

The Hinsdalean

Community journalism the way it was meant to be

Thursday, December 14, 2023 •

Hinsdale, Illinois •

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Ho, ho, ho — oh no!

Many parents have experienced the agony of defeat with their young children on their first visits to Santa. As did John and Kaelin Melbourne when Millie decided to opt out of Santa's lap and straight into her mom's arms. And, as is the case with most children, the tears turned off quickly. Santa stopped by Hinsdale Park and Recreation Department's Winter Wonderland at KLM last weekend. (Jim Slonoff photo)



Christmas countdown

Final story in gift series comes with only 10 shopping days left.

Page 5



Liquid libations

Mixologist offers suggestions for tasty and pretty holiday drinks.

Page 14



In the swing

Ranking heads north with south-of-the-border breakthrough.

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NEWS

Richards family suing Fullers, driver

By Pamela Lannom
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Brian and Kristine Richards of Hinsdale filed a lawsuit Wednesday in Cook County Circuit Court in connection to the July death of their 14-year-old son, Sean.

The suit, filed by Clifford Law Offices, names the entities who own and manage Fuller's Car Wash and other employees, including the 16-year-old who drove the Jeep that hit and killed Sean. The Hinsdalean

has not named the driver because he is a minor.

Sean was walking on the sidewalk on the west side of Lincoln Street when he was hit by the Jeep as it exited the car wash bay at a high rate of speed. He was taken first to UChicago Medicine Advent Health Hinsdale in critical condition and later flown to Comer Children's Hospital at the University of Chicago. He died three days later.

In a press conference Wednesday morning at the law firm's Chicago

office, Brian Richards spoke about his son, who was an altar boy and a Boy Scout.

"A large part of us was killed that day along with Sean," he said. "Even after five months, it is difficult for us to comprehend that Sean is dead."

Brian Richards said he and he wife have three objectives in pursuing litigation — the truth, accountability and public safety. He began by refuting the notion that the driver of the Jeep and the Fullers are in any way victims, as has been sug-

gested on social media posts. He also reviewed results of the police department's investigation, which show that the driver fully depressed the accelerator and at no time hit the brakes.

"No criminal charges have been brought against any of them for Sean's death," Brian Richards said. "None of them have been held accountable for their inexcusable reckless behavior that directly

Please turn to Page 6



Deer in the 'Dale

The Hinsdale Historical Society hosted the 'Deer in the 'Dale' event last month at Immanuel Hall. With reindeer on the scene for a perfect Christmas photo backdrop and plenty of games for children to enjoy, the event was a big hit for those who attended. Inside Immanuel Hall there were treats for the kids and adults as well as the screening of the classic "Rudolph" from 1964. Jack and Sam Munoz had plenty of questions for Jilane Truax of Aurora Acres about Santa's reindeer, who go there for training. (Jim Slonoff photo)

Sixth Street residents want to keep brick

By Pamela Lannom
plannom@thehinsdalean.com

Several Sixth Street residents said if the village truly is committed to historic preservation, plans to repave their brick street with asphalt should be abandoned.

"These plans as presented are a huge disappointment and frankly unacceptable to most of us on the blocks," said former village trustee and 144 E. Sixth St. resident Bill Haarlow at Tuesday's Hinsdale Village Board meeting.

Haarlow detailed village efforts to encourage homeowners to preserve historic homes in the village.

"I find it ironic if not hypocritical to encourage and indeed implore residents to preserve historically significant homes if we, as a munic-

ipality, are unwilling to save our common, historic public assets," he said.

His wife, Laurel Haarlow, also a former trustee, noted the emphasis placed on brick streets in the village's application to have the Robbins Park Subdivision added to the National Register of Historic Places.

"These two streets (Sixth and First) are being viewed with the same weight as the contributing architectural structures," she said.

She also reviewed the six criteria the village has put in place for adding a home to the village's new Historically Significant Structures Property List. Sixth Street meets five of the six criteria, she said.

Jen Reenan, who lives in the American Beauty home once

owned by Orland Bassett at 329 E. Sixth St., said several other communities have decided to continue using brick to pave streets.

"I would like to understand why Hinsdale came to different conclusions," she said. "I believe that all of Hinsdale's brick streets, including Sixth Street, are village treasures and should be protected by the village."

Melissa Kinzler, who lives at 218 E. Sixth, agreed.

"I think this is just the prime example for the village to do their part and save this for historic preservation," she said. "It's not just our 30 people — it is a village treasure."

Village President Tom Cauley said trustees have not voted on the materials to repave Sixth and that contractors will be asked for the

cost for a full brick street when the project goes out to bid in January.

"That is one of the options we are going to bid out no matter what," he said.

But if the estimates are correct, and it will cost \$2 million more for a full brick street than it does to have brick only at intersections, Cauley said he can't support it.

"My personal view is that we shouldn't do it," he said. "I'm very much in favor of historic preservation. If money wasn't an issue, I'd be in favor of doing an all-brick Sixth Street."

"If we had an unlimited amount of money, we'd all be much happier about the situation. Maybe we'll come back with numbers from the contractor that will be a pleasant surprise for us," he added.

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 Fours Seasons at 10 E. First St., current home of Expression Gallery of Fine Art. 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.



Happy Birthday!
Jake Gottfried
turns 13 today

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

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Village is resident's lifelong investment

Holiday shopper and Hinsdale native Eck wanted the town to be home for his family, too

By Ken Knutson

kknutson@thehinsdalean.com

Richard Eck recalled his teenage stint in the movie business, in a manner of speaking.

He worked the concessions counter at his hometown Hinsdale Theater during his youth in the 1970s. It was a relatively low-stress job, Eck said, until the theater scored a first-run screening of a John Belushi comedy the summer of 1978.

"They didn't have too many first runs. The one they did have was 'Animal House,' and the theater was an animal house," related Eck, who was suddenly thrust into crowd control duty. "I was in charge of security as a 16-year-old. I wasn't going to control the massive amount of college kids that had come to see the movie."

After graduating from the University of Iowa and embarking on a banking career, Eck returned to Hinsdale to raise his own family with wife Karen. The father of Everett, Vivian, Emerson and Violet now has a short commute to the office as CEO and president



Guest shopper Richard Eck and daughter Vivian pose with the aluminum, four-wheel carry-on suitcase Eck selected at Burdi in Hinsdale as part of his tour for the fourth and final installment of The Hinsdalean's 2023 gift guide series. Eck was persuaded in his pick by Vivian's urge to up his travel luggage game. (Jim Slonoff photos)

of Hinsdale Back & Trust. He also sits on the Hinsdale Economic Development Commission, helping maintain and strengthen the vitality and charm of the village's business community. Two of his brothers also live in town.

Eck graciously agreed to be

the final guest shopper in our four-part gift guide series that helps give the village's local merchants a starring role this holiday shopping season. He was accompanied on his gift-identifying excursion by his daughter Vivian, a senior business student at Indiana University and proprietor of her own online fashion boutique.

"That's why I have to bring her along when I go shopping," Eck quipped.

Asked if his home is sufficiently decorated for the holidays, his less-is-more philosophy came to the fore.

"We probably have too much," he said.

- "When I went to Homecoming freshman year, this is where I got the corsage," Eck said as he steps into Hinsdale Flower Shop. To present as a hostess gift at an upcoming holiday party, Rick chose a White Spruce hand care caddy from Michel Design Works by Stonewall Kitchen that includes one foaming shea butter hand soap and a hand and body lotion with shea butter. \$39.95, Hinsdale Flower Shop

- Son Emerson, a freshman at the University of Wisconsin, will be on time for class in a timeless way wearing a 1960 Chronoswiss

18-karat yellow gold chronograph watch with a crocodile band. \$2,900, Hinsdale Watch Shop

- An FPM Milano aluminum, four-wheel Bank Spinner carry-on suitcase in moonlight silver is a practical and stylish travel accessory for Eck's business, and personal, trips. "My luggage is dated, wouldn't you say?" he asked Vivian. "It definitely is," she replied. \$1,900, Burdi

- A Loch Seaforth glass vase, featuring a watery, swirling design in a translucent blue and white finish a gently curving rim, will give daughter Violet's room a coastal vibe. \$129, Trumeau

- The holidays will sparkle for wife Karen when she slips on an 18-karat gold white gold tennis bracelet by Memoire with a little more than 2 1/2 carats of natural diamonds. \$7,700, Razny

- For son Everett, who's following in his father's professional footsteps in the world of finance, Eck selected Holebrook's classic blue T-Neck sweater designed with an elastic windproof lining. "It's classic yet updated," Eck said. \$270, Stockholm Objects

- Nothing like a new outfit to make the season bright. Eck — upon consulting with

Vivian — knew Karen would like a navy Veronica Beard velvet blazer and trousers set. \$698 jacket/\$478 trousers, Sweet William

- A gift basket containing a 200-gram package of unsweetened matcha powder, lemon bars, a 10-pack of Realsy peanut butter dates and a coffee mug is a great choice for daughter and shopping accomplice Vivian. \$50, Café La Fortuna

- The Tiny Terri Table Lamp by Thomas O'Brien will give Emerson the illumination he needs to pour over his college textbooks. \$319, Visual Comfort

- The Steinway Spirio R high resolution player grand piano that's also able to do recording, editing and playback — with iPad Pro included — would look fantastic in Eck's mom's living room. \$182,900, Steinway & Sons

- Six Delmonico steaks will ensure all the Ecks make it home for a special family holiday meal. \$29.98 per pound, Prime'N' Tender Meats

- Anai Singer's "Her Little Bear" black mixed media 3D art piece will make a cute addition to the decor of Vivian's college digs. \$700, Virgil Catherine Gallery



The Tiny Terri Table Lamp at Visual Comfort will hopefully shed some light on son Emerson's studies at the University of Wisconsin.

NEXT WEEK

Community Consolidated Elementary Dist. 181 Board

7 p.m. Monday, Dec. 18
Hinsdale Middle School, 100 S. Garfield Ave.
www.d181.org

On the draft agenda: tax levy adoption, kindergarten construction bond issue, full-day kindergarten bid update, Annual Comprehensive Financial Report, IAR results, summer project and social studies pilot updates

Hinsdale High School District 86 Board

6 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 21
Hinsdale South High School
7401 Clarendon Hills Road, Darien
www.hinsdale86.org/board-of-education/board-meetings

Hinsdale Zoning Board of Appeals

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20
Memorial Building, 19 E. Chicago Ave.
www.villageofhinsdale.org

On the draft agenda: public hearing on 24 E. Eighth St., approval of final decision or finding of fact on 100 E. Maple St.

Richards family suing Fullers, driver

Continued from Page 3

caused Sean's death. Sean's death was preventable.

"We believe that the individuals and entities should be held responsible for their actions and want to hold (the driver) and Fuller's accountable for killing our beautiful son," he added.

Clifford partner Bradley Cosgrove, speaking after the Richards, said a new driver should not have been behind the wheel.

"A 16-year-old doesn't have the experience to be driving on a commercial basis. A reasonable car wash wouldn't put a 16-year-old child in the seat of a car," he said.

In terms of public safety, the Fullers did not do any work to determine if the bollards that have been installed outside of the car wash bay will stop a car moving at more than 35 mph, Kristine Richards said.

Cosgrove noted that two other incidents of cars leaving the bay at a high rate of speed — both of which caused damage to other cars — are almost identical in nature to the one that killed Sean.

"(W)e do not believe that it is safe for Hinsdale to have a car wash in an area of downtown

Hinsdale that is very busy with pedestrians, bike riders, kids on scooters and families with strollers," Kristine Richards said, suggesting the car wash be moved to Ogden Avenue.

She concluded by noting her son should be alive today.

"We want the world to know the truth about how Sean was killed, we want the people responsible for Sean's death held accountable and we want to make sure that no other family has to go through the hell that we are living and will live for the rest of our lives," she said.

The Fullers issued a statement Tuesday in response to news of the suit.

"Now that the legal process has begun, it does not change our heavy hearts and the grief we feel for the Richards family and the other families affected by this incident," it reads. "While we cannot fathom what they are going through, we pray for the Richards family, all those injured and our entire community."

"The depth of this tragedy is felt daily by our family and employees," the statement continued. "Our pledge is to remember and our promise is to serve the community faithfully as we have for decades."

Correction

Nancy Keenan's last name was spelled incorrectly twice in a story on her retirement from The Courtyard in the Dec. 7 issue.



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Invites honor coaches past and present

Hinsdale Central hosts five tournaments named in honor of legendary team leaders

By Pamela Lannom
plannom@thehinsdalean.com

This weekend, Hinsdale Central wrestlers will compete with 24 other teams in the 57th annual Whitlatch Invite, one of the toughest tournaments in the state. The event is named after legendary Central wrestling coach Rex Whitlatch, who passed away in 2021 at age 84.

Whitlatch, who a two-time state champion in high school, was the Red Devils' head wrestling coach from 1964-81 and assistant coach from 1986 until he retired in 1992.

For a November 2021 story on Whitlatch, his wife, Nancy, told The Hinsdalean that mentoring student-athletes meant everything to her husband.

"Coaching and teaching came first. I came second. The kids came third," she said. "He took so much pride in his job and coaching and wrestling and everything."

After wrestling at the University of Illinois, Whitlatch came to Central

and he founded the Hinsdale Holiday Wrestling Tournament, which was named after him in 1993.

Whitlatch is a member of the Urbana High School, the Illinois Wrestling Coaches and Officials Association and the National Wrestling halls of fame.

Honoring their legacies

Whitlatch is one of several Hinsdale Central coaches with a tournament that bears his or her name.

- The inaugural Red Devil Estoque Invite took place for girls gymnastics this past weekend. Kim Estoque has been head coach of the varsity girls gymnastics team for 19 years on staff since 1991. She was named the Illinois coach of the year in girls gymnastics by the National Federation of State High School Associations.

- The Red Devil Wanner Invite and Krupicka Invite in March and the Canino Invite in April are named after three respected boys gymnastics coach-

es.

Mark Wanner coached the boys gymnastics team to three state titles and 11 state trophies, with 25 state qualifying teams during his 34-year career at Central. He was named coach of the year in 2006 by the Illinois High School Gymnastics Coaches Association and is in the association's Hall of Fame. The March invite was officially renamed to honor him in 2018, the year he retired.

Neil Krupicka was the varsity boys gymnastics coach from 1974-2005 and the girls gymnastics coach from 1993-2005. In addition to the invite, the new gymnastics gym at Central bears his name. He is a member of the Illinois High School Gymnastics Coaches and the Illinois High School Girls Gymnastics Coaches Association halls of fame. He was named the Illinois boys gymnastics coach of the year five times and the girls coach of the year once. He led the boys team to five state titles during his tenure and the girls to a second-place finish. He was coached

by another storied member of the program, Tony Canino.

Canino came to Central in 1958 as a student teacher and returned two years later to begin his 30-year career at the school. His teams won 239 dual meets and lost only seven. He coached seven individual state champions and four individual national champions. Canino was the Illinois High School Gymnastic Coach of the Year and the National High School Gymnastic Coach of the Year. He has been named to the IHSA Gymnastic Coaches and the NCAA halls of fame.

