Neil Krupicka was swarmed by his family after his speech dedicating the new gymnastics gym at Hinsdale Central. The Krupicka Gymnastic Gym open house was held Saturday, and several hundred people gathered to tour the new facility for Central’s girls and boys gymnastics program. Krupicka’s time at Central began as a student in 1963 and resumed after college, when he taught and coached for 34 years before retiring. During that time his teams made 32 state team appearances, received 16 state trophies and won seven state team championships. Please turn to Page 34 for more pictures. (Jim Slonoff photo)
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Village signs off on 5G roll-out pact

By Ken Knutson
kknutson@thehinsdalean.com

Crown Castle will be allowed to install 137 additional wireless facilities in the village over the next two years to provide enhanced 5G service, according to a settlement agreement Hinsdale trustees approved Tuesday.

And for the second board meeting in a row, consideration of the controversial pact drew a roomful of residents concerned about the project’s potential adverse health consequences and affect on property values.

Village President Tom Cauley said rejecting wireless infrastructure provider Crown Castle’s request for zoning relief to mount the equipment on poles throughout the community was not an option due to overriding federal and state statutes.

“None of us favor filing a lawsuit against Crown Castle. But when I look into my heart, I think there are times when one has to fight in support of what’s right and ethical,” he said. “Please follow what you know is desired by the residents of Hinsdale.

“The agreement at least gives the village the power to require equipment be located almost exclusively on existing poles across the community, officials have said. Crown Castle will erect two new poles as part of the project. Equipment will be installed at a minimum of 12 feet high to make it less visible from ground level, and it must match the pole color. All cables must be enclosed in conduit.

“File a lawsuit and let’s show Crown Castle what we’re made of,” he added. Cauley said he and the trustees share residents’ frustrations at the circumstances.

“None of us favor filing a lawsuit against Crown Castle. But when I look into my heart, I think there are times when one has to fight in support of what’s right and ethical,” he said. “Please follow what you know is desired by the residents of Hinsdale.

“File a lawsuit and let’s show Crown Castle what we’re made of,” he added.

Cauley said the previous meeting’s discussion did prompt the village to add a radio frequency monitoring provision to the agreement. A consultant approved by both parties will randomly test the equipment for compliance.

“If we test the equipment and it is within the FCC regulatory requirements, then the village pays for the testing,” Stifflear said of the procedure that costs $4,500 to $7,000. “If it’s not within the requirements, then Crown Castle will pay for it.”

Trustee Laurel Haarlow recounted seeing spray painted markings all over town a few years ago that ostensibly indicated where new poles would have been placed had the agreement not been hammered out.

“For what we are able to do, we got a pretty good deal for ourselves,” Haarlow said, expressing gratitude for officials’ negotiating work. “The circumstances are really disappointing ... this agreement gets us something that is a lot better than what would be happening if we didn’t have it.”

Double stuffed

Hinsdale police had to call for backup Monday morning when the squad car they were using to collect donated items at Madison School reached capacity. Almost 3,500 pounds of canned goods and paper products were collected by police stationed at District 181 schools during the past week in the annual Stuff the Squad competition. Madison School claimed the districtwide title by contributing 858 pounds. Isla and Grace Callahan bring their donation up to the squad, while Hinsdale Police Chief Brian King begins loading. The items were taken to HCS Family Services for its pantry. (Jim Slonoff photos)
Calling all cars — Hinsdale police and firefighters are honoring the village’s 150th anniversary — and their forebears — by wearing throwback badges this year. When Hinsdale was founded in 1873, among the village officers was a “police magistrate.” The village hired its first true policeman, C.P. Clark in 1877; his official title was constable. Star No. 1 was given in January 1886 to John Peter Linn, a native of Denmark who had come to Hinsdale five years earlier. This photo of the police department dates back to 1939. For more information on the retro badges, turn to the story on Page 7. (photo courtesy of the village of Hinsdale)
New administrator to join Red Devils

By Ken Knutson
kknutson@thehinsdalean.com

Hinsdale Central High School will soon welcome a new assistant principal to campus.

At their April 13 meeting, Hinsdale High School District 86 Board members approved the hiring of Christopher Cirrincione to serve as Hinsdale Central’s assistant principal for curriculum and instruction. Cirrincione has served as assistant principal at Palatine High School for the last two years. Prior to that he was a social studies and Spanish teacher in Prospect and Elk Grove high schools for six years. He also was an adjunct professor at Quincy University for two years.

Cirrincione said he’s eager to assume his post. “I am honored to join the Red Devil Nation. I am excited to work alongside the amazing staff at Hinsdale Central and District 86 and look forward to supporting the continued success of an already high-achieving community,” he wrote. “To me education is the ability for us, as educators, to share our passions with students and provide them with the opportunity to explore their interests and leave high school ready to excel in their next chapter.”

Hinsdale Central Principal Bill Walsh told the board Cirrincione will be a great addition to the team. “I’m really looking forward to bringing on his energy and his passion for teaching, education and students,” Walsh said.

Cirrincione will replace Jessica Hurt, who in February was hired to be the next principal of York High School in Elmhurst. He earned a bachelor’s degree in secondary education and history from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and a master’s degree in Spanish from DePaul University. He is currently working toward a doctorate in educational administration from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Cirrincione’s one-year contract carries a salary of $145,000 and begins July 1.

Among other personnel moves at their meeting, board members also approved a one-year contract for Katie McHale to serve assistant director of special education at the Transition Center at an annual salary of $115,000. McHale has served as a special education teacher and transition and vocational coordinator in Community High School District 94 for six years.

And board members accepted the resignation of Patrice Payne, who became the district’s first director of institutional equity when she joined the district nearly two years ago.

Payne is expected to give her final annual report to the board at its Thursday, May 11, meeting.

Climate survey: Things are cool in D181

By Pamela Lannom
plannom@thehinsdalean.com

The 2023 Comprehensive School Climate Inventory results show students, staff and families all gave the district favorable marks, rating nearly all areas as positive (above 3.5).

“I just think it’s a fantastic celebration that all of our schools are over 4.0,” Tracey Miller, director of assessment, instruction and evaluation, told board members Monday.

CSCI measures 12 essential dimensions of a healthy school climate in five broad categories — safety, teaching and learning, interpersonal relationships, social media and institutional environment, plus two dimensions for district personnel only.

The survey is administered to students in fourth through eighth grade, staff at all levels and families of all students.

Reached by email this week, Cirrincione said he’s eager to assume his post.

The survey, along with 100 percent of staff and 44 percent of families. Response rates were very high, Miller reported. During 2023, 99 percent of students participated in the survey, along with 100 percent of staff members and 44 percent of families.

All schools received an average score higher than 4.0, ranging from 4.07 for Hinsdale Middle School to 4.52 for Prospect School.

Only four of 84 areas (listed by respondent group and dimension) received a median score of 3.5 or below, on the borderline of the neutral category. Three involved social-emotional learning and one involved social inclusion.

“All schools received an average score higher than 4.0, ranging from 4.07 for Hinsdale Middle School to 4.52 for Prospect School.

Only four of 84 areas (listed by respondent group and dimension) received a median score of 3.5 or below, on the borderline of the neutral category. Three involved social-emotional learning and one involved social inclusion.

“There are many 4-pluses, so many positive judgments,” she said. “I’m really, really proud of the work that’s been done.”
MEETING ROUNDUP

Community Consolidated District 181

Among other business Monday, board members:

• unanimously approved an assessment calendar for the 2023-24 school year. A few tests have been moved earlier in the year, three have been added and two have been eliminated. “This version of the assessment calendar is truly just refined,” said Tracey Miller, director of assessment, instruction and evaluation. “There aren’t major changes we are asking (for) or recommending.”

• approved new resources for middle school Spanish (Somos) at a cost of $26,225 and for French (Nous Sommes for sixth and seventh grades and Entre Culture for eighth grade) at a cost of $21,378.

• agreed to hire John Kasarda to complete a demographic study, including districtwide and individual school enrollment projections, as the district plans to move to full-day kindergarten.

• voted 7-0 to declare June 2 as the last day of attendance for students and June 6 as the last day for teachers. No emergency or snow days were used this year.

• learned about the new science resources that will be piloted between September and February next year. Mystery Science and Amplify will be piloted at the elementary schools and Elevate and OpenSciEd at the middle schools. Administrators will recommend in spring 2024 which to purchase for use starting in the 2024-25 school year. The district last adopted new science resources for the 2017-18 school year.

