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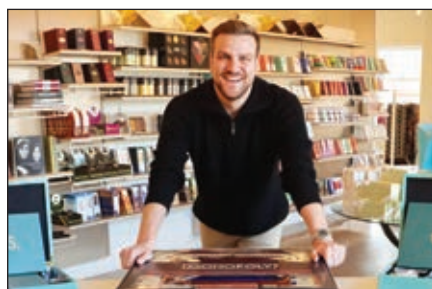
Volume XIX, Issue 13 •

\$1 on Newsstands - 56 pages



All the world's a snow globe

Visitors to Burlington Park were in for a few treats as Hinsdale celebrated Hinsdale for the Holidays Dec. 7. Harper, Brady and Brynlee Ilekis spent some time bouncing in the life-size snow globe set up for pictures. Carolers strolled through the park and horse drawn carriage rides were offered as well as cookie decorating during the event. Santa was even seeing children in his home away from home in the park. Please turn to Page 3 for more pictures. (Jim Slonoff photo)



Last chance

Season's final guest shopper makes his picks.

Page 5



Break out

Area attractions invite fun family excursions.

Page 24



Hoop dreams

Teams ready to compete at Holiday Classic.

Page 54

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NEWS

School districts approve TIF agreements

By Pamela Lannom and Ken Knutson

After months of objecting to Clarendon Hills' plan to create a tax increment financing agreement along 55th Street, Hinsdale's two public school districts have reached an agreement with that village.

Community Consolidated Elementary District 181 Board members Monday approved an intergovernmental agreement with Clarendon Hills that dramatically reduces the amount of tax revenue the district could potentially lose under the TIF.

"It's been a journey," said Mindy Bradford, assistant superintendent for business and operation. "We're in a good place now."

Thirty-six of 39 properties in District 181's portion of the TIF have been declared "surplus," Bradford said. This means any additional tax dollars related to increases in property values will go to the district rather than fund TIF improvements. With the 2023 equalized assessed valuation of the remaining three properties at about \$316,000 and property tax revenue totaling about \$8,000, taxes

related to EAV growth would be immaterial, Bradford wrote in a memo to the board. One of the properties is owned by the village of Clarendon Hills and does not pay property taxes.

"Really it's become an insignificant amount," she said. "We were over \$1 million when we first started looking at this property."

Following concerns about the size of the TIF, Clarendon Hills trustees voted in November to reduce it (see sidebar).

"They revised it to be kind of a micro TIF focused on two specific properties," Bradford said. Those properties are the former site of Tracy's Tavern at 401 55th St. and 5506 Virginia Ave.

The intergovernmental agreement, which has been reviewed by District 181's attorney, also provides additional tuition reimbursements to affected school district beyond what the law requires.

By signing the agreement, school district waive their ability to contest the TIF.

Board President Bill Cotter praised Clarendon Hills officials for listening to feedback from the school districts.

"Kudos to them," he said.

"I appreciate their willingness to compromise and work with the various stakeholders on that."

District 86

Like their District 181 counterparts, Hinsdale High School District 86 Board members unanimously approved the intergovernmental agreement with Clarendon Hills regarding the 55th Street TIF district.

Under the originally proposed TIF plan, the 70 parcels included would have had their assessed value frozen at \$14.02 million, with any revenue growth above that over the ensuing 23 years collected for TIF purposes rather than go to the school district and other taxing bodies.

The district had estimated that the assessed value would increase to as much as \$40 million over the life of the TIF.

"While District 86 would not lose revenue from the TIF, all taxpayers within District 86 boundaries — not just those who reside within the TIF area — may see their tax rate increase more than it would have without a TIF," district offi-

TIF timeline

By creating a tax increment financing district, local governments are able to divert property tax revenue related to increasing property values in the district from taxing bodies. Those funds instead are used to pay for redevelopment projects.

Clarendon Hills in July proposed a district that would extend along 55th Street from Western Avenue to Holmes Avenue.

A joint review board made up of representatives of affected taxing bodies met three times in July and August, voting to object to the TIF's creation. In October, Clarendon Hills sent a draft intergovernmental agreement to Districts 181 and 86 and Maercker Elementary District 60, which also would be affected. That initial agreement was revised and in November, trustees approved several changes to the TIF.

- Jewel-Osco and PNC properties were removed from the district (no impact on D181).
- The TIF budget was reduced from \$17.7 million to \$10 million.
- The 55th Street acquisition costs were reduced from \$6.9 million to \$2 million.
- The village agreed to end its Ogden Avenue TIF in December, four years early.

cial reported back in July when the issue first surfaced.

Board president Cat Greenspon said she was proud of the outcome to remove the burden from taxpayers.

"Thank you to all of the community members, families, partners,

(chief financial officer Josh) Stephenson, Superintendent (Mike) Lach," Greenspon said as part of her president's comments. "I would like to thank the village of Clarendon Hills trustees for working hard to hear our concerns and addressing them."



Holidays in Hinsdale

From Santa to carriage rides. Burlington Park was the setting for Hinsdale for the Holidays earlier this month. The Gouzoulis kids — Sebastian, Thaddeus, Atticus and Gabriella — decorate gingerbread men during the event. (Jim Slonoff photos)

ONCE UPON A TIME



Pictures from the past — Hinsdale's building services supervisor, Jim Piontkowski, took this photo in 1979. Schoen's was located at 48 S. Washington St. at the time. Today Meredith Jay and My Sister Kate share the space. 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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thehinsdalean.com
Office hours 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Monday through Friday
The Hinsdalean is published once a week by Hinsdale Publishing Co. Inc. and delivered to every home in Hinsdale. The Hinsdalean also is sold on newsstands throughout the village and in nearby communities.
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Delivery
The Hinsdalean is available by mail to those living outside of Hinsdale for \$99 for six months or \$179 for one year. Email version is \$49 per year. To subscribe or if you have questions about delivery, call Tina Wisniowicz.
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Letters to the editor
Our letters policy is published on Page 11.

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Obituaries are published free each week in The Hinsdalean. Information may be mailed, faxed or emailed to news@thehinsdalean.com. Obituaries may be edited for style and space.
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How to select the right gifts like a King

Landscaping firm sales director looks to cultivate cheer among loved ones with local 'buys'

By Ken Knutson

kknutson@thehinsdalean.com

A mid-December arctic blast served as a reminder, lest anyone had forgotten, of what Chicago winters typically have in store. So Adam King was quick to enter each store as he toured downtown Hinsdale for the final installment of this year's gift guide.

King, a Hinsdale native and 2010 graduate of Hinsdale Central High School, is no foe of the elements, however, as director of sales at his family's King's Landscape Design right here in the village. He relishes breathing new life into clients' outdoor spaces. And he also loves the holidays.

"I've had it done since Nov. 4," King said of his Christmas decorations. "After Halloween's over, the blow-up Santa goes up. I'm so happy when Christmas comes."

Childhood celebrations this time of year always included a visit to the Hinsdale Christmas



Adam King feels like he's hit the jackpot when he discovers this special Luxury/Trophy Edition Monopoly board game at Marcus. The challenge will be limiting the guest list at his game night sessions as King expects many friends and family members will want to cash in on this richly appointed version. (Jim Slonoff photos)



Chicago winter is lot more bearable under this faux fur and velvet sand-colored Svanefors Blanket Luna from Stockholm Objects.

Walk as well as weeklong stay in Chicago right before the big day to take in the sights, see Santa at Marshall Fields and check off the gift list.

"We'd do a whole week of shopping," King related. "It was fun. It was a way to get out of the house."

This faux gift-identifying assignment didn't take a week, but he still discovered plenty of tree-worthy treasures.

- few things are sweeter than a wedding, which King's younger sister Abbey will be starring in this weekend. Presenting the newlyweds with a dozen gluten-free salted caramel cupcakes will help get their marriage started on a flavorful foot. "They're so good," King exclaimed. \$47.88 for 12, Sweet Ali's

- King was delighted when his parents recently moved back to town. They've been busy festooning their new digs for the holidays, and a large 15-inch ball ornament would look great suspended from a 40-foot tree — or a living room corner in need of zhuzhing. \$89.95, Hinsdale Flower Shop

- Mom Noel will be able to mark the passage of time with class through a 2025 classic calendar (easel included)

- from Karen Adams Designs, with each month featuring a unique, evocative image. "I think that would look great on a mantle," he said. \$72, Sass & Class

- family gatherings are large-scale affairs in the King family. "There's 20 cousins, and they're all coming to my parents." And each bringing their appetites, which most certainly will appreciate a decadent taffy apple. \$5 for plain/\$7 for nuts, Hinsdale Fruit Store

- the bridal party for the aforementioned wedding includes King, and standing up can take a toll on the feet. To ensure the bridesmaids' comfort, they'll each receive a pair of Lover's Plush slippers with big heart design. \$28, Alixandra Blue

- game night hosting will never be same after King adds the Fancy Monopoly Luxury/Trophy Edition Board Game to his personal collection. \$210, Marcus

- friend — and Hinsdale Central classmate — Annie can stay warm throughout the season wrapped in sand color 120-inch-by-150-inch Svanefors Blanket Luna that features faux fur on the fron-

- tside and a soft velvet back-side. \$180, Stockholm Objects

- friend Chandler will be ready to head out with her friends to any holiday party with a makeup kit of Umpteen Cream and applicator brush from Hinsdale resident-created Carlucce. \$38 each for cream and brush, Lepa Boutique

- diamonds are a mom's best present to find under the tree, especially when she set her eyes on a pair of earrings with almost a carat (90 points) of diamonds set in yellow gold. \$2,100, Karat

- King put a lot of thought into his selection for grandma Annabelle, deciding she would appreciate La Mer's Creme de la Mer Duet Set gift set, which provides a container of moisturizing cream for home use as well a smaller one for when a quick application is needed when on the move. \$390, Blue Mercury

- Dad Mark will elevate his work style toting the classy vintage chestnut-colored Ghurka Heritage Examiner No. 5 leather briefcase. \$1,895, Frederick Lynn

NEXT WEEK

The Hinsdale Village Board, Community Consolidated District 181 Board and Hinsdale High School District 86 Board are not scheduled to meet the week of Dec. 23-27.

MEETING ROUNDUP

Hinsdale Village Board

Among other business Tuesday, trustees:

- discussed increasing pay rates for seasonal employees by 25 cents to \$1 an hour, depending on the position, in order to be competitive and retain staff. Trustees will vote on the increase at their Jan. 21 meeting.
- reviewed the list of five properties to be added to the village's Historically Significant Structures Property List. The properties are 213 S. Clay St., 711 S. Elm St., 211 N. Lincoln St., 8 E. Third St. and 122 E. Third St. The vote will take place Jan. 21.
- approved a three-year rental agreement with the Hinsdale Swim Club for use of the Hinsdale Community Pool for its competitive swim program
- listened as Village President Tom Cauley read a proclamation honoring Eva Field as she plans to retire as after more than 20 years with the Hinsdale Chamber of Commerce. "Thanks to Eva's vision and hard work, the chamber has played a key role in helping to make Hinsdale one of the most desirable suburbs in the Chicago area to live, work, shop and dine," he read.

Community Consolidated District 181 Board

Among other business at their meeting Monday, board members:

- held a public hearing on and approved a levy request of about \$85.3 million, including \$5.4 million in debt service. The district will abate \$2 million of that debt service amount, using other revenue sources to pay off the loans. The next step is to file the levy with Cook and DuPage counties by the end of the year. No one spoke at the public hearing.
- agreed to spend \$184,985 to modernize the elevator in the district's new headquarters at 133 E. Ogden Ave. Officials expect the entire renovation project to come in under the \$5 million budget.
- heard an update on construction projects as the district prepares to offer full-day kindergarten for the 2025-26 school years. The district has spent \$11.5 million or about 60 percent of the \$19.2 million budget through November. All work is expected to be completed on time for the start of school in August.
- extended Superintendent Hector Garcia's contract 30 days, making July 31, 2026, his final day before retirement. The additional time is designed to ensure a smooth transition for whomever the board hires as its new superintendent.
- approved an amended draft 2025-26 school calendar and a draft 2026-27 school calendar. The school years will run from Aug. 19 to May 29 and Aug. 18 to May 28, respectively.

Hinsdale High School District 86 Board

Among other business Dec. 12, board members:

- approved a revised 2025-26 school year calendar that, among other changes, designates Oct 10, Feb. 13 and April 17 as student non-attendance days, and sets May 28 as the final day of classes. The board also approved the proposed 2026-27 school year calendar.
- approved the adoption of the 2024 tax levy in the amount of \$104.46 million. This does not include debt service levies on existing district bonds, which total \$12.17 million.
- awarded \$2.64 million in summer 2025 construction bid packages, including \$663,805 for asphalt and paving work, \$380,000 for plumbing, \$352,085 for drywall and rough carpentry, \$335,670 for hard tile installation and \$216,000 for masonry.

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Grant might reduce cost of work on Sixth

Residents' burden for replacing brick street would drop from \$7,300 to \$2,300 a year

By Pamela Lannom
plannom@thehinsdalean.com

A \$1.1 million federal grant could make the difference in whether historic Sixth Street is paved in asphalt or bricks when the road is reconstructed next year.

