

The Hinsdalean

Community journalism the way it was meant to be

Thursday, January 30, 2025 • Hinsdale, Illinois • Volume XIX, Issue 19 • \$1 on Newsstands - 60 Pages, Two sections



Singing in the new year

The Hinsdale Public Library was packed with people welcoming in the Lunar New Year with games, crafts a talent show and food provided by Hinsdale's Wild Ginger. Hinsdale Library Board member Lucy Zhou encouraged the singing of "Gong Xi Gong Xi," a classic Chinese New Year song that has become one of the most popular songs of the Spring Festival, while members of Dr. Zhou's Learning Center performed the number during the opening of the talent show. Please turn to Page 3 for more pictures. (Jim Slonoff photo)



Cracking the books
Standardized test prep can make a difference in scores.
Page 5



Know the feeling
Next speaker in series focuses on developing empathy.
Page 12



Red Devils are red hot
Hinsdale Central's boys basketball team is on a roll.
Page 34

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Due dates near on construction work

By Ken Knutson

kknutson@thehinsdalean.com

Community Consolidated Elementary District 181's simultaneous construction projects — to accommodate full-day kindergarten programs at the six elementary schools and to establish a permanent administration center — are on schedule for completion by next school year.

At Monday's school board meeting, Mike Duggan, director of facilities, presented updates to board members on the work. Reporting on the kindergarten additions, Duggan said each of the six builds are at least 65 percent completed. Oak School is furthest along with completion projected in the next week or two, months before of the others' early and mid-summer tar-

gets.

"That's going to be very helpful to our staff because we'll be able to have the finished rooms at Oak as sort of a prototype classroom for all the rooms that are going to be delivered to us over the summer," Duggan said. "It's going to be a big help to kind of work out the kinks."

Duggan praised the three different firms carrying out the work for their dedication to staying faithful to the timeline.

"They've been very cooperative in arranging their schedules to continue construction after school, nights, weekends and holidays to keep the projects on track, all at no additional cost to the district," he said.

The \$19.2 million project to outfit the schools in time for the 2025-26 school year is two years ahead of the state's mandated deadline for

all school districts to provide full-day kindergarten.

"We continue to focus on finishing on time and under budget," Duggan added.

That also is the vision for the new district administration center at 133 E. Ogden Ave. The district purchased the 13,275-square-foot office building in 2023 for \$3.1 million and is spending about \$4.7 million to convert it into its headquarters.

Duggan said crews are currently roughing in the mechanicals and modernizing the elevator, among other work.

"We're switching utilities from eight separate gas meters and eight separate electrical meters down to one for each utility for the entire building," he reported. "We're just a few weeks away from being ready

for drywall."

Duggan reported that he also is working with the village of Hinsdale to get approval for the exterior site work. The center is expected to be completed in May, shortly before the district lease ends on its rental space in Clarendon Hills.

As with the full-day kindergarten contractors, Duggan lauded the partnership with CI Construction on the project.

"We're very pleased with their work and their perseverance in staying on track," he said.

Superintendent Hector Garcia said getting settled in the new facility in June will help smooth the process of bringing full-day kindergarten programs online in August.

"This is our first big project that has to be available to us before the start of the summer," he said.



Party on!

Attendees at the Hinsdale Public Library's Lunar New Year festival enjoyed many activities including crafts, games, food and a talent show. Shuqing Stacker plays Chinese checkers with Henry Wang as his brother William looks on. Brandon and Isaac Song performed "The God of Fortune Has Arrived" and Juno Zhao recited a poem. (Jim Slonoff photos)

ONCE UPON A TIME



Pictures from the past — Hinsdale's building services supervisor, Jim Piontkowski, took this photo in 1979. Stockholm Objects now is located at 39 S. Washington St., which used to be the home of The Country Market & Delicatessen. 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.



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

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

Obituaries
Obituaries are published free each week in The Hinsdalean. Information may be mailed, faxed or emailed to news@thehinsdalean.com. Obituaries may be edited for style and space.
Photo reprint policy
Photographs that appear in The Hinsdalean may be purchased on our Web site at thehinsdalean.com. Occasionally additional photographs that have not been published in the paper may be published on the site; these also will be available for purchase.

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Test prep part of application process

More and more high school students studying for ACT with hope of improving their scores

By Pamela Lannom
plannom@thehinsdalean.com

A car averages 27 miles per gallon. If gas costs \$4.04 per gallon, which of the following is the closest to how much the gas would cost for this car to travel 2,727 typical miles.

- A. \$44.44
- B. \$109.08
- C. \$118.80
- D. \$408.04
- E. \$444.40

High school students will answer 60 questions — including some like the one above — in 60 minutes while taking the math portion of the ACT.

Many, like Hinsdale Central junior Jonathan Hurley, seek the help of a private tutor to

COLLEGE QUEST

This is another in an ongoing series of articles following the two-year college application process.

improve their scores.

“I just met with a guy who did reading and English, and I had another tutor for math and science,” Hurley said. “You just do homework outside of class.”

He’s already taken the ACT and plans to take it again. He’s likely to receive a more favorable result, according to Ann Wilson of The Village Tutors in Hinsdale.

“The more you take it, the

Please turn to Page 7



Ann Wilson of The Village Tutors in Hinsdale said preparation can really make a difference on standardized tests, as they are very predictable. (Jim Slonoff photo)

In their own words

As part of this series, Jonathan and Cara Hurley will share pieces they have written themselves. Today’s comments are in the form of letters they’ve written to each other.

Dear Jonathan,

I have mixed feelings about test prep and feel sad about the current state of things for college-bound kids. This is one of those things that is vastly different from when I was growing up in Philadelphia. As you know, I went to a private high school. Test prep wasn’t a thing that everyone did in the early 1990s. And it certainly wasn’t talked about. There were test prep companies like The Princeton Review and Kaplan, and there was a test prep class that students who scored high on the PSAT were invited to join over the summer. I remember knowing very few people who did test prep. And no one had a tutor. Colleges weren’t test optional back then. Test scores were part of the application process, and I don’t think they were the most important part. Nor do I think they should be.

As for me, I took the SAT for the first time during the winter/spring of my junior year. During my junior year summer, I asked my mom for a workbook on the SAT and did some pages. I tried to memorize a bunch of vocabulary words and learned about identifying the “Joe Bloggs answer” — the choice that seemed correct but could be misleading on more challenging questions. I didn’t do any practice tests, didn’t work on my pacing and I didn’t come close to finishing the thick workbook. I just studied at my own pace. Then I took the SAT for a second and final time during the fall of my senior year. My score went up a bit. I

applied to some colleges and learned about acceptances or rejections by mail around April 1. Thick envelopes meant you were accepted. Thin envelopes held rejection letters.

Though not required, test prep is what many do in our community. I wish it wasn’t another thing on your junior year list. As I reflect on this time, I’m reminded of how you sometimes say to me that life was easier back when I was in high school. When it comes to test prep and the pressure to “do well,” I agree. And I’m sorry.

So, what do I want you to know while working on ACT prep? If you put the time in, you will see improvement. Having fun and a positive mindset will help as well. But most importantly, you are so much more than whatever superscore you’re able to achieve. Kindness, good character and a strong work ethic are what will bring you success in life, not your ACT score. And no one will ask you about that score when you’re an adult.

Love, Mom



Dear Mom,

When you first proposed doing test prep for the ACT, I thought that it was unnecessary, since I thought I would just study on my own like many others do. However, I quickly came to find

out that test prep is helpful because I’m able to talk with someone one-to-one about issues I’m struggling with. The test prep can be a pain, but I know that the more work I put in, the more satisfied I will feel when I hopefully achieve a score to my liking. Since I’m stronger in reading and English, math and science definitely have given me some trouble. However, this has also taught me to persevere and to keep honing my skills even when things aren’t looking too good.

One thing I didn’t realize about test prep was that the skills I’ve been learning can also influence other areas of my academic life. I have used analytical skills that I developed in working with my tutor and from practicing for the reading section.

This way of reading and thinking has helped my writing in history and English.

Another thing I’ve been thinking about is that test prep is a privileged thing to do. Not everyone has access to test prep, and it certainly provides an advantage to students whose families can afford to pay for a test prep class or tutor.

I do believe my test prep will make a difference in the end. Though I get annoyed with you when you say the more work I put in, the better the result, I know that that’s true. I understand why many people think that your SAT/ACT score is a defining part of your application and why that can feel stressful. Test prep and the published scores that colleges put on their websites can make you focus on a certain number so that you can be competitive at that school. I think it’s good to have a goal for a score, but when it becomes a thing that you’re worried about, it can hinder your performance. I also think getting a certain score by taking multiple tests makes the ACT another box to check on a list of things to do to get into college.

Clearly, you grew up in a time when college was just another stage in life rather than the end-all-be-all for high school kids. It just shows how much has changed and that life was easier back when you and your friends were applying to college.

Love, Jonathan

NEXT WEEK

Hinsdale Historic Preservation Commission

6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5
Memorial Building, 19 E. Chicago Ave.
www.villageofhinsdale.org

On the draft agenda: sign permit reviews for 8 E. Hinsdale Ave. (Coldwell Banker Realty) and 14 W. Hinsdale Ave. (Rate); discussion of Memorial Building historic plaque, Sixth Street improvement project and a sign code update

Hinsdale Firefighters Pension Board

9 a.m. Friday, Feb. 7
Memorial Building
19 E. Chicago Ave.
www.villageofhinsdale.org

Hinsdale Village Board

7 p.m. Tuesday, Feb. 4
Memorial Building
19 E. Chicago Ave.
www.villageofhinsdale.org

MEETING ROUNDUP

Hinsdale High School District 86

Among other business Jan. 16, school board members:

- voted to spend \$58,437 on capital expenditures for security items including additional hallway mirrors, a CEIA Opengate Unit and security film.
- awarded the regular bus transportation services bid to First Student and rejected all bids for the special education portion. New pricing will increase 6.25 percent for the 2025-26 school year and 4.25 percent for the subsequent two school years. The district will ask for a one-year contract extension with the current provider for special education busing.
- approved a settlement agreement of about \$48,000 with an employee. Board President Cat Greenspon said an error regarding this employee's compensation was brought to the board's attention.
"We appreciate the opportunity to correct this issue," she said.
- voted to have CFO Josh Stephenson execute a new 24-month natural gas contract effective July 1 at a rate at or below 50 cents per therm

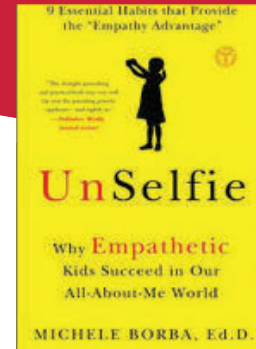
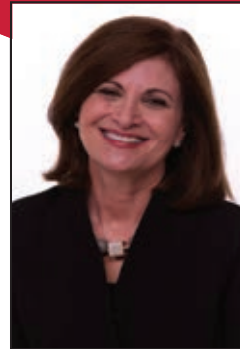
Community Consolidated District 181 Board

Among other business Monday, board members:

- approved school fees for the 2025-26 school year. Catie Norton, director of finance, presented updates to the fee plan, which includes a \$25 early registration discount to encourage families to register and pay fees by specified deadlines to help the district with planning. With the implementation of a full-day kindergarten program, the kindergarten registration fee was increased to \$295 to match the fee for first and second grades.
- celebrated the launch of the newly redesigned district website, which features a more modern design, improved navigation and enhanced functionality, including school-specific pages, said Jeffrey Alstadt, communications director.
- recognized Hinsdale Middle School teacher Kelly Pelak for receiving the Presidential Award for Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching. The national award honors teachers who demonstrate distinction in the classroom and dedication to improving STEM education. Pelak, along with three other teachers from the Chicago area, will receive \$10,000 and a trip to Washington, D.C., for a recognition ceremony and professional development events.
- accepted a \$20,00 donation from resident Ken Moy to be put toward furnishing the welcome area in the new district administration center currently under construction

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Dr. Michele Borba Empathy & the UnSelfie Revolution

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Thursday, February 6, 2025, 9:00am - 10:30am
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“They do kind of get momentum as they see their scores improving. Then they get eager. It’s a great thing to see.”

