Honoring the artist

Student auction memorializes art teacher. Page 14

Maine South High School student paintings were available to purchase through an online auction hosted May 12-14. The auction raised money for a scholarship fund named after Sophia Pichinos, an art teacher at the high school who died in February after battling breast cancer.

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Deb Keegan, Skokie resident

Twenty-year Skokie resident Deb Keegan wears several hats including Skokie School District 73.5 parent and head of community engagement at the Lincolnwood Public Library. The Pioneer Press recently asked her a series of questions:

Q: Where did you grow up?
A: Detroit.

Q: Do you have pets?
A: Noodles, my wonder dog - spoiled rotten.

Q: What was your first job?
A: Newspaper delivery person in my hometown neighborhood. The Detroit News. I would pull my rolled-up newspapers around the neighborhood after school in a wagon, and go out collecting money from subscribers each week.

Q: As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?
A: Just happy, with an adventure here and there, and to be as good a mother as my own.

Q: Do you have children?
A: I have two amazing children that give me great joy and happiness.

Q: Favorite charity?
A: The Epilepsy Foundation since I lost a brother to this disease, and A Better Life for Kids which assists orphans in Ghana.

CLARIFICATION

In the May 7 sports section, in an article about college rowers, the captions on the two photos were transposed. Also, William Smith College was misspelled in the caption. Pioneer Press regrets the errors.
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Touhy Avenue TIF moves closer to reality

By Igor Studenkov
Pioneer Press

More details about the proposed Touhy Avenue tax increment financing district were discussed during the village of Niles board of trustees' April 28 meeting.

The TIF district, which is officially known as Gross Point-Touhy TIF District, would cover what the village has dubbed the Touhy Triangle area, as well as a few lots farther north along Howard Street and farther west along Touhy. Chicago-based Kane, McKenna and Associates Inc. has been consulting with the village on the specifics of the new TIF district.

Under Illinois law, when a TIF district is created, the property taxes are collected at the same rate as they would be elsewhere in the village. But when the taxes are increased, the village and other taxing bodies only get the portion of the revenue they would get under the rates set during the TIF's creation. The rest of the revenue gets deposited into the TIF fund. The state law calls for a complex process to determine how the TIF district is designated and how the money it collects may be used.

In Spring 2014, the Village Board hired KMA & Associates to study the section of southern Niles and see whether it could become a TIF district under state law. The area in question is bounded by Howard Avenue on the north, the Chicago River's North Branch on the west, Touhy on the south and Lehigh Avenue on the east.

During the August 2014 Niles Chamber of Commerce and Industry breakfast, the village unveiled what it described as a "vision" for the area so-called Touhy Triangle -- the smaller portion of the study area that was bound by Touhy on the south, Gross Point Road on the northeast and Lehigh Avenue on the east. It called for a business-class hotel, a convention center, an expanded park around the Leaning Tower of Niles and a Metra station.

During the Nov. 18 meeting, KMA & Associates presented its initial findings, reporting that the study area met the legal requirements to become a TIF. On April 28, during the Village Board's informal consideration session, the company presented a more detailed report that dealt with which portion of the study area would actually become a TIF and how the village would use TIF funds.

The report recommends that the TIF district would include all of the Touhy Triangle except a small portion at the Caldwell and Touhy avenues intersection. It also recommended including lots farther west, including a section bound by Caldwell, Jarvis Street, the Chicago River and Touhy, as well as lots on the other side of the Chicago River.

It also called for adding a few lots north of the Touhy Triangle's northern point, near the Howard Street/Lehigh Avenue/Gross Point Road three-way intersection.

The KMA report also went into how the village is allowed to use TIF funding under state law and which uses it would recommend for the Gross Point-Touhy TIF. That includes demolition, construction and rehabilitation of buildings; landscape and utility improvements; traffic control and street improvements; and building public facilities.

The village would be able to give money to schools, libraries and other taxing bodies and cover the costs of redevelopment-related professional services.

The report doesn't include any specifics on how the village would use the TIF money, but during the April 28 board meeting, the village voted to use the TIF revenue to help fund repairs of the Leaning Tower of Niles during fiscal years 2016 and 2017.

In response to questions from trustee Chris Hanusiak, Niles economic development coordinator Ross Klicker said that he expects the Gross Point-Touhy TIF would generate at least $4.3 million.

