The North Shore Weekend

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16 | SUNDAY NOVEMBER 17 2024

NO. 629 | A JWC MEDIA PUBLICATION

"I do not want the peace that passeth understanding. I want the understanding which bringeth peace."
-Helen Keller

RAVINIA®

WINTER WEEKEND

DECEMBER 6 – 8



6 **WASSAIL! An Irish-American Christmas**
Apollo's Fire



7 **SUNDAY MORNING PUT-ON**
Andrew Bird Trio



8 **A VERY BRASSY CHRISTMAS**
The Rodney Marsalis Philadelphia Big Brass

Scan for More Info



Andee Harris, CEO of Challenger

PHOTOGRAPHY BY KATRINA WITTKAMP

ASK THE QUESTION, TAKE THE CHANCE

Andee Harris, CEO of Challenger, creates opportunities by asking "Why not?" pg7

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NORTH SHORE DOINGS

Find out what's happening in your town with our weekly event guide pg10



NORTH SHORE SPORTS

New Trier and Loyola Academy girls' volleyball teams dig their way to playoff success. pg12



O CHRISTMAS TREE

Pack the family in the car and get ready to make cherished holiday memories pg20



Your Pain and Suffering Are Real

Winnetka resident Paul suffered with prostatitis and low back pain for over 10 years. "The medications helped a little and I tried surgery but even after two procedures, I never knew if it was going to be a bad day or a worse day. Dr. Su helped me feel normal again like I could go about my life and not feel hesitant to go out with my wife or friends."



DR. KUAN SU

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191 WAUKEGAN RD SUITE 102
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Dr. Kuan Su of Acupuncture North Clinic uses the time tested art of Acupuncture to help each patient relieve pain, improve sleep, and reduce chronic issues that other modalities have struggled to help.

Acupuncture has been around for thousands of years and has been used to treat a variety of issues. Dr. Su has specialized in treating the more complex conditions including stubborn neuropathy, chronic pain, reactions to high stress/anxiety, sleeping disorders, and men's health issues such as erectile dysfunction and urinary issues.

Gale from Wilmette had been struggling with both migraines and insomnia for 7 years. "Ihad tried botox to help with the migraines but it only helped for a little while and I used sleeping pills because I could not fall asleep for hours. I missed having natural restful sleep. After seeing Dr. Su for a month, both started to vanish. My migraines turned into a minor headache once every other week and now I sleep like a baby."

Dr. Su shares the typical stories from patients. "A recurring story that people share with me is that they have tried conventional means, they have tried new fads, they have tried medications and seen specialists yet have struggled to get any results. They say that I'm their last hope. *I am always up for a challenge but what I enjoy the most about my work is when patients come in after their treaments to tell me how things are changing, how they are feeling better, and how other symptoms that they have been struggling with are going away."*

He works with a variety of cases and understands how important the partnership between patient and practitioner is. "I'm always looking forward to my days in my clinic because no two patients are exactly the same. Many times patients come in with a variety of issues happening at the same time. Last Tuesday, I was treating a patient for neuropathy in both feet, chronic fatigue, and insomnia and he reported that all three were improving. Understanding the importance of checking in regularly and participating in his own health have sped up his recovery and I am so excited for him!"

Georgette from Highland Park shared, "Dr. Su is so great to work with. I had been suffering from tinnitus for 11 years and doctors said nothing could help. The sound was too much but once I started seeing Dr. Su, not only did my tinnitus start to go away, my digestion was doing so much better. I felt like I could be me again. Like I could go out and have lunch with the girls and really enjoy my time being social again."

What once was a missing link in complementary alternative healthcare is now easily accessible to the residents of the North Shore area. If you have been struggling with chronic issues or issues that have been labeled as idiopathic or untreatable, **call Dr. Kuan Su at Acupuncture North Clinic today to schedule your consultation.**

Dr. Su is accepting a limited number of new patients due to high demand. In an effort to protect his current patient base, ***he is limiting the number of new patients to 9 before the end of November.***

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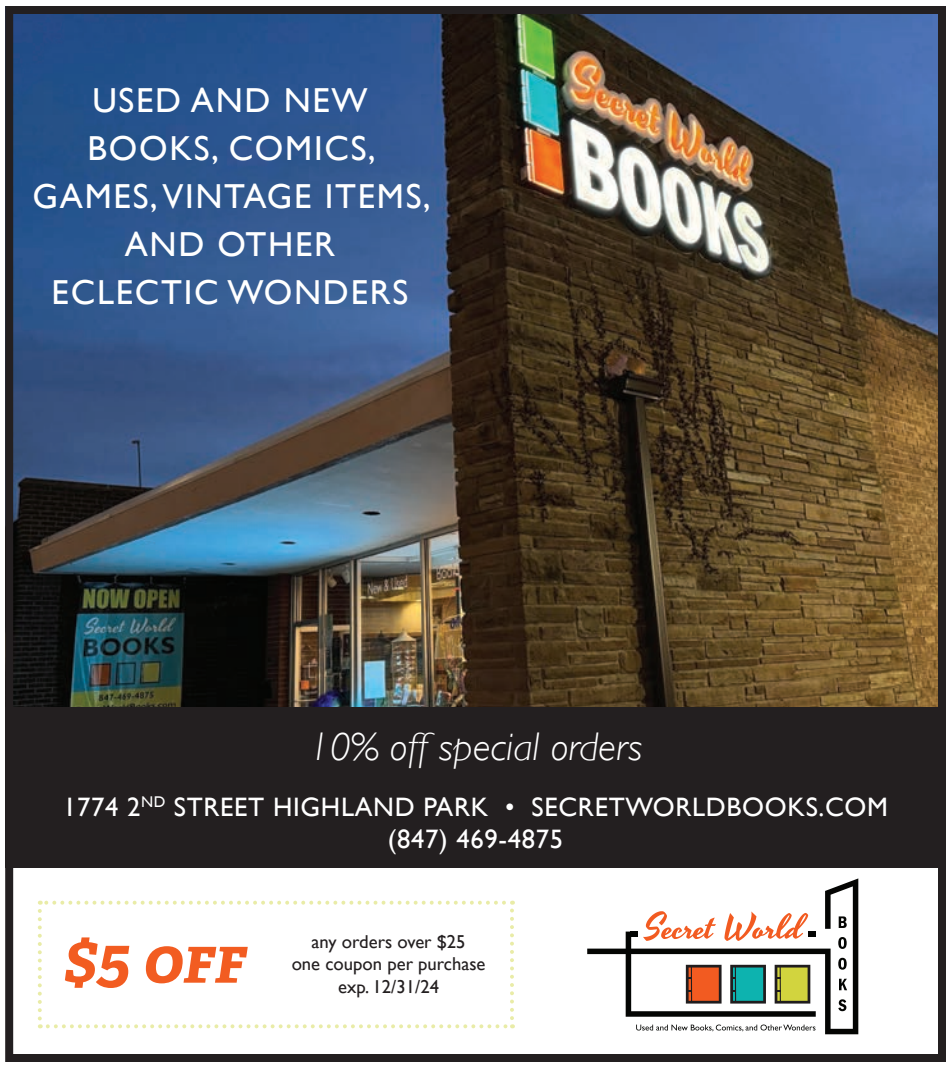
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ASK THE QUESTION, TAKE A CHANCE *From PG 1*

BY THOMAS CONNORS
THE NORTH SHORE WEEKEND

Some of us take time to find our footing as we venture into the working world. Some hit the ground running. Andee Harris is firmly among the latter. The CEO of Challenger, which empowers sellers and drives sales growth around the globe through sales training, technology, and consulting, hasn't missed a beat since earning her B.A. in organizational studies and human resource management from the University of Michigan. "I started out as a psychology major and realized that this didn't speak to what I wanted to study, so I created my own major. I was never a kid who colored inside the lines, and what helped me bring my career into focus was to think of it not as a ladder but as a jungle gym. There are a lot of paths to play on."

