arrested for driving under the influence of drugs and parked with left wheel to the curb at 7:35 p.m. Dec. 23 at Minneola and Justina streets. Police were dispatched to a well-being check and found him asleep at the wheel of parked vehicle. He was charged and released to appear in court.

• Justin C. Luke, 34, 224 Fourth St., Downers Grove, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a blood-alcohol content higher than .08, speeding, failure to yield to emergency vehicles and expired registration at 1:34 a.m. Dec. 24 in the 100 block of East Ogden Avenue. He was charged and released to appear in court.

## Trespass arrest

Shermon T. Horton, 27, 202 S. Hebbard St., Joliet, was arrested for criminal trespass to vehicle at 2:45 p.m. Dec. 22 after he was stopped for a registration inquiry and police discovered the vehicle he was driving had been reported stolen out of Chicago. He was charged and released to appear in court.

## Identity theft

Someone used the identity of a resident of the 200 block of South Bruner Street to open a credit card account and make fraudulent charges between Dec. 23 and 26.

*Arrests do not constitute conviction of a crime, and individuals listed here should be presumed innocent until proven guilty. If charges are dismissed or reduced or the accused is found not guilty, he or she can contact The Hinsdalean at [news@thehinsdalean.com](mailto:news@thehinsdalean.com) to provide us with documentation. Information will be updated online and in the next issue of the paper.*

## Village coordinates shoveling volunteers

Hinsdale residents who are 60 and older or individuals with disabilities are invited to register for the village's snow shoveling program.

People can fill out the online request form at [www.villageofhinsdale.org/snow-shovelprogram](http://www.villageofhinsdale.org/snow-shovelprogram) or print, complete and mail a paper request. Once registered for the program, participants will receive contact information for participating volunteers. The resident is responsible for contacting the volunteer and scheduling a time for shov-

eling.

Those interested in volunteering for the 2023-24 winter season can fill out the online form or print, complete and mail a paper request. Residents will contact volunteers directly when assistance is needed. The volunteer is responsible for shoveling or notifying the resident if unable to complete the work.

The village's involvement is limited to matching residents and volunteers. It does not do background checks on any participants or volunteers.

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■ “The Christmas magic, it’s at the peak this year. They’re into all of the decorations.” — Sara Markowitz

# Party of five content in their village abode

Camden Markowitz’ birth in July not only added a third son to Sara and Andy’s active Hinsdale brood, it also tipped the gender scales among the offspring of Sara and her five siblings.

“He broke the boy-girl tie of grandkids for my mom and dad,” Sara reported. “We’ve got four girls and five boys now.”

That’s unlikely the source of Camden’s joy, but his big smile garnered him the mantle of The Hinsdalean’s happiest baby for 2023 and a spot on the cover.

He timed his arrival to fit right into the family cluster of midsummer celebrations. Andy and his mom are both July babies, as are Sara’s mom and brother.

“We’ve got a week of birthday celebrations,” Sara said.

Camden is baby bro to Nico, 4, and Lucas, 3, whose pre-Christmas energy was brimming on Saturday.

“Two days!” Lucas assuredly declared when asked how long until Santa stops by.

Sara said this has been an especially fun holiday season.

“The Christmas magic, it’s at the peak this year. They’re into all of the decorations,” she said.

Mom and dad are struck by how different Nico and Lucas are despite being so close in age.

“Nico is very sociable, but at home he’s relatively quiet,” Andy said. “He funny and creative, and he loves to make up stories.”

Lucas, by contrast, is decidedly more vocal.

“I’m not sure how such a loud child came from me,” Sara said. “He’s got more personality. He wants to put on a show.”

After several rounds of IVF treatment, the couple adopted Nico as newborn. Two months later came news that Sara was pregnant.

“It is funny to think how long you try, how much goes into it, the adoption process, the IVF process,” Sara related, “and then you’re like, ‘Here we are with three and five years ago we didn’t have any.’”

Life as they knew it was no more.

“It was a little more quiet,” Andy recalled with a grin.

Andy, a Hoffman Estates native, met Sara in her hometown of Terre Haute, Ind., where both were undergrads at Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology. They spent the first part of their marriage in



**THE MARKOWITZ FAMILY**  
FAMILY LIVED IN LONDON FOR A YEAR FROM 2021-22 • CAREN CAMPO HAS BEEN FAMILY’S AU PAIR FOR THREE MONTHS • SONS VIEW ROOMBA AS FAMILY MEMBER • ANDY IS AN OPTIONS TRADER, SARA IS IN MARKETING •

Chicago before their growing household prompted a migration west in August of last year.

“We wanted something walkable with a cute little downtown,” Sara said.

Andy is able to commute to the city via Metra for his job in options trading, and Sara takes the Tri-State up to the northern suburbs for her marketing work.

“Hinsdale’s been an awe-

some location for us,” she said.

When they again learned they were pregnant, Sara’s maternal instinct obviated the need for an ultrasound gender reveal.

“We waited to find out, but I had a feeling it was a boy all along,” she said of Camden.

The pair’s original boy was actually their gentle giant dog Ace.

“Ace is really good with the

boys,” Sara said.

While the city’s abundant nightlife had advantages, living on a close-knit block with a number of young families is a different kind of stimulation.

“There are lots of young kids that we’re excited to watch grow up together,” Sara said.

“We’re loving that kind of suburban neighbor life right now.”

— story by Ken Knutson,  
photo by Jim Slonoff



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# OPINION

## EDITORIAL

### Make 2024 the best (or at least better) year yet

Exercising more. Eating and drinking less. Spending less time on social media. Getting together more in person with friends.

These are among the resolutions found on many lists as a new year approaches.

Here at The Hinsdalean, we like to offer a different assortment of resolutions in our final issue of the year. So, as has become an annual practice, we offer our suggestions to local taxing bodies, agencies and residents for smooth sailing in 2024.

#### • Take a time out

If District 86 Board members hope to hire and keep a new superintendent, they must stop doing whatever it is they did that led to Interim Superintendent Linda Yonke's unprecedented resignation. How bad must it be for her to leave a part-time, 120-day, \$1,300-a-day job that she was already half-way through?

#### • Make the investment

The village should resolve to invest more to retain the historic bricks on Sixth Street rather than paving the road in concrete. The full cost to repave the street in brick might be too much for the village to bear on its own, but trustees should agree to throw in more than the \$4.5 million earmarked in the budget and look for other sources

of revenue, including grants and contributions from residents.

#### • Keep history alive

The village's sesquicentennial celebration gave residents the opportunity to learn more about the early days of the village this year — and how to spell that word! As we launch into the next 150 years, we encourage residents to continue to cherish the village's wonderful history as much as they do the town itself.

#### • Sign up now

If you haven't looked lately at the websites for the Hinsdale Public Library, the Hinsdale Parks and Recreation Department and The Community House, you are missing out on myriad opportunities to have fun, learn something new, keep the kids busy over break, meet new people and get in shape. Did we mention having fun?

#### • Carry on

The village's historic overlay district and preservation incentives have been successful since instituted in September 2022, with 79 homes added to the Historically Significant Properties List in just 15 months. The village should continue to promote these programs as much as possible and homeowners should take

advantage of them as often as possible to preserve as many homes as possible.

#### • Take another look

A year ago we encouraged village officials to continue to evaluate downtown parking dynamics, as it was almost impossible to find a space in the parking deck between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. We offer the same suggestion again this year — especially since several spots in the deck have been barricaded for weeks.