— Ann Wilson

Test prep part of application process

Continued from Page 5

better you get,” she said.

Wilson, who specializes in standardized test prep and college consulting, among other things, said preparation is key.

“I always tell students, ‘It doesn’t matter what kind of test prep you get as long as you get it,’” she said. “A standardized test is a predictable test. When you practice with real tests, you start to understand what a wrong answer looks like.

“It can be done at school in a class. It can be done with an individual like me,” she continued. “It can be done on your own.”

Khan Academy offers standardized test prep and the

ACT and College Board publish study guides that include real tests for students to practice taking.

“That’s what you want to use,” she advised.

For those who sign up with a tutor, most people need eight to 10 sessions to review the four different sections of the ACT — English, math, science and reading. Wilson said she begins with reading.

“It’s always the first thing I teach,” she said. “I always teach the reading strategy first. Kids can get through a lot of school without reading a thing.”

She said the pandemic has created a loss of focus and stamina in many students.

“These tests are reading tests. You’re reading for two

hours. Even the math — there are plenty of word problems there. You have to be comfortable looking at words and thinking about them and remembering what you’ve read,” Wilson said.

Anxiety also plays a role, and Wilson said she spends a lot of time helping students learn how to handle it. She said practicing in a test-like environment and practicing every day — even if it’s just one passage or one page — is key.

“Have that book open all the time and it will become so familiar to you, you’ll be like, ‘Oh, it’s this again,’” she said.

Wilson recommends students take the test multiple times.

“They do kind of get

momentum as they see their scores improving,” she said. “Then they get eager. It’s a great thing to see.”

The SAT, which has been replaced by the ACT in Illinois as the primary standardized test for high school students, is so repetitive that it can quickly be mastered, Wilson said.

“They just keep adding 20 more points, 20 more points, 20 more points,” she said of students who re-take the test.

And while most students don’t enjoy taking standardized tests, she believes they have a role in the college application process. ACT scores are proven to align with college success.

“We can demonize these tests for sure, but there is a

reason for them,” she said.

And students should remember the score is only one part of the application.

“Can I use my test score to strengthen my application or at least to support it?” she suggests students ask themselves. “It just gives more credibility to everything else you’re submitting.”

Jonathan’s mom, Cara Hurley, supports the time and money being spent on tutoring even though she never did any formal test prep in high school. She graduated from an all-girls college prep high school in Philadelphia in 1992.

“It’s quite the process,” she said of what her son is going through. “Very different from when I was going to school.”

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POLICE BEAT

Hinsdale police distributed the following reports Jan. 28.

DUI arrests

• Ivaneta Edison, 53, 162 Cherrywood Road, Buffalo Grove, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, unauthorized use of handicapped parking and resisting or obstructing a police officer at 3:12 a.m. Jan. 25 at the BP gas station, 149 E. Ogden Ave. The suspect refused testing to determine blood-alcohol content, and she was charged and released to appear in court.

• Andrew C. Riegert, 29, 17 S. Thurlow St., Hinsdale, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, driving with a blood-alcohol content higher than .08 and improper lane use at 11:04 a.m. Jan. 27 at Eighth and Vine streets. The suspect submitted to testing that indicated he was over the legal limit, and he was charged and released to appear in court.

Warrant, suspended license

Rene G. Melean Navarrera, 40, 1377 Monomoy St., Aurora, was arrested for driving with a suspended license and speeding at 1:16 a.m. Jan. 25 in the 400 block of West Ogden Avenue. The suspect also was found to have an arrest warrant out of DuPage County and was charged and released to appear in court.

Cash stolen

After a cash withdrawal was made at 1:23 p.m. Jan. 24 from the Chase Bank drive-thru ATM at 400 E. Ogden Ave, the person drove away without taking the cash. The bank was contacted and told the victim the cash had not been returned.

Vehicle struck while traveling

A vehicle's windshield was shattered by an unknown object at 10:28 a.m. Jan. 21 while it was traveling on Route 83 at Ogden Avenue.

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.

Village has new credit card processor and fees

The village of Hinsdale has partnered with a new payment processor, Tyler Payments, to create a new online payment portal with added options, a more user-friendly experience and a 24/7 IVR (interactive voice response) system for automated phone payments.

The new processor is expected to go live today, Jan. 30. When it does, all village hall in-person credit/debit card payments (including but not limited to water bills, building permits, license and other fees) and online credit/debit card payments and electronic checks (e-checks) will be processed by the new processor. A service fee will apply, which will be collected directly by

Tyler Payments. The village will not receive any fees.

The second phase will be the introduction of IVR payments, which is anticipated in mid- to late-February. Customers will be able to make payments over the phone using this automated system.

Tyler Payments will charge the following service fees per transaction.

- credit and debit cards — 3.25 percent of transaction amount, with a \$2.50 minimum fee
- e-check payments — \$ per transaction
- IVR (automated phone payments) — 50 cents per transaction, in addition to the service fees noted above

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■ “My very first day of Latin class my freshman year, I walked out thinking, ‘That was awesome and I want more.’” — **Alisha McCloud**

Central Latin teacher’s honor not only reward

Alisha McCloud’s love of the Latin language began with her first Latin language class at the University of Iowa.

“My very first day of Latin class my freshman year, I walked out thinking, ‘That was awesome and I want more,’” McCloud said.

She got more, going on to earn undergraduate degrees in Latin and Spanish and a master’s in Latin from the University of Georgia. It wasn’t until later in college, when she had taken up tutoring, that she began to consider teaching as a career — a career that brought her to Hinsdale Central High School more than 24 years ago. She started as a full-time Spanish teacher, but hoped for an opportunity to teach Latin.

This year McCloud is teaching Latin 2, Latin 2 honors, Latin literature and Latin literature honors to sophomores, juniors and seniors at Central. Even after two and a half decades, McCloud said she still enjoys being in the classroom.

“Teaching Latin is incredibly rewarding,” said McCloud, who recently earned the Farrand Baker

Latin Teacher of the Year Award from the Illinois Classical Conference. A member of the professional organization since her career began, McCloud called the award “a tremendous honor.”

McCloud said her position as a Latin teacher allows her to introduce students to much more than words and sentence structure.

“I get to introduce them to this entire world,” she said, including the history of the ancient language, its influences on other languages and its role throughout history.

Central students who study Latin don’t practice speaking the language. Rather, they learn to read it, understand it and apply it to other areas of learning.

The study of Latin helps students to develop a stronger grasp of the English language, as well as the languages that descended from Latin, including Portuguese, Romanian, Spanish, French and Italian.

The ancient language of the Roman Empire, Latin spread throughout the region as the empire grew, McCloud said. Today, the language



ALISHA MC CLOUD

STUDENT TAUGHT IN IRELAND • SHE AND HER FAMILY HAVE VISITED ALL 50 STATES • MOTHER OF TWO TEENAGED SONS • WAS A CAMP COUNSELOR AT AN AIR FORCE BASE IN JAPAN • CENTRAL LATIN CLUB FACULTY SPONSOR

can still be found in religion, law and many sciences.

One student who is currently in medical school recently wrote to McCloud to tell her how much his study of Latin was helping in his classes. Another former student is currently pursuing a PhD in classics at Princeton University.

Students of Latin better understand the structure of

language and learn about events of the ancient world that still impact lives and culture today, McCloud said.

For McCloud, Latin provided all of this, plus a rewarding career. She also had the chance to visit several different countries as a student studying abroad.

Latin is offered at all four grade levels at Hinsdale Central. While Latin is

offered in a number of Illinois high schools, it’s not common across the country. McCloud said she would like to see it become a more standard part of the high school curriculum.

“There are so many ways that students become stronger thinkers and problem-solvers,” McCloud said.

— story by Sandy Illian Bosch, photo by Jim Slonoff



OIL CHANGE SPECIAL

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

February time for Big Game — and Heart Month

“I firmly believe that any man’s finest hour, the great fulfillment of all that he holds dear, is that moment when he has worked his heart out in a good cause and lies exhausted on the field of battle, victorious.” — **Vince Lombardi**

This quote from former Green Bay Packers coach Vince Lombardi seems particularly appropriate as we near Super Bowl LIX — and American Heart Month.

Heart disease is the leading cause of death in the United States and worldwide. But there are plenty of steps people can take to lower their risk — and plenty of resources for those looking to learn more.

What to know

Many might not realize that cardiac arrest and a heart attack are not the same thing.

A heart attack is a circulation problem that occurs when blood flow to the heart is blocked. Symptoms might include intense discomfort in the chest or other upper-body areas, shortness of breath, cold sweats and/or nausea and vomiting. Symptoms might come on quickly, but they are more likely to start slowly and continue for hours, days or weeks.

Even if there is uncertainty whether a heart

attack is occurring, call 911 immediately. EMTs can begin treatment immediately and transport the patient quickly to the hospital.

A heart attack is a common cause of cardiac arrest, but most heart attacks do not lead to cardiac arrest. Cardiac arrest occurs when the heart malfunctions and stops beating unexpectedly. Breathing stops and the person becomes unconscious.

If CPR is provided immediately, a person’s chance of surviving cardiac arrest can be doubled or tripled, according to the American Heart Association. After calling 911, start CPR right away. If an automated external defibrillator is available, use it as soon as possible.

What to do

The National Heart, Lung and Blood institute offers the following suggestions to help avoid cardiovascular disease or help someone who is suffering from cardiac arrest.

- Get enough quality sleep

Adults who don’t sleep enough or sleep poorly have an increased risk of high blood pressure, heart disease and other medical conditions. Aim for seven to nine hours a night.

- Eat better

A flexible and balanced eating plan, like the

D.A.S.H. diet, can help lower high blood pressure and improve cholesterol.

- Maintain a healthy weight

Many diseases and conditions can be prevented or controlled by having a healthy weight.

- Be more active

The right amount of physical activity can help lower the risk of heart disease and stroke. Adults should spend 2.5 hours each week doing physical activity

- Stop smoking

Any amount of smoking — even light or occasional — damages heart and blood vessels. Visit www.smokefree.gov for additional support.

- Manage stress

Meditation, yoga, a warm bath, quiet time with a good book and a funny movie can all help lower stress.

- Get trained in CPR

Members of the Hinsdale Fire Department will teach Heart Saver CPR/AED classed from 8 a.m. to noon Saturday, Feb. 15, at the fire department, 121 Symonds Drive. People with little to no medical training will learn how to perform CPR, use an AED and provide first aid. Upon completion, participants will receive an American Heart Association certificate. Additional classes will be offered at the same time and place on March 8, April 12 and May 10.