Harris began her career at Andersen Consulting (now Accenture) where she traveled constantly, working 70 to 80 hours a week. She learned a lot, but within a few years was ready for something different. "My experience at Andersen helped me realize that I was going to be happiest if I pursued roles that allowed me to use my rebellious, curious nature to solve problems and make businesses better," she explains. "I saw I had a comfort with risk, so I began taking strategic risks for the right opportunity, particularly for businesses at an inflection point."

At 26, Harris co-founded the software services firm Emerging Solutions, which was later acquired by Emtec Inc. for $30 million. She went on to serve as CEO of HighGround, a software company, which she successfully sold to Vista Equity Partners in 2018. Harris was named as one of the city's most successful technology entrepreneurs by Crain's Chicago Business and nominated by Illinois Technology Association as a Prominent Woman in Tech in 2015, 2016, and 2017. After HighGround, she founded the private equity firm Franklin Heritage. "Launching your own business versus taking over an existing company is like building from scratch rather than remodeling a house," Harris relates. "If you nail the mission, the vision, and the product market fit at the beginning, you nail your company's success and culture. But there's a lot of joy in guiding an existing business through cultural change, just like there is when you're remodeling and you figure out how to make that one weird load-bearing beam work in your new layout."

At Challenger, Harris, who lives in Lincoln Square with her husband, Jonathan Harris (director of the Team to End AIDS) and their two college-age children, works to increase the firm's market share and revenue, while assuring that its clients receive the most sophisticated, multi-pronged guidance to realize their own success. "Companies come to us when they need to help sellers, marketers, and any other revenue pros learn how to challenge customers to improve and grow, align their entire go-to-market team, and create structure and reinforcement so that this approach to sales is really embedded in their day-to-day work. Challenger isn't a one-and-done training program. It's an encompassing, strategic approach to growing business and deepening the connection between customers and sellers as trusted advisors."



Andee Harris, CEO of Challenger. PHOTOGRAPHY BY KATRINA WITTKAMP

Harris' natural tendency to ask "why not?" and her extensive experience have allowed her to assess business realities from many angles and help clients recalibrate their perceptions. "Businesses are so focused on return on investment or ROI, and I don't want to diminish the importance of ROI, but they really need to shift their focus to the cost of inaction or COI. Research found that as much as 80 percent of deals end in no decision, meaning people choose to do nothing rather than make a change. So, as sellers, it's important to emphasize not what you'll gain by investing in a new solution or approach, but what you'll lose by not acting. Because there are often bigger costs to staying the same than committing to change."

"I was never a kid who colored inside the lines, and what helped me bring my career into focus was to think of it not as a ladder but as a jungle gym."

While her business savvy has certainly been shaped by her years at the top, like many leaders, Harris has taken to heart life's early lessons. "When I played field hockey," she recalls, "one of my coaches offered me advice that guides me to this day: 'Don't get furious, get curious. When you see something you don't like, ask questions. Learn about your options, and what works and what doesn't. Dig into the problem and find a new path that solves the problems you see.' I took that mentality into my first business, and I maintain it even now."

GEAR UP FOR WINTER

Help needy children throughout the Chicago area stay warm this winter by donating to Cradles to Crayons' annual clothing drive.

BY MITCH HURST
THE NORTH SHORE WEEKEND



Surveys show one in two children in the Chicago area live in a low-income situation, and according to the most recent U.S. Census, in 2022 12.4 percent of children in Chicago lived under the poverty level, a significant increase from 5.2 percent in 2021.

Cradle to Crayons (C2C), a national organization with a location serving the Chicago area, aims to help fill the gap by collecting and distributing items that kids need to get through the winter, from hats and boots to coats—the primary focus of this year's campaign.

This year, the organization is calling on the community's help to provide 50,000 coats to children across the Chicago area this winter as part of its "Gear up for Winter" initiative.

C2C is seeking donations of new or like-new winter coats to distribute through its network of more than 70 service partners, including schools, community organizations, city agencies, and church groups. C2C partners provide essential resources directly to families in low-income, homeless, or crisis situations free of charge.



"Many of these families are making decisions every day about utilities and rising gas and electric bills, just keeping a roof over their heads," says Dawn Melchiorre, Executive Director of Cradles to Crayons Chicago. "Do they have enough food to provide for their families and access to medical care?"

Melchiorre says that too often one of the last things parents can afford for their children is appropriate clothing.

"We always talk about clothing insecurity because it sits right beside housing insecurity and food security for these families," she says. "It's hidden and not really talked about, and we've seen an increased need the past two years."

The need is especially critical this winter as families continue to experience the lasting effects of inflation and increased debt. The number of families staying in homeless shelters has increased 14 percent just this past year.

"We want to ensure that no child in our city has to endure freezing temperatures without a warm coat. Clothing Insecurity has a profound impact in the winter—children miss out on recess, outdoor activities, and even school days without the proper gear," Melchiorre says "The surge of unhoused individuals in Chicago who lack adequate winter clothing makes it more urgent than ever to collect coats for families facing harsh conditions."

And it's about more than just staying warm. Many children have just one outfit for school that they wear each day of the week, which leads to stigmatization among classmate and negatively impacts their self-esteem. Providing clothing improves their lives in a number of different ways.

The North Shore has traditionally been a solid source of donations and volunteers for C2C. The organization has many donation boxes throughout the Chicago area and more on the North Shore than any other community. C2C works closely with Glencoe schools and other school districts in the region.

Through February, you can donate coats in all sizes, along with other winter essentials at C2C's North Center Giving Factory and at its more than 40 locations throughout the city. Items can also be purchased through C2C's Amazon Wish List. Monetary donations can be made online at the organization's website.

Last year, C2C Chicago provided needed items for 320,000 children in Chicago. As the only large-scale nonprofit organization dedicated to addressing clothing insecurity, C2C will distribute one million packages of clothing, shoes, diapers, and essentials to families and children across its network nationally.

There are a number of ways residents can get involve with C2C in addition to donating clothing. One DIY option is to host a clothing drive or fundraiser, or a virtual event with friends and family. Melchiorre says that for just $15, C2C can purchase a brand-new, high-quality winter coat for children.

