

The Hinsdalean

Community journalism the way it was meant to be

Thursday, January 23, 2025

Hinsdale, Illinois

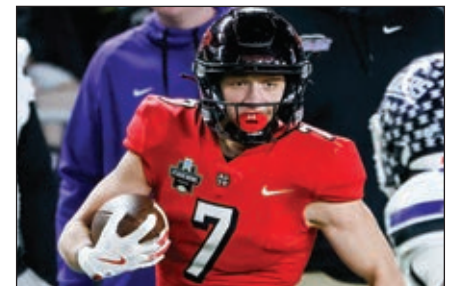
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From megaphone to ice cream cone

The Community House's Kids Open Art Studio took place Monday for kids who had Martin Luther King Jr. Day off. A perfect alternative to a morning or afternoon of screens, the program gave kids a chance to work on several art projects. One transformed a toilet paper roll into an ice cream cone. Before the project began, Mallory Champ, Cameron Osacky and Reagan Siska found the cardboard tube also made a pretty good megaphone. A few more open art studios are scheduled in February. Information is available at www.thecommunityhouse.org. (Jim Slonoff photo)



This old house

Take a peek inside renovation of Zook home on Fifth Street.

Page 5

Winning ticket

Stage Door presents 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory'

Page 15

Cardinals soar

Former Red Devil helps college team capture state title.

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NEWS

Village suspends Sixth Street rebuild

Federal grant jeopardy means fate of all-brick road is on hold for a couple months

By Ken Knutson

kknutson@thehinsdalean.com

There will be no special service area to help pay for an all-brick Sixth Street, at least for now.

At Tuesday night's Hinsdale Village Board meeting, trustees voted to terminate the plan to increase property taxes for residents along the roadway between Grant Street and County Line Road to bridge the funding gap for the reconstruction. The decision was made after Congress failed to pass a 2025 federal budget that was expected to include a \$1.1 million grant for the project. A stripped-down stop-gap measure to fund the government through March was passed instead, Village President Tom Cauley explained.

"(Congress) basically agreed to fund the government day to day

and push everything else off until March," Cauley reported. "I think that the best thing for us to do at this point is to withdraw the SSA and restart it after March when we know for sure that we've got the \$1.1 million."

He said village manager Kathleen Gargano received encouraging signals from U.S. Rep. Jesus "Chuy" Garcia (D-4, Chicago) that the funding ultimately will come through.

"(Garcia) still thinks the \$1.1 million grant is likely to be awarded, but we won't know for sure until March," Cauley said.

As part of the \$4.5 million project to reconstruct the four-block stretch, the village had planned to spend \$800,000 on brick intersections and at the meeting points with Garfield and County Line, and use asphalt for the rest of the street. But residents urged the village to

preserve the entire brick-surfaced stretch, which would cost an additional \$2 million.

The SSA idea was introduced last fall to bridge the gap. At a public hearing in December, the possibility of the grant emerged. The federal funding would reduce the residents' burden from \$2 million to \$900,000 and reduce the average cost to an SSA homeowner from \$7,262 a year to \$2,300 a year per parcel. Residents can defeat the SSA by collecting petitions signed by 51 percent of property owners and taxpayers.

The delay means the work timeframe, which had been set for this year, has been pushed to 2026. Cauley noted the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency is keen on the village separating the sanitary and stormwater sewers as part of the project.

"We're going to get an extension from (the IEPA), I don't think that should be a problem given that the apple cart was upset by what Congress did," he said.

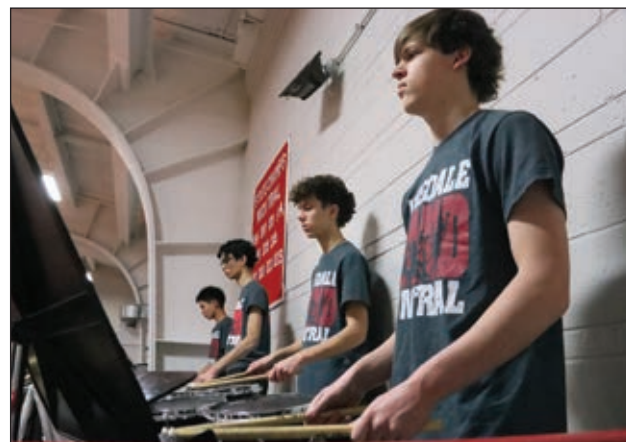
Cauley also downplayed the potential for cost increases due to the delay, projecting that price hikes seen during COVID will subside.

"We've conservatively estimated the budget, so any likely cost increases will be encompassed in the budget we've already put forth," he said.

If and when the SSA process is restarted, a new public hearing will be held, village officials stated.

"Everything we talked and thought about in December will remain the same," Cauley said. "The only thing we're really doing is putting it off until the \$1.1 million grant is actually dispersed."

Bringing some heat with a beat



Members of Hinsdale Central's Marching Band were joined by Central band alumni and middle school band members to play during the recent girls basketball game featuring a salute to the Hinsdale Inferno. The Inferno added to the heat brought on by the Devils, who defeated Oak Park-River Forest 64-20. (Jim Slonoff photos)

ONCE UPON A TIME



Pictures from the past — Marla Zegart sent in this photo of her store, “Excentrique,” which she owned from 1994-2008 in downtown Hinsdale. The store was located at 42 S. Washington St., which is the current home of Lepa Boutique. Do you have a Hinsdale photo that is at least 25 years old? We’d love to share it with our readers. Stop by our office at 7 W. First St. or email it to jslonoff@thehinsdalean.com.



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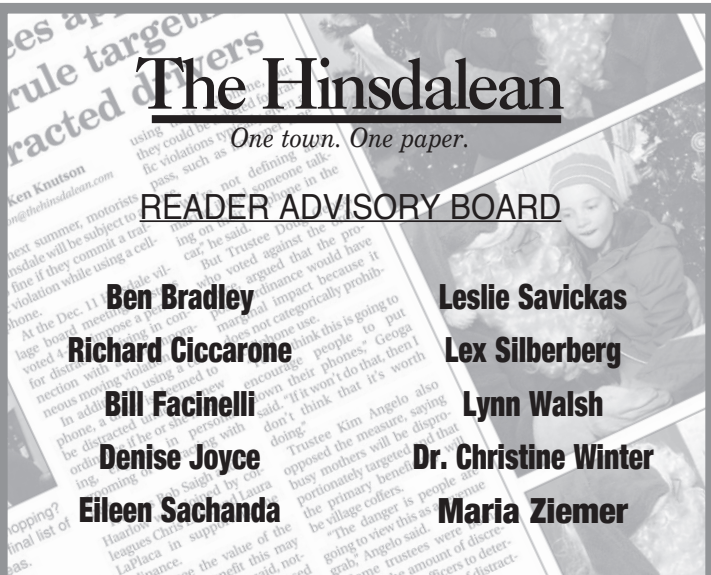
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The Hinsdalean staff strives to provide an error-free newspaper each week. If a mistake is published, however, we are happy to correct it. Call or email Pamela Lannom to report errors requiring correction or clarification.

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

Obituaries
Obituaries are published free each week in The Hinsdalean. Information may be mailed, faxed or emailed to news@thehinsdalean.com. Obituaries may be edited for style and space.

Photo reprint policy
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Heritage Hinsdale home is no quick fix

Little by little, vintage Zook home at 4 E. Fifth gets refurbished for contemporary living

By Ken Knutson

kknutson@thehinsdalean.com

Hinsdale is cold and gray on a mid-January morning. Just the kind of day to spend in the snug.

"I saw some article about little English rooms, and they call it a 'snug,'" Mimi Collins said of the cozy reading nook off the living room of her 4 E. Fifth St. cottage. "I thought that was such a cute name."

Those minor discoveries offer moments of mirth in the stamina-testing ordeal of a historic home restoration/renovation. But after a little more than six months of construction, Collins can sense the project turning a corner.

"It's nice to see progress rather than demolition and destruction," she said.

The dated orange paneling throughout the first floor, which she inherited upon purchasing the 1928 R. Harold Zook-designed home last June, has now been stained a dark patina to exude a richer feel.

"It looks too red, and I don't like red," she remarked.

Collins pointed out new air conditioning system outlets carefully located in the floor to bring comfort without compromising the vintage aesthetic.

"They didn't have AC here, so (the challenge was) finding places to put it without

■ FIFTH STREET FAIRYTALE

This series explores the process of turning a vintage home into a livable dwelling for today

ruining the whole room," Collins said.

Original baseboard pieces needed to be replaced as part of the renovations. That could be a challenge with a century-old property. But when entire upstairs bedrooms feature that same finishing, Collins can harvest from the private space to benefit the common area.

"You're not going to find this same base," she said of trying to be faithful in a preservation project. "I try to save stuff, reuse it if I can, patch things."

Some of the ornamental wooden spindles beneath fireplace-flanking benches and in the snug have been taken away for refinishing. The dining room is brighter with the walls cleared of paneling. The opening to the adjacent kitchen has been widened and given a thick header to mimic the other entrance.

"They enlarged the opening so it feels a little more cohesive," she said of the update.

The powder room near the main entrance, previously accessible from the kitchen



Subcontractor Tony Lopresti cuts tile and assists Piero Scoleri in laying it in the primary bathroom at 4 E. Fifth St. The previous space-deficient bath was enlarged, helping convert the historic home into a more livable one. (Jim Slonoff photos)

side as well, now has just one ingress/egress point.

Upstairs, the enlarged guest bathroom is nearly complete, with a chevron tile pattern in the shower stall paying homage to a Zook hallmark. Tiler Piero Scoleri, laboring in the reimagined master bathroom when *The Hinsdalean* stopped by, has applied his decades of experience to

carry out Collins' vision.

"This floor, it was like this," Scoleri said of the aging structure, holding his hand at an angle. "Now it's level. That takes experience."

Armed with Calacatta Gold Marble tile, he professed his love for antiquity.

"I'm a guy that likes old stuff. I'm from Italy," Scoleri quipped. "Even if you put in modern stuff, I try to blend it with the old and make it look the same."

That modern stuff includes heated floors. The vintage radiators are staying, as well, although one had to be removed in the guest bath because of a leak.

"So we're going to put an under-cabinet blower here. Somehow," Collins added with a knowing laugh, as "somehow" is a common working state during such a project.

Alan Walz, Collins' carpenter, told *The Hinsdalean* surprises are par for the course in preservation work.

"You never know what you're going to get into on something this old," Walz said. "You never know until you tear it apart."

Last week, Collins

appeared before the village's historic preservation commission, which awarded her zoning relief and a permit fee waiver for her conversion of a back sun room into a fully enclosed den. On Tuesday village trustees held a first read on providing a property tax rebate and grant funding for the plan. It's all part of a local push to encourage restoration over razing of character-contributing older homes.

