

The Hinsdalean

Community journalism the way it was meant to be

Thursday, January 4, 2024

Hinsdale, Illinois

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A special pack the place

Members of Hinsdale Central's basketball team, as well as hundreds of others, filled the gym for the Special Olympics basketball game Dec. 8. The Red Devils came out on top of District 99 with a last second buzzer-beater, winning 36-34. Please turn to Page 20 for more pictures. (Jim Slonoff photo)



Year in review

Nonprofit leaders share look back at 2023 in part one of series.

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On the road

Antiques appraiser schedules stop at Hinsdale Public Library.

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Classic performance

Red Devils win home opener in annual HCHC.

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NEWS

Trustees act to stem migrant buses

By Ken Knutson

kknutson@thehinsdalean.com

Following the arrival of 11 busloads of migrants in 11 days in downtown Hinsdale, the village has joined the growing number of suburban communities enacting restrictions on bus companies to prevent the unannounced drop-offs.

At a special village board meeting Tuesday, trustees passed an ordinance requiring bus companies to file an application with Hinsdale Police Chief Brian King at least five days before a proposed disembarking date. Failure to do so carries a fine of \$750 per passenger and the possible impounding of the bus. The chief will inform the applicant if an application is approved within four days of filing.

"These drop-offs started because Chicago, which is a sanctuary city, passed an ordinance restricting the

flow of buses of migrants directly to the city from Texas," Village President Tom Cauley said in his remarks introducing the measure, which requires the village be provided with a detailed plan on how migrants will be housed and fed after they are dropped off.

The Hinsdalean was witness to the first drop-off Dec. 22 at First Street and Garfield Avenue. The migrants walked to the Hinsdale train station to travel to Chicago. Subsequent drop-offs, which village officials said consist of 45 people on average, have occurred right outside the station.

Cauley reported that one of the bus drivers informed the village that, in the absence of restrictions, the buses would keep coming at least through March. So far the activity has taken place without incident, officials said, but assuming that will continue to be the case would be irresponsible.

"As the weather turns dangerously cold, migrant drop-offs unannounced in Hinsdale could endanger lives," Cauley said. "If migrants are dropped off after the last train to Chicago, migrants could be stranded in Hinsdale all night before they get transported to Chicago. Hinsdale does not have the resources to handle such situations, even in good weather."

Clarendon Hills passed a similar ordinance last week, and more than a dozen suburban municipalities have enacted restrictions in response to the influx, according to various news outlets. Cauley said towns with ordinances have seen migrant drop-offs cease.

Almost 3,000 asylum seekers on 72 buses have arrived at train stations in DuPage County since Dec. 14, according to the DuPage County Office of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Hinsdale and

Wheaton were the destinations receiving the highest number of buses.

Hinsdale resident Nick Skokna, one of a number of community members in attendance, said while he has helped resettle migrants in Oak Park through a charitable organization, the town is not positioned to address the sheer number being relocated.

"The people of Hinsdale care, and we really are trying to help them. But you can't just have this open-door policy down (at) the border," Skokna said.

Cauley said the ordinance is not a ban on buses, but rather an attempt to ensure safety for all involved.

"Buses will be permitted to come to Hinsdale if they comply with the new ordinance," he said, "It would give us the opportunity to have adequate police staffing and to manage it."

Sweet tooth

Olivia Ander takes a bite out of the gingerbread cookie she decorated during the Holidays in Hinsdale event last month. The village sponsored the cookie decorating, wagon rides and visits with Santa in Burlington Park. (Jim Slonoff photo)



ONCE UPON A TIME



Places from the past — Hinsdale’s building services supervisor, Jim Piontkowski, a Hinsdale Central graduate, moved to Hinsdale in 1971 and spent many years here in his youth. Having spent more than 40 years with the village, there isn’t a lot about Hinsdale he doesn’t know or hasn’t photographed. This photo from 1979 is of Dixon Realtors, which was located at 8 E. Hinsdale Ave. It is the current home of Coldwell Banker in the Village. Do you have a Hinsdale photo that is at least 25 years old? We’d love to share it with our readers. Stop by our office at 7 W. First St. or email it to jslonoff@thehinsdalean.com.



kim lotka

THE REVIEWS ARE IN!



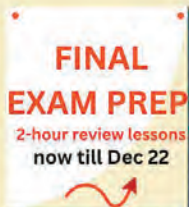
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turns 6 Jan. 5

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Letters to the editor
Our letters policy is published on Page 11.

Obituaries
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Nonprofit leaders reflect back on 2023

Year was busy with anniversary celebration, pet adoptions and hospital partnerships

By Pamela Lannom

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Each January, we talk to the leaders of seven major nonprofit agencies in Hinsdale about their experiences over the previous year and ask them to share one wish for the current year.

The second article in this two-part series — focusing on Candor Health Education, Community Memorial Foundation, HCS Family Services and The Community House — will run Jan. 11.



Hinsdale Historical Society

With the village celebrating its sesquicentennial in 2023, it's no surprise the past year was a busy one for the Hinsdale Historical Society.

"I think that one of the biggest accomplishments that we've done this year is put on the 'Hinsdale in Lights' exhibit," said Katharine Andrew, society manager. "That was an exhibit that was basically unprecedented for a historical society of our size to be able to do."

The exhibit, which took months and many volunteers to create, highlighted 150 years of village history through items on display and an immersive light show. Some 500 to 600 people visited the exhibit during its run.

"I did the math and saw that we had over 78 hours of running light shows while it was open. It was quite the exhibit," she said.

The historical society partnered with historian Julia Bachrach and historic preservationist Jean Follett to offer "Finding Grace: The Forgotten Story of Social Reformer Grace Bagley" at the 1894 home Wright designed for Bagley and her husband at 121 S. County Line Road.

"It was a really great exhibit," Andrew said. "We loaned some items from our collection over there and were able to work with the amazing group of curators."

Currently on display at history museum at 15 S. Clay St. is a small exhibit about Hinsdale's train history. It will run through early March, and residents will have multiple opportunities to see it.

"We're going to start having the

museum open at least every other Saturday starting Jan. 6 from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.," Andrew said.

Members of the Junior Board will help staff the museum. And they were invaluable working in the archives over the past year, Andrew said. "We really wouldn't have been able to do a lot of the research that we've done in the archives without their help," she said.

The historical society also assisted the village with its "Hinsdale History — Illuminated" light show in August, researched more than 35 homes and presented 17 plaques to homeowners through its historic plaque program, answered 150 inquiries on Hinsdale history and spent more than \$70,000 to restore the history museum. Volunteers donated more than 4,300 hours of time at the museum, working in the archives and staffing events.

The Kitchen Walk in May, Chateau du Parc in October and the Holly Jolly Trolley in December helped to raise funds for the Zook home at Katherine Legge Memorial Park, which is in desperate need of weatherizing before it snows.

"The more it sits there, the harder it gets to eventually restore," Andrew said.

Although 2023 was quite busy, Andrew doesn't expect things to slow down in 2024.

"This coming year we're hoping to put more things up on the app, research more houses and award more plaques, do more programs, give more tours and do more all of the wonderful things that we do," she said.



Hinsdale Humane Society

Workers and volunteers at the shelter continue to feel the impact of COVID, a two-year time period when 1.6 million spay and neuter surgeries were not performed nationwide.

"In animal welfare, we were really, really closing in on getting a handle on the inventory of animals and then COVID hit," said Jacki Rossi, executive director.

"Because of the animal welfare crisis going on, because there are so many animals everywhere, I actually had to slow intake a little bit this year so we

One wish

Nonprofit leaders shared their hopes for 2024.

"Contributions for the preservation of Hinsdale's history, the maintenance of our three properties and the programs and events that we put on for people in Hinsdale." — Katharine Andrew, Hinsdale Historical Society

"Just to continue to be able to help the community. It's so cliché but it's true. We are a huge resource for the suburbs and the Chicagoland community and the animals we help and the people we help. Just continue to grow all of that and be a resource center." — Jacki Rossi, Hinsdale Humane Society

"My wish is for everyone to experience wellness in all its forms, and I would say that's mind, body and spirit. There are so many ways to take care of themselves. My wish is that people find those and really tap into them." — Lisa Kolavennu

could build up our staff to be able to handle this massive amount of animals.