Prior to a public hearing on a proposed special service area at Tuesday's board meeting, Village President Tom Cauley said U.S. Rep. Jesus "Chuy" Garcia, who represents Hinsdale, is championing a grant for the sewer work on Sixth as part of a larger infrastructure bill that Congress is likely to approve before the end of the year.

"I'm not sure there's an appetite for the SSA at \$2 million," he said. "I don't think there is. But I think there is an appetite for an SSA if the SSA is only for \$900,000."

The village plans to spend \$800,000 on bricks as part of the \$4.5 million Sixth Street reconstruction project slated for 2025. That amount would cover bricks at intersections and where the street meets Garfield Avenue and County Line Road.

Several residents have asked the village to rebuild the roadway entirely in brick. Trustees agreed to do so if residents would bridge the \$2 million gap through an SSA, which would assess Sixth Street residents additional property taxes for the cost.

If the grant comes through and the residents' burden is reduced from \$2 million to \$900,000, the village can self-fund the project and avoid \$832,000 in interest charges.

With the grant, the average cost to a homeowner in the SSA would drop from \$7,262 a year to \$2,300 a year per parcel.

Cauley stated the purpose of Monday's public hearing was to determine the boundaries of the SSA, which includes 39 properties from Garfield to County Line Road with a front, side or back yard that abuts Sixth Street.

Rob D'Arco, who lives at 600 S. County Line Road, said he doesn't use Sixth Street and asked the board to remove houses that don't have a driveway on Sixth from the SSA.

He also wondered what will happen when other brick streets in the village

require reconstruction.

"Are there any assurances you can give us that those streets will also require an SSA?" D'Arco asked.

"I won't be village president when those decisions are made," said Cauley, who is not running for a fifth term in the spring. "I'm pretty sure we'll treat people consistently."

Arun Veluchamy, who owns the home at 610 S. Oak St., said he supports the project even though his is one of only eight properties included that is not on Sixth. Veluchamy said as a result of his home's reassessment last year, he will pay three or four times as much as some other residents.

"I'm all about contributing, but in a fair way," he said.

Rik Geiersbach, who lives at 512 S. Garfield St., said he believes the village is responsible to pay the entire cost of reconstruction.

"There's been deferred maintenance on this thing for decades," Geiersbach said, noting the street was supposed to be completed in 2020, according to the master infrastructure plan. He also noted the village did not create an SSA

to replace two blocks of First Street with brick.

Bill Haarlow, a former trustee who has been instrumental in this process, said he understands his neighbors' frustration at having to pay more for their street when the village has spent 15 years repairing other roads through the master infrastructure plan. He still supports the project and believes an SSA for \$900,000 has significant support.

"You're not hearing from those people this evening," he said. "They're not here — I would assume because they are OK with what the village is planning."

Residents who do not want an SSA have 60 days to oppose it. If residents collect petitions signed by 51 percent of property owners and 51 percent of taxpayers, trustees by law cannot create it. The process is set by state law, and Cauley said the village will assist those who want to oppose plan.

"I'm happy to raise my hand right now and say I'll lead the petition for opting out," Geiersbach said. "I'll pay zero. That's my statement right now."

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MEMOIRE

■ “Many gardeners in Hinsdale have actively planted butterfly-friendly plants for many years.” — Susan Nedza Lastres

Saving butterflies, world mission for Hinsdale couple

Milkweed was always a staple in the garden of Susan Nedza Lastres and husband Oswaldo. Like many gardeners, the couple knew the importance of providing a crucial food supply for monarch butterflies and wanted to do something to help the monarchs flourish. It wasn't until the couple met world-renowned National Geographic photographer Chris Rainier that they realized their efforts might not be enough to protect the species.

“Many gardeners in Hinsdale have actively planted butterfly-friendly plants for many years. Unfortunately, few of us know about the threats to their winter home and the decline in the population, which many of us have noted,” Lastres said.

During the summer months in Illinois, milkweed provides monarchs with their primary source of food. But once the butterflies arrive at their winter destination in Michoacán, Mexico, they face new challenges, Lastres said.

The monarchs' Mexican habitat is endangered due to deforestation, climate change and even crime, leading to the monarch being declared an endangered species by

the International Union for Conservation and Nature in July 2022. Meanwhile, the culture of the area where the monarchs winter is also at risk.

Rainier and Olivia McKendrick, founder of the Cultural Sanctuaries Foundation, invited the Lastreses to join them in their work to protect the monarchs' habitat, as well as the culture of the Mazahuan people of Michoacán. The foundation is creating a gathering place where the community can celebrate and learn about cultural crafts, textiles, music and dance. The center will include a classroom for teaching the local native language and serve as a destination for locals and tourists to learn about Mazahua culture, the Monarchs and local conservation.

Lastres said the project to protect and preserve the region is important to her and Oswaldo, not only as gardeners and lovers of nature, but as family. The couple's son-in-law was born in Mexico and, along with the Lastres' daughter, supports the Cultural Sanctuaries Foundation.

“We're doing our part,” said Lastres, who encourages other gardeners to do what they can



SUSAN LASTRES

HINSDALE RESIDENT FOR 30 YEARS • FORMER HINSDALE LIBRARY BOARD PRESIDENT • RETIRED EMERGENCY ROOM PHYSICIAN • GUEST LECTURER AT DEPAUL UNIVERSITY • MARRIED TO HUSBAND OSWALDO FOR 32 YEARS

to strengthen the monarch population and protect the environment.

Planting milkweed is a good start, she said. Planting other native plants and avoiding pesticides also helps the butterflies to thrive.

The Lastreses consider themselves ecotourists, taking trips all over the world to educate themselves about the environment and even

taking steps to improve it. They'll embark on their sixth National Geographic ecotour this summer when they travel to the British Isles. But being an ecotourist doesn't require a long-distance destination, Lastres said.

“It's important to understand what sustains the communities that we value,” Lastres said. Local parks, forest preserves and nature centers

offer opportunities to learn about the environment and how to protect it.

“Being a thoughtful visitor to any of these places is a place to start,” she said.

Lastres said she and her husband put what they've learned to work by recycling, buying from local farmers and downsizing to a single vehicle.

— story by Sandy Illian Bosch, photo by Jim Slonoff

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OPINION

EDITORIAL



'Twas the night before Christmas in Hinsdale

'Twas the night before Christmas, when all through the town
The Hinsdaleans were scurrying, they rushed all around.
For last-minute gifts and cards they did sprint,
Armed with lists and ideas and maybe some hints.

Gateway and Grant squares and downtown they traveled
But with each stop, their nerves did unravel.
The hustle and bustle had dampened their mood.
They were tired and cranky and needed some food.

They stopped for some lunch and looked over the list.
To finish their shopping, they knew they'd persist.
But they wanted much more than to just finish this chore.
The true meaning of Christmas they hoped to explore.

Where to find it, they wondered, as they ate their last bites.
Nice presents, they knew, brought recipients' delight.
And parties and dinners made all their friends glad
But the cooking and cleaning often left them quite sad.

They looked out the window like small boys and girls
And noticed that snowflakes were starting to swirl.
The flakes grew bigger — and so did their smiles.
Perhaps they'd stop rushing, if just for a while.

The sun shining bright on the new-fallen snow
Made the trees and the buildings look all aglow.
With food in their bellies and a light in their eyes
They paid, left a tip, bid the waitress goodbye.

Out into the snow they stepped with great haste.
The day was half over — they'd no time to waste.
Jewelry and candy and toys they did buy.
They finished their shopping in the blink of an eye.

Then they strolled down the walks and admired their town
As light, fluffy snowflakes kept tumbling down.
They noticed some carolers out spreading good cheer
On this, a most special day of the year.

Their eyes, how they twinkled! Their dimples, how merry!
Their cheeks were like roses, their noses like cherries.
They sang out their carols with love and with joy,
Bringing smiles to the faces of each girl and boy.

After singing and humming they walked to the pool.
Not long after that, they reached the kids' school.
They loved all the teachers and the principal, too.
They were lucky to have such great schools, they knew.

A park they did pass as they journeyed along
Where they had spent summer months in play and in song.
They walked still some more and looked up the hill.
The view of village hall still gave them a thrill.

The town, they were reminded, had so many treasures.
Living here brought them so many pleasures.
The smell of Kramer's when they walked in the door,
The service agencies that helped people galore —

Wellness House, The Community House, HCS and Robert Crown,
The chamber and humane societies were assets to town.
They loved the library and all it did lend,
The firefighters and policemen on whom they depend,

Their friend Robert Frost, writing poems in the park,
The lights on the trees twinkling bright after dark,
A historic museum showing life long ago,
Neighbors and friends so delightful to know.

They continued their walk, by a church they did pass.
They heard the first sounds of the 5 o'clock Mass.
In churches nearby, pews soon would be filled,
And the hustle and bustle would finally be stilled.

They felt peace in their hearts and joy in their souls
They had gotten so much from this Christmas Eve stroll.
Their frantic, anxious mood had experienced a shift
As they walked 'round the village and saw all its gifts.

These blessings, they knew, were a gift from above —
A sign of God's care, a sign of God's love.
And you could hear them exclaim 'ere they drove out of sight
"Happy Christmas, dear Hinsdale, and to all a good night."

— first published Dec. 21, 2006

GUEST COMMENTARY

When colleagues become friends

I write about friendship a lot in this space. How it grows, changes, saves us. The many forms it takes — neighbors, families, groups (book club!), even random acquaintances gone rogue into full friendships. Variations in form, size, duration



Kelly Abate

consumed a fair amount of red wine together. We laugh a ton. We endured COVID as physicians together. People sometimes say we look alike. I learn so much from her wisdom, her truisms, and her optimism. I love her like a sister.

all adding to the richness these relationships bring to our lives.

I've also written about how, if we're lucky, friendships find us where we are, and help guide us into the place we're meant to be. How, if we're very lucky, those friendships accompany us on our journeys and grow right along beside us.

But have I ever written about the relationships we make through work? Basically, we spend more waking hours interacting with colleagues than with almost any other group of people. They can make or break our day, even our job. Toxic/negative coworkers deplete us; positive/upbeat ones fill our tanks.

So here comes a holiday shout-out to work friends, the people placed in our lives by shared circumstance, who see us through the ebb and flow of professional and personal chaos. They say "you can't choose your family," and indeed we may not be able to choose our colleagues, either. But what happens when your colleagues actually become a family of sorts?

I have a partner who was first my teacher, then my friend, then my colleague — and who will always be my mentor. She established my practice 22 years ago and has supported me through life's many ups and downs. We have

worked with two women in my office for 20 years. We have watched each others' families grow, and shrink. We have cried together, but more often, we laugh until we cry. We feel each other's pain, celebrate our joys, and can finish each others' sentences. Two newer additions to our team have become our adopted daughter and surrogate niece. We have an excess (or a dearth) of estrogen in that clinic: we can never get the thermostat right. I would do anything for these women. They, too, are my sisters.

In another office, a shorter time frame, but another amazing team. The loyalty, intelligence, and professionalism of the people in this group make me grateful for every day I've gotten to work with them. They are fun and funny and smart.

So in this season of gratitude: thank you to my work/family/friends who happen to be one and the same. I couldn't get through my days without you.

Especially now, during the busy holidays, may we all appreciate — and celebrate — the gifts of our varied circles of friendship and family.

— Kelly Abate is a contributing columnist. Readers can email her at news@thehinsdalean.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



LETTERS POLICY

Requirements

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

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

Submission

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

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

Questions?

Call (630) 323-4422

OBITUARIES

Lina R. Collins

Lina R. Collins, nee Lenta, 91, of Hinsdale, died Dec. 9, 2024.

She is survived by her children, Karina Collins, Ghislaine Stuart and Heidi (Stephen) Fuchar; her grandchildren, Matthew (Krystal), Timothy (Keeli) and Justin (Megan) Stuart, Lauren Fuchar, Brianna (Jonathon) Rathberger and Joshua (Rachel) Fuchar; her seven great-grandchildren; and her siblings, Lucy Guy, Gina Dinamarca, Hugo Lenta and Sylvia Saavedra.



Collins

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made online to MissionMSA at donate.missionmsa.org/give/562187/#!/donation/checkout (select "research fund"), Adventist Disaster Relief Agency International at www.adra.org or American Cancer Society at www.cancer.org.

Sullivan Funeral Home in Hinsdale handled the arrangements.

Rose Theresa Dubiel

Rose Theresa (De Santis) Dubiel, formerly of Westmont and Brookfield, passed away peacefully Dec. 15, 2024, at the age of 106, the oldest resident of King-Bruwaert House in Burr Ridge.

She was born in 1918 to Vincent and Rose De Santis.

She was devoted to her lord and savior Jesus Christ, husband and children but she found the time to work, in her early years, to supplement the family income, study the Bible and exercise daily.

She was the matriarch of the family, a prayer leader, world class cook, avid card player and puzzle solver.

Everyone loved her.