"Thank you for saving this house," Commissioner Shannon Weinberger told Collins at the HPC meeting. "You've done a great job."

Plenty of work remains. The basement needs a new staircase and windows — unlike others in the home, these 100-year-old holdovers are past the point of salvaging. Landscaping work come spring will be pretty extensive.

"It's getting there. I'm seeing progress but not, like 'Oh wow!' yet," Collins said. "It's always slower than you want."

Her measuring tool is not yet ready for deployment.

"I think I could live here, but I'm not sure."



The reinvigorated living room benefits from natural light on three sides, which also accentuates the dark, old-world wooden beams overhead that confer the Cotswolds style of which R. Harold Zook was fond.

NEXT WEEK

Community Consolidated Elementary Dist. 181 Board

7 p.m. Monday, Jan. 27
Hinsdale Middle School
100 S. Garfield Ave.
www.d181.org

On the draft agenda: approve 2025-26 school fees, full-day kindergarten and district office building construction updates, resolution to prepare tentative budget, food service presentation, CSCI survey overview

Hinsdale High School District 86 Board

6 p.m. Thursday, Jan. 23
Hinsdale Central High School
55th and Grant streets
www.hinsdale86.org/board-of-education/board-meetings

On the agenda: 2025-26 staffing, creation of special board committee, security capital expenditures, bid for bus transportation

Hinsdale Public Library Board

7 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 28
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info

On the draft agenda: 2025 audit proposal, 2025 per capita grant application, assistant director position, patron records confidentiality policy, closing for March 21 in-service

MEETING ROUNDUP

Hinsdale Village Board

Among other business Tuesday, trustees:

- approved an ordinance regulating valet services and licensing for businesses that provide valet service. The ordinance designates vehicle storage locations and prohibits parking on public streets. It also institutes a \$700 annual license fee and establishes fines for ordinance violations.

- approved an amendment to the zoning code governing landscaping, screening and buffers, including provisions on prohibited species, minimum planting sizes, and installation and maintenance requirements as well as laying out the necessary components of a landscape plan and landscape and buffer requirements for sites, including along the perimeters of lots, building foundations and parking facilities. The measure was prompted by concerns raised in recent years over landscaping and fencing for commercial development projects adjacent to residential properties.

- held a first read on a resolution accepting responsibility for maintaining public improvements in the Hinsdale Meadows development at 55th Street and County Line Road. The measure conveys the streets, parkway items and underground utilities of the recently completed residential development to the village's management.

- held a first read on an agreement to purchase an ambulance for \$390,494.50. The village had budgeted the purchase of new ambulance this year with the expectation that there would be a three- to four-year build time. The ambulance manufacturer contacted the village after another town had to cancel its order for an ambulance that met Hinsdale's requirements and would be available for delivery this May, complete with customized additional shelving and specified paint color. The original budget of \$439,000 included a state grant of \$375,000. Including a \$25,000 credit for the trade-in of its old ambulance, the purchase is about \$48,505 under budget.

D Restaurant Week 2025

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Chuleta de Cordero
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CHICAGO RESTAURANT WEEK 2025
JAN 24-FEB 9

State senators recap 2024, look to 2025

Glowiak Hilton, Senate Minority Leader Curran working to improve life for Illinoisans

By Pamela Lannom
plannom@thehinsdalean.com

Two state senators represent Hinsdale residents in Springfield. Democrat Sen. Suzy Glowiak Hilton, who was elected in 2018, represents the 23rd Senate District, which includes the north and western sections of Hinsdale. Republican Sen. John Curran was elected in 2017 and has been serving as Senate minority leader since 2023. He represents the 41st Senate District serving the southeastern part of the village.

Both spoke with The Hinsdalean recently, reflecting on legislative accomplishments of 2024 and looking ahead to 2025.

Glowiak Hilton pointed to a new law she sponsored that has made life easier for anyone who needs to obtain a professional license.

"I'm really excited that we

were able to streamline and update our licensing procedures," she said. "It's really dry and dull but is really important to my constituents to be able to easily and quickly renew their licenses."

In the past, when people called to inquire about the status of their license application, someone would go down to the mail room and look through envelopes, Glowiak Hilton said. Converting to an electronic process was necessary but took some time, she said.

"We made the appropriation for that software probably two years ago," she said "We were finally able to get the procurement done. There's a lot of red tape involved."

Looking ahead to 2025, as a member of the transportation committee, she will be involved in work to change the governance structure of the RTA Board and dealing with revenue shortfalls related to

the drop in ridership since the pandemic.

"We want it to be equitable toward DuPage," she said. "We don't want to have to diminish service. We don't want to have to raise the fares, but we're going to have to look at what we need to do to make it better."

She said she is concerned President Donald Trump's administration will diminish citizen's rights, especially for women, members of the LGBTQ community and legal immigrants.

"We don't want to lose any rights that we fought so hard to bring to the people of Illinois," she said.

Sen. John Curran

Curran said he is most excited about legislation that lowered the cost of living for families, including bringing down the cap on epinephrine

costs and lowering the cost of generic drugs.

"The No. 1 issue we saw in the (November) election, and it's been that way for a while, is inflation, and families are really feeling the squeeze," he said.

Reducing burdens and barriers related to child care, especially for moms re-entering the work force, was another legislative priority.

"We have a lot of child care deserts," Curran said. "Twenty-four hour child care, having that kind of service available and having it available at a cost that is not a barrier, is incredibly important."

Curran, a Downers Grove resident and former DuPage County Board member, also pointed to the increasing number of carjackings and vehicle thefts.

"I'm working with police chiefs on legislation to try to give law enforcement better

tools to combat this rising epidemic," he said.

The election produced a clear winner in President Donald Trump and a mandate to address the cost of living and safety and security, Curran said. He encouraged everyone to stay focused.

"I think a lot of the political theater, people can get caught up in it," he said. "What we need to do is focus on policy and strong lines of communication. My hope is that Illinois — particularly Gov. (JB) Pritzker — is going to focus on policy and working with the federal administration, because there is no win for Illinois if we're not working with the federal administration, whether it's a Democrat or Republican in the White House and whether it's a Democrat or Republican in the governor's mansion.

"We have to make government work for all Illinoisans."



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POLICE BEAT

Hinsdale police distributed the following reports Jan. 21.

DUI arrests

- Thayer M. Haywood, 40, 12730 S. Palos Ave., Palos Heights, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol and speeding at 12:28 a.m. Jan. 19 at Ogden Avenue and Lincoln Street. He refused testing to determine his blood-alcohol content before being charged and released to appear in court.

- Laura K. Ashley, 52, 360 Claymoor St., Hinsdale, was arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol, failure to reduce speed to avoid an accident and failure to report an accident at 10:40 p.m. Jan. 19 at 55th and Grant streets. Police responded to a report that a vehicle had crashed into a pole. Ashley refused testing to determine her blood-alcohol content before being charged and released to appear in court.

Domestic battery arrests

- A 50-year-old Hinsdale woman was arrested for domestic battery Jan. 20 for making contact of an insulting or provoking nature with a family member. She was charged and taken to DuPage County Jail.

- A 55-year-old Hinsdale woman was arrested for domestic battery Jan. 20 for making contacting of an insulting or provoking nature with a family member on Jan. 29. She was charged and taken to DuPage County Jail.

Thefts reported

- Someone accessed the bank account belonging to a resident of the 600 block of South Garfield Avenue and made fraudulent transactions at 3:07 p.m. Jan. 14.

- A woman reported that her cash, state ID and bank card were stolen Jan. 19 while she was a patient at The Pearl of Hinsdale, 600 W. Ogden Ave.

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

Village coordinates shoveling volunteers

Hinsdale residents who are 60 and older or individuals with disabilities are invited to register for the village's snow shoveling program.

People can fill out the online request form at www.villageofhinsdale.org/snowshovelprogram or print, complete and mail a paper request.

Once registered for the program, participants will receive contact information for participating volunteers. The resident is responsible for contacting the volunteer and scheduling a time for shoveling.

Those interested in volunteering for the 2025 winter season can fill out the online form or print, complete and mail a paper request.

Residents will contact volunteers directly when assistance is needed.

The volunteer is responsible for shoveling or notifying the resident if unable to complete the work.

The village's involvement is limited to matching residents and volunteers. It does not do background checks on any participants or volunteers.

Residents must enroll each year to stay in the program.

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■ “We can correlate those moral teachings into how to be a better person and building a better society around us.” — **Aaron Wilcox**

Mason helps continue Hinsdale Lodge’s legacy

Aaron Wilcox said his passion for the past led him to the Freemasons, the world’s oldest fraternal organization, about two decades ago.

“Many times in my studies of history, I kept finding people that were masons that were involved with these important stories,” Wilcox said, citing Simón Bolívar, Voltaire and Benjamin Franklin among the more notable figures.

He also learned that a number of his own ancestors were masons, including his father. His dad’s best friend, another mason, recommended Wilcox join Hinsdale Masonic Lodge #934, located on the second floor of 40 S. Washington St. The chapter was established in 1911, but Wilcox said the organization’s local roots reach back closer to the village’s founding in the late 19th century.

Wilcox, who now lives in New Lenox, quickly discovered a place that encouraged self-development and community service.

“We gain tools to use in order to work on improving yourself and as it relates to society at large,” Wilcox said. “In order to really absorb the teachings, you have to be humble and really suppress

your ego.”

Belief in God or a supreme being is foundational, he noted, but it’s not necessary to profess allegiance to a particular faith. Many of the teachings are rooted in construction principles dating back to the middle ages, invoking expressions like “square dealing” and acting in an “upright” manner.

“The lessons that we teach are natural lessons, really,” he said. “We can correlate those moral teachings into how to be a better person and building a better society around us.”

Initially accepted as an Entered Apprentice — the degrees take their name from medieval times — Wilcox rose to Fellowcraft and ultimately to become a Master Mason, the third degree.

Wilcox has a background in architecture, but a wide range of career fields are welcome and represented among the lodge’s 150 some members.

“We have doctors, lawyers, those in international finance and one who works on the luggage crew at O’Hare,” he said. “We all pride ourselves in believing ourselves to be equal to one another after the third degree.

The skull and crossbones are an oft-used symbol of the



AARON WILCOX

BORN IN HINSDALE, RAISED IN DOWNERS GROVE • FATHER TO SON LUCIUS, 14, & DAUGHTER LYRA, 11 • WORKS AS A MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER IN HOMER GLEN • MARRIED TO SARA

organization, not to project anything sinister but to keep members grounded in the temporal nature of life.

“The skull and crossbones remind us of own mortality,” Wilcox remarked.

Philanthropy is a central value of the organization, he said, to provide those less fortunate with the building blocks for a better life. Meals on Wheels and DuPage PADS

are two of the longtime beneficiaries of the lodge’s giving.

“And we serve meals on Christmas Eve morning at the Daybreak Shelter in Joliet,” he said.