"We encourage folks to take everything they're not using and donate it and come and volunteer," adds Melchiorre. "We have volunteer shifts available Tuesday through Saturday at our North Center location in Chicago, and families with kids aged 5 and older can get involved."

For more information about donating to C2C, volunteering, or hosting a clothing drive or fundraiser, visit cradlestocrayons.org/chicago.

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NORTH SHORE DOINGS

EDITED BY CHEYANNE LENCIONI
THE NORTH SHORE WEEKEND

NOVEMBER 16 TO 30
JANE D'ANGELO EXHIBIT
WHERE: Vivid Art Gallery

Northfield artist Jane D'Angelo's work is on display throughout November at Vivid Art Gallery. D'Angelo is an impressionist painter whose work is defined by the beautiful combination of light and shadow. Using rich and vibrant colors, she aims to convey both the physical beauty of Chicago, as well as the emotions it evokes. *vividartgallery.net*

NOVEMBER 16 TO 17
RANDOLPH STREET HOLIDAY MARKET
WHERE: Randolph Street, Chicago

America's largest urban antiques event never goes out of style. Hunt for vintage treasures from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and enjoy a cocktail while you shop! Tickets are on sale now. *randolphstreetmarket.com*

NOVEMBER 16
SINGING BIRD AND THE IMPORTANCE OF NATIVE AMERICAN WOMEN IN IL HISTORY
WHERE: Lake Bluff History Museum

Award-winning Ojibwa author and speaker Kim Sigafus McIver presents an interactive, hands-on program on the history of Native people in Illinois at 2 p.m., with a focus on Native women, or what was considered "The Hidden Half." Dressed in her native regalia, McIver will teach about the role women played within the family unit and explore the significance of Native women such as Singing Bird (Blackhawk's wife) and Hononegah. *lakebluffhistory.org*

NOVEMBER 17
ARTEMIS CHAMBER ORCHESTRA CONCERT
WHERE: Nicholas Hall, Music Institute of Chicago

Enjoy a free concert by the Artemis Chamber Orchestra, titled Sonnenberg Suite. General admission seats are available now. *artemischamberorchestra.org*

NOVEMBER 17 & 24
POTTERY ON THE PRAIRIE
WHERE: Mellody Nature Farm Preserve and Claire Willis Pottery Studio

Kids ages 6-12 are invited to Mellody Nature Preserve for a two session, seasonal collaboration between Claire Willis Pottery and LFOLA for Pottery on the Prairie 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. this fall! On the first day we'll collect plants and natural found objects to engage with clay pottery projects, participate in guided hikes and hands-on project-based learning activities. The second day (at Claire Willis Pottery Studio) will be spent at the studio, glazing, decorating, and learning about backyard nature and pottery. Each participant will have the opportunity to create at least one clay conifer tree, which they can then glaze and decorate back at the studio in part two of the workshop. *lfola.org*

NOVEMBER 19
THE NUTCRACKER
WHERE: Wilmette Park District

Celebrate the holiday season with the Wilmette Park District's annual tradition! Its production of *The Nutcracker* is a magical night of performing arts and storytelling. The dance and theater departments collaborate every year to bring this special performance to life. Limited seating available. All seats reserved. Tickets can be purchased online or over the Community Recreation Center front desk. *wilmettepark.org*

NOVEMBER 21, 22 & 23
THE LAKE FOREST 2024 HOLIDAY BOUTIQUE
WHERE: The Forester Hotel

The Women's Board of Northwestern Medicine Lake Forest will be hosting its annual boutique at a new location. An opening night party will be held from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. on November 21. Tickets are available and of limited availability. Tickets are $10 for adults and $5 for adults and $10 for adults 65 and older. The Boutique itself will run from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on November 22 and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on November 23. *nmgive.donordrive.com*

NOVEMBER 23
HOLIDAY LIGHTING
WHERE: Port Clinton Square

From 4:30 p.m. to 6 p.m., the annual holiday lighting event will take place. Special guests and activities will be featured. *enjoyhighlandpark.com*

NOVEMBER 24
THE MUSIC INSTITUTE CHICAGO CHORALE
WHERE: Nichols Concert Hall

At 3 p.m., The Music Institute Chorale opens its 2024–25 concert season with "Clap Your Hands," featuring music for choir and brass, including Daniel Pinkham's Christmas Cantata. Admission is free. *musicinst.org*

NOVEMBER 24
VIOLIN RECITAL
WHERE: St. James the Less

St. James the Less is proud to present the award-winning violinist Henry Criz in the second installment of its recital series at 3:30 p.m. Criz has performed at the White House and was Concertmaster of the orchestra of Lyric Opera in Chicago for nine years, among numerous other accomplishments. Accompanied by parish music director Josh Langhoff on piano, Criz will play works by Beethoven, Handel, Mozart, and Tartini. Admission is free but a free-will offering will benefit the parish music ministry. Stick around after the recital to enjoy light refreshments and conversation with fellow music lovers. *stjamestheless.org*



The Nutcracker

NOVEMBER 28
TURKEY DAY SKATE
WHERE: Winnetka Ice Arena

From 10:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., burn off a few calories before Thanksgiving Dinner. Enjoy a special skate day with friends and family. *winpark.org*

NOVEMBER 28
CHICAGO THANKSGIVING PARADE
WHERE: State Street, Chicago

The award-winning parade returns for its 90th anniversary from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. The parade will travel up State Street from Ida B. Wells Drive to Randolph Street. Witness the best Chicago has to offer including marching bands, festive floats, majestic equestrian units and a diverse array of cultural performance troupes— all led by notable Chicago hosts and a special visitor from the North Pole. *chicagothanksgivingparade.com*

NOVEMBER 29
LIGHT THE LIGHTS FESTIVAL
WHERE: Wyman Green

From 5 p.m. to 7 p.m., Downtown Glencoe will be holding its annual Festival. The festival will include a six foot 3D light up display of Glencoe's zip code, live music from Rosie and the Rivets (bring your lawn chairs and blankets to enjoy music on the green), trackless train rides through downtown, a new kids carnival ride, Winter Village, and so much more. *villageofglencoe.org*

DECEMBER 4
DRIE-CEMBER HOLIDAY MARKET
WHERE: Driehaus Museum

From 11 a.m. to 5 p.m., the Driehaus Museum puts its own "gilded" spin on the holiday season with "Drie-cember," its second annual month-long celebration of holiday programs for the entire family to enjoy. This year, visitors can view Photographing Frank Lloyd Wright, the first exhibition to explore the iconic architect's relationship to photography, and attend various holiday offerings ranging from a concert presented with the African American Museum for Performing Arts to Yuletide-themed ghost stories by the Ghostlight Ensemble. New this year is a festive Holiday Market inside the recently reopened Murphy Auditorium—a Chicago landmark—featuring artisanal wares from local vendors. *driehausmuseum.org*

DECEMBER 7
DUKE IT OUT! NUTCRACKER
WHERE: Nichols Concert Hall

The Music Institute of Chicago (MIC) celebrates the holiday season at 11 a.m. with Duke It Out! Nutcracker, its annual music and dance program for families. This one-hour version of *The Nutcracker* alternates between Tchaikovsky's original score and the jazz version by Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn. An interactive musical instrument petting zoo for children takes place at 10 a.m., welcoming audience members to try out instruments featured in the Tchaikovsky score. *musicinst.org*

DECEMBER 8
HOLIDAY HOME TOUR
WHERE: Lake Bluff History Museum

Jump start the holiday season with Lake Bluff History Museum's Holiday Home Tour. From 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., guests can pick up new decorating ideas, visit two holiday boutiques in historic homes, and enjoy the creativity and tradition of their neighbors. Tickets are $50 each. *lakebluffhistory.org*

To submit your event for consideration, please email events@nsweekend.com.