#### • Protect and serve

Hinsdale police do a great job of keeping Hinsdale a low-crime community, in part by going out of their way to locate perpetrators — such as car thieves — so they can be prosecuted for their crimes. We know they will continue to do so in the upcoming year.

#### • End with altruism

What better way to close out the year than to offer financial support to the agencies and organizations that provide help and hope to so many in Hinsdale? Whether people feel moved to support cancer patients, homeless pets, children in need, mental health initiatives, health education, the hungry or village history, there is a nonprofit in town that would welcome a donation. Please consider making one.

## COMMENTARY

### To Ainsley on her 15th birthday

For a dozen years, I've dedicated my final column of the year as a birthday message to my daughter.

I hope Ainsley does not one day resent that her birthday letters were first conceived to fulfill a work assignment and instead chooses to appreciate her mother's functional approach to life. (And her mother's inability, after more than 30 years in the newspaper business, to write anything if she's not on deadline.)

I once again will offer my apologies to those who are tired of hearing about Ainsley in my columns and my deepest gratitude to those who tell me they enjoy reading about her (even if they are just being nice).

Dear Ainsley,

Most of the birthday letters I've written have been about you — how you had grown over the past year, milestones you had met, even cute things you had said.

I'll get to you in this letter, too, but first I need to say something about me.

I dreamt of being a mom for a long time before I had you in 2009.

And then, miraculously, you were born — and I was in the club.

I was truly happy to be your mom. Unfortunately that joy, at times, was tempered — even eclipsed — by worry.

I've always been a worrier and perfected the skill once I became pregnant, which was no easy task in and of itself. Just when I was beginning to let go of my fears, we learned about the hole in your heart. Seconds later we were told it might indicate you had Down's syndrome. Then came the prognosis that you would be born too early. Of course you do not have Down's syndrome, the holes in your heart (there were two) healed on their own and, ironically, you had to be induced.

But there was more to worry about after you were born. One of your legs was shorter than the other! One side of your head was too flat from a lack of tummy time! Your iron levels were low!

By the time it seemed everything



Pamela Lannom

would work out OK, I was an expert worrier. And I've had a hard time letting go.

If you had had a brother or sister, some of my worry would have had another outlet. Instead, it's all been focused on you.

As much as I hate to admit it, I know my worry at times came across as disapproval or disap-

pointment. For that, I am sorry. One of the toughest parts of being a parent is trying to help your child learn the lessons she needs to learn without making her feel bad for needing to learn them.

So, in 2024, as I begin my 16th year as your mom, I promise to worry less and affirm more. I will have an excellent opportunity to practice this pledge as you begin drivers ed (gulp!). Of course I have some time to adjust to the idea of you driving, as I have yet to sign you up for any such classes. I do know — from the driving tips you occasionally offer me — you will be

careful and conscientious.

And the truth is, I really have nothing to worry about. At times you will stumble and fall. And it will be OK. You will learn the lessons you are supposed to learn, sometimes with help from me or with help from others or completely on your own. I will be there to walk with you when you are in pain, but I cannot take it away from you. Nor should I.

And at other times — most of the time — I know you will shine. Your generous heart (unlike the Grinch, yours is two sizes too large) and compassion and intelligence and talent and kindness will be on full display for all to appreciate. You will live the brilliant life you were meant to live. Your dad and I will be right there, cheering you on, always.

Happy 15th birthday, Ainsley. While I was busy worrying you turned into an amazing young woman, and I am so proud of you. Love, Mom.

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



## GUEST COMMENTARY

### Best presents are true gifts

I've been thinking about presents. It's the season to do so, right?

I'm not talking about gifts, which can be intangible or abstract; for example, the gift of friendship, of good health or family, etc. Rather, I've been thinking about the physical things we give one another, the things we shop for and wrap, exchange, perhaps even return.

What are the best presents you've been given? I'm sure we've all been given presents that have been amazingly thought out, beautifully wrapped treasures. Some expensive, some priceless in other ways, some handmade.

Our kids are awesome at this, giving gifts that, just by the giving of them, mean everything. My daughter is a generous and thoughtful gift-giver. She individualizes each present, really thinks about the recipient and chooses each present with love. Sometimes she spends a lot of her hard-earned money and sometimes she spends a lot of her self, like on a glorious crocheted afghan or a painting of butterflies.

When my older son was in fifth grade, he gave me a giant three-dimensional snowflake-like sculpture. I imagined him concentrating as he made each precise cut and staple. I mounted this snowflake in a giant shadow box and it hung in our home in a place of pride for many years.

Our younger son gave me some silly presents over the years, including a box of pasta (he knew I liked angel hair!) The present I treasure most from him is a poem, scribbled in pencil, in which he called me the center of our family's galaxy.



Kelly Abate

The lined paper on which it is written is wrinkled and torn from a notebook, more precious to me than fancy stationery.

And so as I think of presents, how to make them meaningful, what to buy for whom, how much to spend, I need to remember that

sometimes the best presents aren't the glamorous ones. (Vermicelli, anyone?) They're the ones that simply show the recipient you care.

I was reminded of this the other day at work when I saw a longstanding patient who has beautiful curly hair. I've complimented her on it over the years, and undoubtedly complained about my own frustrating wanna-be curls.

So on this day, when I walked into her room, my patient sheepishly handed me a half-empty bottle of hair mousse.

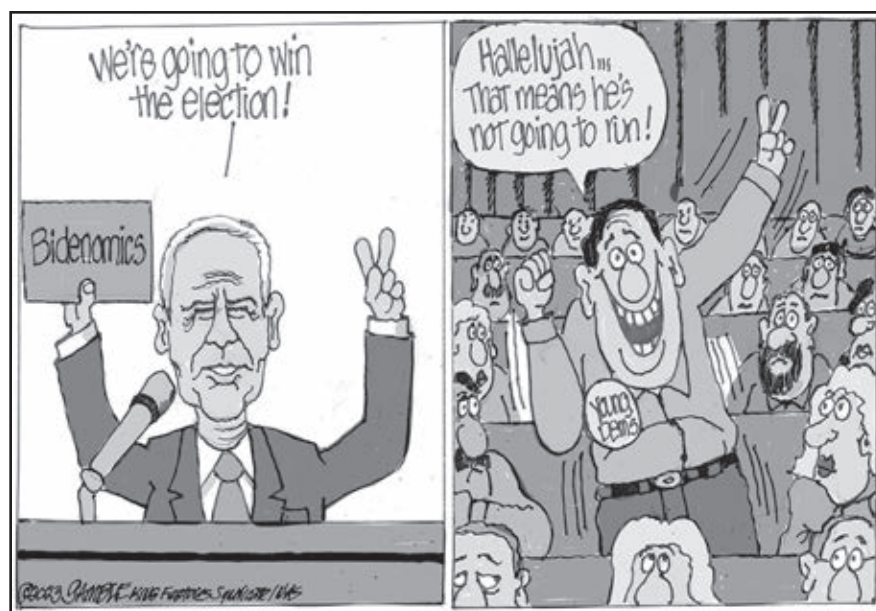
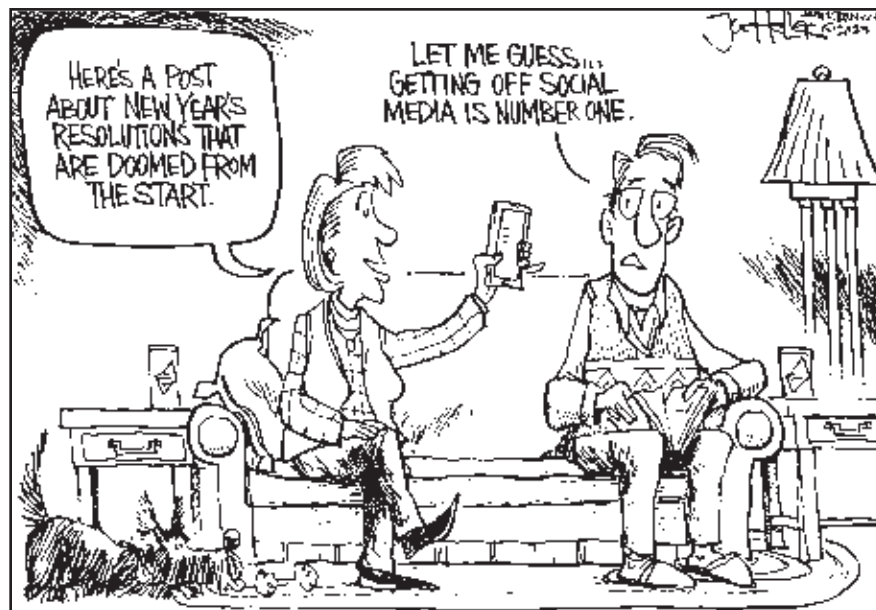
"I thought of you as I was on my way out the door," she said. "I didn't have time to buy a new bottle, but thought you might want to try this." And she handed me her own personal styling gel.