"Over the summer, we were getting animals dumped here every other day. Cats in the parking lot, dogs left outside tied to trees."

The shelter was able to return to full staffing last year, Rossi said, and a new animal care team member position will be added in 2024 to offer more flexibility during vacations and time off due to illness.

Caring for 300 animals living at the shelter and in foster care is a huge task, Rossi said, and one that requires more than paid staff. Fortunately the agency added 295 volunteers from January to November.

"We couldn't do it without volunteers — that is 100 percent for sure," Rossi said.

Volunteers contributed almost 18,000 hours through the end of November.

"If you think about it, that's another 15-plus full-time positions," she said.

The final week of the year was busy with adoptions, she said last week, estimating that the annual total would top 1,700 by the end of the year.

Another big number from 2023 is 2,190 — the number of spay and neuter surgeries performed by Dr. Kristin

Tvrdek, the humane society's medical director.

"We're not going to be able to adopt our way out of this overpopulation crisis," Rossi said. "We have to get these animals spayed and neutered so they are not reproducing."

In 2023, the humane society also provided 865 hours of pet therapy, 308 vaccine clinics, 304 training and enrichment sessions, humane education to 570 participants and filled 68 requests through the BJ Chimenti Angel Fund for Veterans and Pets.

A "Save the Shelter" campaign helped the nonprofit end 2022 in the black, and Rossi expects the books will close the same way this year. The society's largest fundraiser also offered an opportunity to mark a milestone.

"We had a wonderful time celebrating our 70th this year," Rossi said. "It kind of topped off with our gala in September at The Community House."

More than 200 guests helped the humane society raise \$150,000. Rossi said she is thankful for all of the community support the agency received in 2023.

"It was a year of getting back out in the community," she said. "We couldn't do this without them."



Wellness House

In the business of the year, it can be easy to lose sight of the impact Wellness House has, said Lisa Kolavennu, chief executive officer.

"We've been able to help more than 3,000 people this year," she said. "These are people dealing with cancer, and to know that 3,000 lives have been touched by Wellness House is probably the thing that stands out the most."

Highlights of the past year included the addition of new staff, including a director of cancer health equity initiatives.

"We've done it because we want to meet the growing demand for programs we have," Kolavennu said.

The new director ties into the agency's efforts to increase access to programs in places outside of Hinsdale.

"We've known for many years that the best way to expand our reach is

Please turn to Page 12

NEXT WEEK

Hinsdale High School District 86 Board

6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11
Hinsdale Central High School
55th and Grant streets
www.hinsdale86.org/board-of-education/board-meetings

Hinsdale Historic Preservation Commission

6:30 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 11
Memorial Building
19 E. Chicago Ave.

On the draft agenda: public meetings on preservation incentives for 515 S. Lincoln St., 217 W. Hickory St. and 605 E. Third St.

Hinsdale Plan Commission

7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10
Memorial Building
19 E. Chicago Ave.

On the draft agenda: schedule public hearing for 945 S. Garfield Ave. special use permit (child day care services)

Hinsdale Village Board (rescheduled)

7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 8
Memorial Building
19 E. Chicago Ave.
www.villageofhinsdale.org

On the draft agenda: blanket purchase orders for 2024

First baby of 2024



Henry Platts, son of Lindsey and Jordan Platts of Hinsdale, born at 4:44 a.m. Jan. 1, was the first baby of 2024 to be born at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Hinsdale. The adorable bundle of joy weighed 6 pounds 5 ounces, measured 19.5 inches long and was welcomed home by his 2-year-old brother, Lane. Congratulations to the Platts family on the newest member of their family. (photo courtesy of UChicago Medicine AdventHealth)

Correction

The village expects to repave Sixth Street in asphalt, not concrete, as stated in a Dec. 28 editorial.

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Resolve to follow the (new) rules in '24

Start of the new year once again ushers in hundreds of new state regulations to navigate

By Ken Knutson

kknutson@thehinsdalean.com

Just when you got used to the old rules, 2024 brings a slate of new ones to learn.

More than 300 new laws took effect Jan. 1, ranging from a ban on book bans to the regulation of "deepfake porn" and prohibitions on video-conferencing while driving.

Under the Paid Leave for All Workers Act, workers in Illinois are now entitled to earn up to 40 hours of paid leave during a 12-month period, time they can take off work for any reason, regardless of whether they are full-time, part-time, or seasonal employees.

Scott Cruz, a labor attorney, told Capitol News Illinois in November that the law will be a major change for waiters, waitresses and other workers in the hospitality industry who have never received paid

leave benefits in the past.

"That is a game changer for many employers, particularly those who have not previously offered any type of paid leave to their employees," Cruz said.

Also on the labor front, the state's minimum wage increases by \$1 to \$14 per hour as the latest step-up in a multi-year phase-in of a \$15 per-hour minimum wage come 2025. Teens who work less than 650 hours in a calendar year will earn \$13 an hour while the minimum wage for tipped workers will increase to \$9 an hour.

Residents who own guns, ammunition and accessories prohibited under the state's assault weapons ban will be in violation of the law if they don't register them with the state.

Libraries who ban books or other material "because of partisan or doctrinal disapproval" will now lose access

to millions of dollars in annual grant funding administered by the secretary of state's office. Libraries must either adopt the American Library Association's Library Bill of Rights or develop a written statement prohibiting the practice of banning specific books or resources.

An amendment to protections for existing "revenge porn" victims empowers those falsely depicted in sexually explicit images or videos to sue the creator of that material.

Vaping is now banned in most indoor public spaces and within 15 feet of building entrances, the same restrictions that apply to cigarette smokers.

Drivers can no longer participate in videoconferencing or check their social media pages while behind the wheel under an expansion of the state's existing distracted driving laws.

Hinsdale's representatives in the Illinois Assembly sponsored some of the fresh legislation.

State Rep. Jenn Ladisch Douglass (D-45, Westmont) led the effort to charge those who financially exploit an elderly person 70 or older with a Class 1 felony 70, as long as the value of the property in question is \$15,000 or more. The law also applies if the victim is has a disability.

"This bill provides common sense solutions to potentially life-threatening problems, improving the safety of long-term care facilities and preventing financial exploitation," Ladisch Douglass said in a statement.

Gov. JB Pritzker signed into a law a bill sponsored by Sen. Suzy Glowiak Hilton (D-24, Western Springs) that requires all school districts, public schools, charter schools and nonpublic schools to main-

tain a supply of naloxone in a secure location in the event of an opioid overdose.

"By ensuring that naloxone is readily available to all students in Illinois, we are helping save our children's lives," Glowiak Hilton said in a statement. "The opioid epidemic has taken a toll on our communities. It's time we develop and implement the necessary precautions to protect everyone in our classrooms."

Glowiak Hilton also was the driving force behind legislation requiring businesses to give clear notice to a consumer before a contract is automatically renewed.

"Automatic renewal contracts can be confusing, and businesses take advantage of this all the time," she said. "This new law will ensure residents give clear consent when entering into a contract so they are not charged for services they do not need or want."

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POLICE BEAT

Hinsdale police distributed the following reports Jan. 3.

Arrest for fleeing police

Malik O. Daghash, 23, 12124 Venetian Way, Orland Park, was arrested for felony fleeing and eluding a police officer, speeding, improper lane use and driving with expired license plates at 9:33 p.m. Dec. 28 at Route 83 and 55th Street. He was taken into custody after driving on a rim and striking a curb at 31st Street and Jorie Blvd in Oak Brook. He was charged and taken to DuPage County Jail.

DUI arrests

• Tyhysia C. Tarver, 36, 6608 S. Marquette Road, Chicago, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, illegal stopping/standing/parking, improper lane use, failure to signal lane change and operating an uninsured motor vehicle at 2:11 a.m. Dec. 28 at Ogden Avenue and Route 83. She refused testing to determine blood-alcohol content and was charged and released to appear in court.

• Mario A. Galindo, 47, 4115 N. Washington St., Westmont, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol at 12:59 a.m. Jan. 1 in the Kensington School Parking Lot, 540 W. Ogden Ave. He refused testing to determine blood-alcohol content and was charged and released to appear in court.