- The boys tennis team will host the Jay Kramer Invite in April. Kramer was 22 when he took over the boys tennis program at Central and held the post for 50 years until he retired in 2009. His teams earned 16 state titles and were runners-up 12 times. He was the national high school coach of the year, the USPTA high school coach of the year and the Illinois high school coach of the year.




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POLICE BEAT

Hinsdale police distributed the following reports Dec. 13.

DUI arrest

Brad L. Lukasik, 40, 4031 N. Park St., Westmont, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a blood-alcohol content higher than .08, improper lane use and driving with unsafe tires at 11:45 p.m. Dec. 10 in the 100 block of East Ogden Avenue. He was charged and released to appear in court.

Car stolen during test drive

During a test drive, the prospective buyer asked the owner to exit the vehicle in the parking lot of Chase Bank, 400 E. Ogden Ave., so she could withdraw money in privacy at 7:24 p.m. Dec. 6. She then drove off with the car.

Mail, packages stolen

- Someone in a pickup truck was seen on a surveillance camera pulling up to a mailbox in the 5800 block of Woodmere and stealing the contents at 11:15 p.m. Dec. 10.
- A package was stolen off a porch in the 600 block of South Washington Street at 3:38 p.m. Dec. 6. The suspect was a black man in his mid-20s with dreadlocks, according to the door bell camera.

Fraud reported

The Institute in Basic Life Principles, 707 W. Ogden Ave., reported at 2:32 p.m. Dec. 8 being defrauded out of \$55,000 with a Craigslist purchase of a backhoe.

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.

Girls interim coaches named for basketball

Three coaches have agreed to lead the Hinsdale Central girls basketball program following the resignation of varsity head coach Erin Navolio and two assistant coaches Dec. 4.

Ryan Sasis will serve as the interim varsity head coach, athletic director Mike Jezioro announced in an email to the community. Sasis has coached basketball at all levels at locations including Marian Catholic High School. He also has served as an Amateur Athletic Union coach in the off-season.

Brad Warble will serve as the interim varsity assistant coach. He played college ball at Eastern Illinois University and has coaching experience. He has been the equipment manager at Central since 2018.

Gia Pellizzari will serve as the interim coach for the junior varsity team. Pellizzari, currently a girls lacrosse coach at Central, is a Central alum and was a multi-sport athlete. She played college basketball at North Central College and has previous experience coaching in the program.

Jeziro said he will attend upcoming practices and games to assist in the transition. He also announced a comprehensive search for permanent replacements will take place after the season.

He thanked the new coaches for taking on these roles and parents for their patience. "Most importantly, I want to thank our players for their hard work, dedication and perseverance. I am proud of the way they have 'brought their fire' to every practice and game and look forward to watching them continue to grow and develop individually and as a team the rest of the season."

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baby's name, baby's birthday, your name, your address and a daytime phone number — to news@thehinsdalean.com.

The winning baby will be photographed by Jim Slonoff to appear on the Dec. 28 cover of The Hinsdalean.

ENTRY DEADLINE: NOON FRIDAY, DEC. 15

The Hinsdalean

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■ “They would time (the final hymn) so they would ring the church bell as part of the song right at midnight as we were finishing up the service.”

— Doug Peckenpaugh

Hinsdale native stays faithful to his roots

Christmas Eve was always a lively time in the Peckenpaugh household in Hinsdale.

In addition to Doug Peckenpaugh and his five older siblings, the holiday banquet grew substantially, Peckenpaugh said, due to his mother’s boundless spirit of hospitality.

“My mom was one of these people who would open up her home to any family who could come,” he said. “She would run a big buffet and we’d have 20, 30 people coming through.”

By 10 p.m. the gathering would disperse, leaving the family time to arrive at Hinsdale Covenant Church in time for the 11 p.m. candlelight service. Peckenpaugh was struck by its solemn yet celebratory tone.

“They had candles lit up and down the aisle and all over. It just seemed like the whole place was alive with candles,” he recalled. “They would time (the final hymn) so they would ring the church bell as part of the song right at midnight as we were finishing up the service.”

The church has played a central role throughout Peckenpaugh’s story. He met his wife, Jen, in the high school

youth group and got married in the sanctuary. Friends from his earliest Sunday school classes remain friends to this day.

“We used to go with families from church on the train out to Colorado every year for ski trips,” he said. “It is very much ingrained into the community of my life.”

For the last couple years, Peckenpaugh has served as chair of the church’s leadership committee. It’s a post his dad previously held, leading to another special link.

“When my wife received her Bible at confirmation, the certificate that went with it was signed by my father,” he noted.

Being a church leader means staying true to meaningful traditions while identifying ways to constructively embrace modern sensibilities.

“You have to honor the past while still being open to what the future brings,” Peckenpaugh said.

The live nativity services are a more recent addition to the 131-year-old church’s Christmas Eve itinerary, quickly becoming a seasonal fixture among local families. On-site livestock help recreate the Bethlehem scene in way that



DOUG PECKENPAUGH

HINSDALE CENTRAL CLASS OF 1989 • FATHER TO TWO SONS, ONE DAUGHTER
• GRADUATED FROM PURDUE UNIVERSITY • WORKS IN PUBLISHING FOR THE FOOD INDUSTRY • LOVES DOWNHILL SKIING

all the senses experience.

“One year they thought it would be a good idea to get a camel. So they brought this camel into the church — I don’t know how they got it in there to begin with — and it was touch-and-go as we were trying to lead him out of the church again,” he recounted. “We only did that once.”

He admitted his younger self was not exactly keen on

following in his parents’ footsteps. And when he and Jen were first married, they moved to Oregon to soak in fresh surroundings. But parenthood triggered a newfound fondness for familiar places and loving, and beloved, faces.

“We were just drawn back here,” he said. “Why fight it? We know what we love.”

Their kids subsequently went through the same

church youth group and sleepaway camps as mom and dad. And just like his mom, Peckenpaugh will be cooking for a crowd Christmas Eve at his Downers Grove home.

“That’s a tradition that I continue now, today,” he said. “I invite all my family over on Christmas Eve and we do the same thing.”

— story by Ken Knutson,
photo by Jim Slonoff



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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Help Memorial Building thrive in next century

The time to make a special contribution in support of Hinsdale's enduring story is quickly running out.

In commemoration of the village's 150th anniversary, officials launched the Memorial Building Historic Plaza & Railing Campaign. Funds collected will go toward restoring the original Chippendale roof railing on the nearly 100-year-old village landmark as well as renewing the outdoor gathering space adorning Hinsdale's "front lawn" on the south side of the structure. The iconic and treasured symbol of Hinsdale owes its existence to the community spirit of an earlier generation of Hinsdaleans.

Following the end of World War I, there was widespread consensus that the village needed to honor residents who had served their nation. In particular, people wanted something that would serve as lasting tribute to those who left their cherished village environs and made the ultimate sacrifice far from home in defense of liberty. Local leaders unanimously agreed that the tribute should take the form of a function-

al building. Philip R. Clarke, chairman of the Hinsdale Memorial Building Committee, appreciated that the project must be communitywide in order to truly express the gratitude and civic pride of the village: erect a building to serve that also honors those who served.

In April 1927, the plans of architect Edwin Clark for the new Hinsdale Memorial Building at 19 E. Chicago Avenue were accepted at a village meeting, and a drive began to raise the \$150,000 needed to pay for the project.

By the end of the campaign's first week, 90 percent of the funds needed had been raised.

At Tuesday's village board meeting, officials announced that \$62,000 had been collected for the 150th campaign, a testimony to the generosity of today's residents and business community members. But more is needed to ensure that the projects are executed in a way that citizens can enjoy for generations to come.

Village President Tom Cauley summed up the campaign's mission:

"To commemorate Hinsdale's 150th anniversary and in honor of our service members, we are asking the community to come together to help renew the Memorial Building Plaza, which has served as Hinsdale's natural front yard for nearly 100 years, and to restore the building's roof railing, which was removed due to deterioration a number of years ago," he stated. "This community-driven campaign will allow the village to renovate the building's plaza to create a community gathering spot, as well as restore its historic roof railing. Additionally, this endeavor will further the legacy of the Memorial Building, which was originally funded by Hinsdaleans seeking to honor those who made the greatest sacrifice for our nation."

Donors have five different levels to choose from when making a gift at www.villageofhinsdale.org/150.

Let's send off this milestone year with a final act of hometown pride by coming together to help renew and restore the Memorial Building plaza and roof railing, and be part of history.

COMMENTARY

Picture-perfect shots don't tell the whole story

Have you seen the ads for the new Pixel 8 and Pixel 8 Pro phones from Google?

With a feature called "Best Take," you take multiple shots of a group and then combine everyone's best look in one photo. Magic Editor — using generative AI, whatever that is — lets you reposition and resize subjects. Audio Magic Eraser lets you erase the sounds of the barking dog or background surf from your videos.

I'm amazed by this technology, and I can think of many of my own photos that would have benefited from Best Take. I can't help but worry, though, that the photos everyone posts on social media — which already are filtered and curated to show select moments — soon will be completely and utterly fake. The commercial that features Magic Editor shows an altered pic of a dad throwing his toddler up in the air — so high that someone would end up injured if this really happened.

Touching up red eye or eliminating a stray strand of hair stick-

ing up at a weird angle are one thing. Taking advantage of those tools doesn't alter the story. But repositioning and resizing subjects just might.

I guess it should be no surprise that at the same time that this technology is emerging, Merriam-Webster has chosen "authentic" as its word of the year for 2023. The dictionary's web page says the word is something, "We're thinking about, writing about, aspiring to and judging more than ever."

"A high-volume lookup most years, 'authentic' saw a substantial increase in 2023, driven by stories and conversations about AI, celebrity culture, identity and social media," it goes on to say.

I hope people are looking up the word because they are interested in living a more authentic life. I fear they are doing so because they aren't sure what the word means.

The Oxford English Dictionary



Pamela Lannom

chose a less thought-provoking word to award year: "Rizz" — defined as "style, charm or attractiveness; the ability to attract a romantic or sexual partner." The term also can be used as a verb, as in to "rizz up" a person. Its etymology (now there's a word) is TikTok.

Rizz was formed with a linguistic pattern called "clipping," as it came from the middle of another word, "charisma," according to Oxford's announcement. "Fridge" and "flu" are other examples. I doubt anyone who uses the word "rizz" even knows such a thing as linguistic patterns exists. (My 14-year-old daughter, who actually used this word while I was working on this column, certainly doesn't.)

Because this whole "word of the year" thing is a publicity stunt — and Webster's and Oxford each want people to look up more words online — there are two lists

of runner-up words of the year as well. Webster's first runner up was, in fact, "rizz." (It offered a baker's dozen of candidates, may favorite of which was "doppelganger.") Oxford's finalists were "prompt," "situationship" and "Swiftie."

So what does Webster's word of the year have to do with the Pixel 8 ads? Every time I see one of the phone commercials, I think of that one episode of "Modern Family" ("Family Portrait," the first-year season finale, I learned from Google) in which Claire hopes to get the perfect shot of the entire family, with everyone dressed in pristine white outfits. But family squabbles lead to a mud fight — and instead of a carefully posed portrait, the family ends up with an endearing candid shot that captures each member's personality — and real life.

Maybe being authentic is the best rizz of all.

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

■ I hope people are looking up the word because they are interested in living a more authentic life. I fear they are doing so because they aren't sure what the word means.

OPINION

GUEST COMMENTARY

Dickens calls us all this holiday

My sentimentality tends to spike during the holidays when I take comfort in Christmas music from Nat King Cole, Johnny Mathis, Bing Crosby and the Ray Conniff Singers (anyone?). I bore my children with stories about some of the tree ornaments that belonged to my great-grandparents. I find time for my favorite holiday movie classics.

I'm particularly fond of Charles Dickens' timeless story, "A Christmas Carol." Dickens' inspiration was born out of the socio-economic state of England circa 1840. He struggled as a young boy of very meager means. And I suspect the workhouses, in particular the extreme suffering of children as young as 6 years old forced to labor in horrific conditions, served as strong literary motivation.

His searing political and social examination of the haves and the have-nots hits home today with frightening accuracy and discomfort. He reminds us of this via a poignant line from Jacob Marley's chain-laden ghost spoken to his former business partner and book's main protagonist, Ebenezer Scrooge, "Mankind was my business. The common welfare was my business; charity, mercy, forbearance and benevolence, were, all, my business."

I'm particularly fond of a specific passage at the book's end. Scrooge, realizing the true gift of redemption and a second chance to have a life well-lived, visits his estranged nephew and his wife on Christmas Day seeking forgiveness for his years of miserly cold-heartedness. His nephew greets him with great surprise and joy, inviting him



Kevin Cook

into his home to join his wife and many of their friends for dinner. The story's narrator goes on to say, "He was at home in five minutes. Nothing could be heartier. ... Wonderful party, wonderful games, wonderful unanimity, won-der-ful happiness!"

For me, there's no greater healing power

than that of forgiveness and personal redemption. I suspect that's why I love the story. Those deeply embedded resentments, regrets, or estrangements from family or friends we all carry can weigh on us like Marley's eternal chains. We think about them often. We tell ourselves it's just too hard to make amends, to reach out and say we're sorry and forgive. To forgive ourselves. But in the end, it's just too hard, too painful. And so, we go on.

But the world needs our healing touch, maybe now more than ever. Hate, violence, want and indifference have cast long, dark shadows. Dickens himself saw this.

Let's find the time for the mental and spiritual healing that calls us during this holiday season. And through that healing, let us muster the courage for benevolent redemption somewhere in our lives, maybe with someone, and repair the world in a small but deeply meaningful way. Let's start there.

The Ghost of Christmas Present delivers perhaps the greatest truism in Dickens' classic.

"Remember, Scrooge, time is short, and suddenly, you're not there anymore."

This holiday, make the time.