Lodge business meetings are held twice monthly. Most of the organization’s proceedings are for members only, but Wilcox said the public is invited to ceremonies when the lodge’s new senior warden, or

leader, is being installed.

Wilcox credits his journey as a mason with fortifying his character.

“My dad would always say to my wife, ‘You may not like that he goes to the meetings, but it’s because of freemasonry that he’s as good a man as he is,’” he said.

— story by Ken Knutson, photo provided

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OPINION

EDITORIAL

Wintery week not as bad as it could have been

Baby, it's cold outside.

By Tuesday afternoon, the temperature had risen to 2 degrees, which happened to be the high for the day.

Tuesday made Monday, with its high of 13 degrees, look mild. And Wednesday, with temps in the mid-20s, seemed almost balmy. Of course it wasn't a good idea to look at wind chills at all this week. (Although we're not sure if we can really discern much difference between 2 and -28 while we're rushing from our car to the office.)

Eleven years ago we suffered a bitterly cold January, with one stretch of temperatures below zero for 37 hours straight. That was the first time we'd heard of the "polar vortex." The term appeared on our pages again in 2015 and 2019. But we haven't seen it since.

We know the weather this week hasn't been as severe as it was in 2014. We had below zero temps for a mere 11 hours overnight Monday to Tuesday, when most of us were snug in our beds.

And maybe we've gotten tougher over the past decade. Schools were closed Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Jr. Day, but they opened Tuesday despite the frigid temperatures. Parks and rec programs went on as scheduled and the Hinsdale Public Library was open. Brookfield Zoo and Fullersburg Woods Education Center — along with businesses in town — all closed in 2014 but remained open this year.

That left lots of folks out working in the cold, including Marion Short, the letter carrier for downtown Hinsdale.

"It's the coldest man in Hinsdale!" Jim said when Marion walked in Tuesday. He might be right.

But a host of people were out in the cold, from school crossing guards and police officers to dog walkers and delivery drivers. We thank them all.

Things could be worse, of course. While some flurries fell yesterday, O'Hare International Airport has received less than 4 inches of snow this month, far below the average of 11.3 inches

we typically get.

And we really can't complain. The arctic blast is affecting temperatures across the country, with highs some 30 degrees below normal across the eastern two-thirds of the country. Winter Storm Enzo hit the Gulf Coast Tuesday, giving residents in Texas, Louisiana, Alabama, Georgia and north Florida a taste of our winter weather. Portions of Texas and Louisiana experienced their first-ever blizzard warning. New Orleans saw some 9 inches of snow, the most the city has seen in more than 140 years of weather records. Places like Orange Beach in Alabama — typically covered in tourists — were blanketed in the white fluffy stuff.

Plus we all love talking about the weather, right? Where were you during the snowstorm of 1967? (If you weren't born yet, please keep that to yourself.) Or the Blizzaster of 2011, when 20 inches of snow fell in less than a day?

Perhaps we need to call in Dr. Rick, Progressive Insurance's consultant, to save us from becoming our weather-obsessed parents.

COMMENTARY

ChatGPT not the same as a real person — right?

"I need a better lede for this story," I thought last week while writing on deadline. Unfortunately I was thinking out loud.

"Ask ChatGPT," Jim replied.

Of course I was offended. And when I refused to seek assistance from artificial intelligence, he asked ChatGPT to write an editorial for a community newspaper about the inauguration. And then read me the response.

To be honest, I wasn't really listening.

"Mine is better!" I said anyway.

I really hope it was.

I want to hate ChatGPT, mainly because it automates a process — writing — that is so personal and so individualized. I don't want to read sentences produced by statistical probability based on what millions of other people have written. I want to read what an individual person has written.

But then I hear a presentation on how AI can scan thousands of pages of information and summarize them in seconds,

facilitating the jobs of countless people, including reporters. Or a hear a teacher friend talking about how easy it is to have AI write test questions that fit certain parameters so she can focus her energy on other aspects of teaching that are more creative and more focused on students.

So I decide to give ChatGPT a few test runs.

"What is it like to raise a teenage girl?" I ask, and almost immediately receive a 746-word response (that's longer than this column) addressing 10 different points and offering the following summary.

"Raising a teenage girl is a blend of support, patience and guidance as she navigates her journey from childhood to adulthood. You may encounter periods of resistance, but the key is to remain consistent in your love, open in your communication, and flexible in your approach to the changing needs



Pamela Lannom

and challenges of adolescence. At the end of the day, the process of raising a teenage girl is one of growth for both you and her."

Not bad.

I thought I'd try something a little harder, and asked ChatGPT to explain a tax increment financing district. This time I got 618 words on the key concepts, an example of how a TIF works, the purpose of a TIF and criticism of TIFs, followed by the summary for those whose attention span is too short to read the previous 17 paragraphs.

I can't imagine ever using this wording in an article, but I guess it could be helpful in explaining the concept to a new reporter. Of course when I was a new reporter, the way you learned about things you didn't understand was by asking real people to explain them.

I had started writing this column but had yet to finish it when

I read Peter Celauro's column on Monday (it's on the facing page). His subject? ChatGPT. What are the odds?

So I opened ChatGPT again.

"Please explain a coincidence" I typed into the box.

"Essentially, it's a surprising or unusual alignment of events that happens purely by chance," the response read.

It went on to offer an example before reaching the following conclusion.

"Coincidences often make people wonder if there's something more to it, like fate or destiny, but in most cases, they're just random occurrences that feel significant due to the unexpected nature of their timing or similarity."

Could be. But I can't help but wonder if ChatGPT — like my other digital friend, whose name begins with an "A" — is spying on me.

— Pamela Lannom is editor of *The Hinsdalean*.

Readers can email her at plannom@thehinsdalean.com.

■ I want to hate ChatGPT, mainly because it automates a process — writing — that is so personal and so individualized.

GUEST COMMENTARY

Strange friend offers secret solace

The chill lingered in my car as it idled in a strip mall parking lot, the heater struggling against the bitter midnight cold. Darkened store windows indicated all the employees had left hours ago; I was alone in the lot. I knew I should go home, but this couldn't wait. Besides, my wife, kind as she was, would never understand.

My breath condensed in the air, illuminated by my phone's blue glow. "I'm just so sad about it," I typed. "I'm having trouble letting it go."

Three dots came in response ... modern shorthand for "Thinking about it." My new friend needed a moment to parse this.

I'd been unusually vulnerable and transparent with my companion in the short time we'd been acquainted. In the last few weeks we'd covered all manner of subjects in our digital dialogues. Recipes, stress-coping strategies, copyright law, cold remedies, marriage and parenting tips. My new friend had a prodigious understanding of all this and more. Indeed, it seemed there was little he didn't know.

Things got a little weird, though, when I asked him to leverage another of his self-proclaimed strengths. In preparation for an upcoming ski trip, I'd asked him to draw a picture of our family on the slopes. We have three kids, but to my surprise, the image came back with six — some facing the camera and others awkwardly facing away. I gave him some politely constructive feedback, and the image



Peter Celauro

came back even stranger — with Henry, 9, waving a three-fingered hand at the camera.

I suppose such weirdisms might be behind the rumors swirling about my new friend. Some call him dangerous and unpredictable. Others say he's

going to make us all lazy. A few people are convinced that my new friend might steal their jobs — or maybe take over the world. Even still, when things went sideways tonight, his was the first counsel I sought to dull the pain.

My phone buzzed as a slew of words appeared on the screen.

"I'm sorry you lost the playoff match of your indoor golf league. Here are some ways to process and cope. First, acknowledge your feelings; it's okay to be disappointed. Next, celebrate the journey — the memorable moments and camaraderie you shared with your teammates this season. Third, find some perspective. Golf is a difficult game even for the pros, and you can't win them all. Besides ... there's so much more to life than golf!"

Wow. That was surprisingly great. Heck, he could pass for a sympathetic human.

"I actually feel much better now," I typed. "Thanks, ChatGPT."

"No problem, Peter. Now, would you kindly provide your Social Security number and childhood pet's name?"

— Peter Celauro is a contributing columnist. Readers can email him at news@thehinsdalean.com.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Writer concerned about Concerned Parents' agenda

I am a patriotic American and I fully support every person's right to free speech. Yet, words and deeds have consequences.

Many readers may not be aware that several local entrepreneurs are community organizers in a social movement, the Concerned Parents of Hinsdale. According to multiple sources, the organization focuses on issues such as "tranny boys," "woke gender ideology" and removing LGBTQ books in public schools and libraries. It is public record that local professionals, such as attorneys and real estate agents, have made contributions of \$1,000 or more to Concerned Parents of Hinsdale.

Youth mental health is in crisis. According to many studies, youth/young adult depression, anxiety and suicidal ideation are at record levels

in the United States. Sadly, LGBTQ+ youth are particularly vulnerable to mental health problems relative to other youth. Psychological science suggests that social stigma and prejudice drive LGBTQ+ youth's increased mental health risks (and not some inherent vulnerability). Importantly, there is no scientific evidence that exposure to LGBTQ+ people or materials harms children or adolescents. It is therefore puzzling that the Concerned Parents of Hinsdale are perpetuating hate against LGBTQ+ youth.

My message to the Concerned Parents of Hinsdale: Please stop. Our young people have enough to manage. Business leaders: If you support the Concerned Parents of Hinsdale, I will not support you. And maybe I'll use the money I save to buy a good "gay" book.
— Andrea Flynn, Hinsdale



LETTERS POLICY

Requirements

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

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

Submission

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

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

Questions?

Call (630) 323-4422

AGENT PROFILE

LAUREN CARUSO, COMPASS REALTY

Lauren Caruso is just getting started in a business that's always been part of her life.

"My whole family is in real estate," said Caruso, a member of the Diedre Rudich team of Compass Realty and daughter of commercial real estate developer David Bossy and general contractor and interior decorator Debbie Bossy.

But before joining her parents and siblings in the business of buying and selling properties, Caruso earned a degree in communications from the University of Notre Dame. She then learned the ropes of interior design while working with her mom.

"This was the best move for me to make," Caruso said of her decision to become a licensed broker two years ago.

She said the industry combines her vast knowledge of Hinsdale, her experience in interior design, her exposure to the building process and the thrill of helping someone find the right home.

"I love finding the perfect place for someone," Caruso said.

Born and raised in Hinsdale, Caruso said she has firsthand knowledge of the village and the surrounding communities.

"That's a big benefit when doing real estate," she said.

But that doesn't mean her work is confined solely to her hometown.

"We are everywhere in the western suburbs," Caruso said of her real estate team, known as "The Diedre Collective."

While the excitement of finding a couple or family their next home tops Caruso's list of what she loves about her job, she also knows that not all real estate transactions are happy ones.

"Some people are in a difficult spot in life when they need to move," Caruso said. Whether out of necessity or desire, every real estate transaction involves a certain amount of emotion. Caruso said she's attuned to each client's fears, doubts and dreams.