COMMENTARY

Attacking others doesn’t further democracy

While I was out of the office Friday, Ken Knutson, our associate editor, took a call we don’t typically get. The man wanted to know if we had looked into the background of someone who had written a letter to the editor published the day before.

“Uh, no,” Ken responded.

Ken told me he went on to explain to the caller what we do look into — that the letter writer is a real person who actually wrote the letter, that it is 250 words or shorter and that anything stated as fact is accurate.

I imagine the caller disagreed with the opinion expressed in the letter and decided instead to question the integrity of its writer.

That seems to be a common move these days. Someone expresses an opinion and those who do not agree move straight to character attacks. The individual who expressed the unpopular opinion is evil, unstable, can’t be trusted.

Have you seen the comments from far-right Republicans calling Bishop Mariann Edgar Budde dis-

graceful and a heretic because they didn’t like the message she delivered during the inaugural prayer service? They also labeled her a radical leftist, a witch, a fake bishop, a tin-pot politician and Satan. I imagine they would respond similarly if Jesus had spoken at the prayer service, since he, too, believes in seeking mercy for those on the margins of society.

But I digress.

I continue to worry that we soon will lose our ability to disagree about anything. Instead of actually thinking through opposing positions and creating counter-arguments, we’ll say the other guy is an idiot or the devil, reverting back to those name-calling skills we honed on the playground.

It’s a lot easier to silence someone than it is to convince them of a different viewpoint.

Social media has contributed to



Pamela Lannom

this phenomena. In the past, if a reader disagreed with what had been written in a letter to the editor, he or she would write a rebuttal letter. And that would appear in the paper, too. Of course that letter would have to be signed, 250 words or fewer and not contain any inaccuracies. Nor would we allow the second writer to call the first writer

names.

Now people can make anonymous post after anonymous post saying absolutely whatever they want. There’s no fact checking. There’s no accountability. It’s a virtual lynching.

I applaud the two individuals who chose to submit letters to the editor for this week’s paper instead of making anonymous posts on Facebook. I admire their willingness to be accountable for their opinions.

We all know there are critical problems to solve at the national

level. We have important issues at the local level, too. Those elected to serve on one of Hinsdale’s two school boards and the village board will make many decisions over the next four years, some of which will have greater impact on Hinsdaleans than those made in Washington.

We will begin our election coverage for contested races on the village and school boards in next week’s issue. We’ll try to provide as much information as we can about the candidates, their backgrounds and their viewpoints. And we encourage readers to submit letters sharing their opinions about the best choice or choices for a particular board. We hope letter-writers will stay focused on the issues and not their personal dislike of candidates seeking office.

Robust discussion and debate leads to better solutions. Character assassinations do not.

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

GUEST COMMENTARY

A Swiftie's take on Super Bowl LIX

Let me start this by saying I do not claim to be anywhere near a sports enthusiast. However, with the Super Bowl approaching, I felt the need to give a perspective from someone who does not have much knowledge on the matter. And



Bhavana Dronamraju

while I clearly am not a football expert, I'm taking a stab at this in honor of my older brother and dad, who are fans of the game.

This year's Super Bowl seems to the contest nobody wanted.

The Kansas City Chiefs Are in the spotlight, whether we want them there or not.

If the Chiefs win, they would make history by becoming the first team in NFL history to win three consecutive Super Bowls. While this is undoubtedly an impressive feat, people seem to be tired of the Chiefs in the big game every year. Patrick Mahomes and Travis Kelce have been a dynamic duo for years; however, whether it's a questionable call or a missed penalty, many believe the Chiefs always seem to get the benefit of the doubt from the referees when it counts.

As a Swiftie, I can't ignore how Taylor's relationship with Kelce has added a whole new layer to the Chiefs' popularity. While it's undeniable the Taylor Swift Effect has brought in a new wave of viewers, many have tuned in just to see what's going on with her. Some love it (like me), but some are over it.

The Philadelphia Eagles are a story of redemption, for better or worse.

The Eagles' loss to the Chiefs in Super Bowl LVII still stings, and Philly fans are hungry for

vindication. While that hunger could drive the Eagles to greatness, it also stirs up the animosity that surround their fanbase. Apparently, Philly fans are notorious for their hostile energy. From throwing batteries at

players to booing their own team, fans bring chaos wherever they go, according to some.

The Eagles have had a solid season, setting franchise records for wins, and their performances have been nothing short of dominant. Despite their impressive record, it's hard for some to ignore how unlikable the team has become to many due to the rowdiness and sometimes violent antics the fans pose.

One thing about Philly is that the team's success rallies the city. That level of pride, while often a source of bragging rights, also contributes to the divisive "love them or hate them" energy surrounding the Eagles.

From what I've seen, people are claiming this could be one of the least-watched Super Bowls in recent years. For those who care about legacies, records and football excellence, it's a big deal.

But for people — like me — who don't follow the game closely, the halftime show with Kendrick Lamar and SZA is sure to be a winner. As an amateur viewer, that's the real reason I will be watching this year's game.

— *Bhavana Dronamraju of Hinsdale, a junior at Indiana University, is a contributing columnist. Readers can email her at news@thehinsdalean.com.*

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LGBTQ books pose no threat to straight children

We too are concerned about free speech, and we stand with Bret Conway's opinion from Aug. 29 in The Hinsdalean, and with Andrea Flynn's opinion (Jan. 23). We chose to speak up because when we don't, we are complicit. Parents have the right to choose what they read to their children, and a right not to read what they don't choose. We have read some of the books proposed for banning. We suggest reading at least some of these books to see if they may have been misrepresented or misunderstood.

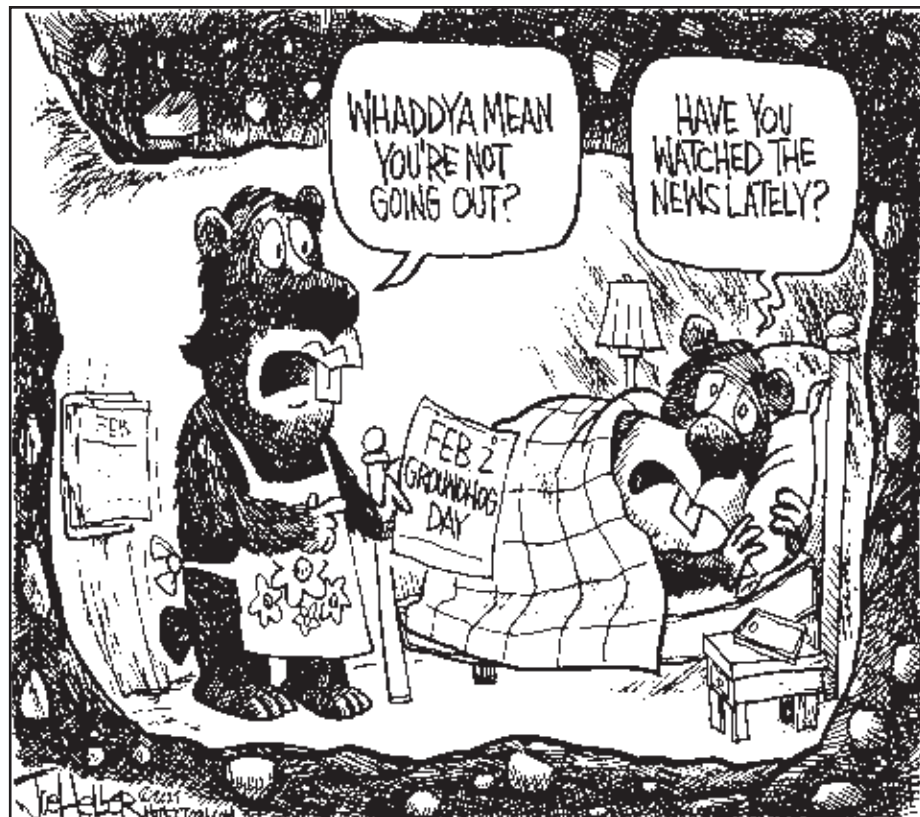
We understand some parents are motivated by fear or by the responsibility to protect their children. If you are concerned that someone who is gay or transgender is trying to recruit

your children to their way of being, you needn't be. If you are concerned that being LGBTQ is contagious, you needn't be. A book cannot "turn" children into something they are not. It may, however, help another child to understand who they are. People who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender or queer are just people. As with any other arbitrarily constructed category, most of them are kind, hardworking, generous, loving, productive members of our society. We have friends, family members, co-workers who are not "straight." Most of us probably do. Members of the LGBTQ community are just trying to live their lives, just like you. — **Patty and David Weber, Hinsdale**

Writer supports fight against 'indoctrination'

Enough is enough. Parents should be concerned. Young people are predominantly heterosexual, not striving to change their sex, are not interested in books on homosexual subject matter. Indoctrination on this subject has caused depression and confusion. Quit shoving this movement down the throats of our youth. In fact, it would

behoove this movement to respect the rights of concerned parents and back off. The noise has been deafening. Please stop. This is not a fashion fad or "cool." It is an extremely subversive indoctrination of a lifestyle that is for the few, not for the many. — **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?

Call (630) 323-4422

ASK AN EXPERT

MICHELE BORBA, EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGIST & AUTHOR

How can children develop empathy?

Youth today are digitally adept but less equipped empathetically, a deficiency that can have adverse implications for mental health, resilience and leadership skills, Dr. Michele Borba opined.

"In the last 30 years, there's been a 40 percent dip in empathy while narcissism has increased 58 percent," Borba said, citing a longitudinal study of the issue.

But empathy can be cultivated, she assured, which she will discuss in her talk *Empathy and the Unselfie Revolution* at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5, and 9 a.m. Thursday, Feb. 6, at The Community House as part of the Community Speaker Series (see Page XX for details).

Borba said it's important to differentiate empathy from sympathy.

"Empathy is feeling with someone instead of feeling for them, being able to understand and figure out where the other person is," she explained.

We are "hard-wired" to experience it, but the increasingly on-demand, self-focused nature of the culture has rendered empathy dormant in many.

"They're not getting into deeper relationships. As a result emotional literacy scores are going way down," Borba said.

And constant pressure to measure up creates stress, which can sap one of empathy.

"We're still giving them all the love and the resources but often focusing on success and achievement and GPA," Borba said. "You have to dial your empathy down when you're in survival mode."

Rather than asking kids what they accomplished at school, get them to tell you about their expectations and subsequent experiences. That will direct them away from external dynamics and deepen their awareness of internal ones. Then they begin to better relate to others and their feelings.

"You can't empathize if you can't see how someone is affected by something," she said.

Borba said parents can model this when dealing with a child's misbehavior.

"Instead of saying, 'I'm upset with you,' say, 'I'm really disappointed in that behavior' and tell them why and how it made you feel," she advised.

"When they begin to recognize what your expectation of them is when

it comes to treating others, they're more likely to follow."

With emotional intelligence taking root as early as age 2, Borba lamented the decline of traditional play-dates in a busy society.

"Children have so many other extracurricular activities, it's hard to just do 'Sandbox 101,'" she said.

As a result, the younger generation tends to be more risk averse with others, she related, afraid that being too authentic could jeopardize the connection. Being able to have a friendly but frank exchange of ideas is a vital skill.

"Perspective-taking is the top employability factor right now," Borba said.

Encourage children to interact with others, holding the door open or offering help when needed.

"That gives kids a sense of purpose because they know they can make a difference," she said.