She was preceded in death by her husband of 75 years, Arthur Theodore Dubiel; her daughter, Christine

(Deacon Marco) Lovero; her sisters, Ann DeDario and Atilia Bednar; and her brothers, Ray and Vince.

Rosie, as she was known fondly by her husband, is survived by five children, Jeanine Donner of Hinsdale, Raymond (Marta) Dubiel, Marianne Vigenser, Arthur Dubiel and Rosanne (Mark) Money; her 18 grandchildren; her 29 great-grandchildren; her two great-great-grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 19, at Adolf & Powell Funeral Home, 7000 S. Madison St., Willowbrook.

Entombment is at Queen of Heaven Cemetery in Hillside.

Dr. Timothy Frank Fendon

Dr. Timothy Frank Fendon, D.O., of Hinsdale, a man of unmatched wit, intelligence and generosity, passed away after a courageous battle with pancreatic cancer at the age of 57 on Dec. 16, 2024.

As an emergency room physician, Dr. Tim dedicated his life to helping others, bringing healing and hope to countless people during their most vulnerable moments. His colleagues admired his skill, his compassion and the levity he brought to even the most stressful days.

Generosity was the core of who Tim was. Whether offering his time, resources or a shoulder to lean on, he gave freely and with his whole heart. He worked tirelessly to ensure his children had a joyful and memorable childhood, filled with opportunities and laugh-



Fendon

ter. From family vacations to supporting their college and future dreams, his dedication to their happiness and success was boundless.

Outside of work and family, Tim was the life of the party, armed with a sharp wit and a playful sense of humor that could brighten anyone's day.

He found joy in surrounding himself with good people. His kindness and selflessness knew no limits.

Tim is survived by his wife, Sonia; his children, Nicholas, Jack and Elise; his mother, Patricia Fendon; and two sisters, Peg (Jeff) Cox and Kate Fendon.

Services are private.

Adolf & Powell Funeral Home in Willowbrook handled the arrangements.

Dorothy Marie Flannery

Dorothy Marie Flannery (née Johnson), 97, of LaGrange Park passed away peacefully Dec. 13, 2024.

She was born in 1927 in Chicago to Frank and Theresa (Daisy) Johnson.

A graduate of St. Constance High School in Chicago, Dorothy's journey with Ed began when they met when she was just 16. Over the next 62 years, Dorothy and Ed raised their family in Park Ridge. She was an active member of Mary Seat of Wisdom Parish, where she volunteered on many committees and served as president of the Council of Catholic Women. Ed and Dorothy also shared a love of travel, exploring places like Japan, Russia, Canada and Europe.

Dorothy was a woman of many talents and interests, one of her greatest being her love for gardening. As a Master Gardener, she spent countless hours creating and maintaining beautiful gardens, including her own landscaping business in Park Ridge.

Dorothy's work extended to the gardens of the Park Ridge Historic House and the Vial House in Indian Head Park. One of her proudest accomplishments was designing the Mary Garden at Mary Seat of Wisdom Church.

Dorothy also had a competitive streak. She was an avid golfer and bowler, continuing to enjoy both activities well into her 90s. Known for her sharp skills, she was just as admired for her kindness and sportsmanship as for her ability to excel in these sports. Dorothy also had a fun-loving passion for slot machines, and she would often share stories of her wins and losses with a sparkle in her eye.

In addition, Dorothy was a gifted artist. She painted watercolor scenes and lighted bottles, and, more recently, created mixed-media butterflies on canvas. In her later years, she began raising Monarch butterflies and created a butterfly garden at Bethlehem Woods. Her artistic legacy will live on through the lives she touched and the beautiful pieces she left behind.

She is survived by her six children, Dr. Ann (Peter Kobe), Kathleen (Richard) Brummet, Michael (Lori) of Hinsdale, Maureen (Mark) Blaber, Jim (Lyn) and Julie (Dave) Beck; her grandchildren, Kelly (Doug), Ryan (Kelly), Caroline (Andrew), Kate, Rob (Brittany), Jack (Jane), Christopher, Brendan, Kim, Erin, Will, Drew, Matt, Dan, Mick, Mary and Eddie; her great-grandchildren, Owen, Luke, Jackson, Carly, Faye, Ellie and Shane; and her brothers, Jim (Carol) Johnson and Larry (the late Diana) Johnson.

Dorothy was preceded in death by her sister, Eileen Kozlowski; and her siblings-in-law, John and Catherine Flannery and Eileen and Richard Helfenbein.

Visitation will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 26, at Adolf & Powell Funeral Home, 7000 S. Madison St., Willowbrook.

A celebration of life will be held at 9:30 a.m. Friday, Dec. 27, in the gathering space at Mary Seat of Wisdom Parish, 920 Granville Ave, Park Ridge. A funeral Mass will be said 10:30 a.m. at the church.

Interment will follow at All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made online to www.monarchjointventure.org/donate.



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OBITUARIES

Barbara Hopkins

Barbara Hopkins, née Sullivan, passed away peacefully Oct. 10, 2024.

Barbara was born in Chicago in 1942. As a very young girl she moved with her family to Maywood, where she attended Lincoln School and Proviso East High School.

In 1961 Barbara married Brian Hopkins and the couple moved to Hinsdale in 1964, where she raised her four sons. Juggling family and career, she worked for the following banks: the Bank of Hinsdale, the Harris Bank of Hinsdale and the Midwest Bank and Trust of Hinsdale, where she acted as vice president. In addition, she was active in the community and a member of the Hinsdale Chamber of Commerce from 1987-2007, serving as president from 1997-99. In 2001 she was named the chamber's Member of the Year.

As an avid antiquer, Barbara enjoyed going to house sales and flea markets. She was known for her uncanny knack for sniffing out bargains on things she loved to collect, such as clocks, furniture, glassware and dolls.



Hopkins

But above all, Barbara will be remembered for her strength, kindness, openness and adventurous and loving spirit. She will be sorely missed by all of her family and friends.

She is survived by her sons, Joseph (Xevi), Peter (Mary) and Daniel (Lauren); her grandchildren, Meghan (Timothy), Connor, Kae, Kyle and Makanda; her sisters, Patricia, Marie, and Sally; and her sister-in-law Virginia.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Brian; and her son, Scott.

A memorial gathering is being planned for 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday, Dec. 29, at the Katherine Legge Memorial Lodge, 5901 S County Line Road, Hinsdale. Refreshments will be served. All who knew Barbara are cordially invited to attend. At 2 p.m., a short presentation will be shown, and any attendees who wish to do so will be invited to share a few words about Barbara.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made online to the West Suburban Humane Society at <https://www.wshs-dg.org/get-involved/donate>.

Stephanie Julia Kirk

Stephanie Julia Kirk, née Pasternak, 77, of Hinsdale, passed away peacefully Dec. 2, 2024.

Born in 1947, in Washington, D.C., to Walter and Ercel Pasternak, Stephanie grew up to value education, graduating from Northwestern University in Evanston.

An avid reader, enthusiastic sports fan, and passionate gardener, Stephanie's varied interests brought her joy. Her courageous battle with cancer was marked by unwavering strength and a positive spirit. Her family and friends will deeply miss her.

Stephanie is survived by her husband of 56 years, Marquis Kirk; her children, Emily and David; her



Kirk

grandchildren, Henry, Ian and Ruby; her in-laws, Joshua and Eunice; and her siblings, Roger and Cathy Pasternak.

A memorial service will be held at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 4, at Adolf & Powell Funeral Home, 7000 S Madison St., Willowbrook, with the reception starting at 9:30 a.m. A livestream of the service will also be available.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made online to Wellness House at <https://wellnesshouse.org>.

Brian Powell Funeral Directors of Hinsdale handled the arrangements.

William Neal Moynihan

William Neal Moynihan of Hinsdale died Dec. 3, 2024, 91 years to the day after he was born in 1933.

Bill served in the U.S. Navy from Dec. 7, 1955, to Dec. 12, 1959. He was a man of great faith, dedicated to his family, a flamboyant entertainer, entrepreneur, patriot, writer and caretaker for all in need.

He is survived by his wife, Kathaleen Moynihan, nee Dec; his daughters, Ashley Miller and Susan (Tyler) Riddle; his grandchildren, Jessica, Grace, Abigail, Aaron,



Moynihan

Liam, Alexis, Eleanor, Kathaleen, William and Ryker; and his great-granddaughter, Scarlet.

A funeral Mass was said Dec. 13 at Notre Dame Catholic Church in Clarendon Hills.

Interment was at Holy Family Cemetery in Downers Grove.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made online to Notre Dame Parish Food Pantry at <https://notredameparish.org/food-pantry/>.

Sullivan Funeral Home in Hinsdale handled the arrangements.

Oksana Marchuk

Oksana Marchuk of Hinsdale passed away peacefully Dec. 15, 2024, with her family by her side.

Oksana, nee Holian, 88, was born in 1936 in Nemiriv, Ukraine, where she lived until World War II forced her family to relocate to Mittenwald, Germany.

In 1944, her family immigrated to the United States, ultimately settling in Archbold, Ohio. She graduated from Archibold High School in 1954 and attended Kent State University. At a social event in Cleveland she met the love of her life and future husband, Basil Marchuk. They settled in Hinsdale to raise their family.

Oksana enjoyed raising her four children, playing bridge (achieving life master) and tennis at Salt Creek Club, and traveling. She was an accomplished cook, admired for her dinner parties, and was a dedicated employee at Marshall Field's/Macy's for more than 30 years. In her later years, she enjoyed spending time with family, especially her great-grandchildren.



Marchuk

Oksana was preceded in death by her husband of 55 years, Dr. Basil Marchuk; and her son, Daniel.

She is survived by her daughters, Lydia Marchuk, Martha (Michael) Charysh, and Mary (John) Worthington; her daughter-in-law, Rose Marchuk; her grandchildren, Lesia (Thomas) Wolf and Michael Charysh, Elizabeth (Thomas) Sobczak, Andrew (Emily) Worthington and Kristen Worthington, and Jennifer, Megan and Stephanie Marchuk; and three great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be held from 10 to 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Dec. 21, at Muzyka Funeral Home, 2157 W. Chicago Ave., Chicago.

A funeral service will follow at noon at Saint Nicholas Ukrainian Catholic Cathedral, 835 N. Oakley Blvd., Chicago.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made online to the Hinsdale Hospital Foundation at www.uchicagomedicineadventhealth.org/foundations/hinsdale-hospital-foundation.

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ASK AN EXPERT

When and where are Christmas worship services?

Hinsdale faith communities offer a range of opportunities to celebrate Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Here are the times and activities offered by the towns' houses of worship, from family-friendly fellowship to candlelight services for people who want to step outside just as the clock strikes Christmas.

In addition to the in-person services listed below, many churches also offer online worship options for people's convenience. Use the contact information provided for more details.

Merry Christmas!

• **Compass**
(meets at The Community House)
415 W. Eighth St.
www.thecompass.net/hinsdale

(630) 753-1950
Dec. 24
1 p.m. — worship
• **First Church of Christ, Scientist**
405 E. First St.
www.firstchurchhinsdale.com

(630) 323-4740
Dec. 22
10 a.m. — service
• **Grace Episcopal Church**
120 E. First St.
www.gracehinsdale.org
(630) 323-4900
Dec. 24

4 p.m. — Family Communion with Pageant
10 p.m. — Carol Sing and Festal Eucharist
Dec. 25

10 a.m. — Eucharist
8:30 — Compline
• **Hinsdale Covenant Church**
412 S. Garfield Ave.
www.hinsdalecovenant.com
(630) 323-2318
Dec. 24

2, 3, 4 & 5 p.m. — Live Nativity services
10 p.m. — Candlelight service
• **Hinsdale United**

Methodist Church
945 S. Garfield Ave.
www.hinsdaleumc.com
(630) 325-1280
Dec. 24
4 p.m. — Family Friendly service
5:30 p.m. — Sounds of the Season concert
7 p.m. — Candlelight & Choir service
8 p.m. — Reception with refreshments

• **Redeemer Lutheran Church**
139 E. First St.
www.redeemehinsdale.org
(630) 323-5530
Dec. 24
4, 7 & 10 p.m. — worship
Dec. 25

10 a.m. — worship
• **St. Isaac Jogues Church**
306 W. Fourth St.
www.sij.net
(630) 323-1248
Dec. 24
3, 4:30 & 10:30 p.m. — Mass
Dec. 25
7:30, 9, 10:30 a.m. & noon — Mass

• **Trinity Church**
(Worshiping at Seventh-day Adventist Church)
201 N. Oak St.



www.trinityhinsdale.com
(630) 286-9303
Dec. 24
4 p.m. — family friendly service

• **Union Church**
137 S. Garfield Ave.
www.hinsdale.church
(630) 323-4303
Dec. 24
4 p.m. family-friendly wor-

ship
7:35 p.m. — Alumni Bells
8 p.m. — Lessons & Carols
• **Zion Lutheran Church**
204 S. Grant St.
www.zionhinsdale.org
(630) 323-0384
Dec. 24
2 & 5 p.m. — worship
Dec. 25
9:30 a.m. — worship



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VILLAGE OF HINSDALE HOLIDAY EVENT SCHEDULE



**HAPPENING
THIS
WEEKEND**

**TREE LIGHTING &
58TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS WALK**
Friday, December 6
Beginning at 5:00 PM
at Memorial Hall

HINSDALE FOR THE HOLIDAYS
Saturday, December 7
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
at Burlington Park



**CONTINUED
HOLIDAY
FUN
THROUGH
DECEMBER**

SANTA VISITS
Saturday, December 7, 14, & 21
11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
at Burlington Park

HOLIDAY SHOPPING PASSPORT
Sun. November 24 - Tues. December 24
Pick-up at local participating businesses

FOR MORE INFORMATION



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Winter break-ing up the boredom

Enjoy Christmas-themed activities during time off or check out something new

By Pamela Lannom
plannom@thehinsdalean.com

“Mom, I’m bored.”