• accepted gifts including a guitar and accessories worth $350 from Marybeth Kopriva for Hinsdale Middle School, $55,283 for additional playground equipment from the Madison School PTO and $455 from the D181 Foundation for Got STEM! program supplies.

• agreed to hold a public hearing to pursue a waiver so the district will not have to spend $2,500 to publish its annual statement of affairs in a local newspaper, as required by Illinois School Code. Instead, the district would publish it online and have bound copies available at the district office and at each of its nine schools.
Retro badges honor village anniversary

By Pamela Lannom
plannom@thehinsdalean.com

Did you know Hinsdale police and firefighter/paramedics are wearing retro badges this year in honor of the village’s 150th anniversary?

At the fire department, which is also celebrating its 130th anniversary this year, the project required quite a bit of research.

“There have been badge numbers physically on the badges, but they were just kind of handed out arbitrarily,” firefighter/paramedic Nick McDonough said.

So when he and Chief John Giannelli were talking about how to mark the village and department’s anniversaries this year, they decided to have a special badge — and considered recycling badge numbers of original firefighters. The idea snowballed, though, and soon McDonough was at village hall, reviewing appointment papers for all sworn firefighters and equipment records for others to assign a unique badge number to each.

The first badge belonged to Charles Ring, who was sworn in in 1886 (Hinsdale Hose Company No. 1 preceded the Hinsdale Fire Department). McDonough was familiar with his name from a plaque he’s seen at the fire station.

“There’s an award they gave him for 40 years of service and it’s hanging on the wall,” he said.

McDonough said he enjoyed doing the research, which took about six months.

“I found where guys were sworn in back in the ’20s, so I’m holding a piece of paper, pre-World War II era, in my hand. I thought that was pretty neat,” he said.

McDonough, who has been with the department for almost 11 years, has a badge number of 275. Newer hires have badge numbers in the mid-280s.

“I’m hoping in 20, 30, 50 years, guys are like, ‘I’m the 400th person who came through this department.’ It’s your own unique spot on the timeline of the department,” he said.

At the police department, the planning for retro badges unfolded a little differently.

“Officers used to wear a badge with a style called “Cook County pie plate,” Detective Sgt. Lou Hayes said.

“After doing a little research, Hayes found a company that owned the equipment used to make Hinsdale’s first badges. “We found the badge company that retained the dies that struck the badge way back when,” he said. “I thought it was cool we could have a badge that was struck by the same machinery that made them over 100 years ago for us.”

The badges do not list rank or position. Instead, silver badges are worn by patrol officers, detectives and civilian workers. Gold badges are worn by sergeants, the deputy chief and the chief.

Badge numbers in the police department are recycled, Hayes said, but that doesn’t mean the sense of history is lost.

“It’s kind of a thing for us to know the officers who held these badge numbers as a matter of tradition,” said Hayes, a 25-year department member.

Residents have noticed the special badges.

“We’re always getting comments because it’s a different style badge than you typically see nowadays,” Hayes said. “It’s a great conversation starter with members of the community. All the feedback has been positive.”
**POLICE BEAT**

Hinsdale police distributed the following reports April 19.

**DUI, cannabis arrest**

David A. Rojo, 19, 627 Ardmore Ave., Villa Park, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a blood-alcohol content higher than .08, possession of cannabis 100-499 grams (felony) and improper lighting at 2:01 a.m. April 14 at Route 83 and Ogden Avenue. He was charged and released to appear in court.

**DUI arrest**

John D. Hackney, 40, 2802 W. Altgeld St., No. 1, Chicago, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a blood-alcohol content higher than .08 and speeding at 9:25 p.m. April 15 in the 10 block of East Ogden Avenue. He was charged and released to appear in court.

**Fleeing and eluding**

A known suspect stopped for a lane violation fled the traffic stop after providing his drivers license and insurance at 4:01 p.m. April 12 in the 10 block of West 55th Street. Police obtained a warrant for his arrest.

**License plate stolen**

A rear license plate was stolen from a vehicle parked in the Gateway Square lot, 777 N. York Road, between 9 a.m. April 13 and 12:27 p.m. April 14.

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.

**County seeks input on new precinct changes**

The DuPage County Board has developed new proposed precinct maps and is asking for residents to provide feedback. Members of the public can provide feedback online at https://proposedprecincts.dupage.hub.arcgis.com, where they will be able to see the proposed maps. The county also will have physical maps on display from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. through Friday, May 5, on the first floor of the JTK Administration Building Atrium, 421 N. County Farm Road, Wheaton. Comment cards will be available near the maps along with a submission box. “Resident feedback is always an important part of our county decision-making processes, and providing this opportunity increases transparency and improves the public’s trust in government operations,” finance committee Chair Liz Chaplin said.

The full county board will discuss public feedback at its Tuesday, May 9, meeting and will vote on the proposed maps in June.

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It was Valentine’s Day six years ago, and Hinsdale’s Bob Klinger had just recovered from prostate cancer surgery. He eagerly anticipated his first post-op outing: Wellness House’s annual Valentine’s couples dinner. Mother Nature had another agenda.

“It was a blizzard, so they called all the couples and said, ‘We might cancel the event,’” Klinger recounted. “I told them, ‘I will crawl there in the blizzard because I need this.’ They said, ‘OK, well, I guess we’ll have it.’ That’s how much I needed (Wellness House’s) support at that time.”

Klinger will continue his practice of returning the favor by participating in this year’s Walk for Wellness fundraiser on Sunday, May 7 (see Page 22 for details).

“I think (my family and I) have participated in the walk almost every year since we moved here,” the 20-year resident said. “We love doing the walk.”

Until becoming a cancer patient, the yearly procession of people by his house was about all he knew of the organization. “We would see this local event and thought, ‘Oh, we could do this,’” Klinger remarked. “I just never knew what they did or never needed their services.”

In the shock following his diagnosis, he joined Wellness House’s men’s prostate cancer support group led by counselor Michael Williams.

“I was 54 and the youngest guy there by over a decade,” he said of the group that became Team Crown Royals for the walk. “I think the biggest thing for me is they were able to help me personally with social and emotional support, which I didn’t know I needed. We just formed a great friendship.”

Klinger sought out ways to volunteer, whether handing out T-shirts or with the Memory Tree that honors loved ones who have passed. His wife Sylvia, a registered dietitian, began teaching healthy cooking classes in English and Spanish.

“She always practices healthy eating, I just never paid attention until recently,” he said. “I learned it’s kind of a grief process, I just became a better person,” he said. “It’s not a setback, it’s an opportunity for growth and becoming a better person and helping others.”

Although it was difficult to tell his two children about his cancer, having Wellness House’s resources for patients’ family members was invaluable.

“They immediately got on board with Wellness House, and as a family we learned how to navigate the new journey that we were all on,” Klinger said.

He later connected with the nonprofit Imerman Angels that provides one-on-one cancer support, serving as mentor for others on the path.

“You just have this instant connection. You’ve been in the war together, you just know what each other is going through,” he related.

An avid traveler, Klinger endeavors to take two international trips a year. “We were just in Tokyo, and my wife and I going back to Portugal later this year,” he said.

But next month’s walk is definitely a calendar highlight, as more than 50 Crown Royals’ members gather in solidarity.

“People bring their spouses and friends. My wife and children walk, too,” said Klinger, now five years cancer-free.

“The best part is just reconnecting with the guys and putting on our purple T-shirts. “It’s like a party, that’s what I look forward to most.”

— story by Ken Knutson,
photo by Jim Slonoff
OPINION

Earth Day invites us all to do our part

Time to get your planetary party on!
Saturday is Earth Day, an occasion to consider all that’s wonderful about this celestial orb we share, as well as how we can ensure its natural treasures are around to amaze and inspire countless future generations.

Every time we take note of Hinsdale’s lovely tree-lined streets, sprawling green parks and its preserved ancestral prairie areas (you know about those, right?), we should give thanks. Each week we try to deliver information on ways to soak in the area’s natural amenities, whether at soul-nourishing spots like nearby Fullersburg Woods and Waterfall Glen in DuPage County, or just across the county line at beautiful Bernis Woods or the enlightening delights of the Little Red Schoolhouse.

Hinsdaleans care a great deal about promoting a thriving environment, embracing recycling and repurposing efforts to reduce piling up landfills, planting gardens to support pollinators and walking or riding bikes when possible for short trips (or swapping the gas guzzler for an EV) to help keep our air clean. Many are participating in today’s Park Clean-Up day with the village’s parks and recreation department.