I was deeply touched. This present was great (again, I need all the hair help I can get), but indeed this was also a gift. A gift of thoughtfulness and kindness along with the "item-ness" of the present.

Butterfly paintings, snowflake sculptures, solar system poems and curl cream. May all of the presents we give and receive also hold such gifts of love and thoughtfulness.

— Kelly Abate is a contributing columnist. Readers can email her at [news@thehinsdalean.com](mailto:news@thehinsdalean.com).

## CARTOONS



## LETTERS POLICY

### Requirements

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

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

### Submission

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

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

### Questions?

Call (630) 323-4422



# OBITUARIES

## Kalpana Lall

Kalpana Lall, 85, passed away peacefully at her home in Oak Brook on Dec. 18, 2023, after a long battle with heart failure.

Kalpana was born in 1938 in Delhi, India. She was the second of five children and the eldest daughter. As a young girl in India, she excelled as a student, which sparked her passion for life-long learning. She earned a bachelor's in nursing from Delhi University and had a successful career as a registered nurse for more than 30 years. During her career as a nurse, she obtained master's degrees in psychology and public health and ultimately enrolled in medical school.

She met her best friend, Krishna, in a graduate psychology class, and they married in 1962. Kalpana immigrated to the United States in 1967 after accepting a teaching position in nursing at Cook County Hospital. Nine months later, her husband and two daughters followed



Lall

her to Chicago, where they lived for almost a year. Kalpana and Krishna purchased a home in Oak Park, where they raised a family and lived for 30 years before moving to Oak Brook. Kalpana was lovingly known to the family as "Nanie". She was the quintessential caregiver for her children, grandchildren, siblings and patients. Kalpana was an avid cook, gardener, artist and reader and loved Hindi and Bengali music and films. She had a contagious laugh, warm heart, and beautiful smile.

Kalpana paved the way to success for her family and will be missed dearly by all who knew her. Kalpana is survived by her husband, Krishna; her sister, Moyna; her daughters, Neera (Tom) and Sheera (Marc); her grandchildren, Grace (Matt), Aaron (Kallie), Owen, Joe and Veronica; and great-grandson, Arthur.

Sullivan Funeral Home Hinsdale handled the arrangements.

## Courtney Seaman

Courtney Koranda Seaman passed away Dec. 14, 2023, in a fatal aviation accident, together with her devoted husband, Gregg, while returning to their San Diego home from the East Coast.

Courtney, 48, was raised in Hinsdale and graduated from Hinsdale Central High School. She completed her studies at DePaul University with a degree in psychology. She worked in the real estate industry for several years before moving to San Diego, where she became a successful real estate agent who was consistently honored as "Top Agent for Client Satisfaction" by San Diego Magazine.

Courtney loved animals above all else and had made regular donations to animal rescue organizations as well as fostering baby kittens and advocating for disadvantaged pets wherever she went.

There are no words to express the loss of this beautiful, kind and caring soul who was always there for those in need, a radiant light who



Seaman

brought smiles on the faces of those who knew her, and the very best daughter and sister one could ask for.

Everyone was drawn to her bright energy and humor. She spent her life in acts of giving, selflessly anticipating what she could do to make other people happy. Just her presence brought joy to the many lives she touched.

She was preceded in death by her brother, Kevin James Koranda; and her grandparents.

She is survived by her mother, Mary Joanne Roney; her father, Neil (Juanita) Koranda; her sister, Kimberly (John) Eyen; her brother, Christian (Shelley) Koranda; and many aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and extended family members.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date in San Diego.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to any animal rescue or welfare organization of choice.



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## GOOD NEWS

### STATE SCHOLARS AT NAZARETH

Five Hinsdale students at Nazareth Academy in LaGrange Park were named Illinois State Scholars.

Ava Coghill, Matea Hewitt, Francesca De Fina Hillman, John Hughes and Faith Mouw, who earned places among the list of honorees, represent approximately the top 10 percent of high school seniors from across the state.

They were selected for this honor based on their SAT and/or ACT test scores and sixth semester class rank.

### CENTRAL TEACHER LEADS WORKSHOP

Arpan Chokshi, a social studies teacher at Hinsdale Central and instructional innovation coach for District 86, led a workshop titled "AI in Schools: Shifting Pedagogy, Practices & Policies" that was hosted by the Illinois Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development

on Sept. 18. During the workshop, Chokshi helped education professionals examine the challenges of AI and explore the ways it can be used to enhance how students learn.

### DELEGATES AT MODEL UN AWARDED

Several Hinsdale Central students were recognized during the St. Ignatius Model UN XXII conference Nov. 4.

Best delegate — Shahnoor Shafi

Outstanding delegates — Claire Gannon, Srisha Mundada

Honorable delegates — Momin Ahmed, Ismail Khan, Graham Wierzbicki and Annika Zhang and John Gallagher

### HINSDALEAN EARNS HIS DOCTORATE

Jake Wertz of Hinsdale earned his doctorate in sociology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in August 2023.

### COMPANY AMONG BEST EMPLOYERS

UChicago Medicine AdventHealth was recognized in Forbes' prestigious "America's Best Employers by State" rankings.

AdventHealth employs more than 80,000 people across the multiple states where it operates. AdventHealth was ranked 84th in Illinois. Additionally, the University of Chicago Medicine, an affiliate of AdventHealth in Illinois, ranked 55.

"This recognition reinforces the commitment to our Mission of extending the healing ministry of Christ," said Chereese Chery, vice president and chief people officer, human resources, at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth. "By providing an exemplary workplace experience, our organization aims to continue attracting and retaining top talent and, in turn, deliver exceptional care and service to our patients and communities."



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# ASK AN EXPERT

SHANNON HAUT, LICENSED CLINICAL SOCIAL WORKER

## How important is self care over winter break?

The days surrounding Christmas and New Year's Day are called a break for a reason.

Licensed clinical social worker and The Community House staff therapist Shannon Haut said taking time to care for oneself is the very best use of the days and even weeks between one semester and the next. She encourages students to take some time for themselves while class is out of session.

"I say lean into that," said Haut, who works with young adults with special learning needs who have graduated from Hinsdale High School District 86 and now attend College of DuPage. The need to take care of oneself, she said, applies to people and students in general.