It’s hard to believe that such words could be uttered this time of year, with the frenzy of activity around the holidays. But once school lets out tomorrow and kids have a few days at home, they just might be looking for something to do.

We’ve compiled a handful of suggestions below that extend into the new year. The first three are holiday-related, with the final one for those who have had their fill of holiday fun.



O Tannenbaum

Christmas Around the World at Chicago’s Museum of Science and Industry is a perennial favorite with many families.

The exhibit began with a single tree in 1942. The tree was newly decorated every day for 12 days to represent the countries fighting alongside America during World War II.

Today the annual celebration features a four-story, floor-to-dome Grand Tree surrounded by more than 50 trees and displays representing holiday traditions from culture around the world.

Themed around the science of snow, this year’s exhibit features photographs of real snowflakes taken by Ken Libbrecht, a physics professor from the California Institute of Technology.

Stop by other exhibits, like 007 Science: Inventing the World of James Bonds, and watch “Antarctica” in the Giant Dome Theater.

The trees will be on display through Jan. 6, with extended hours of 9:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. most days. Hours are 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Dec. 24, Jan. 31 and Jan. 6.

The museum is at 5700 S. DuSable Lake Shore Drive.

Admission, which includes Christmas Around the World, starts at \$25.95 for adults and \$14.95 for kids. Visit www.msichicago.org for more information.



How does the garden glow?

Lightscape at the Chicago Botanic Garden continues through Jan. 5. This year’s 1.3-mile trail takes the celebration to new heights with installations debuting in the U.S. for the first time.

Hold and cold beverages, savory and sweet snacks and adult and kid-friendly food will be available for purchase along the trail.

Have fun with special themed nights — Glow Nights on Tuesdays, PJ nights on Wednesdays and Ugly Sweater Nights on Thursdays.

The Chicago Botanic Garden is at 1000 Lake Cook Road in Glenview. Entry times are 4:30 to 9:15 p.m., with the garden closing at 11 p.m. Tickets are \$34 for adults in advance, \$39 day of and \$19/\$24 for kids ages 3-13 plus parking.

Visit www.chicagobotanicgarden.org for more details.



Winter wonderland

Families don’t have to travel far — or buy tickets — to enjoy a light show. Winter Lights at Central Park in Oak Brook features a half-mile walk illuminated by thousands of twinkling lights. Discover dancing tree, colorful rainbow arches, cascading snowflakes, dazzling twirling icicles, vibrantly colored butterflies and musical hearts.

The Cocoa Cabin will be open for guests to purchase cookies, candy canes, hot chocolate and more from 4:30 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays, Dec. 19 and 26.

Central Park is at 1450 Forest Gate Road.

The walk is free and accessible to all. It is open daily from 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. through Jan. 5.



A grand(er) entrance

The new Wonder of Water exhibit at Chicago’s Shedd Aquarium transforms the historic rotunda into two habitats brimming with activity — one freshwater and one saltwater ecosystem. Guests can stand at the heart of the aquarium between two distinctly rich environments to immerse themselves in the biodiversity of life beneath the water’s surface.

“The message of this exhibit is a simple one: water is what makes the dazzling biodiversity on Earth possible. Water is a precious and finite resource,” said Sarah Hezel, the aquarium’s vice president of design and exhibits. “This space transports our guests out of their lives for a moment to connect with life underwater, to spark our visitors’ curiosity and sense of wonder.”

The planted freshwater exhibit is one of the largest in the world, with more than 5,000 fish swimming in dazzling schools amongst 50 plant species, some over 7 feet tall and growing. On the marine side, vibrant and colorful corals live, grow and thrive in colonies that come in stunning shapes and sizes with 1,500 bold and beautiful reef fishes. Side by side, guests will see the distinct differences and surprising similarities between fresh and saltwater environments.

The rotunda has been home to two other exhibits. It first opened in 1930 as a 40-foot diameter rock garden and sunken tropical pool filled with native fishes, turtles and frogs. In 1971 it was transformed into a 90-gallon reef with tropical fish, stingrays and sharks.

The aquarium is located at 1200 S. DuSable Lake Shore Drive. For more information on hours and plan-ahead pricing, visit www.sheddaquarium.org.

Media literacy helps teen be healthier consumers

In today's world, teens and pre-teens need to be "smart" consumers of media messages and this calls for the support of their teachers, parents and other trusted adults to help them make sense of what they are hearing and seeing. Media influence on young people may be direct and deliberate, such as advertisements that want them to become familiar with a particular brand. Or media influence may be indirect (though often still deliberate) such as sexualized images and content on social media or in the programs they stream, violent imagery on video games or song lyrics that promote substance use.

So how do we, as trusted adults, help young people navigate the media's messages and make accurately informed decisions about their health and well-being? The key is media literacy. Media literacy is the ability to access, analyze and evaluate all forms of media. It encourages critical thinking skills and helps students to evaluate the quality, quantity and underlying messages in the media

they consume. In July of 2021, Illinois became the first state to require high schools to teach media literacy as a means to help students "develop 21st century skills for inquiry and critical thinking to better navigate the current information landscape." Today, 19 states require some instruction in media literacy, some having requirements all the way from K-12, which makes a great deal of sense. Media literacy should begin when young people begin using devices, including video gaming.

One of the best ways to teach media literacy is to integrate it throughout the curriculum. An area where media literacy instruction is a natural fit is health education. Health teachers can pull countless examples from television programs, music videos, social media and advertisements that message expectations around beauty standards, gender expectations, and



Katie Gallagher
On mental health

social expectations around sex and substance use, and then work with students to critically evaluate them by asking some basic questions:

- Who is behind it?
- What is the motivation and what do they want from you?
- How does it make you feel and is that what they want?
- What messages does it send about what to wear, eat or how to behave?
- Is anyone being left out?
- Who has the power?

Media literacy is not just a skill to be taught at school. Parents should also be partners in this effort by discussing these questions when watching television or listening to music at home. The more consistently young people learn to think about the messages that are coming at them, the more likely they are to apply this lens when coming across new content, including explicit song lyrics, unchecked social media

influencers or pornographic content.

The impact of media literacy is beginning to be studied more closely as more and more schools and parents require that students learn and practice it. One example of how we are starting to see the benefits of media literacy is with young women and body image. Recent studies have shown a connection between social media use and low self-esteem and poor body image, impacting all teens, but particularly females.

The good news is that preliminary evidence suggests students who develop strong media literacy skills do develop some protection against social media's potentially negative influences. These early results on the impact of media literacy are promising. Together, let's arm young people with necessary tools, such as media literacy, to combat messages that provide misinformation, or work to erode their self-confidence.

— *Katie Gallagher is director of education at Candor Health Education in Hinsdale.*

■ Parents should also be partners in this effort by discussing these questions when watching television or listening to music at home.



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Learn how families celebrated Christmas in the late 19th century with a visit to Kline Creek Farm. Winter Holidays in the 1890s runs through Dec. 30. See the holiday happenings listing on Page 44. (photo courtesy of the DuPage County Forest Preserve District)

ARTFULLY DONE

■ Origami — Folding in the New Year

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

Learn from the Chicago Area Origami Society the basic folds of origami to transform flat paper into 3-D masterpieces. Finish the program with a paper crane origami which represents luck, health and peace. Time: 2 to 4 p.m. RR

■ Mayslake: A Sanctuary for Refreshment and Renewal

Jan. 7-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.

Meet the artist and enjoy signature mocktails from 6 to 8 p.m. Jan. 15. Hours: noon to 3 p.m. weekdays, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Saturdays.

FAMILY FUN

■ Hygee Hangout

Dec. 31
Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center
9800 Willow Springs Road, Willow Springs
www.fpdcc.com
(708) 839-6897

Choose happiness this winter by coming to the visitors center for activities, games and refreshments inspired by the Danish practice of Hygge. Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. RR

FOR A CAUSE

■ Bernie's Book Bank Drive

Through Jan. 7

www.berniesbookbank.org
Donate new or gently used children's books to increase book ownership

Please turn to Page 28

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PULSE

Continued from Page 26

among underserved children throughout Chicagoland. Hinsdale drop-off locations are 400 Pamela Circle, 608 E. First St., Hinsdale Bank & Trust at 25 E. First St. and CorePower Yoga at 34 S. Vine St.

GAME ON

■ Chicago Elite Youth Volleyball

Tuesdays, Dec. 31-Jan. 28
The Community House
415 E. Eighth St.
www.thecommunityhouse.org
(630) 323-7500

Kids in first through fifth grade will be introduced to the game of volleyball or coached to improve their individual skill development in passing, setting, attacking, blocking, serving, defense and movement. Players will be divided according to skill level and age. Time: 5 to 6 p.m. Cost: \$120. RR, MD

■ Jodie Harrison Registration

Ongoing

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

Sign up for the Jodie Harrison recreational youth basketball league for kids in second through eighth grades, emphasizing instruction and helping kids learn and enjoy the game of basketball. Practices begin the week of Jan. 6, and games begin Jan. 18; there will be one weekday practice and one weekend game per week. Cost: \$335. RR, MD

GREAT OUTDOORS

■ Winter Solstice Celebration

Dec. 21
Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center
9800 Willow Springs Road,
Willow Springs
www.fpdcc.com
(708) 839-6897

Celebrate the longest night of the year with a bonfire and self-guided walk along the Farm Pond Trail. S'mores and hot cocoa will be provided. Time: 5 to 7 p.m. RR

■ Winter Bird Watch

Dec. 27
Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center
9800 Willow Springs Road,
Willow Springs
www.fpdcc.com
(708) 839-6897

Walk to discover which birds are winter residents and then get warm by a cozy fire. Hot cocoa will be provided. The program is for ages 14 & up. Time: 9 a.m.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

■ Fitness Hike

Jan. 4
Brezina Woods
La Grange Road south of
Cermak Road, near La Grange
Park
www.fpdcc.com
(312) 533-5751

These 6-mile hike will be faster paced with little to no stopping or interpretation. Time: 9:30 a.m.

■ Self-Care Saturday

Jan. 11

Please turn to Page 30



SUNDAY – THURSDAY
11am-11pm

FRIDAY-SATURDAY
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AT THE FOREFRONT

**UChicago
Medicine**

Continued from Page 28

Mayslake Peabody Estate
1717 W. 31st St., Oak Brook
www.dupageforest.org
(630) 933-7248

Use organic lavender to create an eye pillow, moisturizing salt scrub and lavender sachets to use at home. The program is for ages 18 and up. Time: 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost: \$64. RR

Spring Rock Parkrun

Every Saturday
4400 Central Ave., Western Springs
www.parkrun.us/springrock/

Sign up for this at-your-pace 5K run organized entirely by volunteers. Just register with parkrun once, and bring a scannable copy of the barcode to the run in order to receive a time. Join the group for a post-run coffee at Starbucks. The course is available at the website above, and run results and reports will be posted a day or two after each event. Time: 8 a.m.

JUST FOR KIDS

Explore Nature Days

Dec. 27
Lake View Nature Center
17W063 Hodges Road,
Oakbrook Terrace
www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr
(630) 789-7090

Kids ages 6-9 can meet the center's animals and focus on fun nature subjects. This month's theme is Scorching Sands. Children should be dressed ready for indoor and outdoor activities. Time: 9:30 to 11:30 a.m. Cost: \$25. RR

Improv Class

Thursdays Jan. 9-Feb. 13,
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St.
www.thecommunityhouse.org
(630) 323-7500

Stage Door Fine Arts will introduce students ages 7-16 to the basics of acting as taught at programs like Second City and iO Chicago, including expressing emotions by using their bodies, gestures and facial expressions and creating characters and situations of all shapes and sizes. Time: 5 to 6 p.m. Cost: \$230. RR, MD

January Scavenger Hunt

Jan. 1-31
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.

www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

Kids of all ages can stop by the library any time and find the woodland animals hiding around the Youth Services Department, learning fun facts about them along the way. Hours: 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Mondays to Thursdays, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Fridays, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturdays and 1 to 5 p.m. Sundays.

NOTEWORTHY

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

This Chicago-based folk blues group performs fun, lively and heartfelt versions of traditional blues songs as well as creating original songs

that tip the hat to the tradition. Streaming tickets also are available. Time: 7 p.m. Tickets: \$20.

