

The Hinsdalean

Community journalism the way it was meant to be

Thursday, May 16, 2024

Hinsdale, Illinois

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Elm's got talent

First-grade classes at Elm School took to the stage to perform for their parents and fellow classmates Monday afternoon. One class performed "Goldilocks and the Three Bears," and the other class performed "Three Billy Goats Gruff." Students sang, read lines and performed during the concert. (Jim Slonoff photo)



Robbins remade

Perks to promote preservation subject of part three in series.

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Ready for recess

Madison teacher marking final year in District 181.

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State success

Girls badminton duo, boys gymnasts perform well at tourneys.

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NEWS

Parents want to keep varsity coach

Audience members ask that boys gymnastics program not be de-funded at Central

By Pamela Lannom
plannom@thehinsdalean.com

Supporters of the Hinsdale Central boys gymnastics program were out in force at the Hinsdale High School District 86 Board meeting last week, upset about plans to cut the gymnastics coaching positions at Central.

Speakers at the May 9 meeting objected to the proposal as part of a move to combine the Hinsdale Central and Hinsdale South boys gymnastics programs for the next three years. A large crowd of parents and students joined Lena Theotikos, mom of senior gymnast Nikolas, at the microphone after she invited the team's supporters to join her. She noted that none of her children will be affected by the decision, as Nikolas is her youngest.

"It affects a lot of students to come and that's why I'm here," she said.

Joining the no-cut team was a great experience for her son after starting high school online during COVID.

"The program was amazing for him, sending many of its participants to state as individuals and as a team," she said. "Gymnastics gives this opportunity to everybody. As a no-cut sport, it is inviting to anyone willing to put the time in."

She said after the IHSA last year changed the classification of boys gymnastics to an "emerging" sport and no longer offering a state tournament series, she asked athletic director Mike Jezioro about the sport's future and was told it would not be changing.

She said she did not object to combining the teams, but to having only one coach available to work with the boys.

Kristin Ashby, mom of junior gymnast Kyle, asked why the IHSA decision determines the fate of the coaching staff at Central and brought up the district's decision to add a girls flag football team next year.

"I'm in favor of funding new sports, but not at the expense of eliminating current ones," she said.



Speakers cited the new Krupicka Gymnastics Gym in their arguments to save the varsity boys gymnastics coaching position. (file photo)

Kristen McDaniel, mom of sophomore gymnast Brady, echoed points made by other speakers, then focused her comments on how the decision has been communicated, citing an "absolute lack of transparency."

"We did not find out until a few weeks ago that it was on the chopping block," she said, noting that parents lost a year of working together to find a solution and secure funding. "We weren't even going to be told about it until after the season was over."

McDaniel acknowledged that the decision lies in the hands of administrators, not board members, while asking them to consider funding a coach for Central and new uniforms if the two schools' teams are to be combined.

"These boys deserve better," she said. "Our district deserves better. I know it is not all in your hands but anything that you can do to work with administration to make this happen for all of the boys here and those to come, I would greatly appreciate it."

Chris Kujalowicz, who competed on the Central boys gymnastics team all four years before grad-

uating in 2016, said Central's facilities are among the best in the country, as is coach CJ Johnson.

"This caliber of expertise is unheard of at the high school level, and many NCAA programs would be lucky to have half of this talent," he said.

Board members weren't scheduled to discuss the program, but Jeff Waters requested the agenda be amended to include a conversation.

"I'm just dumbfounded that we aren't making decisions that are student-focused and student-driven," he said. "There's absolutely no reason we can't do something better than what we're looking at tonight."

Board member Peggy James noted, as did some speakers, that the Illinois High School Gymnastics Coaches Association has agreed to help with training, certifying judges and providing meet opportunities.

"It's not just that it's going away and there's no opportunity for these gymnasts," she said. "I would love to see the consideration that there might be something that could be done."

Central Principal Bill Walsh said administrators are treating gymnastics as they have other emerging sports in the past, such as lacrosse and rugby.

"When they were emerging sports, we gave them the time, the space and the place but didn't fund the stipends for the coaches," he said.

"I'm not looking to drop gymnastics. That's not my proposal, that's not athletic director Jezioro's and it was never former athletic director Dan Jones' proposal. The question is at what level District 86 wants to fund it," he added later in the meeting.

Walsh estimated running the program at both campuses with a head coach and assistant coach for each would cost \$55,000 to \$70,000. Board President Cat Greenspon asked if those numbers could be discussed at a finance committee meeting.

Later in the meeting, Waters cast the sole vote against a package of coaching stipend changes, including \$11,757 for a new girls flag football coach.

Swastikas found at Hinsdale Middle School

Swastikas drawn in pencil were discovered in two separate incidents in the span 15 days at Hinsdale Middle School.

The first was discovered April 25 on a bathroom wall, and the second, drawn on a music stand, was reported by students Friday.

"This symbol of hate and intolerance has no place in our community, and I am disappointed by its presence at our school," HMS Principal Cory Burke wrote in an email to parents Friday. "I want to assure you that I am taking this incident very seriously and am working diligently to investigate and address the situation."

"I am proud of the students who came forward today," she added.

Burke sent parents an email after the first incident as well.

"Actions, symbols, or language that exclude or demean others will not be tolerated," she wrote April 25. "We are taking every step to ensure that we identify the student and issue appropriate consequences. Since we are a community, please take this opportunity to speak with your student about the impact that an act of vandalism such as this can have on HMS."

The school had planned to hold assemblies with a presentation called "Hate Has No Home Here," which focus on identifying hateful behavior and empowering students to report it to a trusted adult, before the first incident occurred,

said Jeffrey Alstadt, director of communications who oversees safety efforts in the district.

"We are going to continue to be transparent and use moments like this as teachable moments, because at the end of the day, our kids are great," he said.

He also expressed gratitude for the partnership the district has with the Hinsdale Police Department, which was notified of the incidents.

Parents also received emails from Burke last week and this week about a report of a threat made by a student. An investigation uncovered no credible threat.

— by Pamela Lannom

ONCE UPON A TIME



Places from the past — Hinsdale’s building services supervisor, Jim Piontkowski, took this photo in 1979. This photo is of First United Realtors located at 30 E. Hinsdale Ave. Today Yankee Peddler is in its place. Do you have a Hinsdale photo that is at least 25 years old? We’d love to share it with our readers. Stop by our office at 7 W. First St. or email it to jslonoff@thehinsdalean.com.



Happy Birthday!
Charlotte Collins
turns 1 May 19

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

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These neighboring homes on South Park Avenue show the diverse architecture in town. The 1898-built residence on the right was recently granted incentives, including zoning relief and permit fee waivers under a village program encouraging homeowners to make improvements to historic homes while preserving their exterior appearance. (Jim Slonoff photo)

Incentive program finds willing market

Village program to encourage preservation of vintage homes is already leaving its legacy

By Ken Knutson

kknutson@thehinsdalean.com

Historic homes in Hinsdale that in the past might have fallen victim to the wrecking ball are being saved thanks to village measures to promote preservation.

The historic overlay district established in 2022 and the voluntary incentives like zoning relief and matching grant funds that go with district eligibility have persuaded a number of homeowners to remodel rather than raze, officials attest.

"It seems like the zoning relief in and of itself was enough, in some cases, to get people to make the decision to keep (the home) rather than scrape it," said Robb McGinnis, the village's building commissioner and director of community development.

The measures have altered the landscape for sellers, too, he added.

"An unintended benefit of this program is people that would have otherwise just let their house go, assuming that it was going to get demolished, are choosing to reinvest in it," McGinnis said.

Letting prospective buyers know during the house hunting process about access to regulatory latitude to improve a vintage home can be a powerful marketing point.

"If somebody's spending the better part of \$2 million on a project, they want to remove as many question marks up front as possible," McGinnis said. Village planner Bethany Salmon said 85 properties to date have been approved for inclusion on the Historically Significant Structures List within the overlay district, which make them eligible for the incentives. Fourteen of those have been approved to receive incentives.

"It's been super-successful," she said, noting applicants have saved anywhere from a few hundred dollars to almost \$20,000 in building permit fee waivers. "That in itself is a huge savings for some of these owners."

The most recent ones were greenlighted by the historic preservation commission at a special meeting Monday. Commissioners approved a building permit fee waiver, expedited processing, a property tax rebate and a matching grant for exterior

improvements to the 1894-era home at 111 N. Lincoln St., and a property tax rebate and matching grant in connection with an addition to the 1929-built home at 24 E. Eighth St.

McGinnis said those inducements tilt the scales more toward modernizing an existing home, which is generally a more complicated undertaking than building new.

"Those floor plans from those houses that were built 100-plus years ago don't really lend themselves to some of the more open floor plans that you've got today," he said.

Several years ago officials contemplated imposing a temporary moratorium on teardowns after a spate of architectural specimens came down. The idea was not well received by the community.

"That kind of set the ball in motion on the carrot side" rather than wielding punitive sticks, McGinnis said.

Salmon acknowledged that people may confuse joining the overlay district list with landmarking, a more restrictive designation.

"We've created a completely separate program," she said.

Having several local real estate agents go through their own overlay district-related projects has produced some influential program evangelists.

"We are relying a lot on word-of-mouth by people so that they can testify that it's a great program, it's been really easy to go through and they've gotten great benefits out of it," Salmon said.

Speaking to a visitor at Monday's HPC meeting, commission Chairman John Bohnen indicated the incentive package furnished officials with an important set of tools in the heritage-protecting effort.

"We can literally recommend and allow waivers of certain elements of the zoning code to accommodate modifications to these older homes to make them be more livable and hopefully last much longer in the community," said Bohnen, a longtime preservation advocate.

Salmon said the village's incentive program was the subject of article in a national publication, turning Salmon and the village into a kind of vanguard on the issue.

"I've talked to people

■ ROBBINS REMADE

This is the third in a four-part series on changes in the National Register Historic District.

from Texas, New Jersey, Pennsylvania," she said, "and all of them do want to take an approach, it seems, of telling people what to do in a binding, regulatory manner. And we haven't really taken that approach."

Instead, she said, the village, which is non-home rule with limited ability to control development, is signaling that historic preservation is a high value in the community and that officials are ready and willing to support those who want to align with it.

"It's meant to show people that preservation is not just keeping your house as a museum. It can be modernized," she said. "As we have more of those projects come through, then people can actually see (how it can be done)."

"We keep encouraging people to get on the list early," she continued, "way before you're even thinking about a project, because then you won't have to take that step later on."

