

The Hinsdalean

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Community journalism the way it was meant to be



Stuffing the truck — Students at Hinsdale Central held a Stuff the Truck fundraiser last week, collecting food and paper goods for the People's Resource Center in Westmont. Members of the National Honor Society and Business Professionals of America met the goal and filled the truck completely. PRC volunteer Ron Niemer along with Central students Yasmina Eshac and Matilde Camplone sort the donations. Please turn to Page 18 for more pictures. (Jim Slonoff photo)



Hinsdale feeling statewide spike in COVID-19 cases.

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Village native keeps his faith amidst trying times.

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Red Devils athletes sidelined by new mitigation plan.

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NEWS

Village to pay for bridge upgrades

By Ken Knutson

kknutson@thehinsdalean.com

Customized retaining walls for the entrance to the proposed pedestrian bridge would cost Hinsdale about \$25,000, or so village trustees thought.

At Tuesday night's village board meeting via Zoom, board members learned that patterning the walls after those that flank the Oak Street bridge spanning the BNSF Railroad came with an estimated \$38,400 price tag due to the need for special form liners and a premium for the village's desired stain color. The bridge, to be constructed along the north side of 47th Street between Hinsdale and Western Springs, is part of the Illinois Tollway's Central Tri-State expansion project. It will touch down in Veeck Park near where the skate park currently is.

The Tollway's Nicole Nutter,

senior project manager, explained that the board's wish to have the walls in a small random ashlar facade matching the Oak Street Bridge would cost \$6,400, while the work needed to achieve the same color would be \$32,000 because of the application would be done by hand, she said.

But officials concluded the added cost is worth the investment. Village President Tom Cauley said he favored the added expense for something that will stand for decades.

"I think we should make it as nice as we possibly can within in reason, and \$38,000 seems within reason," he said, eliciting agreement from trustees.

Bids on the project are expected to go out in January, and village officials told Nutter to let them know if the expected cost goes up.

As for the main section of the

bridge, Hinsdale and Western Springs are still trying to close their design gap as it relates to the type of fencing. Hinsdale prefers installing eight-foot metal pickets space four inches apart while Western Springs favors a galvanized chain link fence. Officials indicated Western Springs may be concerned the pickets leave openings for people to throw items onto the Tri-State.

Cauley suggested the Tollway should make the call.

"The Tollway would be in a much better position to determine what is a safe for a bridge," he said.

Nutter replied the picket-style is just as safe as chain-link as far as the Tollway is concerned.

"It meets all standards for safety," she commented.

The Tollway will pay to construct the bridge, with the villages jointly responsible for future maintenance or replacement. The pickets likely

would need to repainted in about 25 years, costing between \$60,000 and \$85,000. The chain link fence, on the other hand, would need to be replaced in 25-30 years for an estimated \$100,000.

"You have to replace the whole fence, you can't just paint that," Nutter said.

Cauley stressed that Hinsdale will not accede to paying for more than half the total cost. The Tollway is pressing the villages to come to an agreement by next week.

"The desire is to have a final decision by Thanksgiving so we can get it into design plans," she said.

Nutter said she will attend the Western Springs Village Board meeting next week in hopes of reaching a mutually acceptable plan.

"We're going to try to better understand what their primary concern is," Nutter said.

Taking their best shots



Ben Murphy, Juliet Delheimer and Stella Condotti hone their skills in a Jodie Harrison Basketball preseason clinic for second-

and third-graders Monday afternoon at The Community House. (Jim Slonoff photos)

National Register home back in full bloom

Renovation project restores American Beauty home on Sixth Street to its former glory

By Pamela Lannom
plannom@thehinsdalean.com

Less than 24 hours after a fire destroyed most of their 119-year-old home at 329 E. Sixth Street in Hinsdale two years ago, the Reenans were getting ready to rebuild.

Jennifer Reenan's first call after the April 11, 2018, fire was to David Post at EIS Group to handle mitigation. Her next call was to Michael Abraham, an architect who had worked with previous owners on renovations to the home. He and Reenan did their first walk through the day after the fire.

"Everywhere you walked you were kicking up dust and debris," Reenan said.

"We were in shock," Abraham said, noting that he had watched the blaze with a good friend of the previous owner. "We were practically in tears."

Abraham's first task was to gather information about the house, both from previous renovation projects and the Hinsdale Historical Society.

Reenan and architect Joel Rafferty, who works with Abraham, met at the historical society to see what they could find on the house, a past recipient of a Hinsdale Historic Preservation award and is on the National Register of Historic Places.

"It was really fun to go through these old photographs," Rafferty said.

Other documentation turned up from unexpected sources, such as a

neighbor who had photos of a wedding she attended at the house in 1961.

As was the case with mitigation the work was time-consuming.

"It was two or three months of going backward before we could go forward," Abraham said.

The photos provided valuable details that guided the drawings.

"If you look at the second story facade, you'll see that it looked different before the fire," Reenan said. "We were able to actually recreate what it was when it was originally built."

Once the plans were ready, the job was handed over to lead contractor Dave Knecht of Dave Knecht Homes. The transition was a smooth one,

thanks in part to the work Post and EIS did, Knecht said.

"He did a very nice job up front of saving samples, saving doors, getting things organized, keeping the historic components of the house that we could reuse," he said.

Knecht, who specializes in custom-built homes and renovations, was thrilled to take on the project.

"It's really a once-in-a-lifetime job," he said. "For me, that is what I have a passion doing, historic renovation and rehab."

"You have to have a homeowner that is committed," Knecht continued. "There are not many people who would say, 'We are going to bring this

Please turn to Page 4



The third floor of the Reenan's home had to be completely rebuilt following a 2018 fire, and the inside was gutted as well. Jeff Ediger of Oak Brothers Historic Renovation works on one of three stained glass transom windows found in one of the walls. An artist recreated the rectangular windows below, which brighten the stairwell going to the second floor. The billiards room (top right) in the basement was restored, and the lower level now also includes a cozy pub area and this tasting room and wine cellar. (photos courtesy of Karen Knecht)



NEWS

Continued from Page 4

old home back to life.' That enables us to do what we do.

"All the improvements were done with the goal of having someone walk through the house and not being able to tell any kind of the modifications that had been made," he added.

Knecht brought in a group of experts to help with the project, including Ari Smejkal of Hammer Design Group, with whom he's worked for 25 years.

"He's like, 'I've got the perfect job for you,'" Smejkal recalled of Knecht's invitation to tackle the basement.

"One of the things I wanted to show is you can have an incredible basement in an old house," Reenan said.

The original home included a billiard room, and the Reenans wanted to add a cozy pub in homage to Neal Reenan's Irish lineage.

"We found really cool materials that are something you can't get," Smejkal said, citing the tamarack pine floor as one example. "A lot of the wood I had on hand from collecting over the

years."

Smejkal also discovered the perfect compliment to an area under the basement stairs.

"Ari found this metal grill with roses on it and created this darling little door with roses," Reenan said.

That same attention to detail guided the work of interior designer Laura O'Brien of O'Brien Harris, who initially joined the team to give an estimate on the cabinetry that had been lost. Like others, she was on the scene early.

"The water was still dripping through the ceiling," she said.

She ended up working with Reenan and Elizabeth Krueger of EK Design on the key rooms that included millwork — the kitchen, butler's pantry, bathrooms, dressing room, closets, mudroom and laundry room.

"The thing that I loved about the project is that Jen wasn't a slave to the history of the house. We're weren't combing through books trying to recreate an era," O'Brien said.

Reenan appreciated the attention to how the cabinetry would be used in the various rooms, noting that O'Brien measured her tea boxes to create an appropriate storage space for them in the kitchen.

Krueger said the group of professionals who came together on the project made the work thoroughly enjoyable.

"You feel like you're shoulder to shoulder with exceptional talent, and that makes our work better and it makes our experience better," Krueger said. "We get to learn from everybody in the process, too. None of us comes into this knowing the exact answer or how it will come together. We just know that it will."

Reenan said it was important for her and her family to create a home they would be comfortable living in.

"We've got three kids and two dogs and we wanted it to be very relaxed, but obviously still honor the architecture, which is very unique and elegant," she said.

The mix of historical inspiration and practical application resulted in a wonderful finished product, O'Brien noted.

"I think the beauty of what happened here is it was restored classically, but it still feels like a young, vibrant family lives here," she said. "It feels like you are walking into something classic that has a history."

Aarti Patel of EK Design echoed that satisfaction of incorporating the family's lifestyle and heritage into the house.

"There's a lot of history, even to your family, that is presented," she said.

Reenan hopes sharing her renovation project will help encourage others to save Hinsdale's beautiful old homes, especially in the Robbins Park Historic District where she lives. Homeowners can have the best of both worlds, Krueger noted.

"It's now a new house but it still feels old," she said. "That's the best part."



Jennifer Reenan (front, green coat) appreciates the team that worked on the two-year renovation project, including Aarti Patel, Ari Smejkal, Elizabeth Krueger, David Post, Laura O'Brien, Mike Abraham, Joel Rafferty and

David Knecht. "They are all just fantastic men and women," Reenan said. "It was a pleasure to come in and check on their progress and get to know them better." (Jim Slonoff photo)

ONCE UPON A TIME



Thumbs down — From Sandy Williams’ book, “Images of America — Hinsdale,” the photo of east First Street is from the early 1920s. “The bank’s vault annex is shown as well as the four store retail block built in 1912. Included here is Hinsdale’s first movie theater (now home to Il Poggiolo) boasting a seating capacity of 300. To appease concerns over new ‘moving picture exhibitions,’ residents were notified that ‘no picture will be shown until approved by a committee of Hinsdale citizens who will rigidly maintain strict censorship.’ ”

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turns 16 Nov. 22

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Pamela Lannom

Editor, Ext. 104

plannom@thehinsdalean.com

Jim Slonoff

Publisher, Ext. 105

jslonoff@thehinsdalean.com

Becky Campbell

Senior designer, Ext. 102

bcampbell@thehinsdalean.com

Ken Knutson

Associate editor, Ext. 103

kknutson@thehinsdalean.com

Kathy Houlihan

New business development

khoulhan@thehinsdalean.com

Lisa Skrapka

Account executive, Ext. 101

lskrapka@thehinsdalean.com

Tina Wisniowicz

Classified, service, legal account

executive, Ext. 100

tinaw@thehinsdalean.com

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Corrections

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

Letters to the editor

Our letters policy is published on Page 11.

Obituaries

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

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Hinsdale navigates the COVID-19 crisis

Schools, eateries, businesses among those discerning course through uncharted landscape

By Ken Knutson

kknutson@thehinsdalean.com

Indoor dining at restaurants is prohibited. Learning for many is moving from in-person to remote. And people are being urged to avoid gathering for a high-profile holiday.

That was the situation back early spring, and November has ushered in a strong sense of déjà vu as difficult COVID-19 measures are being reinstated to combat spiking case numbers in Illinois and around the country.

On Tuesday, Gov. JB Pritzker announced the entire state would enter Tier 3 of his mitigation plan starting Friday. Non-essential retail facilities can operate at 25 percent capacity, while pharmacies and grocery stores may operate at 50 percent capacity. Personal care services can remain open, but only at 25 percent capacity and as long as face coverings are worn. Indoor dining was prohibited under Tier 2 restrictions imposed earlier this month.

The mitigations are needed, according to the governor and Illinois Department of Public Health Director Dr. Ngozi Ezike, because hospitalizations are hitting a point of exponential growth.

Adam Maycock, president and CEO of AMITA Health Adventist Medical Centers Hinsdale and La Grange, said the two facilities are feeling the effects.

"During this second wave, COVID-19 has impacted our Hinsdale Hospital campus

significantly, although not to the degree seen in the spring," he stated. "The La Grange campus has seen numbers close to if not higher than at the onset of the pandemic. Both campuses have bed availability, yet are challenged with staffing all available beds, which limits options to take on more patients."

Community Consolidated District 181 is continuing its hybrid model, which splits students daily between morning and afternoon in-person sessions. But officials are monitoring the situation closely.

"At this time, there is no work-from-home mandate for school employees or an order for student learning to go fully remote," Garcia said in a recent update. "If the state does order this, we will comply with it immediately."

He cited the success of the district's safety protocols and procedures as evidenced by DuPage County Health Department findings.

"None of the positive COVID-19 cases in D181 students or staff have been linked to a transmission that took place at school," Garcia pointed out, noting that district has also received high marks on parent surveys.

The district has reported 34 positive cases among students and 14 among staff since the start of the school year.

In Hinsdale High School District 86, students are also following a hybrid approach, with about 25 percent of stu-



Workers test for COVID-19 in July at Anne M. Jeans School in Willowbrook. Area testing sites are busy again the number of positive cases rises, leading to more patients in AMITA Hinsdale Hospital's ICU and an agonizingly quiet Hinsdale business district with state mitigations restricting store capacity and indoor dining. (file photo)

dents on campus each week on a rotating basis. The total number of positive cases among students and staff since the start of the school year stood at 78 last week. Students and staff conduct daily symptom and temperature checks, wearing masks and adhere to social distancing guidelines, officials said.

District 86 Board President Kevin Camden said last week that, despite the rising number of cases, "continuing to offer in-person instruction and striving to increase both the number of students who are on-site and the amount of instructional time they receive are critical to the success of our learners."

Elsewhere in the community. Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church and

Redeemer Lutheran Church are among the local faith communities in recent weeks that have suspended in-person worship services after resuming them in the summer. And restaurateur and Hinsdale resident Paul Virant announced this week that he was temporarily closing his two eateries.

"We have made the very difficult decision to 'press pause' at both Vistro and Vie. Our final day of service will be Wednesday, Nov. 25," reads a post on the Vistro website. "In addition to helping to keep our guests and team safe, this temporary closure is necessary to be sure we can welcome you back when things get better."

Maycock said having two hospitals in close proximity is

beneficial in these times.

"The situation changes day to day, but we are fortunate the two campuses are a short distance from each other and have been able to cross support when needed," he said.

With Thanksgiving approaching, health experts are concerned about family gatherings. Pritzker urged citizens to celebrate only with household members to avoid another case surge.

"To be very clear, we are relying on you here," he said at Tuesday's press conference. "Nobody will go door-to-door to check on you. But we're asking people to hold themselves and each other accountable."

— Jerry Nowicki of Capitol News Illinois contributed to this story.





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NEXT WEEK

Hinsdale High School District 86 Board

6 p.m. Thursday, Nov. 19
<https://d86.hinsdale86.or>

On the agenda: 2020 levy, comprehensive annual financial report, bond premium discussion, asbestos removal bid, award phase 2 bid packages, return to school update, approve 2020-21 program of studies, approve two administrator contracts

MEETING ROUNDUP

Community Consolidated School District 181

Among other business Monday, board members:

- approved the summer 2020 facilities master plan projects with an estimated total of about \$2.6 million. Projects include moisture mitigation and flooring replacement at Clarendon Hills Middle School for \$925,915; sitework at The Lane School for \$352,000; Taraflex gym flooring replacement at Madison, Prospect, The Lane, Monroe and Oak schools for \$288,500; LED retrofit/conversion work at Elm, Madison and Oak schools for \$270,000; and tuck-pointing at Elm, Madison and The Lane schools for \$167,500.

- heard a report on the fall 2020 MAP results, which found that district students continue to achieve in the top three decile bands nationally and that there was a consistent level of achievement compared to the fall 2019 data as well as a consistent level of achievement among district schools.

- accepted gifts from school PTOs, including those at Elm School and Clarendon Hills Middle School totaling more than \$1,570

Positive cases continue to increase in Hinsdale

Sixty-eight Hinsdale residents have tested positive for COVID-19 over the past week.

The DuPage County Health Department reported 60 new cases and the Cook County Health Department reported 8 new cases.

That brings the total number of reported cases in the village to 629, up from 561 last week.

Amita Hinsdale Hospital was treating 28 confirmed COVID-19 patients and 20 patients awaiting test results on Wednesday, a spokeswoman said.

Community Consolidated District 181 reported 20

new cases from Nov. 13-16, including 17 students, two teachers and one staff member.

Hinsdale High School District 86 reported 39 current positive cases on Friday, with 89 peoples in isolation and 130 in quarantine.

The rolling seven-day positivity rate for Region 8, which includes DuPage County, was 15.8 percent on Saturday, compared to 14.7 a week prior.

The health departments' websites are at <https://www.dph.illinois.gov>, <https://www.dupagehealth.org> and <https://www.cookcounty-publichealth.org>.

Library offers candidate information sessions

For residents interested in running for the Hinsdale Public Library Board or the Community Consolidated District 181 Board in the April 2021 election, the library is offering virtual information sessions to highlight key dates and responsibilities of candidates and elected officials.

Current members from both

boards will be available for questions.

The online sessions will be offered at 7 p.m. Monday, Nov. 23, and again at 2 p.m. Tuesday, Nov. 24.

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Hinsdale returnee espouses cooperation over conflict

"The best beloved of all things in my sight is Justice."

These are the words of Bahá'u'lláh, the 19th-century founder of the Bahá'í Faith, which emphasizes the value of all religions and the oneness of humanity. It's a belief system that Hinsdale's Gordon Coates found compelling as a young man and which he now supports professionally as a correspondence coordinator for the Baha'i National Center in Evanston.

"We assist Bahá'í communities through the United States in applying Bahá'í laws — and also (helping) communities that are having difficult situations to deal with," he explained.

With no clergy, Bahá'í households instead establish local councils and gather monthly for a Nineteen Day Feast consisting of devotional, administrative and social elements. With a small number of adherents in Hinsdale, Coates said his family joins with believers in neighboring towns for times of fellowship.

The Hinsdale-raised Coates was introduced to Bahá'í by his

college cross country coach. He was attracted to the call to root out prejudices and systemic inequalities to unite people across ethnic backgrounds, social classes and religions.

"The idea (is) that the founders of all the great religions were sent by God ... to guide mankind and not to compete with each other," he explained.

Coates was also drawn to Bahá'í's progressive advocacy for gender equality and the harmony of science and religion. He went to work for the Bahá'í organization, spending 2 1/2 years at the Baha'i World Center in Haifa, Israel.

"At the time there were 700 Bahá'is serving from all over the world," he said of the experience.

There he also gained a new appreciation for healthy eating and, after returning to the States, earned a bachelor's degree in nutrition and medical dietetics.

"I worked as a registered dietitian for 13 years at a hospital and a cancer care center," Coates related. "I would say my current specialties are oatmeal bread and big vegetarian salads."

His wife, Philippa, graduated from Hinsdale Central a few years after him. But they weren't acquainted until well into adulthood when his mom and her dad, serving together as election judges one year, learned each had an unmarried child — and that both were Bahá'í!