ON STAGE

'Disney's The Little Mermaid'
Through Jan. 12
Drury Lane Theatre
100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace
www.drurylanetheatre.com/

the-little-mermaid
(630) 530-0111

Dive beneath the waves with Ariel, a young mermaid with a captivating voice and an insatiable curiosity, as she defies her father and makes a daring deal for the chance to create the world of her dreams on land. Enjoy the beautiful score including favorites like "Under the

Please turn to Page 38

The Hinsdalean

A message from the co-owners of The Hinsdalean



Pamela Lannom
Editor



Jim Slonoff
Publisher

Dear Hinsdalean,

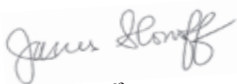
It's hard for us to believe we started our 19th year of publication in September of this year. And while another year has flown by, we continue to devote our time and energy into providing you with the best community newspaper we can. We were humbled once again to be named the best weekly newspaper of our size in the state by the Illinois Press Association - for the fifth year in a row.

We hope this message finds you well. We are reaching out to you, our valued readers, to ask for your support. In order to continue providing high-quality, independent journalism, we are seeking voluntary contributions from our community of readers.

Your generous donation will help us maintain our commitment to delivering reliable news and insightful stories. Every contribution, big or small, makes a meaningful impact.

If you're interested in supporting our work, you can easily make a donation using the QR code below or by filling out and returning the form below. We deeply appreciate your consideration and continued support.

Thank you for being a part of our community.



James Slonoff
Publisher




Pamela Lannom
Editor

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

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 \$75
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The Hinsdale Assembly Class of 2024



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Amelia Fitzgerald



Hope Huizenga



Alexis Isenhart



Surina Iyengar



Elisa Julian



Audrey Kisluk



Elizabeth Lahtmann



Katelyn Scott



Ella Simmons



Claire Witte

Since 1963, the Hinsdale Assembly Board has contributed more than \$3.4M to the Hinsdale Hospital Foundation touching the lives of countless young adults, families and the communities we serve. This year, the Hinsdale Assembly will continue its five-year \$250,000 commitment to the NeoNatal Intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Hinsdale Hospital.

Eleven Debutantes and 19 Honor Guards will be presented at the 61st annual Hinsdale Assembly Ball, held at the Hilton Oak Brook Hills Resort on December 23rd. The ball is the culmination of a busy year for these women and men, who learned the importance of community service and philanthropy through a variety of volunteer experiences. Whether clearing brush for the DuPage County Forest Preserve, leading Bingo at a retirement community, enjoying the day with children at Wellness House, serving families at HCS Family Services and making blankets for the Hinsdale Hospital, the Assembly Class volunteered many service hours and we thank them for their passion and commitment.



Sebastian Aziz



Evan Bots



Nathaniel Curran



Cuyler Facchini



Colin Geier



Jacob Gupta



Aidan Hernandez



Peter Hester



Xavier Jashnani



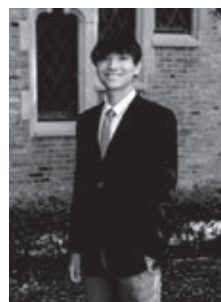
Ethan Lobraco



Andrew Lundgren



Charles Lynch



James Melkus



Joseph Morrissey



Oliver Pohlentz



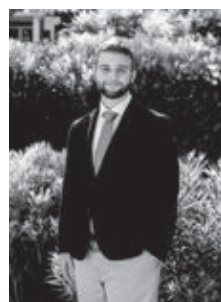
Peter Smith



Jack Walsh



Emmet Widtfeldt



Benjamin Wittemann

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zionhinsdale.org

FOR THE GRACE OF
GOD HAS APPEARED

Christmas Eve: 2:00 and 5:00 PM

Christmas Day: 9:30 AM

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

Titus 2:11; 1 Corinthians 1:9

Rev Ron Rock, Interim Pastor | Ms. Elizabeth Reilley, Director, Early Childhood Education Center
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BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE OF HOPE AND HEALING:
DECEMBER 21 AT 7PM

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

CHRISTMAS MORNING:
QUIET SERVICE AT 9AM

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405 East First Street, Hinsdale

Please join us for our
Christmas Service
December 22nd at 10 a.m.

All are welcome!

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every Sunday at 10:00 a.m.
for our Healing Sunday Services





CHURCH of the HOLY NATIVITY
Clarendon Hills

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS EVE

DECEMBER 22
AN ADVENT SERVICE OF LESSONS AND CAROLS WITH
EUCCHARIST | 9:30 AM

DECEMBER 24
FAMILY CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE | 4:00 PM
CANDLELIGHT CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE | 10:00 PM

CHRISTMAS DAY

DECEMBER 25
CHRISTMAS HOLY EUCHARIST | 10:00 AM

 Church of the Holy Nativity
275 S. Richmond Ave
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514



630.323.6820 | www.holynativitych.org

**All are
Welcome!**

**Christmas Eve
Services**

3:00, 7:00 & 9:00 pm
**Candlelight, Carols
& Communion**

Community Presbyterian Church
39 N. Prospect, Clarendon Hills

Christmas Worship



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

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

412 S. Garfield www.hinsdalecovenant.com




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GOD WITH US!

YOU'RE INVITED!
CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP TUES DEC 24
4pm Family Friendly Service 5:30pm Sounds of the Season Concert
7pm Candlelight Service 8pm Reception with Refreshments

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

Christmas at Grace Episcopal Church



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

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

Christmas Day
10:00 a.m.
Holy Eucharist

Grace Episcopal Church & Academy
120 E. First Street, Hinsdale
Streaming: watch.gracehinsdale.org
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Merry Christmas

from Notre Dame Parish



CONFESSIONS
12/21 Saturday at 4:00-4:45pm
12/22 Sunday, before Masses

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES
3:00PM | 3:15PM (GYM)
4:45PM | 10:30PM

CHRISTMAS DAY
9:00AM & 11:00AM

**JANUARY 1ST, SOLEMNITY
OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD
HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION**
9:00AM & 11:00AM

64 Norfolk Ave. Clarendon Hills
(630) 654-3365 | notredameparish.org

Christmas Worship



Worship with Redeemer

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

December 25 • Christmas Day
*10:00am

**livestream option on
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RIVER OF LIFE

Candlelight Christmas Eve Service
Tuesday, December 24th from 5-6pm

All Are Welcome!

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*Rejoice
at Christmas*


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CATHOLIC CHURCH AND SCHOOL

2024 Christmas Schedule

Confessions
Mondays, 5:30pm until finished
Saturdays, 8:30am until finished, 3:30pm-4:15pm

December 24th: Christmas Eve Masses

- 3:00pm (Church & Parish Center)
- 4:30pm (Church & Parish Center)
- Mass at Midnight: 10:15pm Carols, 10:30pm Mass

December 25th: Christmas Day Masses

- 7:30am • 10:30am
- 9:00am • Noon

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God

- New Years Eve/December 31st: 5:00pm
- New Years Day/January 1st: 7:00am, 10:00am

Join us every Sunday for Mass

- Saturdays for 4:30pm vigil
- Sundays at 7:30am, 9:00am, 10:30am, Noon

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CHRISTMAS
AT THE COMPASS

You're invited to a special hour-long Christmas Eve service at The Compass Church in Hinsdale! Join us at The Community House for a heartwarming time of tradition, reflection and joy.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 24 AT 1P

Visit thecompass.net/Christmas for information about our Christmas Eve services at all our locations.



We can't wait to meet you!
WEEKLY SUNDAYS AT 10A
at The Community House

 **THECOMPASSCHURCH**

Hinsdale Campus | 415 W 8th Street | Hinsdale, IL 60521 | thecompass.net

Christmas Worship




Christmas @ UNION CHURCH OF HINSDALE

DEC 22 2024	Children's Christmas Pageant 10:00 A.M.
DEC 24 2024	Christmas Eve Services 4:00 P.M. Friends + Family-Friendly 7:35 P.M. Alumni Bells 8:00 P.M. Worship + Lessons

137 S. Garfield St. | hinsdale.church




TRINITY CHURCH

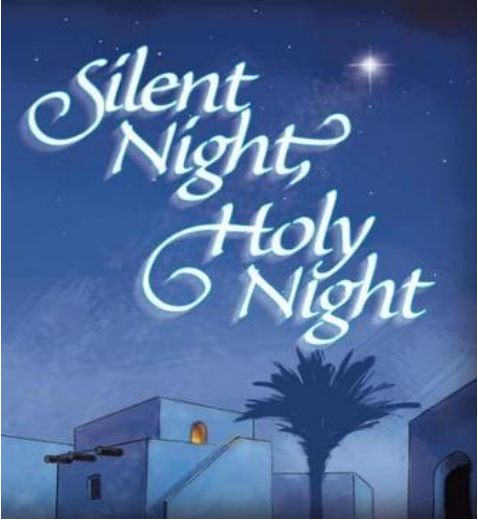
Join us at 4:00 pm
Christmas Eve

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



TRINITYHINSDALE.COM

**CHRISTMAS EVE WORSHIP: 2:00 P.M.,
LESSONS AND CAROLS: 5:00 P.M.
CHRISTMAS DAY: 9:30 A.M.**



**Zion Lutheran Church and
Early Childhood Education
Center**
zionhinsdale.org

Continued from Page 30

Sea,” “Part of Your World,” and “Kiss the Girl.” Times: 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays, 1:30 and 7 p.m. Thursdays, 7 p.m. Fridays, 3 and 8 p.m. Saturdays and 2 and 6 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: start at \$52.95.

■ ‘Goodnight Moon and the Runaway Bunny’

Jan. 16
McAninch Arts Center
College of DuPage
421 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn
www.atthemac.org
(630) 942-4000

Kids in pre-K through second grade can experience this Mermaid Theatre of Nova Scotia production of beloved stories brought to life with endearing animal puppets, stunning scenic effects and evocative music. Seating assignments are provided the day of the show. Times: 9:45 & 11:30 a.m. Tickets: \$10.

SPECIAL EVENTS

■ Open House

Dec. 28
Lake View Nature Center
17W063 Hodges Road,
Oakbrook Terrace
www.obtpd.org/nature
(630) 941-8747

Learn more about the Lake View Nature Center’s programs and events and visit some cool critters at this open house, complete with nature-themed activities. All ages are welcome. Hours: 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

■ Mussel Matters

Jan. 9
The Preserves at Oak Meadows
900 North Wood Dale Road,
Addison
www.dupageforest.org
(630) 933-7248

Join a film screening of “Mussel Matters: Saving Critical Species in DuPage County” followed by a moderated panel Q&A with local experts. The program is for ages 16 and up. Time: 6 to 7:30 p.m. Cost: \$10. RR

TEENS & TWEENS

■ Teen Self-Defense Workshop

Jan. 5
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St.
www.thecommunityhouse.org
(630) 323-7500

Ages 11-17 will participate in a series of discussions and be introduced to basic physical self-defense skills and techniques focusing on mindset, skill set and planning. Attendees must have a signed electronic waiver on file in advance of the event. Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Cost: \$47. RR, MD

WINTER BREAK

■ HHS Winter Camps

Dec. 23, 27, 30 & Jan. 2-3
Hinsdale Humane Society
21 Salt Creek Lane
www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org
(630) 323-5630

The humane society invites kids in grades one through six to dive into the world of animals through engaging hands-on activities, creative crafts, fun games and

up-close interactions with furry friends, learning valuable lessons in animal care, advocacy and kindness. Each day of camp will have the same lesson and activities. Parents should sign up their child for one day during each week. Times: 9 to 11:30 a.m. for grades one to three, 12:30 to 3 p.m. for grades four to six. Cost: \$60 per day.

■ Winter Break Camp

Weekdays Dec. 23-Jan. 3
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St.
www.thecommunityhouse.org
(630) 323-7500

Kids in kindergarten through middle school will enjoy arts and crafts, group games, cooking projects and STEM activities along with a field trip on Wednesday of each week. No camp Dec.

Please turn to Page 42

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*Source: MRED.LLC.com Data average 9/10/24-12/10/24. **Total career sales. All information deemed reliable, but not guaranteed.

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 - Plus full air mattress available

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- Pelaton Bike • Electric vehicle charger in garage

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From all of us at KB Group,

Thank you for making our work a pleasure!
May your holiday be merry and bright!