NEXT WEEK

Hinsdale Village Board

7 p.m. Tuesday, May 21
Memorial Building
19 E. Chicago Ave.
www.villageofhinsdale.org

MEETING ROUNDUP

Hinsdale High School District 86 Board

Among other business May 9, board members:

- approved the final school year calendar for 2023-24, removing the five emergency days and setting the last day of student attendance day as May 31
- acknowledged district retirees, including Myles Laffey and siblings Anna and Marvin Breig
- encouraged administrators to finish the proposal for an off-campus lunch pilot at Hinsdale South for seniors for the 2024-25 school year. Hinsdale Central Principal Bill Walsh said Central is interested in running a similar pilot but will wait to see how it works at South.
- agreed to continue with current board committee assignments for the 2024-25 school year. "I'm not opposed to giving up committee assignments if some would like to take extra on," said board President Cat Greenspon, who sits on five of the seven board committees. No one volunteered to add to their responsibilities.

Community Consolidated District 181 Board

Among other business Monday, board members:

- hired Erica Ekstrom as assistant superintendent of student services. Ekstrom has most recently served as executive director of special education at Community Unit District 200 in Wheaton-Warrenville. Ekstrom holds master's degrees in educational leadership and in special education. "I am committed to working collaboratively with the board of education, administration, staff, parents and community to ensure that all students have the opportunity to succeed in a supportive learning environment for all students," she said in a statement. Ekstrom starts July 1.
- heard an update on full-day kindergarten construction projects at six of the elementary schools. Mike Duggan, director of facilities, told board members that he and his team are making good progress on requests for information, submittals and selections of materials while continuing to review and minimize any change orders. No impediments or delays have come up, but buried power lines at Monroe and Oak schools do need to be relocated by ComEd in order to complete project work this summer. Full-day kindergarten will launch with the 2025-26 school year.
- listened to a report that the district's class of 2023 is performing as well or better than students from other Hinsdale Central High School feeder districts, with most D181 alums earning A's or B's in English, math, social studies, science and world language courses as freshmen. Fifty-one percent of the former D181 students participated in at least one AP exam, with 30 percent taking three or more AP exams. And 83 percent of D181 graduates currently enrolled at Hinsdale Central participate in at least one extra curricular activity.



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D181 board OK's tentative spending plan

The \$78 million budget for next fiscal year includes a healthy surplus, significant projects

By Ken Knutson

kknutson@thehinsdalean.com

The Community Consolidated Elementary District 181 Board approved a tentative 2025 operating budget of \$77.8 million Monday night, just about \$4 million more than the current year's total forecast expenses.

Mindy Bradford, assistant superintendent of business and operations, presented the proposed spending plan, reporting that revenues are predicted come in at \$86.7 million.

Salaries and benefits constitute the single biggest expense at \$61.8 million. Bradford said the budget accounts for the raises in the new teachers contract approved last November and also includes a bump for health insurance costs.

"Benefits are budgeted to reflect a 9 percent increase due to anticipated health care increases," Bradford explained in her board memo.

The capital improvement plan calls for \$2.3 million in summer projects, \$3.4 million for work on the new district office and \$13.2 million for full-

day kindergarten. Later in the meeting the board authorized the sale of \$18 million in general obligation bonds to cover construction costs at six of the elementary schools to accommodate full-day kindergarten beginning with the 2025-26 school year.

The district also will spend \$950,000 on textbook adoption and \$900,000 on technology. Base school allocations, which each school receives to cover activities, were increased by 5 percent to \$131.25 per student after having been at \$125 the last several years.

"That works out to about \$40,000 to \$50,000 per school," Bradford said. "That just helps form the basis of the building budgets."

On the revenue side, Bradford pointed out that roughly 90 percent of the operating budget, or \$77.7 million, is funded by property taxes. Corporate personal property replacement tax receipts from the state are projected to decline to \$960,000 after hitting \$1.7 million in 2023. The figure was annually around \$500,000 for years before a spike during the

pandemic.

Earnings on investments are expected to remain relatively flat at \$1.7 million. Registration fees and federal and state aid also will remain largely unchanged. Bradford said the district will get firmer figures over the summer. A strong investment market will mitigate the loss.

"We're lucky that (replacement tax) is a relatively small percentage of our overall revenues," she said. "Because we're seeing such strong results on our investment income, that helps offset that."

Board member Sinead Duffy asked Bradford to provide more clarity in the budget documents regarding capital projects so residents could better distinguish which costs were earmarked for full-day kindergarten versus the district office project.

By June of 2025, the district's year-end operating fund balance is projected to be at \$37.5 million, or 48.16 percent of the operating budget. Under the board's fund balance strategy of keeping that figure between 30 and 50 percent of the district's total

expenditures, Bradford expects the board to abate \$2 million in taxes in connection with its 2024 property tax levy.

The proposed budget is on display at the district office and will remain on display until the public hearing scheduled for June 17. Within 30 days of adoption, or no later than July 30, it must be filed with the clerks of DuPage and Cook counties and the Illinois State Board of Education.

Bradford, in her first year in the post, said she inherited a strong fiscal state of affairs.

"I think this district obviously has a history of that," Bradford told The Hinsdalean, having highlighted at the meeting the district's three straight meritorious budget awards from the Association of School Business Officials. "It really takes all of the staff. I think it's impressive in terms of being able to provide the services that we do in a fiscally responsible manner."

Board member Meg Cooper praised Bradford and her team for their work. "You do a tremendous job," Cooper said.



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POLICE BEAT

Hinsdale police released the following reports May 14.

Aggravated fleeing arrest

Nicholas M. Abraham, 30, 715 Justina St., Hinsdale, was arrested for felony aggravated fleeing and eluding, driving with a revoked license, driving on the wrong side of the road, four counts of disobeying a stop sign, speeding, driving without valid registration and operating an uninsured motor vehicle at 2:38 a.m. May 7 in the 800 block of North Elm Street. The suspect fled from police on an electric motorized dirtbike when they attempted to stop him for traffic violations. He was located on foot in the 700 block of Justina Street and fled again from police, this time on foot. They took him into custody in the 800 block of Phillippa. He was charged and released to appear in court.

Revoked license arrest

Russell R. Dusek, 38, 935 Victory Lane, Justice, was arrested for driving with a revoked license, unlawful display of registration, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident, operating an uninsured vehicle, failing to report an accident to police and filing a false motor vehicle accident report at 1:51 a.m. May 7 at Grant and 55th streets. Police were dispatched to a single vehicle crash report. The suspect abandoned his motorcycle and left on foot. When police located him, he gave a statement that did not match surveillance video of the crash. He was charged and released to appear in court.

Criminal trespass arrest

Richard D. Martinez, 35, 610 The Lane, Hinsdale, was arrested for criminal trespass to property at 9:09 a.m. May 8 for refusing to leave McDonald's, 935 N. York Road. He previously had been issued a trespass warning. He was charged and released to appear in court.

Property damage reported

- Someone spray painted graffiti in the men's restroom at the Hinsdale Public Library, 20 E. Maple St., between 10 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. May 7.
- A vehicle parked in the 200 block of Mills Street was scratched between noon and 2:30 p.m. May 4. The incident was reported May 11.

Identity thefts reported

- Someone gained access to the rewards account of a resident of the 400 block of North Vine Street and made a fraudulent transaction May 3. The incident was reported May 7.
- A cellular phone account was opened using the identity of a resident of the 300 block of East Third Street on May 3. The incident was reported May 10.

Change purse stolen

A change purse belonging to a patron of the Hinsdale Public Library, 20 E. Maple St., was stolen after she briefly left it hanging on a chair at 5:50 p.m. May 9.

Arrests do not constitute conviction of a crime, and individuals listed here should be presumed innocent until proven guilty. If charges are dismissed or reduced or the accused is found not guilty, he or she can contact The Hinsdalean at news@thehinsdalean.com to provide us with documentation. Information will be updated online and in the next issue of the paper.

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OUR NAME SAYS IT ALL...

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Monday, May 27, 2024

12:00 noon

When Ben Fuller platted Fullersburg in 1851 he set aside land for a cemetery, which he donated to the community. Fullersburg Cemetery is located on the north end of Garfield Street, between Maumell Street and Fuller Road in Hinsdale.

The cemetery is the final resting spot for many of the founders of Fullersburg and Hinsdale. The oldest stone marks the grave of Ben Fuller's mother, Candice Fuller, 1847.

The cemetery is also noted as a resting place for many of the area's Civil War soldiers. In 2016, three unmarked Civil War veterans' graves were given headstones including John Andre, a Confederate soldier, who also was honored for his service.



American Legion Post 250 is hosting a

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Post 250 is a registered Illinois Non Profit Corporation and a Federally Chartered 501 (C) 19 Veterans Organization.

■ “When they respect you and know that you have their best interest at heart, they want to work harder.” — Nancy Kramer

Teacher retires with memories to treasure

Madison School’s Nancy Kramer may lead a second-grade class, but her handle among students references her other pursuit: the Dog Teacher.

“Because I foster dogs and train dogs and rescue dogs,” she explained. “My world is dogs.”

After 35 years, Kramer is leaving the world of elementary education. She admits her farewell tour leading up to retirement has been emotional at times, but light on packing since she was able to clean out her three decades worth of stuff last spring following her final run in fourth grade.

“This year I’m pretty much organizing all of the materials for next year’s second-grade teacher,” Kramer said. “Thankfully I don’t have to try to get rid of everything now. I donated thousands of books to SCARCE (recycling organization) last year.”

The child of a teacher, Kramer as teen was drawn to youth development.

“During high school I became a camp counselor. At church I was a Sunday school teacher, even at age 14 and 15. I have always known that I wanted to be with kids,” she said.

She knew she’d reached a career milestone when one her former fourth-grade students came back as her substitute.

“That was really cool,” Kramer recalled.

Aside from a 7-year stint at The Lane, Madison has been home for Kramer. The process of going through her carefully preserved lesson archives reinforced how closely she identifies with the profession.

“It’s who you are and you’re attached to it, and everything you touch holds a memory,” she said.

She fondly recalled the Ellis Island simulation in which students dressed up as immigrants of the late 18th century.

“They got to experience what it was like going to a strange country, and we would speak to them in a made-up language so that they didn’t understand what we were saying about them. We would send them to doctors, and they’d have to stand in line forever,” Kramer recounted.

She faithfully gave her students a keepsake book at the end of each year “so the children have all of their writings from the year,” she said.

Kramer cited a past student who had struggled with writing in third grade. Years later



NANCY KRAMER

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he came back to visit.

“He said, ‘I became a lawyer, and writing is my favorite thing to do,’” she recounted.

Bringing enthusiasm and an openness to kids’ unique learning styles have been hallmarks of Kramer’s approach. And she’s remained a student herself.

“I evolved in knowing and learning all the curriculums and preparing to meet (stu-

ents’) needs, and my knowledge of teaching strategies and how to best reach them as learners,” she said.

Her livelihood even inspired her own kids.

“They wanted to be the student getting the good grades. I never had to say, ‘Is your homework done?’”

Retirement will be full of dog-related activity, of course, as well as logging miles in a

camper between her children in Cape Coral, Fla., and Phoenix.

Kramer encouraged beginning teachers to let students know they care about their growth.

“When they respect you and know that you have their best interest at heart, they want to work harder,” she said.