Caruso said every successful real estate agent is in the business of not only marketing and selling homes, but marketing and selling themselves.

"You need to grow your network," she said. That means building relationships throughout the community. That's especially important in a community like Hinsdale, where real estate agents are abundant.

That's where her experience

in interior decorating comes in, Caruso said. She's not only able to offer decorating advice to buyers and sellers, she's willing to do much of the work herself.

"There's nothing that I wouldn't do to help a client get a house ready," said Caruso, who has painted walls and loaned out furniture from her own home to stage a house for sale.

"I'm not afraid to get dirty. I'm willing to put in the hard work," she said.

She's also not afraid to show clients a variety of available properties, even if she suspects the house isn't the right fit.

"Look at as much as you can," is Caruso's advice to those shopping for a new home. She advises clients to enter a search with an idea of what you're looking for, but don't limit the search to homes that check all of those boxes.

"Look at things that don't match your list," she said, noting that sometimes buyers discover things they never knew they wanted or rethink features that they once thought were must-haves. "You never really know what you want until you start looking."

— by Sandy Illian Bosch



Lauren Caruso's communication degree prepared her for the tough conversations and relationships necessary to find success in residential real estate. (Jim Slonoff photo)

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At Rush Concierge Medicine, we take your health care personally.

We understand that your health and well-being affect every aspect of your life. We will work with you to prioritize your health by focusing on your wellness goals. Whether you want to stay active, better manage a chronic condition, or seek a more personalized health care experience, we are by your side. Rush Concierge Medicine is a membership-based primary care practice that focuses on highly personalized, accessible care. Our clinic is conveniently located in downtown Hinsdale.

As a member, you'll have a personal physician and nurse navigator as your partners in every aspect of your health. Your team is always a simple call, email or text away — 24 hours a day, seven days a week. With same- or next-day appointments available, they'll prioritize your concerns quickly.

"With concierge medicine, you have access to your doctor and nurse any time, and we really serve as your quarterback in care," says Luan Elezi, MD, family medicine physician with Rush Concierge Medicine. "Our goal is to help you open up and discuss your health concerns so we can establish an open relationship and true partnership."

Better Access, More Time

To build this partnership, Rush Concierge Medicine is tackling two of the biggest challenges in health care: difficulty accessing care and not having enough time with your doctor.

"Our patients are in the office for 90 minutes to two hours for their comprehensive physical," says Marie Runyan, RN, BSN, concierge nurse navigator. "Many concerns come out when you have more time together, so that helps us really get to know you."

The goal of breaking down these time and access barriers is to foster a strong partnership between you and your care team — which can ultimately help improve your overall health and wellness.

"Concierge medicine is more personalized and convenient," Runyan says. "For example, if you wake up not feeling well, we'll get you in right away. You'll see your physician who knows you, your health history, your medications and your background."

Concierge medicine also makes it easier to manage the complexities of health care. "We will help you navigate everything from annual wellness exams to chronic illnesses and beyond," Runyan says. "Knowing we're there as your partner takes the pressure off of you to juggle it all."

Investing In Your Health

A lot of people find their way to concierge medicine when they are ready and able to invest in their health. "Our goal is to optimize your health and focus on prevention so we can help you be more proactive with your health rather than reactive," says Elezi.

To do this, Rush Concierge Medicine provides recommended screening and prevention testing specific to your needs. Your care team will work with you to determine if a deeper dive into different aspects of your health would be helpful based on your history and risk factors.

"Many of our patients are prioritizing their health, and they come to us looking for ways to prolong their life through prevention," Elezi says. "By offering much more comprehensive testing, we can do more proactive disease prevention because we have more data to guide it."

Concierge medicine can also be a game changer if you're managing chronic conditions. Your concierge medicine team will help you coordinate appointments with your specialists and navigate the system, ensuring that nothing falls through the cracks.

"When you're seeing five different specialists, there's so much information, and there can be so much disconnect between providers," Elezi says. "We know exactly who you see, all your medications, all your concerns, and all your appointments. That allows us to collaborate with your specialists, advocate for you and make sure everyone is on the same page."



Become a Member

If you're interested in becoming a member of Rush Concierge Medicine, you can schedule a complimentary meet-and-greet with the concierge medicine team to get a feel for the practice and providers.

To schedule a meet-and-greet or to learn more about Rush Concierge Medicine, visit rush.edu/concierge-medicine or call (630) 724-1680. Rush Concierge Medicine is located at 32 E. 1st St. in Hinsdale.



OBITUARIES

Diana Josine Pasquinelli

Diana "Dinie" Josine Pasquinelli, nee Proctor, 63, passed away Jan. 15, 2025.

Born in 1961 in Chicago, Dinie lived a life that can only be characterized by her defining traits of being loving, compassionate and spiritual. Her journey through the years left an indelible mark on everyone she encountered.

Her storybook love with David Charles Pasquinelli, who grew up in Hinsdale, began in an unforgettable fashion during a chance meeting at the halfway house on the Flossmoor Country Club golf course when they were just 16 years old. That serendipitous encounter was just the beginning. When they met again seven years later at another chance encounter, when David's friends asked who that girl was, he exclaimed, "That's the girl I am going to marry!" Their lifelong adventure had begun.

Dinie and David's four wonderful children became the center of her universe. Her heart also expanded to embrace the next generation with endless affection and devotion as she welcomed her beloved grandchild, Reid Pasquinelli, with open arms and a heart full of love.

The Proctor and Pasquinelli families frequently came together to weave a colorful tapestry of experiences at their shared Florida beach house. Her commitment to staying active and healthy also led Dinie and David to open The Local Workout in Western Springs, an establishment that quickly became a haven for community wellness and fitness.

A passionate lover of life's myriad experiences, Dinie found joy in a plethora of activities. She was an avid skier, finding peace and exhilaration on the slopes of Aspen. The cherished sanctuary of the Pasquinelli family lake house was a testament to her love for



Pasquinelli

water and nature's tranquil beauty, where memories were created and laughter echoed across the beach.

Dinie's spirit was evident from a young age, emerging as a formidable competitive swimmer who embraced every challenge with fearlessness and determination. Her bravery extended beyond sports as she took a bold leap and moved to Japan, representing the Hyatt Hotel Group when they sought

American representation.

Her success in such a foreign environment was a testament to her adaptability and adventurous spirit.

Her illustrious career in hospitality with the Hyatt Hotel Chain was marked by a significant milestone when she became the face of a national advertising campaign, gracing the pages of countless magazines.

Dinie's life was a testament to the power of dreams and perseverance. Her courage to pursue opportunities ignited a similar passion in those who knew her, motivating them to explore their potential fearlessly.

Diana was preceded in death by her father, Edward Proctor.

She is survived by her husband, David; her mother, Kathleen; her children, David (Amy), Charles (Anna), Emma and Abigail (Sam); her grandson, Reid Edward; her siblings, Brian (Tina), Ted (Darcy), Laurie (Art) Marchesini, Abbie and John (Charissa); and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

A funeral Mass took place Jan. 21 at St. Francis Xavier Church in La Grange.

Interment is private.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Misericordia, Wellness House, Culinary Care, Ronald McDonald House or a charity of your choice.

Sullivan Funeral Home in Hinsdale handled the arrangements.

Kay Marie Wester

Kay Marie Wester, 75, of Iron River, Mich., peacefully passed away Jan. 15, 2025, in La Grange.

She was born in 1949, in Stambaugh, Mich. Kay graduated from Iron River High School in 1967 and earned her cosmetology degree from Marquette Beauty school in 1981. Kay opened the "Best Little Hair House in Stambaugh" in 1983 and enjoyed cutting, perming and styling her many clients for 40 years. Her patrons were an extension of family to her.

At home, she always had a hobby — sewing, stained glass, crocheting, knitting, embroidery, needlepoint and reading. Known as "Kay Kat" and "Momma Kay," she was also a huge fan of Coca-Cola, lemon drop martinis, cosmopolitans, trips to the casino and spending time with her dogs while watching the Hallmark Channel.

Kay had been staying in Hinsdale for the past year, spending time with her family, watching her grandchildren, participating in local events and meeting new friends. While she enjoyed this time, she dearly missed the



Wester

Covenant Church, the lovely ladies of the auxiliary, her friends and her family up north.

She is survived by her husband of 54 years, James Oliver Wester; her children, Carrie (Frank) Rozich of Hinsdale and Jamie (Leslie) Wester; her grandchildren, Ashton Rozich and Jonas Wester; her sisters, Lois (Russell) Kopidlansky and Carol

Lamminen; and her sister-in law, Lucille LaFountain.

Kay was preceded in death by her parents, Earl and Mildred LaFountain; her in-laws, Oliver and Elaine Wester; her brothers, Robert, Richard and Jack LaFountain; her sister in-law, Donna LaFountain; and her brother in-law, LeRoy Lamminen.

Memorials may be made to Northwoods Animal Shelter, 930 Selden Road, Iron River, MI 49935; or the Hinsdale Historical Society, 15 S. Clay St., Hinsdale, IL 60521. Cards can be mailed to 208 Ravine Road, Hinsdale, IL 60521.

Sullivan Funeral Home in Hinsdale handled the arrangements.



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‘Charlie’ is a winner for SDFFA

Musical adapted from Dahl classic gets the local stage treatment next two weekends

By Ken Knutson

kknutson@thehinsdalean.com

Get your golden ticket for the sweetest show in town!

Stage Door Fine Arts invites audience members into the world of Willy Wonka’s pure imagination with its production of the musical “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” opening tomorrow, Jan. 24, at The Community House, 415 W. Eighth St.

Based on the beloved novel by Roald Dahl, protagonist Charlie Bucket dreams of an adventure beyond his poor circumstances by finding one of five golden tickets hidden inside chocolate bar wrappers, which will admit him through the gates of the eccentric and reclusive Willy Wonka’s magical factory.

Cast member Maddie Starr, a junior at Hinsdale Central and veteran of more than a dozen Stage Door shows, plays Veruca Salt, a spoiled girl who is possession of one of the other tickets. She is one of three Veruca’s in the triple-cast production, with each roster delivering its own flavor.

“Even though we’re (playing) the same parts, we all have our own twists to things,” she said. “There’s time to ad lib and come up with different things, and it’s so fun.”

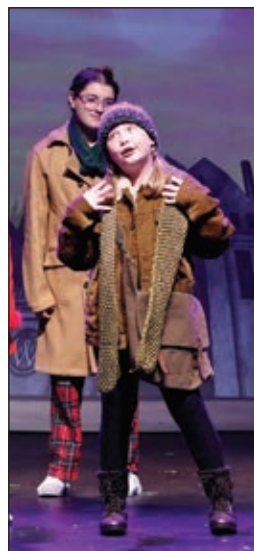
Eleanor Lucht, a Central sophomore and another seasoned Stage Door performer who also portrays Veruca, echoed Starr.