• Alphonso Coffey, 34, 2223 S. 20th Ave., Broadview, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, speeding and improper lane use at 2:59 a.m. Jan. 1 at Route 53 and 55th Street. He refused testing to determine blood-alcohol content and was charged and released to appear in court.

Domestic battery arrest

A 47-year-old Hinsdale woman was arrested for domestic battery and resisting a police officer Dec. 27 after making contact of an insulting or provoking nature with the victim. She resisted arrest and attempted to pull away from police. She was charged and taken to DuPage County Jail.

Tool bag stolen

A tool bag and tools were taken at 9:45 a.m. Dec. 27 while the tool bag was sitting on the parkway at Grant and Maple streets next to scrap pieces of material.

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.



BIRTHDAY SHOUT OUT!

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■ “What sets this novel apart is both its honesty and humanness and its truths and insights into many aspects of life.” — Rich Meyer

Hinsdale shaped a life full of accomplishments



RICH MEYER
WON THE DEMOCRATIC PRIMARY FOR U.S. CONGRESS IN 2004 • HOSTS A PODCAST ABOUT SPIRITUALITY AND RELIGION CALLED ‘THE CONSCIOUSNESS TALK’ • A PILOT AND SAILOR

It’s been a lifetime since Rich Meyer lived in Hinsdale. But a part of him still calls it home.

“It’s a fairy tale town,” he said.

A graduate of Hinsdale High School, Meyer said he would have been content to stay in Hinsdale and start working after graduation. But even in the early 1960s, his teachers, neighbors and classmates encouraged and valued a college education. More than 60 years later, Meyer said he’s grateful for what his hometown and his education have provided.

Meyer said he begrudgingly attended the University of Illinois, graduating in 1965 with a degree in electrical engineering. After visiting California to attend his brother’s wedding, Meyer made the move out west not long after graduation. But even today, he has fond memories of growing up as the son of a Hinsdale grocer. Meyer said his father owned a small store on Quincy Street, about a half mile from downtown. At 5 or 6 years old, Meyer said, he began helping by sweeping the floors. His compensation was the pennies that his father would hide throughout the store.

“Dad would put a penny in a couple of spots. If I found the penny he knew I was sweeping,” Meyer said.

At 82 years old, Meyer is still working and adding more lines to his resume. Along with roles such as electrical engineer, investor, real

estate agent, minister, politician, historian, philanthropist, pilot and skipper, Meyer recently added the title of novelist to his list of achievements.

Meyer describes “Penney’s Beach,” published by Balboa Press, as a lighthearted yet insightful coming-of-age story of a girl growing up in a California beach town in the 1970s.

“What sets this novel apart is both its honesty and humanness and its truths and insights into many aspects of life,” Meyer stated in a press release announcing the novel. “It aims to be a gift to generations past, present, and future.”

Meyer said he hopes his book also shows young readers that history can be fun. While he stops short of calling himself a history buff, Meyer said he’s fascinated by the evolution of the Western world over the centuries.

The book isn’t the only gift Meyer has created for the next generation. A philanthropist who has chaired several nonprofit organizations, Meyer recently awarded scholarships to 16 students chosen from more than 3,000 entrants. Each applicant for the Windward Spirit Scholarship submitted an essay about how they see the world today and how they envision their place in that world.

While he never had children of his own, Meyer said he feels a respon-

sibility to the generations that will follow him.

“That’s really my calling today,” he said of his desire to share his financial good fortune, especially with young people.

He said today’s world is far different from the idyllic place and time of his childhood. He wants to do what he can to make growing up and succeeding in today’s society a little easier.

“I hit the jackpot in life,” Meyer said.

— story by Sandy Illian Bosch, photo submitted



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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Bidding farewell to 2023, sesquicentennial coverage

In our first January issue last year, we kicked off a new weekly series designed to celebrate Hinsdale's 150th anniversary. Last week we ran the final installment.

We learned a lot about our favorite village's history over the past year — and not just from the weekly series. We also dedicated our summer series, "Quintessential Hinsdale," to the places and events that make Hinsdale the special place it is. And, of course, we can't forget the 120-page special section we published Sept. 28 honoring the sesquicentennial.

But back to our Page 7 series! We covered dozens of topics, from the town's early history, including the train line, village elections and how Hinsdale got its name.

Some stories reminded longtime residents of events from the past, like the Hoops for Life tournaments to raise money for The American Cancer Society and the Antiques Show fundraiser at The Community House.

"Then and now" photos compared historic pics of buildings in town with modern-day shots taken by our own Jim Slonoff. What fun to try to figure out how the old gas station was transformed into The Fruit Store!

Several stories informed residents about upcoming events related to the 150th anniversary celebration. We wrote articles about the logo design, the "Hinsdale in Lights" exhibit at the Hinsdale Historical Society, the Hinsdale Village Board's anniversary proclamation and reception and the "Hinsdale History — Illuminated" 20-minute light show that brought village history to life on the facade of the Memorial Building one Thursday night in August.

And some were just fun, like the "Then and now" feature that showed Bob Barber after winning the 100-yard freestyle race in 1991 as a member of the Red Devils swim team next to a photo of him jumping in the pool to celebrate the team he coached winning the state title at

the FMC Natatorium in Westmont in 2023. And the story about the retro badges Hinsdale police and firefighter/paramedics wore last year in honor of the anniversary, which included the history of badge protocol in the fire department, thanks to research done by firefighter/paramedic Nick McDonough.

We also enjoyed taking a peek inside "the vault" at village hall, where we saw the first minutes ever documented of a Hinsdale Village Board meeting.

Mostly the series gave us — and we hope our readers — a chance to appreciate all the people, places and events that have gone into making Hinsdale the wonderful place it is today.

Or, a Cicero so eloquently put it more than 2,000 years ago:

"History is the witness that testifies to the passing of time; it illumines reality, vitalizes memory, provides guidance in daily life and brings us tidings of antiquity." — Cicero

COMMENTARY

Slow down, shut up are resolutions for 2024

Ahh, the early days of January, when we have yet to disappoint ourselves by failing to live up to our New Year's resolutions.

Since it's already Jan. 4, I guess that might not be true. A cookie might have been consumed, a morning workout skipped.

Yes, resolutions are tough to keep. I wrote last year that part of the problem, at least for me, is the specificity of the resolutions I tend to set. I will walk X number of days each month. I will spend X minutes a day cleaning out the basement. One missed day and you're doomed.

Instead I endorsed the philosophy of a Facebook post, one which has been circulating again this year.

"More sleep. More tea. More books. More sunsets. More creating. More long walks. More laughter. More hugs. More dreaming. More road trips. More fun. More love."

I still endorse those recommendations and hope to incorporate more of all of those things in my life. But this year, my focus is on

less — less of two things in particular. I'm going to plan less and speak less.

If you know me, you know this will be no easy task. (I'm glad Jim Slonoff is on vacation, so I don't have to hear his uncontrollable laughter as he paginates this page.) But I am determined.

I have been a planner for as long as I can remember. I love opening my planner — still using paper, of course — to a new year or new month and writing down all the appointments and events I need to remember.

I am so attached to my planner that my sorority sisters sophomore year decided it would be entertaining to hide it and create a sort of scavenger hunt through which I could retrieve it. They had fun. I did not.

I've always thought my planner made me feel organized, and I love to feel organized. I'm wondering, though, if what it



Pamela Lannom

really makes me feel is in control. And that's something altogether different.

The problem with feeling in control is that we — I — really have control over very little.

Lots of small things are out of our control, like the driver ahead of us traveling 10 mph under the speed limit

while we're late, or an unexpected business trip our spouse needs to take during a particularly inconvenient week.

Bigger things are out of our control, too. We might lose our bonus or even our job. People we love might get sick or die. Love we offer to a partner or parent or sibling or friend might not be returned.

Being out of control is uncomfortable, and so I've attempted to plan my way out of it. Spending so much time looking into the future, though, tends to speed life up and prevents me from living in the present. So I'm going to try to

wing it more and to slow down.