For this year’s observance, www.EarthDay.org is calling on people to rally behind the theme of “Invest In Our Planet,” a vision aimed at highlighting the importance of dedicating one’s time, resources and energy to solving climate change and other environmental issues. To that goal, the organization has offered 52 actions and tips to make a difference, one to lean into every week of the year.

They range from easy to rather sacrificial, and we won’t list them all here. But just about all of us can do something more than we’re doing to help the cause. Here are 10 to consider:

- Turn off the lights when not in use.
- Use environmentally friendly cleaning products.
- Create a compost pile.
- Use a reusable water bottle, and switch to reusable bags.
- Notify your utility and ask for “green” renewable power.
- Encourage the use of reusable utensils, dishes and trays.
- Skip single-use plastic packaging and buy glass & paper products.
- Buy locally sourced food.

EDITORIAL

D181 celebration of writing is quite the party

When the District 181 Foundation sets out to celebrate writing, it doesn’t cut corners.

I was fortunate to be able to play a very small role in the foundation’s Young Writers Night at Hinsdale Middle School last week, hosting one of the nine workshops offered. I enjoy my job and enjoy talking about writing, so those two 30-minute sessions were fun for me — and I hope for the students and parents who attended.

The highlight of the night, though, was listening to the keynote speaker, youth author Keir Graff. He’s written several middle-grade adventure novels (“I’m most excited to read “The Other Felix” and is about to launch “Minerva Keen’s Detective Book,” the first in a new series he’s co-authoring with best-selling writer James Patterson.

Graff traced his interest in writing back to elementary school, where a teacher recommended him not only to write a story but to turn it into an actual book, with a cover and illustrations. It reminded me of my first book, “The Adventures of Pierre Poodle,” about a trip my dog took in space. I created illustrations for my story and somehow attached the pages to a cardboard cover.

Unlike Graff, I did not go on to create several more such books as a student. I did write an Apple II computer in grad school, though — and might have been one of few people in audience to have recognized it in his slide show.

Besides his great sense of humor, the thing I loved most about Graff was how complimentary he was to the students who contributed to “On Our Minds,” the 2023 hard-bound Young Writers Book the foundation published. He shared how excited he would have been to be part of such a book and even invited students who contributed to it to sign his copy.

The book is, as he indicated, impressive. It includes the work of 192 writers and artists. Written works range from a six-line poem called “Elephants” to an almost two-page piece titled “Ivy Bardon” (and that’s only an excerpt). The anthology includes short stories, poems, essay, descriptive paragraphs, pictures and more.

Among the topics covered are many things you would expect to see — a persuasive essay on why fifth-graders should be allowed to have phones in school, advice for middle schoolers at lunch time (avoid the tacos and chicken pie!) and many, many pieces about dogs.

The list of unexpected topics has entries such as the Revolutionary War, a twist on fairy tales called “What if the Wolf Cried Boy?” and an origami story called “Where I’m From.”

One of my favorite entries so far — and I’ve only just made a dent in the book — is the “Recipe for Happiness.” And the best title I think should go to “The No Good, Devious, Trouble-Making Eraser.”

Who doesn’t want to read that?

Like these authors, my love of writing started when I was a kid. Seeing my poems published in our local newspaper, The Homewood-Flossmoor Star, was such a thrill for me. Like Graff, I can only imagine how exciting it would have been to see my work in a hard-cover book.

I hope the student contributors will continue to write and draw and experience the wonderful feeling that comes when someone else connects with your work. Congratulations to all on a job well done.

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

COMMENDATION

Like these authors, my love of writing started when I was a kid.

Seeing my poems published in our local newspaper, The Homewood-Flossmoor Star, was such a thrill for me.
Calendar Tetris: a game worth playing

Here we are in April again, friends. The temperature is warming up (shhh, this week doesn’t count!), and birds are nesting on my front porch and the Silberberg family calendar is bursting at the seams. Some entries are mine or my husband’s but the majority belong to the 4-feet-and-under contingent of our crew.

First there’s education. Pretty standard, as times and locations have been unchanged since August. Add baseball, T-ball, soccer and basketball, all with games and practices. Pepper in end-of-the-year activities at two schools. Plus birthday parties for a slew of mini friends. In short, it’s a pretty busy spring.

OK, I’ve played Tetris before. I can make everything work, get everyone where they need to be and still have room to spare. Let’s do this! Alright this fits there nicely, whew barely slid that one in, inch a little to the left, we’re looking good! Wait a second, why are so many of these times overlapping and why is one game on the opposite side of town from the other? Breathe, Lex. Not a big deal — except for the fact that my cloning device is on the fritz, my friend Hermione borrowed my time turner and we are a one-car family. Ugh, I just lost.

Before we started a family, my husband and I assumed we were ready for parenthood and all it entailed.

The signs were there: He’s organized and patient, I’m creative and adaptable. Still, we read, researched and prepared for every scenario.

We thought, “Hey! We might pull this thing off!” but as it turns out, theoretical offspring are much more agreeable, far less time-consuming and haven’t figured out puppy dog eyes. We realized pretty quickly that we still had a lot to learn and are still finding our way nearly seven years later. Things aren’t perfect — our kids use iPads in restaurants and have selective hearing when dessert embargoes are instituted — but we wouldn’t change a thing … including this stressful scheduling situation we’re currently navigating.

Regardless of who you are, what you have or where you came from, every parent wants to give their kids the world. For me, any worries about my time and sanity go out the window with one goofy grin, waist-high bear hug or overexaggerated “PLLLEEEAAASSSEE???” from my sons. Plain and simple, I just want these little guys to be happy, so Calendar Tetris is my past, present and future game of choice. Yes, even when I’m expected to be in two places at once, a cleat has gone missing and I left the team snacks in the mudroom.

Game on!

— Lex Silberberg of Hinsdale is a contributing columnist. Readers can email her at news@thehinsdalean.com.
**Obituaries**

**Marian Emily Balster**

Marian Emily Balster, 90, nee Holsten, of Concordia, Mo., passed away on April 7, 2023.

Marian met her husband Don in Concordia while he was there attending the pre-seminary. They were married June 5, 1955. She earned a nursing degree and also supported his ministry, initially in Layton, Utah, followed by 37 years in Hinsdale at Redeemer Lutheran Church.

After their son Mark died in 1973, both Donald and Marian were instrumental in launching all the US-based chapters of The Compassionate Friends, a bereavement group for parents who have lost a child. Marian was in a leadership role for 10 years until the mid-1980s. The organization now has more than 600 chapters in the US and abroad.

One of Marian’s greatest legacies with TCF was influencing Congress to establish an annual remembrance ceremony, which is held at 7 p.m. on the second Sunday in December in the U.S. and around the world.

Upon their retirement and after snow-birding for several years, in 2014 Marian and Donald chose Village on the Isle in Venice, Fla., as their home. They enjoyed the friendship of many people in Village on the Isle and their church, Emmanuel Lutheran. Marian was active in the Dorcas Quilting Mission and was their most senior “quilt finisher.”

She is survived by her husband of 68 years, Donald Balster; her children, Linda (Bryan) Roberts, Timothy (Robin) Balster and Tony Balster; her grandchildren, Douglas and William Balster; her sister, Helen (Mel) Heinz; and her niece, Debbie (Joe) Gaglio.

She was preceded in death by her son, Mark Balster.

A memorial service was held April 19 at Emmanuel Lutheran Church in Venice, Fla.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Emmanuel Lutheran (to the Dorcas Quilting group in memory of Marian Balster) 790 S. Tamiami Trail, Venice FL 34285, or to Redeemer Lutheran Church (Covenant Endowment Fund in memory of Marian Balster) 139 E. First St., Hinsdale, IL 60521.

**Dolores Coco**

Dolores Coco, 95, of Rockford, a former 40-year resident of Hinsdale, passed away on April 11, 2023.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John.

She is survived by her children, AnnaLu (Marty) Gorr Jr., Angelo (Jeannee) Coco, Jan (Tom) Fallon, Johnna (Phil) Cocomise and Dolores Leo; her grandchildren, John (Caroline) Coco, Danielle (Will) Bazeley, Tiffany Coco, Bill (Julie) Cocomise, Bradie (Phil) Parrish, Crystal (Rob) Noga, Sal Cocomise, Joey, Michael and Danny Fallon, Bobbi Brubacher, Jessica Jones and Terry (Ashley) Leo; and her 18 great-grandchildren.

Memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 29, at Grace Episcopal Church, 120 E. First St., Hinsdale.

The family offers special thanks to Hinsdale Hospital and Advent Health. St. Thomas Hospice for their wonderful care.