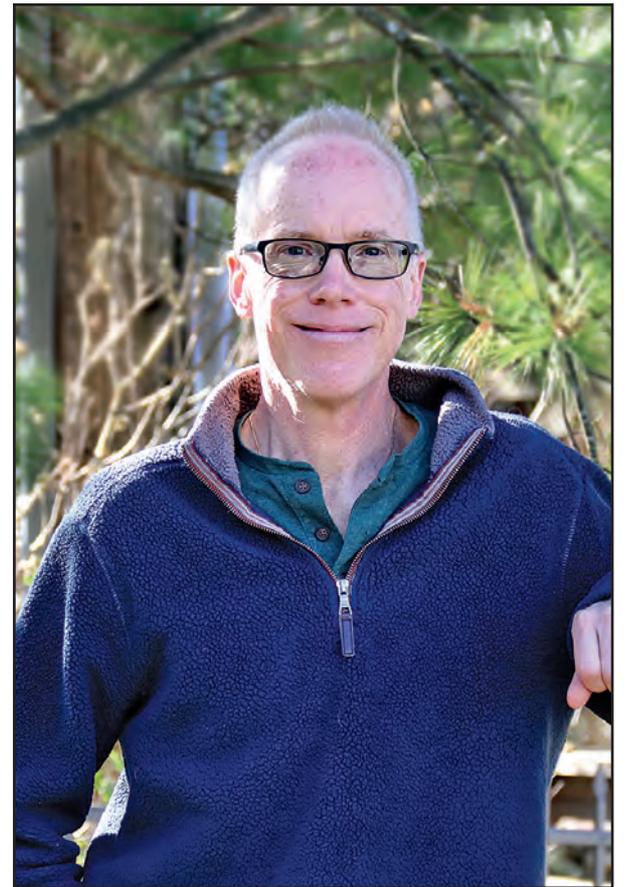
"Our parents aren't Bahá'is, so it's kind of funny," Coates said.

The matchmaking worked, of course, and the couple returned to Hinsdale in 2005 to make their home. They adopted a boy and later a girl, both from Guatemala and now in their teens. Coates began his work at the Bahá'í National Center, about a mile from the landmark Bahá'í House of Worship in Wilmette.

Coates said humanity's present challenges can become a force for good.

"My hope is that the struggles we've all been going through will help us focus more on spiritual things and on working together to attain a more just and unified society," he said.

— story by Ken Knutson, photo by Jim Slonoff



GORDON COATES

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Giving a big way to show we're in this together

The pandemic may have disrupted a lot of our regular routines, but it did not diminish Hinsdaleans' commitment for giving back. We've documented that bounty of benevolence in our Good News section over the past year, and, as we approach Thanksgiving, wanted to highlight a few of them as an expression of gratitude for those gifts:

- The 2020 Pillars Ball raised \$242,000 for Pillars Community Health to support medical, dental, mental health and substance use disorder services along with domestic and sexual violence services to residents of the western suburbs.

- The Hinsdale Rotary Club raised more than \$4,000 to help 2016 Hinsdale Central High School graduate Sophie Lekas, midshipman at the U.S. Naval Academy, study engineering research at Oxford University to prepare for a career in aerospace engineering.

- Volunteers filled about 500 bags containing clothes, toys, books and shoes for children in need as part of Community Consolidated District 181 Cradles to Crayons donation drive.

- Hinsdale's Vinaya Sharma and matching donors raised \$2,000 for the Hinsdale Humane

Society's "Match Me Up" campaign for adoptions of harder-to-place cats,

- District 181 donated 425 medical face shields to Amita Health Adventist Medical Center and two nursing homes, ManorCare Health Services in Hinsdale and Chateau Nursing and Rehabilitation Center in Willowbrook. D181 families assembled the shields.

- Concklin Insurance Agency in Lombard and president Craig Concklin of Hinsdale donated lunch every Wednesday in April to first responders in several suburbs, including the Hinsdale Fire Department.

- The Rotary Club of Hinsdale donated 225 face shields to the Hinsdale Hospital Foundation through a \$2,000 grant.

- Oak School's Oak Kids Care Club donated \$223 they received from the Chipotle Oak School dinner/donation night to HCS Family Services to provide food for families in need.

- The BAM @ a Distance virtual choir project raised \$1,015 for the Chicago Artist Relief Fund, organized to support Chicago artists who lost work opportunities to due to the pandemic.

- The sale of 270 yard signs to thank first responders, jointly sponsored by The Hinsdalean,

Lithoprint and the Rayner and Buddig families, generated \$2,535 used to purchase gift cards for medical personnel at Amita Hinsdale Hospital and meals for members of the Hinsdale police and fire departments.

- More than 1,400 people walked in the virtual Walk for Wellness benefit, which raised \$558,000 for cancer survivors, families, friends and volunteers for Wellness House.

- The Hinsdale and Downers Grove offices of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Chicago conducted a fund drive for frontline staff at Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove, raising enough to deliver about 600 meals.

- More than \$70,000 was raised at the Third Annual Brooks Strong Invitational Golf Tournament in support of the Brooks Strong Foundation, The foundation, named for Hinsdalean Brooks Tonn, who lost a brave battle with cancer in 2017 at age 10, provides scholarships to enable kids going through cancer treatment to play sports and funds pediatric cancer research.

Feel like contributing yourself? Check out the Spirit of Giving listing on Page 42 for opportunities to help.

COMMENTARY

Making bargains often an ill-fated endeavor

I've been playing a little game with fate lately.

I'll accept that I couldn't be with my mom when she took her last breath because I had the chance to say goodbye to her the day before.

I'll accept that Dan's cold prevented us from having an outdoor prayer service for her, as long as he doesn't have COVID-19.

Guess what? He does.

We were convinced he didn't. After all, I had the same cold — with the very same symptoms — the week before and I had tested negative.

He received an email with his test results late Nov. 9. He didn't even have to say anything. One look at his face and I knew.

We had talked about what we would do if one of us got COVID and had agreed we would all stay together. Isolating didn't seem to make sense.

Then we read the instructions from the CDC on how quarantining works. The 14-day period starts 10 days after the infected individual experienced the first

symptoms. If Dan isolated, Ainsley and I could cut a full week off our quarantine. So upstairs to the bedroom he went.

It's been an interesting week and a half. Dan has been well enough to continue working. I'm stationed with my laptop in the dining room and getting used to hearing our wood floors squeak as he paces back and forth, his favorite thing to do while on the phone. Ainsley has been engaged (I use that term loosely) in remote learning from the family room.

I know there are families who must quarantine in much tighter quarters, and I should be thankful we all have space in which to comfortably work. But at times I wish we had an office above the garage, where I would be less accessible for questions about when a clarinet lesson takes place or requests for mid-afternoon snacks.

I am grateful that I have a job I



Pamela Lannom

can do fairly easily from home and co-workers willing to help make this time more tolerable for me. Last week they put me on speaker phone during the Thursday morning envelope stuffing session (for out-of-town subscribers) so we could chat about the latest episode of "This is Us" and share our theories on how Maddie's

obstetrician and his daughter are going to be relevant to the story line.

Shortly after the call ended, Ainsley walked into the dining room to ask me whom I had been talking to. I told her I was on speaker phone with the office for our Thursday morning "This is Us" recap. She responded with an epic eye roll before leaving the room.

I've tried to appreciate the humor in moments like that. Other times I've felt all this is just too daunting, especially with the emotional roller coaster

I've been on lately.

But I can get through it, I've reasoned in my little bargaining game, so we can have our neighbor over for Thanksgiving dinner and head up to Saugatuck Friday for our annual Thanksgiving weekend getaway.

Well, the neighbor politely bowed out after hearing about Dan's positive test, even though our quarantine will be over.

And with Gov. Pritzker's announcement Tuesday that we all should stay home, we're seriously questioning our trip. (Although we might drive up, stay in the house all weekend and then drive home, just to have a change of scenery.)

I think fate is sending me a message. The odds are not in my favor. Acceptance is just that — acceptance — and not part of a bargain. I'll have time to ponder that more — if we can just get up to Michigan next weekend.

— Pamela Lannom is editor of *The Hinsdalean*.

Readers can email her at plannom@thehinsdalean.com.

OPINION

GUEST COMMENTARY

The chocolate pie that saved the day

The happy frenzy of the holiday cooking season is coming. It would seem that Thanksgiving is all about the traditional turkey, but in our house I know better. Everything I make is just a lead-in to arguably the best part of our holiday meal — pie!



Amy McCauley

Every year I make multiple pies for just four people, because choosing one pie is far too difficult. It's a delicious dilemma because there are so many wonderful possibilities.

Last year, our usual holiday plans were suddenly upended. A pre-Thanksgiving windstorm knocked over a tree near our house, which caused the electricity to go out for the day. I had just begun the marathon of holiday cooking when it happened. Thankfully, I had started making dessert first. I had just begun baking a chocolate pie when the oven turned off. Nervously, I crossed my fingers and hoped the remaining heat would be enough for it to bake. I resisted the temptation to open the oven door until it had finally cooled. Bravely I took a look. The pie had cooked perfectly!

As the hours passed, we rushed to get the turkey and groceries outside into ice chests, but Thanksgiving in my mind was saved. We were together. We had much to be grateful for and there would still be homemade pie.

Sometimes a slice of pie and a good laugh are all you really need to celebrate. So, here it is — the chocolate pie that saved the day.

Chocolate Fudge Pie

Ingredients:

- 1 unbaked 9-inch pie dough crust
- 6 tablespoons unsweetened cocoa powder
- 6 tablespoons flour

- 1 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 1/2 cups sugar
- 3 eggs
- 1 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 3/4 cup butter, melted
- 2 ounces good quality milk or dark chocolate (I like Scharffenberger or Ghirardelli)

Preheat the oven to

350°F.

First, line a 9-inch pie pan with the prepared pie crust and crimp the edges.

Next, prepare the chocolate filling. In a large bowl, mix together the cocoa powder, flour, cinnamon and sugar. Then whisk in eggs and vanilla and melted butter.

Pour the chocolate filling into the pie crust. Use a separated or rubber spatula to even out the filling. The filling will not come all the way up to the top of the pie plate, because it will rise as it bakes.

Bake for 30 to 35 minutes. When done, the pie will have a brownie-like top with a creamy fudge center.

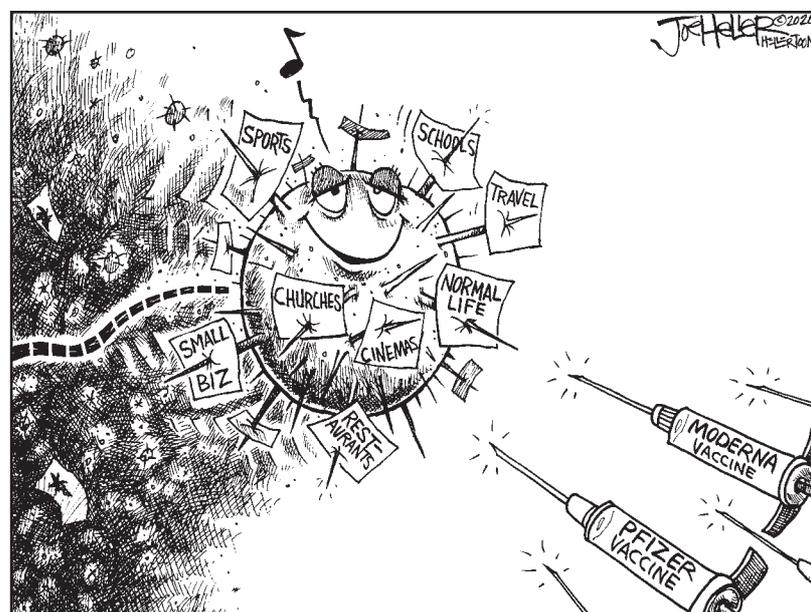
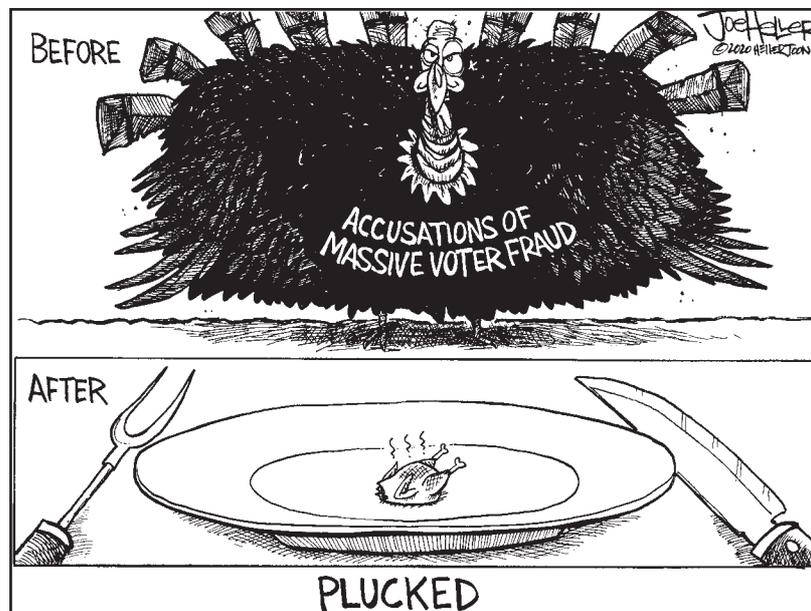
After the pie has cooled, you can add a festive crisscrossed chocolate design on top. Melt the baking chocolate in the microwave for 30 seconds stir and then heat it for an additional 20 to 30 seconds until it is just melted through. Put the melted chocolate in a disposable pastry bag and cut off the tip to make a small hole. Make a zigzag pattern going one direction, then turn pie at an angle and make another set of zigzag marks going the opposite direction.

This pie tastes especially delicious with a scoop of vanilla ice cream and a drizzle of caramel sauce.

— Amy McCauley of Hinsdale is a contributing columnist.

Readers can email her at 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
- 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

POLICE BEAT

Hinsdale police released the following reports Nov. 18.

Felony weapons arrest

Dominique Shaquille Richards, 26, 172 Tecumseh Drive, Bolingbrook, was arrested on felony counts of unlawful possession of weapons by a convicted felony, aggravated unlawful use of a weapon/no FOID and aggravated unlawful use of a weapon/loaded weapon/no FOID along with misdemeanor counts of driving with a suspended license, disobeying a traffic control device and operating an uninsured motor vehicle at 2:45 a.m. Nov. 9 at Madison Street and Glendale Avenue. Richards was stopped for disobeying a traffic sign and police found a loaded handgun under a front passenger seat. He was charged and taken to DuPage County Jail.

DUI arrests

• Abdul Rahman Aduib, 30, 9130 S. Thomas Ave., Bridgeview, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a blood-alcohol content higher than .08, speeding, improper lane use and operating an uninsured motor vehicle at 11:54 p.m. Nov. 10 at Route 83 and 55th Street. He was charged and released to appear in court.

• Eddie Brandon Chau, 39, 45 E. 23rd St., Chicago, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, speeding and operating an uninsured motor vehicle at 1:08 a.m. Nov. 14 at 55th Street and Route 83. He was charged and released to appear in court.

Audi stolen, recovered

A 2018 Audi Q5 was stolen from a parking lot in the 100 block of South Vine Street while she was unloading items at 2:04 p.m. Nov. 15. She looked outside and saw a black man, about 20 years old with black hair, wearing a black mask covering his face, a red/white/black hooded sweatshirt and black pants, drive away in her car. Her \$750 purse, drivers license, credit cards, \$90, winter jacket and key fob were inside the vehicle. Chicago police recovered the vehicle at 12:52 p.m. Nov. 16 in the 3600 block of West Fifth Avenue.

Aggravated battery at hospital

A patient fought with and punched three security officers at 11:47 p.m. Nov. 16 while they were performing their duties at Amita Adventist Medical Center Hinsdale, 120 N. Oak St.

False unemployment claims filed

Twenty-one residents reported someone had filed an unemployment claim using their personal information between Nov. 10 and 17.

Identity theft reported

A resident of ManorCare, 600 W. Ogden Ave., reported that someone made an unauthorized \$500 ATM withdrawal on her debit card at 2 p.m. Nov. 11. The theft was reported Nov. 13.

Credit card fraud

A customer at Firestone, 150 E. Ogden Ave., used a fraudulent credit card to pay for \$441.65 worth of services on March 31. The credit card company contacted Firestone April 23 and said the transaction was fraudulent. The incident was reported Nov. 10.

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 to provide us with documentation. Information will be updated online and in the next issue of the paper.



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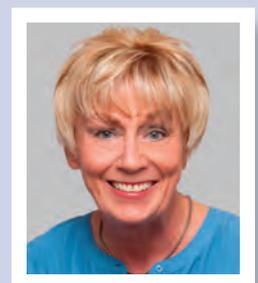
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OBITUARIES

Kathleen Breuss

Kathleen Breuss, a former 34-year Hinsdale resident, passed away Nov. 8, 2020, in Downers Grove with her family by her side.

Kathleen, was born in Chicago in 1935, to Henry and Margaret Weinberger. On April 14, 1956, she married the love of her life, Ralph Breuss, at St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church in Hinsdale.

She was preceded in death by her sister, Marian (the late Richard) Zahora.

She is survived by her children, Laura (Bob) Brown, Debra (the late Joe) Pomeroy, Gerald (Kathleen) Breuss and Diane Flynn; her grandchildren, Aaron (Kate) Brown, Sara Brown, Patrick Brown, Kyle (Katie) Pomeroy, Jenna

(Clint) Anderson, Connor Pomeroy, Jenna Breuss, Matthew (Crystal) Flynn and Daniel Flynn; her great-grandchildren, Lennon, Baylor, Renley, Haylee, Lane, and Miles; and her siblings, John (Nancy) Weinberger and Barbara (Lance) Demeter.

A funeral Mass was said Nov. 11 at St. Isaac Jogues Catholic Church in Hinsdale.

Interment was at Clarendon Hills Cemetery in Darien.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the National Shrine of St. Therese, 8501 Bailey Rd, Darien, IL 60561.

Brian Powell Funeral Directors of Hinsdale handled the arrangements.

Mary Ann Fiala

Mary Ann Fiala passed away Nov. 8, 2020, in Barrington.

She was born in 1932 in Chicago to Mary and George Cervenka.

Mary Ann was a young bride of 19 when she married Robert Fiala. They were married for over 55 years and Robert preceded her in death in 2007. Mary Ann was an avid golfer, reader and loved to cook, play cards and spend time with family and friends. She adored her Labrador canine companions, Quincy and Rody. She relished her grandbabies (who called her Nina), nature, birds, animals, Lost Land Lake and a good brandy old fashioned — “press.”

Mary Ann and Bob lived in Hinsdale and Oak Brook and also enjoyed vacation residences in Perdido Key, Fla., and on Lost Land Lake in Hayward, Wis.

Mary Ann lived the past 10 years at Lake Barrington Woods and was fondly known as “the life of the party”. Her smile, sense of humor and charming wit made her a delight to be around. She will be dearly missed.