COMPASS



Kris Berger

630.975.0088

kris.berger@compass.com

krisbergergroup.com

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208 E 6th St



1900 Spring Rd - The Butler



15W154 60th St



8721 Balmoral Ct



848 Cleveland Rd



4117 Clausen Ave



812 W 56th St
(Represented Buyer)



35 S Bodin St
(Represented Buyer)



700 Gregford Rd



3914 Adams Rd



16 Robin Hood Ranch Ln



142 E 1st St



714 Cleveland Rd



527 Princeton Rd
(Represented Buyer)



5623 Childs Ave



210 N Oxford Ave
(Represented Buyer)



1640 Carnegie Ct
(Represented Buyer)



225 S Williams St
(Represented Buyer)



830 N Euclid Ave
(Represented Buyer)



5707 Sutton Pl



643 S Lincoln Ave



7 Baybrook Ct



202 W Birchwood Ave



1507 Midwest Club Pkwy



741 S Garfield St



12175 Morandi Ct
(Represented Buyer)



19W187 Newport Ln
(Represented Buyer)



416 N Cass Ave, Unit 4



138 Spring Ave
(Represented Buyer)



18830 Ruth Dr
(Represented Buyer)



108 Oak Ridge Dr



3605 Madison St



28 Chestnut Ave
(Represented Buyer)



236 Powell St



106 Woodstock Ave
(Represented Buyer)



16W479 Timberlake Dr
(Represented Buyer)



1500 W Monroe St, Unit 623



228 S Adams St



1416 Westglen Dr
(Represented Buyer)



801 Village Center Dr,
Unit 402



321 Park Ave
(Represented Buyer)



406 Kenmare Dr



3702 Frederick Dr
(Represented Buyer)



5760 S Washington St



131 Briarwood Ave
(Represented Buyer)



1114 E Oak Ave
(Represented Buyer)



5643 Holmes Ave



13303 S Country Club Dr,
Unit 2A



4224 Saratoga Ave, J110
(Represented Buyer)



6547 S County Line Rd



37 Tartan Lakes Dr
(Represented Buyer)



4018 Ellington Ave
(Represented Buyer)



29 Tartan Lakes Dr



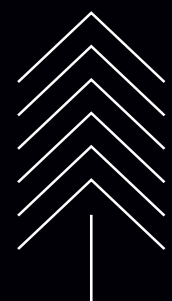
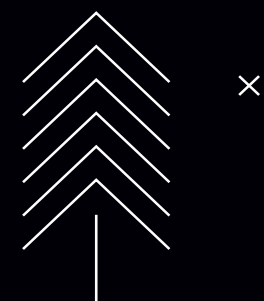
17W234 Massel Ct



950 W Huron St,
Unit 305
(Leased)



1249 W Madison St,
Unit 207
(Leased)



Kris Berger
630.975.0088

kris.berger@compass.com
krisbergergroup.com

Pet pic of the week

Cloudy is a spirited 12-year-old who knows exactly what she wants, a home where she can be the center of attention. Full of life and sass, she'll keep her owners on their toes with her bold personality and reward them with endless companionship. While she'd prefer to be a one-and-only, she promises to fill the home with love, laughter and just the right amount of cat-titude. To meet her or for more information, stop by the Hinsdale Humane Society Tuthill Family Pet Rescue & Resource Center, visit www.hinsdale-humane-society.org or call (630) 323-5630. (photo provided)



Continued from Page 38

24, 25, 31 or Jan. 1. Register for one day or all seven. Extended care is available for an additional fee. Time: 7:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Cost: \$90 per day, \$510 for all six days. RR, MD

■ Chicago Elite Volleyball Winter Break Clinic

Dec. 23
The Community House
415 E. Eighth St.
www.thecommunityhouse.org
(630) 323-7500

Youth ages 8-14 will be both introduced to the game of volleyball and encouraged to improve their individual skill development in passing, setting, attacking, blocking, serving, defense and movement. Players will be divided according to skill level and age and challenged accordingly. Time: 10 a.m. to noon. Cost: \$60. RR, MD

■ Pee Wee Sportsters Camps

Dec. 30 & Jan. 2-3
The Community House
415 E. Eighth St.

www.thecommunityhouse.org
(630) 323-7500

Kids ages 3-5 will be introduced to football, basketball, soccer, baseball, floor hockey, kickball, running games and more, with an emphasis on teamwork and sportsmanship. Time: 10 to 11 a.m. Cost: \$52. RR, MD

■ 5 Star Winter Soccer Camp

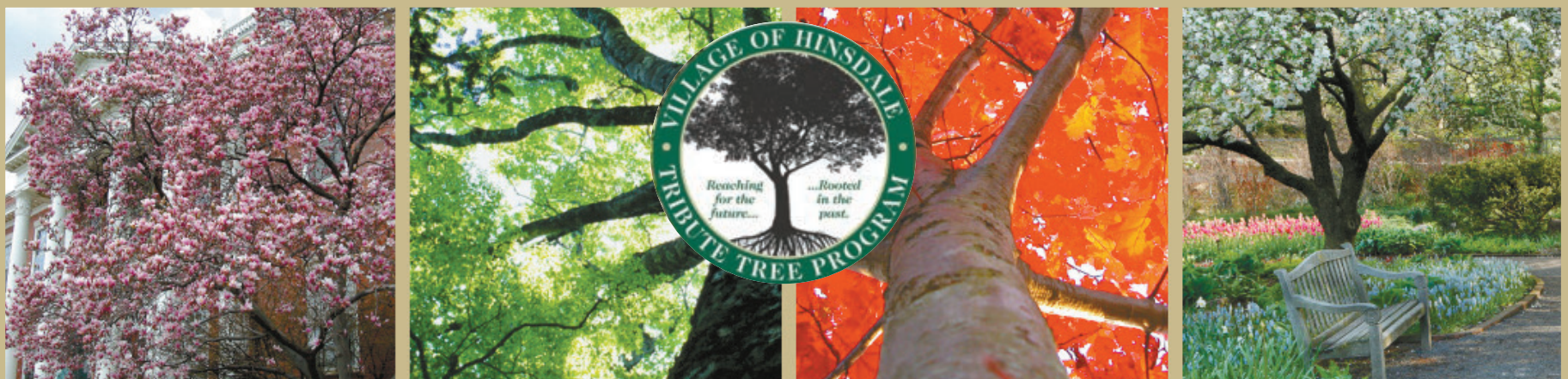
Jan. 2-3
Hinsdale Central Fieldhouse
5500 S. Grant St.
www.thecommunityhouse.org
(630) 323-7500

This co-ed program for ages 5-12 presents a curriculum focused on developing fundamental technique while creating an atmosphere that unlocks the game within each child. T-shirts are included, and participants should bring a ball. Time: 1 to 4 p.m. Cost: \$114, RR, MD

Key

RR - registration required

MD - member discount



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For further details, please contact the Village Forester, John Finnell

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COLDWELL BANKER
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HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS

■ The Nutcracker'

Dec. 21-22
Hinsdale South Auditorium
7401 Clarendon Hills
Road, Darien
www.wsballet.org

The West Suburban Ballet Conservatory will present this holiday classic. Time: 1 and 4 p.m. Dec. 21, 1 p.m. Dec. 22. Tickets: \$40.

■ Holiday Afternoon Tea

Dec. 21 & 28
Lucille Restaurant at Drury Lane
100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace
www.lucillerestaurant.com
(630) 530-8300

Enjoy an exquisite afternoon tea around a breathtaking Christmas tree, accompanied by live entertainment playing favorite holiday tunes. Teas also are slated for Dec. 26 and 27. Reservations required 48 hours in advance. Time: 1 p.m. Cost: \$75, \$35 for ages 5-12.

■ Holiday Shopping Passport

Through Dec. 24
www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr

Get into the holiday spirit and support local businesses by participating in the passport program. Pick up a passport at a participating business, Village Hall or the Hinsdale Public Library and start collecting stickers at each shop. Each sticker equals one raffle entry. Winners will be notified by the village starting Jan. 3.

■ Christmas Day Brunch

Dec. 25
Lucille Restaurant at Drury Lane
100 Drury Lane, Oakbrook Terrace
www.lucillerestaurant.com
(630) 530-8300

Let someone else handle the cooking and enjoy a morning of cherished memories and togetherness. This festive brunch features made-to-order omelets, hand-carved prime rib and warm vanilla bread pudding with caramel-bourbon sauce. Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Cost: \$115, \$50 for ages 5-12, free for 4 and younger.

■ Christmas Chamber Concert

Dec. 28
Hinsdale Seventh-day

Adventist Church
201 N. Oak St.

Julia Tsien on piano and Steven Song on violin will present this concert. A free will offering will be collected. Time: 6 p.m.

■ Winter Holidays in the 1890s

Through Dec. 30
Kline Creek Farm
1N600 County Farm Road,
West Chicago
www.facebook.com/
klinecreekfarm
(630) 206-9576

Join a guided tour of the 1890s farm house focusing on winter holiday traditions. Learn how farm families decorated the tree, exchanged gifts, and prepared food for the holidays. All ages are welcome and registration is not required. No tours Tuesdays and Wednesdays, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: Free, \$5 suggested donation per person ages 3 and up.

■ New Year's Eve Concert

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

Ring in 2025 with Maestro Muspratt as he conducts a fun and exciting New Year's Eve pops concert featuring a variety of light classics, Strauss waltzes, arias, guest soloist Richard Ollarsaba, champagne and surprises. Afternoon performances have limited tickets available. Times: 1:30, 5 & 8:30 p.m. Tickets: \$68-\$80

■ Holiday Magic

Through Dec. 31
Brookfield Zoo
8400 31st St.
www.brookfieldzoo.org/
holidaymagic

Visit this light festival featuring more than 2 million twinkling LED lights. Enchanting scenes come to life with giant illuminated animals, a dazzling tunnel show, Santa and captivating walk-through displays! Marvel at more than 900 beautifully decorated trees that illuminate the night, each adorned by local community groups and organizations. Take a leisurely

stroll through new immersive displays, Candy Cane Lane and Sparkling Coast, and enjoy the festive atmosphere. Some activities have additional fees. See website for hours and full schedule. Tickets: \$20.95 to \$34.95 plus parking.

■ Illumination

Through Jan. 4
Morton Arboretum
4100 Route 53, Lisle
www.mortonarb.org

This event is heralded as one of the best winter light shows in the country by U.S. News and World Report and USA Today. New this year is a vibrant display of interactive tree shapes synchronized to different musical instruments in the Grand Garden. Along the one-mile walking trail, a concession tent will serve hot chocolate, snacks, alcoholic beverages and s'mores kits to be enjoyed at warming bonfires. Electric Illumination late-night experiences are set for Dec. 6-7 & 13-14. See website above for details. Open Wednesdays to Sundays through Dec. 15 then daily Dec. 18 to Jan. 4; closed Dec. 24-25. Hours: 4:30 to 9:30 p.m. Tickets: \$13.80 to \$30.40.

■ Christmas at Cantigny

Through Jan. 5
Cantigny Park
1S151 Winfield Road,
Wheaton
(630) 668-5161
www.cantigny.org

Explore a dazzling array of experiences while strolling a half-mile, fully ADA- and stroller-accessible path. Enjoy music-orchestrated light shows, festive decorations, larger-than-life flower sculptures and a towering 28-foot Christmas tree. Stop by the Holiday Shop to pick up a Cantigny-grown poinsettia. The McCormick House is open with rooms adorned in festive splendor. Instead of Christmas music, experience a special light show with songs from favorite eras during "A Very Taylor Christmas" on most Sunday evenings. Enjoy a scenic outdoor skate at the rink adjacent to Le Jardin. Visit the website listed above for a full schedule. Tickets: \$12 to \$38, with discounts for advance purchases.

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SPIRIT OF GIVING

■ Gavin Coyle: A Celtic Christmas

Dec. 20
McAninch Arts Center
College of DuPage
421 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn
www.atthemac.org
(630) 942-4000

Revel in the holiday spirit with award-winning recording artist Gavin Coyle as he brings his annual "A Celtic Christmas" back to the MAC. Sing along with Gavin and his band, pianist Paul Burgess, harpist Karen Fernandez and flautist Joanne Diebold, as they perform traditional holiday favorites from America and Ireland. Ticket proceeds benefit People's Resource Center, a local nonprofit serving DuPage County since 1975. Time: 8 p.m. Tickets: \$40.

■ An Evening of Opera

Dec. 21
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St.
www.thecommunityhouse.org
Bring the whole family for

this evening of opera, song and holiday favorites performed by award-winning baritone Jonathan Beyer. All proceeds benefit The Community House. Time: 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$50, \$25 for kids 18 and younger.

■ Rally for a Clause

Dec. 24
Net Game
145 Plaza Drive, Westmont
Six-time Grand Slam semi-finalist Caroline Dolehide will host this pickleball contest, which is the inaugural event of the Chicago Style Foundation. Participants will enjoy pickleball, prizes, raffles, food, drinks and a paddle raise auction. Proceeds support the Love Like Sean Foundation and Chicago Youth Centers. Time: 9 a.m. to noon. Tickets: \$100, \$50 for students, military, first responders and teachers.

■ Tree of Remembrance

Through Jan. 1
Lincoln and First streets, Hinsdale
www.adventhealth.com/

hospice-care/advent-health-st-thomas-hospice
Advent Health St.

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

■ Hinsdale Public Library Merch Store

hinsdalelibrary.info/store/
Find the perfect gift for the friend or family member who loves the Hinsdale Public Library. Canvas weekender bags, T-shirts ceramic mugs and travel mugs are available. All items are sold through the threadless.com online pilot merch store. Prices are set by threadless.com without library input and subject to change.

■ Hinsdale Humane Society Gift Shop

www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org

Find the perfect gift for an animal-lover at the Hinsdale Humane Society Pet Rescue and Resource Center online gift shop and help raise money to care for homeless animals. T-shirts, hoodies, mugs, beanies, water bottles are more available for the humans on the gift list. Purchases help the organization care for the animals at the shelter.