John is survived by his daughter, Kathleen Leonhard; his granddaughters, Amy (Chris) Jones, Katherine (Matt) Hedman, Melissa (Dan) Becker and Kimberly (Corey) Hanson; his great-grandchildren, Alex and Lucy Jones, Greta and Nels Hedman, Zeb and Isaac Becker and Samuel and Audrey Hanson; his sister, Shirlie Gooch; and many nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 68 years, Audrey; his sister, Priscilla Phillips; and his daughter, Nancy Bass.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 29, at Grace Episcopal Church, 120 E. First St., Hinsdale.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Grace Episcopal Church, 120 E First Street, Hinsdale, IL 60521; or St Paul’s Episcopal Church, 1710 E. Superior Street, Duluth, MN 55812.

Brian Powell Funeral Directors of Hinsdale handled the arrangements.

**John King Gooch**

John King Gooch, 98, of Hinsdale passed away April 13, 2023, at UChicago Advent Health Hinsdale Hospital.

He was born in 1924 in St. Paul, Minn., to Raymond and Ruth Gooch.

He was employed with 3M (Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Co.) for 43 years. He worked mostly in the Midwest, living in St. Paul, Minn; Upper Arlington, Ohio; Park Forest and Hinsdale.

He served eight years in the US Marines in World War II, where he was assigned to Guam and China, and in the Korean War. The remainder of his time was in the reserves.

His passion was playing golf, fishing and hunting. His many business trips (hunting and fishing) on the house boat, Grace Ann II in Kenora, Canada, on Lake of the Woods, were some of his fondest memories. He loved playing golf at Olympia Fields County Club, where he got a hole in one.

His priorities in life were faith, family and country. He was a devoted son, brother, husband and father. He was a very active member of Grace Episcopal Church and held several roles over 50 years as a member.
John Richard Litster, 93, died Feb. 10, 2023, at Lexington of Lombard following a brief time under hospice care.

He was born in 1929 in Chicago to Louise and Percy “Tink” Litster, spending his childhood on the west side of Chicago as one of six children. He enjoyed classwork and playing football at Morton High School, where he graduated in 1947. He continued his studies and time on the gridiron at Morton Junior College and Washburn University.

John joined the Army in January 1952 and was honorably discharged as a private first class in January 1954. G.I. Bill in hand, he finished his undergraduate work at the University of Illinois, earning a bachelor’s degree in history and later receiving both a master of arts in history and a master of science in history. He spent his teaching career at Oak Park-River Forest and Proviso West high schools teaching world history, but then embarked on a second career as a letter carrier for the U.S. Post Office Hinsdale branch, from which he retired in 1999 at the age of 70. His route included downtown Hinsdale, where he became friends with many merchants and often patronized their shops for gifts for his wife.

He met his future wife, Sandra Swanson, while teaching at Proviso West. The two were married in November 1962 and moved to Western Springs shortly after.

There they raised their two sons, Dan and Matt, and were involved in the First United Methodist Church of Western Springs, John taught junior high Sunday school with Sandra and was a dedicated servant to the church.

Traveling was a passion for John and Sandra, who spent three months in Europe the summer after they were married. They traveled overseas and to the American Southwest many times. A highlight of his life was being baptized in the Jordan River during a church trip to Israel. His passions were reading books on history and biographies, perusing his New Yorker Magazine and listening to and reading about Mozart. He and Sandra spent many seasons as ticketholders at the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Lyric Opera.

John is survived by his sons, Dan (Pam Lannom) and Matt (Colleen); his grandchil-
dren, Gibson, Gannon, Gatlin and Ainsley; his sister, Marianne (the late Jim); his brother, Ken (Kathy); his brother-in-law, Glenn (Sharon); and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and -nephews.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Sandra, in 2017; and his siblings, Don, Marilyn (the late Frank) and Laurie (the late Bill).

A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, April 29, at the First United Methodist Church of Western Springs, 4300 Howard Ave.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Hinsdale Public Library at 20 E. Maple Street, Hinsdale, IL 60521 or online at www.hinsdalelibrary.info.

Robert Otto Zerbs, 74, a former Hinsdale resident, passed away April 4, 2023, after a long battle with colon cancer. He showed amazing courage and strength throughout his last four years of life.

He was born in 1948 in Chicago to Otto F. and Ethel L. Zerbs. Bob graduated from Hinsdale Central High School in 1967. Bob continued his education at the College of DuPage and then Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, where he graduated in 1973 with a bachelor’s degree in design. After college, he worked for Westinghouse Corp. and McDonald’s Corp. in Oak Brook. Bob went on to be self-employed, doing residential design/remodeling.

Bob volunteered at the DuPage County Forest Preserve and was a 30-year member of the Nature Conservancy. He enjoyed the outdoors through the hobbies of jogging, bicycling, hunting and hiking. He was known for his gardening talents and enjoyed sharing home-grown tomatoes and vegetables with neighbors and friends.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Otto and Ethel Zerbs.

He is survived by his three siblings, Janet (William) Morgan, Ronald (Sue Anderson) Zerbs and Joan (Peter) Künchla.

A private family gathering to celebrate Bob’s life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Nature Conservancy, Attn.: Treasury, 4245 N. Fairfax Drive, Suite 100, Arlington, VA 22203 or online at www.nature.org/donate.

Adams-Winterfield & Sullivan Funeral Home in Downers Grove handled the arrangements.
What is the musical ‘Urinetown’ about?

The plot of Hinsdale Central High School’s spring musical isn’t easy to explain, but junior Grace McGowan summed it up in a single sentence.

“‘It’s the American revolution, but with pee,’” said McGowan, who plays Little Sally in “Urinetown,” coming to the Central stage April 21 and 22 (see Page 18 for details).

“Urinetown” takes a satirical look at the nation’s legal system, capitalism, bureaucracy and local politics. It also makes fun of musical theater, all while fully embracing its dark side. The show takes place in a town where citizens are required to pay for the use of public toilets, all of which are owned by the Urine Good Co. Violators of the government’s ban on private toilets are sent to a place called “Urinetown.”

As Little Sally, McGowan said she often says out loud what the audience is likely thinking. Little Sally acts as a narrator, often breaking what actors call “the fourth wall” to bring the audience up to speed and to remind them exactly where they are — a high school auditorium. Unlike some theatrical productions, McGowan said “Urinetown” doesn’t try to transport its audience.

Instead, the audience’s view of the stage includes peaks at the wings, reminding them that they are sitting in a theater watching a show.

The simple set, McGowan said, includes three restroom doors through which people enter and exit, but the audience is left to picture for themselves what is inside.

The role of Little Sally requires McGowan to act, sing and dance — all things she’s been doing for years. McGowan performed in her first musical as a middle schooler, but has been dancing since early elementary school and started singing in fourth grade.

She said she’s not sure if her first show was at Hinsdale Middle School or at BAM Theater, but by seventh grade, McGowan said she knew her future would include plenty of musicals.

McGowan most recently appeared as Cinderella in BAM Theater’s production of “Into the Woods.” In “Urinetown,” she plays a character who has been described as precocious and irreverent, but McGowan said Little Sally also is kind, forgiving and a bit naive.

“She essentially grows into a more adult mindset of realizing not everyone will be kind, even if you put forth your best self,” McGowan said.

Through songs and dialogue, “Urinetown” tells a story that McGowan said is intended to leave the audience thinking.

“It’s a fun show,” McGowan said, despite its violence and dark humor.

As a junior who plans to attend college, this is a busy spring for McGowan, who along with her work on the show and in school also studies voice. She said she takes advantage of breaks in rehearsal to study and prepare assignments.

Plenty of decisions are yet to be made, but McGowan said she likely will pursue something in the arts, whether it’s dance, music or theater.

— by Sandy Illian Bosch
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GOOD NEWS

COLLEGE STUDENTS MAKE DEAN’S LIST

The following students from Hinsdale earned a place on the dean’s list for the fall semester of the 2022-23 school year.


Washington University in St. Louis — Harry Gao, Rehan Mehta, Vytautus Staniskis, Madhar Subramanian, John Tischke

COLLEGE STUDENT EARN DEGREE

McKenna Hayes earned her bachelor’s degree in consumer behavior and marketplace studies, graduating with distinction from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in December.

HC MOCK TRIAL SIXTH AT STATE

The Hinsdale Central Mock Trial team finished sixth at the 2023 Illinois State Bar Association High School Mock Trial Invitational last month.

Meghna Mitra and Vivian Sweeney won awards for outstanding attorney and outstanding witness, respectively.

The team won the Donna E. Schechter Memorial Law Test Award for earning the highest score on the exam.