Mary Ann is survived by her children, Steven (Karen) Fiala, Susan Fiala, and Carol Fiala; her grandchildren, Jill (Brandon) Scott, Robert (Kristin) Fiala, Jennifer Schwendener, Elizabeth Schwendener, Brandon O'Donnell and Lydia O'Donnell; and her four great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made online to The Humane Society of the United States at <https://www.humanesociety.org>, or The Quiet Lakes Improvement Association, PO Box 214, Hayward, WI 54843.

Sullivan Funeral Home in Hinsdale handled the arrangements.

Lois Holmes

Lois Geiger Holmes of Winston-Salem, N.C., formerly of Hinsdale, died Nov. 11, 2020, at the home of her son, Robert.

Lois, 88, was born in 1931 in Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

She and her husband, Bill, loved living in Hinsdale, and raised their four children there. She was a member of Union Church and sang in the choir for many years.

In 1975 the family moved to Lubbock, Texas, and later to Peoria, where her husband headed departments of internal medicine. When Dr.

Holmes was offered the position of chairman of medicine at University of California San Francisco at Fresno, he and Lois drove to California and made their home there for the next 22 years.

Lois was preceded in death by her husband, Albert William; and her daughter, Nancy, who passed away at age 23.

She is survived by her sons, William and Robert; her daughter, Elizabeth; and six grandchildren.

Online condolences may be made at <https://www.twincitycremations.com>.

Jacquelyn Kingsfield

Jacquelyn “Jackie” Kingsfield, nee Rapp, 80, a longtime resident of Hinsdale and Willowbrook, passed peacefully at Amita Hinsdale Hospital on Nov. 10, 2020, after a mighty fight against the COVID-19 virus.

Jackie was born and raised in Hinsdale where her family owned Rapp's Bakery in the 1940s and 50s. She graduated from Hinsdale High School in 1958 and then Fairleigh Dickinson College, earning a degree in dental hygiene. She dedicated much of her life to the family business Black Horse Golf Club in Westmont (1962-90), now Green Meadows Golf Club. After selling the golf course, she ventured into a catering business and eventually returned to her career as a dental hygienist, which she continued until just recently.

Jackie loved fiercely and unconditionally and possessed a courageous and resilient passion for life. She loved spontaneous adventures, playing the piano, baking, hosting family dinners, book

club and most of all being a cherished mom and grandma “Mimi.” Her influence on others, as she led by example, is far reaching and will live on for years. “Walk with purpose,” her motto, will be forever embedded in the mindset of her children, grandchildren and all who knew and loved her.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Warren “Jim” Kingsfield.

She is survived by her children, William, James (Heather) and Jill (Deomara Velez); her daughter-in-law, Dodi; her grandchildren, Cassidy, Madeleine, Phoebe, Clare, Winnifred, Olivia, Jasmine, Owen, Joshua and Noah.

Due to COVID-19 concerns, a celebration of life will be planned at a future date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Amita Health Adventist St. Thomas Hospice, P.O. Box 130, Hinsdale, IL 60522-0130, or online at

<https://www.amitahealth.org/patient-resources/giving/make-a-gift/make-a-gift-amita-health-adventist-st-thomas-hospice>.



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ASK AN EXPERT

ERIK NEIDY, DIRECTOR OF NATURAL RESOURCES

How do controlled burns help Mother Nature?

To some, the days leading up to Thanksgiving are for hunting. For others, it's a time to prepare for the holidays ahead. For Erik Neidy, director of natural resources for the DuPage County Forest Preserve District, it's burn season.

"There's really about a 10-window in the fall and a 10-day window in the spring," Neidy said. That's when conditions tend to be right for a slow, controlled burn of forest preserve land."

The ideal time for a fall burn comes when the leaves have fallen but before they're frozen or become covered in snow. In spring, burns need to happen after the ground is thawed, but before things begin to grow and turn green. Timing also is important for the protection of wildlife.

"This time of year, animals that can't get away are dormant. They've already taken a winter hiding place," Neidy said.

Most importantly, the wind must be just right for a safe burn

to take place, Neidy said.

"We get complaints that we choose the nice days to burn," Neidy said. But the weather that draws people outside is also conducive to the best, safest controlled burns. Residences and businesses near burn sites are notified that a burn is scheduled to take place when conditions allow, and signs are placed in the area the day of the burn. Those with health conditions that require them to leave the area or stay indoors during a burn can request additional notifications, Neidy said.

Prescribed burns were once Mother Nature's way of replenishing the land, Neidy said.

"Prairies and forests used to burn regularly and were essential to the American landscape before the land was developed with homes and farms," he said.

DuPage County has been using controlled fires to maintain and restore its properties since the 1990s.

"We are bringing fire back to safely recreate what nature once did on its own," Neidy said.

Fire is the most effective way to rid an area of invasive species

such as honeysuckle, buckthorn and red canary grass, Neidy said. Left unchecked, these plants can take over, making it difficult for native plants to grow.

Burns lead to a better food supply for wildlife, a reduction in stormwater runoff and more places for more creatures to live.

"It changes the whole ecosystem," Neidy said.

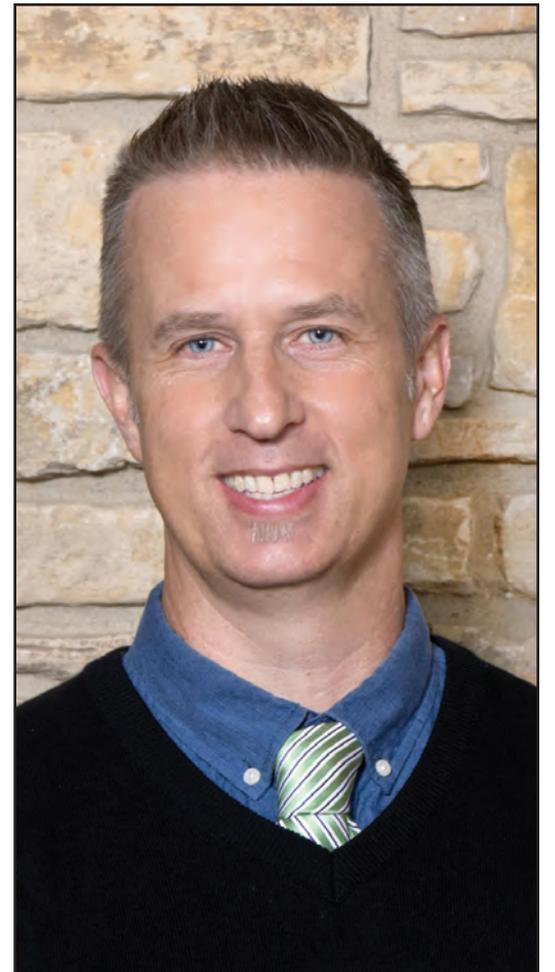
The DuPage County Forest Preserve District aims to burn about 5,000 of its 26,000 acres each year. On the schedule for this year are areas of Waterfall Glen near Darien, Fullersburg Woods and Mayslake in Oak Brook.

Burns are carried out by trained forest district staff, who remain on site until the fire is complete.

Neidy, who lives in Indiana, joined the DuPage County Forest Preserve District in 2001. Growing up in western Illinois, he spent lots of time exploring the outdoors and enjoying nature, which led him to earn a bachelor's degree in zoology followed by a master's degree in restoration ecology.

"Ending up here at the forest preserve is exactly what I wanted to do," Neidy said.

— by Sandy Illian Bosch



Director of Natural Resources Erik Neidy said forest district staff who conduct controlled burns spend three days in training. Becoming a burn boss, like Neidy, takes multiple years of experience and training. (photo provided)



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IN FOCUS

It was a great day to stuff the truck



It didn't take very long for the Hinsdale Central students from the National Honor Society and the Business Professionals of America to fill a truck from the People's Resource Center in Westmont with donations of food and paper products. Central students Mateo Lopez and Alonso Guerrero move a bin with PRC's Ron Niemer. Grace Cole and Ava O'Hea bring their donations to the event. (Jim Slonoff photos)



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Get in the spirit to give

Giving Tuesday invites paying it forward after shopping's done

By Ken Knutson

kknutson@thehinsdalean.com

Dec. 1 is Giving Tuesday, and now is the time to start considering service organizations to which you want to extend extra support this year.

Giving Tuesday is global generosity movement that, birthed in 2012, is still relatively young. But the idea is not new: be generous out of the generosity you have experienced. The day encourages people to do good and to think of the good possible if hundreds of millions of people around the world can be inspired to give generously.

So after those Black Friday and Cyber Monday sprees, find an organization (or several) whose mission you can get behind and help them feel supported on Giving Tuesday. Here are a few Hinsdale-based candidates to get you thinking.

- Hinsdale Humane Society Executive Director Tom Van Winkle said the agency is endeavoring to raise \$10,000 by Giving Tuesday to provide its homeless animals with the food, vaccinations, care and supplies needed until they find a new home.

Van Winkle said when the pandemic hit in the spring, the demand for animals shot up as people sought new home companions. The quarantine, however, virtually shut down the supply.

"We really saw a decrease in the number of animals coming to us," he said, noting that trend has reversed in recent months.

Overall the humane society had completed more than 1,400 adoptions through October compared to 1,220 for all of 2019, he reported. Because adoption fees don't cover the money invested in the animal, such high activity is a double-edged sword.

"Mission-wise, we're very happy. But it's also more processing involved, and we can't charge market prices," Van Winkle related, noting the medical services available at the 2-year-old Pet Rescue & Resource Center. "We actually lose money on each adoption."

The budget for cleaning supplies has ballooned as rooms have to be scrubbed between each adoption visit. Van Winkle said Giving



Hinsdale Humane Society volunteer Mary Jane Laws strokes tabby Lulu while fellow volunteer Eileen Zaba plays with resident Cherry on Monday at the society's Pet Rescue & Resource Center. (Jim Slonoff photos)

Tuesday is a way to communicate to people that every little bit helps.

"We know that people may not have as much to give," he said. "We also want people to understand that when we're asking, we're asking for the animals in our care."

To make a donation, visit <https://www.hinsdalehumane.org>.

- For Giving Tuesday, the Hinsdale Historical Society is hoping the 35th anniversary of the Hinsdale History Museum will inspire people to contribute \$35 to help preserve village treasures.

Kristen Laakso, president of the historical society's board of trustees, said this year's campaign is especially critical.

"Our annual appeal is more important than ever because we had to cancel our main fundraiser, The Kitchen Walk, in the spring," she said. "That's a major financial challenge for us."

Laakso said the historical society incurs regular maintenance costs for the museum as well as for the other two historical society properties, Immanuel Hall and the R. Harold Zook Home and Studio. The organization has two paid staff and has also been investing in digital resources like walking tour apps and in-classroom programming for teachers to expand access to and understanding of Hinsdale's heritage.

"Hinsdaleans love Hinsdale, and the more you can tell them about

why it's special, the more motivated they are to support you," Laakso said. "The historical society helps create a sense of belonging."

To make a donation, visit <https://www.hinsdalehistory.org>.

- Amy Wickstrom, executive director of HCS Services, said the week of March 8, before the pandemic, her organization's two food pantries served 144 people. Two weeks ago they served 386.

"There's so much need in the community. We all know that's true," Wickstrom said. "We are just being inundated by the need that's in the community."

With the expectation that those numbers will come down post-pandemic, scaling the entire organization doesn't seem prudent, Wickstrom said. But Giving Tuesday donations will help sustain its current operating budget.

"The money that we raise is going to either the people who help move the food or it's going to obtain food," she stressed,

Giving Tuesday also prompts Wickstrom to think of the "unpaid heroes" who give their time selflessly.

"It's a recognition of the people that are here with us who don't have to be," she said of the food pantry volunteers.

She acknowledged those volunteers have stepped up to meet the increased need in amazing ways, and she hopes more will contribute

by making a donation or holding their own neighborhood food drive.

"Just take a piece of paper and write 'Food drive' on it and put in on a box on your front yard," she said.

Wickstrom many of their clients this year have been newcomers.

"There's a lot of having to be humble and accept help. They've needed to rely on a pantry," she remarked, noting the great extent of job loss. "This is a collective experience that we find ourselves in."

To make a donation, visit <https://www.hcsfamilyservices.org>.

- For the Infant Welfare Society Hinsdale Auxiliary, Giving Tuesday is the tail end of its annual coat drive, according to sponsorship chair Lisa Haines.

"We collect new coats or gently used coats for families and kids," she said. "There is a very significant need this year."

The coats can be dropped off at a partnering CD OnePrice Cleaners branch, including locations in Countryside, Darien and Downers Grove.

"They will clean the coats and help us get them down to (our Chicago) center," she said.

Those purchasing new coats can have them sent directly to Infant Welfare Society of Chicago, 3600 W. Fullerton Ave., Chicago 60647 Attn: Maria Penland.

To make a donation, visit <https://hinsdaleiws.com>.



Spend a half hour learning about farming in the 1890s during a barnyard tour at Kline Creek Farm. The program runs through Nov. 23. See Page 24 for details. (photo courtesy of the DuPage County Forest Preserve District)

ARTFULLY DONE

■ Cookies and Canvas

Nov. 21
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St., Hinsdale
(630) 323-7500
<https://www.thecommunityhouse.org>

This class for kids age 6 1/2 and up and their parents will feature paints and sweets. Participants work with all kinds of painting approaches and take their work home. Time: 1 to 2:30 p.m. Cost: \$25. RR, MD

■ Virtual Graphic Design

Nov. 30-Dec. 4
(630) 789-7090
<https://www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr>

KidzToPros Graphic Design Camp introduces students ages 9-11 to the basic principles of design, including lines, shapes, fonts, color, contrast, spacing, alignment and balance. Students will learn to create their own business cards, flyers, posters, cards, animations and more. Participants must have

Windows or MacOS laptop/desktop and Free Krita software; a mouse is recommended. Time: 3 to 4 p.m. Cost: \$89.

■ Hinsdale Art Display

Dec. 1-31
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
(630) 986-1976
<https://www.hinsdalelibrary.info>

The Hinsdale Public Library invites young Hinsdale artists to submit an original piece of artwork or a copy to be displayed in the Youth Services Department. Submissions will be accepted in person or via email at youth@hinsdalelibrary.info. Artwork will not be returned.

FAMILY FUN

■ Corn Harvest

Weekends through Nov. 22
Kline Creek Farm
1N600 County Farm Road,
West Chicago
<https://www.dupageforest.org>

Please turn to Page 24



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Practical tips for contending with discomfort

How is everyone doing?
This has officially been The Year of Discomfort. We've collectively experienced uncomfortable circumstances and events, lived our lives in uncomfortable ways and had uncomfortable conversations about uncomfortable topics.

As if 2020 hasn't provided enough opportunities for unease, the holiday season is now upon us. The holidays will look and feel different for most. What we thought would be a sprint has become a marathon, and the distress in our lives seems to be ongoing.

Contending with a certain amount of discomfort in our lives is to be expected. This year, however, we've experienced a high dose of uncertainty coupled with our personal sense of safety and security being altered. So, exactly what can we do with all this discomfort?

- Take pause.

Sometimes our body needs grounding before we can attend to our mind. Existing in a continuously stressful state creates physical tension in our bodies. Corny as it

may sound, five to 10 deep breaths actually helps re-set your central nervous system. Breathe in for 5 counts, hold for 5, exhale for 5. Repeat as necessary.

- Identify obstacles to well-being.

Often they're related to imbalance in our lives, something we've experienced in multitudes lately. Compile a list of things that challenge your well-being and those that enhance it.

- Shift your relationship with discomfort.

Fluctuating between overreaction and immobilization is easy when circumstances feel out of our control and life feels imbalanced. Discomfort typically arises from how we think, which affects our ability to regulate emotions and change behaviors.

Now, more than ever, it's important to focus on things we can control. We have the ability to shift how we are impacted by circumstances that aren't in our control by adjust-



Alisa Messana

On mental health

ing how we think about and react to them.

- Take action.

If you find you're spending too much time on the minutia, temporarily shift your focus to the non-negative aspects of the bigger picture and vice versa. Set a boundary where needed. Let go of something. Dedicate less negative energy to one thing taking up too much emotional space. Attend to something you've been avoiding. Pace and space things differently. Laugh. We must laugh. Go back to the list of things that enhance your well-being, and try to incorporate one into your day.

Consider when chunking your time could help. Chunking time is the concept of breaking your day up into larger chunks instead of reacting to constant interruptions. It's an alternative to multitasking and thought to be more efficient because it involves less start up time as you constantly switch between tasks. Parents working from home with a

remote learning child could schedule check in times in lieu of interruptions occurring throughout the day.

Remember, change can sometimes require more than one attempt or several small steps vs. one big step.

- Get support if needed.

Remaining present with feelings, though uncomfortable, is a strength while getting "stuck" in them can exacerbate discomfort. If you find you're stuck in negative patterns of behavior or relying on unhealthy coping skills more often than not to deal with discomfort, give yourself permission to seek professional help. There's little to lose in doing so, while not getting help when needed can be detrimental to you and others in your life.

Stay tuned, fellow Hinsdaleans — on Dec. 3 I will delve further into why it can be difficult to shift your relationship with discomfort and make lasting changes.

— Alisa Messana of Hinsdale is a licensed clinical social worker and a mental health consultant.

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The advertisement features a collage of images showcasing various jewelry and accessories from the Alexandra Collections. The items include a cream-colored knit beanie, a purple suede bag, a gold chain necklace, a gold box labeled 'FRASIER', a woman wearing a plaid scarf, gold hoop earrings, a woman in a sequined jacket, a hand holding a glass with 'FESTIVE ALE' written on it, a gold chain bracelet, and a silver quilted tote bag.



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PULSE

Continued from Page 20

org
(630) 876-5900

Experience life as a field hand as while helping to harvest this year's corn crop by hand alongside historic horse-drawn equipment. Learn about the importance of corn to farmers in the 1890s and today. This fall's harvest will feed Kline Creek Farm's livestock throughout the year, and provide the seed for next spring's planting. The program is for ages 2 and older; those under 18 must with an adult. Participants must wear masks that cover the nose and mouth. Time: 10 a.m., 11 a.m., 1:30 p.m. or 2:30 p.m. Cost: \$5 per person. RR

■ The Progressive Farm: A Barnyard Tour

Through Nov. 23
Kline Creek Farm
1N600 County Farm Road,
West Chicago
<https://www.dupageforest.org>
(630) 876-5900

Enjoy a 30-minute personal barnyard tour provided by a heritage interpreter in 1890s period costume. Explore the connections between farming at the end of the 19th century and today, looking closely at the buildings, implements and animals at Kline Creek Farm. All ages are welcome; kids must be accompanied by an adult. Participants must wear masks that cover the nose and mouth. Tours are held on a first-come first-served basis with a limit of 10 people per tour. Tour times: 10:30 a.m., 1:30 p.m. and 3:30 p.m. Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays.

FOR A CAUSE

■ Red, White and Blues fundraiser

Ongoing
<https://www.redwhiteand-blues.org>

Due to the pandemic, this fundraiser for Operation Support Our Troops-America is online this year, and active-duty military and their families need assistance. Donate to help them continue serving and know they are not forgotten. The live event will return in October 2021.