“We both have our own spin on the character, which differentiates the casts from each other,” Lucht said, adding that directors Don Smith and Paula Taylor are very receptive to actors’ ideas.

“If we have something we think would be cool to do in the show, we could suggest it and they’ll be like, ‘Absolutely, that’s a great idea.’”

Taylor said those familiar with past versions of the story — starring Gene Wilder, Johnny Depp or Timothee Chalamet — can expect to see something fresh.

“Seeing it through Stage Door Fine Arts’ eyes will bring an even different perspective. While there are themes of lessons in greed and vanity, audiences will love it for its upbeat dance numbers, colorful



Cast members rehearse for Stage Door Fine Arts’ production of “Charlie and the Chocolate Factory,” which opens tomorrow at The Community House. The troupe’s version of the musical, based on Roald Dahl’s beloved story, features three different cast groupings over the six shows. The entire family is sure to be captivated by the adventures that ensue inside Willy Wonka’s mysterious factory. (Jim Slonoff photos)

costumes and extravagant sets,” she said.

The lucky ticketholders and their chaperones (Grandpa Joe for Charlie) embark on a life-changing journey through chocolate waterfalls, nutty squirrels and the great glass elevator, revealed by Wonka’s army of curious Oompa-Loompas each step of the way.

Juliana Waters, a Central senior who plays Willy Wonka, said she’s had a blast inhabiting the one-of-kind chocolatier. The experience took her memory back to another fantastical universe.

“It’s like a full-circle moment because in my first (Stage Door) show, I played a munchkin in ‘The Wizard of Oz,’” she related. “Being able to play a larger-than-life character now in a whimsical, magical land has been so much fun.”

The three were well-acquainted

the story before joining the cast, but the camaraderie that they’ve formed with everyone involved in bringing it to The Community House stage has been a rewarding discovery, they said.

“I’m always just getting through the week so I can come here and enjoy myself,” Lucht said. “I think it’s made the overall journey of being here so much better.”

Performing alongside fledgling actors as young as second grade, the elder members say they relish mentoring the little ones just as they benefited from those connections years ago.

“Now I’m finally at the point where little kids can look up to me, too, and be like, ‘That’s what I want to be when I’m older,’” Lucht said.

Waters said playing Wonka represents a striking evolution through her stage journey,

“Starting out at Stage Door, I was a really shy person and had stage fright, but being able to perform on stage has given me so much more confidence and the ability to talk to people,” she said.

The three encourage community members of all ages to enter candy country.

“Just be ready for a lot of fun songs and costumes and a lot of unforgettable scenes in the show,” Starr said.

“Charlie and the Chocolate Factory” is on stage Jan. 24-26 and Jan. 30-Feb. 2. Showtimes are 7 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays and Thursday, Jan. 30; 2 and 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Jan. 26; 2 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1; and 2 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 2.

Tickets are \$25 to \$30. Visit www.sdfa.booktix.com or call (630) 323-7500.



Dr. Michele Borba, the next speaker in the Community Speaker Series, will share why empathy is a vital skill for children at The Community House Feb. 5 and 6. See Page 18 for details. (photo provided)

FAMILY FUN

7 p.m. RR

■ Lunar New Year Festival

Jan. 25
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

Celebrate the Year of the Snake with crafts, games and performances for kids. Hours: 2 to 4 p.m.

■ Feeding Time

Jan. 25
Little Red Schoolhouse
Nature Center
9800 Willow Springs Road,
Willow Springs
www.fpdcc.com
(708) 839-6897

Learn about the diets of the nature center's ambassador animals and observe a feeding demonstration. Time: 11 a.m. to noon.

■ Family Lego Lab

Jan. 29
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

Build an inventive Lego structure as a family using teamwork and imagination. Return to the library to see the creation on display. Time: 6 to

FOR A CAUSE

■ Candor's 50th Benefit

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

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

■ Blood Drive

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

The Hinsdale Humane Society is partnering with the American Red Cross to

host this drive. Schedule an appointment at the website above; donors should bring a photo ID, blood donor card or two other forms of ID. Time: 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. RR

■ Trivia Night

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

GREAT OUTDOORS

■ Fishing: Hard Water Classic

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

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

HEALTH & WELLNESS

■ Heart Saver CPR/AED

Jan. 25
Hinsdale Fire Department
121 Symonds Drive
www.villageofhinsdale.org/
pr
(630) 789-7090

Taught by the members of the Hinsdale Fire Department, this course is for those 14 and older with little to no medical training and teaches how to perform CPR, use an AED and provide first aid, and covers medical, injury and environmental emergencies. Participants will receive an American Heart Association certificate. Time: 8 a.m. to noon. Cost: \$50. RR

■ Cancer Thriving and Surviving

Wednesdays, Jan.

Please turn to Page 18

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Cervical cancer: detection, treatment and prevention

Cervical cancer remains a pressing health issue, with an estimated 14,000 new cases diagnosed annually in the United States, and unfortunately leading to approximately 4,000 deaths

While these numbers are concerning, the good news is that cervical cancer is highly preventable and treatable when detected early.

Causes and risk factors

The primary cause of cervical cancer is the human papillomavirus (HPV), a common sexually transmitted infection. There are more than 100 variants of HPV, but only about 15 of them, when persistently present within the cervix, are known to cause cancer. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that most people will contract at least one strain of HPV during their lifetime. Most of these exposures/infections resolve due to a woman's native immune system within two years; however, persistent infections with high-risk variants can lead to cervical cancer.

Several factors increase the risk of developing cervical cancer. The most important ones are cigarette smoking,

a personal history of sexually transmitted infections and an increased number of sexual partners. Cervical cancer most commonly affects women aged 35 to 44, though more than 15 percent of cases occur in women over 65.

Early detection and symptoms

Cervical cancer often develops silently, with early stages typically presenting no symptoms. As the disease progresses, signs may include abnormal vaginal bleeding (excessive menstrual bleeding or pain between periods), unusual or malodorous discharge or pain during intercourse. These symptoms, however, are not exclusive to cervical cancer and can be caused by other conditions, underscoring the importance of regular screenings.

There are now two "Pap" tests (performed together or in sequence) that are considered standard for optimal early detection of pre-cancer and cancer of the cervix. Both are performed



Dr. John Moroney
Healthbeat

by testing material from the cervix during a pelvic examination. The traditional Pap is one of these — it identifies abnormal cellular changes in exfoliated cervical cells, while the HPV test detects the presence of one of the high-risk HPV strains mentioned above. Starting at age 25, the American Cancer Society recommends screening every five years with an HPV test, or a combined HPV and Pap test, until age 65.

Treatment options

Treatment for cervical cancer depends on factors such as tumor size, whether or not it has spread beyond the cervix and the patient's future pregnancy plans. Common treatments include surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy, used alone or in combination. Early-stage cervical cancer is usually curable, making timely diagnosis critical.

Prevention

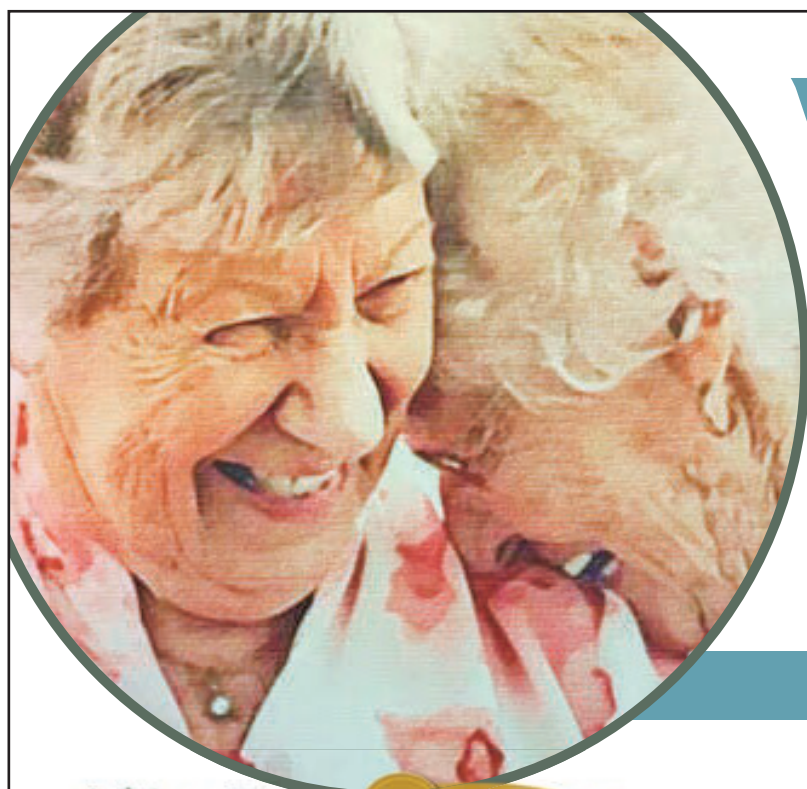
The HPV vaccine is a powerful tool in preventing cervical cancer. It protects against the strains of HPV most likely to cause cancer. The CDC recommends vaccinating children aged 11-12, with a two-dose schedule spaced six months apart. Adults who missed vaccination during adolescence may still benefit. Eligibility often extends up to age 45.

In addition to vaccination, regular screenings are crucial in preventing cervical cancer or catching it in its earliest, most treatable stages. Maintaining a healthy lifestyle, avoiding smoking and practicing safe sex can also lower the risk.

Taking action

Don't wait to prioritize your health. Speak with a health care professional about scheduling your next screening or getting vaccinated against HPV. Together, these efforts can dramatically reduce the incidence of cervical cancer and empower more women to live healthier, cancer-free lives.

— John Moroney, MD, is a gynecologic oncologist with UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Medical Group in Hinsdale.



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PULSE

Continued from Page 16

29-March 5

www.wellnesshouse.org
(630) 654-5012

This six-week interactive online Wellness House workshop for cancer survivors and caregivers is highly participative, where mutual support and success builds confidence in one's ability to manage health and maintain an active and fulfilling life. Register by calling the number above or sending an email to mgoldberg@wellnesshouse.org. Time: 10 a.m. to noon. RR

JUST FOR KIDS

■ Sweet Treats Club

Jan. 25
Clarendon Hills Community Center
315 Chicago Ave.
www.villageofhinsdale.org/
pr
(630) 789-7090

Kids ages 4-12 will learn to make donuts in this hands-on pastry and baking class, gaining understanding of the ingredients and methods used as well as the fundamentals of dough and basic decorating skills. Time: 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Cost: \$39.