I'm also going to shut up. Just because I have a thousand queries running through my head on a regular basis (no surprise I ask people questions for a living) doesn't mean I need to verbalize them.

We all remember how annoying it was when we were kids and our moms would ask us a dozen times if we had our homework and our lunch and our mittens before we headed out to school in the morning. Our moms were trying to help, but we resented it. And we didn't learn how to be responsible for ourselves.

I can do a better job at home of minding my own business. If someone asks for help, I certainly can comply. (Unless they really don't need my help, in which case I should politely decline.) If my useful tips and insights help only me, that's OK. Or maybe I could share them in a column ... — Pamela Lannom is editor of *The Hinsdalean*. Readers can email her at plannom@thehinsdalean.com.

GUEST COMMENTARY

My dream New Year's Eve

We flew out Dec. 31 from O'Hare and the airport was completely empty. The weather was sunny, clear and 60 degrees. TSA waved us through, smiling and wishing us a wonderful flight. Then, they called us an airport transport and whisked us to our gate. The ground attendants upgraded us to first class and we boarded immediately. The captain came on the intercom and said we would arrive in New York City 40 minutes early due to the westerlies. Meanwhile, we drank champagne and ate caviar, lobster and chocolate cake.

When we arrived at La Guardia, it was as empty as O'Hare. Our bags were the first to come off and hand delivered to us by ground attendants. We got a taxi immediately and when we arrived at the Waldorf, the taxi driver refused to accept a tip. He said taking us was reward enough.

Our room at the Waldorf overlooked the East River and the United Nations. Champagne was waiting for us and more caviar. The weather was the best in a hundred years — sunny, warm and crystal clear. We sipped our champagne, watched the ships on the East River and marveled at the Statue of Liberty.

Then we showered and dressed in our best formal attire. Our limo picked us up at 10 p.m. and took us to Times Square, where the New York police had cleared a space just for us among the teeming crowds. Knowing it



Barre

would be hard on our necks to watch the New Year's Eve ball drift down to midnight, they had two recliners waiting for us, perfectly titled so we could watch the count-down in complete comfort.

At midnight, we celebrated and exchanged emails with all those friendly New Yorkers. Then the police cleared a path through the crowd and our limo pulled right up to our recliners. Before we knew it, we were at the Plaza for an exclusive, after-midnight gala. We drank more champagne and talked with the likes of Matt Damon and others, all of whom said we were just the wittiest people they had ever met.

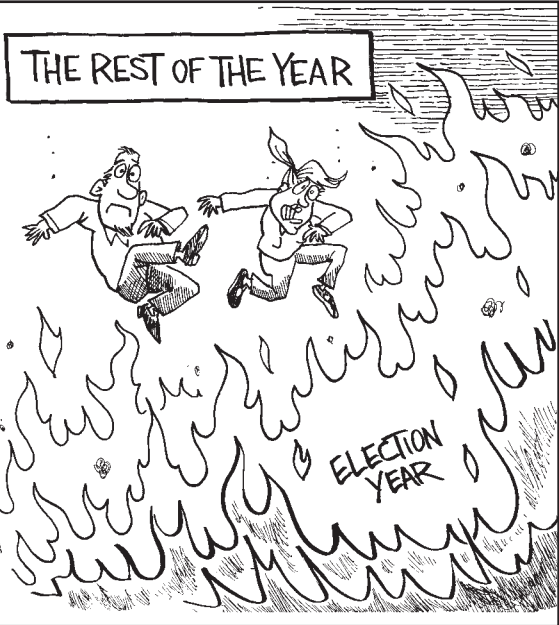
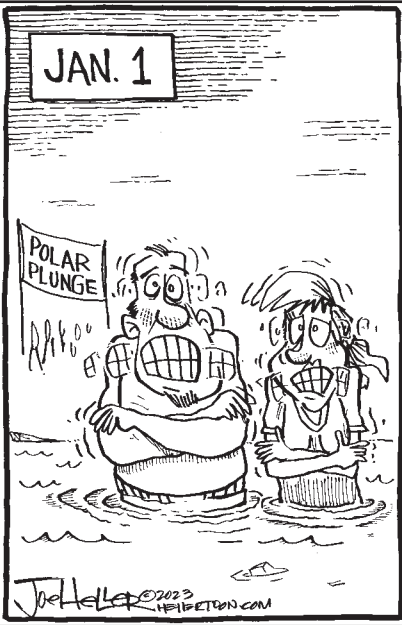
And then ... and then I woke up.

And I remembered we had actually celebrated the London New Year's Eve at 6 p.m. Chicago time, drank too much beer and ate too many Italian beef sandwiches before my wife and I plopped into bed at 8 p.m. Chicago time. Now it was 12:15 a.m. I nudged my wife and wished her a Happy New Year. She groaned and turned away. Oh, well, at least I got more bed space.

I turned onto my back and thought of — you guessed it — John Keats, who captured this moment so perfectly in "Ode To A Nightingale" — "Tender is the night; do I wake or sleep?"

Happy New Year.

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



LETTERS POLICY

Requirements

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

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

Submission

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

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

Questions?

Call (630) 323-4422

OBITUARIES

Shirley M. Dolack

Shirley M. Dolack, nee Betcher, 101, of Hinsdale, died Dec. 29, 2023.

She was preceded in death by her husband of almost 70 years, Joseph T. Dolack; and her parents, Louis and Myrtle Betcher.

She is survived by her children, Thomas (Linda) Dolack, Sue (Terry) Walsh, Cathy (Timothy) Walsh, Joseph (Bobbie) Dolack, Jr. and Marylee (Robb) Richmond; her grandchildren, Chris, Kevin, Kate, Tim, Dan, Eileen, Sarah, Patrick, Casey, Catherine, Joe III, Ben and Emily; and her 17 great-grandchildren.



Dolack

Visitation is at 10 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 6, at St. Mary of the Woods Church, 6955 Hiawatha Ave., Chicago.

A funeral Mass will follow at 11 a.m. at the church.

Interment will be at All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made online to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation at www.JDRF.org or Orphans of the Storm Animal Shelter at www.orphansofthestorm.org.

Sullivan Funeral Home Hinsdale handled the arrangements.

Joseph James Lebeda

Joseph James Lebeda, 80, a 53-year resident of Clarendon Hills, formerly of Hinsdale, died Dec. 26, 2023.

Joe was a thoughtful and kind man, who was loved by many. He was a longtime member of the Clarendon Hills Lions Club, a U.S. Army Reservist, and during his career a dedicated employee and plant manager of Air Liquide.

He is survived by his wife of 55 years, Milly R. Lebeda, née Slifka; his daughter, Karen



Lebeda

M. Beeson; his grandchildren, Joseph and Paul Beeson; his sister, Nancy (Dennis) Stahl; his brother-in-law, Joseph (Myra) Slifka; and many nieces and nephews.

A funeral was held Dec. 30 at Sullivan Funeral Home in Hinsdale.

Interment was at Bronswood Cemetery in Oak Brook.

Memorials may be made to the Clarendon Hills Lions Club, P.O. Box 62, Clarendon Hills, IL 60514.

Nonprofit leaders reflect back on the highlights of 2023

Continued from Page 5

through partnerships. We have a model where we identify places where there are people with cancer, where there might be an unmet need we can meet," she said.

Wellness House then works with those partners to determine how best to bring programs and services to that community.

"We all benefit," Kolavennu said. "Wellness House is able to serve more people. The hospital or clinic is able to provide the services for their patients. Patients have access to life-changing programs."

Wellness house added two new partners this year — Rush University Medical Center in Chicago and the Cardinal Bernardin Cancer Center at Loyola Medicine in Maywood.

Wellness House also works with agencies in a collaborative role, perhaps by offering programs on a less regular basis.

"It gives a lot of flexibility then," she said. "It's definitely not one-size-fits-all. One hospital might say, 'We'd like four support groups happening weekly and could we also have yoga and exercise a few times a week?'"

"We might work with a library in a neighboring suburb where once a quarter we do a

workshop to introduce a topic to people with cancer."

In 2023 Wellness House also increased opportunities to work with professionals by hosting learning and networking events like "Professional Perk" and "Experience Wellness House."