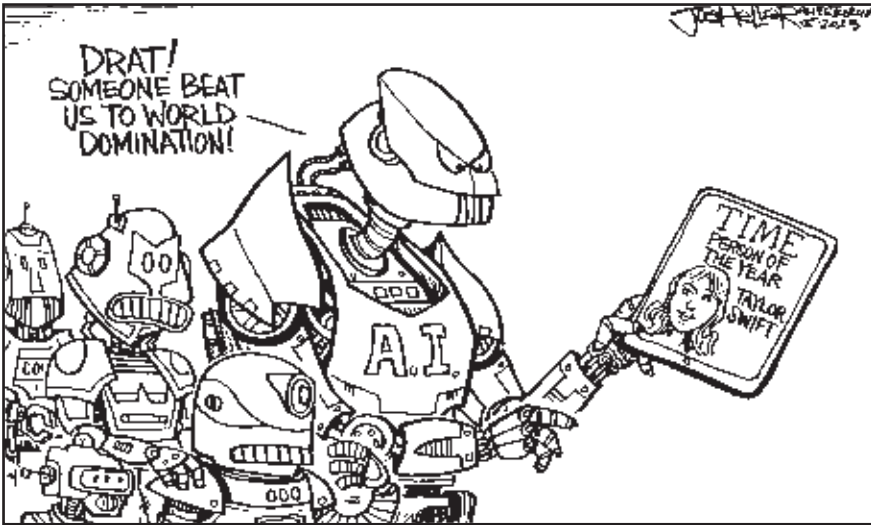
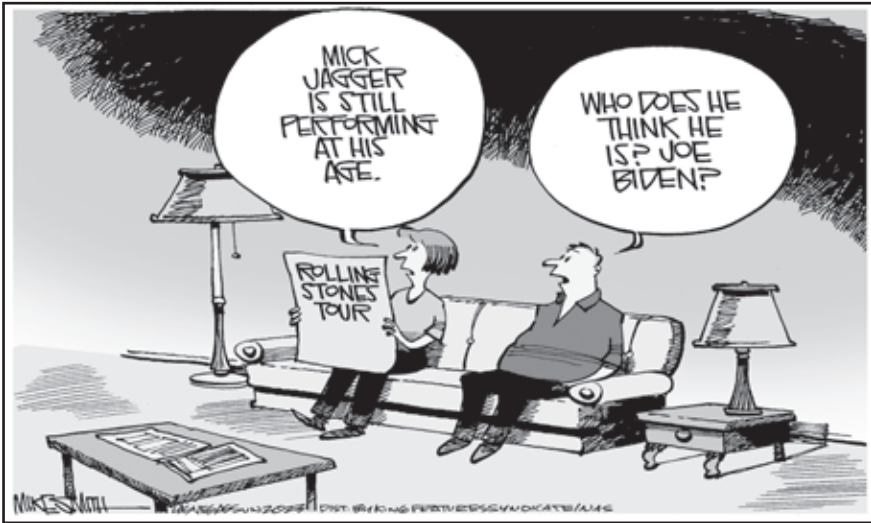
— Kevin Cook of Hinsdale is a contributing columnist. Readers can email him at news@thehinsdalean.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Property owners have right to tear down, build new

Some citizens of Hinsdale should put their money where their mouth is and purchase any and all old homes they do not want demolished. It is a free country, and ownership of property takes precedence

over bully tactics. Please stop strong arming those who own property with a house on it that can and, in most cases, should be demolished. Simple as that. — Renee Mumford, Hinsdale



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?

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OBITUARIES

Patricia Frances Chase

Patricia Frances Chase, nee Dunn, 91, of Placida, Fla., and Oak Brook, died Dec. 9, 2023.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dana Chase Jr.

She is survived by her children, Deidre (Brian) Clingen, Dana Chase, Susan (Tim) Korin and David (Sarah) Chase of Hinsdale; her grandchildren, Brittany, Amanda, Shelby, Paige, Parker, Gillian, Teddy and Tommy; and her



Chase

five great-grandchildren.

Visitation is at 11 a.m. Thursday, Dec. 14, at Notre Dame Church, 64 Norfolk Ave., Clarendon Hills.

A funeral Mass will follow at noon at the church.

Interment is at Mount Emblem Cemetery in Elmhurst.

Sullivan Funeral Home Hinsdale handled the arrangements.

Carol Lee Cikanek

Carol Lee Cikanek, nee Kersten, 72, a longtime Hinsdale resident, passed away unexpectedly Dec. 7, 2023.

Carol Lee was born in Chicago in 1950. She grew up in Berwyn and graduated from nearby Nazareth Academy. Carol met her husband George at 15. They went for a motorcycle ride and have been inseparable since.

In 1974, Carol and George bought a house in Hinsdale, where she would discover her life's passion — being a mom. With gentle kindness and boundless energy, she devoted herself to her three boys. She maintained a tidy home with an open door, and her backyard always buzzing with neighborhood kids. Carol was a perennial class mom, beginning at Madison School in the 1980s and maintaining her sense of duty to her boys and their classmates through college and beyond. Later, Carol adopted and cared for her daughters-in-law and grandchildren as if they were her own.

Carol firmly believed that there was nothing better in life than being a mom. As such, she dutifully and joyfully assumed her responsibilities as a caretaker, craft maker, homemaker, problem-solver, coach and creator of magical holiday gatherings. No one was excluded from her generosity of spirit, and many sought her guidance.

The greater Hinsdale community knew Carol Lee as "Your Village Realtor." She was 42 when she sold her first home in 1992. In a career that spanned more than 30 years, Carol guided her clients through more than 500 transactions on homes in and around Hinsdale. In 2003, she sold the residence of former Chicago White Sox slugger, Frank Thomas, for \$7.95 million. It



Cikanek

was the highest-value sale recorded in DuPage County until 2023.

Carol's work as a Realtor carried a deep sense of purpose — to make Hinsdale accessible to young adults and families. She supported this mission by coaching clients on how to prepare and market their homes for sale to individuals and families seeking a way into the town she adored. Her approach

created value and built trust with her clients, and it preserved the historic character of the township.

Carol was a member of the Hinsdale Plan Commission and The Garden Study Club of Hinsdale, and a longtime parishioner of St. Isaac Jogues. She leaves behind her beautiful garden, historic home and a family blessed by her maternal love and care.

She is survived by her husband, George Charles Cikanek; her children, Benjamin George (Jessica) Cikanek, Nathaniel Lee (Susanne) Cikanek and Zachary Charles (Jolyn) Cikanek; her nine grandchildren; and her siblings, Thomas Kersten, James Kersten, Pamela Ajax and Jeanine Matz.

Visitation is from 1 to 5 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 17, at Sullivan Funeral Home, 60 S. Grant St., Hinsdale.

Family and friends will meet Monday for a 10 a.m. funeral Mass at St. Isaac Jogues Church, 306 W. Fourth St., Hinsdale.

Interment will follow at Assumption Cemetery in Wheaton.

The family asks that gifts of flowers embrace the holiday season, or in lieu of flowers, memorials may be made online to Nazareth Academy at www.nazarethacademy.com.

Nancy Gorski

Nancy Gorski, nee Glusack, 91, a longtime Clarendon Hills resident, passed away peacefully Dec. 9, 2023, at St. Patrick's Residence in Naperville.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph Edward Gorski.

She is survived by her children, Dr. Gregory (Vivien) Gorski and Loren (Jane) Gorski; her grandchildren, Laura (Dominick) Clarizio, Ashley (Jason) McArdle and Kevin Gorski; her great-grandchildren, Julie Ann, John, Luke and

Michael Clarizio; and many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.

Visitation is from 3 to 8 p.m. today, Dec. 14, at Sullivan Funeral Home, 60 S. Grant St., Hinsdale.

Family and friends will meet for a funeral Mass at 10:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 15, at Notre Dame Church, 64 Norfolk Ave. Clarendon Hills.

Interment is private at Transfiguration Cemetery in Wauconda.

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.
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OBITUARIES

Deborah L. Obiala

Deborah L. Obiala, nee Schmidt, 76, of Hinsdale passed away Dec. 4, 2023, surrounded by family.

Debbie was born in 1947 in Chicago and grew up in the Beverly neighborhood, attending Kellogg Elementary and Morgan Park High School. At age 20, Debbie married the love of her life, Dan, and the two settled their family in southeast Hinsdale in 1973. Debbie and Dan's 53-year marriage was one of love and faith, happiness and pride.

Debbie built an impressive 45-year real estate career in the Hinsdale area as a longtime broker with Adams & Myers and Sotheby's. Debbie has likely been inside every house in the area and could recite its ownership history with amazing acuity and insight. She loved serving her clients and championing their dreams, as a shrewd negotiator and passionate businesswoman, all the while forging lifelong friendships with her peers and clients.

Debbie possessed an enduring love of horses and German Shepherds. She volunteered for more than 20 years at Hinsdale Hospital. Debbie enjoyed attending brunch at McCormick Place on her way to a Bears game, and skiing Vail, where she charmed John Denver. Debbie treasured nothing more than the thrill of the hunt for the perfect antique or bargain, and collecting sea glass from the shores of Pompano Beach, where she and Dan wintered.

Debbie was a devoted mother who was first to volunteer her time and talents helping make every event special. She put 110 percent into every endeavor. Debbie forged lasting and meaningful relationships with everyone she met. Her children would walk into any shop in Hinsdale and they'd soon be greeted by



Obiala

a chorus of, "How's your mom?" She charmed people with her spirit and her passion.

Debbie lived for her family and grandchildren. A source of constant support, adoration and praise, Debbie could be seen in the bleachers during a rainy April baseball game, delivering standing ovations during grade school recitals or eagerly awaiting a three-minute routine during an eight-hour cheer competition.

She was not afraid to invest in people, and they were the better for it. Debbie's family and friends adored her and will miss her feisty spirit and devotion to those she loved.

Debbie and her partner-in-crime, Janie Fischer, formed an eternal bond as loyal friends and trusted confidants. Their 50-year friendship is one for the books.

Debbie was preceded in death by her husband of 53 years, Daniel E. Obiala; her parents, Thur and Jacqueline Schmidt; and her brother, Erik Schmidt.

Debbie is survived by her children, Dan (Lynne) Obiala, Mike (Kerry) Obiala and Amy (Dave) Brown; her six grandchildren: Emma, Sophie, Jack, Catcher, Peter and Matthew; her great-grandson, Cameron; and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation is from 4 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19, at Sullivan Funeral Home, 60 S. Grant St., Hinsdale.

A funeral Mass will be said at 10 a.m. Wednesday, Dec. 20, at St. Isaac Jogues Church.

An open reception will follow immediately at the Hinsdale Golf Club in Clarendon Hills.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made online to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation at www.jdrf.org.

Vincent Anthony Sackett

Vincent Anthony Sackett, 78, passed away Dec. 7, 2023, of cancer at his home in Oak Brook.

Vincent grew up in Berwyn with cherished childhood summers in Boston. He met his future wife, Barbara, at DePaul University and continued his education to earn a medical degree from Loyola University of Chicago Stritch School of Medicine. He practiced psychiatry for more than 50 years, attending Harvard School of Public Health approximately mid-career to obtain his master's in health care management and make a friends with a charmingly ram-bunctious group of doctors.

Vincent will be remembered for his generosity and love for his cherished family, colleagues and friends. He gave his most valuable posses-



Sackett

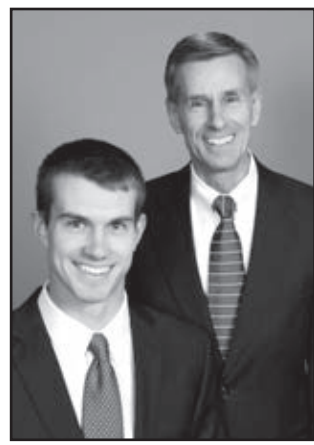
sions, time and love, freely, unconditionally and without expectations.

Vincent is survived by his wife, Barbara; his three children, Jennifer Sackett Pohlenz of Hinsdale, Antony (Susan Connor) Sackett, Olivia (Alex Cotter) Sackett; and his six grandchildren, Maximilian, Oliver, V. Jupiter and Wolf Pohlenz, Pia Cotter and Rosalie Sackett; his sister, Florence Albrecht;

his sisters-in-law, Mary Sackett, Kathleen (Terry) Andrews and Judith Langoni; and his brother-in-law, Jerome (Gail) Lukasik.

A funeral Mass will be said at 10 a.m. Tuesday, Dec. 19, at Notre Dame Church, 64 Norfolk Ave., Clarendon Hills.

Interment will follow at Bronswood Cemetery in Oak Brook.



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ASK AN EXPERT

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How can you dress up holiday drinks?

Gatherings of friends and family are made extra special this time of year with the help of festive decorations, holiday attire and decadent dishes. For those whose gatherings also include cocktails, local mixologist Michael Bergeron said a cocktail can go from everyday to extra with just a few simple changes.

Bergeron is the expert behind the bar at Hinsdale's Que Miso, a new addition to Washington Street that combines the flavors of Mexico with "a sprinkling of Japanese."

Whether for a brunch gathering or a take on traditional champagne, Bergeron said the Poinsettia is a festive but simple mix of cranberry juice and champagne or prosecco.

Garnishes of fresh cranberries and sprigs of rosemary add a special holiday flair to this crimson cocktail, and to Que Miso's signature holiday concoctions, including the sparkling cran-ginger margarita.

The drink combines 2 ounces reposado tequila, 1 ounce fresh lime juice, 2 ounces cranberry juice and 1 ounce ginger syrup with a splash of ginger beer or ginger ale.

The arándano, named after the Spanish word for cranberry, is Que Miso's seasonal take on a traditional negroni, Bergeron said. It uses Japanese gin with tart cranberry juice in place of the drink's bitter component, usually achieved with Campari or Aperol.

No matter the beverage, Bergeron said the right glass and garnish can take even the simplest drink from average to exceptional. He suggests serving chocolate or espresso martinis in a coupe or martini glass rimmed with crushed peppermint candies. A simple candy cane garnish also adds a festive flair.

When using fruit as a garnish, Bergeron suggests freezing it before cocktail time. The garnishes dress up the glass while chilling the cocktail without watering down the drink.

For those looking for a New Year's Eve toast that goes a step beyond a simple glass of champagne, Bergeron suggests the kir royale.

"It's a super simple two-ingredient cocktail," said Que Miso co-owner Collin Ringelstetter.

It combines champagne and creme de cassis, a sweet black currant liqueur, to create what Ringelstetter called a cocktail that's light in alcohol and worthy of an

Instagram post.

When stocking an in-home bar for a holiday gathering, Bergeron suggests keeping things simple. Offer a beer selection that includes something warm and malty, red wine and perhaps something for toasting.

"Everyone loves a little champagne," Bergeron said.

As for spirits, heavier liquors like brandy and bourbon are popular in winter, but gin and vodka drinkers will appreciate having their favorites on hand.

"You don't have to get the spendiest ingredients," Bergeron said, but don't go with the cheapest, either.

To keep things simple, Bergeron suggests coming up with a couple of festive signature cocktails to serve guests.

"Think less light and refreshing, more warm and inviting," he said.

Of course, no host should forget their non-drinking guests. Bergeron said nearly any cocktail can be made without alcohol. He suggests replacing alcohol with sparkling water or seltzer, or trying a nonalcoholic spirit in place of liquor.

"It really wakes it up and makes it entirely different," he said.

— by Sandy Illian Bosch



Que Miso mixologist Michael Bergeron said swapping out some ingredients and adding seasonal garnishes can transform everyday drinks into holiday-worthy cocktails. (Jim Slonoff photo)

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– Jill Sunderson



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“One of my favorite memories is listening to the middle school Show Choir singing Christmas carols at the Christmas Walk while snowflakes gently fall. Taking my kids sledding down the hill at Madison School during Christmas break was such a fun time. I’m still waiting for enough snow at Christmas to take my grandkids sledding.”