— story by Ken Knutson, photo by Jim Slonoff



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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Spring the perfect time to enjoy al fresco dining

If you didn't enjoy a meal outside during Hinsdale Restaurant Week in April (it was still pretty chilly), now is the time to enjoy one outdoors.

Al fresco dining has not always been part of the downtown Hinsdale landscape, but it was born of necessity during the pandemic in 2020. And Hinsdale residents, restaurateurs and officials found it to be a welcome addition.

The outdoor dining scene took another step forward in 2022 when the Hinsdale Village Board instituted new design standards for outdoor eateries on public property.

Do you remember the white concrete jersey barriers that were the only thing separating dining areas from car traffic? The concrete planter boxes look oh so much better. The uniform outdoor lights for restaurants that are open at night are charming, and the decks along Washington Street allow diners to enjoy their meals without worrying about their wine glasses sliding off the table.

We applauded the village's investment at the time, noting the money spent on planters, decking, landscaping and lighting was not covered by the application and per table fees that became part of the new program. Restaurants obviously also have made a financial investment to offer outdoor dining.

The only downside is the loss of a significant number of parking spaces along First and Washington streets. Once Hinsdale Middle School is out for the summer, the spaces in that lot (above the parking deck) will be available for diners — or shoppers — to use.

We encourage residents to help make those investments pay off. The next time hunger pangs strike, head downtown and grab a table outdoors at one of these restaurants. Bon appetit!

First Street

- Fuller House, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Monday to Thursday, to midnight Friday and Saturday and to 10 p.m. Sunday
- Egg Harbor, 7 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily
- Nabuki, 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Tuesday to Thursday, 11:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday, 4 to 9 p.m. Sunday and Monday
- Il Poggiolo, 11:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday to Saturday, 5 to 9 p.m. Sunday
- Altamura, noon to 7 p.m. Tuesday to Thursday, noon to 8 p.m. Friday, noon to 7 p.m. Saturday, 1 to 6 p.m. Sunday

Washington Street

- Vistro Prime, 4:30 to 9 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday, 4:30 to 8 p.m. Sunday
- Calle Cantina (formerly Que Miso), 3:30 to 9 p.m. Monday to Thursday and Sunday, 3:30 to 11:30 p.m. Friday and Saturday
- Toni Patisserie and Café, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday to Saturday, 7 a.m. to 3 p.m. Sunday

Train station

- Casa Margarita, 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. Sunday to Thursday, 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. Friday and Saturday

Village Place

- Café la Fortuna, 6 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday to Saturday, 8 a.m. to noon Sunday
- Giuliano's, 4 to 9 p.m. Sunday to Thursday, 4 to 10 p.m. Friday and Saturday

Grant Square

- Yia Yia's, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. daily

Gateway Square

- Garden Berry Cafe, 6:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. daily

COMMENTARY

Catching up with ... Amy Owens

Amy Owens had undergone a cancer diagnosis, a total mastectomy and chemotherapy when I first met her in 2007.

She had generously agreed to meet with me once a month for a year as she recovered from a rare form of breast cancer, invasive triple negative ductile carcinoma, as part of our Making a Difference partnership with Wellness House.

I talked to her again in September 2009, about a year after my story was published and days before she celebrated her second year of being cancer-free.

I've kept tabs on Amy over the years, seeing her kids' names appear in the paper (especially in 2012 when her son was quarterback for the Red Devils) and occasional photos of her popping up on Facebook. But we hadn't met face-to-face for almost 15 years until last week.

We met at the Starbucks by Whole Foods on Ogden Avenue, where most of our interviews during 2007-08 took place. Her hair is longer than it was then (it

was still growing out from her chemo treatments) but she looked the same.

Of course her life is much different now. Her kids were 13, 10 and 7 at the time the article ran in August 2008. Now they are 29, 26 and 23. All three have graduated from the University of Illinois and live in the city. Brian Jr., the oldest, got married about three years ago. Claire, the youngest, spent a year at home after college before moving out last week.

"That was it — the last hurrah," Amy said. "Brian and I are on our own. The last one to actually leave was a little harder than we anticipated because now you know no one is coming back, and it's been 30 years that someone was in the home being taken care of."

As her kids got older, Amy kept busy working with her interior design business, Two Spruce Girls, which she started with



Pamela Lannom

friend Jenn Freeman 10 years ago.

"I just love it to death," she said. "We go into people's home and spruce up a particular room — they might want their family room done. We do it in a day. It's similar to HGTV. We ask you to leave for the day."

When the two aren't on assignment (they handle about two clients a week), Amy plays paddle tennis, takes Pilates classes and participates in a book club.

"I feels like there's never a dull moment, that's for sure," she said. "My weeks go by very quickly."

She and Brian also love to travel, and have made recent trips to Florida, Arizona and New York.

I enjoyed hearing about all the great things going on her life. But eventually I had to ask the question I was most afraid to ask. Amy responded that she has been cancer-free for 16 years.

"Honestly, until you contacted me, I don't think of it much," she said. "But I think I need to be sometimes more grateful — not grateful, just remember what I went through and that I'm here and that life is good."

"You may think about it every day after it first happened. Then it becomes a week and then it becomes a month. Now I'm grateful that my life is just moving forward and I closed that chapter behind me."

Annual mammograms can be an occasion for fear to creep in, she acknowledged. And special celebrations — like graduations or her son's wedding — give her pause.

"It's like those moments, the weddings and things like that, that's when I think about it," Amy said. "I could cry. You're just so happy to be here."

I'm so happy she's here, too.
— Pamela Lannom is editor of *The Hinsdalean*. Readers can email her at plannom@thehinsdalean.com.

OPINION

GUEST COMMENTARY

Chasing totality in all its forms

Last month my husband and two of our kids went to Ohio to visit family and be in the “zone of totality” for the solar eclipse. It was difficult for our middle daughter, a high schooler, and me, to take a day away from school and work. We had a memorable experience here. We put on protective glasses and had all sorts of fun with coworkers and friends. It was great.



Carissa Kapcar

But when I saw the photos and heard accounts from my parents’ backyard in Ohio with everyone together as the sky went dark and the air got colder, I wished I could have been there. I was fascinated with how porch lights automatically came on and the neighbors cheered over fences. Like a wonder struck child, I couldn’t get enough of the stories, “tell me again about the lighting”. They described a sensation of seeing sunlight out on the horizon, like a sunset in all directions, where totality ended.

“That’s where we were,” I sighed, “where totality ended”. To be fair, we were at 94 percent magnitude here in Hinsdale and it was awesome. But the minutes of full darkness, the energy and feel of it all has me intrigued and committed to chasing totality the next time around, several decades from now.

As luck would have it, I don’t have to wait long for the next natural phenomena. The cicadas are emerging! And, for the first

time in 221 years, parts of Illinois will have two broods at once.

With a sort of laugh or cry spirit — and still craving eclipse totality — I’ve decided to embrace the cicadas. Yes, they’re loud, harmful to young trees and

really pesky with their beady red eyes. Our dogs will eat them, our backyard barbecues will be ruined and our shoulders will become landing zones. And yet, I’m leaning in.

The cicadas, like the eclipse, help mark time. In a world that spins awfully fast, these patterns and rhythms served up by nature are anchoring. I like that it makes me remember the 2004 cicadas when we lived in Washington, D.C. Snow plows were needed to clear streets and windshield wipers to drive. It was our son’s first summer. I have a photo of him, in a stroller, next to a white picket fence covered with cicadas.

When I think of cicadas, I can feel that fleeting, sweet stage of life. We were new to parenthood, in our first house and living in the nation’s capital. As time marches on, I desperately want to etch each moment into my heart’s memory. If the cicadas provide the backdrop to this particular version of now, then I’m all for it. I’m chasing totality. Bring on Cicada Summer!

— Carissa Kapcar of Hinsdale is a contributing columnist. Readers can email her at news@thehinsdalean.com.

CARTOONS



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- no form letters

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Questions?

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OBITUARIES

Violet Marecek Broschka

Violet Marecek Broschka, 93, passed away May 3, 2024.

Violet was born in 1931 in Berwyn to John and Christine (Chlapecka) Marecek.

As a Berwyn native, Violet graduated from Harrison High School in Chicago in 1948. She was a resident of Hinsdale since 1951. Violet lovingly and faithfully supported her husband in raising their three children and managing their wedding photography business.

She gave generously of her time, service and resources to her family, whom she adored, and they adored her.

She is survived by her husband of 73 years, Edward P. Broschka; her children, Gregory

(Elizabeth) Broschka, Gwendolyn (James) Phillip and John (Valerie) Broschka; her grandchildren, Julie (Jonathan) Bromhead, James (Jane) Phillip, Christina (Tyler) Zschach, David (Caroline) Broschka, Natalie (Brett) Bush, Katherine Broschka, Jonathan Broschka and Allison Broschka; and her 12 great-grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by her sisters, Eleanor Marecek Hastings and Joanne Marecek Thoma.

A funeral service was held May 5 at Sullivan Funeral Home in Hinsdale.

Interment was private at Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery in Elwood.

Harry Erickson

Harry Edward Erickson, 88, of Hinsdale, formerly of Crete, died May 9, 2024.

He graduated from Bloom High School in 1953, and attended Milliken University, where he was a member of the Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity.

Harry worked for General Electric in Hobart, Ind., and was a private accountant on the weekends. He later worked as a marketing manager for Middleby Toastmaster and took classes at Northwestern University at night. In his later years, he was a consultant who modernized police equipment for Federal Signal.

He was a devoted husband, father, grandfather and brother. He was known for his love of Jesus Christ and his family. His children and his grandchildren were his treasures. He loved playing games, riding bikes or reading to them. He dedicated his time to writing an email sermon every week without fail for almost eight years to encourage his family to keep their faith in God. His legacy is a published book of these sermons called "Turning Right with GPS, God's Perfect Solution." He was instrumental in developing and implementing spiritual growth plans for his church, Trinity Lutheran, where he was a member for over 65 years.



Erickson

He adored his wife, Marlene, and enjoyed their life together. His favorite pastime was golf, but he also enjoyed bowling and swimming. He enjoyed traveling to many countries in Europe and many states in the US, and loved Hawaii. He was an avid reader, whose favorite book was the Bible. He also enjoyed reading Joel Rosenberg and mystery novels. He was a skilled handyman and was a hard worker all his life.

Harry was preceded in death by his wife of 65 years, Marlene, nee Peterson.

He is survived by his children, Cathy (Bill) Merchantz; and Richard Erickson; his grandchildren, Christopher and Victoria Merchantz and Ben and John Erickson; his siblings, Donald (Kathleen) Erickson and Sandra Michaels; and his nephew, Jason.

Visitation is from 10 to 11 a.m. Friday, May 17, at Trinity Lutheran Church, 1393 Elizabeth St., Crete. A funeral service will follow at 11 a.m., with a luncheon afterward.