"I'm also very interested in growing that in the coming year, so creating space for thought leaders and like-minded organizations to come together and have time to share what we know and what we're working on," Kolavennu said.

As the year came to a close, the three women who started The Courtyard, the resale shop that supports Wellness House, retired. The shop raised \$5 million during the 32 years they were at the helm.

Like her counterparts at other agencies, Kolavennu expressed her gratitude to the community for its support, especially at the Walk for Wellness and Radiance Ball.

"Those are really shining moments, I would say, resounding examples of how much this community supports the organization," she said.

Obituaries are published free each week in The Hinsdalean. Information may be mailed, faxed or e-mailed to news@thehinsdalean.com.

Obituaries will be edited for style and space.

The Hinsdalean, 7 West First St., Hinsdale, IL 60521,

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ASK AN EXPERT

REX NEWELL, ANTIQUE APPRAISER

How do you know if old stuff is worth anything?

Ready to part with that tacky collectible? It could be treasure to Rex Newell.

"If something that you have is strange and ugly, it tends to be really valuable," said the veteran antique appraiser. "Strange is good in this business."

Newell will offer his services to attendees of his "Antiques Roadshow"-like program from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 10, at the Hinsdale Public Library (see Page XX for details). He'll also discuss the latest trends in the marketplace.

"I'm going to tell them what's hot and what's not," Newell said. "And if grandma dies, call me before you get a dumpster."

The uncertain economic times have boosted the return on gold and silver.

"I buy tens of thousands of dollars of silver dollars a day," he said.

Perhaps more surprising is the demand for fine costume jewelry, Newell said, particularly among younger buyers for whom high-end

bling is a budget buster.

"It's the things that you think have no value that often have value," he remarked.

Newell's own vintage soul led him at age 9 to learn the antique business from his next-door neighbor.

"She was an antique appraiser, and she started teaching me," he recounted. He studied a nearly 2,000-page guide in one month for a test. "I got five answers right out of 100."

Undeterred, Newell was buying and trading coins at 11 and expanded to art and sterling flatware by 15. Now after more than 20 years in business, he deals in virtually every category. Well, except for Native American and Oriental antiques.

"Those are totally specialty fields, very difficult," he explained. "If I'm not interested in buying something, I can always connect people with someone who is interested."

Newell averages four house calls a day and holds giant auction events in January and April every year. One of his more memorable finds during his career was "a very, very rare book on witchcraft and devil worship" (yes, he found

a buyer). He's also come across precious Tiffany lamps and a set of 1950s Tonka trucks. Newell told the seller of the trucks he'd split the auction proceeds. When it ultimately sold a few years later, Newell informed him of the winning bid: \$20,000.

"I set the world record for Tonka toys when I sold it," Newell said. "The seller was shocked. He'd forgotten about it."

Old wristwatch? Don't clean it or chuck it.

"It may have parts you can use in other watches," he advised.

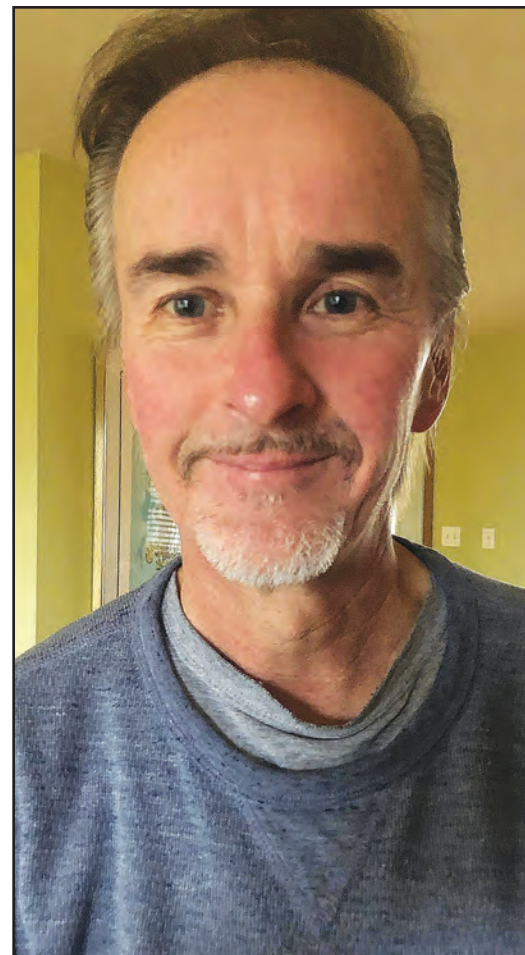
And don't reflexively throw a deceased's belongings into storage.

"You may end up paying thousands of dollars and the stuff isn't worth \$200," Newell cautioned.

While busy covering a territory stretching from northwest Indiana to the northern suburbs, Newell also finds time to add to his personal collection of African American art and vintage stereo equipment. His mantra is to treat clients fairly, and he delivers disappointing news gently.

"You have to know how to talk to people and how to tell them something has more sentimental value than dollar value," he said.

— by Ken Knutson



Antique appraiser Rex Newell will share his expertise in vintage coins, furniture and more in a Hinsdale Public Library program Jan. 10. "The market has changed a lot in the last 20 years," Newell said. "The younger generation doesn't like clutter." (photo provided)

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Best books, performances, shows of '23

Hinsdale residents, dignitaries share their recommendations across variety of mediums

By Pamela Lannom
plannom@thehinsdalean.com

This is the time of year when every outlet publishes its “best of” lists. The Hinsdalean wanted to get in on the action, with a local twist.

So here are the favorite books, performances and TV shows as recommended by folks who live and work in our favorite town.

“The best book I read in 2023 is one that actually came out in 2022 — ‘An Immense World’ by



Henriquez

Ed Yong. I’m always looking for books — whether fiction or nonfiction — that will transform how I think about the world and this one, a nonfiction investiga-

tion into the sense perception of animals, was a revelatory and wonderful reminder that what we take to be the reality all around us is subject to the ways in which we are built to receive it.” — Cristina Henriquez, author

“I am charmed, entertained and besotted with the ‘Thursday Murder Club’ mysteries by Richard Osman. ‘The Thursday Murder Club’ is also,



Keefe

conveniently, the first title in the series. Four residents of a British retirement village near Kent meet every Thursday to keep their minds sharp trying to solve cold cases. Until a shady developer’s henchman is murdered, and the day-drinking quartet find themselves with something more compelling to investigate. Like Louise Penny’s ‘Three Pines’ cozies, these characters are not small town or senior stereotypes.

Their interests, their worries and their grief are real. What makes this series shine, however, is that for as respectful and tender as it can be, it can also be cynical and screamingly funny. And, if you’re into audiobooks, Lesley Manville’s narration in absolutely pitch perfect. What I wouldn’t give to listen again for the first time!” — Karen Keefe, executive director, Hinsdale Public Library

“The best show I saw in 2023 was ‘The Who’s Tommy’ at The Goodman Theatre. This show was phenomenal! The show was reconceived by the original Broadway director and writers with all new choreography. The cast was amazing, from the leads to the ensemble. The set, costumes, lighting and video effects were mesmerizing, really making every moment captivating, I even saw it twice! This show is moving to Broadway starting in March of 2024 and I highly recommend making the trip to New York to see it.” — Don Smith, Stage Door Fine Arts co-founder and artistic director

“We watched both seasons of ‘The Patriot’ on Prime Video. ‘The Patriot’ is a drama about an intelligence officer who needs to prevent Iran from gaining nuclear technology but nothing goes as planned. What made me want to keep watching is how the show’s writers infuse dark humor and song writing throughout the series. I appreciate how they show the story from different characters’ vantage points. With each episode, the plan became more convoluted and left you with cliffhangers. We found ourselves needing to start the next episode to find out what happens before we could turn it off for the night.” — Gretchen Pearson Nerad, orchestra teacher, Hinsdale Middle School

“I really enjoyed ‘Lessons in Chemistry’ — the book. I know it’s also a series on Apple TV but I haven’t seen that yet. My book club chose this great story about a strong, smart woman who is quirky but lives life on her own terms. It’s also a love story and

a fun peek into the early years of television.” — Ann Pitcher, Pitcher Communications