Hanusiak, who previously told the Niles Herald-Spectator that he was worried about the potential impact of the TIF on local schools and other taxing bodies, told the board that he was worried that the area was already overloaded with tax incentives.

"The area on Touhy Avenue [around the Touhy/ Milwaukee intersection] was recently TIFed," he said. "There are three [lots with a Class C(b) designation] inside the TIF area. Are we putting more money atop of money?"

During the meeting the board also established an official resource for residents and organizations that want to stay informed about the TIF proposal.

The Interested Party Registry will include residents, businesses and organizations that want to be able to follow the planning process of a TIF. Gross Point-Touhy TIF will be the first TIF to have such a registry, and if the village creates more TIFs, more registries will be created.

Every individual or entity on the registry will automatically get notified about any public meetings, plans and other new information related to the TIF.

To register, interested parties will need to fill out registration forms and submit them to the Niles village clerk.

Once registered, they will remain on the registry for three years, and they will have the option to renew.

In a memo to the board, Klicker explained that the registry was a way to formalize what was previously done informally.

"As the village moves to establish clearer and more transparent policies and procedures as they pertain to TIF Districts and explore the possibility of creating a new TIF District along the Touhy Corridor, it has been recommended that we formalize this process and maintain an official Registry of Interested Parties within the village," he wrote.

The next scheduled Village Board meeting on the proposal at Village Hall is on May 19 at 7 p.m.

Igor Studenkov is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

New Niles electrical aggregation supplier chosen

By Igor Studenkov
Pioneer Press

The village of Niles has chosen a new electricity supplier for residents and businesses that take part in the Niles Electrical Aggregation Program.

The village considered its options, ultimately choosing IDT Energy. Homefield Energy has been the energy supplier for the program since June 2013. Its contract with the village lasted for two years.

During the 2013 municipal elections, Niles voters approved a referendum that established the Niles Electrical Aggregation program. The program lets the village negotiate the electric rates for all residents and small businesses that chose not to opt out. Once the rates are negotiated, they will remain the same.

As the Chicago Tribune reported at the time, after the referendum, Niles signed a two-year contract with Homefield Energy. The Collinsville, Ill.-based supplier offered the cheapest rate out of all the bidders, and it agreed to provide 24-hour customer service in multiple languages. The agreement stated that if ComEd's rates drop below Homefield's, the program would use ComEd as the supplier.

The contract with Homefield expires on June 1, 2015. Because of this, the village went out to bid to see if any other supplier would provide a cheaper rate.

During the April 28 Board of Trustees meeting, Synergy Power Solutions, the village's energy supplier consultant, gave a presentation outlining the results of the bidding process and what that would mean for Niles residents.

According to the presenation, New York-based IDT Energy was chosen as a supplier because it offered lower rates than both Homefield or ComEd. IDT's rate will be 6.89 cents per kilowatt-hour, while Homefield's rate was 7.63 cents per kilowatt-hour (kwh) and ComEd's was 8.072 cents per kwh.

The presentation noted that the new contract has a "blend and extend" clause that will allow the village to renegotiate the contract if the ComEd rate falls below IDT's.

The presentation also pointed out the fact that IDT's customer service, sales and administrative teams for the region or located in Illinois. A village of Niles press release said residents and small businesses that are already part of the electrical aggregation program will be automatically switched to the new supplier. For residents who want to opt out of or into the program, the situation will be more complicated.

"If residents have previously opted out of the Niles Aggregation Program, they will remain opted out," the statement said. "If residents wish to join the Electrical Aggregation Program after having previously opted out, they may contact IDT Energy for enrollment."

According to the village website, residents and small businesses can do that by phone at (877) 887-6866 or online at idtenergy.com/VillageofNiles.

The contract with IDT Energy takes effect on June 1 and will expire in June 1, 2017. According to the village website, residents who choose to opt in will be switched to IDT "within 30 days of June 1."

To inform the residents about the program, the village set up a page on its official website at http://www.vniles.com/391/Municipal-Electric-Aggregation.

Niles Assistant Village Manager Hadley Skeffington-Vos said that the program has several advantages.

"This service takes the burden of residents and helps greatly reduce the number of incidents where residents, especially our seniors, are misled into participating," she said.

Igor Studenkov is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Animal shelter sues bus company over 2013 crash

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

A Niles animal shelter that was displaced when a school bus crashed through its front window in October 2013 is suing the bus company and the driver who was behind the wheel.