ACTIVITY ADVISORS EARN RECOGNITION

Five staff members from Hinsdale Central have been named Outstanding Activity Advisors by the Illinois Directors of Student Activities.

They are Maria Cotter, Lisa Hikes, Janelle Hoeksema, Cindy Casten and Alan McLeod.

This award celebrates individuals who have made an impact on their club or activity and exemplify what it means to be the ideal advisor. It also helps bring attention and awareness to the exemplary programs, activities and events that are provided in Illinois high schools.

All of the winners were recognized for their accomplishments during IDSA’s annual awards banquet April 13.

DESIGNER RECEIVES AWARD

A full-scale kitchen remodel created by Normandy Remodeling (Hinsdale) designer Abby Osborn took home a Regional Contractor of the Year award in the Residential Kitchen $100,001 to $150,000 category from the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. Each year, NARI recognizes top renovation projects from seven regions around the country.

This award-winning Clarendon Hills kitchen started off with a closed-in, cramped floorplan and a small island that created a traffic flow bottleneck.

“The family of five wanted a large kitchen allowed for a wall to gain the space they desired and create the open concept they craved,” Osborn said. The updated floorplan allowed for a large kitchen island which is easily accessible from all sides. The island serves as the new home for a microwave and warming drawer, plus a built-in mixer lift.

“Having an open mind about the design created so many possibilities for this kitchen remodel, including a second oven for baking. The family is beyond delighted with their choices and they now have a fully functional and gorgeous kitchen to create memorable meals together,” Osborn said.

This kitchen is Osborn’s second design award win, and one of four Normandy Remodeling projects to win a Regional Contractor of the Year award in 2023.
The Community House
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5.21.23 | 9 AM
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mental health!
PULSE

A stitch in time ... is timeless
Salt Creek Quilters Guild holds its first public exhibit after hiatus

By Ken Knutson
knutson@thehinsdalean.com

Two years ago the Salt Creek Quilters Guild marked 40 years as part of Hinsdale’s artistic fabric.

Unfortunately the pandemic put the kibosh on the public show planned to commemorate the milestone. But just as patience can lead to exceptional craftsmanship, the intervening time has produced a party worth waiting for.

A Celebration of Quilts will be held tomorrow and Saturday, April 21 and 22, at Union Church, 137 S. Garfield Ave. The event will feature more than 200 quilts on display and a live quilt auction from 1 to 3 p.m. Saturday. A portion of the auction proceeds will benefit Wellness House.

Throughout the guild’s rich history of promoting the textile art form through biannual art shows, this is the first time one will be held in a church.

“Basically we wanted to do something different,” said Hinsdale’s Joan Chao, guild president.

Longtime guild member Betsy Maloney said the majority of quilts will be draped over the church’s pews instead of hanging them, as is custom.

“It will be a different way of looking at a quilt. There’s a uniqueness to it,” Maloney said.

In addition, a special exhibit of red and white quilts will pay tribute to the guild’s “ruby” 40th anniversary. And another section honors Carole King’s “Tapestry” album, which turned 50 in 2021.

“We had a challenge where members could make a quilt inspired by Carole King or one of her songs,” Chao related.

That resulted in 26 submissions, prompting a guild member to write to King about their effort.

“(Carole King’s team) wanted to do a video for the album’s 50th anniversary and feature our quilts in it,” she said. “We sent the quilts off to L.A. and those guys made a video, which you can see on YouTube.”

As surreal as that exposure was, the snippets visible in the video don’t do the quilts justice.

“At our show, you can see the whole quilts,” Chao said, noting that the video will also be shown at the celebration.

The live auction — another fi rst for the guild — will give guests a chance to bid on more than 80 different items.

“We’ve got an award-winning professional auctioneer coming in to help us,” Chao said.

Or they might win one of 40 opportunity baskets, including specially arranged offerings for wine lovers, young readers and American Girl fans.

“We’re trying to appeal to everybody, not just quilters,” member Anne Zick said.

Fans of handmade goods can peruse the vendor mall.

“Some of them are quilting related, and some are more artisan- and crafty-type vendors,” Chao said.

And be sure to save some money for the bake sale with treats homemade by guild members.

“Quilters are good bakers,” Chao quipped.

Maloney said the event is a time for reconnecting with loyal quilt show attendees they haven’t seen since before the pandemic.

“We have many people that have been coming to our quilt show for many years, and they really look forward to it,” Maloney said.

A tribute section of the show will pay homage to members that have passed away recently.

“Reaching beyond the traditional quilting audience is a primary guild goal, the ladies stressed.

“One of the things we want to accomplish is to draw in non-quilters and educate people about the art of quilting, so they can appreciate the artistry of it,” Chao said.

Member Marie Dold said she’s always struck by the innovative designs at the show.

“There are so many modern types of quilts,” Dold said. “I like to see what all the women do. They’re really so beautiful.”

Zick said the U.S. Bicentennial of 1976 breathed new life into quilting, and a kind of resurgence seems to be happening among the rising generation.

Chao agreed, saying younger people are discovering and using quilting techniques on less time-consuming projects like tote bags and table runners.

The show helps foster fellowship among quilting enthusiasts while affording a glimpse on the current state of the craft, Maloney said.

“It’s about sharing an interest in this type of artwork,” Maloney said of the guild’s camaraderie. “It’s for all people who appreciate quilts.”

That message was underscored by Chao, who invited people to see that the craft isn’t limited to heirloom family quilts anymore.

“The show is also good for non-quilters who are just interested in purchasing a quilt. We have quilts from all sizes, from baby quilts to wall-hangings and larger bed-size quilts,” she commented. “The show isn’t just for quilters.

A Celebration of Quilts will be open from 3 to 7 p.m. tomorrow and 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday. Admission is $6 in advance and $7 at the door.

For advance tickets, send an email to saltcreekquiltguild@gmail.com. For more information on the show and the guild, visit www.salt-creekqg.org.
AUDITION CALL

■ ‘Footloose’
May 5 & 7
Avenue Christian Church
5750 Holmes Ave.,
Clarendon Hills
BAMtheatre.com
BAMtheatre is holding auditions for its high school and college summer main-stage production. Vocal auditions will take place May 5 in 30-minute time slots; video submissions will also be accepted for those not available in person. A dance call for everyone will be held May 7; callbacks also will be held that day. Rehearsals begin May 16 for June 22-25 performances. Visit the website above for details and registration. Tuition: $550. RR

■ ‘Disney’s Finding Nemo Jr.’
May 6
Avenue Christian Church
5750 Holmes Ave.,
Clarendon Hills
BAMtheatre.com
BAMtheatre is holding auditions for its Youth Summer Mainstage production. Auditions will be held in 90-minute time slots for students ages 5 to 15. Callbacks will be May 7. Rehearsals begin July 10 for Aug. 3-5 performances. Visit the website above for details and registration. Tuition: $550. RR

FAMILY FUN

■ Family BINGO Boogie
April 22
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
(630) 986-1976
Join in a few rounds of book BINGO and dance to some favorite tunes. Time: 1 to 2 p.m. RR

FOR A CAUSE

■ Habitat for Humanity Stuff the Truck
April 22
Hinsdale Central Circle Drive
Gohabitrestore.com/donate
Habitat for Humanity is collecting gently used furniture, home goods and building materials to go to Habitat for Humanity Restore in Addison. A list of acceptable items is available on the website above. For large donations, send an email to kowens@hinsdale86.org. Hours: 9 a.m. to noon.

■ Madison summer camp supply drive
Through May 9
www.madisonpto.org/kids-care-club-summer-camp-donation
The Madison Kids Care Club is collecting donations for the Willowbrook Summer Camp supported by The Community House. The camp serves

Please turn to Page 20
Coping strategies to help kids manage stress

Stress is the body’s response to the challenges around us. While some stress can be beneficial, long-term stress can cause many problems and have significant short- and long-term consequences on physical and emotional health. For adolescents, the physical response to stress kicks in a lot more quickly, as the part of their brain that can calmly assess danger and puts a halt to the stress response (the prefrontal cortex) is not yet fully developed. While nobody can avoid all stress, we can teach our children ways to deal with it and find positive coping strategies.

Signs of stress in youth can show up in several ways. If your child begins to exhibit these signs, the stress may be too much for them to handle on their own and may need help.