Interment will be at Trinity Lutheran Cemetery in Crete.

Memorial donations may be made online to Trinity Lutheran Church at www.trinitycrete.org. Crete Funeral Home handled the arrangements.

Jolanta Soares

Jolanta "Jola" Soares, 59, of Clarendon Hills, formerly of Hinsdale, died peacefully April 27, 2024, at UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Hinsdale due to cancer.

She was born in 1964 in Warsaw, Poland, to Helena and Stanley Ptak.

Jolanta was a tough, bright, funny and highly independent woman. She was a force of nature, and nothing came in her way once she made up her mind.

Jola came to Chicago from Warsaw not speaking a word of English in 1987. She quickly learned English and graduated at the top of her class at the University of Illinois in computer science. That led to a long career in technology in the financial services industry, including stints at CNA Insurance, JP Morgan Chase and most recently at PNC Bank. She was also an



Soares

award-winning painter and artist with multiple exhibitions of her work at galleries around the USA and in Europe.

Jola also was an expert beekeeper, gardener and someone who loved her art-filled home in Clarendon Hills. She lived in Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale for more than 12 years and was an involved member of the moms of Hinsdale Central, from which her son graduated in 2023.

Jola is survived by her husband, Donald Soares; her son, Conrad; her parents, Helena and Stanley Ptak; and her brothers, Adam (Grazyna) and Slawek (Renata) Ptak.

A private celebration of life was held May 11 in Clarendon Hills.

Sullivan Funeral Home in Hinsdale handled the arrangements.

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OBITUARIES

Meridel A. Wesely

Meridel A. Wesely, nee Berola, 79, of Hinsdale, passed away May 10, 2024.

Meridel was born in 1944, in Sewickley, Penn., to John and Mary Berola. She was a descendant of Italian immigrants, some of whom had arrived in the country via Ellis Island in the early 1900s.

After graduating as valedictorian of Moon Township High School, Meridel attended Bucknell University, where she majored in education, sang in the choir and was a sister in Alpha Chi Omega sorority. She earned her master's from the University of Wisconsin Madison in educational psychology.

She met her husband, Marv Wesely, in a dining hall at the University of Wisconsin, by intentionally leaving her ID face-up on her lunch tray so that he could see her name. They married in 1968, then moved to Aberdeen, Md., where their first daughter was born. In 1973, they moved to Hinsdale, where their second daughter made them a family of four. Meridel lived in Hinsdale for the rest of her life, watching it transform and grow over the next 50 years.

Meridel worked in Community Consolidated District 181 for 32 years as a school psychologist and coordinator of special education. She served and cared for district children and families, particularly the students with severe disabilities. She was a gifted administrator and she made cherished friends during that time. In later years, she wrote and performed parody tribute songs for district retirees. When she retired in 2006, she wrote her own song and performed it while accompanying herself on the ukulele.

Meridel was a loving, supportive and generous mother to her two daughters. As the years progressed, Meridel's family grew, adding two sons-in-law and two grandchildren. Her deep affection for

her daughters extended easily to include newer members of the family.

When Marv passed away in 2003 at the age of 58, Meridel chose to live bravely and joyously with her grief, and she worked to carve a path forward.

After her retirement, she found new friendship and companionship; she sang, she danced, she traveled, she played golf, she walked and she enjoyed every minute of it.

She was an expert line dancing instructor and flash mob participant who attracted everyone's eye as she boogied energetically and gracefully around the dance floor.

Meridel joined in almost any adventure with her family, walking miles through Disney World and around Paris. Meridel's grandchildren were delighted by the fact that they could reference any popular song from the last century and she would immediately start to sing it, usually with dance moves. She was a sleeper agent when playing board or card games, often feigning indifference or confusion until she swept in and won it all.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Dr. Marvin L. Wesely.

She is survived by her daughters, Jennifer K. (Kevin Ingwersen) Wesely and Pamela M. (Matthew Arnold) Wesely; her grandchildren, Fiona and Malcolm Arnold; her sisters, Barbara (Robert) Swan and Carol Cercone; and many nieces and nephews.

Visitation is from 3 to 8 p.m. Thursday, May 16, at Sullivan Funeral Home, 60 S. Grant St., Hinsdale.

Family and friends will meet at 10 a.m. Friday, May 17, for a funeral Mass at St. Isaac Jogues Church, 306 W. Fourth St., Hinsdale.

Interment is at Bronswood Cemetery in Oak Brook.



Wesely

Patricia Potter Williams

Patricia "Pat" Potter Williams, formerly of Hinsdale, passed away peacefully Feb. 15, 2024, at her home in Asheville, N.C., with her husband and her children around her, after a year-long battle with cancer. She faced her illness, and its final outcome, with strength, courage and grace.

Pat was always interested in learning something new and just as interested in passing that knowledge on to help someone else. She enjoyed playing pickleball and loved hiking, cycling on bike trails and line dancing. She made friends whatever she did and wherever she went. Among many others, she had a close group of friends who dated back to high school and even kindergarten.

Pat was born in Woodville, Texas, to Stuart L. Potter and Olive A. Potter, but grew up in Edwardsville. After earning her degree in business at the University of Illinois, Pat moved to Washington, D.C., where she worked for three years for the Federal Home Loan Bank Board. In DC, she met the man who would become her husband, Douglas Williams. Pat and Doug were married in South Bend, Ind., on Dec. 27, 1973. In 1974, they moved to Hyde Park to attend the University of Chicago, where she earned her MBA. After passing the CPA exam, she worked for Haskins & Sells, an international accounting firm, first in auditing and then in small business consulting. She left H&S to teach accounting at Loyola University in Chicago, then ran her own small business for a few years.

Pat and Doug moved to Hinsdale in 1981 before the birth of their three children. As the children grew up, Pat was actively involved in their schooling through PTAs and serving on the local school board. She encouraged and facilitated their participation in numerous sports and extracurricular activities,

nurturing their talents, coaching their teams and rarely, if ever, missing a game or performance.

Pat also was active in local organizations, played tennis at a competitive level and also enjoyed golf in the summer and platform tennis in the winter. She handled all of the family finances and investments, to which her husband credits his ability to retire early.

In 2005, Pat and Doug retired to Asheville. They loved the freedom to travel in their retirement, often to visit family and friends. They especially loved Canada and eventually visited every province. They also loved to visit National Parks.

Pat was devoted to her family and doted on her grandchildren, so the most important annual trip was to gather everyone in a big house somewhere for the week of Thanksgiving. Pat was never happier than when all of her children and their spouses and grandchildren were together.

Pat is survived by her husband of 50 years, Doug Williams; her children, Dan (Ashley Westrich) Williams, Katherine Williams (Justin) Mills and Philip (Lawrence Cuevas) Williams; and her grandchildren, Theo, Elliot, Faye, Nolan, Brynn and Lanai.

Pat's sister, Susan Potter, survived her, but passed away on March 6, 2024.

A celebration of Pat's life will be held from 5 to 8 p.m. Sunday, May 26, at the North Carolina Arboretum, 100 Frederick Law Olmsted Way, Asheville.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made online to the North Carolina Arboretum at www.ncarboretum.org, the Asheville Botanical Gardens at www.ashevillebotanicalgardens.org or the Carolina Memorial Sanctuary at www.carolinamemorial-sanctuary.org.



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ASK AN EXPERT

SPENCER CAMPBELL, PLANT CLINIC MANAGER

What plants will cicadas put at risk?

Spring is always a busy time at the Morton Arboretum. Add in millions of emerging cicadas and the season's to-do list gets exceptionally longer.

"We're doing a lot to prepare," said Spencer Campbell, manager of the plant clinic at Morton Arboretum in Lisle. He said workers at the arboretum were busy throughout the first weeks of May wrapping hundreds of the arboretum's youngest trees to protect them from this year's expected cicada brood.

"It's the same material used for a wedding veil or a tutu," Campbell said of the fabric used to wrap the trees.

While cicadas are harmless to mature trees, the breeding process can cause damage to smaller trees, Campbell said. Female cicadas prefer to lay their eggs in branches that are 1/4 to 1/2 inch wide. To do so, the cicada makes a small incision in the branch and places about 20 eggs inside. Because each female cicada can lay about 600 eggs, one tree can be subjected to

many small incisions.

"All those small cuts can have an impact," Campbell said.

Insecticides may kill adult cicadas but will not harm deposited egg masses, Campbell said. And because cicadas are a desirable food source for many animals and birds, insecticide use is not recommended.

Instead, wrapping the trees in tulle is the best way to protect them, Campbell said. To determine whether a tree is vulnerable, measure the trunk's diameter 4.5 feet above the ground, Campbell said. If it is 2 inches or less, consider wrapping the tree.

Along with saplings, Campbell said homeowners should consider wrapping woody plants such as hydrangeas, rose bushes and raspberry bushes. A video on the arboretum's website at www.mortonarb.org shows the simple process.

Trees are vital to the entire life cycle of the cicada, Campbell said. Those tiny eggs, no bigger than a grain of rice, develop in the tree for six to 10 weeks before dropping to the ground, where they will feed on the tree's sap until they emerge fully developed many years later.

Some broods of cicadas remain underground for 13 years, while others stay there for 17.

What the cicadas take while laying their eggs, they give back as fertilizer. Cicadas emerge from the ground wearing a hard shell known as an exoskeleton. Once discarded, the shells fertilize the tree, helping to ensure a healthy environment for the next emerging brood.

Campbell said the cicadas are loud and might be seen as a nuisance to humans, but to wildlife, they provide an unexpected feast. The bugs are so abundant and nutritious, Campbell said, animals that eat them produce larger, healthier litters of offspring in the year to follow.

"There absolutely are more positives than there are negatives," he said.

Homeowners who are planning to protect their trees this time around have no time to waste. With soil temperatures rising and leaves on the trees, Campbell said the great cicada invasion of 2024 is imminent.

"We're getting close," Campbell said.

— by Sandy Illian Bosch



Spencer Campbell said he and other professionals at the Morton Arboretum are watching carefully to learn all they can from this year's cicada event. (photo provided)

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The Procession begins at 10am from 3rd Street, near Hinsdale Middle School. It will head west to Washington and north on Washington to Memorial Hall. A ceremony will follow the conclusion of the procession.



GOOD NEWS

GALA SUPPORTS RMH CHARITIES

The Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana's annual gala, Light the Way Together, raise more than \$1.7 million to help connect thousands of families a year with high-quality medical care and resources.

More than 800 guests were in attendance at the April 27 event, held at The Geraghty in Chicago.

Photos appear online at www.facebook.com/thehinsdalean.

TEEN EARNS SCHOLARSHIP

Joy Shen of Hinsdale is one of 2,500 to earn a \$2,500 National Merit Scholarship.

National Merit \$2,500 Scholarship winners are the finalists in each state judged to have the strongest combination of accomplishments, skills and potential for success in rigorous college studies. The number of winners named in each state is pro-

portional to the state's percentage of the nation's graduating high school seniors.