GREAT OUTDOORS

■ What Good Is Dead Wood?

Nov. 21
Sagawau Environmental Learning Center
12545 W. 111th St.,
Lemont
(630) 257-2045

<https://www.fpdcc.com>
Dead trees and fallen logs are part of the woodland. Hike with a naturalist to see what is thriving after a tree dies. Participants are required to wear masks and practice physical distancing. Time: 1 p.m. RR

■ Winter is Coming! Walk

Nov. 25
Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center
9800 Willow Springs Road,
Willow Springs
(708) 839-6897
<https://www.fpdcc.com>

Learn how local plants and animals are preparing for winter. All ages are welcome. Participants should dress for the weather and all must wear masks and practice physical distancing. Time: 11 a.m. RR

HEALTH & WELLNESS

■ Healthy Eating for Prostate Cancer

Nov. 24
<https://www.wellness-house.org>

Wellness House presents this program designed specifically for those diagnosed with prostate cancer to share the most recent research about diet and prostate cancer, including safe foods and foods to limit. Time: 3 to 4:30 p.m. RR

■ Cancer Nutrition 101

Tuesdays, Dec. 1-22
<https://www.wellness-house.org>

Dietitian Angela Dennison will lead this four-week, step-by-step program to build a cancer-fighting diet. Each week will be a building block of information to establish habit changes while focusing on a plant-based diet. This series is for cancer survivors who want to improve their eating habits and don't know where to begin. Time: 3 to 4 p.m. RR

■ Managing Behaviors when a Parent or Child has Cancer

Dec. 1
<https://www.wellness->

Please turn to Page 26

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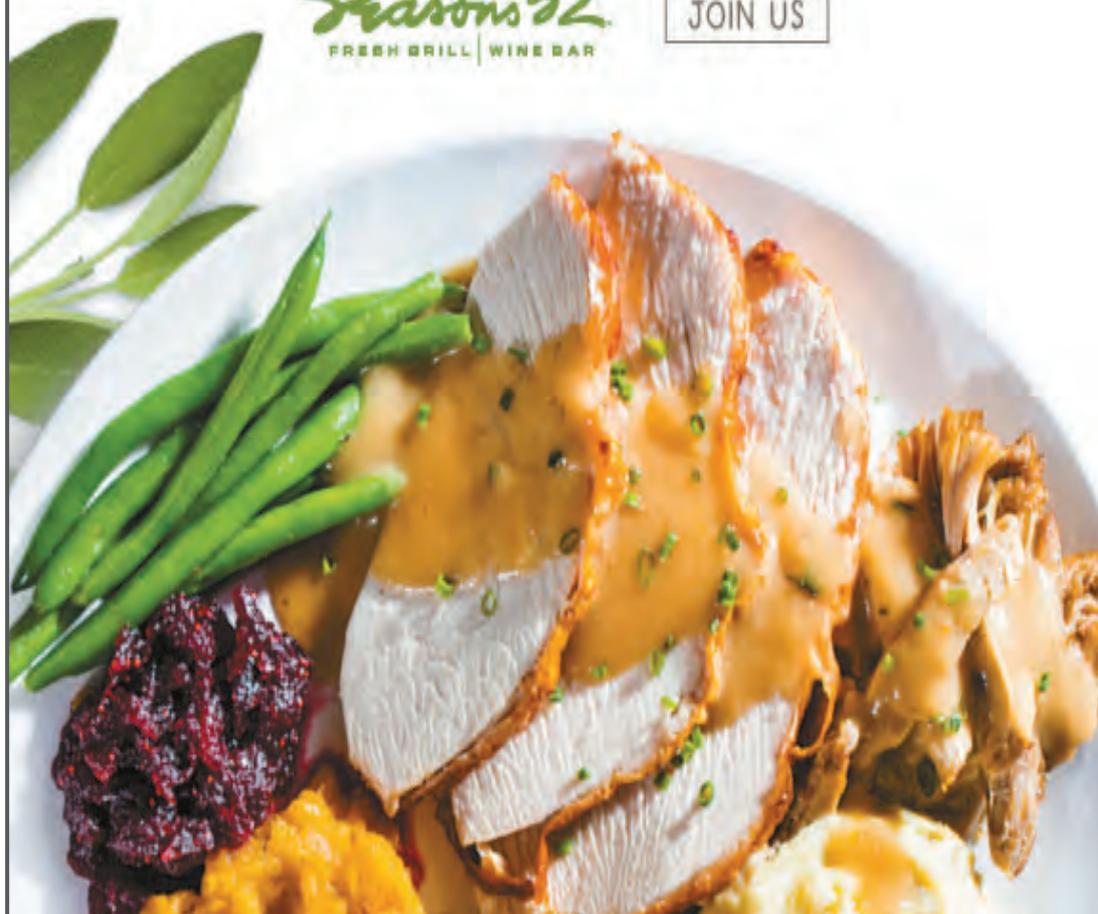
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Continued from Page 24

house.org

Gina Danehl, oncology child and family specialist at Wellness House, will share tips for parents and grandparents for managing behaviors when a family member has cancer and other ways to support a child through a crisis. Time: 6 to 7:30 p.m. RR

■ Using Humor to Cope With Cancer

Dec. 3
<https://www.wellness-house.org>

Olivia Clarke, founder and president of Humor Beats Cancer, and other cancer survivors will talk about how they have used the power of humor as a coping and community-building tool, both personally and professionally. Learn ways to build comedy into one's life. Time: 7 to 8:30 p.m. RR

JUST FOR KIDS

■ Acting Out!

Nov. 19

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

This Stage Door Fine Arts workshop for kids in grades three through 12 will benefit actors of all experience levels with a focus on topics including monologues, voice and diction, characterization, physical acting and musical theater dance. Time: 4 to 5:30 p.m. for grades three through seven, 6 to 7:30 p.m. for grades eight through 12. Cost: \$50. RR, MD

■ Children's Walking Tour

Nov. 21
 (630) 789-2600
<https://www.hinsdalehistory.org>

Join the Hinsdale Historical Society on a children's walking tour highlighting the architecture and interesting details that make the village of Hinsdale unique. The tour will last about 30 minutes and is geared toward children ages 8-12. Attendance is capped at 10 people (includ-

ing adults). Social distancing and masks required. Meeting location to be announced. Time: 11 a.m. Cost: \$5. RR

■ Thanksgiving Break Camp
 Nov 23-25

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

This camp for ages 5-14 will feature fun games and holiday crafts as well as a field trip on Nov. 25; lunch will be provided. Location is subject to change based on current health guidelines. Sign up for a day or all three. Extended hours are available from 3:30 to 6 p.m. for an additional fee. Time: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost: \$70 per day, \$185 for all three days. RR, MD

■ Virtual Active Kids

Nov. 30-Dec. 4
 (630) 789-7090
<https://www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr>

Kids ages 5-9 will do a variety of fitness routines designed to improve strength,

balance and flexibility while having fun. The online session will focus on Superhero-themed movements, exercises and games. Participants must have an open, safe space in front of a webcam to move around and exercise. Time: 3 to 4 p.m. Cost: \$69. RR

NOTEWORTHY

■ Music Night — Thankful

Nov. 19
<https://www.hinsdale.church>

The music staff of The Union Church of Hinsdale presents "Thankful," a night of gratitude through song. Join Stephen Edwards, Gina Graffagna, Nik Eden, Tierra Whetstone, Elizabeth Jung and Stephen Uhl as they offer music of Thanksgiving. Watch live via Zoom or the church's Facebook page. Time: 7 p.m.

■ Pianists Karol Sue Reddington & Marcia Lehe

Nov. 20
<https://www.atthemac.org/>

music-fridays-noon

College of DuPage music faculty members Karol Sue Reddington and Marcia Lehe will perform Manuel Infante's "Danses Andalouses" for two pianos as part of the Music Fridays @Noon livestream series. Concerts are about an hour and stream for free. Find the link on the website listed above. Questions? Contact Lee Kesselman at kesselma@cod.edu. Time: noon.

■ Friction Farm

Nov. 21
<http://www.acousticren.com>

Aidan Quinn and Christine Stay form this modern-folk husband and wife team of internationally traveling troubadours, combine storytelling, social commentary and humor to create songs of everyday life, local heroes and quirky observations. They perform via livestream as part of the Acoustic Renaissance Concert series

Please turn to Page 28

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PULSE

Continued from Page 26

usually held at the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale. Time: 7:15 p.m. Tickets: \$12.

■ Mostly Mozart

Nov. 22-Dec. 6
<http://www.elmhurstsymphony.org/web/events.aspx>

Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra musicians will be joined by acclaimed pianist Ran Dank in performing Mozart's elegant Piano Concert No. 14 in E-flat Major through an innovative use of video technology in this virtual on-demand concert. Also featured on the program is a work by Samuel Coleridge-Taylor, an imaginative composer of delightful and expressive music. Those purchasing tickets will receive a link to the program viewing screen. Tickets: \$28 for adults, \$25 for seniors.

■ DuPage Community Jazz Ensemble

Dec. 3
<https://www.atthemac.org>

Under the direction of Matt Shevitz, this livestream concert will showcase the ensemble's repertoire spanning more than a century of large jazz ensemble compositions, including original work from ensemble members. The group frequently performs at the Elmhurst College Jazz Festival and has performed at the Jazz Showcase in Chicago. Registrants will receive an email with the link to access the concert online. Time: 7:30 p.m. Cost: \$7 per household.

■ College of DuPage's Chamber Orchestra

Dec. 8
<https://www.atthemac.org>

The Chamber Orchestra, under the direction of Philip Bauman, will perform this livestream concert. The ensemble, consisting of student and community members, performs traditional literatures for small orchestra/chamber music from the 1600s through the 21st century as well as less traditional chamber orchestra styles such as jazz, contemporary classical, theater and film music. Registrants will receive an email with the link to access the concert online. Time: 7:30 p.m. Cost: \$7 per household.

■ Amy Speace

Dec. 12
<http://www.acousticren.com>

A modern folksinger whose music nods to the genre's 1970s glory days, Amy Speace has spent two decades chronicling the high marks, heartbreaks and hard roads of a life logged on the road. She will perform via livestream as part of the Acoustic Renaissance Concert series usually held at the Unitarian Church of Hinsdale. Time: 7:15 p.m. Tickets: \$12.

ON STAGE

■ Dennis Watkins: The Magic Parlour at Home

Fridays & Saturdays through Nov. 28
<https://www.atthemac.org/events/dennis-watkins>

Dennis Watkins has created an all-new interactive virtual magic show that will be delivered right to living room screen. The 75-minute show is aimed at ages 10 and up, and viewers should bring their own deck of cards. Time: 8 p.m. Tickets: \$65 per household.

■ 'Couples'

Ongoing (708) 246-3380
<https://www.theatrewesternsprings.com>

The Theatre of Western Springs presents this new quarantine comedy by Sean Grennan ("The Tin Woman," "Making God Laugh") which was specifically written to be performed on Zoom. This one-hour play follows Dr. Sharon Mercer as she holds two virtual group marriage counseling sessions. Tickets are available at another time by visiting the website listed above. Cost: \$10.

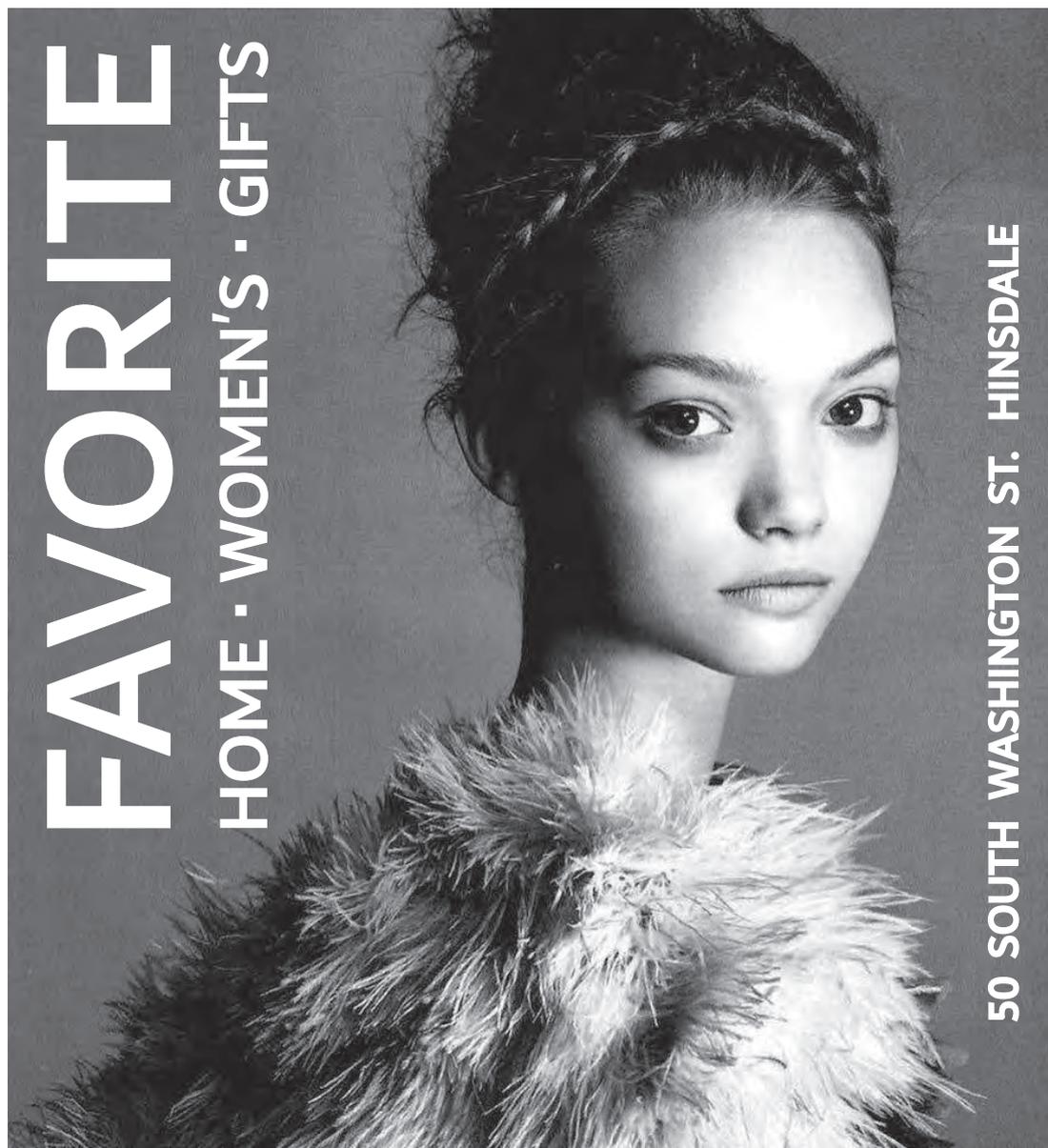
SIGN UP NOW

■ Tech Lab Tuesday

Nov. 24
<https://www.hinsdalelibrary.info>

Members of the Hinsdale Public Library's Adult Services team will be on hand in this Zoom session to answer questions about phones, tablets, computers and software packages. Include an email address when registering to receive

Please turn to Page 30



Have A Delicious, Healthy Holiday Season!

This has been a challenging year for everyone. To help you celebrate safely, we're encouraging our customers to place pre-paid phone orders or on line orders, so pickup is fast and easy. Just call us with a credit card, 630-887-4700, or go to "Shop On Line" on our web site, www.burhopsseafood.com.

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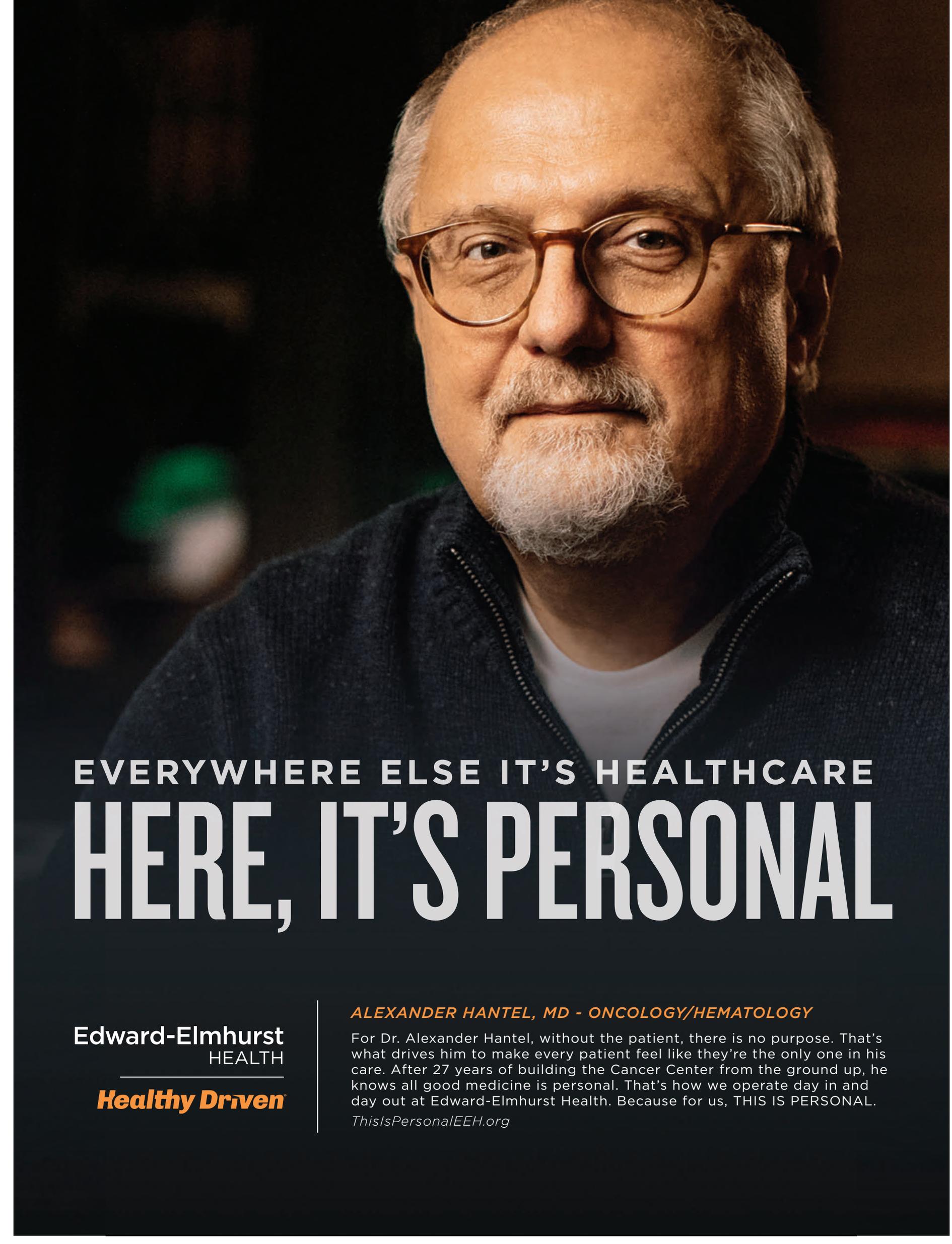
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 We will be CLOSED on 12/25 and 1/1/21



A close-up portrait of Dr. Alexander Hantel, a middle-aged man with glasses and a goatee, wearing a dark blue zip-up jacket over a white t-shirt. The background is dark and out of focus.