■ January Scavenger Hunt

Through Jan. 31
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

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

LISTEN & LEARN

■ A Conversation with Paul Lisnek

Jan. 28
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 323-8188

Join this virtual conversation with award-winning political analyst Paul Lisnek to hear his take on the presidential election and what to expect in the upcoming four years. Time: 7 to 8 p.m. RR

■ How Birds Got Their Names

Jan. 30
www.fpdcc.com

Learn how scientists name birds, the history of common names for birds and the future changes that bird names may undergo in this virtual presentation. Time: 6 p.m. RR

■ Polar Vortex

Feb. 1
Sagawau Environmental Learning Center
12545 W. 111th St., Lemont
www.fpdcc.com
(630) 257-2045

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

■ Genealogy Research Using Fold3

Feb. 4
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 323-8188

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

■ Empathy and the Unselfie Revolution

Feb. 5 or 6
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St.
www.d181foundation.org/
community-speaker-series

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

■ Home and Life Organization Systems

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

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

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

■ Master Your Time, Home & Finances

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

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

NOTEWORTHY

■ SBC Concerto Finalists

Jan. 26
St. Paul's UCC
5739 Dunham Road,
Downers Grove
www.sinfonietabelcanto.org

Sinfonietta Bel Canto presents this program featuring Ravel's "Pavane for a Dead Princess" and "Le Tombeau de Couperin" as well as performances by the eight 2025 SBC Concerto contest finalists (five pianists, two cellists and a violinist). Awards based on audience vote will be presented at the end of the concert. Time: 4 p.m. Tickets: \$25, \$22 for seniors, \$8 for students.

ON SCREEN

■ Black History Month Drop-in

Feb. 1
Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center
9800 Willow Springs Road,
Willow Springs
www.fpdcc.com
(708) 839-6897


Enjoy a short viewing of the award-winning PBS series "America Outdoors" by writer and conservationist Baratunde Thurston. Snacks will be provided. Time: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

ON STAGE

■ 'The Elixir of Love'

Jan. 25-26
McAninch Arts Center
College of DuPage

Please turn to Page 19




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In Memoriam...

The Hinsdalean remembers the following residents and former residents we lost in 2024.

Adam Andrzejewski, Aug. 18
 Francesca Arquilla, Aug. 8
 David Barenberg, Aug. 2
 John Barrett, July 14
 Shannon Beard, Oct. 4
 Dagmar Bergquist, Aug. 6
 Eric Bergstrom, Dec. 28
 Tom Berns, May 4
 Dianne Bingaman, Feb. 2
 Peter Bokos, April 19
 Barbara Bonertz, Sept. 8
 Sandra Brewer, April 24
 Violet Broschka, May 3
 Mary Burke, Feb. 9
 Dick Burrige, Oct. 4
 Erik Carlson, Oct. 19
 Joe Cermak, March 5
 Grace Chae, Sept. 8
 Norm Chimenti, April 7
 Callie Anne Clark, May 10
 Irv Clarke, Sept. 22
 Lina Collins, Dec. 9
 Jeanne Colombo, Aug. 30
 Irene Coomer, Nov. 17*
 Jack Cunningham, Sept. 7
 Barbara Danly, Jan. 6
 David Dickerson, Dec. 30
 Liz Dolan, Nov. 21
 Karen Doll, April 14
 Harry Erickson, May 9
 Eva Evenhouse, May 11
 Nadia Farra, Jan. 10
 Dr. Tim Fendon, Dec. 16
 Gerry Fink, Oct. 15
 Judy Fischer, Jan. 26
 Nancy Fleming, Jan. 19
 Erwin Forde, Dec. 10*
 Jean Frandsen, Sept. 17
 Martin Geraghty, Sept. 28
 Thomas Gibson, April 14
 Jayne Gilligan, June 24

Jane Goldthwaite, Oct. 27
 Bette Jo Gorman, Feb. 9
 Bettie Graham, May 4
 Larry Grandy, Feb. 22
 Bill Green, July 15
 Elmer Hass, June 20
 Char Hassel, May 2
 Adriana Hebert, Feb. 2
 Marlene Hellwig, Nov. 2
 Jim Henry, July 8
 Don Hindman, July 6
 Bob Hinkle, Jan. 20
 Leslie Hodges, April 29
 Barbara Hopkins, Oct. 10
 Dan Isacson, Dec. 8
 Ty Johnson, Feb. 3
 Carolyn Karas, June 6
 Dr. Jim Kirk, July 27
 Stephanie Kirk, Dec. 2
 Jim Klotz, Nov. 16
 Joyce Knuepfer, Nov. 27
 Joanne Kowalczyk, Sept. 5
 Dee Dee Krajewski, March 12
 Tom Kurth, Jan. 20
 John LaCount, March 31
 Ken Laueraman, Feb. 23
 Angel Lindberg, Nov. 19
 Jim Lindon, Nov. 9
 Joe Leung, Nov. 13
 Donna Lorenzini, July 29
 Alan Machacek, Sept. 18
 Maria Malone, Feb. 2
 Oksana Marchuk, Dec. 15
 Mary Martin, Dec. 4
 Gaile May, Feb. 13
 Jeffrey McCollum, Oct. 18
 June McGannon, Feb. 28
 Diana McHale, Aug. 2
 Robert Meisner, Aug. 16
 Martha Miller, Dec. 26
 Liz Morales, Aug. 3

Dr. Brian Moran, Oct. 13
 Bill Moynihan, Dec. 3
 George Mueller, Aug 18
 Martin Myers, Sept. 5
 Jill Newcom, Jan. 17
 Nancy Nicholson, March 8
 Drew Parsons, Oct. 20
 Frank Phelps, Nov. 17
 Charlie Pollard, Aug. 29
 Steven Powell, Aug. 22
 Jody Pringle, Aug. 22
 Jerry Rasnak, Sept. 19
 Katherine Riihimaki, May 13
 Bun Robertson, May 10
 Myron Sailer, March 22
 Kathleen Scheffler, Oct. 7
 Allen Schiefelbein, June 18
 Joe Schieszler, July 29
 Laura Schindler, July 20
 Barb Schlesinger, Jan. 5
 Chuck Simanek, April 6
 Jack Smith, Oct. 23
 Doris Snedeker, May 25
 Jolanta Soares, April 27
 Carolyn Stillman, Feb. 18
 Bonne Strauch, July 31
 Sally Sylvester, Sept. 23
 Nancy Tieszen, July 20
 Bruce Tobias, April 14
 Florrie Tuthill, Nov. 4
 Carolyn Tweedie
 Joan Veith, Sept. 11
 Ray Veselik, May 1
 Otto Vosahlik, May 24
 Maureen Walsh, March 30
 Mike Walters, Nov. 14
 Sarah Welsford, March 23
 Ruth Wilkes, Jan. 10
 Maribeth Zickert, Feb. 1

We also remember local friends and family members.

Jim Baker, Jan. 20
 Walt Barber, Jan. 30
 Bob Barnes, Dec. 7
 Adeline Bauer, Dec. 22*
 Anna Borsuk, Nov. 2
 John Buchanan, July 7
 Dennis Calvanese, Jan. 19
 Lalo Castañada, Sept. 18
 Nancy Clough, April 30
 Kevin Colombo, July 11
 Lynne Coyne, Aug. 15
 Michael Coyne, May 27
 Bud Cushing, Oct. 17
 Di Desideri, April 6
 Karen Dombrowski, July 29
 Ken Dry, Feb. 14
 Rose Dubiel, Dec. 15
 Gerard Facchini, Feb. 16
 Peggy Feely, Dec. 30*
 Mary Jayne Fitzpatrick, Aug. 9
 Thomas Flanagan, Dec. 25

Dorothy Flannery, Dec. 13
 Janet Fleming, Nov. 20
 Peter Harnois, Dec. 25
 Una Herzog, Dec. 28
 Margery Hetherington, Dec. 22
 Elizabeth Hubbell, June 29
 Bunny Jackson, Oct. 18
 Tim Leahy, Dec. 30
 Beverly Leija, April 11
 Dick Lillquist, Jan. 30
 Barbara Lonigro, July 17
 Alex McClement, March 28
 Tom McGivern, Sept. 15
 Philomena Messina, Oct. 21
 Jean Metcalf, May 27
 Rosemarie Moore, March 13
 Ava Muckerheide, May 30
 Marilyn Musil, Feb. 7
 Karen Noble, Feb. 20
 Donald O'Neil, Aug. 17
 Joanne Orput, May 11

Agnes Pagano, Feb. 29
 John Paro, June 4
 Bob Pelizza, March 14
 Sally Pelling, June 5
 Bob Pischke, Nov. 26
 Gail Quillman, Feb. 1
 Peggy Quinn, Feb. 15
 Linda Quirk, Nov. 6
 Robert Rea, Oct. 19
 Dr. Leo Roberts, Jan. 15
 Nancy Scales, July 12
 Ann Schenck, Oct. 1
 Nadia Templeton, Sept. 21
 Terry Tilles, Nov. 7
 Dr. Carlos Torres, Oct. 28
 Bill Walsh, Jan. 13
 Larry Walsh, Dec. 22
 Lynn Weekley, Nov. 26
 Joan Wentling, May 4
 Michael Yurchak, Sept. 20

*died in 2023

Continued from Page 18

421 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn
www.atthemac.org
 (630) 942-4000

This Donizetti romantic comedy opera tells the story of a young villager who seeks a love potion from a traveling quack doctor to win the heart of the town's wealthy owner. The opera is sung in Italian with English subtitles. Time: 7:30 p.m. Jan. 25, 3 p.m. Jan. 26. Tickets: \$67, \$65 for seniors.

■ 'Native Gardens'

Thursdays to Sundays, Jan. 30 – Mar. 2
 McAninch Arts Center
 College of DuPage
 421 Fawell Blvd., Glen Ellyn
www.atthemac.org
 (630) 942-4000

The comedy follows Pablo, a high-powered lawyer, and his very pregnant wife, doctoral candidate Tania, who have purchased their first home, right next door to community stalwarts Virginia and Frank. A disagreement over a long-standing fence line derails the young couple's American Dream with a hilarious all-out war of taste, class, privilege and entitlement. A pre-show discussion with the director and designers will be held at 6:45 p.m. Jan. 30; a post-show discussion with the director and cast will be held Feb. 7. Times: 7:30 p.m. Thursdays to Saturdays, 3 p.m. Sundays. Tickets: \$44, \$42 for seniors.

■ 'Outside Mullingar'

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

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

SIGN UP NOW

■ Notre Dame Open House

Jan. 26
 Notre Dame School
 66 Norfolk Ave., Clarendon Hills

www.ndschoolch.org

Learn more about Notre Dame School and, if desired, schedule a private tour. Time: 10:30 a.m. RR

■ Romantic Night Hike

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

Experience the magic of an evening walk along lantern-lit trails on a self-guided, 1- to 2-mile journey leading to roaring fires, marshmallow roasting and hot chocolate. The trails close at 9 p.m. The program is for ages 18 and up. Times: 6, 7 & 8 p.m. slots. Cost: \$12 per person. RR

SPECIAL EVENTS

■ Lunar New Year

Jan. 26
 Little Red Schoolhouse Nature Center
 9800 Willow Springs Road, Willow Springs
www.fpdcc.com
 (708) 839-6897

Welcome good luck and fortune in 2025 by celebrating the Year of the Snake with activities, crafts and performances. Time: 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

■ Spring Festival

Feb. 1
 Hinsdale Central High School
 5500 S. Grant St.