Teach children slow deep breathing when you see the stress level rising and join forces with their friends' parents to develop shared parameters around smart device use and bed times.

"You can't change the culture, but you can change how you raise your child."
— by Ken Knutson



In her Hinsdale talk next week, educational psychologist Michele Borba will share how a well-developed sense of empathy in children often promotes other characteristics of a successful life, such as kindness, courage and resilience. (photo provided)

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Chairman's Message

The Village of Hinsdale remains a vibrant community for families as well as businesses to thrive and grow, but most importantly to call home. The 2025 Hinsdale Chamber of Commerce Community Guide is a resource to learn more about local shops, restaurants, services and not-for-profits as well as events and activities throughout the year. All businesses, regardless of size, play a vital role in creating a desirable destination for visitors as well as residents.

I would like to take a moment to thank Eva Field, who retired at the end of 2024. Eva's commitment and contributions over the past 20 years to the local Hinsdale business community have been invaluable. The Chamber of Commerce has thrived due to Eva's dedication and passion to make Hinsdale a better place.

Best of luck in your future endeavors, Eva, and we welcome Amanda Wagner as our new CEO, who has been with us for the past few years in prior roles.

Our signature events were well-attended in 2024 and we hope you join us again in 2025. Summertime events include the Fine Arts Festival in June, Farmers Market (Mondays in June through October), Uniquely Thursdays (June to August), and the Sidewalk Sale in July. The sixth annual Wine

Walk and the Fall Festival, both in October, as well as the beautiful Christmas Walk in December, all represent ways to support local merchants and enjoy all Hinsdale has to offer.

We encourage all community members, visitors, merchants and shop-

pers to stay connected to events and activities by signing up for the Chamber's newsletter at hinsdale-chamber.com. In addition, sign up to receive weekly discounts, coupons and specials from area Chamber members.

A collaborative partnership between the Chamber and the Village Economic Development Commission enables us to support and promote the local business community, including small business Saturday immediately after Thanksgiving as well as decorating the downtown with fresh-cut greenery to celebrate the holiday season. Our accomplishments are made possible through the cooperation and support of community members, businesses and the Village.

Working together, we ensure Hinsdale remains a desirable and enjoyable destination.

On behalf of our local business community, I want to express our appreciation and gratitude for your continued support as we Shop, Dine and Discover Hinsdale.



MARK WANLESS
Chairman of the board
Hinsdale Chamber
of Commerce

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OBITUARIES

Jerome David Girsch

Jerome "Jerry" David Girsch, 79, of Hinsdale and Bonita Springs, Fla., died Jan. 19, 2025.

Jerry was a proud South Sider, growing up in the Beverly neighborhood. He graduated from Archbishop Quigley Preparatory Seminary and spent a very short time at Mundelein Seminary before calling his dad to be picked up — something his wife and children remain grateful for to this day.

After graduating from Loyola University, he was hired as an auditor for Arthur Anderson, where he met the love of his life, a receptionist named Linda Mizwicki. One of Jerry's main accounts was Waste Management and his hard work and affable personality led Waste to hire him in 1976.

Jerry moved his family to Hinsdale to be closer to his Oak Brook office and he and Linda embraced the village as well as the amazing families at St. Isaac Jogues school and parish. He retired from Waste at age 50, but quickly transitioned to another successful career with LKQ, where he was able to schedule his meetings around his tee times. Jerry was a devout Catholic who, with Linda, generously supported the Catholic mission through St. Isaac's, Benet Academy, DePaul, Notre Dame and LINK Unlimited, among others. He gave back to the community through his service to the Knights of Columbus and his work on the board of directors at DePaul and LINK.

Jerry was an avid sports fan who rooted passionately for his White Sox and Notre Dame football. He and Linda



Girsch

enjoyed traveling the globe but were most fulfilled when visiting their grandchildren. Jerry loved golf and lived mainly by two mantras: "Life is Good!" and "It's Great to be a Girsch!"

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Linda; his five children, Bradley (Elizabeth Krueger), Rebecca, Michael (Kelly Meyer), Gregory (Katlyn Humphrey) and Leslie; his 10 grandchildren, William, Tate, Addison, Eleanor, Claire, Celia, Thomas, Henry Jerome, John and Lucille; his siblings, Charles 'Bill,' Robert and Marina; and his nieces, nephews and cousins.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Charles "Bud" and Marina Girsch, nee Hafner; and his brother John.

Visitation is from 3 to 8 p.m. Friday, Jan. 31, at Sullivan Funeral Home, 60 S. Grant St., Hinsdale.

A funeral Mass will be said at 10 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, at St. Isaac Jogues, 421 S. Clay St., Hinsdale. The Mass will be live streamed at www.sij.net.

Burial will be private. A luncheon for family and friends will follow at Butterfield Country Club, 2800 Midwest Road, Oak Brook.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to online to LINK Unlimited Scholars at www.linkunlimited.org or Congregation of the Mission — The Vincentian Western Province at www.vincentian.org.

A longer version of this obituary appears online at www.thehinsdalean.com.

Marta Lastres

Marta Lastres of Hinsdale died Jan. 27, 2025.

Marta was born in Manzanillo, Cuba, and immigrated to the United States in 1953.

Marta was devoted to family, faith and country. Over the years, she opened her home to family and immigrants from Cuba and helped them find homes, enroll their children in school and find work. She was a longtime parishioner of Sacred Heart Parish in Melrose Park and later St. Francis Xavier in La Grange. Marta was grateful for the opportunity to become a U.S. citizen, but never ceased hoping and praying for a free Cuba. She was an active member of the Cuban Medical Association of Chicago in Exile. She was an avid lover of classical music, poetry, and of course, a good cafecito.

Marta was preceded in death by her husband of 45 years, Dr. Oswaldo Lastres; her siblings, Dr. Hector Leon, Jose Emilio Leon and Emilio O. Leon; and her sister-in-law, Maria Leon.



Lastres

She is survived by her brother, Eduardo Leon, her son, Dr. Oswaldo (Dr. Susan Nedza) Lastres of Hinsdale; her grandchildren, Gabriela Lastres (Benjamin Antillon) and Daniel Lastres; her nieces and nephews, Rick Lastres, Pepe (Erin) Lastres, James (Cathy) Lastres, Eduardo Leon, Tricia Leon, Julio Leon, Remy Leon, Martha (Pedro) Alvarez, Martha Leon (René) Martinez, Ofelia (Jeff Foreman) Franco and René (Miriam) Franco.

Visitation is at 10 a.m. Monday, Feb. 3, at St. Francis Xavier Parish, 124 N. Spring Ave., La Grange. A Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at 11 a.m.

Entombment will be private. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made online to the Cuban Heritage Collection, The University of Miami Richter Library at www.library.miami.edu/chc/makeagift.html.

Brian Powell Funeral Directors of Hinsdale handled the arrangements.

Richard M. Traut

Richard M. Traut, a former longtime Hinsdale resident, passed away Jan. 26, 2025, in Burr Ridge.

Richard was born in 1933 in Oak Park to Dr. Eugene Fagan and Wilma Wiseman Traut, one of seven children.

"Dick" was an active young man playing many sports. After graduating from Oak Park-River Forest High School being a captain in three sports, he received a congressional appointment to attend the U.S. Military Academy at West Point, New York in 1951.

Upon graduation in 1955, Dick was commissioned as a 2nd lieutenant in the U.S. Army. In 1956 Dick married Charron Follett of River Forest, a successful stage actress who worked professionally in New York and Chicago. After being honorably discharged from the army Dick worked for his uncle running road construction crews until his father-in-law persuaded him to join the Follett family business and the couple moved to Hinsdale to raise their family.

At Follett Corp., Dick began his career at the Follett College Book Co., eventually becoming its president and growing it significantly with his team over 20 plus years. He then became chairman over all of Follett Corp. and retired from that position in 1999.

Dick and Charron were very active at the Theatre of Western Springs over many years, she as an actress and



Traut

he behind the scenes in many roles, including serving on its board of governors multiple times. Dick also established the Theatre of Western Springs Foundation in 2006.

He is survived by his children, Christopher D. (Lee) Traut and Sabrina T. (Patrick) Usher; his grandchildren, Benjamin and Catherine Traut, and Alexandra, Samantha, James and Christopher Usher; his siblings, Julianna (Bob) Hummel, Mary (Gene) Sullivan, Sarah (David) McConnell, Martha (Tim) Onkka; and many nieces and nephews.

Richard is preceded in death by his daughter, Victoria Anne Traut; his wife, Charron Follett Traut; his sister, Valerie (Edward) Lyon; and his brother, David (Rosemary) Traut.

Visitation is at 10 a.m. Friday, Jan. 31, at Notre Dame Catholic Church, 64 Norfolk Avenue, Clarendon Hills.

A funeral Mass will follow at 11 a.m.

Family and friends are invited to a celebration luncheon after the Mass.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to The Foundation of the Theatre of Western Springs, 4384 Hampton Ave., Western Springs, IL 60558.

Brian Powell Funeral Directors of Hinsdale handled the arrangements.

A longer version of this obituary appears online at www.thehinsdalean.com.

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February is Black History Month

Books, films, activities help provide a greater understanding of the Black experience

By Pamela Lannom
plannom@thehinsdalean.com

“African Americans and Labor” is this year’s theme for Black History Month, which begins Saturday, Feb. 1.

The Hinsdale Public Library will recognize the month with special displays of books by black authors.

“Every year, we’ll have it for adults and children, some recent titles and some favorites,” said John Kokoris, the library’s outreach and marketing manager.

Library staff identified three of the most popular recent novels from the collection that are related to black history.

- “The Nickel Boys” by Colson Whitehead

The 2019 novel — a Pulitzer Prize winner and national bestseller — is based on a true story of two boys set to an abusive reform school in Jim Crow-era Florida.

The novel was adapted into a 2024 film of the same name, which has been nominated for best picture at the Academy Awards.

“Whitehead based the book on the real experiences reported by the students of the Dozier School for Boys in Florida,” librarian Steve Kline said. “The unflinching look at events coupled with the author’s cinematic writing makes for a gripping read — and a gripping film, which was nominated for best picture and best adapted screenplay.”