– Eileen Sachanda

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✧ – Christine Dannhausen-Brun



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“I’ve always loved warm light that illuminates cozy spaces, especially when winter darkness arrives so early in the afternoon. Beautiful downtown Hinsdale, lit by the abundance of lights the village puts up every year, is the definition of cozy at Christmastime: “comfortable and pleasant, especially because of being small and warm.” The carefully preserved historic buildings with the luminous trees lining the streets have been a part of many of my favorite holiday memories. I also treasure the collection of wonderful shops and restaurants we have for our holiday shopping moments with family and friends. I shop for the perfect gifts for all while feeling as if I’ve time-traveled back to some version of the streets of Charles Dickens’ ‘A Christmas Carol.’ ”

– Kirsten Laakso

Alexandra Collections

YOUR ULTIMATE GIFT GUIDE THIS HOLIDAY SEASON



“One of the joys of the Christmas season for me is the transformation of bright lights on houses and in the downtown area. Just as the early evenings start to get dark and dreary, amazing lights go up and brighten the town, and my spirits!”

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– Greg DiDomenico



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– Judy Nissen Freeman

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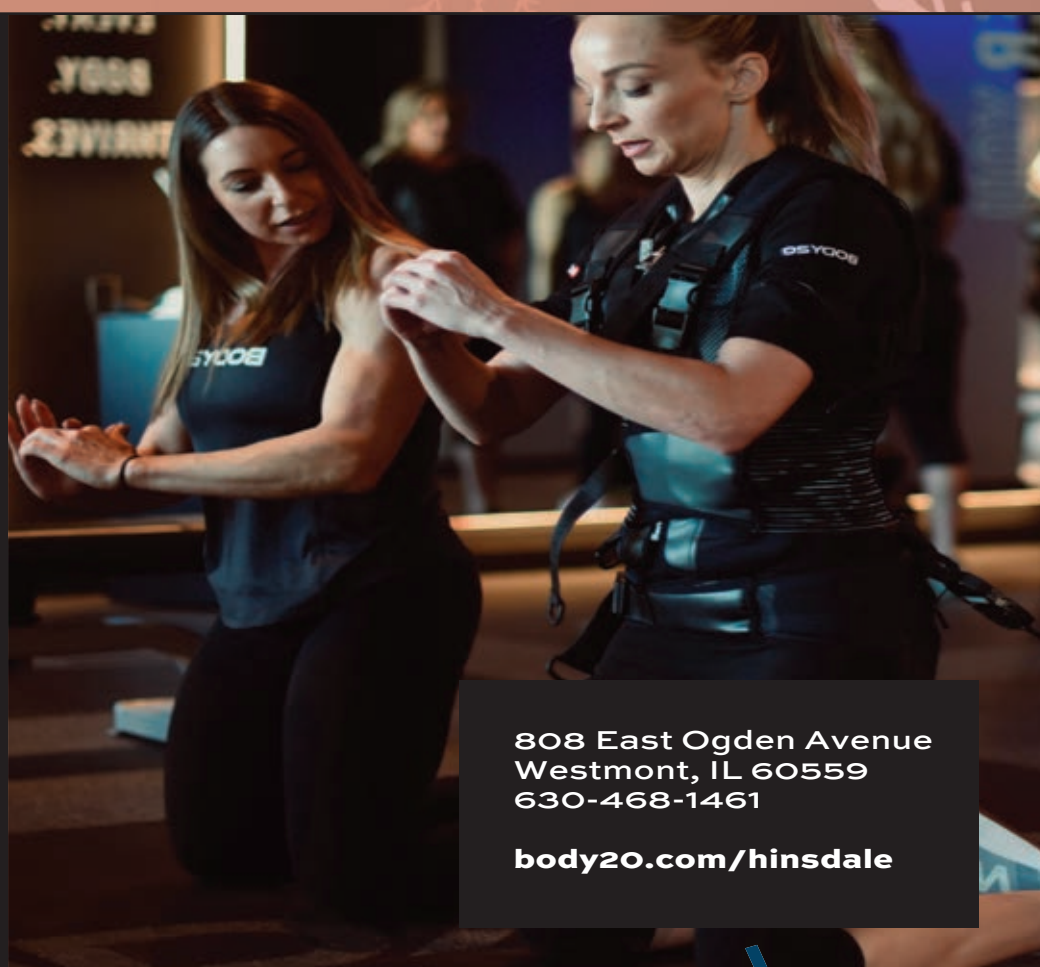
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“Our family enjoys our annual Christmas-light drive through the streets of Hinsdale with Christmas treats and snacks. We turn up the Christmas music and take in the many beautiful lights and decorations on display. It’s a tradition we started when our kids were little, and we still look forward to it each year.”

– Jade Cook



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“I’m wistful for the in-school holiday sings and performances when my children were little. All the kids were filled with so much excitement in anticipation of the holidays. And so darn cute dressed in their holiday best. Time flies but the memories remain.”

– Kevin Cook

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“My most treasured Christmas memory in Hinsdale is standing in the pews at Union Church at the Christmas Eve service, holding a candle and singing ‘Silent Night.’ I often lean over to my children and remind them, ‘Look behind you,’ They turn their heads around to see the church and balcony full of candlelight, and I see the beauty of the moment briefly take their breath away. Later I’ll explain that I asked them to turn around because you only get so many Christmas Eves in a lifetime. Those few minutes of the song and candles, it’s finite. Take a moment to savor and soak it up, as it only comes once a year.”

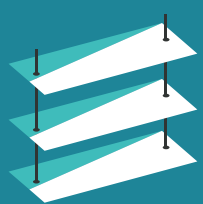
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“What I enjoy most about holiday time in Hinsdale is driving around at night and seeing all the houses with their blow-up decorations and extravagant lights that illuminate the streets of Hinsdale.”

— Leah Packer

Looking for an indoor activity?

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Mary-Margaret Lewis



Clarisse Lorin



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Phebe Moulfarha



Madeline Murray



Kaitlyn Poulos



Fiona Reenan



Margaret Rhoads



Avery Rigazio



Elizabeth Salisbury



Mallory Turner



Grace Van Houtte



Taylor Varchetto

Since 1963, the Hinsdale Assembly Board has contributed nearly \$3.5 million to the Hinsdale Hospital Foundation, touching the lives of countless young adults, families, and the communities we serve. This year, the Hinsdale Assembly will once again contribute towards its five-year, \$250,000 monetary commitment to help renovate the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Hinsdale Hospital.

Twenty Debutantes and 19 Honor Guards will be presented at the 60th annual Hinsdale Assembly Ball, held at the Hilton Oak Brook Hills Resort on Saturday, December 23rd. The Ball is the culmination of a busy year for these women and men, who learned the importance of community service and philanthropy through a variety of volunteer experiences. Whether clearing brush for the DuPage County Forest Preserve, leading bingo at a retirement community, spending time with children at a Valentine's Day themed Wellness House event, or serving with HCS Family Services, this Assembly Class volunteered many hours and we thank them for their passion and commitment.



Alexander Chung



Luke Chung



Samuel Chung



Ethan Fisher



Jack Francis



Timothy Gambla



Yaash Iyengar



James Mercurio



Nicholas Muñoz



Thomas Neil



William Otten



Andrew Posthuma



Sahar Sahgal



Holden Satre



James Spagoletti



Jonathon Steil



Gregory Theotikos



Jack Trainer



Charles Wittemann

A Victorian Christmas in Hinsdale

History museum decorated for holiday as it would have been in village's early days

By Pamela Lannom
plannom@thehinsdalean.com

Victorian Christmases — like the one the Hinsdale History Museum is decorated for — took place more than 100 years ago. But elaborate Christmas celebrations at that time still were pretty new.

Christmas didn't become a federal holiday until President Ulysses S. Grant declared it one in 1870. The country had emerged from the division that led to the Civil War and wanted to unite, said Katharine Andrew, Hinsdale Historical Society manager. She referenced the photos of presidents hanging in the museum's back parlor.

"The patriotism was huge right after the Civil War," she said. "It was a time where things were changing and it was uncomfortable in society when people were divided. They needed some reason to come together."

"They really needed some kind of national holiday," she added, noting that July 4 had been the biggest holiday in the U.S. prior to that time.

Christmas had been growing in popularity since the early 1800s as Americans became familiar with Saint Nicholas, thanks to Dutch immigrants. In 1809, Washington Irving referred to St. Nicholas as the patron saint of New York in his book, "The History of New York."

Traditions from a number of countries shaped the American version of the holiday, Andrew said, from the Germans and their Christmas trees to the British and their Christmas crackers.

"During the 1870s, we're just starting to see what the identity of an American Christmas is like," Andrew said. "Obviously, depending on where you're from, it's



going to look different. The food is going to be different."

The history museum is decorated as a Hinsdale home would be in 1873, with a trimmed tree in the parlor.

"They would have candles on the tree," Andrew said. "Usually they wouldn't light it unless it was Christmas Eve."

Handmade ornaments, the postcards that served as Christmas cards, dried fruit, nuts, dyed popcorn strands, holly and mistletoe also might be found on the tree.

"1873 is sort of right around the time where you could start ordering ornaments, but a lot of families hadn't yet starting doing that from what I've seen in Hinsdale's newspapers," Andrew said.

The tree also might be decorated with objects that had been repurposed.

"They didn't like wasting

things, so if a doll fell apart, they would make an ornament," she said, pointing to one example on the tree.

The candles eventually would be replaced by lights after homes gained access to electricity. The first electric lights were used on the White House tree in 1894, Andrew said.

Like many of the ornaments, most of the gifts family members exchanged were created at home.

"Handmade art and gifts were huge," Andrew said. "They would start months before Christmas. If you think about it, they didn't have television or movies. What are you going to do with your time? You might as well make some great gifts for your family."

"Ladies' magazines might have patterns or gift ideas that women would see in August, and they'd put it aside and start working on it," she added.



Residents interested in seeing how Hinsdale families would celebrate Christmas during the Victorian era can stop by the Hinsdale History Museum from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, Dec. 16, to see how the home is decorated for Christmas. (Jim Slonoff photos)

Although the Industrial Revolution was underway, its effects were not fully felt at the time.

"It's not completely commercial yet," Andrew said of an 1873 Christmas.

Christmas dinner was the highlight of the holiday. A typical menu might include turkey or duck, turnips, mashed potatoes, beets, coleslaw and candied sweet potatoes. A smaller tree decorated with ribbons would serve as the centerpiece.

"Plum pudding was standard for dessert," she said.

Baked lemon pudding, cranberry pie, fruit and nuts also were popular.

"Fruit was big. If you had fruit in winter, it was a big deal, and it was starting to be possible to have fruit in winter because of the train," she said.

Most gatherings would be relatively small.

"It was really an immedi-

ate family holiday," Andrew said. "You might go over to your family friends' houses a few days before or after. Christmas itself, it was huge for the immediate family."

A church service also would be part of the celebration.

The holidays, as they are today, also were a popular time to reach out and help others.

"Charity work during the holidays was a huge deal — either giving to the local churches and charities or doing a Christmas sale that benefits an organization," she said.

While gifts, dinner menus and some traditions might have changed since the Victorian era, many Hinsdaleans still treasure the same things at Christmas.

"It was Christmas at home — the joys of the holidays with kids and parents," Andrew said.



An ice rink is just part of the fun at the inaugural Christmas at Cantigny celebration through Dec. 23. Turn to Holiday Happenings on Page 38 for details. (photo provided)

GREAT OUTDOORS

■ Winter Solstice Sunrise Hike

Dec. 21
Blackwell Forest Preserve
Butterfield Road West of
Winfield Road, Warrenville
(630) 942-6200

Hike atop Mount Hoy to see the solstice sunrise. Learn about early morning wildlife and the secrets of the solstice, and relax while welcoming the first day of winter. The program is for ages 12 and up; those under 18 must be with an adult. Time: 6:45 to 7:45 a.m. Cost: \$10. RR

JUST FOR KIDS

■ Toy Time

Dec. 23
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

Kids are invited drop any time during the day for lots of opportunities to play. Hours: 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

ON STAGE

■ 'Mary Poppins Jr.'

Through Dec. 17
Theatre of Western Springs
4384 Hampton Ave.
www.theatreofwesternsprings.com
(708) 246-3380

Young Jane and Michael Banks have sent many a nanny packing before Mary Poppins arrives on their doorstep. Using a combination of magic and common sense, she must teach the family members how to value each other again. Times: 7 p.m. Fridays, 11 a.m. and 3 p.m. Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$16, \$13 for age 18 and under.

SIGN UP NOW

■ New Moms Book Group

Dec. 19
Standard Market
333 E. Ogden Ave., Westmont
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

Enjoy a night out with this monthly group for moms with children under the age of 5. The December selection is "Holding Pattern" by Jenny

Xie. Books are available for on the library's book club holds shelf. Time: 7 to 8 p.m. RR

STEPPING BACK

■ Hinsdale's Railroad History

Dec. 16
Hinsdale History Museum
15 S. Clay St.
www.hinsdalehistory.org/upcoming-events

Don't miss the chance to explore the Hinsdale Historical Society's latest exhibit, "Miniature Rails, Massive Impact: Hinsdale's Railroad History," showcasing miniature models of trains of different eras. Hours: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

■ Finding Grace Exhibit

Saturdays & Sundays through Dec. 17
Bagley House
121 S. County Line Road, Hinsdale
www.hinsdalehistory.org

The Hinsdale Historical Society presents Finding Grace: The Forgotten Story

Please turn to Page 34

Adult Inter-Faith Fellowship, sponsored by:
UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

137 S. Garfield Street, Hinsdale, IL 60521
UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST

Christmas Spirit begins with AIFF on Wednesday, December 13, 2023!



HCHS Chamber Choir, Directed by Jennifer Burkamper

The Hinsdale Central Chamber Choir (formerly Madrigals) performs a wide variety of styles throughout the School Year and continues to perform Repertoire from the Renaissance in conjunction with their annual Madrigal Concert. This Concert has taken place since 2008 and features Madrigal and Holiday Music. The Chamber Choir is the top performing ensemble at Hinsdale Central.

Adult Inter-Faith Fellowship (AIFF)

Is elated to host the HCHS Chamber Choir for Lunch again this year to meet and enjoy the talented Choir Members and learn about their College plans. This year we have invited the Parents of the Choir Members to join us. To Honor the Talented Chamber Choir, AIFF is Inviting the Parents who could not join us at Lunch AND Hinsdale Christmas Shoppers to enjoy the concert at 12:45pm!

AIFF in pursuit of our Charitable Commitment to Hinsdale Community Service in December has a Charity Container for your Voluntary Contribution

The Women's Association of Union Church is Inviting the Chamber Choir and the entire audience in attendance at the Concert to their.....ANNUAL SILVER TEA

To receive Monthly AIFF notices contact Elizabeth Jung: ejung@uchinsdale.org or call 630-688-1706

MISSION STATEMENT: Adult Inter-Faith Fellowship is **ADULT** gathering for **FELLOWSHIP**, enjoying **LUNCH** and compelling **PROGRAMS** to inform, educate and entertain members and guests. We intend to support charities that reduce hunger, domestic violence, etc.