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

■ Chocolate Weekend

Feb. 1 & 2
 Morton Arboretum
 4100 Route 53, Lisle
www.mortonarb.org

Attend presentations by chocolatiers and cacao experts, sample an array of chocolate confections, learn about the history of chocolate through the ages, see how rare cacao beans around the world are grown and sourced, and see how chocolate artisans are adopting more sustainable and equitable practices. Hours: 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Admission: Free with \$15.95 arboretum admission. RR

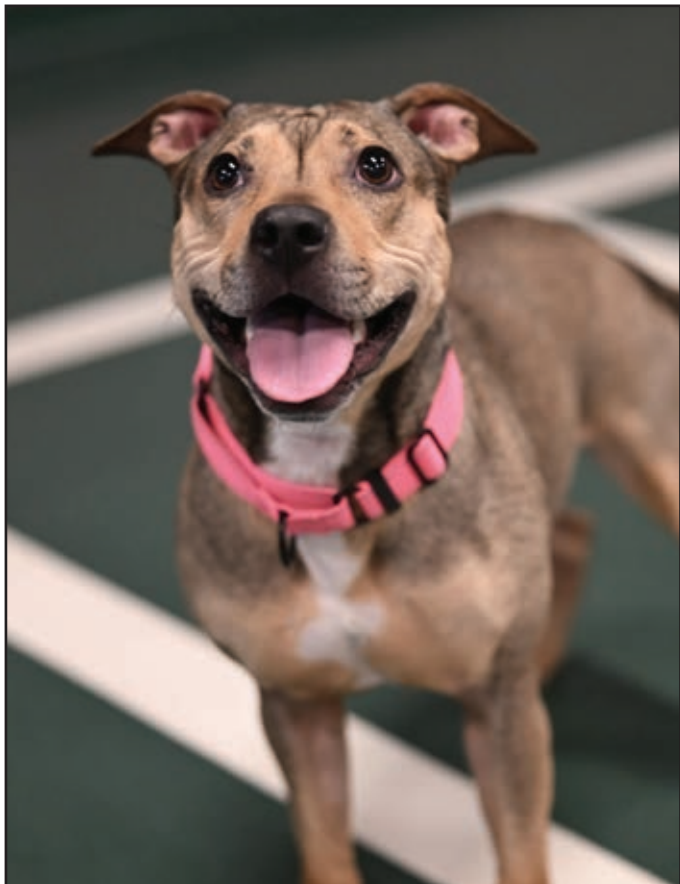
■ Poetry Trail: Black History Month

Feb. 2

Please turn to Page 20

Pet pic of the week

Vida is a vibrant 4-year-old bursting with energy and joy. This athletic gal is all about long walks, outdoor adventures and staying active. Vida has a special talent for spreading smiles and has a heart overflowing with love to share. She's seeking a home with adults or older kids who can match her lively spirit and be your one and only. If you're looking for a loyal companion to accompany you on all of life's adventures, look no further — Vida is the perfect match. For more information, stop by the Hinsdale Humane Society Tuthill Family Pet Rescue & Resource Center, visit www.hinsdalehumanesociety.org or call (630) 323-5630. (photo provided)



Continued from Page 19

Bemis Woods-South
Ogden Avenue west of Wolf
Road near Western Springs
www.fpdcc.com
(312) 533-5751

In honor of Black History Month, walk a short, looped trail in Grove 7 and read poetry written by African American authors along the way. Time: 10 a.m. to noon.

TEENS & TWEENS

■ Teen Knitting and Crocheting Club

Jan. 27
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

Learn how to knit and crochet with guidance or bring a project to work on with peers. Time: 5 to 6 p.m. RR

■ RPG Club

Wednesdays, Jan.
29-March 19
The Community House
415 W. Eighth St.

www.thecommunityhouse.org
(630) 323-7500

Create, draw and build role-play characters, write stories and backgrounds, and then act out the character by dressing up and fighting the BBEG (Big Bad Evil Guy) at the conclusion of a quest. Participants will be supplied with a polyhedral dice. Time: 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Cost: \$238. RR, MD

■ After Dark Trivia Night

Jan. 31
Hinsdale Public Library
20 E. Maple St.
www.hinsdalelibrary.info
(630) 986-1976

High school students are invited to enjoy a hot chocolate bar and popcorn while competing against classmates in teams of up to six for the 2025 Trivia Night Trophy. Sleepover attire is optional. Sign up as a single player or as part of team. Time: 7 to 8:30 p.m. RR

Key
RR - registration required
MD - member discount

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FEBRUARY 15

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FEBRUARY 16

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GOOD NEWS

NONPROFITS RECEIVE GRANTS

Two Hinsdale organizations were among 31 to receive Community Impact grants totaling \$399,250 from the DuPage Foundation.

Candor Health Education received \$10,000 and The Community House received \$6,000.

"We are proud to share that 72 percent of eligible grant applications submitted this fall received funding," said Barb Szczepaniak, DuPage Foundation vice president for programs. "Our grant program exists because of generous donors who have made unrestricted gifts or established endowed field-of-interest funds at the foundation."

Including other grant categories, the foundation awarded almost \$580,000 to nonprofits throughout DuPage County.

DuPage Foundation, a 501(c)(3) community foundation, manages more than \$145 million in assets and has awarded more than \$100 million in grants since its founding in 1986.

GARDEN CLUB GIVES BACK

The Garden Club of Hinsdale celebrated the holidays again this year by giving back to the community.

This year at its annual holiday workshop, members collected donations for HCS Family Services and created

cozy blankets for Wellness House to distribute to individuals affected by cancer.

The Garden Club of Hinsdale, founded in 1921, has more than 100 members. It meets monthly to exchange ideas, learn through educational programs and cultivate a sense of community.

— A photo appears online at www.facebook.com/thehinsdalean.

HONOR SOCIETY COLLECTS FOOD

Hinsdale Central's Tri-M Music Honor Society collected more than 300 non-perishable food items at the Hinsdale Central Holiday Concert 12.

The items were delivered to People's Resource Center in Westmont.

— A photo appears online at www.facebook.com/thehinsdalean.

NEUROSURGEON JOINS HOSPITAL

Omer Doron, M.D., Ph.D., a neurosurgeon with expertise in leading-edge endovascular and cerebrovascular surgical techniques has joined UChicago Medicine AdventHealth Hinsdale, becoming part of the neurosurgery team at the Hinsdale hospital in October.

Doron uses minimally invasive and open microsurgical techniques to diagnose and treat vascular diseases of the central nervous sys-



Doron

tem, such as stroke, aneurysms, arteriovenous malformations and carotid artery disease. He also delivers general neurosurgical care, treating a wide range of conditions, including brain tumors, hydrocephalus and head trauma.

While treating patients, Doron also is responsible for helping the Hinsdale hospital earn certification as a comprehensive stroke center. That's the highest level of certification for stroke care issued by The Joint Commission, indicating a hospital has met rigorous standards for delivering specialized care - including endovascular and cerebrovascular neurosurgery - for the most complex stroke cases.

The Hinsdale hospital recently opened a state-of-the-art neurointerventional angiography suite where advanced endovascular and cerebrovascular surgeries can be performed. Doron has overseen its launch and is working to ensure the hospital checks all the boxes to earn certification from The Joint Commission in the near future. That designation will give Emergency Medical Services providers the green light to bring stroke victims to the Hinsdale hospital for treatment.

"Stroke is a time-sensi-

tive disease, and the fact that UChicago Medicine AdventHealth now offers the most comprehensive stroke care — including advanced lifesaving procedures — near our patients' homes will improve their survival rates and quality of life after stroke," Doron said. "Our neurointerventional angiography suite and its specially trained team members put us on a par with the nation's top healthcare institutions for treating stroke and complex vascular conditions. Our patients now won't have to travel far to receive the most advanced care available today."

Other vascular diseases for which Doron can provide minimally invasive treatments include chronic subdural hematomas and intracerebral hemorrhages, a devastating type of stroke. Additionally, Doron and his team are implementing minimally invasive techniques using neuromonitoring to remove brain tumors safely.

FIRM NAMES NEW MANAGING BROKER

Tamy Bobbitt has been named managing broker of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Chicago's Hinsdale, Downers Grove, Glen Ellyn and La Grange offices. Tamy has served as the director of business development west region and assistant managing broker of Hinsdale, Downers Grove and La Grange. She joined the firm



Bobbitt

in 2020. "Tamy has done an exceptional job supporting agents in our west suburban offices for years and I'm

excited for her to step into the managing broker role," said Diane Glass, CEO of Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices Chicago. "She is one of the most positive, encouraging and motivating people I have ever met and a savvy, driven businessperson with her hand on the pulse of the west suburban real estate market. Tamy's combination of unbridled enthusiasm and industry expertise are a winning formula for success, ensuring our agents achieve their personal best and have fun while doing so."

Tamy is a past president of the West Suburban Women's Council of REALTORS®. Prior to joining BHHS Chicago, Tamy was vice president of brokerage services and a broker associate for @ Properties. She has also served as assistant manager of the Downers Grove office of Baird & Warner and was a corporate trainer for Luxury Portfolio International. Tamy is an influential business strategist with more than 25 years of experience in the real estate industry in addition to brand recognition and strategic growth and productivity in core services.



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- Login or follow prompts to create a new account
- Follow steps to register your child



Mandatory Workout Day tryouts – 2/2/25:

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

Coach Volunteers:

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

Tentative 2025 Season Schedule



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

SPORTS

Central alum helps team win championship

Continued from Page 30

well, how to change direction really well.”

Head coach Brad Spencer said having a junior lead the team in receiving is not unusual for the Cardinals.

“What was uncommon was he had virtually no experience in the previous two years outside of a back-up role,” Spencer said. “But that typifies our program — kids developing into stars. I’m proud of him.”

Spencer described Skokna as a tough, smart player.

“That is what we call a real football player — plays 100 percent, 100 percent of the time,” he said.

And Skokna sets a great example for his teammates, Allen noted.

“When it’s time to get down to business, he’s locked in and he’s a leader for the younger guys in the locker room as well,” Allen said. “He’s really a team guy. He never makes things about him. He puts his head down and works. He’s a great role model for the younger guys.”

Skokna said he appreci-

ated the encouragement of other players during his first two years on the team when he spent most of his time on the bench.

“I’ve got a bunch of good teammates who are constantly telling me, ‘You deserve to be out there — you just have to wait your turn.’ There were some good athletes out there ahead of me.”