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ThisIsPersonalEEH.org

PULSE

Continued from Page 28

the online meeting invitation.
Hours: 4 to 6 p.m. RR

■ A Conversation with author Susan O'Byrne

Dec. 1
<https://www.hinsdalelibrary.info>

Join this virtual interview with Hinsdale's Susan O'Byrne, whose newest novel, "Kansas, She Said," came out in August. Its publication follows her popular "Coffee Spoons and Other Stories" short story collection. Include an email address when registering to receive information about the online meeting. Time: 7 to 8:30 p.m.

■ Literary Gardens

Dec. 4
(630) 719-2468
<https://www.mortonarb.org/courses/literary-gardens-online>

Join master gardener and natural history writer Cindy Crosby in this online program looking at great (and not-so-great) gardens in literature and poetry. Discover how gardens and garden imagery figure in the works of Virginia Woolf, Elizabeth Goudge, Rumer Godden, May Sarton, Mary Oliver, Elizabeth Gilbert, Henry Mitchell, Barbara Kingsolver, Lewis Carroll and many more. Time: 1 to 2:30 p.m. Cost: \$23. RR, MD

SPECIAL EVENTS

■ Virtual Dessert With History

Dec. 10
<https://www.cantigny.org>
All ages are invited to mark the remembrance of Pearl Harbor Day with a livestream presentation by Kirby Larson, author of youth books about World War II including "The Spirit of Aloha," the "Dogs of World War II" series and the Newberry Honor Book "Hattie Big Sky." Larson will speak about her experience as a writer, historical events that shaped her novels and the resilience of the characters. While listening, make the special WWII dessert uncooked chocolate pie (recipe available online). Time: 5 to 6:15 p.m. RR

TEENS & TWEENS

Please turn to Page 34



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100 GLENDALE AVE | HINSDALE
\$1,397,000



122 MAUMELL ST | HINSDALE
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305 KENMARE DR | BURR RIDGE
\$839,000



132 BRIARWOOD AVE | OAK BROOK
\$589,000



3605 MADISON ST | OAK BROOK
\$1,399,000

Pet pic of the week

Emory is a beautiful tabby cat who is looking for her forever home, with kids of all ages. She's a sweet 1-year-old girl whose adoption fee is \$75. The Hinsdale Humane Society Tuthill Family Pet Rescue & Resource Center is currently closed to the public, but anyone who is interested in adopting a pet can fill out an online application at <https://www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org> and then call (630) 323-5630 for an interview. Temporary adoption hours are noon to 6 p.m. Tuesday through Friday and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. (photo provided)



Continued from Page 30

■ American Red Cross Babysitters Certification

Nov. 23
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St., Hinsdale
(630) 323-7500
<https://www.thecommunityhouse.org>

Kids ages 11-16 can get the knowledge, skill and confidence needed to care for infants and school-age children. This training will help participants develop skills in leadership and professionalism, safety and safe play and first aid through video, activities, hands-on skills training and discussion. Participants should bring a sack lunch.
Time: 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Cost: \$100. RR, MD

WEE ONES

■ Nature Tots

Dec. 4 & 21
Lake View Nature Center
17W063 Hodges Road,
Oakbrook Terrace
(630) 789-7090
[https://www.villageofhins-](https://www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr)

[dale.org/pr](https://www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr)

Toddlers ages 1 1/2-3 with an adult will explore the wonders of nature through "loose parts" play while learning teamwork and sharing skills. There will be outside play each class. Time: 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Cost: \$10 per class.

■ Budding Naturalists

Dec. 18
Lake View Nature Center
17W063 Hodges Road,
Oakbrook Terrace
(630) 789-7090
[https://www.villageofhins-](https://www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr)

Kids age 4-6 can take a closer look at nature and local wildlife through sketching, hiking, collecting, open play and more. This is a drop-off program and children should be dressed for the outdoors (weather permitting).
Time: 12:30 to 2:30 p.m. Cost: \$19. RR

Key

*RR - registration required
MD - member discount*

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HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

■ Shop Hinsdale for the Holidays

Ongoing
<https://villageofhinsdale.org>

To encourage people to shop locally, a secret Santa will surprise shoppers in Hinsdale stores with a \$25 gift card valid at any Hinsdale retailer, spa or restaurant.

■ Hinsdale Holiday Trees Ornament making & contest

Through Nov. 25
 Village Hall
 19 E. Chicago Ave.
 (630) 789-7090
<https://villageofhinsdale.org>

Help decorate the Hinsdale holiday trees in Burlington Park by making a homemade ornament and entering it in the contest to win a prize. Ornaments should be made of weatherproof material and should not have sharp edges, pointy ends or heavy materials. A 10- to 12-inch string or twine should be attached for hanging. Submissions should not contain content that promotes foul language or discrimination or is deemed graphic, obscene or explicit. Ornaments should be delivered with the entry form, which is available online, to village hall between 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. weekdays. The contest deadline is Nov. 25; other ornaments will be accepted through Dec. 7. Winners will be announced Dec. 7.

■ Illumination: Tree Lights

Nov. 20-Jan. 3
 Morton Arboretum
 4100 Route 53, Lisle
<https://www.mortonarb.org/illumination>

The arboretum's annual holiday event has been reimagined as driving experience featuring new displays and returning favorites. Guests will remain in their cars and tune to a synced musical soundtrack via radio while driving nearly two miles, beginning with passage through a new tunnel of lights. Timed tickets must be purchased in advance; they will not be sold on-site during the event. Times: 5 to 10 p.m. Sundays through Thursdays; 5 to 11 p.m. Fridays & Saturdays; open all holidays. Tickets: \$39-\$49 per vehicle. RR, MD

■ 'A Christmas Carol'

Nov. 27-29

<https://www.atthemac.org>
 (630) 942-3008

This adaptation of the Charles Dickens classic was written specifically for students at the College of DuPage and performed for the first time in 2004. The 2020 production is being filmed and presented on Zoom. This 70-minute version of a heartwarming classic Christmas story is perfect for all ages. There will be

post-show discussions on Zoom with members of the production team Nov. 27 and with the director and actors Nov. 28. Performances: 7 p.m. Nov. 27, 3 and 7 p.m. Nov. 28 and 29. Tickets: \$16 per household.

■ Holiday Magic

Nov 27-Dec. 31
 Brookfield Zoo
 3400 31st St.

Please turn to Page 38

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- Warren Buffett, chairman and CEO, Berkshire Hathaway Inc.



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HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Continued from Page 36

(630) 688-8400

<https://www.czs.org>

Brookfield Zoo is offering an expanded schedule for its 39th annual Holiday Magic, with 10 evenings added and expanded hours to allow zoogoers to enjoy the holiday lights before the zoo temporarily closes to the public Jan. 1-Feb. 28, with plans to reopen on March 1, within state restrictions. Visitors will enjoy more than 1 million twinkling LED lights, a 600-foot-long tunnel featuring lights synchronized to music, a 41-foot tree and more. Families can take a photo next to a cut-out of Santa Claus and enjoy seasonal outdoor food stands selling funnel cakes, cinnamon sugar pretzels, pizza, burgers, spiced wine, hot chocolate, beer and more. Tickets must be reserved online. Times: 3 to 9 p.m. Fridays to Sundays, Nov. 27-29, Wednesdays to Sundays, Dec. 2-20, and Saturday to Thursday, Dec 26-31. Admission: \$24.95 for adults, \$17.95 for ages 3-11, \$19.95 for seniors 65 and older plus \$15 parking. RR, MD

■ Holiday Movies and Music: A Virtual Celebration

Dec. 1

<https://clarendonhillslibrary.org>

(630) 323-8188

Take a virtual journey back over the past century of film history as the Clarendon Hills Library presents "Holiday Movies and Music." Presenter John LeGear showcases some of the happiest and most memorable holiday moments from classic and popular films. The presentation will include songs — including a couple of sing-alongs — dances and magical movie scenes from some of the most warmly embraced holiday films of all time. Time: 7 p.m.

■ Photos with Santa Paws

Dec. 2 & 5

Pet Rescue and Resource Center

21 Salt Creek Lane, Hinsdale

<https://www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org/events/santa-paws>

(630) 323-5630

Hinsdale Humane Society will take family photos with

Santa and family friendly pet(s) in a safe, socially distanced environment, complete with holiday vendors, reindeer food for the kids and more. Masks will be required at all times but can be removed during photos. (Santa will be socially distanced from your family). Pictures will be available for download after the event. Register and choose a time slot on the website listed above. Times: 4 to 8 p.m. Dec. 2, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Dec. 5. Registration: \$20 per family.

■ Womens' Life: A Special Christmas Gathering

Dec. 3

The Village Church
4475 Wolf Rd., Western Springs

<https://www.wsbc.info/womenslife>

Join in on this morning filled with beautiful Christmas music, festive decorations and a heartwarming Christmas message to celebrate the beginning of the season. Childcare (nursery to kindergarten) and remote learning stations (kindergarten to fifth grade) provided. All IDPH and CDC guidelines will be adhered to. Time: 9:30 a.m. RR

■ Celebrate the Season

Dec. 5

Cantigny Park
1SS151 Winfield Road, Wheaton

(630) 668-5161

<https://www.cantigny.org>

Families and children of all ages are invited to the park, which will be decorated for the holidays. An assortment of activities and offerings are planned to kick off the season in style. Visitors are encouraged to bring a new, unwrapped toy for the Marine Toys for Tots drop boxes inside the visitors center. Time: 1 to 7 p.m. Admission: \$5 parking; free with toy donation.

■ Holidays at the Museum

Dec. 5, 12 & 19

Hinsdale History Museum
15 S. Clay St.

<https://www.hinsdalehistory.org>

The museum will be decorated and dressed up for the holidays. Celebrate the joy of the season and learn what Victorian Christmas tradi-

Please turn to Page 40



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The key to a successful broker is their ability to keep the owners committed to the plan. Jack gave us comfort to believe in his process and always stay the course. Jack provided a calm and steady execution of his marketing initiatives and seamlessly adjusted for any guidelines that were in place due to a global pandemic. Jack was early to recognize the strong buyer demand coming from the city, and his relationships with city brokers were critical in creating demand for our suburban home.

Jack created a sense of urgency on the buying side, which drove up contract pricing and terms. He listened to all parties and was quick to understand the key deal points on each side. This truly allowed him to bring together a win-win transaction. Jack continued to efficiently manage all parties - buyers, sellers, attorneys, appraisal, lenders - to make sure the contract process never slowed.

Jack has drive, insights and capabilities well beyond his age. He never stops working until your home sale closes - and beyond. He has a true understanding of the suburban market and how to highlight a home within it to maximize price and overall experience. **Without reservation, we highly recommend Jack!**

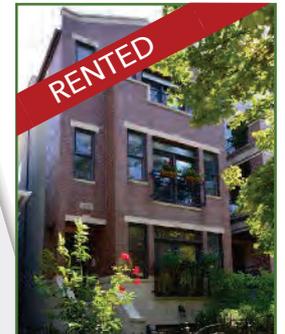
Kirsten & Dave Cunningham
Previous Owners of 400 W. Hickory, Hinsdale



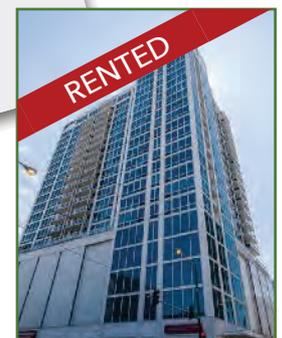
816 W. Hubbard, #5 | Chicago



330 N. Jefferson, #907 | Chicago



821 W. Wrightwood, #1 | Chicago



757 N. Orleans, #1711 | Chicago



400 W. Hickory | Hinsdale



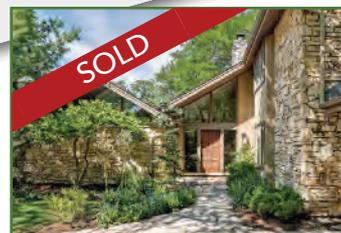
414 N. Quincy | Hinsdale



9021 Royal Drive | Burr Ridge



1602 Burr Ridge Club | Burr Ridge



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HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Continued from Page 38

tions entailed with scheduled tours for groups of up to six people on these Saturdays. Small groups will enjoy the private tour as well as refreshments. Reservations must be made in advance. RR

■ A Tower Chorale Virtual Christmas

Dec. 6
<https://www.towerchorale.worldsecuresystems.com>

Through the magic of technology, the Tower Chorale will sing five holiday favorites: "Bring a Torch, Jeanette Isabella," "O Holy Night," "Angels We Have Heard on High," "Still, Still, Still" and "Hope for Resolution." Visit the website listed above for the link. Time: 3 p.m. Cost: Free; donations are appreciated.

■ CarolFest

Dec. 6
<https://www.christchurch.us>

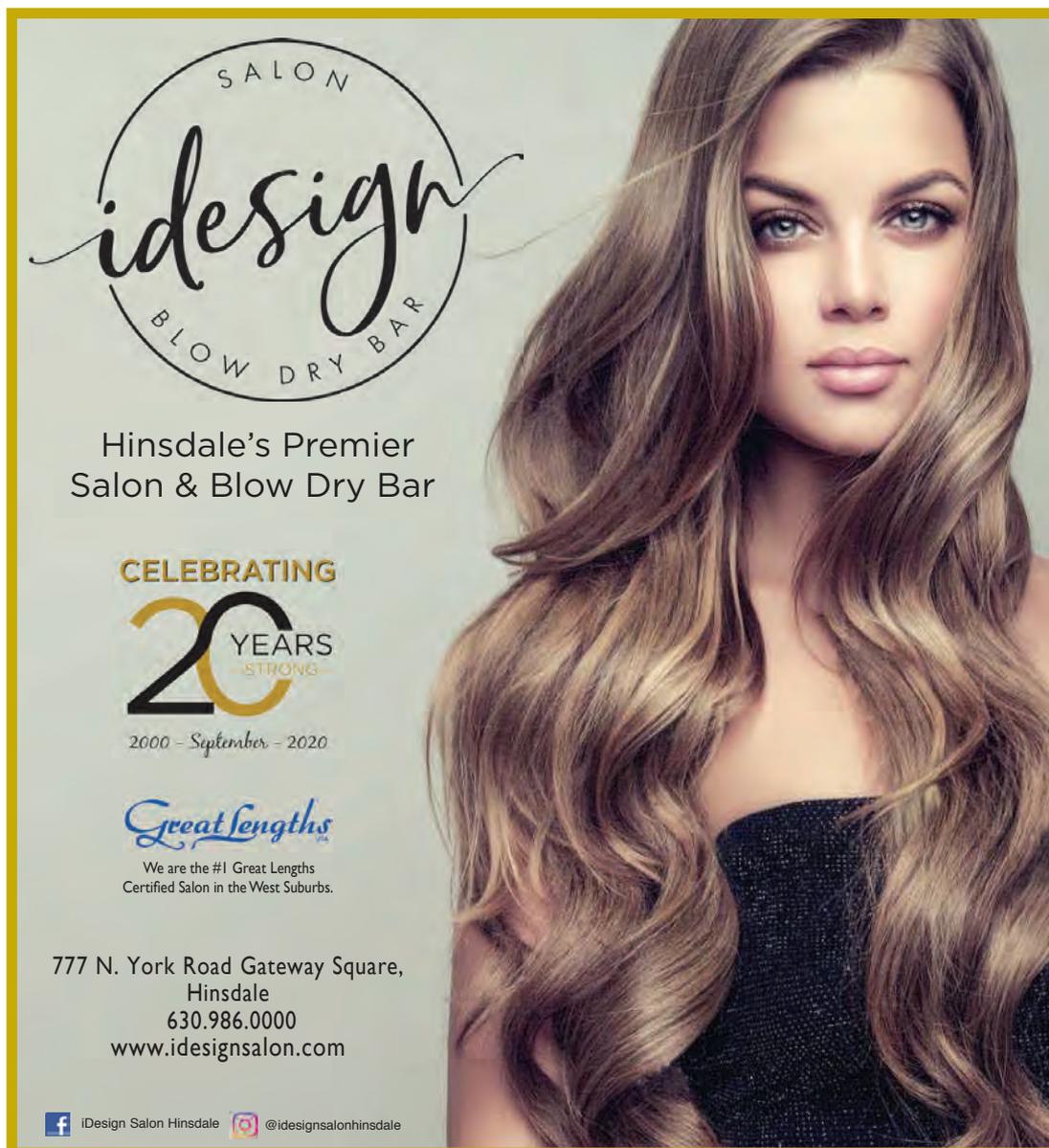
Christ Church of Oak Brook will present virtually

its annual CarolFest concert consisting of familiar carols and selections from Handel's renowned "Messiah." This year's event will feature, in part, the members of the Chancel Choir along with a very small Chamber Orchestra. Invite friends and family to tune in for this most festive occasion as part of Advent preparations. Time: 3 and 6 p.m.