■ Sponsor a Homeless Animal

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

■ Secret Santa

www.lagrangerotary.org/service
The Rotary Club of La Grange and Pillars Community Health are once again asking for families for gift cards or monetary donations for their annual Secret Santa program, which serves children up to age 17 in need in Hinsdale and several neighboring communities. Gifts can be purchased on Amazon through a link at the website listed above. A list of drop-off locations also is posted there.

■ Red Cross Blood Drive

www.redcrossblood.org
As schedules fill up with travel and holiday celebrations with friends and family, the American Red Cross is urging people to set aside some time to make a lifesaving blood or platelet donation. The closest drives are in Oak Brook on Dec. 26. and Jan. 2 and Downers Grove on Dec. 27. Visit the website listed above or call (800) 733-2767 to make an appointment.



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1162 MISTWOOD COURT, DOWNERS GROVE*
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9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Classified deadline:
Tuesday 4 p.m. for
Thursday's publication

Email:
tinaw@thehinsdalean.com



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

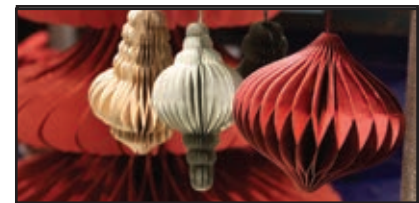
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CERTIFICATE NO. 79582 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of DuPage County on December 12, 2024 wherein the business firm of **BODY MIND INTEGRITY** Located at 517 Thornhill Drive, Carol Stream, IL. 60188 was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning the business, with their respective post office address(es), is/are as follows: Ruth Julian, 726 Michigan Street, Wheaton, IL. 60187.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Wheaton, Illinois, this 12th day of December A.D. 2024.
 Jean Kaczmarek
 DuPage County Clerk

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CERTIFICATE NO. 79581 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of DuPage County on December 10, 2024 wherein the business firm of **TST CONCEPT ART & GRAPHICS** Located at 843 W. College Blvd., Apt. 302, Addison, IL. 60101 was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning the business, with their respective post office address(es), is/are as follows: Taiwo Owoniyi, 843 W. College Blvd., Apt. 302, Addison, IL. 60101.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Wheaton, Illinois, this 10th day of December A.D. 2024.
 Jean Kaczmarek
 DuPage County Clerk

Published in The Hinsdalean December 19 & 26, 2024 and January 2, 2025.

Published in The Hinsdalean December 12, 19 & 26, 2024

CERTIFICATE NO. 79572 was filed in the office of the County Clerk of DuPage County on November 25, 2024 wherein the business firm of **GOLD LIGHT JEWELRY** Located at 360 West Schick Road, Suite 23 PMB 1026, Bloomingdale, IL. 60108; was registered; that the true or real name or names of the person or persons owning the business, with their respective post office address(es), is/are as follows: Daniela M. Estarita, 219 Frisco Street, Bloomingdale, IL. 60108.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and Official Seal at my office in Wheaton, Illinois, this 25th day of November A.D. 2024.
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Published in The Hinsdalean December 5, 12 & 19, 2024.

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MIND GAMES

- ACROSS**
- 1 NUISANCE
 - 5 EMMY WINNER ALAN
 - 9 BLOND SHADE
 - 12 ACTOR EPPS
 - 13 --DO-WELL
 - 14 FEMALE RABBIT
 - 15 BISCUIT TYPE
 - 17 POETIC TRIBUTE
 - 18 BIG BARGAINS
 - 19 HIMALAYAN LAND
 - 21 BASEBALL'S COBB
 - 22 MEAGER
 - 24 BOXING ARBITERS
 - 27 HASTEN
 - 28 FLINTSTONES' PET
 - 31 CAPOTE NICKNAME
 - 32 VERY LONG TIME
 - 33 ITINERARY WORD
 - 34 LONG TALE
 - 36 BORING ROUTINE
 - 37 SUPERMAN'S ALIAS
 - 38 ALPHABETIZED LIST
 - 40 YOURS TRULY
 - 41 LAUDER OF COSMETICS
 - 43 TYKE
 - 47 MARSEILLES MONARCH
 - 48 RELATING TO THE INTELLECT
 - 51 CALENDAR ABBR.
 - 52 SANDWICH TREAT
 - 53 EXPLOITS
 - 54 AWAY FROM WSW
 - 55 CANINE CRY
 - 56 SECTION

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8		9	10	11
12					13					14		
15					16					17		
18								19	20			
			21			22	23					
24	25	26			27				28		29	30
31					32				33			
34			35		36				37			
		38		39				40				
41	42							43		44	45	46
47					48	49	50					
51					52					53		
54					55					56		

- DOWN**
- 1 SEED HOLDERS
 - 2 SEND FORTH
 - 3 STUFFING HERB
 - 4 GOODIES
 - 5 PICNIC INTERLOPERS
 - 6 MAUI MEMENTO
 - 7 "LION" STAR PATEL
 - 8 STADIUM
 - 9 LIKE SOME PARENTS
 - 10 FIZZY DRINK
 - 11 CAD
 - 16 DEVIOUS
 - 20 CONCLUSION
 - 22 CRAZY HORSE, FOR ONE
 - 23 PENNY
 - 24 ACLU CONCERNS
 - 25 TIME LINE PERIOD
 - 26 ESCAPEE
 - 27 ROLL CALL REPLY
 - 29 FRENCH DIARIST
 - 30 ANAIS
 - 30 FEEDBAG TIDBIT
 - 35 HYDROCARBON SUFFIX
 - 37 DIDN'T LAG
 - 39 SHILL
 - 40 FRENCH PRONOUN
 - 41 SEA EAGLE
 - 42 ANY TIME NOW
 - 43 L-Q BRIDGE
 - 44 TOWER CITY
 - 45 ALWAYS
 - 46 TRY OUT
 - 49 RAW ROCK
 - 50 SOLIDIFY

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

Weekly SUDOKU

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

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

Unscramble the letters within each rectangle to form four common words. Then rearrange the letters within the large rectangle to form a word which will complete the clue.

Upword

ENDY

Down

SHOOTE

Upword

ARMSET

Down

ENFIRE

TODAY'S WORD

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

SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Deny 2. Soothe;
3. Master; 4. Refine

Today's Word

THINNER

HOROSCOPES

December 2024 Horoscopes • Week 4



CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

This week you may find that all of your efforts to build up to a pinnacle moment perhaps didn't give you the feelings you desired. Try getting back to basics.



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

It's easy for your mind to wander and get caught daydreaming, Aries. You could be feeling a little restless and in need of a change. A vacation or a night with friends may just do it.



CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22

Exciting things are on the horizon, Cancer. This might be something you have been anticipating for some time.



LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Someone steps in and helps you along at work, Libra. Instead of feeling he or she took liberties, thank this person for giving you the extra boost you likely needed at the time.



AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, something that has been stretching on for quite some time finally gets finished, giving you the closure you need. Share the news slowly with others.



TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Taurus, even if you are trying to save money, this week some situations will arise that will require you to open your wallet. This is why you have an emergency fund.



LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23

Leo, this week you might need to stick up for someone or fight for a cause you believe in, even if it adversely affects your popularity. Stand your ground in these situations.



SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Scorpio, try to look at a situation from a new angle and then you might get some of the answers you desire this week. Is someone acting out of character?



PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Pisces, if what you are doing right now is giving you gratification, you might not need to make many big changes in the weeks to come.



GEMINI – May 22/June 21

Gemini, sometimes people do not know which side of you they might encounter and might keep you at arms' length as a result. Try to be more open this week.



VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you might want to swallow your pride and ask for help rather than trying to do everything on your own. Going it alone hasn't helped you in the past, so why should it now?



SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Learn how to deal with conflict in a productive way, Sagittarius. Then you won't get bogged down by others when they are going head-to-head. Aries might play a role this week.

SPORTS

SCHOOLS HOST SIGNING DAY

The Hinsdale Central Athletic Department hosted a College Signing and Recognition Day event at the high school Nov. 13. The following athletes were recognized:

- Elyssa Abdullah, University of Wisconsin-Madison, golf
- Patrick Benington, Xavier University, swimming
- Josh Bey, Indiana University, swimming
- Vince Buzelis, University of South Dakota, basketball
- Henry Guo, University of Pennsylvania, swimming
- Fiona Hawk, University of Michigan, rowing
- Emeline McClenahan, University of Utah, soccer
- Rocco Salvi, Lewis University, lacrosse
- Ava Young, University of Illinois-Chicago, volleyball
- Kamile Zinis, Indiana University, swimming

Nazareth Academy also released a list of athletes who have officially committed to continue their academic and athletic pursuits in college, including one Hinsdale student.

- Cormac "Mac" McGarry, Western Kentucky University, baseball

SOCCER PLAYERS EARN RECOGNITION

Hinsdale Central boys varsity soccer players Austen Szurgot (All-State) Enzo Cinque and Denis Altman (All-Sectional), Alex Brbu (All-Sectional academic) and Kostas Zamalaitis (All-Sectional sportsmanship) received awards at the IHSSCA Awards night at Aurora University Nov. 18.

WINNING TEAM RETURNS TO HC

Members of the 1995-96

varsity boys basketball team were recognized before the start of the boys varsity basketball game Dec. 6.

The team, which set the school record for wins (27), was the first in 24 years to advance downstate and play in the Elite Eight. The squad won the West Suburban Conference Silver Division Championship and was regional, sectional and super-sectional champion.

Team members are Scott Bohn, Zach Christensen, Aaron Castel, Tony Cole, Kevin Cuttica, Eric Jackson, Andy King, Preston Letts, Scott McNaughton, Marko Milinicic, Todd Shaefer, Jeremy Smith, Seth Smith, Mike Sodikoff, Mike Somerville, Bobby Steiner, Cliff Ward and Brian Wardle.

ALLISON GETS GRIDIRON HONOR

Hinsdale's Sean Allison was named to the All-Pioneer

Football League Second Team for his performance as a member of Drake University's squad.

The junior linebacker and former Hinsdale Central standout helped the Bulldogs capture their second straight PFL championship this season as well as the program's first ever berth into the FCS Playoffs. Allison led the team in solo tackles with 52 and was second in total tackles with 105. Last year as a sophomore he earned All-PFL Honorable Mention recognition.

DOLEHIDE MAKES FINAL IN CHINA

Hinsdale's Caroline Dolehide reached the singles final of the 2024 WTA Guangzhou Open in China on Oct. 27 before falling to Serbian Olga Danilovic.

The 26-year-old booked a spot in the championship match by defeating Italian

Lucia Bronzetti in the semifinals, saving four match points en route to victory.

Dolehide also qualified for and competed in her first WTA Finals Nov. 2-9 in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, with doubles partner Desiree Krawczyk by virtue of their top-10 world ranking as a duo.

MCCLEAR EXCELLS IN JAMAICA

Hinsdale's Mac McClear tied for third place in the Jamaica Open Nov. 10-12, finishing just two shots behind the winner.

McClear, in his first season as professional after wrapping up a decorated career at University of Iowa, shot a five-under 211 in the 54-hole tournament at Tryall Club in Sandy Bay. He was atop the leaderboard after both the first and second rounds after shooting a five-under 67 and one-under 71, respectively.

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SPORTS — ROUNDUP

STUDENT ATHLETE PROFILE



**Katherine Choe
Hinsdale**

Why did you join bowling this year?

I kind of just decided to join off of a whim to have something to do during her winter. It's been really fun.

What do you enjoy most about it?

I really enjoyed meeting all the new people, and there's a bunch of seniors, but there's also a bunch of underclassmen, so it's been fun to get to know all these kids I never would have gotten to talk to.

What is most challenging for you?

Probably the footwork. I feel like I was pretty unathletic at the beginning of the season trying to throw the ball. I feel like I've been slowly getting better. It's on and off.

Do you have any pre-meet rituals?

We have a cheer that we do before every game and in the beginning it was pretty rough. We were really out of sync. On Saturday we had a tournament and we finally said it all together.

What is the best advice you've gotten from a coach?

Coach Parpet, he has this saying, the first letters in school that you learn are your ABCs. Those stand for "Always Be Classy." You have to always be classy with everything you do.

What is your goal for the season?

I actually just got a 150. My goal was to get a 150. I would say I met it! So just continue to improve.

Any tips for recreational bowlers?

Just keep trying and don't get frustrated with yourself. Have fun and make sure you're laughing.

What are your plans for next year?

I actually just got accepted to University of Denver. I'm really excited. My uncle lives out there, so I'll get to see him more often. And there are mountains. I want to major in art history.

What are you looking forward to at Christmas?

I'm excited to hang out with my grandma because I haven't seen her in a while. We're going to a trivia night at my uncle's on Christmas Eve. I hope I win that. Usually he has pretty good prizes.

Why does coach Paul Parpet like having Choe on the team?

Katherine is a class young lady. She is a great teammate and works very hard on improving her bowling skills. Her positive attitude makes her such an awesome person to be around.