- “James” by Percival Everett

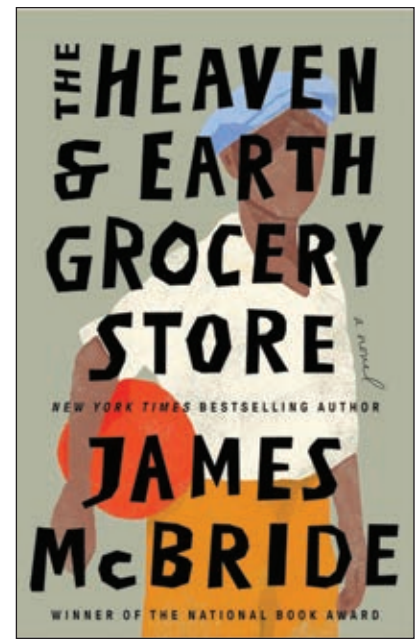
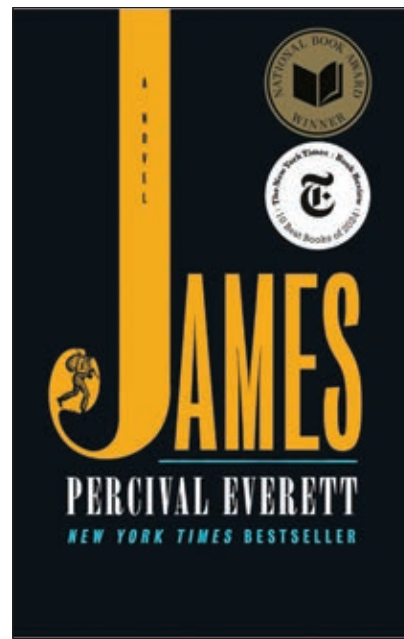
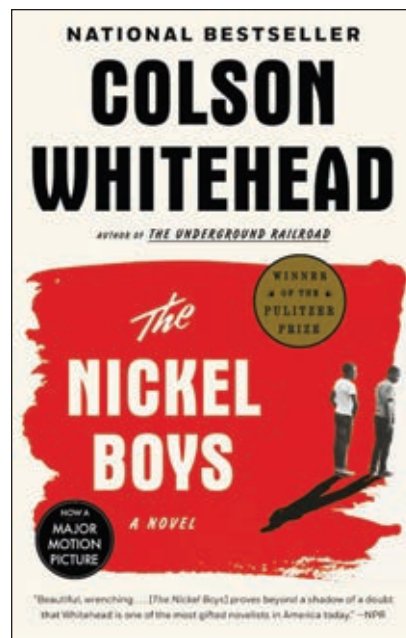
This No. 1 New York Times best-seller and National Book award winner, which received other accolades, is a re-imagining of the “Adventures of Huckleberry Finn,” told from the perspective of the enslaved Jim.

Kokoris said he listened to the audio version of the book in a single day.

“As a big Mark Twain fan, I was excited about ‘James,’ a modern, inventive take on ‘Huckleberry Finn,’ he said. “The book, which is faithful to the original at times and at other times current and unexpected, ended up being one of my favorite books of the year, both a classic Mississippi River yarn and something totally fresh.”

- “The Heaven & Earth Grocery Store” by James McBride

Another New York Times best-



In observance of Black History Month, try reading one of the books available at the Hinsdale Public Library — including the three shown above — or participating in one of the activities offered by the Cook County Forest Preserve District, like a poetry walk at Bemis Woods. (photo provided)

seller, this novel won the 2024 Library of Congress Prize for American Fiction. It tells the story of a small town in Pennsylvania where Black, Jewish and European immigrants struggle on the margins of white, Christian America in the 1930s.

The prose is beautifully written, librarian Susan McBride said.

“The novel is both heartbreaking and heartwarming, and spotlights the importance of community, loyalty and sacrifice, which is what I enjoyed most about it,” she said.

Screenings, walks and more

The Cook County Forest Preserve District is offering a variety of opportunities to observe Black History Month at nearby locations.

- Enjoy a short viewing of the award-winning PBS series

“America Outdoors” by writer and conservationist Baratunde Thurston at a Black History Month Drop-in from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1, at the Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center, 9800 Willow Springs Road, Willow Springs. Snacks will be provided. Call (708) 839-6897 for more information.

- Walk a short, looped trail in Grove 7 of Bemis Woods-South and read poetry written by African American authors along the way from 10 a.m. to noon Sunday, Feb. 2. Bemis Woods is on Ogden Avenue west of Wolf Road near Western Springs. Call (312) 533-5751.

- Join a bird hike co-led by Outdoor Afro, followed by a snack by a warm fire, from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 22, at the Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center (see address and phone number above).

- Learn more about the Underground Railroad that existed in the Calumet Region during the mid-1800s at presentations from 2 to 3 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 22 and 23, at the Sand Ridge Nature Center, 15891 Paxton Ave., South Holland.

A representative from the Little Calumet River Underground Railroad Project will give a talk accompanied by spiritual singer Lana Lewis. Visitors can explore two self-guided trails throughout the day and learn more at the information table inside.

- A Black History Month exhibit focuses on African Americans who ski and the challenges faced in snow sports at the Sagawau Environmental Learning Center, 12545 W. 111th St., Lemont. Call (630) 257-2045.

For more information on any of these events, visit www.fpdcc.com.

ARTFULLY DONE

■ Mayslake: A Sanctuary for Refreshment and Renewal

Through Feb. 22
Mayslake Peabody Estate
1717 W. 31st St., Oak Brook
www.dupageforest.org
(630) 206-9566

Through his camera lens, William North reveals how the architecture and design of Mayslake Hall highlights and amplifies its bucolic setting, creating space for contemplating and enjoying nature. Hours: noon to 3 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

FAITH COMMUNITIES

■ Inter-Faith Fellowship Community Wide

Feb. 12
Union Church
137 S. Garfield Ave., Hinsdale
(630) 688-1706
ejung@uchinsdale.org

Inter-Faith Fellowship Community Wide presents a program on Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve, with a DuPage County Forest Preserve District representative talking about the history and restoration of Salt Creek. Call or email using the information above to make a reservation by Feb. 6. Time: 11:45 a.m. doors open, noon lunch, program follows. Cost: \$15 at the door.

FAMILY FUN

■ Juniper Junction

Feb. 15-23
Morton Arboretum
4100 Route 53, Lisle
www.mortonarb.org
(630) 968-0074

Explore this new, large-scale model railroad display in the Firefly Pavilion, assembled and run in partnership with the LGB Model Railroad Club of Chicago. Included with arboretum admission. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: \$8.95-\$16.95 depending on age and day.

FOR A CAUSE

■ Candor's 50th Benefit

Feb. 1
Oak Brook Manor
800 Oak Brook Road
www.candorhealthed.org/
dancing-through-the-decades-2024

Celebrate 50 years of health education for Chicagoland youth at the Hinsdale-based organization's "Dancing through the Decades" benefit, featuring cocktails, dinner and dancing to the hits from the 1970s, '80s, '90s and 2000s. Bid on auction items, take photos with friends and support high quality sex education, social emotional learning and substance abuse prevention programs for the next generation. Time: 6 p.m. cocktails, 7 p.m. dinner. Tickets: \$175. RR

■ Blood Drive

Feb. 3
Hinsdale Humane Society
21 Salt Creek Lane
www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org/events
(630) 323-5630

The Hinsdale Humane Society is partnering with the American Red Cross to host this drive. Schedule an appointment at the website above; donors should bring a photo ID, blood donor card or two other forms of ID. Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. RR



Celebrate Valentine's Day early with a romantic stroll through Fullersburg Woods. See Page 20 for details. (photo courtesy of the DuPage County Forest Preserve District)

■ Trivia Night

Feb. 7
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St.
www.d181foundation.org
The D181 Foundation is hosting its third annual fundraiser competition featuring a cash bar a 50/50 cash raffle. Order a Gone Grazy charcuterie board for the table for \$90 by Jan. 31. Proceeds raised will help fund a new Starlab mobile planetarium to be used at all D181 schools. Time: 7 p.m. doors open, 7:30 p.m. program starts. Tickets: \$75, \$500 for table of eight.

■ Valentines for Seniors

Through Feb. 7
amccarthy@sgop.ilga.gov
State Sen. John Curran (R-41, Downers Grove) invites residents and community groups to write messages in homemade or store-bought cards for delivery to assisted living centers, nursing homes, and long-term care facilities throughout the district. Cards should be dropped off from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays or from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Wednesdays at Curran's office, 1011 State St., Suite 205, Lemont, in the box located inside the office door. They can be put in the mailbox out-

side the office during off hours.

■ Valentines for Veterans

Through Feb. 13
(630) 410-8466
State Rep. Nicole La Ha (R-82, Lemont) is holding this card drive to encourage residents of all ages to write heartfelt messages of appreciation for the men and women who have served the country. Drop off cards from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at La Ha's district office, 106 Stephen St., Suite 102B, Lemont.

Please turn to Page 20

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Only in
The Hinsdalean

The library has just about any ‘Thing’ you need

At this time of year, one of my favorite daydreams to muse upon is walking down a sunny beach, listening to the waves, and feeling the warmth of the sand on my feet rather than the frostbite of my toes in the snow. Not much could make that daydream better, but perhaps one thing: a melodious, rhythmic beeping, slowly growing faster as I walk down the beach and start to dig. Yes, that’s right. In this most perfect version of my daydream, I have a metal detector that I checked out from the Hinsdale Public Library — and I’ve just found something really cool.

You may not know it, but the Hinsdale Public Library checks even out more than books, audiobooks, movies, CDs, magazines and newspapers (all both physical and digital). We also have a Library of Things, a collection of nontraditional items — like devices, kits and tools — that you can borrow. And recently we’ve been adding to it!

With your Hinsdale Public Library card, you can now check out:

- a GoPro Hero 12 to take videos of

all your adventures

• a karaoke machine so your next party will be hop-pin’

• a vinyl record washer to care for your record collection

• a portable film/slide digitizer and a VHS to DVD converter kit to save all your family memories

• a C-Pen Reader that will scan sentences and read them to you — and even define words

• a birding kit to see which species come to visit this spring

• a recording studio for your new podcast project

• a ukulele so you can serenade your spouse

• a Nintendo Switch to help pass away the frigid days indoors

We also have our favorite standbys — hotspots so you can take internet on the go and Roku so you can watch all your favorite streaming shows through the library.

We’re always adding to this collec-



Lizzy Boden
Check this out

tion — we’ve just ordered a button maker that should be available soon. To see everything we have, visit www.hinsdalelibrary.info/things.

But what about the young ones? No worries there: For kids, we have a robust Curiosity Kit collection that will introduce them to a wide range of fun and educational items. A few examples of our Curiosity

Kits include:

• a microscope perfect for budding scientists

• geology and birding kits to explore the great outdoors

• Ozobots and Edison Bots for learning coding

• a mini theremin to learn about sound and music

• Numberblocks to understand math basics

Devices, kits and tools are not the only “things” we check out. I’m most excited about our seed library’s second year! We have a robust selection

of flowers, vegetables and herbs available with your library card as you get ready for sowing season.

The seed library officially opens on Feb. 8, and you should make sure to stop by around then for the best selection.

We also have an event to get you ready. Make sure to join us Saturday, Feb. 8, at 2 p.m. for our “Winter Sowing Workshop: Seed Starting in the Winter” class.

Hinsdale’s own Vern Goers Greenhouse donated many of our seeds, so when you stop by next, please thank them for their support. We also owe a debt of gratitude to our local teen volunteers who painstakingly packed and labeled each of our hundreds of seed packets.

No matter what your wintertime fantasies contain, we can help make your daydreams a reality — so stop by Hinsdale Public Library soon.