■ Family Gingerbread Houses

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

Families can register and then stop by the library to pick up their very own "dream" gingerbread house kit starting Dec. 15. Limit one per Hinsdale family. Hours: 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday or 9 a.m. to noon Monday to Saturday for curbside. RR



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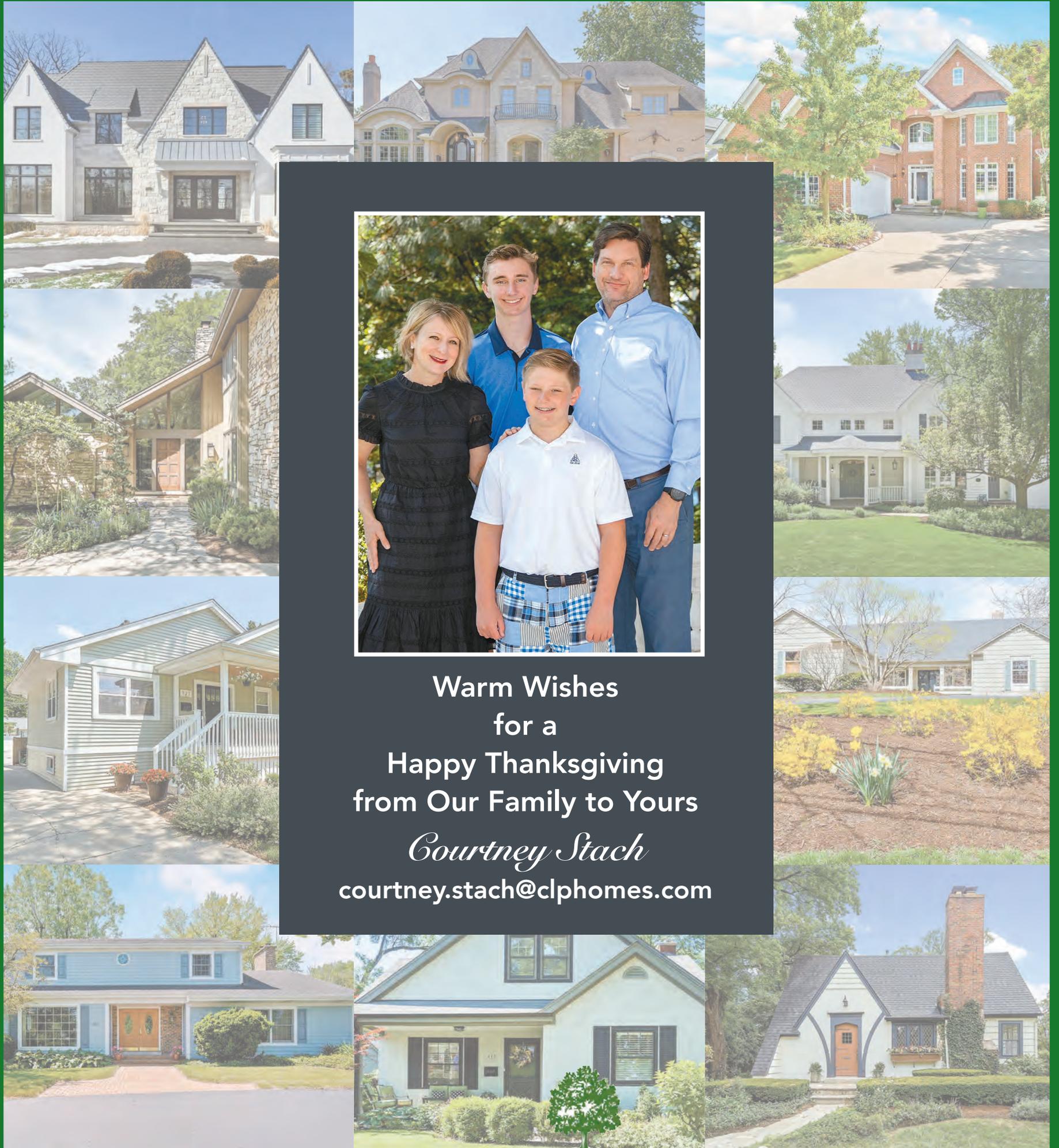
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SPIRIT OF GIVING

■ Tree of Remembrance

Nov. 22-Dec. 25
Lincoln and First streets,
Hinsdale
(630) 856-6993

Amita St. Thomas Hospice once again will decorate its Tree of Remembrance outside of BMO Harris Bank. Community members are able to make a donation and have a loved one's name listed on the boards beside the tree. Envelopes will be available

next to the tree. Questions? Call the number listed above or send an email to Rosemarie.Cohen@amitahealth.org.

■ Honor Central Teachers

Through Dec. 11
<https://www.hinsdalecentralfoundation.org>

During these unusual times, rather than an individual gift, consider making a donation to the Hinsdale Central Foundation. This can include

a teacher, coach, sponsor, counselor, or staff member. Parents also can donate in the name of their own former teachers/coaches. The honoree will receive a letter with the donor's personal message included and a special certificate to display. Donations help support programming that benefits teachers, students, and families throughout Red Devil Nation. Send an email to clambert2362@

gmail.com listing the personal to honor, his/her department or position, the amount of the donation and the personal message. Payment may be made at the website listed above or by Venmo to @HCHS-Foundation.

■ Sponsor a Homeless Animal

<https://www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org>

Animal sponsorships are a great way to support homeless

animals and a great gift idea. For a minimum sponsorship of \$50, recipients will help provide care for an animal of their choosing, receive a personalized gift sponsorship certificate and listing on the society's website, if desired. Sponsorships can be purchased online. Questions? Call Deborah Kraus at (630) 323-5630, Ext. 32, or email her at deborah.kraus@hinsdalehumanesociety.org.

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Know your neighborhood - Hinsdale Market Report:

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*Source: MRED LLC.com Data represents the average over the past 3 months. All information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Libby Melvin and James MacVicar

Elizabeth "Libby" Scott Melvin and James Sterling MacVicar were married the weekend of July 25, 2020, at Christ Church of Oak Brook and Cathedral Hall at The University Club of Chicago.

Libby is the daughter of Elizabeth Whitsell and David Lloyd Melvin of Hinsdale.

The groom is the son of Cheryl Nozicka of Battle Creek, Mich., and of Neil MacVicar of Holt, Mich.

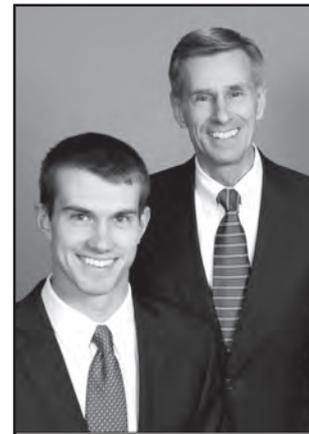
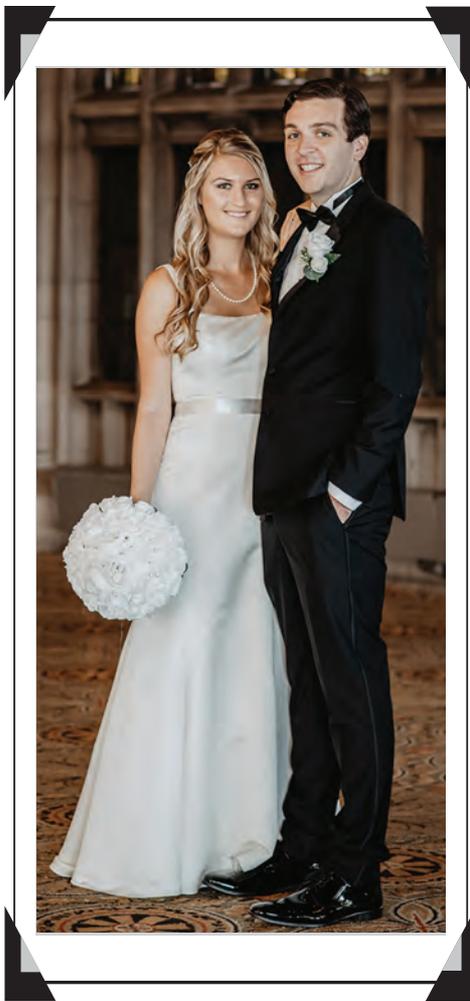
The wedding party included Mackenzie Melvin, Courtney Melvin, Kate Melvin, Caroline Shlackman, Stephanie Wisner, Jill Doherty, Elizabeth Chase, Claire VanderHart, Alex MacVicar, David Whitsell Melvin, Bo Reppin, David Rynties, Patrick Smith, Thomas Shaver, Patrick Goldin and Jon Bauer. The ceremony at both locations was officiated by The Rev. Daniel Meyer.

The reception and dinner party were held in Cathedral Hall at the University Club of Chicago.

The bride is a 2012 graduate of Hinsdale Central High School. She earned a bachelor's in communications with honors from University of Illinois in 2016. She is a country manager with the network management team at The Northern Trust Corp. in Chicago, serving as the bank's liaison to Central and South American correspondent banks.

The groom is a 2008 graduate of Lansing Christian School. He earned a bachelor's in physics with a minor in computer science from Michigan State University in 2012. He is a security architect specialist at Accenture in the firm's identity and access management organization.

The couple enjoyed a mini-moon in Anna Maria Island and is living in Lincoln Park.



Brian Powell, Sr.
Brian Powell, Jr.

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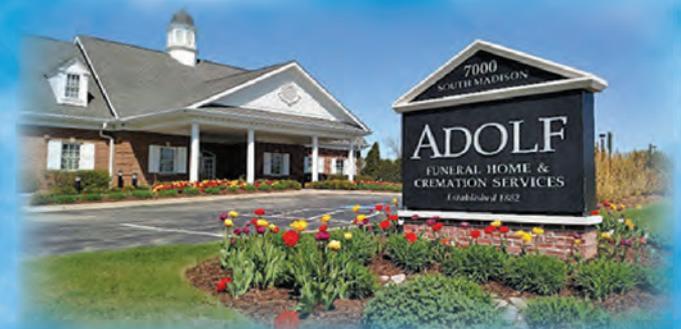
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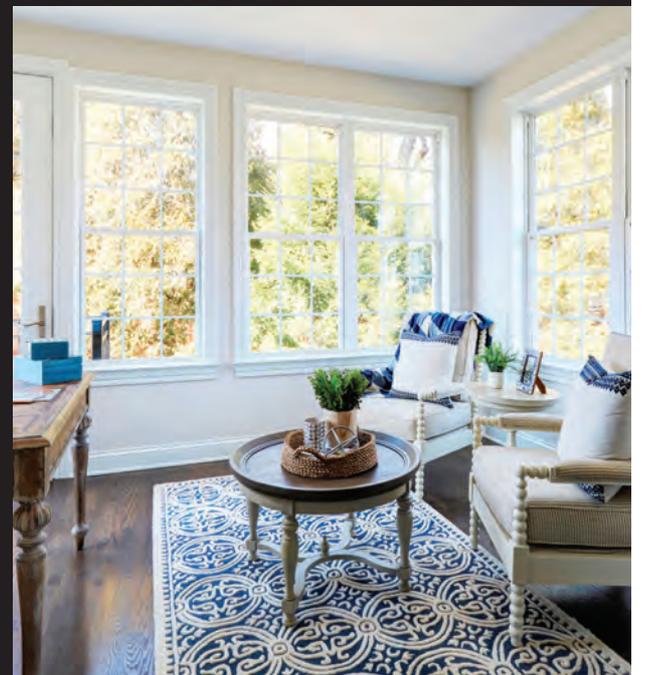
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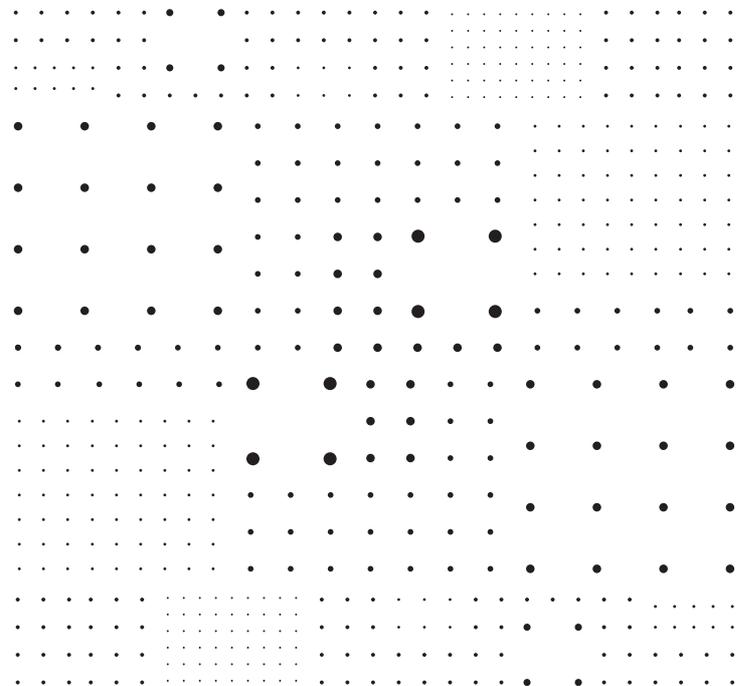


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Hinsdale

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GOOD NEWS

WELLNESS HOUSE BALL A SUCCESS

The annual Wellness House Ball Oct. 17 raised more than \$425,000 to benefit programs for people affected by cancer.

The first virtual ball was attended by more than 500 people in small gatherings hosted by donors and board and community members.

The event was chaired by Allison and Rob Knuepfer and

Kerstin and Geoff Regnery.

The livestream program included special messages and a video that shared stories of Wellness House participants.

COLLEGE BOARD HONORS STUDENTS

Six students from Hinsdale Central have been recognized by programs of the College Board.

Alonso Guerrero, Jacob Marquez, Melanie Quinones, John Rivera and Maria Rivera have been selected for the College Board's National Hispanic Recognition Program.

Moses Yawe has been selected for the College Board's National African American Recognition Program.

The students earned this honor by achieving a minimum score on the PSAT/

NMSQT and by having a cumulative GPA of 3.5 or higher by the middle of their junior year.

SCHOLASTIC BOWL TEAMS TAKE FIRST

The Hinsdale Central JV Scholastic Bowl A and B teams had a great showing at the Illinois High School Scholastic Bowl Coaches Association

Novice tournament. Both teams took first place in their respective divisions heading into the finals on Oct. 24.

Team A — Merwin D'Souza, Eric Brugge, Ben Newton, Jibran Haque and Liam Carden — went on to win the championship for its division. Team B — Akshay Undevia, Alexander Hillman, Jeffrey Liu, Alex Burt and Shahaan Shafi — finished in the top 10 in its division.

VIRTUAL: Author Event with Susan O'Byrne

December 1 at 7:00 pm

Enjoy a conversation with Hinsdale author Susan O'Byrne. Her latest novel, "Kansas, She Said," was released in August. Register at the Library, over the phone, or online.

opening doors . . .

Hinsdale Art Display

**Tuesday, December 1
Grades K-8**

Submit a copy of your artwork for display in the Library! Drop off an original or copy or send it to youth@hinsdalelibrary.info.

VIRTUAL: Holiday Tech Gift Guide

**Wednesday, December 9
7:00 pm-8:00 pm**

Find great tech gifts from kitchen gadgets to phone accessories. All price points covered. Register at the Library, over the phone, or online.



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 SOLD 713 S Grant, Hinsdale*	 SOLD 111 Hiawatha, Clarendon Hills*	 SOLD 723 Crest, Schaumburg	 RENTED 546 N Oak, Hinsdale	 RENTED 551 Phillippa, Hinsdale
 SOLD 612 Wharton, Lake Forest	 RENTED 148 Chestnut Hills #148, Burr Ridge	 SOLD 411 W Ontario #506, Chicago*	 SOLD 377 Gilbert, Wood Dale	 SOLD 940 Maple #214, Downers Grove*

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*buyer side

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Classified deadline:
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O. Henry

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Leo Buscaglia

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Located at 267 Arapahoe Trail, Carol Stream, IL. 60188 was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning the business, with their respective post office address(es), is/are as follows: Izbabela Podkanowicz, 267 Arapahoe Trail, Carol Stream, IL. 60188
IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Wheaton, Illinois, this 29th day of October, A.D. 2020.
Jean Kaczmarek
DuPage County Clerk

Published in The Hinsdalean November 12, 19 & 26, 2020

CERTIFICATE NO. 77853 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of DuPage County on October 29, 2020 wherein the business firm of **JENNIFER SCULLY, LCPC**

Located at 219 W. 55th Street, Clarendon Hills, IL. 60514 was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning the business, with their respective post office address(es), is/are as follows: Jennifer Scully, 3885 Gabrielle Lane, Unit 612, Aurora, IL. 60504

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Wheaton, Illinois, this 29th day of October, A.D. 2020.
Jean Kaczmarek
DuPage County Clerk

Published in The Hinsdalean November 5, 12 & 19, 2020

CERTIFICATE NO. 77859 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of DuPage County on November 5, 2020 wherein the business firm of **HAVAL STUDIO**

Located at 911 S. Hawthorne Avenue, Elmhurst, IL. 60126-4949 was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning the business, with their respective post office address(es), is/are as follows: Valerie Jardon, 911 S. Hawthorne Avenue, Elmhurst, IL. 60126-4949; Hannah Maletich, 620 S. Oakley Blvd, Unit 2, Chicago, IL. 60612

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Wheaton, Illinois, this 5th day of November, A.D. 2020.
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Published in The Hinsdalean November 12, 19 & 26, 2020

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The thankful receiver bears a plentiful harvest. William Blake

If you are really thankful, what do you do? You share.
W. Clement Stone

Gratitude can transform common days into thanksgivings, turn routine jobs into joy, and change ordinary opportunities into blessings.
William Arthur Ward



GIVE Thanks
WITH A
grateful Heart

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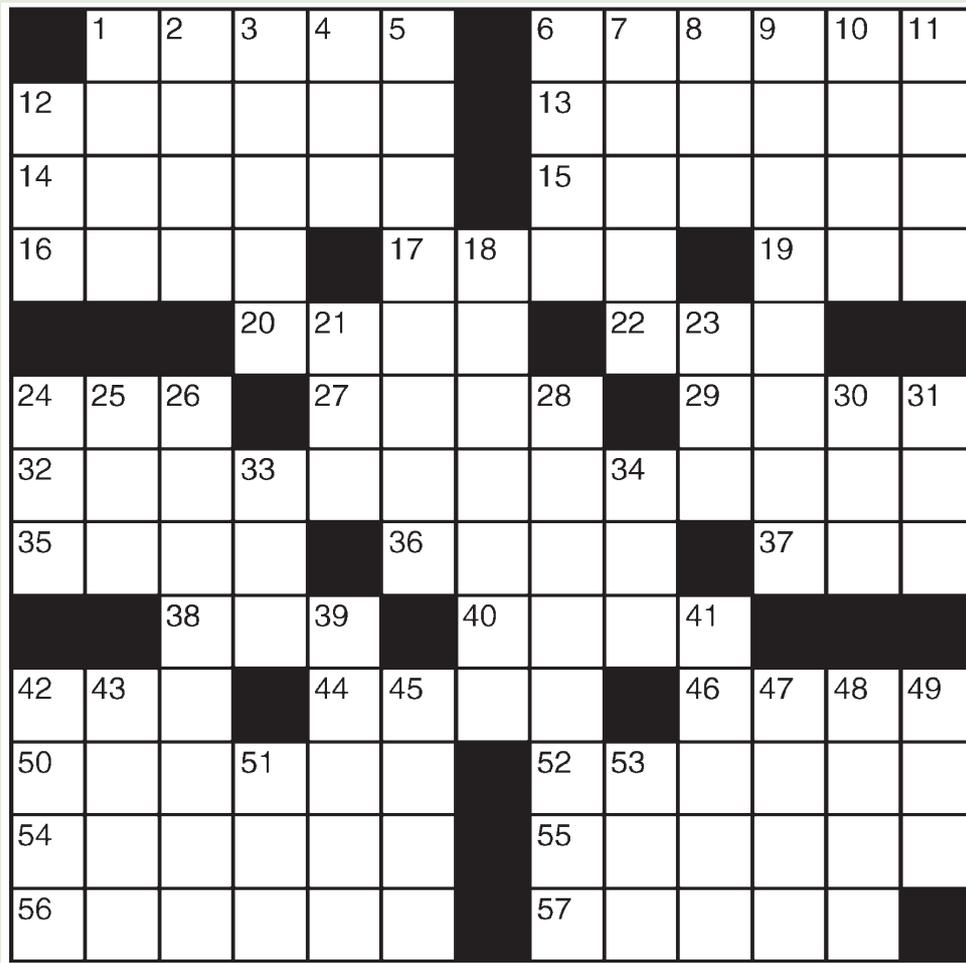
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 - 14 "ANNA CHRISTIE" PLAYWRIGHT
 - 15 COATS
 - 16 LIMA'S PLACE
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 - 22 LUMMOX
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 - 44 LEVEL
 - 46 APIECE
 - 50 BOARDROOM PROPS
 - 52 PROPHET
 - 54 HALF A STORYBOOK DUO
 - 55 "MY HEAVENS!"
 - 56 CLOTHING
 - 57 UNLIKE A ROLLING STONE?