Self care doesn't look the same to everyone, but the basics of good nutrition, quality sleep and exercise can help everyone feel better, Haut said. If taking care of oneself isn't a habit, the break around the holidays might be a good time to start

incorporating it into one's lifestyle and routine.

"Self care is important because mind, body and spirit are all connected," she said.

A good way for a student to begin a self-care routine is to talk to the people who support them, whether that's a parent, a good friend or even a therapist.

"Talk about when you feel you are at your best," Haut said.

Once a student identifies those things, the next step is to incorporate them into a daily routine. Self care can include things like music, reading, running or talking with a friend.

"Students should do whatever fills their cup," Haut said.

Haut said some students will look at the break between semesters as a time to prepare or even get ahead. But she warns that incessant work eventually will result in exhaustion.

"We hit a breaking point," she said, which often shows up as anxiety and depression.

Just as some students might be tempted to work through the holidays, others will be tempted to play a little harder than usual. But Haut said keeping a regular sleep sched-

ule through break can help make the transition back to school much easier.

"Our bodies and our minds like routine," said Haut, who encourages students to resist the urge to stay up late and sleep in.

While keeping established routines in place is important, a break from the routine of school also can be an opportunity to start a healthy new habit. Haut said there's no reason to wait until Jan. 1 to begin something new, whether that's a healthier diet, weekly food prep sessions to keep eating and spending on track, or a new exercise regimen.

Haut does encourage a bit of preparation for the new semester. She encourages students to map out their new schedule before the first day of class, taking care to pencil in times for continued self care.

"That can really ease some anxiety," and offer a sense of control, Haut said.

In the meantime, take time to enjoy friends, family and yourself before school begins again, Haut said, and prepare to enter the new semester rested, refreshed and ready to learn.

— by Sandy Illian Bosch



A break from school and some days off work offer a great opportunity to focus on self care, according to Shannon Haut, a staff therapist at The Community House. (Jim Slonoff photo)

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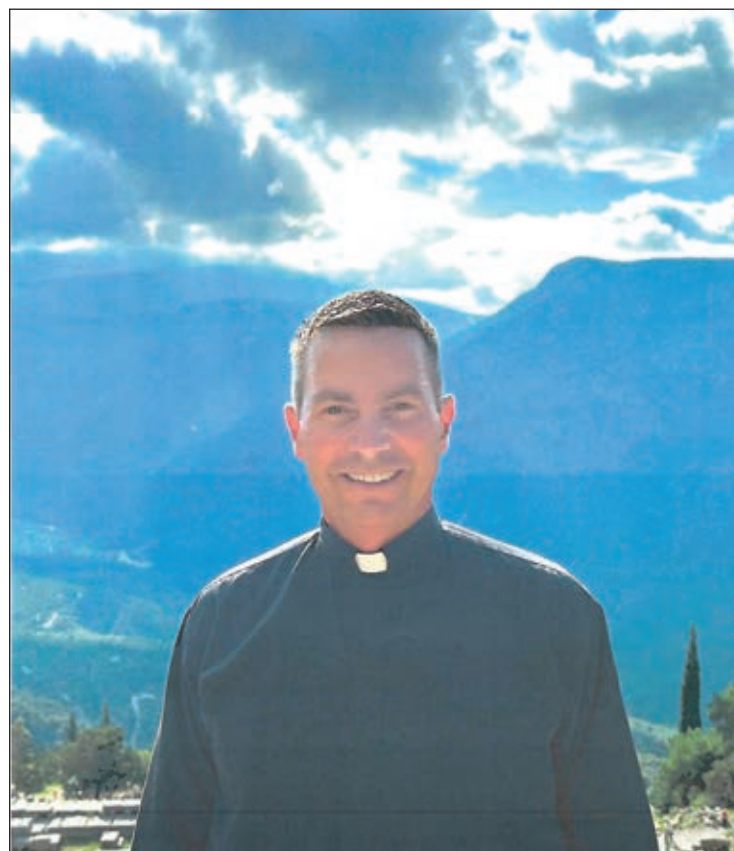
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Lunch is \$15 per person, cash or check,  
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Reservations by EMAIL at: [ejung@uchinsdale.org](mailto:ejung@uchinsdale.org)  
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**Reservations are requested no later than  
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MISSION STATEMENT: Adult Inter-Faith Fellowship is **ADULT** gathering for **FELLOWSHIP**, enjoying **LUNCH** and compelling **PROGRAMS** to inform, educate and entertain members and guests. We intend to support charities that reduce hunger, domestic violence, etc.



## Give 2023 a proper send-off

*Stay close to home to wind down the year and get excited for a new one*

Spots in Hinsdale and nearby towns are offering a variety of ways to ring in the new year for all ages.

- Seats are still available for the New Year's Eve performances of "Cinderella" at Drury Lane Theatre, 100 Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace. All ages are sure to enjoy the classic Rodgers + Hammerstein adaptation of the beloved fairytale, featuring the songs "In My Own Little Corner," "Impossible/It's Possible" and "Ten Minutes Ago." New Year's Eve and multi-course dinner also are offered (see below).

Shows are at 5:30 and 8 p.m. Tickets are \$111.25.

Visit [www.drurylanetheatre.com](http://www.drurylanetheatre.com) or call (630) 530-8300.

- New Philharmonic will perform three concerts to close out 2023 at the College of DuPage's McAninch Arts Center, 421 Fawell Blvd. in Glen Ellyn. The program will feature guest bass-baritone Richard Ollarsaba and a highly entertaining selection of waltzes, marches, polkas and light classical music, plus a champagne toast, party favors and more.

Concert times are 1:30, 5 and 8:30 p.m. Tickets are \$70-\$80. Visit [www.atthemac.org](http://www.atthemac.org) or call (630) 942-4000.

- Make New Year's Eve bright with more than 2 million twinkling LED lights at the final day of the 42nd annual Holiday Magic at Brookfield Zoo, 3400 31st St. A 41-foot tall tree choreographed to seasonal tunes, photo opportunities in the ever-popular 20-foot-tall orb and 3D 16-foot-tall gingerbread house, a 600-foot-long "Tunnel of Lights" and more will welcome visitors. Many of the animal buildings will be open along with restaurants and gift shops.

The event runs from 3 to 9 p.m., and advance reservations are required. Admission for nonmembers is \$29.95, \$20.95 for ages 3-11 and \$24.95 for seniors 65 and older, plus \$15 parking. Visit [www.czs.org/holidaymagic](http://www.czs.org/holidaymagic) or call (630) 688-8400

- Learn how families celebrated the end of the year in the 19th century at Winter Holidays in the 1890s at Kline Creek Farm, 1N600 County Farm Road, West Chicago.



**The final day** of the year offers several ways to celebrate 2023 in Hinsdale and the surrounding area, including being swept up in the fairytale of "Cinderella" at Drury Lane Theatre in Oakbrook Terrace or marveling at the stunning light display throughout the Morton Arboretum landscape in Lisle at the annual Illumination event. (photos provided)



Enjoy a guided tour of the 1890s farmhouse focusing on winter holiday traditions and see how farm families decorated the tree, exchanged gifts and prepared food for the holidays.

The house is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission is free, with a suggested donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up. Visit [www.dupageforest.org](http://www.dupageforest.org) for more information.

- Check out Sparkle Light Festival through New Year's Eve on Impact Field, Balmoral Avenue and Pearl Street, in Rosemont.

Stroll through five illuminated villages, ice skate with friends, enjoy free train rides on the Holly Trolley train and go tubing down the Alpine Slide. Festive food and beverage options will also be available.