STUFF THE SQUAD A SUCCESS IN D181

The Stuff the Squad initiative in Community Consolidated Elementary District 181 collected 4,000 pounds of food and supplies for HCS Family Services.

The district partnered with

the Burr Ridge, Clarendon Hills and Hinsdale police departments in the effort.

UA STUDENT HELPS COMMUNITY

Jonathan Kobus of Hinsdale was one of 24 University of Alabama students who spent a day cleaning up trash in Tuscaloosa's Kaulton Park community.

Kobus is a member of

LEADnxt, an initiative of UA Culverhouse Business LEAD program to empower, educate and enable the next generation of community leaders through service learning.

STUDENT-ATHLETE AMONG HONOREES

Luca Fischer of Hinsdale was among the 368 Lewis University student-athletes honored for academ-

ic excellence on April 22 with the Brother David Delahanty, FSC Award at the Convocation Hall located on the Romeoville Campus. The Delahanty Award recognizes Flyers who have maintained a cumulative GPA of 3.25 or above while balancing the demands of athletics and academics.

Fischer is playing soccer and studying biology at Lewis University in Romeoville.



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Summertime soundtrack

Round up family and friends and soak in live musical performances nearby

The western suburbs will soon be alive with the sound of music. The season of live outdoor concert series is right around the corner, blending the joy of good tunes with the delight of summertime weather.

Watch future issues for more information on Hinsdaleans' favorite summer concert series, Uniquely Thursdays.

Here are a few others in the area to check out.

- Cantigny Park's Summer Concert Series runs from 3 to 5 p.m. Sundays from May 26 to Sept. 1 (no concert June 23).

This concert is outdoors and features lawn seating. Guests are encouraged to bring chairs or blankets and picnics; a designated area will be reserved for guests with pop-up tents and canopies. House-smoked pulled pork sandwiches, beef brisket and hot dogs will be available for purchase, as well as cotton candy, popcorn, artisan candies and crêpes, and craft and domestic beers, wines, cocktails and soft drinks.

Internationally acclaimed touring star Brandon Bennett opens the series with "Elvis My Way" May 26.

Admission is free but parking is \$20.

Cantigny Park is located at 1S151 Winfield Road in Wheaton. Visit www.cantigny.org for more information.

- Enjoy tunes amidst the trees at Morton Arboretum's Arbor Evenings concert series from 6 to 8 p.m. Wednesday nights from May 29 through Aug. 21.

Purchase drinks, ice cream, and menu items from a variety of food trucks, try your hand at lawn games and see spectacular sunsets from atop Frost Hill.

The band R-Gang will kick off the season on May 29; admission starts at 5:15 p.m. Tickets are \$15 and \$5 for ages 2-12, and advance purchase is required.

The arboretum is located at 4100 Route 53 in Lisle. Visit www.mortonarb.org for tickets or more information.

- Burr Ridge's Concerts on the Village Green will deliver free live musical entertainment from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Thursdays from June 6 to



Revelers enjoy the atmosphere at a Dancin' in the Streets events in Clarendon Hills, one of several local concert series. (photo provided)

Aug. 1 (no concert July 4).

Libido Funk Circus will open the series. Tickets are not required, and guests are permitted to save their space with chairs and blankets starting at 6 p.m.

Concerts are held at Burr Ridge Village Center, 701 Village Center. Visit www.shopburr ridge.com/events for more information.

- The Westmont Park District presents its Summer Concert Series from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesdays, June 19, July 17 and Aug. 21.

Guests are welcome to bring picnic baskets, lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy an evening of free outdoor entertainment.

The band Hoopla is first up, performing classic rock from the '60s through the '80s at Ty Warner Park, 800 Blackhawk Drive. Subsequent concerts will be held at different locations. Visit www.westmont-parks.org/events/summer-special-events for more information.

- Head to the Brookfield Zoo for Roaring Nights from 6 to 10 p.m. Saturday, June 22, and Saturday, July 27. (Barenaked Ladies July 12 is sold out.)

Celebrate the zoo's 90th anniversary with performances by chart-topping groups The Fray

June 22 and Gin Blossoms on July 27. Several animal habitats will be open until 7 p.m., animal ambassadors will be on hand on the East Mall between 6:30 and 7:30 p.m. and guests can take spin on the carousel until 7 p.m. and on the zoo's anniversary Ferris wheel until 9 p.m. (extra fees apply)

Tickets are \$45-\$55, and every individual ticket purchased comes with free entry for one child age 12 and under. Special VIP packages are available for some performances.

The zoo is located at 8400 31st St. Visit www.brookfieldzoo.org/roaringnights for tickets or more information.

- Get your feet moving to Clarendon Hills for the free Dancin' in the Streets music series from 7 to 9 p.m. Wednesdays, June 26 and July 10 through Aug. 7.

A beer tent will be set up, and guests are invited to visit local eateries for tasty menu items. Chairs and blankets are encouraged.

Opening act The Wayouts will bring their vision of authentic 1960s rock n' roll for listeners to enjoy.

The event takes place on South Prospect Avenue in downtown Clarendon Hills. Visit [\[endonhillschamber.com\]\(http://endonhillschamber.com\) for more information.](http://www.clar-</p>
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- Oak Brook Park District's Summer Concert Series will be held at 6:30 p.m. Thursdays, July 11 through Aug. 1.

The band Live Stream, playing '80s and '90s music to get the audience moving and grooving, will headline the first of the free performances on July 11.

The concerts will be held in Central Park, 1450 Forest Gate Road. Visit www.obparks.org for more information.

- College of DuPage's Lakeside Pavilion reopens for the season with concerts Fridays, July 12 to Aug. 9, and Thursdays, July 18 and 25.

Bring a blanket, lawn chair and a picnic. Food, beverages and a bar also will be available; outside alcohol is not permitted. Once capacity is reached, the park will close.

New Philharmonic will open the series with a pops concert July 12. Admission is free, but a food donation is appreciated to benefit local food pantries.

Lakeside Pavilion is located at 425 Fawell Blvd. in Glen Ellyn. Visit www.atthemac.org for more information.

— compiled by Ken Knutson

PULSE



Joe Jencks and Deidre McCalla will perform in the May 18 finale of the Acoustic Renaissance Concert season at Unitarian Church of Hinsdale. See Page 26 for details. (photos provided)

FOR A CAUSE

■ **Bikes for Military Kids**
Through May 18
www.tinyurl.com/4clawbc49
Help support Hinsdale Rotary's annual drive to provide new bikes and helmets to 80 kids of active Illinois military members. The presentation of the bikes will take place May 18 — Armed Forces Day — at The Community House.

■ **Candor Health Golf Outing**
May 22
Willow Crest Golf Club
3500 Midwest Road, Oak Brook
www.candorhealthed.org/events/golf-2024
Enjoy lunch, 18 holes of golf, games, prizes, dinner and a silent auction in support of health education that impacts more than 80,000 students annually in the Chicagoland area. Time: 11 a.m. warm-up, noon lunch, 1 p.m. shotgun start, 6 p.m. cocktails, dinner and silent auction. Cost: \$385, \$1,500 for a foursome. RR

GAME ON

■ **Indoor Beginning Golf**
Mondays, June 3-24
Madison School
611 S. Madison St.
www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr
(630) 789-7090
Kids ages 4-7 can learn the basics of the game using the SNAG method. Time: 4 to 4:50 p.m. Cost: \$42. RR

■ **Jr. Basketball Camp**
Mondays, June 3-24
Madison School
611 S. Madison Street
www.villageofhinsdale.org/pr
(630) 789-7090
Kids ages 5-7 will learn the game and expand their skills, including dribbling, passing and shooting, in a noncompetitive environment. Teamwork, participation and good sportsmanship are stressed, and a game will be played at the end of each class. Time: 5 to 5:50 p.m. Cost: \$42.

GREAT OUTDOORS

Please turn to Page 22

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Tips for helping teens headed college or coming home

'Tis the season of college acceptance. Social media feeds are full of proud parents making announcements. Graduating high school is indeed an exciting time filled with anticipation of setting off into young adult life. Yet, teens are still Adults In Training. This time can be filled with as many highs and lows as prior teen years.

Recently, I've noticed more high school grads who head to college and return home before semester's end, often to attend intensive mental health services due to extreme stress. They're struggling emotionally, socially and academically. Google shows several programs available for young adults experiencing Failure to Launch Syndrome (not an actual diagnosis). Some of them are geared specifically toward young men who, according to research, consider quitting college at a much higher rate than women and have been less likely to enroll in college at all for the last two decades.

Prior to the pandemic, teens were showing signs of struggle around the college trajectory as it exists today,

which includes numerous tours, constructing a college "resume," GPA angst and piling on AP classes. Several authors wrote about the trend of helicopter parenting. During the pandemic, socializing with peers took on a new form, families struggled with new kinds of stress and real life experiences as well as important milestones were altered or altogether missed. Many teens fared well while others had a difficult time resurfacing from developmental derailment, meaning they missed out on crucial tasks for growth due to the impact of trauma.

So, when to worry if your child seems stalled on the young adult path? Some young people simply need time and support around catching up on missed aspects of development while others may be experiencing deeper issues — such as mental health or substance abuse issues — that are keeping them stuck and require pro-



Alis Messana
On mental health

fessional attention.

Here are some ways to provide support:

- For teens heading to college, be sure they know how to access campus counseling services.

Encourage open communication with your child whether it's around exciting or disappointing news. This decreases the chance of learning late in the game your child hasn't been attending classes and

is depressed.

- If your teen has withdrawn from college due to extreme stress, be sure to support them in accessing mental health services not only to address the symptoms they're experiencing, but to explore what led to the stress and create a positive set of coping skills.

- When you have a teen who is hesitant to attend college or to return to school, normalize the struggle. If you've addressed deeper issues your child is having, consider that college

can be an option at any time in life. It just may be in a more non-traditional manner.

Authors William Stixrud and Ned Johnson refer to college as "a very expensive four year party" if your child isn't ready. There is valuable experience in other post-high school options, such as gap years including traveling or signing up for volunteer projects or working a full-time job. Continue to encourage development by having your teen take on responsibilities where they will learn life skills and increase confidence.

It is difficult to witness your child struggle. It's also hard to be the kid who is struggling, especially living in an area where pressure for success is high. Instead of failing to launch, I consider these young people as figuring out how to do so.

— Alisa Messana of Hinsdale is a licensed clinical social worker and mental health consultant who serves as clinical supervisor at The Community House Counseling Center.

■ Yet, teens are still Adults In Training. This time can be filled with as many highs and lows as prior teen years.