WISHING YOU ALL A WONDERFUL THANKSGIVING!

As we approach Thanksgiving, I want to express my gratitude to the skilled and dedicated 'behind-the-scenes' contractors who have supported my clients and me for so many years. Their expertise and responsiveness have helped hundreds of my clients prepare their homes for sale and make move-in day a success. I am incredibly thankful for each of them and I truly appreciate all that they do.

I am grateful!

Joanne Hudson



From left to right: **Williams Gomez and Heriberto Gomez**, Excellent Family Cleaning - 847.877.6889 | **Peter Orzechowski,** Speedy Service Group Corp. (Electrician) - 773.610.7468 | **Vaidas Jurcikonis** (sitting), Vaidas Construction Inc. - 224.522.8191 | **Peter Pasek**, Peter Pasek Painting - 773.882.1195 | **Tom Johnson**, Johnson Carpentry & Restoration (and For Sale sign installation) - 847.772.5896 | **Joanne Hudson**, Joanne Hudson Group, Compass- 847.971.5024 | **Spiro Polomarkakis**, Root and Stem Landscaping - 847.302.6258 | **Heather Waller and Tom Jones**, Lakeside Plumbing - 847.419.0303 | **Ociel Garfias and Angel Gutierrez**, Ociel Flooring LLC - 773.629.9319

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NORTH SHORE SPORTS

BY BILL MCLEAN
THE NORTH SHORE WEEKEND

PHOTOGRAPHY BY GEORGE PFOERTNER

TOP-FLIGHT

New Trier Township High School's soaring volleyball team takes down top-seeded Loyola Academy in a Class 4A sectional final.



Loyola Academy senior middle hitter and future U.S. Naval Academy midshipman Ellen Gundlach hopes to become a pilot someday.

"That, to me, says a lot about her character," Loyola Academy volleyball coach Lionel Ebeling says of his two-time all-Girls Catholic Athletic Conference player, who lives in the Chicago neighborhood of Sauganash. "You have to admire Ellen's plan to commit to a service academy."

Gundlach, the Ramblers' MVP in 2023, ranked first in blocks and second in kills among teammates in 2024 after Loyola Academy's 25-21, 23-25, 25-23 defeat of Glenbrook North HS in a Class 4A New Trier Township High School (New Trier) Sectional semifinal on November 4.

"Not my best night," Gundlach admitted after thumping seven kills and notching four blocks. "But here's the thing when that happens—I know I'm guaranteed that my teammates have my back. You saw that tonight. We're super close, we have strong relationships, and we've been in synch all season."

But New Trier, not Loyola Academy and Gundlach and super senior outside hitter Grace Kreutz, earned the right to depart on another postseason journey on November 6, when the second-seeded Trevians downed first-seeded Loyola Academy 25-18, 25-23 for a sectional championship behind senior co-captains Kit Kat McGregor and Emma McHatten and an energized home crowd.

"Everybody stepped up and contributed," NTHS coach Hanna Hsieh says. "In the sectional semifinal and final, the girls felt prepped and confident going in with a game plan. Our team performed well under pressure.

"And our student section was a huge support. It was a fun and loud atmosphere, and a great memory for our girls."

New Trier (27-6) was scheduled to face Benet Academy in the St. Charles North Supersectional on November 11, with the winning advancing to the Final Four in Normal four days later.

Loyola Academy (32-7) set a program record for wins in a season. In the Ramblers' 32nd win, in that taut sectional semifinal on November 4, Kreutz—the daughter of former Chicago Bears center Olin Kreutz—struck 21 kills. Teammate Ava Swanson, a senior libero/defensive specialist, amassed 23 digs and had a pair of aces.

DANDY DYLAN

Highland Park High School senior cross country ace Dominguez picks a fine time to run the race of his life—at state.



Dylan Dominguez's eighth-place time of 14 minutes, 52 seconds at a Class 3A boys' cross country sectional meet earlier this month was a cause for celebration.

It had bettered the Highland Park High School (HPHS) senior's previous personal-best three-mile time by a whopping 25 seconds and secured a spot in the state-meet field at Detweiller Park in Peoria on November 9.

But Dominguez wanted nothing more than to be able to jump for joy for his team on that day at Busse Woods in Schaumburg.

"My teammates were on my brain as I ran the final 800 yards because all I was thinking was, 'Run hard to help all of us qualify for state,'" Dominguez recalls.

Alas, only Dominguez made it to state. The Giants' squad finished in ninth place—two places behind the last team to advance to state.

"Dylan's goal was to break 15 minutes at the sectional race," HPHS boys' cross country coach Steve Buti says. "But his No. 1 goal was to have the entire team run at state. He has always put the team ahead of himself."

Dominguez insisted he would think about his teammates—as well as his family members and friends—as he prepared to take off from a start box at Detweiller Park.

"I'm guessing about 20 members from our cross country program are planning to watch me run at state," Dominguez said three days before the meet. "They drive me and they motivate me."

They witnessed something special. Dominguez motored to a 29th-place showing at state, paring another significant chunk of time off his personal-best. The Giant zipped to a 14:40.1—some 12 seconds lighter than his sectional time—and missed achieving all-state status (top 25 finishers) by a mere 3 seconds.

"Dylan is a great finisher," Buti says. "He was in about 31st place after a mile and maybe in 22nd after two miles at the sectional. That last mile, he started rolling, passing runner after runner. I remember looking at him near the end; he didn't appear tired at all.

"He's laser-focused as an athlete, and he closes races well. Dylan is also as easy going off the course as he is determined when he is in race mode."

Dominguez has also competed in volleyball and in track and field at HPHS

He set the freshman school record in the 300-meter hurdles, per Buti. He won't play volleyball in the spring, having set his sights on running the 1600- and 3200-meter races in track.

A path to a career in either computer science or "some sort of engineering" awaits him in college.

No matter which one he chooses, count on Dominguez to attack it like he did in the sport of cross country.

Q & A with New Trier Township High School volleyball hitter Kit Kat McGregor



Five days after Halloween, a Kit Kat competed on a volleyball court in Winnetka.

What a treat.

New Trier Township High School (New Trier) senior co-captain and outside hitter Kit Kat McGregor played a major role in helping the Trevians edge visiting Glenbrook South HS 25-22, 23-25, 25-18 in a Class 4A New Trier Sectional semifinal on November 5.

McGregor, who will study pre-law and play volleyball at Georgetown University, struck a kill for the third set's penultimate point and blocked a shot on match point.