- Irritability and anger — Stressed out kids might be more argumentative or short-tempered than normal.
- Changes in behavior — Cooperative kids become very argumentative or short-tempered than normal.
- Trouble sleeping — A child or teen might have difficulty sleeping, sleep more than usual or complain of feeling tired all the time.
- Eating changes — Eating too much or too little.
- Getting sick more often — Stress often shows up as physical symptoms. Kids who feel stressed often report headaches and stomach aches and make frequent trips to the nurse’s office.
- Experimentation with drugs — A negative coping mechanism that can lead to greater physical and mental health issues.

The good news is that there are a variety of ways parents and guardians can assist their children in learning to manage and cope with stress. A good beginning is by being aware of their behaviors and emotions and by building trust, so they are comfortable confiding their feelings. Encourage your child to try the following strategies.

- Get some sleep.
- Sleep is essential for both physical and mental health. Getting enough will aid the body in growing and developing normally, as well as allowing for an easier time paying attention. While teenagers require about 8-10 hours, younger children need more like 9-12.
- Find time for fun and quiet.
- Find activities or hobbies that bring joy, and help your teens find ways to incorporate them into their life.

While some kids thrive on moving from one activity to the next, others need more down time. Finding a healthy balance between the two is ideal.

- Focus on strengths.
- Every person has their own magic, meaning their own unique strengths, talents and characteristics. By focusing on and recognizing strengths, they can keep their stressors in perspective. Research has also found that writing about what you are proud of or grateful for can ease symptoms of anxiety and depression.

- Engage in physical activity.
- Exercise not only takes our minds off stress, but also causes chemicals (endorphins) to be released into the brain that makes us feel better.

Exercise can be as simple as a brisk walk outside, shooting a couple hoops with friends or an impromptu dance party. Being outside in nature has its own effective way in relieving stress, so combining the two may lead to added benefits.

- Talk to Someone.
- Having a trusted adult to talk to, such as a parent, teacher or therapist can help kids put things into perspective and find solutions. Work with your children to develop a list of adults they can turn to for guidance when needed.

Feeling stressed is a natural part of life for all people, no matter what age. While we cannot protect our children from it, parents and guardians are able to model healthy coping strategies and support them in managing difficult times when it is too much for them to take on their own. It also doesn’t hurt to remind them again and again how much they are loved and that they have the support of their family and friends to help them through tough times.

— Susan Foley is a health educator at Candor Health Education in Hinsdale.
Continued from Page 18

more than 60 children in the under-resourced community. Purchase items on the Amazon Wish List or make a cash donation through the website listed above.

GRAND GALA

■ Derby Day Party
May 6
Butterfield Country Club
2800 Midwest Road, Oak Brook
www.childrenshomeandaid.org/derbyday2023
The Hinsdale Auxiliary will hold its 68th annual fundraiser and gathering to watch the run for the roses, bid on wine and live auctions, enjoy dinner and dancing, and hear from Children’s Home & Aid program staff all while raising funds for children and families. Time: 4:30 p.m. Tickets: $185, $1,800 for table of 10.

GREAT OUTDOORS

■ Bird Walk
April 26, May 3 & 6
Sagawau Environmental Learning Center
12545 W. 11th St., Lemont
www.fdccc.com
(630) 257-2045
Walk with a naturalist and learn to identify birds by field marks, behavior, sound and habitat. Binoculars will be available to borrow. Time: 8:30 a.m. RR

■ Spring Wildflower and Ethnobotany Walk
April 29 or May 4
Morton Arboretum
4100 Route 53, Lisle
www.mortonarb.org
(630) 719-2468
Wander through the ever-changing array of native wildflowers on a guided walk. Explore the ephemeral flowers of spring while walking arboretum trails with a natural history writer and master gardener. Learn basic tips to identify wildflowers, hear the folklore and uses of a variety of wildflowers and discover how wildflowers inspire literature, poetry, and art. Times: 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. April 29, 5 to 7 p.m. May 4. Cost: $32. RR, MD

HEALTH & WELLNESS

■ Morning of Beauty and Wellness
April 22
Wellness House
131 N. County Line Road, Hinsdale
(630) 323-5150
www.wellnesshouse.org
Enjoy a relaxing morning of beauty and wellness at Wellness House’s Unique Boutique, rotating between classes such as a “Hello, Beautiful! Eyebrow Presentation” and Clean Beauty Makeup” as well as creating a hand scrub and enjoying a chair massage or reiki appointment. This program is for those on the cancer journey. Times: 9 to 10:30 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. to noon. RR

■ Stroller Barre
Saturdays, May 6-Aug. 6
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St., Hinsdale
www.thecommunityhouse.org
(630) 323-7500
Join this cardio and strength interval class designed to improve posture, stability, mobility, flexibility and core strength needed for motherhood by combining moves inspired by barre, ballet, Pilates and yoga. Time: 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. Time: $150.

■ Powering Your Home with Solar Energy
April 24
Morton Arboretum
4100 Route 53, Lisle
www.mortonarb.org
(630) 719-2468
Learn how to tap into solar energy at home, even with large shade trees. Illinois Solar Energy Association ambassador Jeff Gahris and arboretum director of sustainability Rachel Novick will discuss how solar energy works in Illinois, the benefits and challenges of residential solar energy, the upfront costs and long-term savings, and resources for finding reputable installers. Time: 7 to 8:30 p.m. Cost: $17. RR, MD

■ No More Mean Kids
April 25 & 26
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St., Hinsdale
www.d181foundation.org
Katie Hurley, licensed clinical social worker, will discuss the critical role empathy development plays in improving a child’s relationships, mental health and ability to work through difficult times. Parents will learn strategies for increasing empathy, kindness and resilience. The program is part of the Community Speaker Series presented by District 86 and District 181. Times: 7 to 8:30 p.m. April 25, 9:30 to 11 a.m. April 26. RR

■ Deciding Where to Live in Retirement
April 26
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976
Join certified retirement coach Susan Ackley as she walks through the factors to consider when making the important decision of where to live in retirement. Time: 7 to 8 p.m. RR

■ Can’t Miss YouTube Channels
April 27
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976
Learn about some of the HPL staff’s favorite YouTube channels on topics such as cooking, dining, travel, product review, lifestyle and general information, as well as some interesting and off-the-beat-en path material. Time: 7 to 8 p.m. RR

■ A French Feast: Chamber Music
April 23
Union Church of Hinsdale
157 S. Garfield Ave.
www.elmhurstsymphony.org
Enjoy a variety of chamber music from Boelmann, Gershwin, Ravel and more performed by musicians.

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Your Emergency is Our Emergency.

In an emergency every minute matters.

If you or a loved one are injured or experiencing chest pain, stroke symptoms, severe stomach discomfort, or something else doesn’t feel quite right. Don't hesitate. If you’re in doubt, come in and let us check it out.

You’ll find expert emergency physicians at the UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Hinsdale ER standing by to help you. We try our best to ensure you will be seen by a provider within 30 minutes of arriving. When minutes matter most.

To find the ER nearest you, visit ChicagolandERExperts.com

120 North Oak Street | Hinsdale, IL
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of the Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra, including Stephen Alltop. Time: 3 p.m. Tickets: $25, $22 for seniors, $12 for students.

Shawna Caspi & Dan Weber
May 6
Unitarian Church of Hinsdale
11 W. Maple St.
www.acousticrose.com
(630) 941-7797
Toronto-based singer-songwriter Shawna Caspi performs her poetic and meaningful songs in a warm, clear voice with intricate fingerstyle guitar accompaniment. Joining her in this season’s final Acoustic Renaissance Series performance will be award-winning songwriter Dan Weber. Time: 7 p.m. Tickets: $29.

ON STAGE

‘The 25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee’
April 20-23
Nazareth Academy
1209 W. Ogden Ave.,
LaGrange Park
www.nazarethacademy.com
Naz Drama presents this fun musical comedy centered on a fictional spelling bee set in a geographically ambiguous Putnam Valley Middle School. Times: 7 p.m. April 20-22, 1 p.m. April 23. Tickets: $18.

‘Seussical, Jr.’
April 21-23
Theatre of Western Springs
4384 Hampton Ave.
www.theatreofwesternsprings.com
(708) 246-4043
Now one of the most performed shows in America, “Seussical JR.” is a fantastical, magical, musical extravaganza. Tony winners Lynn Ahrens and Stephen Flaherty have lovingly brought to life everyone’s favorite Dr. Seuss characters, including Horton the Elephant, The Cat in the Hat, Gertrude McFuzz, lazy Mayzie and a little boy with a big imagination — Jojo. The colorful characters transport us from the jungle of Nool to the invisible world of the Whos. Times: 7 p.m. Fridays, 11 a.m. & 3 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: $15, $12 for children.