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Mia Botha
Kinzie Broucek
Ben Brown
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Rohan Chidi
Robert Chiperi
Aslan Choi
Ethan Choi
Isla Chow
Maddie Cordes
Henry Crabb

Eliana Cuttica
Milena Cuttica
James Dancer
Quentin Danford
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Henna Desai
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PULSE

Continued from Page 18

■ Forest Hike

May 20
Waterfall Glen
Cass Avenue & Bluff Road,
Darien
www.dupageforest.org
(630) 933-7248

Enjoy the wonders of the forest preserves and get some healthy exercise on a guided, quick-paced 3-to-5-mile hike.

Time: 8:30 to 10 a.m. Cost: \$5.
RR

■ Nature IS Accessible!

May 22
Little Red Schoolhouse
Nature Center
9800 Willow Springs Road,
Willow Springs
www.fpdcc.com
(708) 839-6897

Visitors of all abilities are invited to celebrate nature through accessible activities at

this drop-in event. Hours: 10 a.m. to noon.

GREEN THUMB

■ Native Plant sale

May 17 & 18
Mayslake Peabody Estate
1717 W. 31st St., Oak Brook
www.dupageforest.org

Shop for native flowers, grasses, shrubs and trees. Visitors should bring their own box or wagon. Plant experts

answer questions and make planting recommendations, and plant availability will be based on what the supplier is able to deliver the week of the sale. Proceeds support the Friends of the Forest Preserve District. Hours: 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. May 17, 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 18.

■ Native American Herbs

May 20
Indian Head Park

Administration Building
201 Acacia Drive

The Suburban Garden Club invites all to hear Marcy Lautenin-Raleigh, creator of Backyard Patch Herbs, an online purveyor of salt-free, gluten-free, preservative-free herb cooking and tea products, discuss the healing, culinary and religious benefits of Native American herbs in a combina-

Please turn to Page 24



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Hinsdale Kitchen Walk: Graceful Gatherings

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Hinsdale Kitchen Walk:
Graceful Gatherings

HINSDALE
HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOOKLET & GRAPHIC DESIGN

Katharine Korte Andrew
HOME WRITE-UP COPY
Tracy Boyd

PULSE

Continued from Page 22

tion slide and hands-on program. Time: 7 to 8:30 p.m.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

■ Mental Health Tune-Ups

May 19
Little Red Schoolhouse
Nature Center
9800 Willow Springs Road,
Willow Springs
www.fpdcc.com
(708) 839-6897

Help raise awareness of the importance of mental health while benefiting from time spent in nature. Time: noon. RR

JUST FOR KIDS

■ Take Home Craft: Pinwheels

May 24
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

Kids are invited to pick up a kit to create and decorate their very own pinwheel. RR

LISTEN & LEARN

■ Cicada Symphony

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

Learn about the rare spectacle of the two cicada broods this summer from Jamie Viebach with the University of Illinois Extension Program. Time: 7 to 8 p.m. RR

■ Decluttering Done Right

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

Learn the best methods and locations for disposing of, donating or selling unwanted stuff, including household items, clothing, electronics, furniture, toys and games, books and more. Time: 7 to 8 p.m. RR

MEMORIAL DAY

■ Memorial Day Service

May 27
Bronswood Cemetery
3805 Madison St., Oak Brook
American Legion Post 250 will host this special service honoring members of the Armed Forces who have been lost. Time: 7 a.m.

■ Memorial Day Procession

May 27
Through downtown Hinsdale
The village of Hinsdale, in partnership with Hinsdale American Legion Post 250, welcomes veterans and Scout troops to partake in this annual procession. The procession will start at Third Street near Hinsdale Middle School, head west to Washington Street and then continue north on Washington to the Memorial Building. A ceremony will follow the conclusion of the procession. Convertibles are needed to help transport vets; please contact mhayes@villageofhinsdale.org for information. Time: 10 a.m. start

■ Flag-changing ceremony and tour

May 27
Fullersburg Cemetery
North end of Garfield Street in Hinsdale
www.fullersburg.org

The Fullersburg Cemetery's annual Memorial Day flag-changing ceremony will be followed by a tour led by Don Fuller, great-great-grandson of Benjamin Fuller, founder of Fullersburg. Time: noon.

NOTEWORTHY

■ Gershwin's Greatest

May 18 & 19
First United Methodist Church, La Grange
100 W. Cossitt Ave., La Grange
www.towerchorale.org

The Tower Chorale will close its season with an energetic revival of some of the most incredible 20th-century jazz standards by George Gershwin, including "They Can't Take That Away from Me," "Strike up the Band," "Embraceable You," and "Let's Call the Whole Thing Off." Jazz instrumentalists will accompany the chorale. Times: 4 p.m. May 18, 3 p.m. May 19. Tickets: \$25.

■ Modern and Melodious

May 18
Wentz Concert Hall
171 E. Chicago Ave., Naperville
www.dupagesymphony.org

Acclaimed trumpet player Mary Elizabeth Bowden, a native of northern Illinois, joins the DuPage Symphony Orchestra to perform the seldom-heard Trumpet Concerto of 1963 by Welsh composer

Please turn to Page 26

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All Veterans are encouraged to participate in the procession.

AMERICAN LEGION POPPY DAY

is being celebrated Thursday, May 16, 2024 in Hinsdale

Members of Hinsdale's American Legion Post 250 will be collecting donations across the village in the morning

Poppies fabricated by Veterans in medical facilities. All proceeds go into American Legion Auxiliary programs benefitting Veterans and youth programs.

Watch for us around town or donations can be mailed to:
American Legion Post 250, PO Box 92, Hinsdale, IL 60522-0092



Hinsdale Memorial Day Events Monday, May 27, 2024

- 7 AM -** Memorial Service at Bronswood Cemetery.
- 10 AM -** Memorial Procession from 3rd and Garfield, west to Washington, then North to the Memorial Building. Youth Groups are invited to participate.
- 10:30 AM -** Ceremonies at the Memorial Building, 19 East Chicago Ave.

Public Service Announcement provided by The Hinsdalean.

PULSE

Continued from Page 24

Grace Williams. The program also will include Leonard Bernstein's "Symphonic Dances" from West Side Story and more. Time: 7:30 p.m. Tickets: \$38, \$34 for seniors, \$15 for students.

■ Sinfonietta Bel Canto

May 19
Mayslake Hall
1717 W. 31st St., Oak Brook
www.sinfoniettabelcanto.org

The chamber orchestra and opera group will perform a concert featuring Saint-Saëns Symphony No. 2 and Auber's one-act comic opera "Le Concert à la cour, ou La Débutante" ("The Concert at the Court, or The Debutante"), which will be sung in French with projected English translation. The program also will be performed at 7 p.m. May 18 at St. Paul's UCC, 5739 Dunham Road in Downers Grove. Time: 4 p.m. Tickets: \$25, \$22, \$8.

■ Joe Jencks and Deidre McCalla

May 18
Unitarian Church of Hinsdale
11 W. Maple St.
www.acousticren.com
(630) 941-7797

A 25-year veteran of the international folk circuit, Joe Jencks is an award-winning songwriter and celebrated Chicago-based vocalist who merges conservatory training with his Irish roots and working-class upbringing in musical narratives filled with heart, soul, groove and grit. Singer-songwriter Deidre McCalla has long been at the forefront of redefining the understanding of how Black folk do folk. Time: 7 p.m. Tickets: \$20.

■ Soaring

May 19
Wentz Concert Hall
171 E. Chicago Ave.,
Naperville
www.westsubsymphony.org
(630) 887-7464

The West Suburban Symphony will perform this program, featuring Dvorak's 1889 Symphony No. 8, American Ulysses Kay's 1963 Fantasy Variations and Tchaikovsky's 1878 Violin Concerto, with the first movement performed by Neal Eisfeldt, 2024 high school solo contest winner. Time: 3:30 p.m. Tickets: \$30, \$25 for seniors, \$5 for teenagers, free for ages 12 and younger.

ON STAGE

■ 'Into the Earth with You'

Thursdays to Sundays through June 2
McAninch Arts Center
College of DuPage
425 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn
www.atthemac.org
(630) 942-4000

The Buffalo Theatre Ensemble presents the world premiere of this Brian Watkins play, following three sisters — whose granddad has died — can't forget what's buried when an impossible discovery upends their notions of loss. The production contains adult themes and language. An ASL performance will be given Thursday, May 23. Times: 8 p.m. Thursdays to Saturdays, 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$44, \$42 for seniors.

RUNS & WALKS

■ Tower Trot

May 25
Grand Avenue Community Center
4211 Grand Ave., Western Springs.
www.wsprings.com/649/
Tower-Trot

This 47th annual event features a 10K run and 5K run — with the option to run both — and a Fun Run under a mile. Proceeds benefit the Healing Hearts for Ashley Foundation. Times: 8:30 a.m. 10K, 8:45 a.m. Fun Run. 9:30 a.m. 5K. Cost: (for nonresidents) \$50 for 10K, \$45 for 5K, \$45 for both, \$30 for ages 14 and under, \$15 for the Fun Run; fees increase \$5 on May 13.

SENIOR SCENE

■ Scam Smart Series

May 22
Western Springs Village Hall
740 Hillgrove Ave.
(708) 246-3299

Western Springs director of law enforcement services Sean Gilhooley, director of technology Pat Schramm and police detective Kenneth Lafin will share information to equip people to avoid scams. Time: 1 to 3 p.m.

■ Hinsdale Memory Cafe

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

Please turn to Page 28

SOARING

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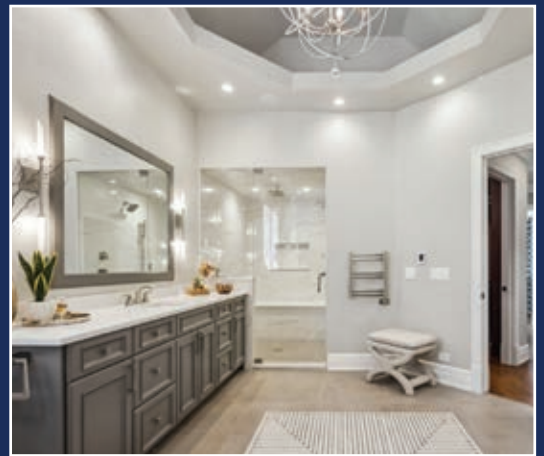
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PULSE

Continued from Page 26

This gathering of individuals living with dementia and their care partners offers a place to socialize and connect with others in similar situations using prepared activities. Activities may include education, music, games and arts. The program is sponsored by The Birches and Independence-4-Seniors Home Care. Time: 2 to 3 p.m. RR

SPECIAL EVENTS

■ Poppy Day

May 19
Across Hinsdale
Members of Hinsdale's American Legion Post 250 will collect donations to benefit American Legion Auxiliary programs for veterans. Donations also may be mailed to American Legion Post 250, P.O. Box 92, Hinsdale, IL 60522-0092.