— profile by Pamela Lannom, photo by Jim Slonoff

RESULTS

Basketball, boys

Dec. 14 vs. York
V wins 65-44
Buzelis, 21 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, steal
Orozco, 18 points, rebound, 2 assists
E. Kozys, 9 points, rebound, assist
Dell, 6 points, 2 rebounds, 4 assists
Howell, 3 points, 3 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals, 2 blocks
Bero, 3 points, rebound
Miyawaki, 3 points, assist
L. Kozys, 2 points
Thick, 2 rebounds, assist, steal
Cheung, rebound, assist
Banks, rebound
Bradley, rebound
Tu, rebound
Bansal, block
Dec. 13 vs. LT
V wins 75-47

Basketball, girls

Dec. 13 @
Glenbard West
V loses 49-55
Darwish, 20 points, 4 rebounds, assist, 4 steals
Skinner, 15 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, steal, block
Dolan, 6 points, 3 rebounds, 4 assists, 2 steals, block
Gin, 5 points, 3

rebounds
Giannini, 3 points, 2 rebounds, 2 assists, 2 steals
Sherpitis, 3 rebounds, steal
Quast, 2 rebounds
Coffey, steal

Bowling, boys

Dec. 16 vs. Morton
V loses 2,296-2,706
Rivera, 517
Fodor, 471
Bansal, 468
Egbert, 429
Villanueva, 411
Dec. 11 vs.
Naperville Central
V loses 1,993-2,546

Gymnastics, girls

Dec. 11 @ York
V loses 124.4-129.3
Vault
Driscoll, 3rd, 8.45
Hannah, 4th, 8.4
Danhaussen-Brun, 6th, 8.1
Smith, 9th, 7.65
Uneven bars
Driscoll, 4th, 7.8
Hannah, 6th, 7
Danhaussen-Brun, 7th, 6.8
Kaminskaite, 8th, 6.55
Balance beam
Hannah, 2nd, 8.55
Inabnit, 4th, 8.3
Danhaussen-Brun, 6th, 7.9
Driscoll, 7th, 7.45
Floor exercise
Inabnit, 2nd, 8.2

Hannah, 3rd, 8.15
Driscoll, 5th, 7.65
Kaminskaite, 7th, 7.1
All-around
Hannah, 4th, 32.1
Driscoll, 5th, 31.35
Danhaussen-Brun, 6th, 29.8

Hockey

Dec. 15 @ LT
V wins 2-1
Crabb, goal
A. Dwyer, goal
MacPherson, assist
Turnbull, assist
Weller, assist
Dec. 14 vs. Maine
V loses 2-6
Dec. 13 @
Glenbard
V loses 5-6

Swimming, boys

Dec. 14 vs. New Trier
V loses 157-199
200-yard medley relay
Shiell, Baird, Byrne, Chase, 3rd, 1:41.22
Norman, Ukoha, Allegra, Pavlovic, 4th, 1:43.28
200-yard freestyle
Pelinkovic, 1st, 1:45.42
Feiro, 4th, 1:50.59
Hurley, 5th, 1:52.91
200-yard IM
Abbott, 3rd, 2:04.83
Baird, 4th, 2:08.83
Forsythe, 6th, 2:11.96

50-yard freestyle
Suliga, 1st, 22.17
Chase, 4th, 23.1
Byrne, 5th, 23.51
100-yard butterfly
Feiro, 2nd, 54.74
Shiell, 4th, 55.19
Byrne, 6th, 55.98
100-yard freestyle
Suliga, 1st, 49.02
Pavlovic, 3rd, 51.23
DeKuiper, 4th, 52.19
500-yard freestyle
Pelinkovic, 1st, 4:46.52
Abbott, 3rd, 5:01.02
Hurley, 5th, 5:04.81
200-yard freestyle relay
Suliga, Pavlovic, Pelinkovic, Chase, 1st, 1:28.54
Byrne, Hurley, DeKuiper, Abbott, 5th, 1:34.65
100-yard backstroke
Shiell, 1st, 54.79
Forsythe, 4th, 57.32
Carmody, 6th, 1:13.28
100-yard breaststroke
Baird, 4th, 1:04.88
Norman, 5th, 1:04.97
Ukoha, 6th, 1:06.33
400-yard freestyle
Chase, Suliga, Pelinkovic, Abbott, 1st, 3:14.99
Pavlovic, DeKuiper, Shiell, Feiro, 4th, 3:21.32
Dec. 13 vs. LT

V wins 116-70

Wrestling, boys

Dec. 14 @ LT Mega Duals
vs. Lincoln-Way Central
V loses 9-69
vs. Fenwick
V loses 24-55
vs. Willowbrook
V loses 38-40
Dec. 12 @ York
V loses 29-50
106 pounds
Elder, fall 2:15
126 pounds
Quirk, fall 2:33
138 pounds
Martinez, fall 2:08
175 pounds
Jaimes, tech. fall 25-9
190 pounds
Kruse, fall 0:35

Wrestling, girls

Dec. 16 vs HC Quad
vs. Downers North
V wins 9-6
vs. Willowbrook
V loses 6-12
Dec. 14 @ East Aurora Tourney
125 pounds
Neskovic, 2nd place
190 pounds
Black, 2nd place
235 pounds
Rogers, 4th place
Dec. 11 @ Proviso East Quad
vs. Proviso West
V ties 6-6

Instant replay



The referee gets in position to award Hinsdale Central's Marija Neskovic a pin and victory over her Downers Grove North opponent Tuesday night during a four-team meet at Central. The Red Devils defeated the Trojans 9-6 in their head-to-head matchup. (Jim Slonoff photo)

SPORTS

Holiday Classic shoots for big thrills

Hinsdale Central's winter basketball tournament boasts a stellar lineup of teams

By Ken Knutson

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A week from today, local high school basketball fans will get what's been on their holiday wish list.

The ninth edition of the Hinsdale Central Holiday Classic basketball tournament tips off Thursday, Dec. 26, beginning a four-day hoops fest featuring 16 teams from across the region and some of the area's top prospects.

Joe Spagnolo, Red Devils assistant varsity boys basketball coach and HCHC organizer, said he looks forward each December to witnessing the hard work of the preceding year materializing into thrilling hard court action.

"Our focus is to get good programs with good players and good coaches," Spagnolo said.

Some teams have become familiar participants over the years, while new entrants also are welcomed each year.

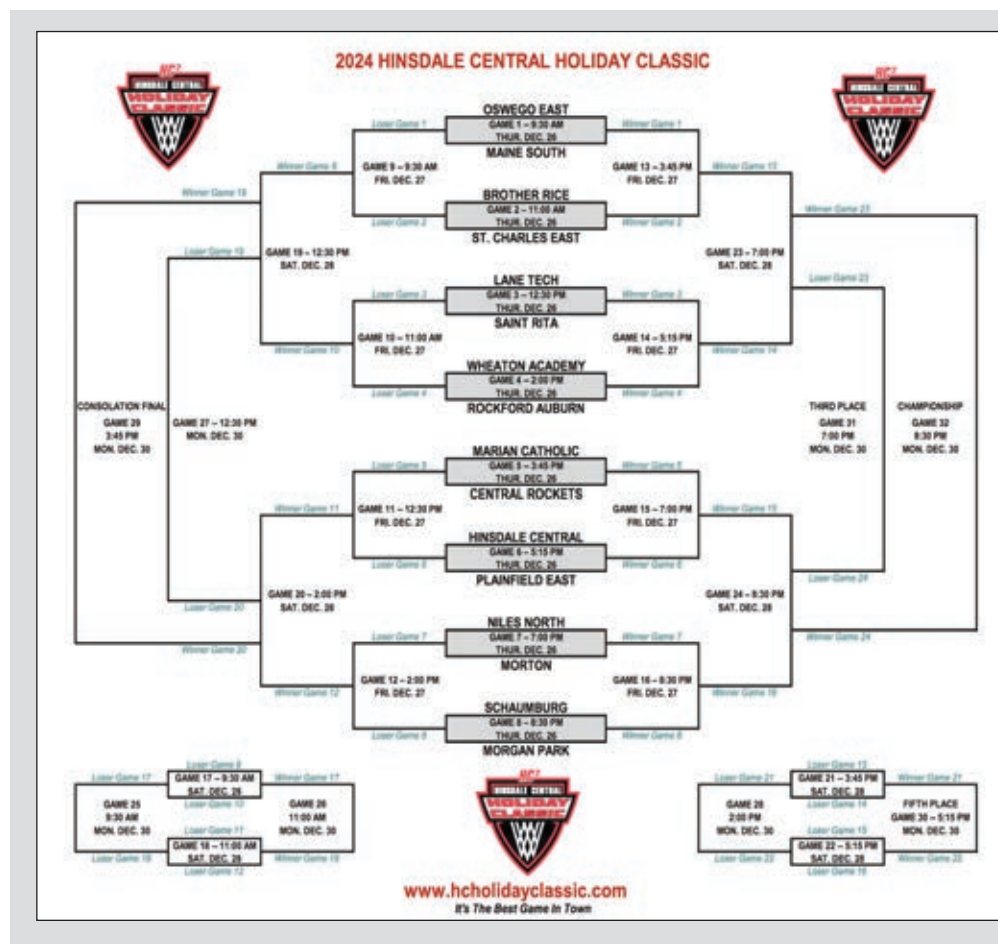
"We've never had a year where we've kept the same field," he said. "I've always tried to keep it fresh so it's a good blend. It's not something where we just dust off a folder in December."

With a roster of teams representing 15 different conferences, Spagnolo said that diversity results in intriguing match-ups. Brother Rice head coach Conte Stamas certainly appreciates that element.

"We're able to see a lot of different styles, and lot of quality teams that I don't normally see," said Stamas, whose Crusaders placed fourth in the HCHC last year.

And rarely are games one-sided, noted Stamas, after his team played two overtime contests.

"There's so much depth to the tournament. It's not just a couple marquee



teams and then a lot of teams that don't have a lot of notoriety," he said.

This year Burlington Central and Wheaton Academy are making their HCHC debut, while Brother Rice, Hinsdale Central, Lane Tech, Maine South, Marian Catholic, Morgan Park, Morton, Niles North, Oswego East, Plainfield East, Rockford Auburn, Schaumburg, Saint Charles East, and Saint Rita are previous participants.

The Red Devils, for their part, will begin their quest for the title against Plainfield East at 5:15 p.m. Dec. 26.

In addition to compelling on-court dynamics, Spagnolo said spectator enjoyment is a priority.

"From college coaches looking at talent to parents watching their kids on the team to local basketball fans, we want their experience to be a positive one," he said.

Online ticket sales streamlines the process, and parent volunteers keep the concessions stand operating smoothly. Innovation has always fueled the HCHC, Spagnolo asserted, like when it became one of the first tournaments to institute a shot clock three years ago. All high school games in Illinois will have a shot clock starting with the 2026-27 season.

"You have to roll with the times and you have to be a good listener and be a good observer," he said. "We want to be a frontrunner in everything we do."

Forward thinking requires advance planning. Spagnolo started assigning referees three months ago for the tournament — in 2025.

"It's kind of a 15-month process. We want to get the best officials, and officials want to work this event because they know that they've arrived when they've

gotten here," he said.

Stamas said he's glad he switched his squad from its previous longstanding winter break trip to the HCHC.

"I knew that (HCHC) would be run as a first-class tournament, so I wanted to get into it as soon as we could," he said. "Good organization, keeping games on time, getting quality officials."

Spagnolo praised his tireless volunteers and also thanked local businesses for providing refreshment for tournament officials during the 14-hour days. He even enlists college sports information directors to help compile player stats and oversee social media coverage. Stamas said he expects his team's HCHC performance to shape the trajectory for the remainder of the schedule.

"I've seen teams take advantage of a Christmas tournament and use it as

a springboard for success the rest of the season," said Stamas, with Brother Rice winning 16 of their 18 post-HCHC games last year. "I think (our good play) really helped us last season, and we are definitely using it as a measuring stick going forward."

Spagnolo is gratified to see how the tournament has been embraced by so many in the Hinsdale area.

"We want this to be a community event. We want this to be their event, and I think we've succeeded in that," he said, adding that even he can relax a little once games start. "The easiest four days for me are the days the tournament runs."

The HCHC runs Dec. 26-30. Ticket prices are \$8 for one full-day admission and \$25 for a tournament pass. They can be purchased at the gym entrance or in advance at www.hcholidayclassic.com.

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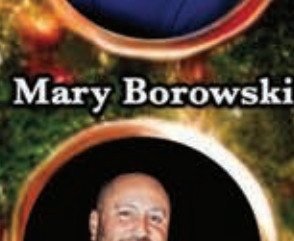
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The Annual Santa and Mrs. Claus Cookie Party as a big hit this year!

Thanks to all my clients, friends and family who joined us for cookies and a photo opportunity with Santa and Mrs. Claus. They brought so much Christmas joy to the office. All the kids were beaming with holiday spirit after the visit, or maybe it was all the sugar...

Wishing the Happiest of Holidays to you and yours!



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