Christmas Season



UNION
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Sundays throughout Advent

Family Worship @ 9:00 a.m. in the Chapel

Worship-for-All @ 10:00 a.m. in the Sanctuary

DEC
17

SUNDAY
10:00 a.m.

Christmas Music Sunday
Sanctuary + Online

6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

Grandparent + Me SleepUnder
Dining Room
Kids age 3-6 + Grandparents
\$10 per child

DEC
21

THURSDAY
6:30 p.m.

The Longest Night
Chapel

DEC
24

Christmas Eve

10:00 a.m. Children's Christmas Pageant
(Sanctuary + Online) - Followed by coffee +
fellowship celebration of Jesus' Birthday

7:35 p.m. Alumni Bells

8:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Service
(Sanctuary + Online)

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We believe church is for anybody and everybody - no exceptions. Young, old, married, single, struggling, thriving, gay, straight, people with any religious background, doubting, trusting, families with young children, those of long life – yes, *everyone* is welcome at the Union Church of Hinsdale.



Everyone welcome! **137 S. GARFIELD ST.**

UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE | 137 S. GARFIELD AVE. HINSDALE, IL | WWW.HINSDALE.CHURCH | YOUTUBE.COM/UCHINSDALEORG



Ways to build a better plate in the New Year

We hear about the benefits of including whole foods, plant-based foods, plant-based protein and “good carbs” in our daily meals, but it may not be the easiest thing to do. When trying to build a better plate of food and a healthier lifestyle for 2024, sorting through all the options requires patience, persistence and a few helpful tips.

A colorful plate of food looks a little bit like a rainbow. And all those colorful foods can lead to maximum nutrition. With a bit of planning, the courage to try new foods and balancing healthy fats, plant protein, vegetables and healthy sweets, even the novice cook can create a food plate that fuels the body, mind and spirit.

Planning out your meals can help keep your healthy eating ambitions on track. Because most of us are super busy and on the go, planning helps you avoid the temptation of grabbing food that might be convenient but is highly processed and lacks nutritional

value.

When you make a plan, it also helps you save time and money, reduce waste and decrease stress.

Grocery stores offer most of our favorite fruits and vegetables year-round. Eating with the season is great when possible and is more sustainable during the growing season. When you build your plate, look for fresh or frozen fruits and vegetables. There is nothing wrong with frozen foods because it eliminates the chopping step, and they lock in the flavor of fresh while giving convenience.

Environmental sustainability is best with plant-based foods. The Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations recognizes the need to eliminate ultra-processed foods, sugar sweetened beverages and drastically reduce consumption of meat to



Dr. Ashwani Garg
Healthbeat

have a lower environmental impact and assure food and nutrition security and healthy life for present and future generations of people, as well as to protect biodiversity and ecosystems, and optimize natural and human resources.

Getting enough nutrients in your diet is important. That means choosing foods with healthy substances such as vitamins, minerals,

whole grains and fiber. Nutrient-dense foods offer fewer calories but fill you up faster. Try these:

- fruits including blueberries and blackberries
 - green leafy vegetables such as spinach and broccoli
 - nuts, seeds rich in omega-3, especially walnuts, flax, hemp and chia seeds.
 - whole grains such as quinoa
- The more colorful the food, the

more nutrients you’re taking in.

Remember that proportions do matter. If you need help balancing your nutrients, try dividing your plate into sections.

Half of your plate should be non-starchy vegetables; a quarter of your plate should be plant protein, such as beans/lentils and peas; and the other quarter should be whole grains. Meat and fish offer protein but no fiber. Processed grains offer calories and some protein but no fiber or micronutrients.

Remember to be patient with yourself. It’s OK if you veer off your nutritional path for a day — try to make up for it the following day. Making gradual nutritional changes can help ensure the changes you make are for life and not just temporary.

— *Dr. Ashwani Garg is a family medicine physician with UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Medical Group Primary Care in Hinsdale.*

■ With a bit of planning, the courage to try new foods and balancing healthy fats, plant protein, vegetables and healthy sweets, even the novice cook can create a food plate that fuels the body, mind and spirit.

THE WILLOWBROOK YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INITIATIVE

SECRET SNOWMAN

IT'S TIME TO SPREAD SOME HOLIDAY CHEER!

Don't miss your chance to make a difference in the lives of children in your community by donating new, unwrapped toys to make this season special for everyone.

Scan the QR code below to learn more and let's make this a holiday season to remember!

ACCEPTING DONATIONS THROUGH Thursday, December 14th

Zion Lutheran Church & Early Childhood Education Center

2nd and Grant Street, Hinsdale
zionhinsdale.org

FOR THE GRACE OF
GOD HAS APPEARED

Christmas Eve: 2:00 and 5:00 PM

Christmas Day: 9:30 AM

The grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people.
You were called by Him into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Titus 2:11; 1 Corinthians 1:9

Rev. Jay Klein, Pastor | Ms. Elizabeth Reilley, Director, Early Childhood Education Center
Zion Lutheran Church and Early Childhood Education Center
204 South Grant Street, Hinsdale IL 60521
Phone: 630.323.0384 | Fax: 630.323.0694
zionhinsdale.org



Building and Strengthening Relationships with Jesus Christ and Opening the Door to a Lifetime of Christian Education!

Continued from Page 30

of Social Reformer Grace Bagley, who began her extraordinary life of service in Hinsdale and became a pioneer in social reform on the national level. The 1894 home Frank Lloyd Wright designed for her and her husband, Frederick, is currently being restored by owner Safina Uberoi, president of the Frank Lloyd Wright Building

Conservancy. Hours: 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

TEENS & TWEENS

■ Teen Game Time

Dec. 15 & 22
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

The library is bringing out the Nintendo Switch for middle and high schoolers, so

stop by for a Mario Kart race. Hours: 3:30 to 5:30 p.m.

■ Canva Posters

Dec. 15
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

Design and print an 11x17 poster using Canva and the library's printing and laminating materials. Time: 4 to 5 p.m. RR

■ Finals at the Library

Dec. 18-21
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

Stress less over finals at with study space and snacks provided by the library. Stress-buster activities will be offered every afternoon in the Teen Lounge. Follow HPL on Instagram by Dec. 15 and be entered into a drawing to win

VIP Study Space for up to 6 people with a basket of gourmet snacks from Trader Joe's. Winners will be notified Dec. 15. Hours: 3 to 9 p.m., 1 to 9 p.m. Dec. 20.

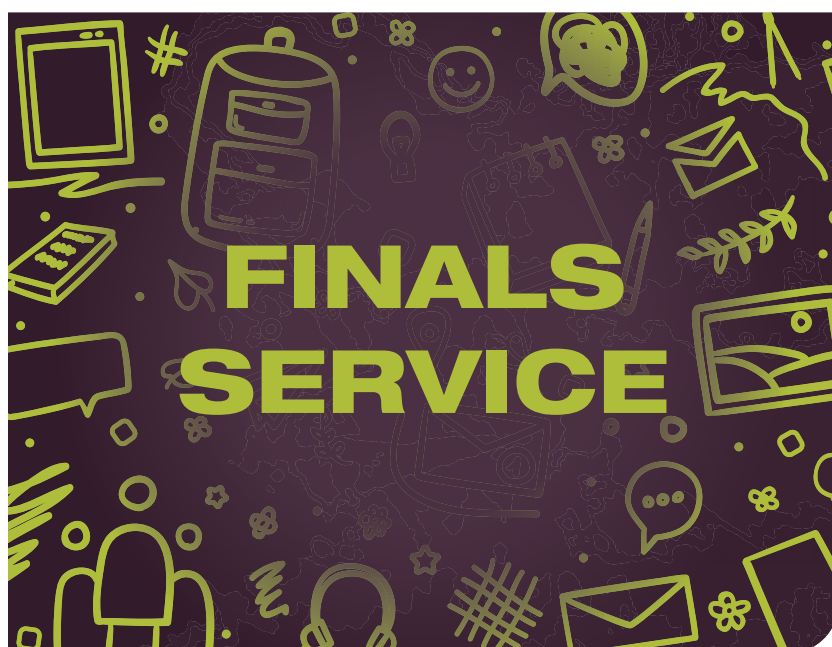
WEE ONES

■ Toddler Obstacle Course

Dec. 15
Hinsdale Public Library

Please turn to Page 36

HINSDALE PUBLIC LIBRARY • DECEMBER HIGHLIGHTS



Finals Service for High Schoolers

Mon., Dec. 18 through Sun., Jan. 7

Stress less over finals at the Library! You provide the study materials, and we'll provide space to study and snacks to keep you going.

Snacks will be provided to teens from Sat., Dec. 16 to Thurs., Dec. 21, and stress-buster activities will be offered throughout the week:

- Monday: Make a stress ball
- Tuesday at 5:00: Therapy dog visit
- Wednesday: Relaxing rock painting
- Thursday: Winter-themed mandala coloring pages

Follow HPL on Instagram by Dec. 20 to be entered to win our VIP study package: four hours in our Board Room for you and five friends with gourmet snacks.



Holiday Closings

We may be closed for the holidays, but you can enjoy your Library online 24/7.

Prepare for the four days we're closed by getting to know our ebooks, audiobooks, streaming media, and research tools. Remember, no items are due back any day we're closed.

Sunday, Dec. 24
Monday, Dec. 25

Sunday, Dec. 31
Monday, Jan. 1



kids

Winter Reading Club

Dec. 18-Jan. 7

It might be cold outside, but it's warm and cozy in the Library! Kids of all ages can complete a Winter Reading Club card to win a prize.

**Registration opens for
January events next week!**

Children &
Family Events



Adult
Events



HINSDALE
PUBLIC LIBRARY

20 E. Maple Street
Hinsdale, IL 60521

630.986.1976
www.hinsdalelibrary.info

The Hinsdalean

A message from the co-owners of The Hinsdalean



Pamela Lannom
Editor



Jim Slonoff
Publisher

Dear reader,

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

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

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

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

Thank you for continuing to read and support The Hinsdalean.



James Slonoff
Publisher



Pamela Lannom
Editor

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

☐ \$100 ☐ \$75 ☐ \$50 ☐ Other

Name: _____

Address: _____



7 West First Street • Hinsdale, IL 60521 • (630) 323-4422

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

—a Monroe School dad

Pet pic of the week

Honey Boy is an amazing senior dog who finds himself without a home during the holidays. This 10-year-old mixed breed is a gentle giant at 85 pounds. All he wants for the holidays is to find a warm and loving home where he can curl up with a new family. Honey Boy is fully vaccinated, neutered and micro-chipped. Approved for children 10 and older, his adoption fee is \$150. 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 or call (630) 323-5630 for more information. (photo provided)



Continued from Page 34

20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

Hop, skip and jump through the library's obstacle course. Time: 10 to 11 a.m. RR

WINTER BREAK CAMPS

■ Volleyball Winter Break Camp

Dec. 26-28
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St.
www.thecommunityhouse.org
(630) 323-7500

This Chicago Elite Youth Academy camp for ages 6-14 will introduce the game of volleyball and continue to improve kids' skill development, including passing, setting, attacking, blocking, serving, defense and movement. Players will be divided according to skill level and age. Time: 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost: \$105. RR, MD

■ T-ball Training Camp

Dec. 26-29
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St.
www.thecommunityhouse.org
(630) 323-7500

Kids ages 4-6 will learn the basics of batting, base running, catching and throwing using safe and developmentally appropriate equipment and a series of fun games and activities. Time: 11 a.m. to noon. Cost: \$65. RR, MD

■ EV Fine Arts: Holiday Break Sewing Camp!

Dec 28-30
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St.
www.thecommunityhouse.org
(630) 323-7500

Kids ages 7-13 will learn to sew their very own dress, nightgown or T-shirt. No experience is necessary, and students receive a unique treat each day. Sign up for one, two or all three days. Time: 1 to 4 p.m. Cost: \$260 or \$98 a day. RR, MD

Key

RR - registration required

MD - member discount

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**Call
(630) 323-4422
for more information.**

The Hinsdalean

7 WEST FIRST STREET
HINSDALE, IL 60521



Join us for **FREE** Holiday Events in Burlington Park!

Saturday | December 9th & 16th | 11am-2pm

- **Gingerbread cookies**
- **Horse drawn carriage rides**
- **Boutique & holiday shopping**
- **Unique photo opportunities**
- **Visit Santa Claus & more!**

**"All Aboard the
Hinsdale Express!
Support Local,
Collect Shop
Punches, and
Unwrap a
Surprise!"**



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shop. dine. relax.

HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

■ Christmas Classics

Dec. 15
Union Church of Hinsdale
137 S. Garfield Ave.
www.eventcreate.com/e/christmasclassics2023
Join the Ostrega Uhl Project in its Christmas festival performance of its second season. The concert will open with traditional favorites, starting with a unique arrangement of "O Come, O Come Emmanuel" for violin, harp and piano, featuring guest harpist Nichole Young. Enjoy music from Christmases long, long ago to beautiful themes and melodies from favorite Christmas and holiday themed movies of today, culminating in a sing-along at the end of the concert. Time: 7 to 8:30 p.m. Tickets: \$25 for adults, free for kids 12 and younger.

■ Electric Illumination

Dec. 15, 22, 29
Morton Arboretum
4100 Route 53, Lisle
www.mortonarb.org
(630) 725-2066
Electric Illumination is a late-night experience for adults 18 and older, featuring a curated mix of trance and progressive house music, synchronized to the breath-taking light displays. An '80s night on Dec. 29 will feature songs like Journey's "Don't Stop Believin'" and Dexys Midnight Runners' "Come on Eileen." A special temperature-activated color-changing ceramic mug will be available for purchase. Time: 9:30 to 11 p.m. Tickets: \$31-\$35, with member discounts.

■ Hinsdale for the Holidays

Dec. 16
Burlington Park
30 E. Chicago Ave.
www.villageofhinsdale.org
Celebrate the holidays by decorating gingerbread cookies, taking a horse-drawn carriage ride and visiting Santa. Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

■ Victorian Holiday

Dec. 16
Hinsdale History Museum
15 S. Clay St.
www.hinsdalehistory.org/upcoming-events
Experience a Victorian-era celebration by touring the museum. Time: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

■ Breakfast with Santa

Dec. 16
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St.
www.thecommunityhouse.org
(630) 323-7500
Bring the family together for a delicious breakfast of scrambled eggs, French toast, hash browns, pancakes, pastries, juice and coffee and, of course, pictures with Santa. Time: 9 to 10:15 a.m. Cost: \$35, free for babies under 1.

■ 'Nutcracker' storytime

Dec. 16
Hinsdale Public Library
20 W. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976
Listen and watch as the Hinsdale Dance Academy takes over Saturday storytime. Time: 10 to 11 a.m.