‘Swan Lake’
April 28 & 29
McAninch Arts Center
College of DuPage
425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn
www.saltrcreekballet.org
Salt Creek Ballet presents Tchaikovsky’s classical masterpiece featuring international acclaimed principal dancers from Cuban National Ballet and San Francisco Ballet. Tickets for April 29 include admission to the children’s Swan Soiree, which includes onstage dance lesson, photos with dancers and guest artists, and a goodie bag. Times: 7 p.m. April 28, 1 p.m. April 29. Tickets: $35, $30 for children and seniors on April 28; $38/$32 on April 29.

RUNS & WALKS

The Champion of Trees 10K
April 22
Morton Arboretum
4100 Route 53, Lisle
www.mortonarb.org
$38/$32 on April 29. Tickets: $35, $30 for children, and a goodie bag. Times: 7 a.m. race starts. Cost: $60. RR registration: $45. For Thursday’s paper Please turn to Page 24

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This annual fundraiser to support Wellness House programs and services for those on the cancer journey features a 3K walk, a 5K run, a 5K timed run, “Walk Your Way” and a 10-step walk. The theme this year is Walk, Together, Every Step of the Way, and the morning will kick off with an inspirational program. Refreshments and family activities will follow the walk/run. Participate as an individual or part of a team or donate to the event. To register text “Wellness” to 50155 and donate to the event. To register individually or part of a team or walk/run. Participate as an individual or part of a team or donate to the event.

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Remove leaves and debris from gutters and downspouts.

Replace the batteries in smoke and carbon monoxide detectors.

Inspect sink, shower, and bath caulking for deterioration.

Vacuum lint from the dryer vent.

Inspect the chimney for damage.

Repair or replace caulking and weather stripping around windows, doors, and mechanicals.

Remove the insulation from outdoor faucets and check sprinkler heads.

Have air-conditioning system serviced.

Drain or flush the water heater.

Fertilize your lawn.
Pet pic of the week

Romaan is a stunning 1-year-old, Siamese mix. He is very sweet with a great temperament and is adoptable to families with children as young as 5 years of age. He has been neutered and is up to date on his vaccinations. His adoption fee is $75. 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. Interested adopters are encouraged to fill out an online application at www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org before arriving. Call (630) 323-5630 for more information. (photo provided)

Continued from Page 24

p.m. reception. Admission: $5.

TEENS & TWEENS

- Advanced Dance Combo
  Mondays, May 1-22 or
  Wednesdays, May 3-24
  The Community House
  415 W. Eighth St., Hinsdale
  www.thecommunityhouse.org
  (630) 323-7500
  Dancers ages 12-17 will learn a different style of dance every week from lyrical to musical theater. Students will warm-up focusing on core strength, flexibility and movements that include levels. Time: 7 to 8 p.m. Cost: $143. RR, MD

WEE ONES

- Preschool Picassos
  April 25
  Hinsdale Public Library
  20 E. Maple St.
  www.hinsdalelibrary.info
  (630) 986-1976
  Preschoolers and their caregivers will create their own inspired masterpiece. Time: 9:30 to 10 a.m. RR

- Pre-K Outdoor Play
  May 2
  Fullersburg Woods
  3609 Spring Road, Oak Brook
  www.dupageforest.org
  (630) 933-7248
  Kids ages 2-4, with an adult, will be engaged in outdoor adventure and participate together in stories, songs, movement and games followed by a guided outdoor exploration activity. Time: 9 to 10 a.m. Cost: $5 per person. RR

- Jammin’ with Miss Alice
  May 3
  Hinsdale Public Library
  20 E. Maple St.
  www.hinsdalelibrary.info
  (630) 986-1976
  Kids age 3-5 will have fun with Miss Alice’s musical storytime. Time: 10 to 10:30 a.m. RR

Key
RR - registration required
MD - member discount

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Public Notices

CERTIFICATE NO. 79037 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of DuPage County on March 30, 2023 wherein the business firm of

RACHAEL RESK
LIFE COACH
Located at 206 N. Julian, Naperville, IL. 60540 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: Rachael Resk, 206 N. Julian, Naperville, IL 60540.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Wheaton, Illinois, this 30th day of March, A.D. 2023.

Jean Kaczmarek
DuPage County Clerk
Published in The Hinsdalean April 13, 20 & 27, 2023

CERTIFICATE NO. 79050 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of DuPage County on April 6, 2023 wherein the business firm of

THE WOSTRATZKY GROUP
Located at 53 Derby Ct., Oak Brook, IL 60523 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: Randall Joseph Wostratzky, 53 Derby Ct., Oak Brook, IL 60523.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Wheaton, Illinois, this 6th day of April, A.D. 2023.

Jean Kaczmarek
DuPage County Clerk
Published in The Hinsdalean April 13, 20 & 27, 2023

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VILLAGE OF HINSDALE

BID NO. 1698

2023 50/50 Sidewalk Project

The Village of Hinsdale will receive sealed Bids for the 50/50 Sidewalk Project. Bids will be received at the offices of the Village of Hinsdale, 19 East Chicago Avenue, Hinsdale, Illinois 60521, until 10:30 A.M., local time on Wednesday, May 3, 2023.

The work shall consist of the removal and replacement of Portland Cement concrete sidewalk, curb and gutter removal and replacement, and appurtenant restoration of driveways, aprons, and parkways. Work is to be completed at various locations throughout the Village of Hinsdale.

Bid documents may be received at the offices of the Village of Hinsdale, 19 East Chicago Avenue, Hinsdale, Illinois 60521. A non-refundable deposit of fifty dollars ($50.00) will be required for each set of plans. Presentation of Pre-Qualification Certificate required for plan distribution. The owner reserves the right to reject any or all bids or any part thereof, to waive any irregularities in the bidding, and to accept the bids deemed most favorable to the interest of the owner after all bids have been examined and evaluated.

Any questions regarding the contract please contact John Lodewyck by email, jlodewyck@villageofhinsdale.org, or call 630-789-7040. Published in The Hinsdalean April 20, 2023.

A man watches his pear tree day after day, impatient for the ripening of the fruit. Let him attempt to force the process, and he may spoil both fruit and tree. But let him patiently wait, and the ripe pear at length falls into his lap. Abraham Lincoln
**ARIES** - Mar 21/Apr 20
You may be tempted to butt heads with authority figures in the days to come, but you’ll catch more flies with honey. Capricorn. Get your frustrations out another way.

**TAURUS** – Apr 21/May 21
It’s best if you can keep tight control of your emotions and not let others, see what is brewing. Perhaps it’s not your best day to move your feet. Libra, if someone at work or seems to be invading your space, try to feel disinterested. Take the high road and remain pleasant and positive.

**GEMINI** – May 22/Jun 21
Don’t ignore your responsibilities, no matter how mundane they may seem. Completing small tasks will help you set the course for more success.

**CANCER** – Jun 22/Jul 22
The week may start off slow, so to speak. But soon enough you will see progress. Reassure your loved one you see progress. Remember, patience is the way.

**LEO** – Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, rather than being overly busy at the time, you can finally let pass a friend. You’ve more than enough happy to roll back over in your own bed. Search for an empty corner.

**VIRGO** – Aug 24/Sept 23
Virgo, work on this. It’s time you may feel constrained or pulled in all sorts. But soon enough you will feel your stride. Once you’ve made a move, it will be smooth sailing.

**LIBRA** – Sept 24/Oct 22
Libra, if someone at work or seems to be invading your space, try to feel disinterested. Take the high road and remain pleasant and positive.

**SCORPIO** – Oct 23/Nov 21
Scorpio, don’t ignore your responsibilities, no matter how mundane they may seem. Completing small tasks will help you set the course for more success.

**SAGITTARIUS** – Nov 22/Dec 21
Your judgments may be clouded by some lofty dreams you may have been having. Sagittarius. Separate the wheat from what is real, and you may be able to transfer to real life.
Gym-tastic!

Hundreds gathered at Hinsdale Central Saturday to attend the open house for the newly remodeled Krupicka Gymnastics Gym, named after longtime coach and Central gymnast Neil Krupicka. As an athlete, he was captain of the team, and as a coach he was recognized seven times as the coach of the year in Illinois. He and his wife, Cindy, they developed the age group developmental system at Central. His three children were also involved in gymnastics at Central. Visitors to the open house flocked to the new wall of champions. 1990 Central gymnast Nestor Battung helps his daughter, Selene, on the uneven bars. Krupicka was quick to point out all the other coaches who contributed greatly to the program in his remarks. Wife Cindy and daughter Erica Conger listen to his remarks. (Jim Slonoff photos)
Welcome to the Chicago Blast Soccer Club

There is a significant difference in the way we develop players. Chicago Blast’s cognitive approach to training is designed to provide increased technical and tactical advancement and playing confidence for competitive levels between ages 6-18.