■ Western Springs Historical Society House Walk

May 19
www.westernspringshistory.org/programs-events/house-walk

This fundraiser celebrates home décor, design and architectural inspiration through visits to seven homes of varying styles and vintage, all located in Western Springs' Old Town neighborhood. The complimentary "hop on/hop off" trolleys will make a loop from the downtown Water Tower and First Congregational Church and stop near each home for those who'd prefer not to walk. A program book and docent commentary will be offered at each home. Tickets can be purchased online; paper tickets can be purchased at Clever Girl, Thomas Ford Library and the Tower Museum. Hours: 11:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Tickets: \$35 in advance, \$45 on the day of the event.

■ Cantigny Spring Fest

May 18
Cantigny Park
1S151 Winfield Road,
Wheaton
www.cantigny.org

Enjoy the park with a visit to the beautiful gardens. Family activities will include a gnome scavenger hunt, an inflatable, an animal encounter and more. The first-ever marketplace inside the historic McCormick House will feature

local vendors offering jewelry, pottery, art, and more. Live music, specialty beverages and a French-themed food menu (along with other favorites) also are on tap. Cantigny tulip bulbs will be on sale 25 for \$10. A backstage pass for an exclusive guided greenhouse tour, a drink ticket and 25 Cantigny tulip bulbs is \$50. Craft a botanical masterpiece at the Terrarium Bar from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with a \$40 reservation (includes admission). Hours: 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: \$12, free for ages 15 and under, plus \$5 parking.

STEPPING BACK

■ Fullersburg History from 1832-62

May 19
Oak Brook Library
600 Oak Brook Road
oak-brook.libcal.com/
event/11487126

Don Fuller and Sue Devick from the Fullersburg Historic Foundation and Elizabeth Arts from the Oak Brook Historical Society will discuss the rapid changes that occurred as

the Potawatomi village of Sauganacka became the busy settlement of Fullersburg and the qualities of the men and women who contributed to the growth and commercial success of this area. Time: 2 to 3 p.m.

■ First Division Museum tour

May 24
Cantigny Park
1S151 Winfield Road,
Wheaton
www.cantigny.org
Experience the remarkable history of the U.S. Army's oldest and most storied unit, the 1st Infantry Division, through exhibits featuring the actions and accomplishments of the Big Red One from its inception during World War I through World War II and ending in the jungles of Vietnam. An optional 15-minute guided tour through the Duty First Gallery will follow, highlighting the division's missions and accomplishments post-Vietnam to the present. Time: 3 to 4 p.m. Admission: Free with \$5 paid parking. RR

Please turn to Page 30

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Continued from Page 28

TEENS & TWEENS

■ Teen Game Time

May 17, 24 & 31
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

Take some time to unwind by playing Mario Kart on the Nintendo Switch or enjoy a classic board game. Hours: 3 to 5 p.m.

■ DIY Glass Photo Magnets

May 24
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

Drop by the library any time and pick up a take-home kit to design glass magnets for personal use or to give as a gift. RR

■ Exam Cram

May 25, 26, 28, 29 & 30
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

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library, where space and snacks will be provided to properly prepare. See website for hours for each session.

WINE & DINE

■ Spring Wine Tasting

May 23
Morton Arboretum
4100 Route 53, Lisle
www.mortonarb.org

Spend a beautiful spring evening choosing from more than 80 varieties of wine to sample while enjoying scenic tree-filled views. Wines will be available to order for pick up at a later date. Food will be sold at the Ginkgo Restaurant until 6 p.m.; after that pizza will be available. Each event ticket includes three hours of tasting and a souvenir glass; designated driver tickets include a nonalcoholic beverage ticket and cookie. Time: 5 to 8 p.m. Tickets: \$60, \$20 for designated driver. RR, MD

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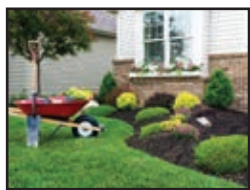
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 - 37 SWEETEN
 - 39 ROCKER NUGENT
 - 41 MINNESOTA - PENNILESS ONE
 - 42 FEARSOME FLY
 - 49 RELAXING TIME ON THE SLOPES
 - 51 EQUITABLE
 - 52 "UNDERSTOOD"
 - 53 LUCY'S TV PAL
 - 54 FOREARM BONE
 - 55 MINUS
 - 56 SEASON OPENER?
 - 57 SOME JULY BABIES

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- DOWN**
- 1 EARLY TVS
 - 2 "NOPE!"
 - 3 RANI'S DRESS
 - 4 ROYAL CROWNS
 - 5 VAST RAINFOREST REGION
 - 6 -- CHI
 - 7 PAINTER CHAGALL
 - 8 SUPPORTED
 - 9 ACTING SMUG
 - 10 HACKS WITH AN AXE
 - 11 POSTPAID ENC.
 - 17 MEXICAN MRS.
 - 19 SLEEP LIKE --
 - 22 TREBLE CLEF LINES
 - 24 BRISTLE
 - 25 CAVIAR BASE
 - 26 FABRIC FEATURES
 - 27 CALMING DRUG
 - 29 TAX PRO
 - 30 MESS UP
 - 33 BYGONE JETS
 - 36 PRAIRIE HOMES
 - 38 OF SERVICE
 - 40 -- MOINES
 - 42 BEACH BUCKET
 - 43 CHURCH AREA
 - 44 INVITATION NOTATION
 - 46 STORY
 - 47 CHINA (PREF.)
 - 48 HISTORIC PERIODS
 - 50 WHITE WINE COCKTAIL

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

Weekly SUDOKU

by Linda Thistle

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

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

DIFFICULTY THIS WEEK: ♦♦

♦ Moderate ♦♦ Challenging
♦♦♦ HOO BOY!

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SCRAMBLERS

solution

1. Crave; 2. Seduce;
3. Allow; 4. Manage

Today's Word
UNLOVED

SCRAMBLERS

Unscramble the letters and/or each word to form one ordinary word. Then rearrange the letters and/or each word to form another word, which will complete the puzzle.

- Down
- CARVE
 - Across
 - DEUCES
 - Down
 - WALLO
 - Across
 - ANGAME

"You must be mistaken... I just can't imagine a multifarious being."

TODAY'S WORD

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

HOROSCOPES

May 2024 Horoscopes • Week 4



CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20
Capricorn, you have a lot of self-worth, so stop looking at yourself through a pessimistic lens. Be convinced of your value and ability to assist others around you.



ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20
Aries, you may meet an influential ally this week. Chat them up because this is a person you want to have in your network. You never know when you'll need some assistance.



CANCER – Jun 22/Jul 22
Cancer, trust your intuition when you meet someone new this week. You often can get a good read on someone right away. That's an important skill to develop, especially in the workplace.



LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23
You may be feeling extra flirty these next few days, Libra. This will help add a spark to your current relationship or help you find someone new if that is the desire.



AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18
Start feeling good about what the future may hold, Aquarius. There are a lot of possibilities out there, and you're starting to see them peeking out over the horizon.



TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21
Taurus, you have real talent, so you should be proud and show off your efforts. Whether it is artistic in nature or you are a whiz with numbers, share your gift with others.



LEO – Jul 23/Aug 23
There is a lot of potential for socializing right now, Leo. Your calendar will fill up quite quickly with invitations from people in your life. Enjoy the attention.



SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22
Relationship issues at home may be on your mind, Scorpio. Create pockets in your days for deep introspection to process all of the emotions you are feeling.



PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20
You may not be feeling overly social right now, Pisces. Take a few days to spend time alone and sort through your feelings. Over time you may be ready to re-engage.



GEMINI – May 22/Jun 21
Explore creative possibilities, Gemini. You can use a new hobby right now that keeps you occupied. Look at trends that are popular right now and try one of those.



VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22
Virgo, take inventory of the things in your life and be real about what you need and what you can get rid of right now. You may be carrying around a lot of baggage you simply don't need.



SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21
Sagittarius, if you can't get an answer to something yourself, then you may want to pick the brains of friends or other people in your circle. They may offer unique perspectives.

SPORTS — ROUNDUP

STUDENT ATHLETE PROFILE



Isabella Walls-Rodriguez
Hinsdale

What was your goal heading into your senior soccer season?

Just trying to make it far as we can in the season and postseason and building a team where we can actually achieve that.

When did you start playing soccer?

I started when I was about 7. My family was living in Turkey, and I was the only girl on my first soccer team there.

And then you moved to Italy?

Yes. I was part of the first girls soccer team at my school there. It's always good to just be a part of something new.

How is youth soccer different in the States?

There are no club teams (overseas). It goes through the schools. Soccer there is a lot more community-centered. Everyone comes out to watch.

What position do you play?

I started off playing defense, mainly outside back. Then I moved to center back, and this year I've been playing forward. My dad likes that I'm playing a more offensive position now.

How would your team-

mates describe you?

Kind-hearted, versatile, a good sense of humor. I think I just try to bring people up when they're down.

What else are you involved in at Central?

I'm on the executive board for Habitat for Humanity — we're going to West Virginia this summer to build a house. I'm also in Microfinance Club and Women in Engineering. I'm going to Wake Forest University to study engineering.

What do you like to do for fun?

Go on runs, play pickleball, take walks with my family..

Why does head coach Tony Madonia like having Valls-Rodriguez on the squad?

Isa is such an integral part of this team, program and community. As a soccer player, she communicates well, always has a great attitude and is a versatile player, chalking minutes both as an outside back and a forward. She brings more than just talent and athletic ability to the team, though. She is an excellent community member in and outside of the classroom and is an extraordinary young person in our community.

— profile by Ken Knutson,
photo by Jim Slonoff

HEADED TO STATE

Members of the Hinsdale Central girls track team will compete at the IHSA state final today through Saturday, May 16-18, at Eastern Illinois University in Charleston.

Representing Red Devil Nation are sophomore Ella Gray in the 400 meters; sophomore Lily Hodneland in the 800 meters; senior Camden Griffin in the 1,600 meters; seniors Keira Leech and Leena Abu-Ghazalah in the 300-meter hurdles; seniors Zari Dorris, Chistina Tresslar, Ana Hodneland and sophomore Molly Gilmartin in both the 4x100 and 4x200 relays; seniors Pola Dygon and Katie Gilmartin and sophomores Gray and Lily Hodneland in the 4x400 relay; seniors Dygon, Gilmartin, Griffin and Kennedy Boyd in the 4x800 relay; and sophomore Avery Bonino in the long jump and triple jump. Good luck Devils!