- DOWN**
- 1 PART OF N.B. LECHEROUS LOOK
 - 2 POPPY DRUG
 - 3 LUBRICATE
 - 4 TUNES
 - 5 WRINKLY FRUIT
 - 6 CHALLENGE FOR LAUREL AND HARDY IN "THE MUSIC BOX"
 - 7 SAHARAN OBSESSION
 - 8 "SHOW BOAT" COMPOSER
 - 9 GAELIC
 - 10 DOO- -- MUSIC
 - 11 FOOL
 - 12 MAKE A CHOICE, WITH "FOR"
 - 13 "THE GREATEST" SHRINER'S CHAPEAU
 - 14 LIFE STORY, FOR SHORT
 - 15 UNKNOWING
 - 16 WAITING AREA
 - 17 PIGPEN
 - 18 NAY CANCELER
 - 19 COOP DENIZEN
 - 20 MULTITUDE
 - 21 OLD ANESTHETIC
 - 22 STARTS
 - 23 TURKISH POTENTATE
 - 24 "ANIMAL HOUSE" GROUP
 - 25 CAPRI OR WIGHT
 - 26 DOGFIGHT
 - 27 PARTICIPANTS
 - 28 23-DOWN'S OLD NAME
 - 29 THE LADY
 - 30 SIXTH LETTER AFTER
 - 31 53-DOWN
 - 32 SEE 51-DOWN

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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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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DON'T FUDGE THIS ONE! You'll enjoy the sweet taste of success if you can complete this word square. We give you the word FUDGE. Find four more 5-letter words so that all words used read the same across and down.

1. To make mention of.
2. To escape from.
3. A rich candy (given).
4. Trimmed the border.
5. A type of tall grass.

Answers: 1. Refer; 2. Elude; 3. Fudge; 4. Edged; 5. Reeds.



S	4	3	5	6	9	8	1	2	7	A
U	7	1	9	3	5	2	6	8	4	N
D	6	8	2	4	1	7	9	5	3	S
O	9	2	6	1	3	4	8	7	5	W
K	1	5	8	2	7	9	3	4	6	E
U	3	4	7	8	6	5	2	1	9	R
	5	7	3	9	2	1	4	6	8	
	2	6	4	5	8	9	7	3	1	
	8	6	1	7	3	4	2	9	5	

HOROSCOPES

November 2020 Horoscopes • Week 4



CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, you may find yourself opening up to new ideas or beliefs. Remember to take everything at face value until you have had ample time to do your research.



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
This week you will display the utmost competence and mastery at work. This could provide an opportunity for supervisors to see what you are made of, Aries.



CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, it is alright if you feel weighed down by a heavy conversation with someone. Not every interaction can be light and airy. Distract yourself if you need a mood reboot.



LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Let your imagination run a little wild and enjoy being spontaneous, Libra. You can use some time to fantasize about what the future holds.



AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, like so many people you have been spending more time at home lately. You may get back into the groove of socializing and interacting with others soon enough.



TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
The hard work you put into your education will pay dividends shortly, Taurus. You may find it will give you a leg up over others seeking to advance their careers.



LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, if you are in a relationship, it is possible that this week you will reach a particular level of intimacy that many couples aspire to. You are definitely in an intuitive space.



SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, you may seek out the advice of a role model who embodies a lifestyle that you admire. Don't hesitate to put your own spin on things if you want to do so.



PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, carve out some time to have an important conversation with a loved one about future plans. It is time to take a few serious steps.



GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, it may be time to have a conversation with your family about resources or finances. The conversation may be tedious, but it is absolutely necessary.

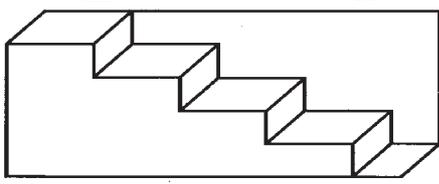


VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Family obligations leave you with little free time for rest and recreation for the next several days, Virgo. It can be sobering to give up the fun, but duty calls for a little while.



SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Your gift of gab could help you secure a raise or even a better job, Sagittarius. Demonstrate that you can fill the role well and not just talk your way through.

OPTICALS



UP OR DOWN, WE GET AROUND! Is this staircase rightside up or upside down?
Answer: Look at it long enough and you will see that it goes both ways.

SPORTS

CENTRAL ANNOUNCES STATE QUALIFIERS

The following Hinsdale Central fall sports athletes would have competed in their respective IHSA state finals, which were canceled due to COVID-19, by virtue of their IHSA sectional performances:

Boys cross country

Victor Bouret, Kyle Doorhy, Jesse Gamboa, Henning Ley, Piyush Mekla, Grant Miller, Colby Revord, Daniel Watcke

Girls cross country

Catie McCabe

Boys golf

John Cornell, Jack Inabnit, Drew McMillin, Emil Riegger, Pete Sakkos, Michael Spitzer

Girls golf

Emily Ascher, Nadia Burt, Aira Chaudhary, Julia DiTrani, Katherine Fullerton, Rei Hemmer, Libby Larson, Caroline Owens, Sarah Thornton

Girls swimming and diving

Burlingtn Bokos, Haley Dynis, Caroline Kramer, Kendall Pickering, Melanie Quinones, Kit Schneider, Kayla Teuscher, Roslyn Tischke

Girls tennis

Yasmina Eshac, Nicole Hu, Sophia Kim, Zoe Limparis, Bridget Novatney, Prachi Shah

OAK TEAM WINS WORLD SERIES

The Grasshoppers won the Hinsdale Little League World Series Oct. 22 after being undefeated in the playoffs.

The team was comprised mainly of fourth-grade boys from Oak School. In the championship game, they faced a tough team from The Lane, who had to play three straight days to get to the title game. The Grasshoppers were working on more rest, owing to their dominance through the playoffs. They put that same strong lineup on the field for the championship game.

The championship game was a back-and-forth affair. Strong pitching, timely hitting,

and good fielding kept the score close. Going to the sixth and final inning, the teams were knotted 5-5. Ben Pesoli retired the side in order in the top half of the sixth inning. A leadoff triple by Jackson Kalish in the bottom of the sixth gave the Grasshoppers a man on third with no outs. Then, with one out, a man on third and a 1-2 count, Bradley Wright protected the plate by hitting a squibber between the pitcher and first baseman. Jackson broke for home. The pitcher pounced on the ball and fired a perfect throw to the catcher. Jackson's foot beat the throw by the blink of an eye and the umpire called him safe.

The team chased Bradley and Jackson around the field in celebration before collecting their World Series Championship hats and balls.

Team members are Jamie Cannan, Logan Douglass, Parker Ernst, Michael Garber, Andy Meyer, Ben Pesoli, Brit Read, Josh Trapp and Bradley Wright of Hinsdale and Jackson Kalish and Callum Arthurs of Oak Brook.

When it comes to your to-do list, put your future first.

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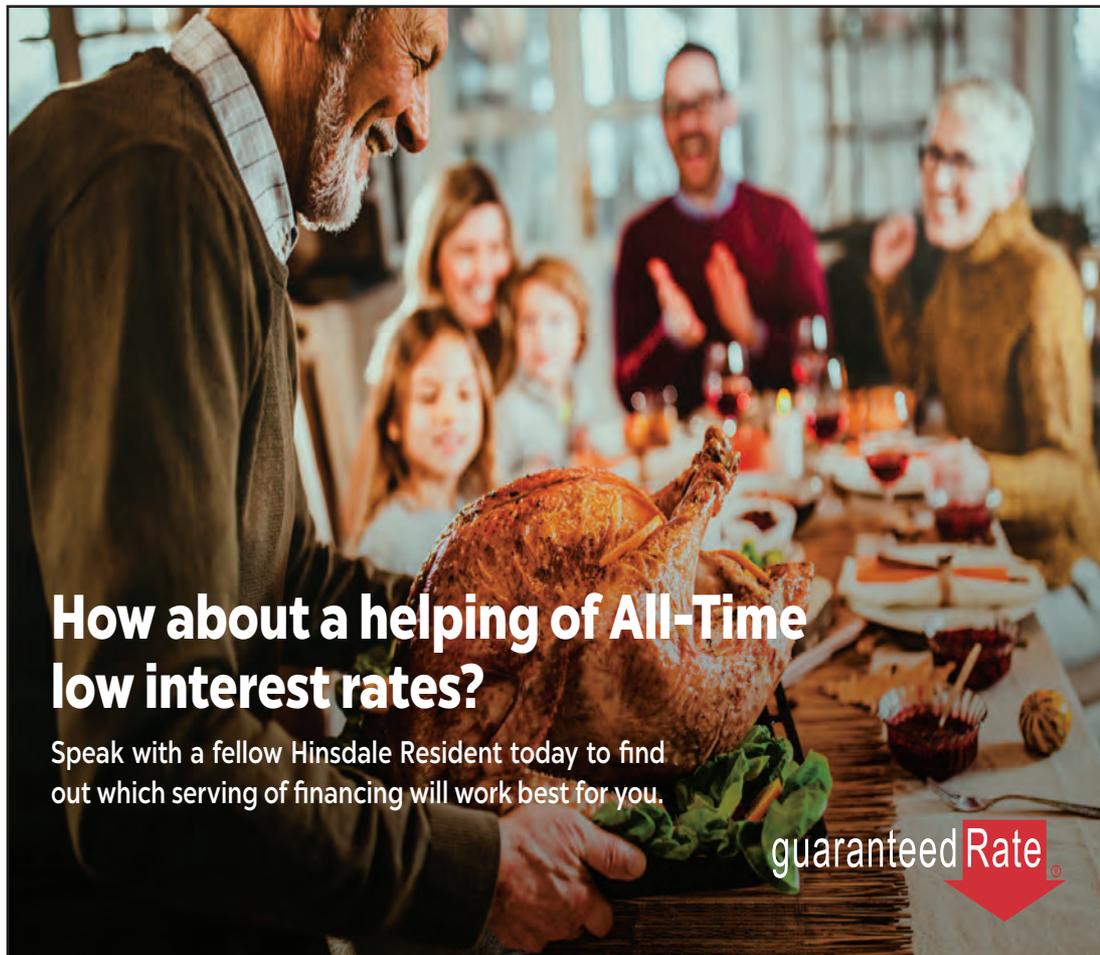
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SPORTS

COVID-19 freezes out winter sports

Governor's announcement Tuesday means high school sports are off, at least for now

By Pamela Lannom

plannom@thehinsdalean.com

Hinsdale Central girls varsity basketball coach Karen Persinger had hoped today's meeting of the Illinois High School Association Board would provide some answers on the status of high school basketball for the 2020-21 season. Late last month the Illinois Department of Public Health said athletes couldn't play; the Illinois High School Association said they could.

"It's been really hard and I think the hard part is not having an answer for the kids and not being able to give them that resolution," she said earlier this week. "That's what I wish I could give them. I hope on Thursday we get some guidance so that we know."

Instead, she got an answer Tuesday when Gov. JB Pritzker announced the state would move to Tier 3 mitigations — the most restrictive — on Friday. That means all winter sports — boys and girls basketball, boys and girls bowling, girls gymnastics and boys swimming — are on hold. Wrestling already had been moved to the new summer season.

"We remain optimistic that these new mitigations, coupled with the emergence of a vaccine, will aid in creating participation opportunities in the new year for IHSA student-athletes in winter, spring and summer sports," Craig Anderson, IHSA executive director, said in a statement released Tuesday afternoon. "The IHSA Board of Directors will meet as scheduled on Nov. 19 to continue plotting out potential paths for IHSA sport and activity participation through the remainder of the school year."

"We have asked Dep. Gov. (Jesse) Ruiz and Dr. (Ngozi) Ezike (IDPH director) to engage with us in the near future, so that we can collaborate on developing a plan to safely conduct IHSA sports and activities as soon as possible," Anderson added.

Bob Barber, who coached and girls varsity swim and diving team to great success at sectionals a few weeks ago, is unsure the boys team will have that same opportunity.

"I think the frustrating thing, having already seen it work once,



Boys swimming is one of four winter sports at Hinsdale Central that has been put on "pause" as the Illinois Department of Public Health tries to get a handle on the rising number of COVID-19 cases in the state. (file photo)

is that we've only been given two days with this next group," said Barber, who is the varsity head coach for both teams.

He was running team tryouts Tuesday when he heard the news. The new measures don't go into effect until Friday, so he will continue to conduct tryouts, which he's running at 25 percent capacity, for athletes who are comfortable attending.

"We're going to go business as usual here for the next two days and let the families make the decision as to whether they want to send them here during that time," Barber said Wednesday. "That way we can articulate what we think the pause consists of in person. I think that message is better."

Central athletic director Dan Jones said even before Pritzker's announcement Tuesday, few high schools had been willing to ignore the health department's recommendation regarding basketball.

"The vast majority of them have been given information from their insurance (carriers) and lawyers saying they should not be moving forward with basketball because they would not be covered, going against the IDPH guidelines."

"We've been given the same information as other high schools," he noted.

Jones said adding more sports

to the spring season will create scheduling nightmares.

"It's just not having enough space and hours in the day to try to get everything in," he said. "It's something that ADs around the state have been talking to the IHSA about, saying moving things isn't always a solution and pushing things down the road isn't always a solution, because it affects other sports."

He worries about the impact on athletes who compete in spring sports, who lost their season earlier this year.

"We've already canceled a spring season and it would be unfair to have anything affect their season when we know that a lot of them, under (Tier 2) guidelines, would be able to compete," Jones said.

Interest in boys and girls basketball during open gyms in September and October — before the sport was reclassified — was high.

"I think we had over 80 kids register in the fall for all three levels," boys varsity head coach Nick Latorre said. "I think the kids are anxious to play and any opportunity they are getting to play, they are playing."

Persinger said her numbers were up at the open gyms this year.

"The kids need that outlet, I guess, to get in and get that physical exercise and to do something and be part of something," she said. "I think it was really awesome for them to have that opportunity. It was precious to them to be in the gym and to be with their teammates and to be playing."

With summer camps canceled, Persinger said she enjoyed the opportunity to check in with the girls.

"To me it was just so nice to have that time with them. It had been so long," she said.

Even before Pritzker's announcement, Latorre said he wasn't sure what the right answer was.

"There is just so much unknown and so much differentiation in what is healthy, what isn't healthy," he said. "Obviously the numbers are horrible right now and the number of cases are off the charts. I honestly don't really have an opinion."

Barber said he's not sure what the "pause" ultimately will mean to the boys swim team and other athletes who compete in the winter season.

"Nobody has a return to play date," he said. "It could be early December at the earliest, it could be January or so on or it could be done."

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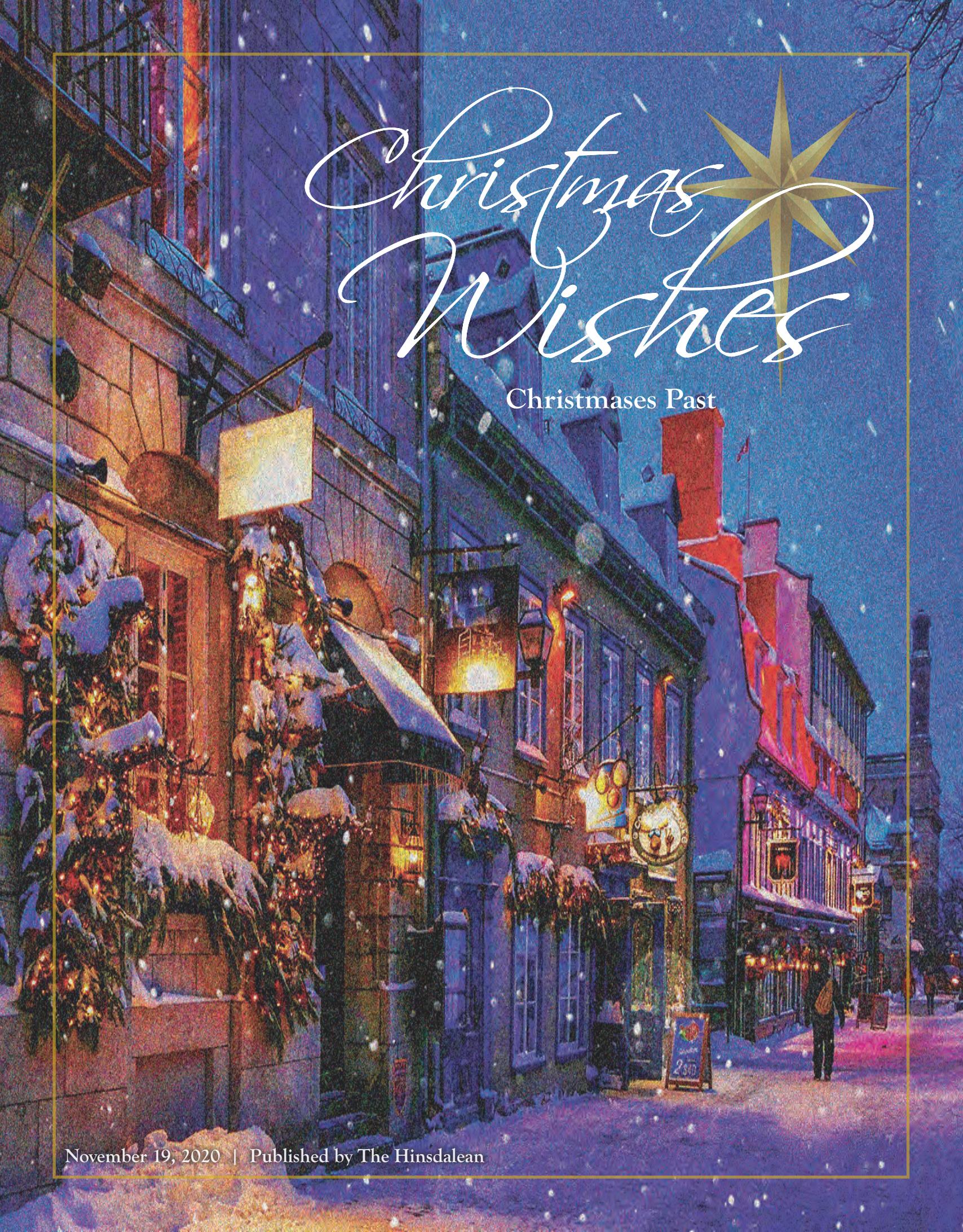
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Christmases Past

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Christmas 1964 — the year that everything changed

The year 1964 held many memorable moments. The Beatles arrived in the United States, President Lyndon Johnson escalated the U.S. presence in Vietnam, Cassius Clay became Muhammad Ali and the world heavyweight champion, and the U.S. space program continued to advance toward the eventual moon landing.