“I’d recommend the series on Apple TV ‘Lessons in Chemistry.’ I seriously did not think I was going to like this series. Especially since (my wife) Mary said she loved the book so much. I loved the storyline and its creative twists and turns. Loved the style in which it was presented, in a ‘Mad Men’ sort of style. The acting is fantastic and the show has an incredible cast. The characters were quirky, unique and likable. I love this kind of storytelling and highly recommend this series. Can’t wait to hear if there will be a second season.” — Dan Hermann, amateur performer

“The best performance I saw in 2023 was ‘Merry, Merry Chicago!’ ‘Merry, Merry Chicago!’ pairs the



Gargano

brilliance of the world-renowned Chicago Symphony Orchestra with the majesty of the architectural gem of Chicago’s Orchestra Hall. In addition to enjoying the brilliance of the Chicago Symphony Orchestra, I was also fortunate to be entertained by a local madrigal group that performed during intermission. Such incredible talent. It was the perfect way to kick off the holiday season.” — Kathleen Gargano, village manager

“I highly recommend ‘The Last of Us,’ an HBO post-apocalyptic series that explores a terrifying future in which a contagious fungus has turned the infected into raging zombie-like creatures. We follow the journey of a reluctant hero, Joel, as he shepherds his teenaged charge Ellie cross-country on a quest to identify a cure. ‘The Last of Us’ is based on the cult-classic video game universally acclaimed for its compelling, richly

drawn characters and their evolving relationships. If you don’t subscribe to HBO, please stop by the Hinsdale Public Library to pick up a copy on DVD.” — Mike Oetting, adult services librarian, Hinsdale Public Library

“‘The Sense of an Ending’ by Julian Barnes. I saw the movie first, then read the book and read it again. I don’t have the marbles to



Fredrickson

encapsulate the book or the faithfully rendered movie in a few short sentences, but suffice it to say it’s about growing older and looking back, at love, and relationships,

and, well, I suppose at everything. The book’s a challenge, as is the movie, in that it demands total concentration to mine every last nugget, but the effort will be richly rewarded.” — Jack Fredrickson, author

“The thing from 2023 that stuck with me most (from any medium), was Season 2 of the TV series ‘The Bear.’ Much has been said regarding the strength of the writing and the commitment level of the performances. All accurate. The show humanizes the cost of what it means to pursue excellence. And spurred me to truly define



McDermott

that term in my own life. Very honorable mention as well to ‘Palo Alto’ by Mark Harris. A lengthy but rigorous analysis of how the town has played a significant role in shaping our economic, political and cultural history long before the ‘Silicon Valley’ nickname stuck.” — Jimmy McDermott, director, LyArts, The Community House

PULSE

ARTFULLY DONE

■ Later Impressions

Jan. 9-Feb. 17
Mayslake Peabody Estate
1717 W. 31st St., Oak Brook
www.dupageforest.org
(630) 206-9566

Explore the connection between nature and art at this free exhibit featuring 60 works by local artists of the Chicago Area Visual Artists. Meet some of the artists and enjoy non-alcoholic cocktails at a reception from 6 to 8 p.m.
Jan. 17. Hours: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

■ Introduction to Watercolor

Saturdays, Jan. 20-Feb. 10
Morton Arboretum
4100 Route 53, Lisle
www.mortonarb.org
(630) 968-0074

Students in this beginning class will paint a simple element of winter's flora while learning about watercolor materials, color mixing, painting techniques, and perspective and composition. Foundational drawing skills are required. All supplies will be provided; students are also welcome to bring their own. The program is for ages 16 and up. Time: 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost: \$180. RR, MD

FAITH COMMUNITIES

■ Adult Inter-Faith

Fellowship Lunch
Jan. 10
Union Church
137 S. Garfield Ave.
(630) 688-1706

Enjoy lunch and a conversation with Fr. Burke Masters of St. Isaac Jogues Church as he talks about his journey from Protestant baseball player to Catholic priest. AIFF aims to promote inclusivity and fellowship while also supporting charities that reduce hunger, domestic violence and other worthy causes through contributions. Reservations are due by Jan. 4. Call Elizabeth Jung at the number listed above or email her at ejung@uchinsdale.org. Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost: \$15 per person (cash or check).

FAMILY FUN

■ Story Stroll

Through Jan. 31
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.

www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

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

■ Marvelous Monarchs

Jan. 7
St. James Farm
2S541 Winfield Road,
Warrenville
www.dupageforest.org
(630) 933-7248

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

■ Animal Olympics Trail

Jan. 10
Bemis Woods-South
Ogden Avenue west of Wolf Road, near Western Springs
www.fpdcc.com
(312) 533-5751

Kids and families can walk a short, looped trail in a fun test of human versus animal abilities. Prizes will be awarded after completion. Hours: 10 a.m. to noon.

GAME ON

■ Competitive Mah Jongg Open Play

Thursdays through April 25
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St.

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

GREAT OUTDOORS

■ Feeder Watch

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

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

■ Dark Sky Walk

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

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

HEALTH & WELLNESS

■ Body Boost (HIIT) F4M

Saturdays, Jan. 6-April 27
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St.
www.thecommunityhouse.org
(630) 323-7500

New mothers and veteran moms alike can enjoy safe and effective high-intensity interval training combining cardio, strength, core and meditation. Time: 7:30 to 8:30 a.m. Cost: \$150 for a 10-class punch card.

■ Burning Beats

Jan. 7-April 30
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St.
www.thecommunityhouse.org
(630) 323-7500

Get a high-energy dance workout that is equal parts fun and fitness. Beginners and seasoned dancers are welcome to tone their bodies and burn calories while listening to a motivating soundtrack of pop anthems and Latin grooves. Times: 10 to 11 a.m. Tuesdays, 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. Wednesdays and 9 to 10 a.m. Fridays. Cost: \$15 for adult walk-ins, \$5 for ages 10-17; \$109 for a 10-class punch card.

■ Gentle Yoga


Wednesdays or Thursdays,
Jan. 10-Feb. 22
KLM Lodge
5901 S. County Line Road
www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr
(630) 789-7090

This slower-paced class is for beginners and those recovering from illness or injury of all ages, with a focus on flexibility and strength, and modifiable for individual needs. Time: 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. Cost: \$75. RR

■ Bridging the Oncology/Primary Care Gap

Jan. 11
Wellness House
131 N. County Line Road
www.wellnesshouse.org

Please turn to Page 18



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British braised beef a cozy dinner for a snowy day

When the snowflakes swirl and the cold wind blows, I welcome the chance to slow down. Gray winter days have me craving something warm and comforting. So, when I have time at home, I like to make a



Amy McCauley
Tales from the table

winter pub inspired dinner, my British braised beef and mashed potatoes. This wine braised beef is like beef bourguignon, but simpler to make. Just brown the meat, add the wine and stock and the oven will do all the work while your kitchen is filled with a delicious aroma. Finish the sauce by adding a flavorful British twist with Dijon mustard and horseradish. Serve over creamy mashed potatoes and you'll have a cozy supper that will make you happy you stayed in.

— Amy McCauley of Hinsdale is the paper's food columnist. Readers can email her at news@thehinsdalean.com

- British Braised Beef**
- 3 lbs boneless beef stew meat, cut into pieces and pat dry
 - 3 tablespoons vegetable oil
 - 3 slices of bacon
 - 2 yellow onions, diced
 - 6 cloves of garlic, sliced into quarters
 - 1/3 cup of flour
 - 1 1/4 cup chardonnay, white wine
 - 1 1/4 cup beef stock
 - 3 tablespoons Worcestershire sauce
 - 2 bay leaves
 - 2 tablespoons Dijon mustard
 - 2 tablespoons horseradish
 - 2 tablespoons butter
 - 1 cup baby bella mushrooms, sliced
 - Chopped parsley or chives to garnish (optional)

Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Place a large Dutch oven or stock pot on the stove over medium heat. Add two tablespoons of vegetable oil. Then add the bacon and let it cook, turning occasionally for about 4 to 5 minutes until it cooks and renders some fat in the pan. Then discard the bacon.