— *Lizzy Boden is the adult services manager at Hinsdale Public Library. Ask any of the librarians for help with the Library of Things.*

Please join us for

HINSDALE CENTRAL BOYS BASKETBALL VETERANS & FIRST RESPONDERS NIGHT

Free Admission for all
Veterans and First Responders

FRIDAY, FEB. 7 AT 6:45PM

RSVP’s appreciated to Julie Thick at julieathick@gmail.com or (312) 972-8130



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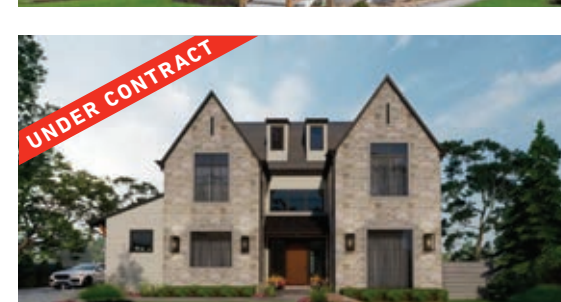
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PULSE

Continued from Page 16

GAME ON

■ Chicago Elite Youth Volleyball

Thursdays, Feb. 6-27
Westmont Park District
Fitness Club
424 Plaza Drive
www.thecommunityhouse.org
(630) 323-7500

Children ages 6-14 will be introduced to the game of volleyball or continue to improve their individual skill development passing, setting, attacking, blocking, serving, defending and moving. Players will be divided according to skill level and age and challenged accordingly. Time: 6 to 7 p.m. Cost: \$120. RR, MD

GREAT OUTDOORS

■ Fishing: Hard Water Classic

Feb. 1
Blackwell Forest Preserve
Butterfield Road west of
Winfield Road, Warrenville
www.dupageforest.org
(630) 933-7248

Take part in the only competitive ice-fishing tournament in DuPage, and then stick around for door prizes and awards. Participants should bring their own equipment and bait. All ages are welcome; those under 18 must be with an adult. Time: noon to 3:30 p.m. Cost: \$20 in advance, \$25 at the event. RR

■ Thankful for the Dark

Feb. 5
Little Red Schoolhouse
Nature Center
9800 Willow Springs Road,
Willow Springs
www.fpdcc.com
(708) 839-6897

Learn why light pollution is harmful to people and wildlife while enjoying a hike in the largest Urban Night Sky Place. Time: 6 to 7:30 p.m. RR

■ Romantic Night Hike

Feb. 7
Fullersburg Woods
3609 Spring Road, Oak
Brook
www.dupageforest.org
(630) 933-7248

Experience the magic of an evening walk along lantern-lit trails on a self-guided, 1- to 2-mile journey leading to roaring fires, marshmallow roasting and hot chocolate. The trails close at 9 p.m. The program is for ages 18 and up.

Times: 6, 7 & 8 p.m. slots. Cost: \$12 per person. RR

HEALTH & WELLNESS

■ Yoga Flow

Feb. 6-March 13
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St.
www.thecommunityhouse.org
(630) 323-7500

This six-week session class is a well rounded Vinyasa-style yoga practice designed to foster and grow one's flexibility, balance, strength and mindfulness. Participants should bring a mat, water and yoga blocks, if desired. Time: 9 to 10 a.m. Cost: \$90. RR, MD

IT'S ELEMENTARY

■ D181 Student registration

Beginning Feb. 3
www.d181.org
Community Consolidated
Elementary District 181 is
holding online registration for
new preschool, kindergarten
and elementary students Feb.
3-28. In-person registration
is available from 2 to 7 p.m.
Tuesday, Feb. 4, and from
7 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday,
Feb. 25, at the District
Administrative Center, 115
W. 55th St., Clarendon Hills.
Current students can register
online March 3-April 4. Those
in third and sixth grades must
provide proof of residency;
in-person assistance to help
upload residency documents
will be available from 8 a.m.
to 4 p.m. Tuesday, March 11.
New students who register by
Feb. 28 and current students
who register by April 4 receive
a \$25 discount on fees.

JUST FOR KIDS

■ Pokemon Club

Feb. 7
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

Kids in kindergarten through fifth grade can bring cards to trade, play and learn with friends. Or design a Pokemon card and make other fun poke-crafts. Time: 4 to 5 p.m. RR

LISTEN & LEARN

■ Polar Vortex

Feb. 1
Sagawau Environmental
Learning Center

12545 W. 111th St., Lemont
www.fpdcc.com
(630) 257-2045

What causes the extreme, cold temperatures during the winter? Stay warm inside while learning about this cold weather event. Time: 1 p.m.

■ Genealogy Research Using Fold3

Feb. 4
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

Learn how to conduct genealogy research by incorporating the Fold3 database, which provides access to the stories, photos and personal documents of the men and women who served. Time: 7 to 8 p.m. RR

■ Empathy and the Unselfie Revolution

Feb. 5 or 6
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St.
www.d181foundation.org/
community-speaker-series
Dr. Michele Borba will share why empathy is a skill that's vital for children's mental health, resilience, leadership skills and job success. Parents will gain tools to help children become more empathetic. The talk is part of the Community Speaker Series sponsored by Hinsdale High School District 86, Community Consolidated Elementary District 181 and the District 181 Foundation. Times: 7 to 8:30 Feb. 5, 9 to 10:30 a.m. Feb. 6. RR

■ Backyard Bird Feeding

Feb. 6
www.fpdcc.com
Discover how to make one's yard and home bird-friendly in this virtual presentation. Learn about bird feeders, types of foods, garden opportunities and more. Time: 6 p.m. RR

■ Home and Life Organization Systems

Feb. 6
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St.
www.thecommunityhouse.org
(630) 323-7500

Angie Randall of The Orderly Life will guide participants through a 90-minute interactive workshop to implement two organization systems designed to transform one's daily routine and

Please turn to Page 24

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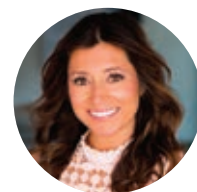
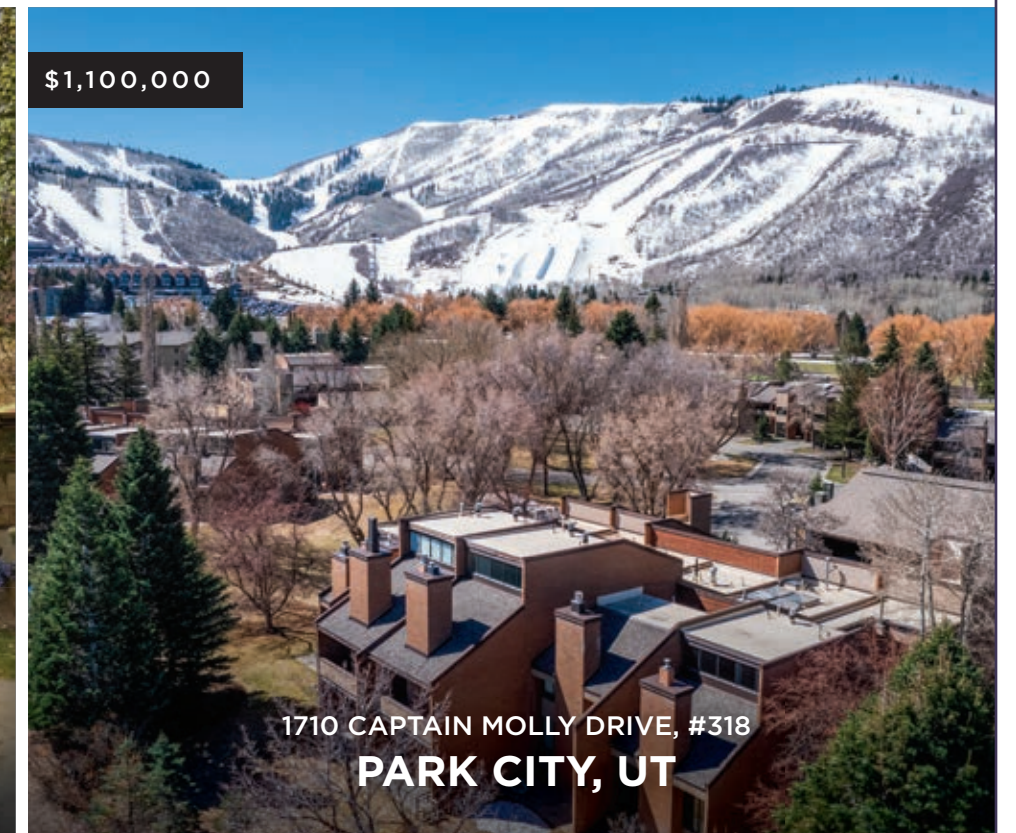
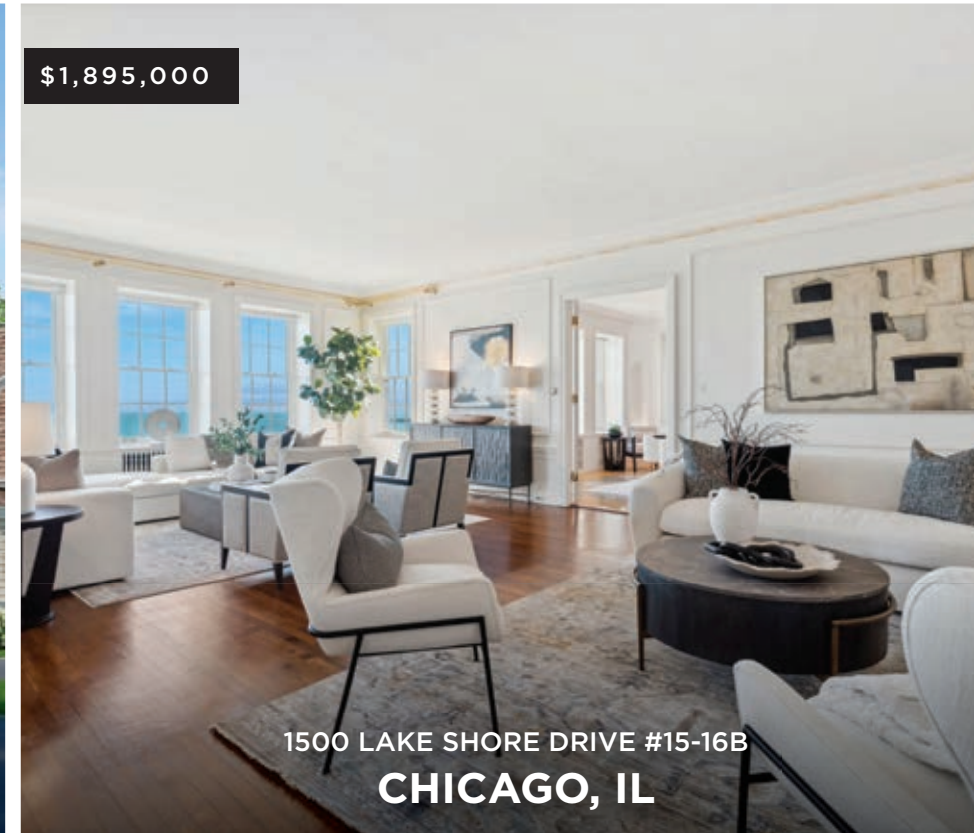

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REALTY

Continued from Page 20

prepare for any situation: the Ultimate Home Management Binder and the "What If?" Emergency Binder. Time: 6 p.m. Cost: \$192. RR, MD

■ **Master Your Time, Home & Finances**

Feb. 8
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St.
www.thecommunityhouse.org
(630) 323-7500

Learn essential strategies to prepare for life's unexpected situations, gain financial control, efficiently manage one's home and perfect one's time management skills. Through hands-on activities and filling out organizational systems, participants will gain skills that will pay dividends long after the workshop ends. Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost: \$300. RR, MD

NOTEWORTHY

■ **David Francey Trio**
Feb. 15

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

Canadian folk singer-songwriter David Francey will perform in his trio, with songs influenced by his previous working-class life, his admiration of the natural beauty of the Canadian landscape and traditional folk themes of love and loss. Time: 7 p.m. Tickets: \$22.