The festival is open from 5 to 8 p.m. Tickets are \$24, \$18 for kids ages 2-12, with premium tickets

and add-on experiences available, plus \$5 parking. Visit [www.sparklerosemont.com](http://www.sparklerosemont.com) for a full schedule.

- Don't miss the chance to experience the dazzling effect of a stunning light show against a wooded winter landscape at the 11th annual Illumination at Morton Arboretum, 4100 Route 53, Lisle. See the show along a 1-mile paved walking path with festive music, and enjoy s'mores or stop in one of the concession tents for a snack and beverage.

Tickets are \$16-\$41.75, with member discounts. Visit [www.mortonarb.org](http://www.mortonarb.org) for tickets and time availability.

### Eats on the Eve

- Il Poggiolo, 8 E. First St. in Hinsdale, will open at 5 p.m. for a New Year's Eve party for children, with party favors and a countdown

at 7 p.m. A special children's menu will be offered for \$25, along with chef's specials and regular menu items throughout the evening.

For reservations, visit [www.ilpoggiolohinsdale.com](http://www.ilpoggiolohinsdale.com) or call (630) 734-9400.

- Bid adieu to 2023 and welcome 2024 in style with New Year's Eve dinner at Lucille at Drury Lane, 100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace.

The multi-course dinner including wine paired to complement each course. Raise a glasses to the incoming year with champagne and savor the night with live music and bar until 1 a.m.

Seatings are at 6 p.m. (suggested for "Cinderella" 8 p.m. attendees) and 9 p.m. The cost is \$120 per guest.

Visit [www.lucillerestaurant.com/holiday-events](http://www.lucillerestaurant.com/holiday-events) or call (630) 530-8300 for reservations.



# PULSE

## ARTFULLY DONE

### ■ Winter Exhibit

Jan. 9-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, with more than 40 works by local artists of the DuPage Art League. Hours: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

## FAMILY FUN

### ■ Story Stroll

Jan. 2-31  
Hinsdale Public Library  
20 E. Maple St.  
[www.hinsdalelibrary.info](http://www.hinsdalelibrary.info)  
(630) 986-1976

Enjoy a casual stroll in the library's Youth Services Department while reading "A Blue Bird and Her Little Tree" by Jin Bo and Zhao Guangyu.

### ■ Marvelous Monarchs

Jan. 7  
St. James Farm

2S541 Winfield Road,  
Warrenville  
[www.dupageforest.org](http://www.dupageforest.org)  
(630) 933-7248

Learn about the farm's beautiful native monarchs and how to help butterflies and other pollinators. The program is for ages 12 and up. Time: 2 to 3 p.m. Cost: \$5 per person. RR

## GAME ON

### ■ Competitive Mah Jongg Open Play

Thursdays, Jan. 4- April 25  
The Community House  
415 W. Eighth St.  
[www.thecommunityhouse.org](http://www.thecommunityhouse.org)

Enjoy American Mah Jongg in this lively weekly co-ed group for players who know the game well. Walk-ins are welcome; the fee is paid at the door. For more information, email Cheryl Wrzesinski at [sharedmemories@aol.com](mailto:sharedmemories@aol.com) or Gloria Javor at [gloriajavor@comcast.net](mailto:gloriajavor@comcast.net). Time: 1 to 3:30 p.m. Cost: \$2.

## GREAT OUTDOORS

### ■ Feeder Watch

Jan. 6  
Sagawau Environmental Learning Center  
12545 W. 111th St., Lemont  
[www.fpdcc.com](http://www.fpdcc.com)  
(630) 257-2045

What birds are visiting the feeding station? Enjoy watching the feeders on a paved surface. Binoculars are available for loan. Time: 10 a.m. RR

### ■ Dark Sky Walk

Jan. 11  
Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center  
9800 Willow Springs Road,  
Willow Springs  
[www.fpdcc.com](http://www.fpdcc.com)  
(708) 839-6897

Walk in the world's largest Urban Night Sky Place during the darkest night of the month. Time: 6 p.m. RR

## JUST FOR KIDS

### ■ Slime Time

Jan. 5  
Hinsdale Public Library  
20 E. Maple St.  
[www.hinsdalelibrary.info](http://www.hinsdalelibrary.info)

(630) 986-1976

Kids in third grade and up will make different types of slime. Time: 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. RR

## NOTEWORTHY

### ■ Michael Miles with Jill Kaeding & Ariane Lydon

Jan. 13  
Unitarian Church of Hinsdale  
11 W. Maple St.  
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(630) 941-7797

Banjo player Miles and cellist Kaeding breathe new life into J.S. Bach's Cello Suites. Miles puts the original cello melody on the banjo and Kaeding plays a contrapuntal continuo accompaniment. For the past two decades, guitarist and singer Lydon has toured and performed throughout the U.S. and Canada. Time: 7 p.m. Tickets: \$20.

### ■ Celebration of the Dance

Jan. 20  
Union Church of Hinsdale  
137 S Garfield St.  
[www.elmhurstsymphony.org](http://www.elmhurstsymphony.org)

(630) 941-0202

The Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra will perform this program, including Lully's Selections from "Roland," Telemann's Concerto for Flute and Viola da Gamba, Rameau's "Pièces de Clavecin en concert," Praetorius' "Dances from Terpsichore" and Bach's Orchestral Suite No. 1, which has seven different dance sections. Featured performers are Craig Trompeter on the viola da gamba and flutist Mary Stolper.. Time: 4 p.m. Tickets: \$35-\$45, \$32-\$42 for seniors, \$12-\$17 for students.

## ON STAGE

### ■ TWS Studio

Starting Jan. 6  
Theatre of Western Springs  
4384 Hampton Ave.  
[www.theatreofwesternsprings.com](http://www.theatreofwesternsprings.com)

This two-week theater class serves as an introduction to the Theatre of Western Springs, using exercises and improvisation.

*Please turn to Page 18*



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# Wintering with the Hinsdale Public Library

Before you know it, the New Year's ball will drop and January will begin. The carols will stop, the tree will be on the curb, the string lights will go dim and we will enter the deepest depths of winter.

Maybe you can tell: Winter isn't really my thing. I love the promise of a new year and I can't wait to welcome 2024, but ... I wish I could do it without the letdown of the holidays ending and the Darkness pressing in upon me.

The good news is, the Hinsdale Public Library is ready to help. In particular, our "Library of Things" collection can help get you through the long nights. Here are a few special items you can get from the library to perk you up:

- A Roku preloaded with your favorite streaming channels. Is there a show you've been wanting to watch on Paramount Plus or Max but you just don't want to subscribe to another service? We've got it covered!
- An NES Classic Edition console so you can go back in time and play all of

your favorite original video games, like Super Mario Bros., Donkey Kong and Zelda.

- Color Muse 2, which will help you paint match any color on your walls (or elsewhere), and our new Stud Finder. Plan out a home refresh while you are cooped up inside!

• A Pickleball Set so you can get in shape for the summer by practicing in your basement (after you remove anything breakable).

• Coming soon: A VHS Converter Kit. Reminisce over family memories and then preserve them for the next generation.

• If all else fails, you can check out a brand new seasonal affective disorder lamp right now and soak yourself in "sunlight!"