Turn the heat up to medium high, add the meat, season with pinch of salt and brown it on all sides in two batches. Remove it to a side dish.

Turn the heat down to medium. If needed, add an additional tablespoon of oil and add the onions and garlic and cook until soft. Add the flour and stir for a minute to brown the flour. Then slowly add the white wine as you stir it in. Then slowly pour in the beef broth, continuing to stir so a sauce begins to form. Mix in the Worcestershire sauce and add the bay leaves. Then return the beef back to the pan.

Place the lid on the pot and put it in

British Braised Beef



the oven. Let it simmer in the oven for 2 hours.

Once the beef has cooked, take it out of the oven, remove the lid and place it on a burner over medium low heat. Stir in the Dijon mustard and horseradish. Meanwhile in a medium sized skillet melt 2 tablespoons of butter. Then sauté the mushrooms, stirring so they brown on both sides. Add the mushrooms to the braised beef. Serve over mashed potatoes. This recipe serves six.

If entertaining, this dish can be made ahead. Allow it to cool and then refrigerate. To reheat, place it back on the stove top and simmer over medium heat for 10 to 15 minutes until warmed through. Add a little beef broth if needed.

Mashed potatoes

- 6 medium russet potatoes peeled and diced
- 1 stick unsalted butter, cut into tablespoons
- 1 1/2 cups cream or milk
- 2 teaspoons kosher salt
- Ground pepper to taste

Place the potatoes in a large pot and cover them with cold water about one inch higher than the potatoes. Then bring the potatoes to a boil over medium high heat. Cook for 25 minutes until they are soft.

Drain the potatoes and then rice them with a potato ricer or mash them in the pot. Add the butter, cream, salt and pepper and mix with a rubber spatula until they are light and creamy.



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For more information on the process of donation, contact Michael Hayes at mhayes@villageofhinsdale.org



PULSE

Continued from Page 16

(630) 323-5150

Drs. Cynthia Lagone and Anne Schultz will address important aspects of medical care for those who are completing cancer treatment. The program is part of the Rerouting: Choosing Your Course After Cancer series. Time: 6 to 7:30 p.m. RR

JUST FOR KIDS

■ Friendship Bracelets

Jan. 18
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

Kids in third through eighth grade are invited to create friendship bracelets to wear and share. Time: 4 to 5 p.m. RR

NOTEWORTHY

■ Michael Miles with Jill Kaeding & Ariane Lydon

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

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

■ Celebration of the Dance

Jan. 20
Union Church of Hinsdale
137 S Garfield St.
www.elmhurstsymphony.org
(630) 941-0202

The Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra will perform this program, including Lully's Selections from "Roland," Telemann's Concerto for Flute and Viola da Gamba, Rameau's "Pièces de Clavecin en concert," Praetorius' "Dances from Terpsichore" and Bach's Orchestral Suite No. 1, which has seven different dance sections. Featured performers are Craig Trompeter on the viola da gamba and flutist Mary Stolper. The orchestra also will perform the program at 4 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 21 at Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church, 149 W. Brush Hill Road. Time: 4 p.m. Tickets:

\$35-\$45, \$32-\$42 for seniors, \$12-\$17 for students.

ON STAGE

■ TWS Studio

Starting Jan. 6
Theatre of Western Springs
4384 Hampton Ave.
www.theatreofwesternsprings.com

This two-week theater class serves as an introduction to the Theatre of Western Springs, using exercises and improvisation to work on basic acting concepts and then applying them to scenes and monologues to ultimately present on stage. The theater's volunteering, casting and other policies also will be covered. Those 18 and older, and all levels of experience, are welcome. Non-actors will be introduced to several technical areas of the theatre and work "backstage" for the final presentation. Completing Studio and purchasing a TWS subscription is required to be cast in TWS shows. Visit the website above for the detailed schedule, or contact Maureen at (708) 246-4043 or info@theatrewesternsprings.com. Cost: \$75. RR

■ 'Rodgers + Hammerstein's Cinderella'

Through Jan. 7
Drury Lane Theatre
100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace
www.drurylanetheatre.com
(630) 530-8300

Experience the classic Rodgers + Hammerstein adaptation of the beloved fairytale this holiday season. Featuring the songs "In My Own Little Corner," "Impossible/It's Possible" and "Ten Minutes Ago," this magical musical is sure to entrance families of all ages. Times: 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 1:30 and 7 p.m. Thursdays, 7 p.m. Fridays, 3 & 8 p.m. Saturdays, 2 & 6 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$100.75-\$111.25.

■ The Winter Workshop Plays

Jan. 12-14
Theatre of Western Springs
4384 Hampton Ave.
www.theatreofwesternsprings.com
(708) 246-4043

The TWS Directors' Workshop presents this program featuring the plays "The Culling" by Robyn Dana

Guest and "Lou Gehrig Did Not Die of Cancer" by Jason Miller. Times: 8 p.m. Jan. 12 & 13, 7:30 p.m. Jan. 14.

SENIOR SCENE

■ Ageless Grace

Wednesdays, Jan. 10-Feb. 28
Westmont Community Center
75 E. Richmond St.
www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr
(630) 789-7090

This program for ages 50 and up will lubricate joints, strengthen muscles, exercise the brain and improve flexibility, hand-eye coordination, breath and balance to vibrant music while seated in a chair. Participants are encouraged to participate barefoot to promote foot flexibility and strength. Time: 11 to 11:45 a.m. Cost: \$62. RR

SIGN UP NOW

■ Peabody's Pages Book Club

Jan. 5, Feb. 2 & March 1
Mayslake Peabody Estate
1717 W. 31st St., Oak Brook
www.dupageforest.org
(630) 206-9566

Discuss great reads with fellow book fans. January's title is "Kickback" by Robert Parker; February's selection is "Founding Gardeners" by Andrea Wulf; and March's discussion will be on "A 1,000 Mile Walk to the Gulf" by John Muir. Time: 10 to 11:15 a.m. Cost: \$10.

■ Birding & Board Games

Jan. 6
Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center
9800 Willow Springs Road, Willow Springs
www.fpdcc.com
(708) 839-6897

Visitors 14 and older are invited to watch and learn about winter birds at the feeders while playing nature-themed board games. Time: 1 to 3 p.m. RR

■ Antiques Appraisal

Jan. 10
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

Enjoy an "antiques roadshow" experience as professional appraiser Rex Newell visits the library to appraise attendees' collectibles and talk about trends in the antiques market. The

Please turn to Page 19



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Pet pic of the week

One-year-old Kimchi — a total sweetheart — is back, still looking for a home. She has lived with cats and dogs in a foster home and will need a dog friend to help show her the world isn't so scary. Kimchi is a little shy around people she doesn't know, but she warms up quickly. She is spayed, microchipped, and fully vaccinated. Her adoption fee is \$325. The Hinsdale Humane Society Tuthill Family Pet Rescue & Resource Center is open to the public 2 to 8 p.m. Tuesdays, noon to 6 p.m. Wednesdays to Fridays and 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. Visit www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org for more information. (photo provided)



Continued from Page 18

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

TEENS & TWEENS

■ New Year, New Vision Board

Jan. 9
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

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

WEE ONES

■ Curiosity Woods Forest Play Program

Tuesdays & Thursdays, Jan. 9-25
Morton Arboretum
4100 Route 53, Lisle
www.mortonarb.org
(630) 968-0074

Children ages 3-6 become

active learners in this six-session drop-off program as they follow their curiosity about the natural world in child-led nature play and exploration in the arboretum's East Woods, along with storytelling, sharing time and other activities. Time: 1:30-3:30 p.m. Cost: \$249.