RESULTS

Baseball

May 11 vs. Proviso West
V wins 2-0
May 10 vs. Proviso West
V wins 10-0

Lacrosse, boys

May 13 vs. Wheaton North
V loses 7-8
May 10 vs. Andrew
V loses 7-12

Lacrosse, girls

May 14 vs. York
V wins 12-8
May 11 @ Rockford (Mich.)
V wins 9-7
Kearney, 3 goals
Vande Lune, 2 goals
Linn, goal, 2 assists
Parker-Briones, goal, assist
Gatzulis, goal
Matthews, goal
Venetsanopolous, 2 assists
May 10 @ Brighton (Mich.)
V wins 10-6
May 9 vs. Benet
V loses 7-9

Soccer, girls

May 14 @ IHSA regional
vs. Kelly
V wins 9-0
Rohn, 3 goals, 2 assists
Edgewater, 2 goals
Groom, goal, 2 assists
Ditomasso, goal, assist
McDonnell, goal assist
Bingham, goal
Krogstie, assist
Leal, assist
McLaughlin, assist
May 9 @ Metea Valley
V loses 0-3

Softball

May 13 @ York

V wins 7-5 (10 inn)
Koschik, 3 RBIs, run
Georganas, 2 RBIs

Araujo, 2 runs
DiPasquale, run
Mayer, run
McDaniel, run
Skay, run
Kinder, win
Kuo, 10 strikeouts
May 11 @ Sandburg
V loses 0-8
May 10 vs. Stagg
V wins 5-1
May 8 @ Downers South
V loses 0-4

Tennis, boys

May 10-11 vs. WSC championship
V places 1st with 38 points
1st singles
N. Hernandez, 1st, 6-4, 6-3
2nd singles
Milton, 1st, 7-5, 6-1
3rd singles
Wang, 1st, 6-1, 6-2
1st doubles
Zhu/A. Hernandez, 3rd, 6-2, 3-6, 6-3
2nd doubles
N. Marringa/T. Marringa, 3rd, 6-1, 6-0
3rd doubles
Khan/Zhang, 1st, 6-0, 6-4
4th doubles
Doshi/Philipneri, 1st, 6-3, 6-0
May 8 vs. Hersey
V wins 5-3

Track, boys

May 10 @ WSC championship
V places 5th with 49 points
100 meters
McInerney, 5th, 11.15
Lyne, 11th, 11.64
200 meters

McInerney, 7th, 22.82

Parkins, 8th, 22.94
400 meters
Maxwell, 4th, 51.96
Bots, 11th, 55.73
800 meters
Lowe, 5th, 1:59.93
Ferren, 11th, 2:02.9
1,600 meters
Bandukwala, 1st, 4:06.62
Revord, 9th, 4:34.24
3,200 meters
Garg, 8th, 10:14.09
Doorhy, 11th, 10:43.41
110-meter hurdles
Goebel, 10th, 20.87
300-meter hurdles
Olaitan, 7th, 44.03
Goebel, 8th, 44.79
4x100 relay
Lyne, Parkins, Coan, McInerney, 6th, 43.85
4x200 relay
Parkins, Walsh, Lyne, Coan, 6th, 1:34.59
4x400 relay
Coan, Maxwell, Morrissey, Olaitan, 3rd, 3:29.37
4x800 relay
Kurimay, Mikaili, Cubbin, Morrissey, 6th, 8:32
Shot put
Ortiz, 2nd, 15.73m
Stamer, 8th, 12.08m
Discus
Stamer, 6th, 36.52m
Koschik, 11th, 31.32m
High jump
Prieto, 2nd, 1.95m
Stach, 9th, 1.65m
Pole vault
Khatau, 4th, 3.86m
Bolenbaugh, 7th, 3.56m
Long jump
McInerney, 6th, 6.27m
Parkins, 7th, 5.99m
Triple jump
Nedic, 12th, 10.77m

Track, girls

May 10 @ IHSA sectional
V places 1st with 143 points
100 meters
Gilmartin, 5th, 12.95
Lacayo, 7th, 13.21
200 meters
Dorris, 3rd, 26.39
Tresslar, 4th, 26.81
Bandukwala, 1st, 4:06.62
Gray, 2nd, 1:00.29
Elsdon, 6th, 1:03.15
800 meters
L. Hodneland, 1st, 2:19.07
1,600 meters
Griffin, 2nd, 5:21.91
3,200 meters
Satre, 3rd, 11:36.71
100-meter hurdles
Leech, 3rd, 17.03
Abu-Ghazalah, 6th, 17.81
300-meter hurdles
Leech, 1st, 48.21
Abu-Ghazalah, 2nd, 48.49
4x100 relay
Dorris, Tresslar, A. Hodneland, Gilmartin, 1st, 48.84
4x200 relay
Dorris, Tresslar, A. Hodneland, Gilmartin, 1st, 1:44.62
4x400 relay
Dygon, Gray, Gilmartin, L. Hodneland, 1st, 4:03.97
4x800 relay
Boyd, Gilmartin, Dygon, Griffin, 2nd, 9:33.77
Shot put
Veliz-Hernandez, 11th, 8.37m
Woszczyk, 17th, 8.2m
Discus
Salbego, 20th, 21.66m
Veliz-Hernandez, 24th, 17.04
High jump
Dani, 10th (tie), 1.37m
Chillo, 10th (tie), 1.37m
Pole vault

Cristostomo, 4th, 2.97m
Bisch, 7th, 2.36m
Long jump
Bonino, 3rd, 5.36m
Triple jump
Bonino, 2nd, 10.98m
Moser, 3rd, 10.71m

Volleyball, boys

May 14 @ Downers North
V loses 23-25, 19-25
May 10-11 @ Willowbrook Invite
vs. Schaumburg
V wins 25-18, 30-28
vs. Glenbard North
V loses 19-25, 19-25
vs. Highland Park
V wins 25-23, 25-14
vs. Schaumburg
V loses 19-25, 25-23, 8-15
vs. Addison Trail
V wins 25-18, 20-25, 15-10
Ruth, 7 kills, 2 aces, 3 digs
Beringer, 2 kills, 2 blocks
Haworth, 2 kills, 2 dig
Redding, 2 kills
Hughes, kill, 2 aces, 2 digs, 15 assists
Reodica, 3 aces, 4 digs, assist
Lynch, 3 aces, 3 digs, assist
Ghouse, 2 aces, 2 digs, 7 assists
Patel, 4 digs, 3 assists
May 8 @ Lockport
V loses 15-25, 22-25

Water polo, boys

May 10 @ IHSA sectional
vs. Naperville Central (semifinal)
V loses 6-17
Driscoll, 2 goals

Instant replay



Hinsdale Central shortstop Sophie DiPasquale and second baseman Lauren Koschik team up to secure the force out of the Lyons Township runner during the May 3 game at Central. The Devils ultimately fell to the conference foe Lions by a score of 15-8. (Jim Slonoff photos)

SPORTS

Badminton duo earns sixth at state

Central badminton team also sixth, while two gymnasts earn top-10 finishes

By Pamela Lannom
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The Hinsdale Central varsity girls badminton team finished a great season with a strong showing at state. Senior doubles players Rachele Cameli and Maria Jiao came in sixth, and the team placed sixth as well.

"We had one of the best seasons that we've had overall in a while," head coach Katie Maley said. "This was probably the best team overall I've had in the last four or five years."

Cameli and Jiao started out strong, winning their first three matches. Their first loss in the quarterfinals was to a team they had beaten during the regular season.

"This time I think they were really trying to beat us," Jiao said. "I'm really proud of how we played, though. We did fight back really hard. We didn't give up."

After losing the first game 17-21, Central won the second 24-22 and came close in the third, losing 18-21.

"We've been playing

them since last year, the exact same team," Cameli noted. "It could always go either way, I feel like."

Cameli and Jiao bounced back to win the consolation quarterfinals and semifinals. The semifinal match went to three games, with the second game going to 29 points.

"That was really crazy because of the second game," Cameli said. "We wanted to make sure we didn't lose. We just really locked in for the third game and made sure we pulled out the win. It was a crazy game."

The duo lost to Stevenson in the fifth-place match to finish sixth, the same as they did last year.

"We didn't really have much expectations," Cameli said. "We wanted to make sure we didn't underestimate any opponent we were facing. We went in trying to have fun and do our best and hopefully beating the teams that we played."

The No. 2 doubles team of juniors Hannah Fang and Tiffany Tu also had a similar performance to last

year, again earning a top-12 finish. They won four of their six matches, losing in the consolation quarterfinals to a Glenbard East team.

"Tiffany and Hannah, they were awesome and made it until Saturday," Maley said.

"It was so awesome to have the doubles teams playing on Saturday and Rachele and Maria playing for a medal. It's so exciting as a coach to see your girls make it that far," she added.

Singles players senior Nora Sripraram and junior Kacy Liu had a more challenging tournament, with each losing their first match and the first-round consolation match. Sripraram's first opponent, Sophia Lin from Fremd, ended up placing fourth at state.

"Nora was my No. 2 player all year, so she was ready. She got a tough draw," Maley said.

Liu had not expected to compete at state at the start of the season, but then No. 1 singles player Sara Han tore her ACL the second week of April. Maley praised both singles players for their efforts.

"They had to play up from what they've been playing all year. I was very happy that they stepped up to the plate," she said. "The most important thing was we had a super fun weekend in DeKalb as a team."

Jiao agreed.

"I feel like throughout the whole state tournament our team got so much closer and together. I feel like state, or just tournaments in general, isn't just about whether you win a medal or how well our team played as a whole. Instead it's the camaraderie."

Boys gymnastics

Two senior gymnasts had impressive finishes at



Varsity head coach Katie Maley poses with seniors Maria Jiao (left) and Rachele Cameli, who placed sixth at the state badminton tournament. (photo courtesy of Katie Maley)

the Illinois High School Gymnastics Coaches Association state meet May 11 at Hoffman Estates.

Senior Nikolas Theotikos placed fourth on pommel horse, finishing far better than he had expected.

"Really I was just hoping to not fall," Theotikos said. "I was pretty much hoping to hit my routine. I'd been injured for a month in the season and I came back basically three days before sectionals. I was just trying to make it. I didn't have any expectations of doing so well."

Theotikos said he knew when he finished his routine that he had done well.

"I was really surprised and I was really happy, because I knew it was good. It felt so much better than anything I'd ever done before. You can see on my face in the video disbelief. I was just so happy."

Theotikos said he's known the gymnast who came in third for a while and always believed him to be a far superior com-

petitor.

"I did 1/10 (of a point) worse than him. I'm actually on his level," Theotikos said. "It's a pretty great realization."

Senior Marc Cihlar was seventh on vault, seventh on parallel bars, 11th on horizontal bar and ninth in all around. Cihlar said he was nervous and excited about the final competition of his senior year.

"I thought I did pretty well," he said. "I was surprised that I was able to get ninth in all around."

Cihlar had fallen on the high bar at last year's tournament and did so again this year.

"Since I got so much better on the other events, I was able to come back from the fall," he said.

Cihlar said his final gymnastics meet (his college does not have a club team) was bittersweet.

"It was kind of sad, but at the end of the day, I've been doing gymnastics for a long time, and it's going to be nice taking a little break," he said.



Senior gymnasts Marc Cihlar and Nikolas Theotikos celebrate their success at the state meet. (photo provided)



NEW TO MARKET

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If you're looking for something new, big or small, let's connect to identify what is missing.

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