Chicago Blast Soccer Club is known for superb training and quality coaching in an enthusiastic environment.

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We welcome families in search of a club that develops better athletes – both on and off the soccer field and prepares players for the next level. Every player in our club is treated as a family member regardless of ability and or levels.

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- **Select** - advanced competitive
- **Gold** - more competitive
- **Red** - competitive
- **Blue** - developmental/competitive
- **Silver** - beginning competitive

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- NCAA Division I All American and East West Senior Bowl Selection
- Three Time Hall of Fame Inductee

To register for a tryout or learn more about the club visit www.chicagoblastsoccer.com or call 630-257-6900

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Teens capture the “worlds” in Montreal

Continued from Page 38

“Second place gets called out and it’s not your number and you know you won — it’s the best feeling in the world.”

Massery said winning as part of a team is more enjoyable.

“Awards are super fun with them, too, sharing how well you did. We were all very happy to win together. It was really, really exciting,” she said.

The victory was even sweeter after the girls endured a season filled with challenges, from one dancer who was injured to others who had to miss practice for various reasons. Even travel arrangements made things difficult. Bridget and her mom went to Montreal early in the week for solo competition, and Aoife and her dad almost didn’t make it there for the event.

“It was a little bit of a nail-biter because at some point we didn’t think Aoife was going to make it to Montreal,” mom Colleen Malloy said. “It all worked out. If she hadn’t come, we would’ve scratched the whole team.”

She appreciated seeing the arrangements made things difficult. Bridget and her mom went to Montreal early in the week for solo competition, and Aoife and her dad almost didn’t make it there for the team event.

“It was just so happy for them because I know they would have been so disappointed,” she said.

Aoife and Bridget said even though they annoyed each other at times during practice, they appreciated being on the same team for the first and last time, since Aoife is aging out.

“It’s nice to know you have someone you can count on for constructive criticism,” Bridget said.

“In the end it was definitely really fun,” Aoife said.

**Second championship**

Cayleigh O’Hare of Hinsdale and her 16-19 age group team also won a world championship in Montreal.

O’Hare, 18, started dancing when she was 5.

“I think my mom just heard about a local school that was doing Irish dance lessons and she thought it would be a nice cultural thing for me to do in the summer,” O’Hare said.

“She signed me up and we really had no idea what it would eventually turn into.”

This is O’Hare’s seventh year of dancing with Lavin-Cassidy and her first year in team competition.

“This is my first time ever doing a team, so everyone else on my team had won a world championship before, and I was the newbie on the team,” she said. “It was stressful at times because I didn’t want to let any of my teammates down and I definitely had to work super hard to be at their level. Most of them had been doing team dancing since they were really young.”

O’Hare took two years off dancing while she was attending the Illinois Math and Science Academy and living on campus there. She transferred to Central during COVID and decided to resume dancing.

She thought being on a team would be less of a time commitment, but after being told there was no room for her on the team, she decided to dance solo. Then a spot on the team opened up.

“So I ended up doing both, which was a huge undertaking,” she said. “I was able to do it. I was able to still keep up with everything with my school work and my outside commitments.”

O’Hare, like Massery, found moving to a team to be quite an adjustment.

“If you make a mistake in solos, it only affects you, but if you make a mistake in teams, it affects seven other girls,” O’Hare said. “I think it’s just that added mental pressure of wanting to do it right for the rest of the girls on the team.”

This year marked O’Hare’s fifth solo competition, but she said her focus was on the team event.

“I think solos kind of took a back seat because I really wanted this world championship not just for myself but for all the girls on the team. I knew it would be my last worlds, as well, so I wanted to make sure we were going out on a high note,” she said.

O’Hare, who will attend Washington University in St. Louis this fall — where she earned a full-ride Langsdorf Fellowship to study biomedical engineering — recently accepted a spot as a professional dancer with the Trinity Irish Dance Company.

“I’m really, really excited because we’re actually going on a three-week tour of Japan this summer. We’ll be visiting a lot of different cities in Japan,” she said.

She’ll carry with her memories of her time in Montreal.

“I just couldn’t stop smiling,” she said of winning the title. “It almost didn’t feel real. It felt like I was in a dream because I had dreamt of that moment for so long.”
**STUDENT ATHLETE PROFILE**

**Name:** Tommy Webster

**School:** Hinsdale

**Sport:** Lacrosse

**Profile by Ken Knutson, photo by Jim Slonoff**

**THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION**

Another get better.

around a group of guys that

team?

goals earlier this month?

with sticks was kind of fun.

thought being to hit people

and win.

someone that's pretty hard-

guy” on the field and plays

feeds off his energy. He is “the

do attitude, and the team

always brings a positive can-

has been immeasurable. He

captain, and his leadership

young man. He is a team

Battaglia value Webster?

I want to continue to grow

what his future holds.

— profile by Ken Knutson, photo by Jim Slonoff

**Hinsdale Central’s Mason Bernacki prepares to unleash a shot — which would find the back of the net — during the first period of Tuesday night’s home game against Glenbrook North. Unfortunately the Red Devils came up one score short, losing 10-11 to the visiting Spartans. (Jim Slonoff photo)**
Teens capture the ‘worlds’ in Montreal

Dancers from Hinsdale on 13-16, 16-19 teams take first at Irish World Championships

By Pamela Lannom
plannom@thehinsdalean.com

Sisters Aoife and Bridget Stover of Hinsdale are no strangers to winning a title at the Irish World Dance Championships. But this is the first year they did so as part of the same team.

They and their six teammates — including Gracie Massery of Hinsdale — won the world championship April 2-9 in Montreal for the 13-16 age group in team Ceili dances.

All three girls started dancing when they were 4 years old. Aoife, 15, and Bridget, 13, followed in the footsteps of older sister Shannon and a cousin. About six years ago they started dancing with Lavin-Cassidy School of Irish Dancing in Worth, a troupe known for winning world championships.

“It’s such a great community at Lavin-Cassidy, and it’s so amazing to see how after we all work together so long, we can work together and win a world title,” said Bridget, 13, a seventh-grader at St. Isaac Jogues School.

The team performed two dances in competition, “Trip to the Cottage” and “Cross Reel.”

“I like doing those because they’re so different,” said Aoife, 15, a sophomore at Hinsdale Central. “The first one is kind of slow and elegant and the second one is faster and more peppy. It’s almost more fun to do because you’re doing more and it all comes together on stage.”

Massery, 15, also a sophomore, started dancing with Lavin-Cassidy after moving here from San Diego in 2020. As a little girl, she first fell in love with competition attire.

“I just saw an ad for those sparkly solo dresses and wanted to try and just kept going from there,” she said.

“Many times you have to move in line together from the person across from you,” Bridget said. “That’s what makes the team look so cool — because you’re all moving together and you’re all in one motion.”

The focus on formations and precision was a marked change from solo dancing, she said.

“Many times you have to move in line together from the person across from you,” Bridget said. “That’s what makes the team look so cool — because you’re all moving together and you’re all in one motion.”

Massery noted competition requires extensive practice. The girls dance three to four hours five to six days a week, and have been working on these two dances since August. The season includes a Midwest regional competition called Oireachtas and the North American Irish Dance Championships in July.

“Achieving synchronization requires extensive practice. The girls dance three to four hours five to six days a week, and have been working on these two dances since August. The season includes a Midwest regional competition called Oireachtas and the North American Irish Dance Championships in July.

“Many times you have to move in line together from the person across from you,” Bridget said. “That’s what makes the team look so cool — because you’re all moving together and you’re all in one motion.”

The dancers grow accustomed to relying on their peripheral vision to make sure they are in line, Aoife said.

“It comes together really nicely on stage and it’s almost like a mirror,” she said.

“Many times you have to move in line together from the person across from you,” Bridget said. “That’s what makes the team look so cool — because you’re all moving together and you’re all in one motion.”

Massery noted competition requires more than just physical ability.

“The mental challenge day of to keep your cool is definitely a struggle,” she said. “It’s also a really good experience overall.”

Hearing their team came in first was a joy and a relief for the girls.

“I felt like a thousand pounds were lifted off my shoulder,” Aoife said.

Cayleigh O’Hare, Bridget and Aoife Stover and Gracie Massery were excited to be part of two Ceili teams that won first place at the Irish World Dance Championships in Montreal earlier this month. (Jim Slonoff photo)
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