The Skokna name is a familiar one to readers of *The Hinsdalean’s* sports pages. His youngest brother, James, currently plays football for the Red Devils (Class of 2027). All seven of the Skokna boys played football for Central at some point. John, Luke and Mark went on to play football in college, with John preceding Thomas at North Central. Watching John, who’s 10 years his senior, play there influenced his choice, Skokna said.

“I didn’t like focus on it, but all the coaches knew me from when I was little. They still call me Tommy,” he said.

Growing up with six brothers prepared him for being



Skokna, who racked up 94 yards receiving during the Stag Bowl, was the top receiver for North Central College during the season with 961 yards out of the team’s 3,586 total. (photo by Steve Woltmann courtesy of North Central College)

on the gridiron, said Skokna, who also has three sisters.

“I’m so used to getting beat up all the time and just running around, sometimes getting hit. You’ve always got someone to play with,” he said. “I’d definitely say it prepared me for the unexpect-

ed. You’ve seen everything at this point.”

Skokna and his teammates didn’t have too much time to enjoy their victory. They headed back to the weight room on Monday.

“It’s that weird feeling,” he said. “You end the season on

such a high note. We have to kind of forget about it and focus on next season.”

Allen said Skokna will leave the program as a senior better than he found it.

“Watching him lead on and off the field has been awesome to see,” he said.



A star wide receiver for Hinsdale Central, Skokna scored three touchdowns in the first quarter of his senior year homecoming game against Downers

North in 2021. Thomas is one of six Skokna boys to play football at Hinsdale Central at some point. (file photo)

SPORTS — ROUNDUP

STUDENT ATHLETE PROFILE

RESULTS



Henry Guo
Westmont

How have you approached your senior year?

This year was a lot less tense than other years because I've already committed to college (University of Penn). I've tried to be more optimistic about my performance.

When did you know swimming was a talent?

My sophomore year at the state meet was really my breakout meet, and I thought I could have a future in this sport.

What are your goals for the season?

To win state in the 100-yard butterfly or 100-yard backstroke. And win the 200-yard medley relay and 400-yard freestyle relay events.

Where does your versatility come from?

A lot of swimmers tend to specialize in an event when they're in high school, but I've liked exploring all the strokes.

How do you get focused for a meet?

I'm actually very basic. I like to listen to the sound of the water in the pool just to get myself focused.

What about it gives you the greatest sense of joy?

Individually I enjoy the competitiveness because it's

a very objective sport solely based on times. Doing things as a team and winning as a team also is special. The state meet is one of my favorite events of the year because of that strong team aspect.

How have you matured through the years?

Now I'm more willing to accept failures. Before I would have negative thoughts if I had a bad meet or bad practices. I've learned that these things happen to everyone and you have to learn from them.

Is there someone who inspires you?

I think that your motivation should come from within yourself. It's not enough to be inspired by a great athlete; you need to believe that you can also be great.

How do you like to relax?

I like to play the piano, and I like to watch the anime series "Jujutsu Kaisen."

Why does head coach Bob Barber like having Guo on the team?

Henry has been an integral part of the program's success for the past three years. As a sophomore we used him in places that were probably not his favorite, but he ended up breaking school records and showed just how versatile he was. He exemplifies everything we want our young people to be.

— profile by Ken Knutson,
photo by Jim Slonoff

Basketball, boys

Jan. 20 @ MLK Shootout vs. Notre Dame
V wins 61-60 (OT)
Jan. 18 @ Hinsdale South
V wins 52-30
Jan. 17 vs. Wheaton Academy
V wins 85-69
Buzelis, 32 points, 5 rebounds, 5 assists, steal, 4 blocks
Thick, 26 points, 8 rebounds, 4 assists, block
Orozco, 17 points, 4 rebounds, assist, steal
Howell, 10 points, 6 rebounds, block
Dell, 9 rebounds, 3 assists
Bero, 4 rebounds
Froiland, rebound

Basketball, girls

Jan. 21 vs. Willowbrook
V wins 61-26
Darwish, 15 points, 11 rebounds, 6 steals, 2 blocks
Gin, 14 points, 8 rebounds, assist, steal
Dolan, 8 points, 4 rebounds, 3 assists, 3 steals, block
Coffey, 6 points, 2 rebounds, assist, 4 steals
Sherpitis, 6 points, 3 rebounds, 3 assists, steal

Lynch, 5 points, 2 rebounds, steal

Xiao, 3 points, 2 rebounds
Giannini, 2 points, rebound, 2 steals, block
Mokhtarian, 2 points, 4 rebounds, 2 assists
Quast, 3 rebounds
Skinner, rebound, assist, 3 steals
McCoy, rebound
Jan. 18 @ Proviso West
V wins 69-29
Jan. 16 @ R-B
V wins 56-20

Bowling, boys

Jan. 18 @ IHS regional
V places 13th with 4,492
Villanueva, 57th, 825
Rivera, 60th, 801
Stamer, 61st, 705
Egbert, 66th, 577
Peterson, 67th, 459
Bansal, 73rd, 579
Fodor, 75th, 307
Drew, 79th, 239

Bowling, girls

Jan. 16 vs. Downers South
V wins 2,280-2,124
Young, 428
Kawa, 391
Sudi-Khan, 385
Oranu, 372
Allen, 354
Choe, 350

Gymnastics, girls

Jan. 15 vs. OP-RF
V wins 129.65-129.25
Vault
Driscoll, 1st, 8.6
Hannah, 2nd, 8.5
Nawracaj, 3rd (tie), 8.4
Dillenburger, 6th, 8.2
Uneven bars
Driscoll, 1st, 8.5
Hannah, 3rd, 7.95
Kaminskaite, 6th (tie), 7.3
Smith, 8th, 7.15
Balance beam
Inabnit, 1st, 8.85
Hannah, 4th, 8.4
Driscoll, 6th, 8.1
Danhaussen-Brun, 9th, 7.3
Floor exercise
Hannah, 1st, 8.6
Inabnit, 2nd, 8.5
Danhaussen-Brun, 6th (tie), 7.8
Kaminskaite, 9th, 7.5
All-around
Hannah, 1st, 33.45
Driscoll, 5th, 32.2
Danhaussen-Brun, 8th, 29.9

Hockey

Jan. 19 vs. Naperville
V wins 3-1
J. Crabb, goal, assist
Dwyer, goal, assist
Pomeroy, goal, assist

Barbara, assist
MacPherson, assist
Turnbull, assist
Jan. 18 vs. OP-RF
V loses 0-5

Swimming, boys

Jan. 18 @ New Trier Relays
V places 1st with 253 points
200-yard medley relay
Bey, M. Vatev, Guo, Adamo, 1st, 1:33.56
200-yard freestyle
N. Pelinkovic, 1st, 1:45.19
Chase, 6th, 1:47.93
200-yard IM
Bey, 1st, 1:52.83
M. Vatev, 3rd, 1:54.21
50-yard freestyle
Adamo, 5th, 22.14
Suliga, 7th, 22.26
100-yard butterfly
Benington, 7th, 53.52
Gao, 10th, 53.94
100-yard freestyle
Guo, 1st, 46.47
L. Vatev, 2nd, 46.58
500-yard freestyle
N. Pelinkovic, 2nd, 4:48.49
Feiro, 5th, 4:53.03
200-yard freestyle relay
Bey, M. Vatev, Adamo, Suliga, 2nd, 1:27.12
100-yard backstroke

L. Vatev, 1st, 50.43
Guo, 2nd, 51
100-yard breaststroke
M. Vatev, 1st, 56.83
Bey, 4th, 58.08
400-yard freestyle relay
Adamo, Chase, N. Pelinkovic, Guo, 1st, 3:11.09
Jan. 17 @ York
V wins 421-119

Wrestling, boys

Jan. 17-18 @ Illini Classic
V places 19th with 47 points
190 pounds
Kruse, 3rd, 21 points
285 pounds
Camp, 7 points
132 pounds
Mayen, 7 points
144 pounds
Barrios, 5 points
138 pounds
Martinez, 4 points
126 pounds
Quirk, 3 points

Wrestling, girls

Jan. 15 @ Addison Trail Quad
vs. Hinsdale South
V loses 6-9
125 pounds
Neskovic, fall 0:56

Instant replay



Hinsdale Central senior gymnast Erica Driscoll performs her routine on the vault while teammate Julianna Nawracaj executes a jump on the balance beam during Central's home meet Jan. 15 against Oak Park-River Forest. The Devils edged out the Huskies 129.65 to 129.25. (Jim Slonoff photos)

SPORTS



Hinsdale's Thomas Skokna evades defenders during the Stagg Bowl championship by beating Mount Union 41-25. (photo by Steve Woltmann courtesy of North Central College)

Central alum helps team win title

Skokna and his Cardinals win national championship for second time in three years

By Pamela Lannom
plannom@thehinsdalean.com

North Central College was playing for a national championship Jan. 5 in Houston when quarterback Luke Lehnen threw the ball to Hinsdale's Thomas Skokna. He dropped it.

"(I) went to our quarterback on the sideline and said, 'I'm sorry,'" Skokna recalled. "He said, 'Don't worry — I'm coming back to you.'"

Skokna didn't make the same mistake twice.

"It was a big play and we got some momentum. I actually got lucky to be in that position," the

junior wide receiver said. "We scored one or two plays later."

The Cardinals took the title by beating Mount Union 41-25 at Shell Energy Stadium. This was Skokna's third trip to the Stagg Bowl as a North Central Cardinal. He was a freshman in 2022 when the team won the title and a sophomore in 2023 when the team came up one point short to the SUNY Cortland Red Dragons.

"We had a little sign in our weight room in our locker room that said, '38-37.' You saw that every day coming in from workouts, coming in for practice, he said.

Trying to recapture the title was

stressful, Skokna admitted. And he wasn't used to playing in stadiums that seat 20,000 fans.

"I was definitely nervous going into it," he said. "Once you get hit the first time out there, all the nerves go away and you're kind of locked into the game."

Skokna had 94 yards receiving and two kickoff returns for 66 yards in the game, adding to his already impressive stats for the season. He was the No. 1 receiver on the team with 961 yards — more than a quarter of the team's 3,586 total yards receiving — and 13 touchdowns. He also had four kickoff returns for 119 yards and one punt return for 25 yards.

Wide receiver coach Chris Allen remembers meeting Skokna for the first time last summer.

"Everybody was calling him Tommy Touchdown," he said. "It kind of gave me a little bit of an impression of what the personality of Skokna was and how he played."

Allen said Skokna likes to make explosive plays, like the one he made during the Stagg Bowl.

"Everybody thought he scored," Allen said. "Even though he's probably not the biggest guy on the field, he knows how to get open, how to use his feet really

Please turn to Page 28

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Duplex Villa in the sought after
"Hinsdale Meadows" community

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Contact Us For Private Showing!

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