"It's her competitive spirit," NT coach Hannah Hsieh says of McGregor's primary strength in volleyball.

Your favorite aspect of volleyball?

KKM: Making friends through the sport.

Memories of the first day you picked up a volleyball?

KKM: Watching my older sister Maddie (now 23 years old) play volleyball. She inspired me.

Your team's most underrated player and why?

KKM: (Junior setter) Abbie Ha. She works hard and she made an adjustment on defense that made a difference tonight.

If you could be as successful in another sport as you are in volleyball, what would that sport be?

KKM: Tennis. Or lacrosse—I have a lot of friends who play lacrosse.

What happens during the perfect day in the life of Kit Kat McGregor?

KKM: Winning a volleyball match, like we did today, in front of my family and friends.

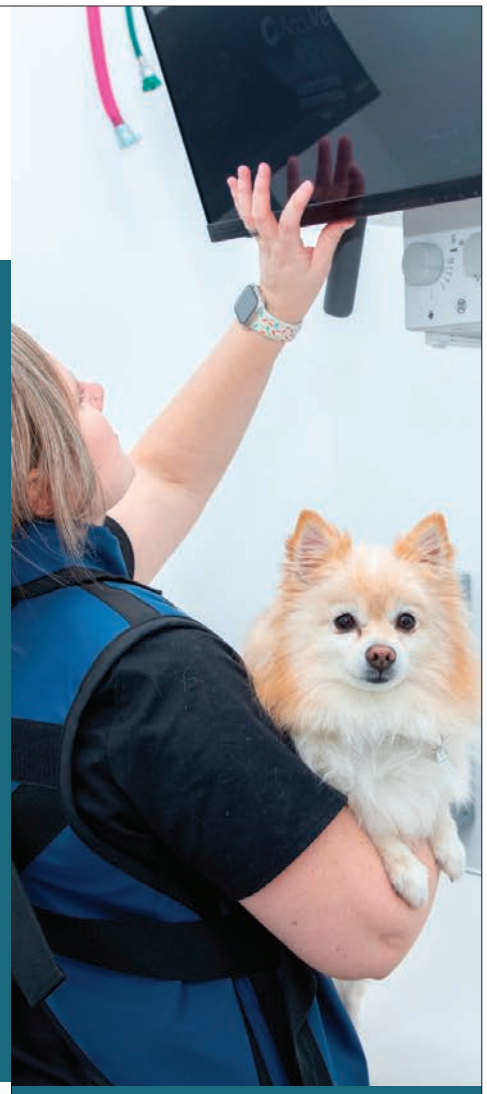
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#HASHTAG

EDITED BY DUSTIN O'REGAN
ILLUSTRATION BY TOM BACHTELL

ALEX KAEHLER grew up in the suburbs of Chicago, where she lives now with her husband, three kids, and devilish Labrador puppy. After she began what she believed to be her dream career in advertising, she quickly realized design was her calling after starting a lifestyle blog in 2009. Kaehler attended a post-graduate program at Harrington College of Design and went on to open her Winnetka firm, Alexandra Kaehler Design in 2011. Kaehler has established an approach where she truly gets to know the client from an emotional perspective, learning how they want to live in their homes. Kaehler's passion for design stems from the intimacy of it and what is happening in the hearts and minds of her clients. Alexandra Kaehler Design has been featured on the pages of *House Beautiful*, *Luxe*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Interiors Magazine*, *Domino*, and more. Her work has also been featured in books, such as *Return To Pretty* by Caitlin Wilson and *The Ultimate Bath* by Barbara Sallick. Most recently, she is excited to launch a textile collaboration with Merinda Studio, inspired by her love of Nantucket. Kaehler puts down her fabric swatches to share how she stays current in a busy world.



#ON MY NIGHTSTAND

I just finished *The Wishing Game*, it was the perfect whimsical story. I loved it. I'm not a big TV watcher, so I love reading to decompress instead, and sometimes an adult fairy tale is the answer. I also like a good beach read. Just finished *Happy Place* and really enjoyed it. It was such a sweet escape.

#ON MY MOBILE

I find inspiration on social media. There are so many creative people sharing their work. I love *@Halfbakedharvest* for recipes, *@movexjillborega* for healthy living and exercise inspiration, *@jamesblaughlin* for a very exciting personal project I am in the midst of, *@thenatnote* for really fun fashion and home finds, and an endless amount of interior designers and artists!

#IN MY EARBUDS

I listen to the *Business of Home* podcast with Dennis Scully every week, and when I can twice a week (love their *Thursday Show*) it's a great way to keep up with the industry and hear about the design from all different perspectives. I also really like keeping up with *How'd She Do That* a podcast about female entrepreneurs. My playlist has a very wide range—from Vampire Weekend and Tyler Childers to Taylor Swift and George Strait.



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SOCIAL LIFE

BEATLES, STONES & BUSINESS

On October 24, a group of local business leaders and executives gathered at Uptown in Glencoe for a memorable evening exploring the business lessons hidden in the legendary journeys of The Beatles and The Rolling Stones. The event—hosted by software design and engineering agency Infinum and planned by Glencoe-based head of business development Joe Rosenthal—featured *The New York Times* bestselling author and Glencoe native Rich Cohen and was timed to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the British Invasion with insight, humor, and a rock 'n 'roll twist. Seventy guests enjoyed hors d'oeuvres and custom cocktails like the Jumping Jack Flash espresso martini and Yellow Submarine pineapple margarita as the night unfolded into a thought-provoking exploration of the parallels between rock legends and the corporate world. Cohen's return to his native Glencoe added a nostalgic and personal touch to the evening. Reflecting on how he performed "Jumpin 'Jack Flash" and "Honky Tonk Woman" with friends in Central School talent shows, he noted how sharing this perspective in his hometown made the night a "beautiful full circle" experience. Guests also explored a curated collection of Rolling Stones memorabilia. The exhibit, graciously provided by local collector Barry Slotnick, included an unused ticket to the Stones very first American show and a hand-signed receipt by Michael Jagger. At the end of the evening, each attendee left with a copy of Cohen's *The Sun, the Moon, and The Rolling Stones* as a keepsake.

PHOTOGRAPHY PROVIDED BY AMERICAN EXECUTIVE MEDIA



BERT JENKINS, JAMES COLE, RICH COHEN, JOE ROSENTHAL



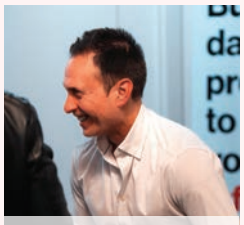
KARRI ROSENTHAL



ERIC AND VANESSA ZOERB



GAVEN CONATSER, RICH COHEN, JOHN CONATSER



MITCH CARREL



KALLI WOLF

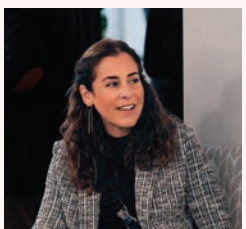




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NORTH SHORE FOODIE

ASIAN SALMON, RICE+EGG BOWL

BY MONICA KASS ROGERS
FOOD EDITOR
THE NORTH SHORE WEEKEND

When I have the chance to make it, this sumptuous midday meal is my favorite. It pairs a perfectly sauteed fillet of salmon over short grain sushi rice with a little soy/rice vinegar sauce, toasted seaweed laver, sizzled green onion, and a sunny egg with toasted black sesame sprinkles. A garnish of freshly shredded carrot and red and white cabbage adds a bit of crunch. I toast the sesame seeds and prepare the rice (using a rice cooker) ahead of time to streamline prep. You'll need just one pan for everything else.