■ **Romances for Violin and Orchestra**

Feb. 16
Union Church of Hinsdale
137 S. Garfield St.
www.cameratachicago.org

International violinist Yi-Jia Susanne Hou will perform this program with the Camerata Chamber Orchestra, featuring Tchaikovsky's "Romeo and Juliet," Dvorak's "Romance, Kreisler's "Liebesleid and Liebesfreud," Svendsen's "Romance," Saint-Saëns "Introduction" and "Rondo Capriccioso," and Gershwin's

"The Man I Love." Time: 3 to 5 p.m. Tickets: \$50, \$40 for seniors, \$10 for students, \$2 for ages 14 and under (with a paying adult).

ON SCREEN

■ **'Wicked Little Letters'**

Feb. 5
McAninch Arts Center
College of DuPage
421 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn
www.atthemac.org
(630) 942-4000

Watch the free screening of this 2023 British drama/comedy as part of the Global Flicks series. Times: 1:30 and 7:30 p.m.

ON STAGE

■ **'Shrek JR The Musical'**

Jan. 31 & Feb. 1
Nazareth Academy
1209 Ogden Ave., LaGrange Park
www.ticketpeak.co/sijshrek/events
Fifth- through eighth-grade students at St. Isaac Jogues Catholic School

present this lively, family-friendly adaptation of the hit DreamWorks animated film "Shrek," which follows the unlikely grumpy green ogre hero who sets off on an adventure to confront the ruthless Lord Farquaad and demand that the fairy-tale creatures be allowed to stay in the swamp. Times: 7 p.m. Jan. 31, 11 a.m. & 7 p.m. Feb. 1. Tickets: \$12.

■ **'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'**

Through Feb. 2
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St.
www.sdfa.booktix.com
(630) 323-7500

Stage Door Fine Arts' presents this musical based on the famous novel by Roald Dahl about the world-famous Willy Wonka opening the gates to his mysterious factory, but only to holders of a golden ticket. Times: 7 p.m. Thursdays to Saturdays, 2 p.m. Sunday. Tickets: \$25 to \$30.

■ **'Outside Mullingar'**

Thursdays to Sundays

through Feb. 2
Theatre of Western Springs
4384 Hampton Ave.
www.theatreofwesternsprings.com
(708) 246-4043

This compassionate, delightful work celebrates that it's never too late to take a chance on love as Anthony and Rosemary's romantic journey is heartbreaking, funny, and ultimately deeply moving. Times: 8 p.m. Thursdays, Fridays & Saturdays; 2:30 p.m. Saturdays & Sundays. Tickets: \$28, \$15 for children and students.

SIGN UP NOW

■ **Issues Briefing**

Feb. 8
NIU Naperville Conference Center
1120 E. Diehl Road
www.lwvil.org/issues-briefing-2025

The League of Women Voters of Illinois will hold its annual panel exploring criti-

Please turn to Page 26

Inter-Faith Fellowship. hosted by:

UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

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

Inter-Faith Fellowship "Community Wide" Presents

Ranger Dave Andrusyk from Fullersburg Woods Forest Preserve

Wednesday, February 12, 2025

Fellowship, Lunch, Program \$15 at the door!

Doors open at 11:45 am, Lunch at Noon, Program to follow!!



Have you driven down York Road lately and wondered what is different about Salt Creek? Well, please join us for our February luncheon when Forest Preserve Ranger Dave Andrusyk brings us up to date on the history and restoration of Salt Creek.

Reservations requested by Thursday, February 6, 2025 to

Elizabeth Jung at ejung@uchinsdale.org or 630-688-1706

MISSION STATEMENT: Inter-Faith Fellowship is "Community Wide" and ALL INCLUSIVE. We offer lunch and compelling programs to educate and entertain while providing fellowship. We support charities fighting hunger and victims of domestic violence.

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Pet pic of the week

This 1-year-old sweetheart has a story straight out of a movie. Abandoned in a box while pregnant, she was rescued just in time and immediately brought to a cozy foster home. There, she raised her adorable kittens like the rock star mama she is. Now that her little ones have found their happily-ever-afters, it's her turn to be pampered! Grizzly Rue is a total cuddle queen who lives for attention and will happily soak up all the love you have to give. She's fantastic with kids and would love a dog-free home where she can reign. For more information, stop by the Hinsdale Humane Society Tuthill Family Pet Rescue & Resource Center, visit www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org or call (630) 323-5630. (photo provided)



Continued from Page 24

cal issues for Illinois. Former Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn will open the program with a keynote address, followed by sessions covering immigrant rights, the threat of cuts to social safety nets, climate change legislation, states' rights, and more. The event also will be held online. Time: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. RR

■ Board Game Night at HPL

Feb. 11
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

Learn to play the award-winning game Cascadia with an instructor or bring friends and play any of the other games in the library's collection. The program is for adults and youth ages 14 and up. Time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. RR

SPECIAL EVENTS

■ Spring Festival

Feb. 1
Hinsdale Central High

School
5500 S. Grant St.

Celebrate the Chinese New Year with food, a tea ceremony, talent show, a photo booth and more. Hours: 5 to 8 p.m.

TEENS & TWEENS

■ High School Money Smarts Lunch & Learn

Feb. 8
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

Financial advisors Nora Hernandez and Clare Nawrocki will discuss The Timeline Approach to Investing, including short- and long-term investing, tax implications and the benefits of compounding interest with high school students. A pizza lunch is included. Time: 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. RR

Key

RR - registration required

MD - member discount



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So you think you're a *real* Hinsdalean, eh? Tell us where you think this picture was taken and you can win a Fuller's Ultimate Car Wash gift card. Send your answer to: The Hinsdalean, Village Posting Board, 7 West First St., Hinsdale, IL 60521. Winners will be drawn from correct answers received weekly. *Good luck!*

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


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MIND GAMES

- ACROSS**
- 1 DIME PORTRAIT
 - 4 "PHOOEY!"
 - 8 CHOW
 - 12 SINGER REED
 - 13 AACHEN ARTICLE
 - 14 RUSSO OF "THE INTERN"
 - 15 TOP FLOOR COOLER
 - 17 ROMAN POET
 - 18 FARM FRACTION
 - 19 CORRODES
 - 20 MONK'S HOME
 - 22 RAW MINERALS
 - 24 PAINT LAYER
 - 25 SKILLET WITH LOW SIDES
 - 29 GEARWHEEL TOOTH
 - 30 PREFIX WITH "LOGICAL"
 - 31 BATHROOM,
TO A LONDONER
 - 32 REFUSE HOLDER
 - 34 LACKING SLACK
 - 35 NEW MEXICO RESORT
 - 36 DESERT FLORA
 - 37 PASSE
 - 40 ACHY
 - 41 BREAKFAST CHAIN
 - 42 VILLAGE PEOPLE CLASSIC
 - 46 AIR-SHOW STUNT
 - 47 SNEEZE SYLLABLE
 - 48 LATIN 101 WORD
 - 49 SINGER LOVETT
 - 50 TOOLS WITH TEETH
 - 51 LABEL

1	2	3		4	5	6	7		8	9	10	11
12				13					14			
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41						42	43				44	45
46						47					48	
49						50					51	

- DOWN**
- 1 GA. NEIGHBOR
 - 2 SPECK
 - 3 YELLOW TURNIP
 - 4 BELITTLE
 - 5 TEEMING
 - 6 POLITICAL
 - 7 STRATEGIST
 - 8 NAVARRO
 - 9 HAMILTON BILL
 - 10 COMPLAIN
 - 11 GUNS THE ENGINE
 - 12 ONE
 - 13 HOTEL FURNITURE
 - 14 "COLD AS EVER"
 - 15 RAPPER
 - 16 SEIZED VEHICLE
 - 17 BANK STATEMENT
 - 18 NO.
 - 19 RUDE DUDE
 - 20 KILLER WHALES
 - 21 CHECK
 - 22 DESIGNER CHANEL
 - 23 TABLE PROTECTOR
 - 24 SUMMER MONTH
 - 25 IN PARIS
 - 26 TERSE DENIAL
 - 27 ROE PROVIDER
 - 28 TREELESS TRACT
 - 29 POI BASE
 - 30 SOME PACIFIC
 - 31 SALMON
 - 32 PICKLING HERB
 - 33 "HI, SAILOR!"
 - 34 IMPLEMENT
 - 35 GARBAGE BARGE
 - 36 ROAST VIPS
 - 37 "CAUGHT YA!"
 - 38 "I -- ROCK"
 - 39 EGGY QUAFF

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

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ◆◆◆

◆ Moderate ◆◆ Challenging
◆◆◆ HOO BOY!

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SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Dream 2. Rustle;
3. Bizarre; 4. Nestle

Today's Word

BASEMENT

SCRAMBLERS

Using only the letters in the words in the box, rearrange them to form a new word. Think of a word that has the same letters as the word in the box.

- Word: **MADRE** _____
- Word: **ULSTER** _____
- Word: **BRAZIER** _____
- Word: **TENSEL** _____

TODAY'S WORD

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

HOROSCOPES

February 2025 Horoscopes • Week 1



CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
The quiet side of life takes over for the week, Capricorn. You might feel the need to reflect on recent experiences or recharge at home alone. Don't hesitate to take a step back.



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
You're in the mood to get things done this week, Aries. Your ambition is fueled and it is the perfect time to take charge and tackle overdue projects. Be careful not to rush things.



CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, you may find you're a bit more introspective than usual. Your emotions are running deep, and it is a key time for some self-reflection. Be mindful of insights coming your way.



LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
Think big this week, Libra. Try to see how your efforts can have an effect in the future and not just right now. There is an opportunity to expand your horizons.



AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Your social life is booming right now, Aquarius. Networking events, group activities or spontaneous meet-ups are ways to connect with some like-minded individuals.



TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, your focus shifts to personal growth and intellectual exploration this week. You might find yourself investigating travel plans or diving into new hobbies.



LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
Leo, it is a week of transitions for you. Something in your life may seem like it will come to an end soon, but this closing of one chapter is necessary for personal growth.



SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Scorpio, your financial world is looking quite favorable this week. You might have an opportunity to solidify your position on a project or embark on a completely new path.



PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
Pisces, this week you are all about setting goals and following through with your plans. The universe is on your side right now, and you will find it is quite easy to succeed.



GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Money and other resources take center stage this week, Gemini. Whether you are reevaluating your investments or getting your finances in order, you may need to make a few tweaks.



VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Work and your career take center stage right now, Virgo. Since you're in a productive phase, you will make great headway on projects that can really boost your resume.



SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
The focus is on you this week, Sagittarius. If you have been feeling stuck or unsure, now is a great time to put new intentions into action. People will be drawn to your energy.

SPORTS

Teamwork, tenacity fuels Devils' run

Continued from Page 34

Latorre also appreciates the buzz the team has generated.

"When you play well and you've got some exciting players, it definitely brings some excitement," he said.

Thick said having a Division I-caliber player in

Buzelis, who also happens to be the younger brother of Chicago Bull rookie Matas Buzelis, contributes to their swagger.

"He gives you a leg up on any team we play," he said of Buzelis.

Kozys hearkened back to sophomore season and the team's 27-3 record.

"I felt like once we were seniors we were going to be way stronger," he said.

The upperclassmen also understand their responsibility to carry on the culture.

"With the juniors, sometimes they slack in some drills. So as seniors we make sure everyone steps it up.

"This is no time to slow

down," Kozys added, with eight games remaining in the regular schedule and a grudge match at Glenbard West tomorrow night.