■ 'Nutcracker' virtual screening

Dec. 16-17
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976
The library is excited to provide access to a stage recording of "The Nutcracker" by The Royal Ballet that Hinsdaleans can watch at home. Time: all day. RR

■ 'Miss Bennet: Christmas at Pemberley'

Through Dec. 17
McAninch Arts Center
College of DuPage
425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn
www.atthemac.org
(630) 942-4000
Two years after the end of "Pride and Prejudice," the Bennet family is spending Christmas at Pemberley when an unexpected guest joins the festivities in this romantic comedy, rooted in the complications and joys of being part of a spirited family. The show contains adult themes and language. Times: 8 p.m. Thursdays to Saturdays, 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$44, \$42 for seniors.

■ Under the Mistletoe with Charles Dickens

Dec. 20
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St.
www.thecommunityhouse.org
(630) 323-7500
Adults 40 and older are invited to this program to hear Charles Dickens,

as portrayed live by Terry Lynch, reflect on his life and discuss some of his best loved works, including "A Tale of Two Cities," "Great Expectations," "A Christmas Carol" and more. Enjoy a holiday-themed tasting bar and after the performance hang out for live music, dessert and dancing. Time: 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost: \$35. RR, MD

■ Two Piano Christmas Concert

Dec. 23
Hinsdale Seventh-day Adventist Church
201 N. Oak St.
Justin Gjata and Victor Moreno will entertain guests at this special holiday concert. A free will offering will be collection. Time: 6 p.m.

■ Christmas at Cantigny

Through Dec. 23
Cantigny
1S151 Winfield Road, Wheaton
Visitors to this inaugural event are in for a special holiday treat, including McCormick House walk-throughs, ice skating and dazzling light installations. Hundreds of fresh poinsettias from Cantigny's own greenhouse will be on display throughout the home. Outside, a 100-by-40-foot ice rink will add some wintery magic to the scene. Skaters can rent blades or bring their own. Spectators and skaters taking a break can enjoy a warm holiday treat in the heated hospitality tent overlooking the rink. Visitors can also reserve a private "Cocoa Cabana," perfect for families and friend groups. Enjoy creative lighting displays, pop-up activities and more. Santa brunches are slated for Dec. 16-17 at the Cantigny Golf clubhouse. Hours: 4 to 10 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday, with extended hours on weekends and for ice skating. Admission: \$15, \$5 for kids 4-15, free for 3 and younger plus \$10 parking.

■ 'A Christmas Carol'

Through Dec. 30
Drury Lane Theatre
100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace
www.drurylanetheatre.com
(630) 530-0111
Continue a tradition or start a new one by gather-

Please turn to Page 40



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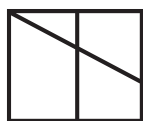
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HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

Continued from Page 38

ing the whole family for this heartwarming 30th anniversary production of Dickens' Christmas classic. Complete with falling snow, magical illusions and special effects, the play is a visually-stunning experience, and at one hour long, perfect for children of all ages. On select performance dates, families will have the opportunity to have breakfast or dinner with Santa Claus in Drury Lane's elegantly decorated dining room. Time: 10 a.m., noon and 7 p.m. performances offered on various dates.

■ New Year's Eve concerts

Dec. 31
McAninch Arts Center
College of DuPage
421 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn
www.atthemac.org
(630) 942-4000

New Philharmonic, under the direction of Kirk Muspratt, will perform three concerts to welcome 2024. All three performances will feature guest bass-baritone Richard Ollarsaba and include a highly entertaining program of waltzes, marches, polkas and light classical music, plus a champagne toast, party favors and more. Times: 1:30, 5 and 8:30 p.m. Tickets: \$70-\$80.

■ Holiday Magic

Through Dec. 31
Brookfield Zoo
3400 31st St.
(630) 688-8400
www.czs.org/holidaymagic

Bright lights and magical nights await guests at the 42nd annual event. Visitors will enjoy more than 2 million twinkling LED lights, a 41-foot tall tree choreographed to seasonal tunes, photo opportunities in the ever-popular 20-foot-tall orb and 3D 16-foot-tall gingerbread house, a 600-foot-long "Tunnel of Lights" and more. Many of the zoo's animal buildings will be open as well restaurants and gift shops offering an array of unique items. View more than 600 decorated community and corporate trees along the malls and around Roosevelt Fountain. Advanced registration and tickets are required. Times: 3 to 9 p.m. on weekends and other dates. Admission: \$29.95 for adults,

\$20.95 for ages 3-11, \$24.95 for seniors 65 and older plus \$15 parking. RR, MD

■ Winter Holidays in the 1890s

Through Dec. 31
Kline Creek Farm
1N600 County Farm Road,
West Chicago
www.dupageforest.org

Enjoy a guided tour of the 1890s farmhouse focusing on winter holiday traditions. Learn how farm families decorated the tree, exchanged gifts, and prepared food for the holidays. Time: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thursdays through Mondays. Admission: Free, suggested donation of \$5 per person ages 3 and up to enter the farm.

■ Sparkle Light Festival


Through Dec. 31
Impact Field
Balmoral Avenue and Pearl Street, Rosemont
www.sparklerosemont.com

Guests will stroll through five illuminated villages, visit Santa Claus, ice skate with friends, enjoy free train rides on the Holly Trolley train and go tubing down the Alpine Slide. Festive food and beverage options will also be available. See full schedule at website listed above. Admission: \$24, \$18 for kids 12 and under, with premium tickets and add-on experiences available, plus \$5 parking.

■ Illumination


Through Jan. 6
Morton Arboretum
4100 Route 53, Lisle
www.mortonarb.org
(630) 725-2066

Celebrate the holidays and marvel at how light transforms a magnificent landscape at the arboretum's 11th annual tree lights display. Journey along a 1-mile paved walking path amid festive music and lighting effects that highlight the beauty of trees in winter. Visitors can enjoy s'mores or stop in one of the concession tents for a snack and beverage. Choose the price, date and time to attend; the earlier the purchase, the cheaper the admission. Time: visit the website for availability. Tickets: \$16-\$41.75, with member discounts.



Happy Holidays!

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150
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1870-2020

Winter 23-24 SNOW SHOVELING PROGRAM

REGISTER FOR SNOW SHOVELING ASSISTANCE

Seniors aged 60+ or individuals with disabilities can register for the program by:

- Filling out the online request form
- Printing and mailing a completed paper request

VOLUNTEER FOR THE 2023-2024 WINTER SEASON

Sign up as snow shovel volunteer by:

- Filling out the online volunteer form
- Printing and mailing a completed paper request



SIGN UP:
VillageofHinsdale.org/SnowShovelProgram

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SPIRIT OF GIVING

Toy drive

Through Dec. 14
Hinsdale Central High School
5500 S. Grant St.

Hinsdale Central's Habitat for Humanity club is partnering with the U.S. Marine Corps to collect new, unused toys that will be donated to Toys for Tots. Donations can be dropped off at the Grant Street Plaza or circle drive entrance.

Holiday Meal Program

Through Dec. 25
www.solvehungertoday.org

The Northern Illinois Food Bank's 24th annual campaign to ensure all neighbors can enjoy a special holiday meal with loved ones is under way. This year, with the support of generous sponsors and volunteers, the food bank will provide 50,000 holiday meal boxes to neighbors facing hunger across 13 counties in suburban and rural northern Illinois. Each box serves a family of six to eight and is packed with traditional trimmings for a complete holiday meal. Every \$1 donated can provide \$8 worth of groceries for a neighbor in need. To donate, visit the website listed above.

Tree of Remembrance

Through Jan. 1
Lincoln and First streets, Hinsdale
www.adventhealth.com/hospice-care/advent-health-st-thomas-hospice
Advent Health St.

Thomas Hospice's Tree of Remembrance will stand outside of BMO Harris Bank from Thanksgiving through the new year. Community members are invited to make a donation and have a loved one's name listed on the boards beside the tree. Visit the website listed above for details.

Hinsdale Humane Society Gift Shop

www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org

Find the perfect gift for an animal-lover at the Hinsdale

Humane Society Pet Rescue and Resource Center online gift shop and help raise money to care for homeless animals. T-shirts, hoodies, mugs, tote bags and stickers are available for the humans on the gift list. Purchases help the organization care for the animals at the shelter.

Sponsor a Homeless Animal

www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org
Animal sponsorships are a great way to support homeless animals and a great gift idea. For a minimum sponsorship of \$50, recipients will help provide care for an animal of their choosing, receive a personalized gift sponsorship certificate with the pet's photo and an optional listing on the society's website, if desired. Sponsorships can be purchased online. Questions? Call (630) 323-5630 or send an email to development@hinsdalehumanesociety.org.

150th anniversary blankets

Village Hall
19 E. Chicago Ave.
www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr
(630) 789-7000

A limited edition cozy blanket with a delightful design that incorporates the 150th anniversary logo, beautifully celebrating Hinsdale's rich history and vibrant community spirit, makes a great holiday gift. They come with a water-resistant backing, perfect for a picnic at KLM Park or any favorite spot. Proceeds help support local projects that preserve Hinsdale's beauty. Cost: \$20.

Red Cross Blood Drive

www.redcrossblood.org

As schedules fill up with travel and holiday celebrations with friends and family, the American Red Cross is urging people to set aside some time to make a lifesaving blood or platelet donation. Thanks to Prime Video and its new film, "Candy Cane Lane," those who come to give by Dec. 31 will automatically be entered

for a chance to win a \$1,000 Amazon.com Gift Card and a 65-inch Omni QLED Series Amazon Fire TV. Those who donate by Dec. 17 will receive a \$10 Amazon gift card by email, and donors from Dec. 18 to Jan. 5 will receive a long-sleeved Red Cross T-shirt. The closest drives are in Western Springs on Dec. 15, Oak Brook on Dec. 18 and La Grange on Dec. 27. Visit the website listed above or call (800) 733-2767 to make an appointment.

Secret Santa

www.lagrangerotary.org/service

The Rotary Club of La Grange and Pillars Community Health are once again asking for families for gift cards or monetary donations for their annual Secret Santa program, which serves children up to age 17 in need in Hinsdale and several neighboring communities. The most-needed items are Legos, board games, blankets, sports balls, children's books, toys for ages 1-3, art supplies and batteries (AA, AAA, C and D). Gifts also can be purchased on Amazon through a link at the website listed above. A list of drop-off locations also is posted there.

Brookfield Zoo Adopt an Animal

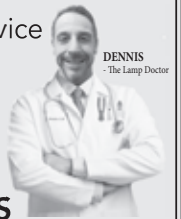
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www.czs.org/AdoptMeerkat
(708) 688-8341

The Chicago Zoological Society's Animal Adoption program is highlighting two species this holiday season: Kinda, the giraffe calf born Aug. 19 and the meerkat mob that arrived over the summer. Donations to the program are gifts that give twice — helping to provide expert care and feeding of an animal for one year as well as giving a thoughtful and unique present to a loved one. Other animals also are available. The basic package includes a photo, certificate, fact sheet and more. Price: \$35 basic package, \$165 for plush package (includes stuffed animal).

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BIRTHDAY SHOUT OUT!

Get your child's birthday in the paper!

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

The Hinsdalean

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Christmas Worship



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Episcopal Church

ALL ARE INVITED TO JOIN US THIS SEASON

BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF HOPE AND HEALING:
DECEMBER 21 AT 7PM

CHRISTMAS EVE:
FAMILY SERVICE AT 3PM
CHRISTMAS CAROLS AT 10:30PM
MIDNIGHT MASS AT 11PM

CHRISTMAS MORNING:
QUIET SERVICE AT 9AM

203 S. KENSINGTON AVE, LA GRANGE
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EMMANUEL-LAGRANGE.ORG



We warmly invite you
to worship with us
this Christmas!

Christmas Eve Worship
Saturday, December 23
7:00 p.m. | Contemporary Worship | Oak Brook

Sunday, December 24
3:00 & 5:00 p.m. | Contemporary Worship | Oak Brook
4:00 p.m. | Contemporary Worship | Butterfield
7:00 & 9:00 p.m. | Classic Candlelight Worship

Scan to see all the ways Christ Church
is celebrating the holiday season. 

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BUTTERFIELD | 2S 361 Glen Park Rd. | Lombard | 630.654.1884


CHURCH of the HOLY NATIVITY
Clarendon Hills

Christmas Services

Sunday - Advent III December 17	Christmas Eve December 24	Christmas Day December 25
9:30 am Lessons & Carols	9:30 am Morning Prayer 4:00 pm Family Service 10:00 pm Candlelight Mass	10:00 am Christmas Day Mass

Church of the Holy Nativity Episcopal Church, 275 S. Richmond Ave, Clarendon Hills, IL 60514
Livestream and more at holynativitych.org

First Church of Christ, Scientist
405 East First Street, Hinsdale

Please join us for our
Christmas Service
December 25th at 10 a.m.

All are welcome!

Also, all are welcome
every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
for our Healing Sunday Services



All are Welcome!

Christmas Eve Services
7:00 & 9:00 pm
Candlelight, Carols & Communion

Community Presbyterian Church
39 N. Prospect, Clarendon Hills

Christmas Worship




RIVER OF LIFE



Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
Sunday, December 24, 2023 from 5-6pm
All are welcome!

5701 Clarendon Hills Road, Clarendon Hills



Join us this Advent season at
Hinsdale Covenant

Join us on Christmas Eve for our
LIVE NATIVITY EXPERIENCE
A service with live animals, lessons, and candlelight for all ages

DEC. 24, Services at 2, 3, 4, and 5pm
Candlelight service at 10pm
 No registration needed. Open to all!

412 S. Garfield www.hinsdalecovenant.com



IN PERSON + ONLINE  

CHRISTMAS EVE AT HINSDALE UMC


Great Joy!

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 24
 4pm Family Friendly Service
 5:30pm Sound of the Season Concert
 7pm Candlelight Service
 8pm Open House



Hinsdale United Methodist Church
 945 S Garfield St in Hinsdale | HinsdaleUMC.com

Christmas at Grace Episcopal Church



Christmas Eve
 4:00 p.m.
 Holy Eucharist
 with Children's
 Nativity Pageant

10:00 p.m.
 Holy Eucharist
 with Choir & Harp

Christmas Day
 10:00 a.m.
 Holy Eucharist

Grace Episcopal Church & Academy
 120 E. First Street, Hinsdale
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 630-323-4900



NOTRE DAME PARISH

CONFESSIONS

December 13 - Wed. 6:00pm to 8:30pm
 December 17 - Sat. 4:00pm to 4:45pm
 December 21 - Wed. 6:00pm to 7:00pm

DECEMBER 23
 5:00pm (Sunday Mass)

DECEMBER 24
 8:00am & 10:00am (Sunday Mass)

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES
 3:00pm | 3:15pm (Gym) | 4:45pm | 10:30pm

CHRISTMAS DAY
 9:30am & 11:30am

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CANTATA SUNDAY

Sunday, December 17 at 10am

Featuring
**Daniel Pinkham's
Christmas Cantata**

Presented by
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& Gargoyle Brass**



www.redeemerhinsdale.org

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Worship with Redeemer

December 24
Advent 4 • *10:00am
Christmas Eve • 4:00pm, *7:00pm

December 25
Christmas Day • *10:00am
*Zoom and Livestream Services



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Hinsdale, IL 60521 • (630)-323-5530



Saint Isaac Jogues Roman Catholic Church

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Christmas Schedule ~ 2023

Christmas Confessions:
Mondays ~ 5:30-6:30 pm
Saturdays ~ 8:30-9:30 am, 3:30-4:15 pm

December 25th: The Solemnity of Christmas
Sunday, December 24th ~ 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am
Christmas Eve Vigil Masses
3:00 pm [Church, Parish Center] & 4:30 pm [Church, Parish Center]
Mass at Midnight: 10:15 pm Carols and Mass at 10:30 pm
Christmas Day: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am, and Noon

January 1st – 2024: Solemnity of Mary the Mother of God/New Year's Day
New Years Eve / Sunday, December 31st: 7:30, 9:00, 10:30 am and Noon
New Years Day / Monday, January 1st: 7:00 and 10:00 am

Join us each Sunday for Mass:
Saturday evening 4:30 pm, Sunday at 7:30, 9, 10:30 am, & Noon
Confessions: Mondays 5:30-6:30 pm and Saturdays 8:30-9:30 am and 3:30-4:15 pm
Daily Masses: Monday-Friday 7:00 am & 5:00 pm and Saturday morning at 8:00 am





Sun
24

Christmas Eve

@ UNION CHURCH

10:00 a.m.
Children's Christmas Pageant
in the Sanctuary | followed
by coffee + fellowship
celebration of Jesus' birthday

Everyone welcome!