If none of that gives you the spark you need to get through to April, it may be time to learn to slow down, reflect, and truly embrace the hiber-



**Lizzy Boden**  
Check this out

nating times. Some books to get you started:

- "Wintering: the Power of Rest and Retreat in Difficult Times" by Katherine May
- "How to Do Nothing: Resisting the Attention Economy" by Jenny Odell
- "The Art of the Wasted Day" by Patricia Hampl

You can also embrace the Scandinavian tradition of hygge — the idea of finding comfort and coziness every

day. Begin your journey toward these feelings with:

- "The Little Nook of Hygge: Danish Secrets to Happy Living" by Meik Wiking
- "My Hygge Home: How to Make Home your Happy Place" by Meik Wiking
- "How to Hygge: The Nordic Secrets to a Happy Life" by Signe Johansen
- "Hygge: The Danish Art of Happiness" by Marie Tourell Soderberg

If you're a more action-oriented

type, you can fight the winter doldrums by getting some new year's resolution tips, picking up an old skill, or trying new foods at these library classes and events:

- Get your antiques appraised on Wednesday, Jan. 10, and then find out how to clear the clutter of everything else with a professional organizer on Saturday, Jan. 20.
- Get back to crafting with our cozy group Needlework Night two Thursdays each month.

• You can even warm up with some delicious wintery stews at "United Foods of America: Chilis, Soups and Stews" on Thursday, Jan. 18, or learn about matcha tea on Saturday, Jan. 13.

There's no shortage of what you can do and learn at the library, especially when everything else slows down. And so, here's to a 2024 filled with learning, trying, community, joy and light.

Happy New Year to all from the Hinsdale Public Library!

— Lizzy Boden is the adult services manager at the Hinsdale Public Library.

■ Maybe you can tell: Winter isn't really my thing.

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\*Source: MRED LLC.com Data average 09/20/2023-12/20/2023. All information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.

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## Continued from Page 16

sation to work on basic acting concepts and then applying them to ultimately present on stage. The theater's volunteering, casting and other policies will be covered. Those 18 and older, and all levels of experience, are welcome. Visit the website above for the detailed schedule, or contact Maureen at (708) 246-4043 or info@theatrewesternsprings.com. Cost: \$75. RR

## ■ The Winter Workshop Plays

Jan. 12-14  
Theatre of Western Springs  
4384 Hampton Ave.  
www.theatreofwesternsprings.com  
(708) 246-4043  
The TWS Directors' Workshop presents this program featuring the plays "The Culling" and "Lou Gehrig Did Not Die of Cancer." Times: 8 p.m. Jan. 12 & 13, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 14.

## SIGN UP NOW

## ■ Aromatherapy

Dec. 30  
Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center  
9800 Willow Springs Road, Willow Springs  
www.fpdcc.com  
(708) 839-6897  
Learn about natural aromas and their healing effects. The program is for ages 21 & up. Time: 10:30 a.m. RR

## ■ Peabody's Pages Book Club

Jan. 5, Feb. 2 & March 1  
Mayslake Peabody Estate  
1717 W. 31st St., Oak Brook  
www.dupageforest.org  
(630) 206-9566  
Discuss great reads with fellow book fans. January's title is "Kickback" by Robert Parker; February's selection is "Founding Gardeners" by Andrea Wulf; and March's discussion will be on "A 1,000 Mile Walk to the Gulf" by John Muir. Time: 10 to 11:15 a.m. Cost: \$10.

## ■ Birding & Board Games

Jan. 6  
Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center  
9800 Willow Springs Road, Willow Springs  
www.fpdcc.com  
(708) 839-6897  
Visitors 14 and older are invited to watch and learn about winter birds at the feeders while playing nature-

themed board games. Time: 1 to 3 p.m. RR

## ■ Antiques Appraisal

Jan. 10  
Hinsdale Public Library  
20 E. Maple St.  
www.hinsdalelibrary.info  
(630) 986-1976  
Enjoy an "antiques roadshow" experience as professional appraiser Rex Newell visits the library to appraise attendees' collectibles and talk

about trends in the antiques market. The first 30 to register may bring one handheld item to be appraised; firearms, Native American and Oriental antiques are not permitted. Time: 7 to 8:30 p.m. RR

## TEENS & TWEENS

### ■ Teen Game Time

Dec. 29  
Hinsdale Public Library  
20 E. Maple St.

www.hinsdalelibrary.info  
(630) 986-1976

The library is bringing out the Nintendo Switch for middle and high schoolers, so stop by for a Mario Kart race. Hours: 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

## ■ New Year, New Vision Board

Jan. 9  
Hinsdale Public Library  
20 E. Maple St.  
www.hinsdalelibrary.info

(630) 986-1976

Middle schoolers are invited to create the vision board of their dreams for 2024. Time: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. RR

## WEE ONES

## ■ Messy Mixed Media

Fridays, Jan. 5-Feb. 9  
The Community House  
415 W. Eighth St.

Please turn to Page 20



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\*MRED Closed Sales Hinsdale office 1/1/23 - 12/5/23 ^Total market shares Hinsdale & Chicago 12/1/22-11/30/23



## Pet pic of the week

**How can you** say no to that sweet face? One-year-old Kimchi is a total sweetheart who can't wait to be best friends with your dog! She has lived with cats and dogs in a foster home and will need a dog friend to help show her the world isn't so scary. Kimchi is a little shy around people she doesn't know, but she warms up quickly and loves to cuddle. She is spayed, microchipped, and fully vaccinated. Her adoption fee is \$325. The Hinsdale Humane Society Tuthill Family Pet Rescue & Resource Center is open to the public 2 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, noon to 6 p.m. Wednesdays to Fridays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Visit [www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org](http://www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org) or call (630) 323-5630 for more information. (photo provided)



### Continued from Page 18

[www.thecommunityhouse.org](http://www.thecommunityhouse.org)  
(630) 323-7500

Kids age 3-5 can come dressed for a mess and explore art by creating their very own projects. The class is drop-off optional; parents and caregivers are welcome. Time: 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. or 1 to 1:45 p.m. Cost: \$125. RR, MD

### WINTER BREAK CAMPS

#### ■ Soccer Camp

Jan. 2-5  
The Community House  
415 W. Eighth St.  
[www.thecommunityhouse.org](http://www.thecommunityhouse.org)  
(630) 323-7500

Kids ages 7-12 will sharpen their skills and knowledge of soccer fundamentals such as passing, dribbling, shooting, ball control, stealing the ball and defense, with an emphasis on teamwork and sportsmanship through games, competitions and activities. Time: 1 to 3 p.m. Cost: \$130. RR, MD

#### ■ Winter Break Camp

Jan. 2-4  
Little Red Schoolhouse  
Nature Center  
9800 Willow Springs Road,  
Willow Springs  
[www.fpdcc.com](http://www.fpdcc.com)  
(708) 839-6897

Children ages 9-12 will enjoy three fun-filled days with outdoor activities, art making and s'mores at the fire. Time: 10 a.m. to noon. Cost: \$35. RR

#### ■ 5 Star Winter Soccer Camp

Jan 3-5  
Hinsdale Central Field House  
5500 S. Grant St.  
[www.thecommunityhouse.org](http://www.thecommunityhouse.org)  
(630) 323-7500

This mini-camp for kids ages 5-12 presents a curriculum focused on developing fundamental technique, while creating an atmosphere that unlocks the game within each child. Time: 1-3 p.m. Cost: \$104. RR, MD

Key  
RR - registration required  
MD - member discount

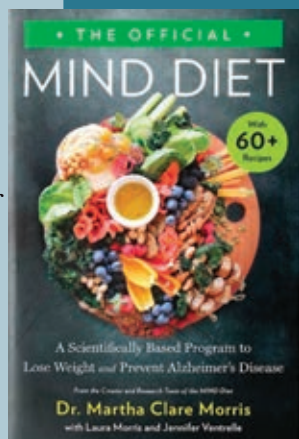
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R	E	N	O		P	L	A	N	T	A	I	N
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A	S	T	I		E	R	A		L	O	O	T
S	O	S	A		W	A	X		E	G	G	Y