WINE & DINE

■ Whiskey Dinner

Jan. 19 or 20
Morton Arboretum
4100 Route 53, Lisle
www.mortonarb.org
(630) 719-2468

Enjoy a five course meal perfectly paired with whiskey tastings, live classical guitar music and a view of Meadow Lake. During dinner, learn about the history, production and appreciation of whiskey from Mississippi River Distilling Co. representatives. Time: 6 to 9 p.m. Tickets: \$108. RR, MD

Key

RR - registration required

MD - member discount

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A special victory

The Hinsdale Central Special Olympics basketball team was victorious over D99 Hoops Dec. 8 at Hinsdale Central. The game was tied down to a last-minute shot that put the Devils ahead 36-34. The Friday night contest was filled with fans who turned out for the Pack the Place event. Peer buddy Grace Scott works with Jack Caliento on his shooting. Seniors Kathy Zhang and Ricky Luo were honored during senior night. Joe Blase Sanchez sinks a shot early in the game. Maya Salamah and peer buddies Maddie Henry and Avery Stefani discuss the game during halftime. (Jim Slonoff photos)



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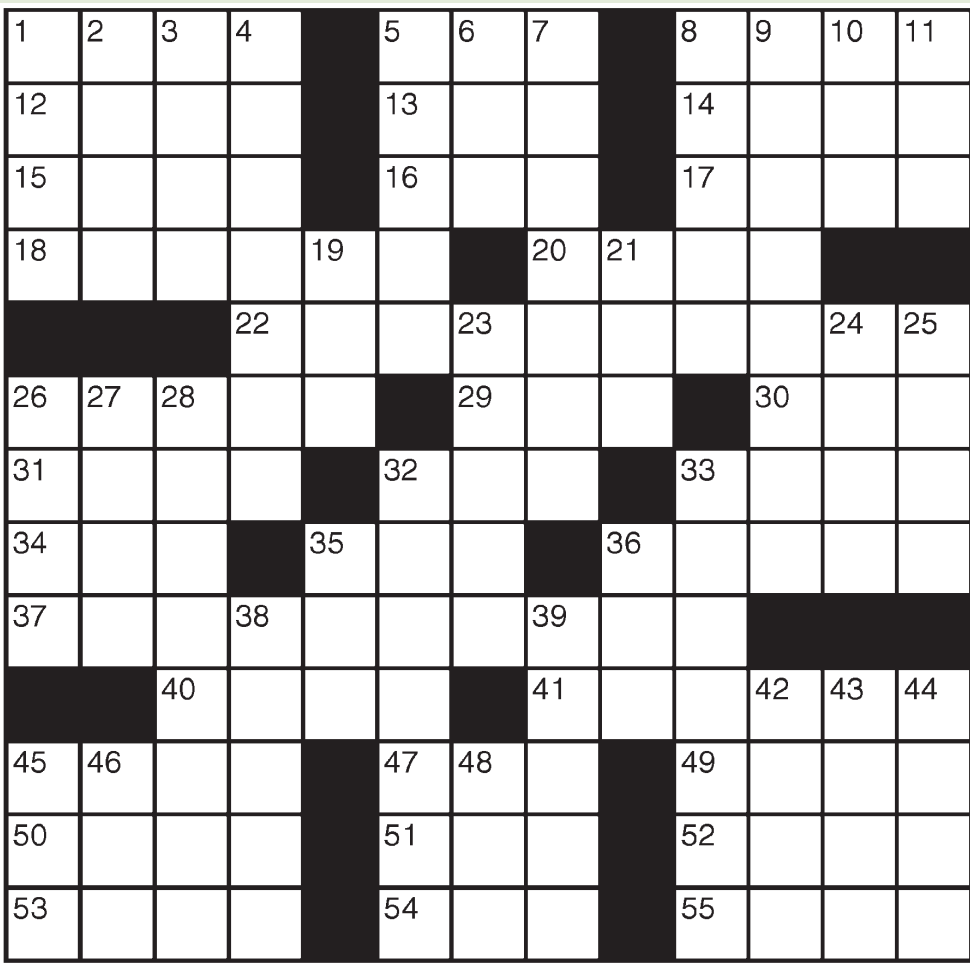


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6 LONG TIME
7 SLALOMS
8 REEVES OF "SPEED"
9 DIETERS COUNT THEM
10 "RIGHT YOU --!"
11 "KIDNAPPED"
MONOGRAM
19 STANLEY CUP ORG.
21 PARIS SUMMER
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24 CRUSADER RALPH
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27 "PANIC ROOM"
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by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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SCRAMBLERS

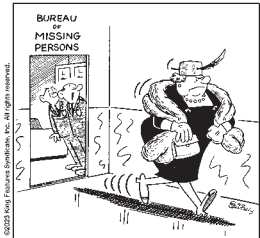
solution

1. Fable 2. Decry;
3. Twine; 4. Anoint

Today's Word
NOTIFY

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four ordinary words. Then rearrange the boxed letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the gag!



Story BAFLE
Blame CYDER
Coil IWENT
Bless NATION
TODAY'S WORD

S	L	T	9	E	S	Z	8	6	L	A
U	6	Z	L	8	L	9	E	T	S	N
D	E	8	S	6	L	T	L	Z	9	S
O	L	E	8	L	T	S	Z	9	6	W
K	9	6	Z	L	E	8	S	L	T	E
U	T	S	L	Z	9	6	L	8	E	R
	S	L	T	9	Z	L	6	E	8	
	Z	9	6	S	8	E	T	L	L	
	8	L	E	T	6	L	9	S	Z	

HOROSCOPES

January 2024 Horoscopes • Week 2



CAPRICORN

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
It's often business as usual for you to burn the midnight oil, Capricorn. But scale back on those late-night interludes. That's a recipe for burn-out that can derail your bigger plans.



ARIES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, watch out because you are hot stuff this week. Coming off the excitement of the holidays, you're still in the mood to socialize. The invitations to various social events will still flow.



CANCER

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, right now you may be feeling like hibernating, especially if the weather is changing. Don't burrow under the covers just yet. Find a way to stay busy and socialize.



LIBRA

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Libra, after a season of partying and letting other tasks fall by the wayside, it is time to get back to focus. You must take out your financial account records and track spending right now.



AQUARIUS

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, you are the zodiac's team player, so you may have to give the troops a pep talk to get everyone working together this week. Smooth down any ruffled feathers as needed.



TAURUS

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Hopefully you've made progress on the various organizational projects that you have had in mind, Taurus. Now is the time to get those resolutions moving.



LEO

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, even if it seems the way to be the most productive, burning the candle at both ends is only going to make you tired and less efficient. Ask for help if you need it.



SCORPIO

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Take an inventory of the things you want to change about yourself, Scorpio. There is always room for improvement, especially if you feel you have not been your best self lately.



PISCES

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
If you have any unfinished business that needs to get wrapped up, Pisces, the clock is ticking. Make a strong attempt to finish by Wednesday or Thursday.



GEMINI

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Gemini, how is your to-do list coming along? If you haven't yet gotten moving, a coming slowdown could make the perfect time to get cracking.



VIRGO

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, your innate humility means you're often content with being behind the scenes and not in the limelight. However, this week you may want a little extra fanfare.



SAGITTARIUS

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Hopefully you have met your quota of parties and social events because now is the time to take a break, Sagittarius. The invitations will cease, but that can be a good thing for you.

SPORTS



Classic contest

Hinsdale Central head boys basketball coach Nick Latorre keeps a close eye on his team's defensive play in the fourth quarter of the Red Devils' opening game against Schaumburg Dec. 27 in the annual Hinsdale Central Holiday Classic tournament. Junior guard Vincas Buzelis draws a foul driving to the basket to earn a couple of free throws, while teammate and fellow guard Will Gaffney works to stay in front of his opponent on the defensive end. Junior guard Eric Kozys keeps his vision up as he makes a move around his defender and helps the Devils ultimately defeat the Saxons 66-44. The team finished the tourney with two wins and two losses. (Jim Slonoff photos)

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I have completed (5) real estate transactions with Kim over the last few years.

She always picks up her phone, or texts right back at all times of the day. If she doesn't know the answer to my questions (no matter how small), she takes the extra steps needed to find it. Kim made sure ALL my deals stayed on track, even when big challenges were present. She was always very professional, had great recommendations for plumbers, painters, roofers etc. to help me when issues arose, and cared genuinely about the transactions and what was best for me personally & my family. I felt she always had my best interests in mind - and negotiated the best deals for me. I also appreciated how well she knows every single street (and it seems house!) in Hinsdale. This intimate knowledge of the area helped me greatly when making decisions for my family. I highly recommend Kim!! She IS a 5-star REALTOR®."

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& sellers gave Kim 5 stars**

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