SERVES 2



PHOTOGRAPHY BY MONICA KASS ROGERS

INGREDIENTS

- 2 tsp raw black sesame seeds
- 1 green onion
- 2 Tbsp vegetable oil
- 2, 4-ounce fresh salmon fillets
- 2 large eggs
- 2 cups cooked short-grain sushi rice
- ½ cup mix of freshly shredded carrot, red and white cabbage
- 1 sheet toasted seaweed laver,cut into triangles

FOR THE SAUCE:

- 2 Tbsp water plus 1 tsp cornstarch
- 2 tsp dark soy sauce
- 3 Tbsp unseasoned rice vinegar
- 2 tsp sugar
- 1 Tbsp vegetable oil

METHOD

TOAST SESAME SEEDS: Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spread baking sheet with parchment paper and sprinkle raw seeds on parchment. Bake for 5 minutes.

PREPARE VEGETABLES: Trim green onion, discarding root end and any discolored tips. Cut into two-inch pieces. Using a very sharp knife, slice each two-inch section lengthwise to make very thin strips. Set aside.

SAUTÉ FISH & PREP EGG: In a sauté pan over medium heat, heat oil for one minute. Add salmon fillets, skin side down. Cook until the dark pink of the salmon lightens to a peachy color reaching about halfway up the filet. Flip fillets, pull off and discard skin. Continue cooking until no dark pink is visible. Do not overcook. Remove salmon from pan to a plate, keeping warm. Cook two eggs in pan, sunny side up, just until white is cooked. Slip eggs onto a plate; keep warm. Add slivered green onion to pan and stir until wilted. Scoop out and set aside.

MAKE SAUCE: In a small cup, whisk cornstarch into water to make a slurry. Set aside. In a separate cup, whisk soy sauce, rice vinegar, and sugar together. Taste and adjust seasoning, adding a bit more sugar if desired. Add remaining 1 Tbsp oil to pan over medium low heat. Whisk cornstarch slurry with soy/vinegar sugar mixture. Pour into pan and whisk until you have a smooth sauce. Remove from heat.

ASSEMBLE DISH: To serve, divide prepared rice into two bowls. Top each with a salmon fillet and an egg. Pour sauce over fillets and top with wilted green onion slivers and shredded carrot/cabbage. Sprinkle eggs with toasted black sesame seeds. Garnish each bowl with seaweed laver triangles.



O CHRISTMAS TREE

Have visions of piling the family into the station wagon and cutting down your own tree this holiday season? We found five tree farms in the area where you can live out those sugar-plum dreams.



BY MITCH HURST
ILLUSTRATION BY KARA PYLE

While Charlie Brown is perhaps most notoriously known for his selection of, shall we say, unsubstantial Christmas trees, it's a tried-and-true tradition around the holiday season for many North Shore families to chop down something a little more ... robust.

Fortunately, northern Illinois and southern Wisconsin offer plenty of options where North Shore families can go and wield their axes. And it's more than just chopping a tree down. Many tree farms offer activities for kids such as hayrides and face-painting, and food and drink items including hot apple cider and cinnamon-apple donuts. It's easy to make a day of it in the fall outdoor weather.

It was an anonymous observer once pointed out, "Memories are bound by the smell of pine."

So, get the kids (and maybe the dog) bundled up and pay a visit to one of the following tree farms to either continue or start your holiday tradition, and don't forget the bungee cords to strap your perfectly shaped (or uniquely original) fresh tree to the top of your vehicle.

Conifera Trees

This farm located in Harvard offers a variety of trees for chopping, including Balsam, Canaan, and Frasier Firs, Colorado Blue Spruces, and White Pines. Its selection of trees also includes fresh, pre-cut trees from its private farm in Wisconsin. Bring home some fresh asparagus from the farm's popular asparagus farm or purchase garland or a wreath to decorate the house. *5810 Schultz Road in Harvard, 630-779-6249, coniferatreefarm.com.*

Pioneer Tree Farm

Families can get a taste of the good old days at Pioneer Tree Farm in McHenry. In addition to organically grown trees pruned by hand, Pioneer offers a host of activities for families and children, including hayrides, candle dipping, woodworking, and free coffee and hot chocolate in a house on the property heated by a wood-burning stove. Opens November 29. *4614 N. Pioneer Road in McHenry, 815-385-8512, pioneertreefarm.com.*

Williams Tree Farm

Horse-drawn wagon rides and an audience with Santa are just two of the reasons families should head out to Williams Tree Farm in Rockton. The kiddos will enjoy the Candy Corner and a visit with Santa on selected days. The whole family can grab a bite to eat at the Cabin Café. Williams offers cut-your-own and pre-cut trees, as well as a gift shop. Opens November 16. *4661 Yale Bridge Road in Stockton, 815-624-7579, williamstreefarm.com.*

Sugar Creek Tree Farm

Family-owned and operated, Sugar Creek offers 32 acres with thousands of trees on its scenic property in Burlington, Wisconsin. The farm also sells precut Fraser Firs delivered from Black River Falls shortly before Thanksgiving. Refreshments are available on weekends. Opens November 29. *N6447 Church Road in Burlington, 262-767-1177, sugarcreektreefarm.com.*

Hann's Christmas Tree Farm

In addition to its large variety of trees, Hann's in Oregon, Wisconsin, features a Kids Zone with ice skating and other activities for the little ones. The farm comes alive on the weekends with visits from Santa and Mrs. Claus, hayrides, and free hot cider. The farm is also dog-friendly, so your four-legged family members can tag along. *848 Tipperary Road in Oregon, 608-835-5464, hannschristmasfarm.com.*

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Live Your Luxury

As we are approaching the holiday season, now is the time to take stock of everything that makes you happy and the things that give you joy. I believe that luxury does not mean one thing, but it is up to you to decide what it means for you and your family. Whether it be a home that offers proximity to all of your favorite spots in town or the ability to open your door and catch views that span for miles, or just a place to relax with your family, luxury is defined by your needs.

As we approach the end of 2024, think about whether you have found your place that allows you to live your luxury and celebrate all the wonderful moments in your life. If you want to make a move in 2025, I am here to help so that we can find your piece of luxury...whatever that means to you.