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Serving the community since 1961  


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10% OFF WINTER WINDOW CLEANING!  
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Seasonal Home Improvement Guide



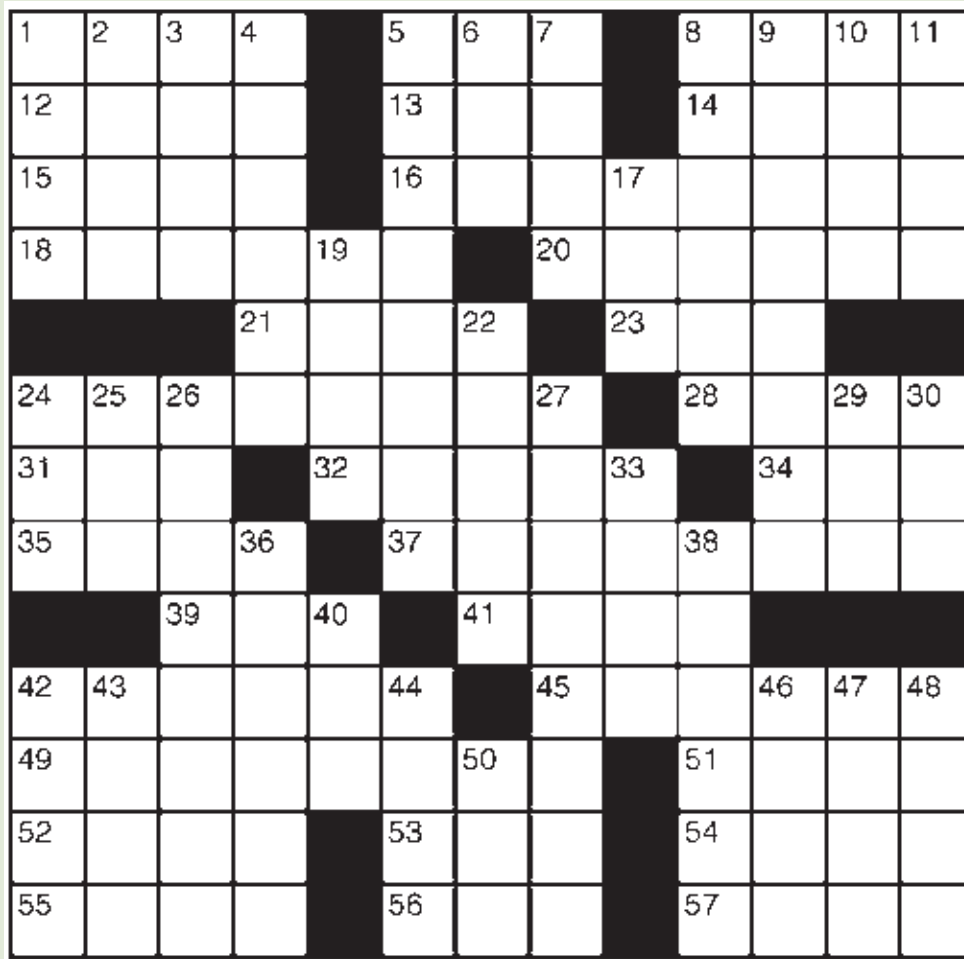






# MIND GAMES

- ACROSS**
- 1 FILLY'S BROTHER
  - 5 GROUP OF SEALS
  - 8 OLD U.S. GAS BRAND
  - 12 SANDWICH COOKIE
  - 13 SAILOR'S "YES"
  - 14 "PYGMALION" WRITER
  - 15 NEVADA CITY
  - 16 TROPICAL FRUIT
  - 18 NEBRASKA RIVER
  - 20 DEMONS
  - 21 TOWEL WORD
  - 23 BOL. NEIGHBOR
  - 24 ENGAGES IN MAKE-BELIEVE
  - 28 TIBIA'S PLACE
  - 31 PC KEY
  - 32 HOTEL OFFERING
  - 34 BOND RATING
  - 35 BRUSQUE
  - 37 TORMENTING
  - 39 SPANISH GOLD
  - 41 IRS AGENT
  - 42 RUSTIC HOMES
  - 45 TV TYPE
  - 49 TABLE PROTECTOR
  - 51 INKY STAIN
  - 52 ITALIAN WINE REGION
  - 53 NOTABLE TIME
  - 54 BOOTY
  - 55 SLUGGER SAMMY
  - 56 LETTER SEALER
  - 57 LIKE CUSTARD



- DOWN**
- 1 BUSINESS ABBR.
  - 2 HURLER HERSHISER
  - 3 SULTRY HORNE
  - 4 LIKE SOME GRINS
  - 5 DRINK-TO-GO
  - 6 HOLDER
  - 7 POPEYE'S OLIVE
  - 8 HEARING-IMPAIRED
  - 9 AROMATIC
  - 10 COMPOUNDS
  - 11 CHINESE CITY
  - 12 UTTERED
  - 13 HAS
  - 14 ACTRESS LONG
  - 15 AFTERNOON AFFAIRS
  - 16 LONG-LEGGED
  - 17 SHOREBIRD
  - 18 CHEST MUSCLE
  - 19 BATON ROUGE SCH.
  - 20 CIRCUS GYMNASTS
  - 21 SHORT-LIVED
  - 22 LEVY OF 1765
  - 23 AUTHOR FLEMING
  - 24 PESTER
  - 25 ALIKE (FR.)
  - 26 ONE OF THE NIXONS
  - 27 POWERLESS
  - 28 LOW DIGIT
  - 29 BOOKKEEPERS (ABBR.)
  - 30 TO BOOT
  - 31 DIVING DUCK
  - 32 TRUDGE
  - 33 SYNTHESIZER
  - 34 PIONEER
  - 35 ABA MEMBER
  - 36 NOTRE DAME'S
  - 37 PARSEGHIAN

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

## Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

**DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK:** ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging  
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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## SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Course 2. Bangle;  
3. Desire; 4. Drive

Today's Word  
**BURNED**

## SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each triangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the second letters to form the day of the week which will complete the path.



"Do you have something a little  
7 1984 my  
family think I actually baked it."

Path  
**SOURCE**

Chair  
**BLEANG**

Crane  
**RESIDE**

hard  
**RIVED**

**TODAY'S WORD**

S	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	A
U	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	N
D	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	S
O	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	W
K	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	E
U	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	R

# HOROSCOPES

January 2024 Horoscopes • Week 1



CAPRICORN

**CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20**  
Try to put yourself in someone else's shoes this week, Capricorn. When you're so focused on your life you may miss how it affects others around you.



ARIES

**ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20**  
Aries, someone you care about or admire could come under scrutiny this week. Whether it is deserved or not, this person will be in the hot seat and can use your support.



CANCER

**CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22**  
Cancer, see what is going on with friends this week, as you are likely in the mood to have some fun. You'll never know what's on the agenda unless you ask.



LIBRA

**LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23**  
Libra, a personal relationship that was derailed will get back on track this week. After some conflicts, it finally seems like you're both on the same page once more.



AQUARIUS

**AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18**  
Aquarius, start coming up with some new ideas to keep your brain busy. You might need to delve into a different career or a new hobby to challenge yourself.



TAURUS

**TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21**  
Taurus, you could project an intensity this week that has other people running for cover. Consider adding a little sugar to your presentation. You'll still get your point across.



LEO

**LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23**  
Leo, you may run into a little interference with a project due to someone's ego getting in the way. This person seemingly is not a team player and it could affect your plans.