Relaxing means regressing, Thick suggested.

"It's always high energy every single second in this gym," he said. "We know that every other team in our sec-

tional and the state is working as hard as us."

For many in the senior class, their competitive basketball journey will likely end when the season does. So the time to give it all is now.

"There definitely more of a sense of urgency and a lot of focus on making every day count," Dell said.



Hinsdale Central seniors Dillon Orozco (left) and Dillon Dell each take the ball to the basket with authority against the Proviso West defense. The Devils' stellar play has led to packed stands at home and increased attention from within the community and beyond.



SPORTS — ROUNDUP

STUDENT ATHLETE PROFILE



Erica Driscoll
Westmont

How did you get involved in gymnastics?

I started in one of the toddler classes at my local gym when I was about 3.

What do you love most about the sport?

It always feels like there's something new. It never gets repetitive.

Which event is your favorite?

My favorite to practice is probably floor and my favorite to compete in is probably floor or bars. I like that (floor) is a lot of power tumbling.

How have you improved since your freshman year?

Definitely with confidence. I think a lot of my floor routines, I was a lot more timid, especially the vault, too. With my team, as I've gotten to know people over the years, I've gotten a lot more happy in the sport.

What is your goal for the season?

I'm hoping to go to sectionals as a team. That would be amazing. Personally, I'm hoping to qualify for all-around, to compete at all four events at sectionals.

What example do you try to set for underclassmen?

Definitely cheering people on. Especially coming from

club, where it's more individual-based, high school gymnastics is more team focused. Getting out of that individual mentality and supporting your teammates is a big thing. Also being consistent, showing up on time, doing your assignments and not cutting corners with conditioning.

What are your plans for next year?

I'm hoping to study animal science at University of Wyoming or U of I or University of Georgia. I'd like to look into club gymnastics if the school has a club team.

Would you advise other girls to join the team?

It is a really great program. Even though a lot of club gymnasts come in with a mindset that high school is where you lose your skills, I feel like it's a really great opportunity a lot of girls don't consider fully.

Why does coach Kim Estoque like having Driscoll on the team?

Erica has been our top all-arounder for the last couple of years. She is a hard worker and works to get better in the off-season as well as in season. She leads by example and is a great team player in an individual sport.

— profile by Pamela Lannom, photo by Jim Slonoff

RESULTS

Basketball, boys

Jan. 25 @ Hillcrest
V wins 65-54
Jan. 24 vs. Proviso West
V wins 75-65
Buzelis, 35 points, 13 rebounds, assist, 3 steals, 2 blocks
Orozco, 21 points, 9 rebounds, assist, steal
Howell, 10 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, block
Dell, 5 points, 3 rebounds, 7 assists, 2 blocks
Kozys, 2 points, 3 rebounds, assist, steal
Froiland, 2 points

Basketball, girls

Jan. 28 vs. Downers South
V wins 34-24
Skinner, 14 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists, block
Dolan, 10 points, 2 rebounds, assist, 4 steals
Darwish, 5 points, 7 rebounds, assist, steal
Coffey, 3 points
Sherpitis, 2 points,

rebound, 2 steals
Giannini, 6 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals
Gin, 2 rebounds, steal
Jan. 25 @ LT
V loses 41-64
Jan. 23 vs. Downers North
V wins 32-30

Bowling, girls
Jan. 28 vs. Addison Trail
V loses 2,273-2,855
Oranu, 418
Young, 415
Allen, 397
Choe, 369
Khan, 354
Kawa, 320
Jan. 23 vs. York
V loses 2,245-2,793

Gymnastics, girls
Jan. 22 vs. LT
V loses 133.65-137.05
Vault
Driscoll, 2nd, 8.65
Hannah, 3rd, 8.45
Dillenburg, 6th, 8.2
Nawracaj, 9th, 8.05
Uneven bars
Driscoll, 2nd, 8.35
Hannah, 4th, 8.15
Danhaussen-Brun,

7th, 7.8
Kaminskaite, 9th, 7.4
Balance beam
Hannah, 3rd, 9
Inabnit, 5th, 8.65
Driscoll, 7th, 8.45
Danhaussen-Brun, 8th, 7.85
Floor exercise
Driscoll, 3rd, 8.9
Inabnit, 4th, 8.85
Hannah, 5th, 8.7
Kaminskaite, 6th (tie), 8.2
All-around
Driscoll, 3rd, 34.35
Hannah, 4th, 34.3

Hockey

Jan. 23 vs. Warriors
V loses 0-5
Jan. 22 vs. LT
V loses 1-6

Swimming, boys

Jan. 25 @ St. Charles Invite
V places 1st with 418 points
Diving
Zloza, 2nd, 468.10
Kassir, 4th, 394.25
200-yard medley relay
L. Vatev, M. Vatev, Guo, Bey, 1st. 1:32.11

200-yard freestyle
L. Vatev, 1st, 1:42.38
Chase, 4th, 1:48.3
200-yard IM
M. Vatev, 1st, 1:54.26
N. Pelinkovic, 3rd, 1:59.12
50-yard freestyle
Adamo, 4th, 22
Suliga, 7th, 22.24
100-yard butterfly
Guo, 1st. 49.38
Benington, 5th, 53.83
100-yard freestyle
Abbott, 4th, 49.73
Shiell, 5th, 49.77
500-yard freestyle
Bey, 2nd, 4:43.13
Feiro, 3rd, 4:51.66
200-yard freestyle relay
L. Vatev, Suliga, M. Vatev, N. Pelinkovic, 1st, 1:25.95
100-yard backstroke
Guo, 1st. 51.05
Adamo, 4th, 53.68
100-yard breaststroke
M. Vatev, 1st, 56.81
Bey, 2nd, 57.56
400-yard freestyle relay
L. Vatev, Adamo, N. Pelinkovic, Guo, 1st, 3:10.73

Jan. 23 @ Downers North
V wins 130-18

Wrestling, boys

Jan. 24 @ Proviso West
V wins 55-5
126 pounds
Hubbard, tech. fall, 19-3
144 pounds
Barrios, maj. dec., 11-0
150 pounds
Lynch, fall, 1:39
215 pounds
Zajicek, maj. dec., 9-1

Wrestling, girls

Jan. 24 @ WSC Championship
V places 13th with 27 points
125 pounds
Neskovic, 2nd, 20 points
190 pounds
Black, 4th, 7 points
Jan. 22 @ Hinsdale South Quad
V wins 6-0

Instant replay



Hinsdale Central's Anthony Barbara advances the puck past a defender while his teammates Mason Baskel and Jacob Turnball set up an offensive assault during a home game Jan. 23 against the Willowbrook Warriors at the Willowbrook Ice Arena. (Jim Slonoff photos)

SPORTS

Teamwork, tenacity fuel Devils' run

Boys hoops hasn't looked back since early losses, staking claim among state's best

By Ken Knutson

kknutson@thehinsdalean.com

The chatter was relentless, voices reverberating up to the rafters of the banner-festooned Hinsdale Central gym.

Shouts of praise mixed with sharp scolds for a missed assignment. A cry of release after a strong finish at the basket.

The boys basketball team was in high-octane practice mode, fresh off another winning weekend that boosted the Red Devils' record to 21-2 and their weekly state ranking closer to the summit.

This season's performance has been impressive, no doubt, but senior Tyler Thick said it's really a product of experience gained last year and a commitment to excellence in the offseason.

"We worked so hard in the summer, and really to see the fruit of our labor this season — with the 21-2 record, competing for a conference title, winning our Christmas tourney — it's been awesome," Thick said.

Backing up to the start of the 2024-25 campaign, the team endured back-to-back heartbreaking losses early — by two to Glenbard West in a defensive slog and by three to Guilford in a shoot-out — that could have altered the team's trajectory. But the setbacks instead seemed to impel team members forward on a mission to take their play to another level.

Head coach Nick Latorre said a spirit of brotherhood pushes his charges to compete for another.

"It's been a really fun group to work with," Latorre said. "They're very unselfish."

That trait comes up repeatedly from program members.

"We didn't care (about personal stats). We just wanted to win, and that was when I knew we had a chance to be pretty good," Thick said.

The Hinsdale Central Holiday Classic that Thick alluded to presented the Devils with another pair of tight contests. They first took down top-ranked

Niles North in an overtime thriller, then dispatched highly regarded Brother Rice by one in the championship.

Latorre said that triumph really opened the group's collective vision to how good they could be.

"I think it helped bring confidence that we could play with the best teams in the state," he said.

In practice, there's an intensity indicative of a team that's not satisfied. The victory over Brother Rice on Dec. 30 marked the ninth in a row.

That streak is now 18.

"We try to make practices harder than games and try to challenge them every day, so when they're in high-pressure game situations it's not a shock to the system," Latorre said. "We practice well to play well."

Most of the seniors have played together since they were Hinsdale Middle School Spartans. Vince Buzelis and Eric Kozys arrived freshman year.

"It's just the chemistry we've built over the course of the last two years that has helped lift our ability



Hinsdale Central senior basketball player Vince Buzelis stands with his older brother and Chicago Bulls player Matas Buzelis during the team's senior night festivities before Friday game's against Proviso West. (Jim Slonoff photos)



Head boys varsity basketball coach Nick Latorre, in his 15th year at the helm, gives instructions to his players during a break in play Friday night. The team went on to notch its 18th straight victory and improve its record to 21-2 on the season. Latorre said he works his group hard in practice so they're ready to rise to any challenge they may face against an opponent.

on the court," Thick said.

Senior Dillon Dell said he and his mates know the standard expected — and hold each other to it.

"We had a lot of guys returning this year, so we knew we had a chance as long as we just did our jobs," he said.

One of the sweeter rewards of success for Dell is drawing more people onto the basketball bandwagon.

"You see new people at games every week, different kids and parents that maybe you didn't see before," he related. "It's definitely cool to see everyone coming out to games more."

Please turn to Page 32

Registration for 2025 NOW OPEN!



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Join Hinsdale's Special Baseball Tradition – Details are as follows:

- Fee \$250.00 Per Player 6yo, \$275 7 yo/8yo/9yo/Minors/Majors
- Registration is for Hinsdale school children born before Sept. 2020 up to age 12
- Registration will close on 2/21, if your son/daughter is not registered before 2/21 they will NOT be able to play

HLL Website – Please follow accordingly:

- Register at www.hinsdalell.org
- Click register from your phone or computer
- Login or follow prompts to create a new account
- Follow steps to register your child



Mandatory Workout Day tryouts – 2/2/25:

- Where: Hinsdale Central High School Field House
- When: Sunday, February 2, 2025
 - 6yo – 8:00 a.m.
 - 7yo – 8:45 a.m.
 - 8yo – 9:30 a.m.
 - 9yo and any older kids new to HLL – 10:15 a.m.
- If you are unable to make your assigned time, please come when you are able.

Coach Volunteers:

- As you register your child, there will be a section where you can volunteer to coach
- You will be subject to a background check
- Please note we cannot guarantee everyone will be able to coach as there may not be enough spaces – we will contact coaches shortly after registration closes

Tentative 2025 Season Schedule



- Registration started 1/2/25
- Practices start last week of March
- Mandatory Workout Day 2/2/25 (weather permitting)
- Registration closes 2/21/25
- Opening Day to be early April
- HLL draft day 3/8/25
- Watch your emails for more info!



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