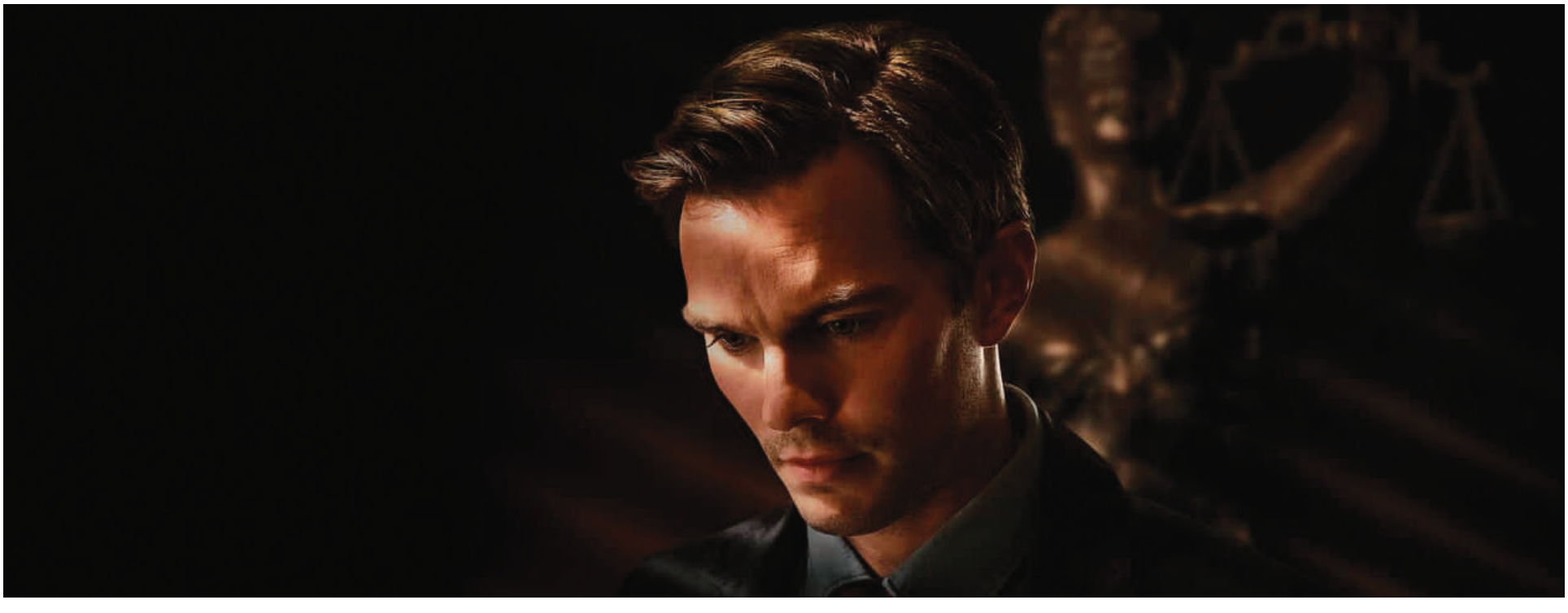


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JUROR #2

A courtroom drama starring Clint Eastwood and Nicholas Hoult presents a moral dilemma with an innocent man's fate hanging in the balance.





BY REX REED
ILLUSTRATION BY TOM BACHTELL

RUNNING TIME:
1 HOUR, 53 MINUTES

RATING: 3.5 stars

Politically, we might be on different planets, but when it comes to movies, my admiration and respect for director Clint Eastwood is boundless. Now in his 90s, the iconic action star turned filmmaker talks about retirement, but say it isn't so. Even his occasional fumbles, like the dismal *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evil*, contain lively surprises, and a work of consummate skill, control, and suspense such as *Juror #2*, which finds him at the top of his game, proving he's still got plenty of skill and imagination to spare. Hopefully, his career has no end in sight.

Although *Midnight in the Garden of Good and Evi*l turned out to be a big mistake, Eastwood loved making it so much that he returns to the same setting in Savannah, Georgia, for his latest film—a shattering courtroom drama that keeps you on the edge of your seat from first scene to last. When *Juror #2* ends, your nails may very well be shorter.

Nicholas Hoult, one of the best of the young breed of actors currently impacting the movie scene, plays Justin Kemp, a successful, clean-cut Savannah journalist with a new home, a promising career, and a pregnant wife. When he gets the annoying notice for jury duty, he does what we all do—he tries to get out of it and fails. Assigned to a serious case of homicide, he hopes it will be over soon, but as the facts are unraveled by the dead-serious prosecuting attorney (Toni Collette, in the best performance of her career) and the equally dedicated defense (Chris Messina), it turns into a high-profile courtroom thriller with many mysterious twists to uncover.

The defendant is accused of drinking with his girlfriend in a bar on a stormy October night when they had a fight, and he turned her out in the pouring rain to walk home alone, then beat and murdered her, leaving her to die. Now, by sheer coincidence, Justin finds he's on the jury to decide the fate of the man on trial, and in the opening arguments, he realizes he was in the bar at the same time and discovered the body on his way home in the blinding fog.

He thought he hit a deer, but it was really the girl. A moral dilemma ensues. It was an accident, but if he's honest and admits it was the dead girl he hit instead of a deer, it could mean 30 years to life. The screenplay by Jonathan Abrams, Eastwood's direction, and the uniformly great acting so sincere and believable that you'll find this movie impossible to watch without asking yourself "What would I do?"

The trial, the cross-examinations, and the summaries are all familiar (and slightly dull) until Justin becomes the only juror who refuses to vote guilty. His objections based on lack of evidence are so convincing that another juror (the always reliable J. K. Simmons), a retired ex-cop named Harold, decides in the private jury room to join him, becoming the second of the 12 jurors to vote not guilty.

A deadlock ensues, Harold illegally pursues new evidence that sways the case and results in a hung jury, 6 to 6. Breaking the law, he is fired by the prosecuting attorney, opening up a can of worms that could lead to either a conviction or a hung jury, change the verdict, and end in a mistrial.

How does it end? I won't ruin the outcome with any spoilers. I'll simply say it's worth the effort it takes to make your own discovery about what happens to a good person caught up in terrible circumstances.

I haven't seen a courtroom drama this riveting since *Witness for the Prosecution*. Clint Eastwood builds tension so palpitating you could sweat profusely and then faint. In a star-making performance, Nicholas Hoult has the rare ability to relate every emotion as much with his facial expressions as he does with dialogue.

The film has two endings and an epilogue that asks new questions about the definition of justice. If *Juror #2* does turn out to be Clint Eastwood's final film, he's gone out with fireworks.

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THE VERDICT IS IN

New Trier Township High School graduate and *Juror #2* screenwriter Jonathan Abrams is guilty—of Hollywood success.

BY BILL MCLEAN
ILLUSTRATION BY BARRY BLITT

Screenwriter Jonathan Abrams sat across from the man who would be taking on his long-time passion project, still in disbelief over his good fortune after years of rejection in the film industry.

The person he was meeting with that day near the Warner Bros. Studios complex was not just any ordinary Hollywood director. He was staring straight back at Eastwood.

Clint Eastwood.

Abrams, a 1996 New Trier Township High School (New Trier) graduate, had penned a legal-thriller screenplay. Eastwood liked it and had arranged for the sit-down with the former Glenview resident.