SCORPIO

**SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22**  
Scorpio, do not let it get you down if you're paired with someone on a project who is not your first choice. Focus on the task at hand and you may find you work well together.



PISCES

**PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20**  
Pisces, after some initial upheaval this week, your life starts to calm down a little. There may be one lingering issue that needs to get worked out, but you'll handle it.



GEMINI

**GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21**  
Gemini, make an effort to gain greater control over your finances. Develop a budget and stick to it. Soon you'll enjoy a new level of financial freedom.



VIRGO

**VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22**  
Visualizing what you want is not a waste of time, Virgo. In fact, it can help you map out a plan of attack to accomplish your goals. Start making a to-do list.



SAGITTARIUS

**SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21**  
Sagittarius, even if your life seems to be a mystery right now, you do not have to figure out all the answers right away. Take time to mull things over.



# SPORTS

## Winter moves fitness options indoors

*The Community House offers a variety of classes to help all ages keep moving*

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

January is the perfect time to start a new fitness routine — or resuscitate an old one that was abandoned over the holidays.

Winter weather makes outdoor exercise a challenge, but The Community House in Hinsdale offers a host of indoor classes to meet a variety of fitness needs.

Many of these offerings have sessions that continue into the spring. All are offered at The Community House, 415 W. Eighth St. Some require in-person registration. Discounts are available for The Community House members.

For more information, visit [www.thecommunityhouse.org](http://www.thecommunityhouse.org) or call (630) 323-7500.

### Dance it off

Burning Beats offers adults a high-energy dance workout that is equal parts fun and fitness. Beginners and seasoned dancers will be guided through each step to tone their bodies and burn calories while listening to a motivating soundtrack of pop anthems and Latin grooves. Classes are offered four times a week: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Sundays, 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and 9 to 10 a.m. Fridays, Jan. 7 to April 30. The fee is \$15 for walk-ins; a 10-class punch card is available for \$109.

### Mash it up

Improve tone, flexibility, posture, core strength and the body-mind connection in Pilates and Bar Mash Up, which blends the best of ballet, strength, yoga and Pilates. Classes are offered from 10 to 11 a.m. Mondays and Wednesdays and 7 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays Jan. 2 to April 30. A 15-class punch card costs \$160.

### Grab a mat

- Gentle Yoga is a slower-paced class ideal for beginners and those recovering from illness or injury of all ages. Poses will focus on flexibility and strength and can be



The Community House offers several different types of yoga — for all ages and ability levels — among its many indoor fitness classes and activities.

modified to make class suitable for everyone. Classes are 10:30 to 11:30 Wednesdays or Thursdays from Jan. 10/11-Feb. 21/22 at the KLM Lodge, 5901 S. County Line Road. The fee is \$90.

- Yoga for Strength and Stability is a six-week class designed to mindfully build strength, flexibility and balance. Classes are from 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 30 to March 5. The fee is \$80.

### Movement for moms

- Body Boost (HIIT) F4M offers safe and effective high-intensity interval training for the postnatal woman, whether her baby was born six months or 20 years ago. Body Boost combines cardio, strength, core and meditation in a 60-minute class that leaves participants feeling refreshed and recharged. The class is offered from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 6 to April 27. The cost is \$150 for a 10-class punch card.

- Stroller Barre is a 60-minute cardio and strength interval class designed to improve posture, stability and mobility with a workout that combines moves inspired by barre, ballet, Pilates and Yoga. The class is offered from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. Saturdays, Jan. 6 to April 27. A

10-class punch card costs \$150.

- Stroller Strides by F4M is a functional, total-body conditioning workout designed for moms with kids in tow. Each 60-minute workout consists of strength training, cardio and core restoration, all while entertaining little ones with songs, activities and fun. Classes are 8 to 9 a.m. Wednesdays and 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Fridays, Jan. 5 to April 26. The fee is \$150 for a 10-class punch card.

### Ageless options

- Those who want to exercise from the comfort of their own homes can sign up for Ageless Yoga on Zoom, which runs from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Fridays, Jan. 5-Feb. 16.

The class offers modified classic yoga exercises, easy standing poses and low-impact work with a chair for those who have limited mobility. The fee is \$48.

- Prime Time A+ is an easy-to-follow ongoing class for adults 50 and older. Low-impact workouts will improve cardiovascular fitness, strength, balance and flexibility. Classes are offered from 8:45 to 9:45 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays, Jan. 2 to April 30. A 10-class punch card costs \$85.

- SAFE, or supported Ageless Fitness Exercise, is a seat-based class that focuses on increasing range of motion, circulation, flexibility, balance and strength with easy-to-follow moves. Classes are 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Mondays and Wednesdays from Jan. 3 to April 29. A 10-class punch card costs \$92.

### Grab a paddle

People who like a their exercise with a side of competition — or vice versa — can enjoy pickleball open play sessions at KLM. All ages, genders and skill levels are welcome.

Open play is offered 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Mondays, 1 to 3 p.m. Wednesdays and 8:30 to 10:30 p.m. certain Sundays from Jan. 8 to April 29. The fee for walk-ins is \$8; a 10-punch card is \$60.

Ninety-minute Sunday workshops for intermediate players are offered on select dates in January, March April and May at a cost of \$65 each. Two-session workshops for those interested in reviewing basic rules, strokes, scoring and strategy in a friendly, small-group setting are offered in January, February and March. The fee is \$92 per session.



# The Hinsdalean

## A message from the co-owners of The Hinsdalean



Pamela Lannom  
Editor



Jim Slonoff  
Publisher

Dear reader,

We at The Hinsdalean find it hard to believe we already are in our 18th year of publication.

We started the paper in 2006 to provide every home and business in town with a free weekly paper dedicated to providing local news and information. We again were named the best weekly newspaper of our size in the state by the Illinois Press Association earlier this year — for the fourth year in a row.

The many advertisers who have supported us have allowed us to provide the paper at no charge to residents. Changes in the global economy, however, continue to present challenges to our company. The cost of newsprint and delivery continue to rise, and advertising revenues have declined.

Will you help us continue to deliver quality coverage? We invite you to make an investment in local news by making a voluntary contribution to The Hinsdalean. Your contribution will help us to continue to deliver the best local paper each week and to give back to the community we cover.

Thank you for continuing to read and support The Hinsdalean.



James Slonoff  
Publisher



Pamela Lannom  
Editor

Yes, I wish to support community journalism by making a voluntary contribution to The Hinsdalean. Please fill out the form below and mail it with your check in the enclosed return envelope or use the QR code provided.

☐ \$100    ☐ \$75    ☐ \$50    ☐ Other

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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“Did you know the New York Times said that all local newspapers will be dead in a few years? Guess they haven’t been to Hinsdale.”

—a Monroe School dad





# MAY YOUR HOLIDAYS BE MERRY & BRIGHT

The Inaugural Jim Lotka Holiday Event was a success.

Thanks to my wonderful clients who joined us for a cookie exchange, a meet and greet with Santa and Mrs. Claus and a whole lot of Christmas spirit.

Wishing the Happiest of Holidays to you and yours!



630-776-2354  
jim@jimlotka.com

10+  
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EXPERIENCE

300+  
TRANSACTIONS  
SOLD\*

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BROKERAGE FIRM  
IN HINSDALE\*\*

\*Based on MRED LLC, lifetime sales for Jim Lotka/Lotka Group thorough 10/31/23. \*\*#1 Closed Sales Volume, Residential Properties (Detached & Attached) from 01/01/2022-12/31/2022, Broker Metrics, LLC.

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