Me? Well, I was in third grade and, while I may have watched the Beatles appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show, most of these world events had little impact on my life. The thing I remember about 1964 was Christmas. Up until then, my Christmases had been pretty much the same: decorating the tree, visits to Santa, opening presents on Christmas morning,

and Christmas dinner at my grandparents' house in Newark.

But in 1964 things changed. Earlier that year we moved from New Jersey, where I had lived all eight years of my life, to Syracuse, New York. So, my parents decided we would change things up and spend that Christmas in Wisconsin with my mother's family. Now messing with Christmas is tricky business, especially when you are dealing with three little girls. To make this work, my parents had to sweeten the pot. The plan? An overnight train trip to Wisconsin. And not just any train trip, but a sleeping car with bunk beds and our own



Laura LaPlaca

private bathroom. It was our very own Polar Express, before there ever was a Polar Express!

We were thrilled. But like I said, messing with Christmas is tricky and, even though the train idea was great, we wondered, how would

Santa find us in Wisconsin?

My parents were up to the challenge. They had written to Santa, they explained, and told him we needed to have our presents delivered early, and Santa agreed. Problem solved. So, on Dec. 22, the designated delivery day, my mother took my sisters and I out for a ride and my dad worked his Santa magic. When we got home, presto,

Christmas happened. We could pick one new toy to take on the train, and the next morning we were off on our adventure.

The train was all we had expected. We each picked a bunk bed and ate dinner in the dining car, white tablecloths and all. We went to the observation car — a glass domed wonder — and looked out until the stars appeared. Then back to our car to brush our teeth in the stainless-steel sink with the funny pump faucet. We fell asleep that night to the clack, clack, clack of the train as we moved toward our Christmas destination.

And guess what? Santa heard we would be in Wisconsin for Christmas. The Polar Express and two visits from Santa — now who wouldn't remember that Christmas!



Memories of simpler times keep focus on true meaning of Christmas

My mother-in-law spent her childhood Christmases on her grandparents' farm outside Baghdad, Iraq. She once described to me her joy on Christmas morning when the children all received an orange and some sweets wrapped up and tied in a ribbon. They'd clutch their small package and cry, "Look what Jesus brought us!"

My own childhood Christmases were not quite that spartan. Still, my siblings and I each received just a couple of gifts. Instead of hanging up glitzy monogrammed stockings on the fireplace, we would hang up our actual knee socks. And those stockings would be filled with hard candy and a tangerine rather than the Starbucks gift

cards and earbuds my own children have come to expect. Simpler times.

It has become almost cliché to complain about the commercialization of Christmas. For my mother-in-law, the holiday was and still is all about the birth of the Christ child. My own parents made sure that Christmas Mass took precedence over the holiday hoopla of big dinners and opening presents. As a parent myself, I have tried to help my children keep their focus on the reason for the season with Advent candles, Nativity stories and Christmas Eve Mass. Still, it can be difficult to keep our chil-



Mary Rayis

dren's attention when glittery distractions surround them.

One of my children's favorite holiday videos was "A Joan Walsh Anglund Christmas." A compilation of poetry, art and story, it spoke to the beauty of nature and of simpler times.

The tale "The Big Doll and the Teddy Bear" told the story of two forlorn toys, neglected and forgotten on the top shelf in a toy shop. They long to be loved by a child, but the shinier, newer toys are the ones coveted by the children who visit the store. On Christmas Eve, a little boy comes into the store to buy a gift for his sister

who has been desperately ill. He chooses the doll despite her being a bit disheveled. The bear is left alone and is about to give up hope when, just at closing time, an elderly woman comes in to purchase a gift for her grandson. She picks the bear, and he is packed in a box. Unbeknownst to the excited little bear, he is being taken to the same home as his friend the doll, where they will be opened on Christmas morning, hugged, and cherished for years to come.

The story speaks to the simple joy of giving and of being loved. With the coronavirus taking us back to basics as a society, perhaps we are ready to usher in a new era of simpler times.

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Setting of first Christmas shares similarities with the world today

The topic of this issue is “Christmases Past.”

When I say “Christmas,” what comes to mind? Perhaps that one day a year you go to church and pretend to get along with the “difficult” people in your family, or the day on which “those people” celebrate their religion. Or maybe it’s the day on which you celebrate the birth of your Savior.

Regardless, the original Christmas occurred as a result of intense love, at a time when love was difficult to find; strong pro-government and anti-government opinions existed; and people were extremely divided, even among their “own people.” What has changed in 2,020 years, other than the love seems to have dissipated?

Christmas is a celebration of

the birth of Someone who showed unseen love, who was scapegoated for being different and who was eventually put to death. Today, we literally and “virtually” put people to death with our words, our posts, our ostracization and our insulation. All of us have fallen short. All of us have contributed to this situation.

What are you supposed to do? Even if I’m right, you can’t change the world, right?

Well, you can start by taking a break from “news,” and political discussion. By the time you read this, the election will be over, and, hopefully, we will have elected officials for each office.



Bill Lewis

So, pushing your views on everyone, and maligning those who don’t agree, is a waste of time and energy.

Secondly, reach out to those people whom you have hurt, don’t like, have ignored, etc. Yes, that actually requires maturity and humility, and

it’s unpleasant and difficult. So what? Have you ever been left out or hurt or maligned? Have you ever just wanted someone to care about you? Of course you have, you’re human. So, do the same for someone else.

Finally, take a good long look in the mirror. Do you really want to be a polarizing, difficult person? Or do you want to

move us forward in humanity? Telling people they are bad, are stupid, are a waste of time, etc., whether explicitly or implicitly, violates the person you are more than the person at whom you throw your hatred.

Why not make amends, and seek equal ground? Why not focus on the light, instead of the darkness? When you do, you’ll notice you have more, than less, in common with “those” people.

If we all, collectively, do that, then maybe we’ll make it to Christmas 2021, together. No, we won’t all be holding hands and singing “Kumbaya.” But maybe we will, as a race, at least celebrate the love that is Christmas, even if we don’t all celebrate the holiday itself.



I’m dreaming of a light Christmas

For me, putting up Christmas lights is akin to sticking toothpicks into my eyeballs. There are few things I loathe more than this annual ritual.

Half of the strands don’t work. They get snagged on branches. I inevitably run short by two feet. If you ever hear a barrage of profanities emanating from the southwest corner of Hinsdale, there’s a good chance it’s me putting up my lights.

This was substantiated in 2011 when I decided to put them up on arguably the most miserable day in centuries. Cold, windy, sideways rain turning to snow turning to rain. It was downright horrible. And it was clear my lights did not want any

part of me that day. It started with my discovering several dead lines. So off I went to Walmart.

A half hour later, I begin the task again. Two lines in, I realize they are only half illuminated. Are you kidding? Down they come, back to Walmart I go. At this point, I can’t feel my extremities. But I have a job to do. Back at it I go, swearing all the way.

About halfway through, I notice there are more lines going out. Every year I promise to dump my lights and buy new ones, yet every year I try to stretch the old ones for just one more season. I’m almost



John Bourjaily

at my boiling point, but I can’t stop now. Yep, back to Walmart. They’re getting to know me by name at this point.

When I finally get back to the lights, I essentially have no feeling from the neck down. But you gotta do what you gotta do.

That is, until I realize I am a couple lines short. As I wipe the icicles from my eyebrows, I not-so-calmly decide I am done. I don’t usually lose my cool in front of my kids, but at this point all bets are off.

“THAT’S IT. NO CHRISTMAS LIGHTS THIS YEAR. DEAL WITH IT.”

I storm up to my bathroom

to begin the defrosting process when I hear the faint sound of sniffles coming from downstairs. Wait, these aren’t weren’t sniffles, they are outright sobs. My kids. Clearly I let the inner yuletide monster get the better of me. One look at my wife and I knew what needed to be done.

My last trip to Walmart was an expensive one. I essentially bought enough lights to decorate most of DuPage County. When I was done, it looked great. But more importantly, I did right by my kids. Plus I had a story for the ages that I could (eventually) laugh about.

This year I’ll pray for warm weather and a little luck with the old lights. If not, I’ll figure it out. But to be safe, you’d better cover your ears.

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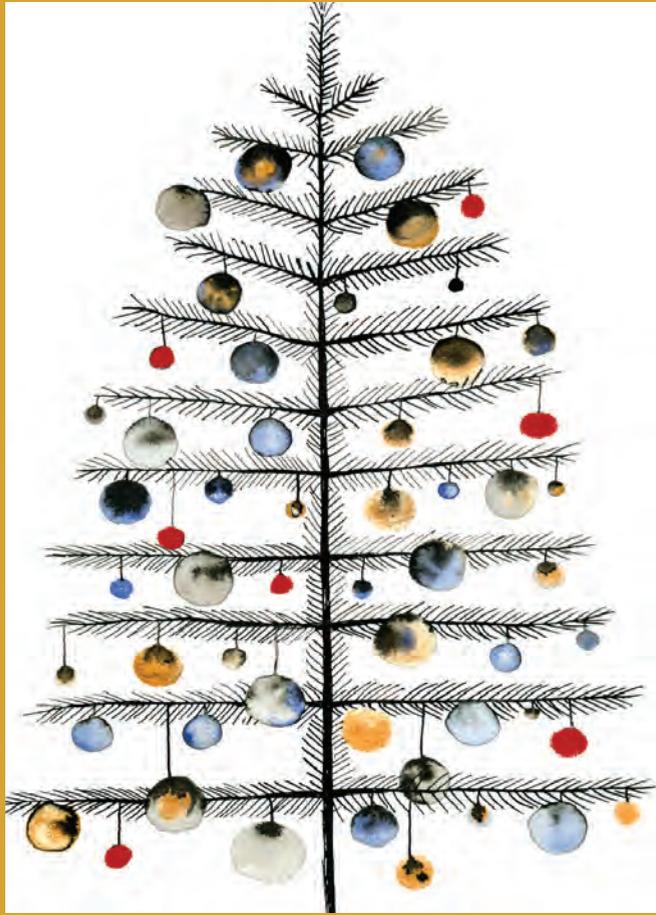
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Behold the fallout when Mom and Dad trot out bad gift idea

My sister Cindy may not remember the exact Christmas — 1964 seems the most likely — but she remembers the disappointment like it was yesterday.

Born a horse-lover, Cindy, who turned 6 in the fall of 1964, had been asking for a pony since she could talk. But life on the farm meant raising crops and five kids. Neither parent was ready to take on caring for an animal that would be beyond a 6-year-old's skill set.

From the vantage point of decades down the road, the best option would have been to let Cindy down gently. Instead, Mom and Dad went for the clever route, substituting a wooden coat rack in the shape of a pony's head for the "brown pony" on Cindy's wish list.

"To this day I can still see that stupid thing," Cindy said recently. "It was made out of brown wood and had a yellow outline. Mom and Dad thought it was so funny and clever. This was supposed to be my 'brown pony.' They just laughed and laughed."

Cindy, however, was not laughing.

"I was crushed," she said.

Ah. Your childhood dream crushed. At Christmas. Don't recall seeing that in any Hallmark movie, and I've seen plenty.

But good things come to those who continue to pester



Denise Joyce

their parents, especially if those parents sense that making a joke out of your youngest child's Christmas wish might not have been all that funny after all.

In the summer of 1966, Cindy finally got her pony, a real one. Never mind that the pony wasn't brown, but

instead a white charmer named Buttermilk, whose doglike personality made the whole family think of her as an amiable family pet.

But Buttermilk came with a warning for Cindy from Dad, known for being a man of his word: "The first day I'm out there taking care of Buttermilk is the day she's gone."

As it turned out, the only one "gone" was Cindy, who rode Buttermilk almost daily for untold hours and miles during the next 10 years. She happily held up her end of the bargain with what was more devotion than duty.

As we all make our plans for Christmas gatherings, the script will be unlike any we've followed before. Even those who want to have a "normal" holiday, with a house full of friends and family, might have to accommodate the realities of the COVID-19 pandemic, perhaps when Grandma shows up wearing a mask and carrying a bottle of hand sanitizer and her own eating utensils.

But here's a lesson from Cindy's soul-crushing Christmas: Let's persist in our search for joy, and be ready to go along for the ride whenever we find it.



Be careful what you wish for at Christmas

When I think of past Christmases, I have mostly the sweetest of memories. But I'd be lying to say that I didn't occasionally wish for a quieter and less exhausting celebration than those we've typically hosted for our numerous and exuberant extended family members.

While in the throes of preparation for gifting, feasting and merrymaking, I'd sometimes long for free time to sit down on Christmas Eve and watch a holiday movie from start to finish. Then, to bundle up and go to midnight Mass, which was always so magical to me as a child. And afterwards, to be able to go straight to bed and sleep until waking naturally — not at some predetermined time required for wrestling a turkey into the oven on Christmas morning.

Those wishes, rooted in fatigue, were definitely short-lived; I actually really enjoyed our parties. It didn't matter, anyway, because every year the Christmas show has rolled on as scheduled.

Until now. Our family is taking pandemic guidelines seriously and opting to spend the holidays apart. My husband, Jim, and I will be home alone, safe in our own pod and far away from the whole clan, including — I can hardly believe this — our own children and grandchild. No coronavirus cooties will be crossing our threshold.

And I feel awful about it, never having imagined I'd ban my own family from our/



Barb Johannesen

their home. I'd really thought that by Dec. 25 I'd be hugging my grandson in person, instead of still "throwing" Zoom kisses and hugs. Could it be possible that karma from long ago wishes for a peaceful and quiet holiday has made me a matriarchal version of Kevin McAllister in

the first "Home Alone" movie? His fervent wish for solitude was followed up by an eerily silent Christmas morning, with his family nowhere to be found.

In Kevin's words, "I made my family disappear."

But, hey, who needs guilt? It's far better to make a plan and move forward. I think I'll assign everyone a cooking task and schedule times for swapping

favorite dishes, synchronizing dining and Zooming our way through bunches of holiday toasts.

Given the circumstances, it's the best we can do — unless, by some good fortune, we end up with mild Christmas temperatures and a nice germ-dissolving breeze. Even 50ish degrees would let us gather outdoors (socially distanced, of course, with no grandchild hugging allowed).

Such unusual weather is actually not unprecedented in the Chicago area. Christmas Day 1982 brought a balmy 64 degrees, and surely by now we're due for an equally mild holiday.

I'm making that my Christmas wish this year, and why shouldn't I? It is, after all, the season of miracles.



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Grandma's wish now shared by grandson

He had asked the same question countless times with mostly predictable answers. But to the boy who had spent December poring over Christmas catalogs with a magnifying glass and a marker, his grandmother's answer was almost unfathomable.

"What do I want for Christmas? Oh, not much," she said contentedly. "I'm just happy to be together with the family."

"Oh ... that's great, Grandma," replied the boy, feigning enthusiasm. "I asked for a skateboard."

Photos from that era depict a maniacal present monster wading through knee-deep wrapping paper — a version of me far more energetic than the one writing this column. They also show Grandma seated

comfortably in the background, enjoying the festivities. The presents she opened served mostly as fulfillment of the ritual. Sure, she would open them with a smile and express heartfelt gratitude. But deep down, Mildred Halsten wished for the same thing every year, and she already had it. Her gifts were all around her, laughing and snacking and playing on the living room floor.

Grandma remained a fixture in our Christmas photos until 2018. She celebrated her 99th birthday the following October, and by Thanksgiving she was gone.

One of my favorite Christmas photos depicts my mother with two of her favorite people. On



Peter Celauro

her right knee is my youngest son, 6 months old at the time, resembling an adorable sack of potatoes in reindeer pajamas. His facial expression conveys something to the effect of, "Who, me?" To her left is my eldest son, then 3, whose matching pajamas have been

unzipped for unknown reasons to reveal his tummy to the camera. Both boys wear winter hats adorned with snowflakes and John Deere tractors. Mom wears a grin of riotous laughter.

It didn't feel, at the time, like one of the last happy Christmas photos I would take of her. It's vibrant and brimming with life; no signs of the cancer that would appear from out of the

blue, turn all our lives upside-down and send her home to Heaven in a matter of months.

Looking at these photos now, I finally understand where Grandma was coming from.

"Being together with the family" is not a stock answer for those who've stopped making lists for Santa. It's a genuine Christmas wish that goes by another name: prayer.

Once you've felt the sting of loss, your priorities change. After decades of asking for the shiny new gadget, all I want now is the well-worn routine of celebrating God's love for us with the people I love. And, of course, the photos to remember those loved ones when they're gone ... or grown.

In a year of much loss, I pray the same for you, too.

Happy holidays.



Tradition will carry us forward in the year of waiting

"It was a great Wigilia."

Those five words bring tears to my eyes. They were the words I quietly whispered to my father late last Christmas Eve as the joyful sound of family members lingered in the air.

The Wigilia is a Czechoslovakian tradition that my grandparents brought with them when they immigrated to the United States as newlyweds. Like many immigrants, they used the tradition as a source of connection to the loved ones left behind.

Our Christmas Eve tradition is a time of waiting for baby Jesus and uses symbols to illustrate the sweet and sour in life. All of the lights are turned on in our house to create a message

of welcoming. My father dips a clove of garlic, the sour, into honey, the sweet, and anoints our foreheads. We share a wafer called oplatky and then sit down to a dinner where every course represents a phase in Christ's life.

The menu includes sauerkraut soup, fish, rye bread and kolacky. After we eat, each family member cracks a nut to predict what kind of year they will have. The Wigilia is the cornerstone of our Christmas.

My father has been fighting lung disease for many years and his health had been declining. When I sat with my dad



Terri Goudie

last Christmas Eve, I thought it might be his last Wigilia. It turns out that I would lose a parent in the upcoming year, but it wouldn't be my father. It would be my mom.

My incredibly kind mother was diagnosed with cancer in July. Two weeks later, she was gone. No one

ever expected that my healthy, active mom would die before my dad. We were shocked and didn't think my dad could go on without her. But here we are on the cusp of our next Wigilia and we must go on, together.

I call 2020 the year of waiting. We have had to wait for test results, vaccines and election

results. However, when you are waiting, you can actually have your very best conversations. It could be the talks you have with your kids waiting for Santa or the conversations as the Thanksgiving turkey cooks in the oven. We have had great discussions in our homes waiting for COVID to end and important exchanges waiting for a president to be picked.

The Wigilia is a tradition that makes the most of waiting. Every time we teach it to a new spouse or new grandchild, we have the kind of conversations that strengthen who we are as family and how we connect to each other. This year, our time of waiting will need to be a time of healing. For that, we turn to the never ending power of tradition.



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