"It was a bit of an interview at first," recalls the 46-year-old Abrams. "Seven years ago, a company had optioned my screenplay. But it didn't work out and I hoped someone else would take a look at it.

"As Clint talked," Abrams continues, "I sensed he was wondering, 'Is this guy a good guy?'"

It didn't take long to conclude that Abrams, a former New Trier baseball player, had passed the good-guy test. The bulk of their ensuing conversations centered on Abrams's screenplay for *Juror #2*, which had its world premiere as the closing night film for the American Film Institute Fest on October 27, and had a limited theatrical release via Warner Bros. on November 1.

"Clint wanted to direct it because it's a story about people," Abrams says. "He told me, 'I want to drill down on what's real and what's human.' That was freeing to me, hearing him say that."

The film stars Emmy nominee Nicholas Hoult, Emmy winner Kiefer Sutherland, Oscar nominee Toni Collette, and Oscar winner J.K. Simmons. It follows Hoult's Justin Kemp, who is serving on a high-profile murder trial and struggling with a severe moral dilemma—one he could use to sway the jury's verdict and potentially convict or free the accused killer.

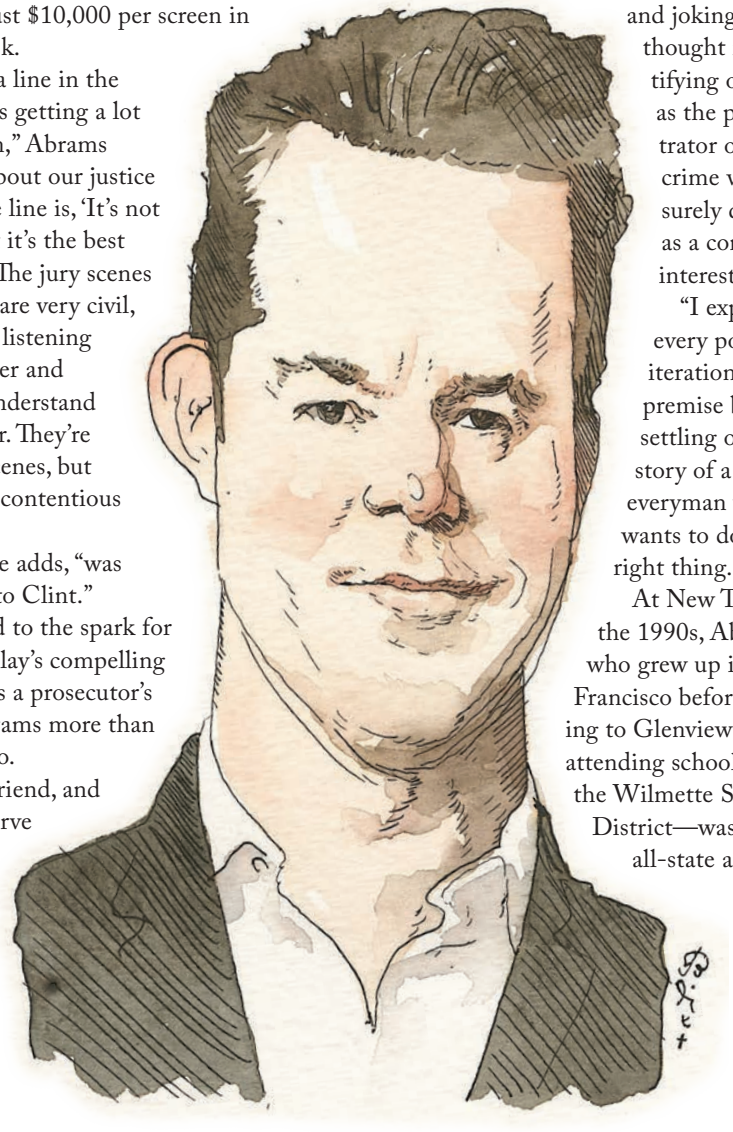
It received favorable reviews and averaged a robust $10,000 per screen in its first week.

"There's a line in the movie that's getting a lot of attention," Abrams says. "It's about our justice system. The line is, 'It's not perfect, but it's the best we've got.' The jury scenes in *Juror #2* are very civil, with jurors listening to each other and trying to understand one another. They're dramatic scenes, but they're not contentious scenes.

"That," he adds, "was important to Clint."

What led to the spark for the screenplay's compelling content was a prosecutor's plea to Abrams more than 10 years ago.

"He's a friend, and I used to serve as a consultant for him," Abrams says. "He wanted me to help him add some 'Hollywood flair' to his opening and closing arguments. One day, I was in court watching 'voir dire' (jury selection) and every potential juror trying to be excused. I asked myself, 'What could someone say that would get them excused?'"



Jonathan Abrams

I want [New Trier teachers] Mr. Cadwell and Mr. Oetter to know that they had something to do with a screenplay for a movie directed by Clint Eastwood.

and jokingly thought identifying oneself as the perpetrator of the crime would surely qualify as a conflict of interest.

"I explored every possible iteration of the premise before settling on a story of a relatable everyman who just wants to do the right thing."

At New Trier in the 1990s, Abrams—who grew up in San Francisco before moving to Glenview and attending schools in the Wilmette School District—wasn't an all-state athlete or a performing arts superstar.

"I was just a regular kid who loved movies in high school," he says

English teachers Chris Oetter and John Cadwell, either by their teaching style or approachability, stirred Abrams. Oetter taught sophomore English; Cadwell taught AP English.

"I want to give credit to both men for inspiring me and developing my creative spirit," says Abrams, who graduated from USC's School of Cinematic Arts in Los Angeles and lives in California with his wife, Carrie Ainsworth, and their two children, 7-year-old son Austen (named after Jane Austen) and 4-year-old daughter Sally.

"I remember proposing to write a three-act play instead of a report for an assignment in Mr. Cadwell's class. He approved it. What I wrote was probably terrible, but it was my first attempt at writing dialogue and I will always be thankful for that opportunity. I want Mr. Cadwell and Mr. Oetter to know that they had something to do with a screenplay for a movie directed by Clint Eastwood."

There's at least one other New Trier connection in *Juror #2*. J.K. Simmons portrays a character named Harold Chickowski, a homage to legendary New Trier teacher and coach Eugene "Chick" Cichowksi, who coached football for 20 years, first at New Trier East HS (1971-1980) and then at NTTHS (1981-1990).

His career win-loss record at the Winnetka school was 144-47-1, a splendid .750 winning percentage.

Abrams is now 2-0 (1.000 winning percentage) in having worked with his heroes in the arts and not being disappointed. Eastwood was the second. The first? Musician Huey Lewis. Abrams wrote the book for the jukebox musical *The Heart of Rock and Roll* on Broadway (April 22 to June 23). The production features music and lyrics by Lewis and his band, Huey Lewis and the News.

"We're hoping to bring that show to Chicago either next year or in 2026," Abrams says. "It's my valentine to John Hughes's movies."

The late Hughes famously directed a canon of iconic movies filmed along the North Shore.

"Please let the good people of the North Shore know that my roots are their roots," Abrams says. "I guess I'm a North Shore kid who done good."

The North Shore Weekend

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