7:35 p.m.
Alumni Bells
8:00 p.m.
Worship in the
Sanctuary + Online



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journey, you are welcome here.

137 S. Garfield St. | <https://hinsdale.church>   



TRINITY CHURCH

Join us at 4:00 pm Christmas Eve

Trinity Church
201 N. Oak St.
Hinsdale, IL.



TRINTYHINSDALE.COM

The Hinsdalean • December 14, 2023 • Page 45

REAL ESTATE SALES

Deeds for the following properties in Hinsdale were recorded in DuPage County between Oct. 24 and Nov. 16.

1. 815 S. Monroe St., Whitney O'Brien Homes Inc. to Michael and Renee Kucharski and RMK Trust, Oct. 24, \$2,250,000

2. 220 S. Madison St., Robert W. Jacobsen Trust to Treacy Adamo, Oct. 25, \$539,000

3. 119 N. Grant St., Timothy and Shanna Derry to Thomas J. and Sarah F. Gaul trusts, Oct. 24, \$3,700,000

4. 446 Old Surrey Road, Matthew Menke to Cartus Financial Corp., Oct. 27, \$309,000

5. 446 Old Surrey Road, Cartus Financial Corp. to Leen Ghandour, Oct. 27, \$309,000

6. 5728 Sutton Place, Regina Rafferty and Robert Collins to Helen Bryan, Nov. 6, \$350,000

7. 130 N. Grant St., Oakley Home Builders Inc. to Edward

Maurer, Nov. 8, \$3,975,000

8. 241 E. Third St., Chicago Title Land Trust Co. to Matthew and Mary McCoy and McCoy Family Trust, Nov. 13, \$2,400,000

9. 221 Fuller Road, Timothy and Elizabeth Callahan to Flying J. Properties LLC and Brenna Schaaf, Nov. 13, \$1,275,000

10. 506 N. Lincoln St., Kristen Healy to MaryNelly and Matthew Grusecki, Nov. 13, \$2,699,000

11. 741 W. Hickory St., Lynne Wallace and Norma Kelinberger Revocable Trust to Adam and Kathryn Jump, Nov. 14, \$1,600,000

12. 947 Allmen Ave., Benjamin and Ann Mohns to Jason and Elizabeth Galster, Nov. 14, \$1,360,000

13. 149 W. Kennedy Lane, Bridget N. Smagala Revocable Trust to Janice M. Biel Living Trust, Nov. 16, \$890,000

Source: DuPage County Recorder of Deeds

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\$1,666,886
Average Sales
Price*

141
Average Days
on Market*

93%
Sale Price vs.
List Price*

*Source: MRED LLC.com Data average 09/06/2023-12/06/2023. All information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.

@properties

CHRISTIE'S
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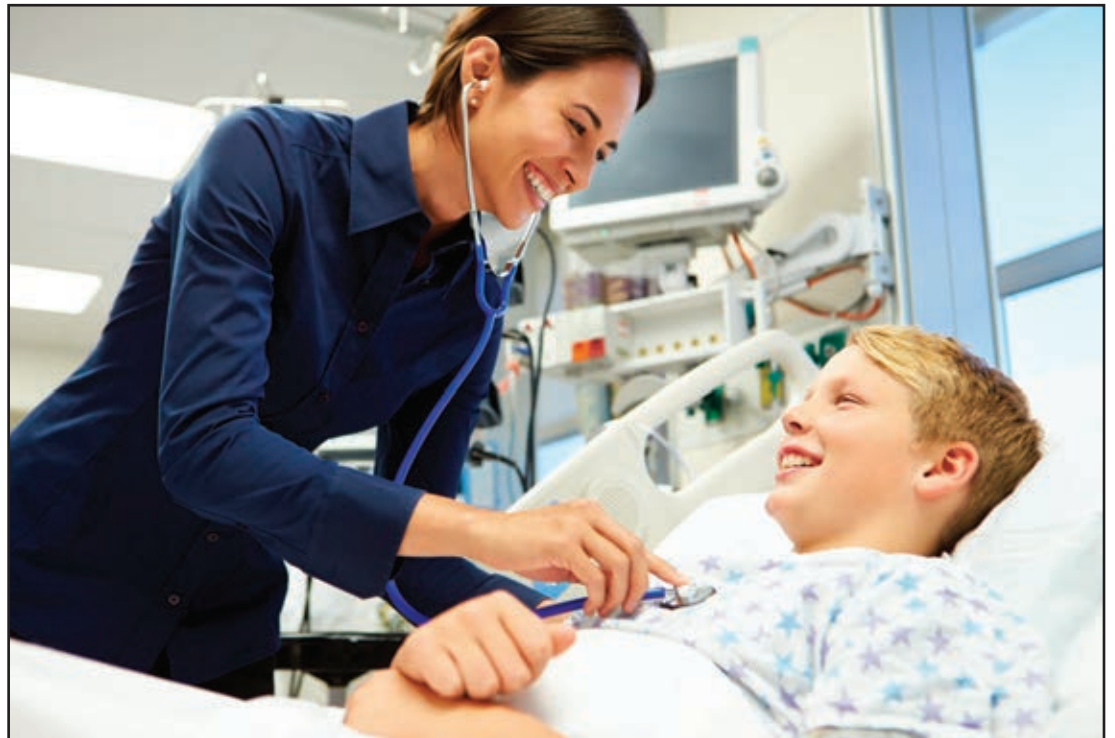
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Hours & Deadlines

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P	O	L	E		E	C	O		G	O	B	S	
A	M	I	S		T	O	O		I	S	L	E	
G	I	F	T	S	H	O	P		F	L	I	T	
E	T	E		E	E	L			S	T	O	P	S
			G	E	L			T	I	C			
T	U	R	I	N		G	I	R	A	F	F	E	
A	S	I	F		P	A	N		R	O	O	F	
B	O	B	T	A	I	L		A	D	E	P	T	
			O	R	E			T	I	S			
B	L	U	F	F		F	I	N		A	H	S	
L	O	N	G		G	I	F	T	W	R	A	P	
T	A	D	A		E	L	F		A	L	L	A	
S	N	O	B		E	M	S		N	O	O	N	

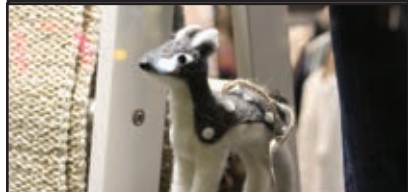
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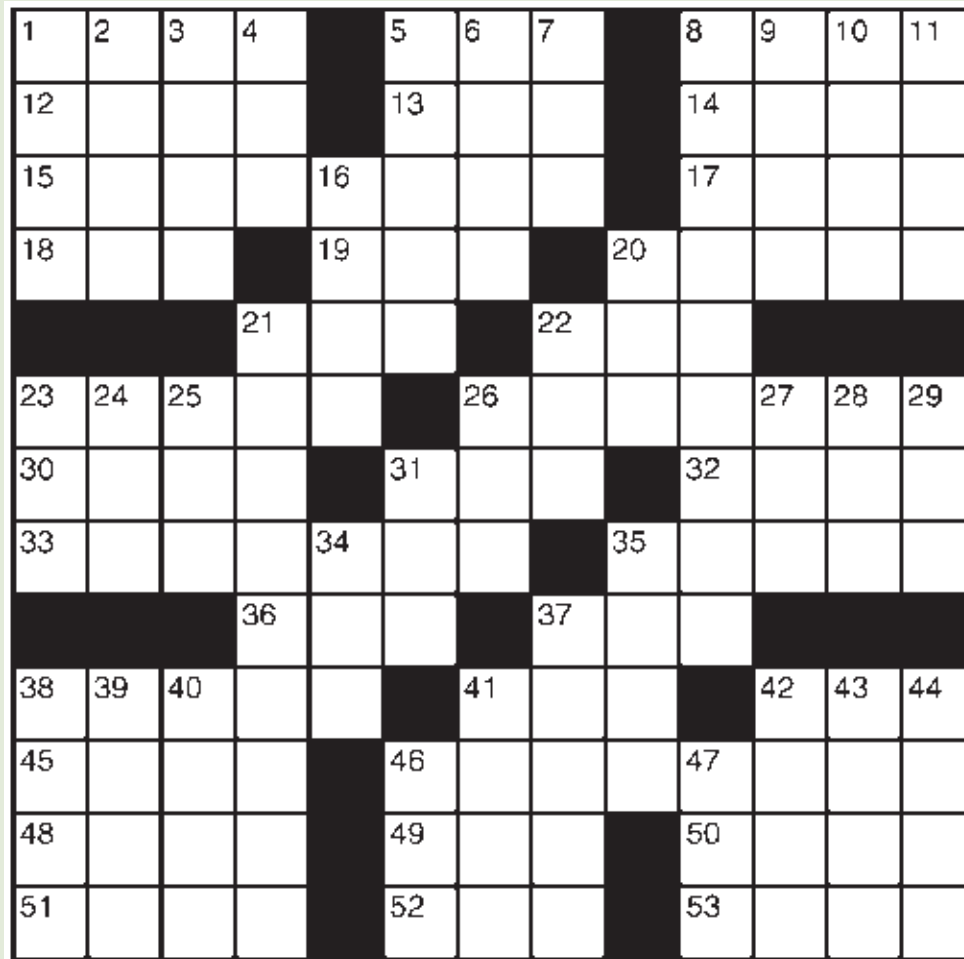
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MIND GAMES

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5 GREEN PREFIX
8 OODLES
12 WRITER KINGSLEY
13 AS WELL
14 CAPRI, E.G.
15 SOUVENIR SELLER
17 MOVE LIKE A BUTTERFLY
18 TOURS SEASON
19 SNAKY FISH
20 CEASES
21 SOLIDIFY
22 TWITCH
23 SHROUD CITY
26 HE CAN HOLD
HIS HEAD HIGH
“DREAM ON!”
30 ZERO-STAR REVIEW
32 SANTA’S RUNWAY
33 OLD ENGLISH
SHEEPDOG FEATURE
35 SKILLED
36 TRAMCAR CONTENTS
37 “– THE SEASON ...”
38 POKER PLOY
41 FISH PROPELLER
42 SPA SOUNDS
45 PROTRACTED
46 DECORATIVE PAPER
“THERE!”
49 SANTA’S HELPER
50 PENNE – VODKA
51 UPPITY ONE
52 AMBULANCE INITIALS
53 LUNCH HOUR



- DOWN**
- 1 LEAF
2 SKIP
3 BIOGRAPHY
4 BALLPARK FIG.
5 LUCY’S PAL
6 “NEATO!”
7 “ALLEY --”
8 PREPAID STOCKING
STUFFERS
9 CAPITAL ON A FJORD
10 RADAR IMAGE
11 COLLECTIONS
16 BEHELD
20 – LANCELOT
21 ELOQUENT
22 PERSON’S TALENT
CAN METAL
23 INDENT KEY
24 GI ENTERTAINERS
25 TEASE
26 COWBOY’S SWEETIE
27 NEMESIS
28 DANDY GUY
29 NEWT
31 BAKERY PURCHASE
34 CANINE CRY
35 “– MISBEHAVIN’”
37 SQUABBLES
38 DINER ORDERS
39 CASH ADVANCE
40 LOOSEN
41 MOTION PICTURE
42 FOLKSINGER
GUTHRIE
43 SAINTLY RING
44 BRIDGE
46 “MY WORD!”
47 PALLID

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

Place a number in the empty boxes in such a way that each row across, each column down and each small 3-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. Remand 2. Intend;
3. Lodge; 4. Attest

Today's Word

MISTLETOE

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form five ordinary words. Then rearrange the letters to form the mystery word, which will complete the clue.

Reptile

DREAMN

Flycatcher

DINNET

Unleashed

GOLDE

Cerise

TASTET

What place is the
And don't go away ...!

TODAY'S WORD

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

HOROSCOPES

December 2023 Horoscopes • Week 3



CAPRICORN

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Welcomed, but unexpected communications from a close friend could come your way, Capricorn. This may segue into a journey or some social occasion.



ARIES

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
This week you may be interested in unusual art forms or creative things in nature, Aries. Therefore, try to enjoy outings that may bring you to exhibits by local artists or craft shows.



CANCER

CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
New career opportunities are available to re-awaken your ambition, Cancer. You might come across some possibilities this week that you hadn't imagined.



LIBRA

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
This week you may learn something new that you never realized about your spouse or current partner, Libra. It can be exciting realizing wonderful things about the one you love.



AQUARIUS

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Aquarius, you may desire to keep your distance from certain individuals, but they manage to find you anyway. Keep things cordial until you can once again move on.



TAURUS

TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, an old friend may come to visit for the holidays and you can rekindle your relationship after many years. Even though it's been some time, you'll be glad to see one another.



LEO

LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
The excitement of making arrangements for a journey may actually excite you more than the trip itself. However, once you get to the destination, your enthusiasm will grow.



SCORPIO

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, exciting new developments will arise in your career. A solution may come to light or plans you've been making will suddenly come to fruition.



PISCES

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
You are receptive to new ideas, Pisces, and that may mean you could relocate for a new and promising career. Keep all of your options open.



GEMINI

GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
An unexpected invitation comes your way, Gemini. It may include a short trip to visit someone or a brief vacation to a place you've always wanted to see.



VIRGO

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
After a visit from a friend or family member who you haven't seen in a while, long-forgotten memories are recalled. This will be an interesting trip down memory lane.



SAGITTARIUS

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Your desire to travel may have awakened a new interest in you, Sagittarius. This could inspire you to make plans to visit far off lands in the year to come.

STUDENT ATHLETE PROFILE



Daniel Orozco senior

When did basketball grab your interest?

In middle school, I was more of a runner. During the pandemic I started picking up the basketball and shooting and playing with friends. I kind of went fully into basketball after that.

What do you enjoy about playing for Central?

I love going to practice every day and competing with everyone. I'm excited to play with my brother, Dillon, a junior, and watching him getting better every day.

What position do you play?

Shooting guard.

How have you improved since freshman year?

Definitely my defense. I've tried to be very focused on improving both my off-ball and on-ball defense. My freshman year I played sophomore basketball, and all the sophomores really took me under their wing. It was a great learning experience, and I leaned so much that now translates into my game senior year.

How would your teammates describe you?

Definitely very hard-working and competitive. When I step on the floor I try and block out all my problems and play like it's my last game.

What's your goal for the season?

We don't have any returning starters, so it's really fun playing with a completely new team this year. We're hoping to make a playoff run, but we don't have expectations, so we're not playing with a lot of pressure on our backs.

What do you do to kick back?

I'm definitely a big movie guy. The last good movie I saw has gotta be "Shawshank Redemption." I also love going to into the cold tub at Lifetime Fitness — it's the best recovery.

Any special talents?

I used to be a swimmer, so I can hold my breath under water for a little over a minute.

What's on your Christmas list?

Definitely some new basketball shoes, like a pair of Nike Kobe 5s.

Why does coach Nick Latorre like having Orozco on the team?

Daniel works exceptionally hard at his game and is very committed to putting in the time necessary to be successful. He is a terrific teammate, is very coachable, unselfish and has been a pleasure to have in our program for the past four years.

— profile by Ken Knutson, photo by Jim Slonoff

RESULTS

Basketball, boys Dec. 9 @ South Elgin Shootout vs. St. Rita V wins 56-26	Gymnastics, girls Dec. 9 vs. Red Devil Estoque Invite V places 3rd with 136.35 points Vault Hamelka, 4th, 9.4 Driscoll, 13th, 8.9 Hannah, 19th (tie), 8.75 Danhaussen-Brun, 31st (tie), 8.5 Uneven bars Hamelka, 12th, 8.65 Driscoll, 13th (tie), 8.6 Sullivan, 15th (tie), 8.4 Hannah, 25th, 7.95 Balance beam Koulouris, 3rd, 9.15 Hannah, 5th, 8.9 Inabnit, 22nd (tie), 7.85 Driscoll, 32nd (tie), 7.55 Floor exercise Driscoll, 6th (tie), 8.85 Inabnit, 11th, 8.65 Hannah, 26th (tie), 8.2 Sullivan, 32nd, 8.05 All around Driscoll, 10th, 33.9 Hannah, 11th, 33.8 Dec. 6 vs. York V loses 132.25-136.5	Hockey Dec. 9 vs. Wheaton West V wins 1-0 Hamman, goal Anderson, assist Dec. 8 vs. Cobras V wins 5-1 Daze, goal, assist Kunitz, goal, assist Yu, goal, assist Draudt, goal Read, goal Anderson, assist Weller, assist	Swimming, boys Dec. 9 vs. New Trier V wins 94-92 200-yard medley relay Bey, Vergara, Gao, Marcet, 2nd, 1:36.84 Shiell, Benington, Newcomer, Chase, 4th, 1:42.25 200-yard freestyle Vatev, 1st, 1:45.32 N. Pelinkovic, 3rd, 1:47.94 Feiro, 4th, 1:49.67 200-yard IM Bey, 1st, 1:57.1	Benington, 3rd, 1:59.96 G. Pelinkovic, 4th, 2:05.48 50-yard freestyle Suliga, 3rd, 22.42 Marcet, 4th, 22.47 Byrne, 6th, 23.16 1-meter diving Brown, 2nd, 222.4 Kassir, 5th, 192.25 Turek, 6th, 132.25 100-yard butterfly Gao, 1st, 54.15 Newcomer, 2nd, 54.55 Vergara, 3rd, 55.08 100-yard freestyle Suliga, 4th, 49.97 Adamo, 5th, 50.16 Chase, 6th, 50.34 500-yard freestyle Vatev, 1st, 4:51.10 N. Pelinkovic, 2nd, 4:51.26 Feiro, 3rd, 4:54.69 200-yard freestyle relay Suliga, Adamo, Bey, Chase, 2nd, 1:29.02 Newcomer, N. Pelinkovic, Vergara, Vatev, 3rd, 1:31.49 100-yard backstroke Marcet, 1st, 53.26	Adamo, 3rd, 55.99 Shiell, 5th, 56.5 100-yard breaststroke Bey, 1st, 58.51 Benington, 5th, 1:03.22 Vergara, 6th, 1:04.1 400-yard freestyle relay Suliga, Vatev, Adamo, Marcet, 2nd, 3:13.78 Byrne, Gao, N. Pelinkovic, Tarnauskas, 3rd, 3:21.84
Basketball, girls Dec. 12 V loses 46-58 Dec. 9 vs. LT V loses 53-70 Dec. 8 @ York V loses 38-61	Bowling, boys Dec. 11 @ Morton V loses 2,104-2,658 Dec. 6 vs. Naperville Central V loses 1,940-2,797	Bowling, girls Dec. 9 @ Sabre Invite V places Dec. 7 vs. Leyden V loses 2,077-2,481 Wu, 489 Montanye, 358 Lu, 342 Oranu, 329 Groom, 288 Reinhardt, 271	Wrestling, girls Dec. 9 @ DuPage Girls Wrestling Championships V places 2nd 140 pounds Pang, 1st 145 pounds Arain, 1st 235 pounds Black, 1st Rogers, 3rd 120 pounds Gavin, 2nd 130 pounds Hart, 2nd 170 pounds Ford, 3rd Dec. 7 vs. Downers North V wins 33-30		

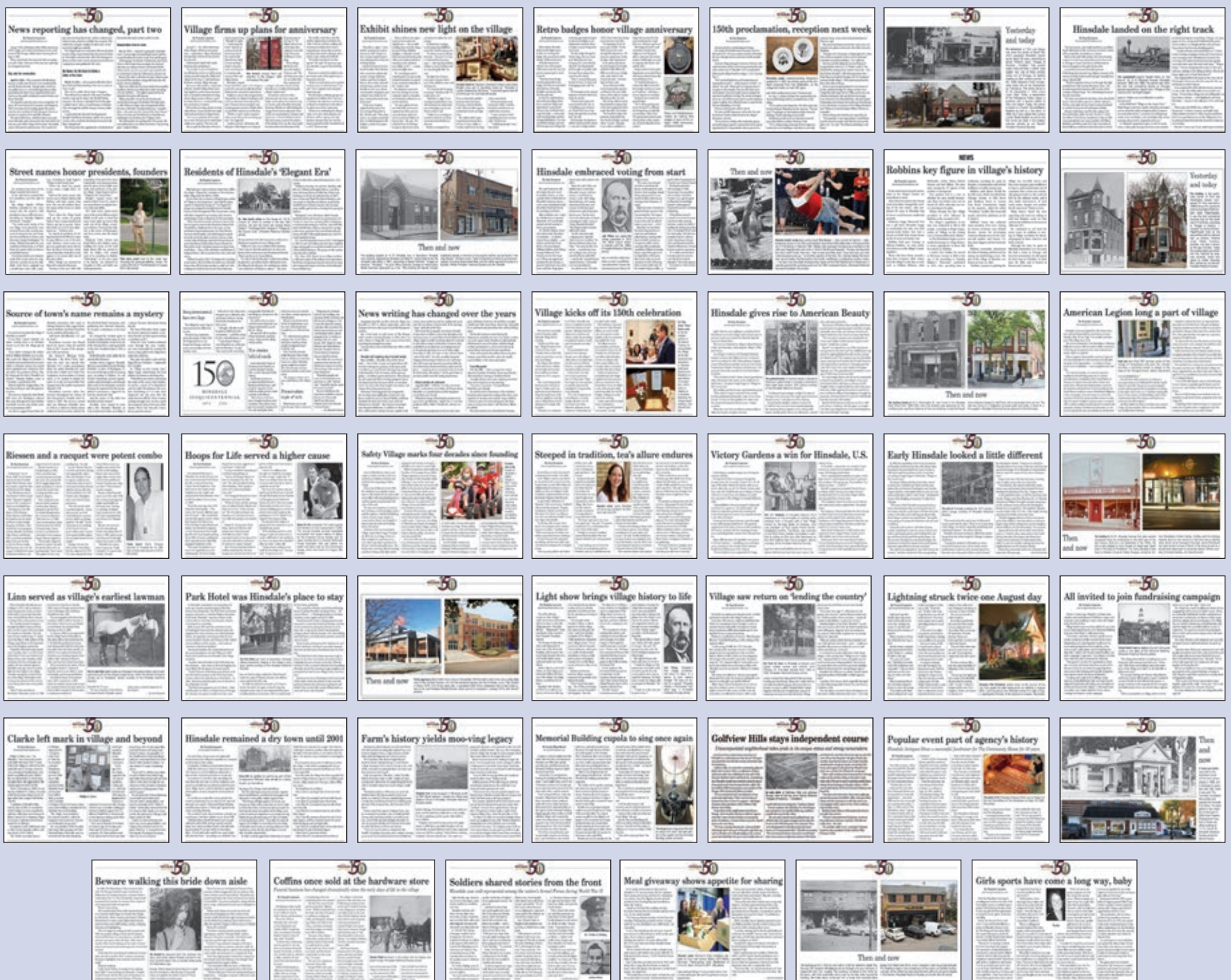
Instant replay



Hinsdale Central's Erica Driscoll performs her balance beam routine during a Dec. 6 home meet against York. The Red Devils came up short to their conference rival Dukes 132.25-136.5. (Jim Slonoff photos)

It's been said newspapers provide the first draft of history

And while we're doing that – we are also proud
to present a year's worth of coverage of
Hinsdale's 150th each week in 2023.



The Hinsdalean

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SPORTS

Dolehide serves up master stroke

Hinsdale native captures tennis world's attention after remarkable tourney run

By Ken Knutson

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Caroline Dolehide's holiday wish was granted early this year.

Back in September, the 25-year-old pro tennis player from Hinsdale sat at 111th in the world singles standings as she began play at the WTA 1000-level tournament in Guadalajara, Mexico.

This had been a good year up to that point for Dolehide, having elevated her ranking from 206 in February to 99 by the end of May following a series of strong performances that culminated with a championship at the Naples ITF W60 event in Florida. She had cracked the top 100 for the first time in her career, and reached her highest ranking since she hit 102 way back in July 2018.

"One of my goals this year was to really focus on my singles," said Dolehide, long a top-50 doubles player who has appeared in three Grand Slam semifinals, including at Wimbledon this summer. She was no longer at that high-water mark by the time she arrived in Guadalajara. But her focus hadn't slipped a bit — although she couldn't pass up the opportunity to enter the doubles bracket with good friend Asia Muhammad.

Dolehide wore out her first two singles opponents in a pair of gritty three-setters, earning a third-round match with world No. 20 Ekaterina Alexandrova. Dolehide, needing a quick match, rolled to a 6-1, 6-2 victory.

"My game just matches up really well against hers, and I was very solid overall," she said of the Russian opponent. "I served very well."

Onto the quarterfinals,

and singles and doubles.

"It gives me a lot of joy to play both. But I've not put myself in a position where I can play both a lot of the time," Dolehide said.

The weather was muggy, and she was logging a lot of court time doing double duty.

"I made sure to drink a ton of water. It can be tough to breathe the first few days," she said.

The most consequential moment of Dolehide's tennis journey came Sept. 22 in a quarterfinal match against Italian veteran Martina Trevisan. The drama matched the stakes, with Dolehide coming back from a set down to save four match points in claiming a nervy second-set tie-break and then taking full command in the third.

"It was a night match. It felt like football game, but you're the only one out there," Dolehide recounted. "To me, that was the most intense match. It was just so close the entire match and especially in the second set when she had three straight match points on my serve."

In the deciding point after nearly three hours, Dolehide served, then struck Trevisan's return for a winner. Chants of "Caro!" rained down from the spectators who had been won over by the American's tenacity and improbable advance through the bracket.

"Everyone went crazy," she remarked of the crowd's reaction to the 3-6, 7-6, 6-3 triumph. "Just to feel that, it was very emotional."

She credits her longtime coach Jorge Todero for being her chief supporter.

"He believed in me the second he saw me," Dolehide said. "Our goals are bigger than just top-100. To see all the work we

had put in pay off and turn into success made me really happy."

The achievement had catapulted her into the top 50, and she still had a doubles match to play. And win.

"It was a long day, but two wins in a day felt good," Dolehide said.

Compatriot Jessica Pegula, world No. 3, posted Dolehide's exploits on her Instagram page, including the caption, "LFG (Let's Freakin' Go)."

Of course, she now had a semifinal to play in less than 24 hours, against fellow American and 2020 Australian Open champion Sofia Kenin. Any fatigue would have to wait, as Dolehide dispatched her 7-5, 6-3.

"I've known her for over 10 years — another tough opponent and someone who's had some great results," she said of Kenin. "Mentally you have to go into matches like that thinking you can beat them without a doubt."

Dolehide was into the championship to face Maria Sakkari, world No. 9. Her doubles run with Muhammad had ended with a semifinal loss, but a Tennis Channel graphic showed the stunning disparity between the two finalists' tournament workload: 222 games and 16+ hours played for Dolehide versus 68 games in five hours for Sakkari.

"I tried to stay level-headed and focus only on myself and my recovery," Dolehide said. "I knew she was going to fight just as hard as I would."

Sakkari ultimately captured the title with a hard earned 7-5, 6-3 win. In her victory remarks, Sakkari praised Dolehide and her determination to keep improving.

"I admire her a lot as an



Caroline Dolehide's play at a WTA tournament in Mexico in September garnered her a top-50 world ranking. (photos provided)

athlete, too," Dolehide said. "We're all working toward some pretty big goals."

Dolehide had rocketed to world No. 41 as a result of her big week, and her autograph had become a prized souvenir.

"I signed a lot of hats, phone cases — even arms. When some kids ask me to sign body parts, I had to look at their parents to make sure it was OK," she said.

She also shared a special FaceTime with family back home in Hinsdale and

elsewhere and fielded a lot of texts.

Dolehide's attention is shifted to the 2024 season, which she'll kick off starting Dec. 31 at the Brisbane International in Australia, a tune-up for the Australia Open later in January.

"I've put myself in a really good position for the year. It's definitely looking good," said the product of Burns Field's tennis courts. "To be one of the top American female tennis players has really been a goal of mine since I was a kid."

Wishing you

Peace, Love & Joy

this holiday season

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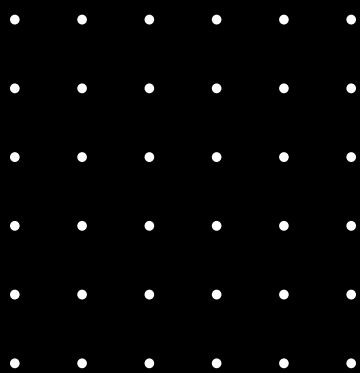
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