Wright-Way Rescue filed a lawsuit in Cook County Circuit Court May 5 against Skokie-based Alltown Bus Service and driver Janice O'Leary. The suit seeks in excess of $100,000 in monetary damages stemming from the crash, which left Wright-Way's headquarters at 7136 W. Touhy Ave., uninhabitable and forced the nonprofit organization to find a new home.

Christy Anderson, founder and executive director of Wright-Way, said the suit was filed because Alltown has not responded to her organization's request for financial reimbursement related to damage caused in the accident. The suit also accuses the driver, O'Leary, of negligence.

"Everything we had taken 10 years to build and create was gone in 10 seconds," Anderson told Pioneer Press. "It was absolutely devastating for us. It's literally interfered with our ability to perform our mission."

Though Wright-Way did not own the building at 7136 W. Touhy Ave., the organization had put its own money into some improvements that were made to the facility, including the addition of a new drainage system, an isolation room and kennels, Anderson said.

Anderson declined to comment on exactly how much monetary damage was caused. The lawsuit itself does not seek a specific amount from the defendants.

No injuries to humans or animals were reported following the crash, and the only two people on the school bus were the driver and an assistant, Niles police said. The building itself, which sustained significant damage, has since been rebuilt, though it remains vacant.

Greg Polan, president of Alltown Bus Services, said he could not comment on the lawsuit at this time.

On Oct. 2, 2013, Niles police said a school bus was making a left turn onto Touhy Avenue from southbound Harlem Avenue when it jumped a curb and drove into Wright-Way's building causing a portion of the roof to collapse. An investigation determined there were no mechanical problems with the vehicle, police said at the time.

After the crash, Wright-Way set up temporary locations, including one inside a former Des Plaines pet clinic. But due to that building's small size, the shelter discontinued most of its services and only offered adoptions, according to the lawsuit. Anderson says Wright-Way was also unable to save as many animals as it had before the accident.

"A good majority of the animals we typically help were euthanized during the time we didn't have a facility," she said.

Last September, Wright-Way opened the North Shore Humane Center at 5915 Lincoln Ave. in Morton Grove, made possible through thousands of dollars in financial contributions from citizens, businesses and even students from Maine South High School in Park Ridge who made Wright-Way the recipient of $20,000 that was raised through a school-wide fundraiser. Fundraisers were also held across the Chicago area and the shelter continues to seek donations for its day-to-day operations.

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Dog missing from Indiana found 3 years later in Niles

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Niles police helped reunite a pit bull with its owner last month — three years after the dog had gone missing from its home in northwest Indiana.

The dog, named Rema, was one of three dogs found near a gas station at the corner of Touhy and Lehigh avenues on the morning of April 8 after police received calls from someone reporting stray animals in the area, said Niles Animal Control Officer Peter Babikan.

Following normal procedures, police officers “scanned” the dogs to see if they contained a microchip, a device implanted by veterinarians in cats and dogs that can help identify their owners. Three of the dogs, each appearing to be a pit bull mix, did not have microchips, but Rema did, Babikan said.

“It traced back to an animal hospital in Crown Point, Ind.,” he explained. “So we called up that animal hospital and they told us who the last known owner of the dog was. Then we got in touch with her.”

Rema, who is believed to be the mother of the younger dogs found with her, had been missing since February 2012 from her home in Michigan City, Ind., Babikan learned. Rema’s owner had posted fliers around town looking for her and, early on, even reportedly received a false lead that she was found in, ironically, Niles, Mich.

“(The owner) had basically given up all hope of finding her,” Babikan said.

When Rema’s owner heard from the Niles, Ill., Police Department in April that her long-lost pet had been found, she was “kind of surprised,” Babikan said.

“She didn’t believe it at first,” he said. “But then we described the dog to her, told her the vet who implanted the microchip and said, ‘That’s got to be her.’”

In addition to taking Rema back home, her owner adopted one of the dog’s puppies, Babikan said. The other two dogs have also been adopted, one by a former veterinarian assistant and the other by a former colleague of Babikan’s, he added.

Babikan did not identify the owner of the missing dog for Pioneer Press.

Though Babikan can’t say for certain how Rema might have gotten to Niles and where she has been for the last three years, based on prior experiences involving lost pets, he said he believes it’s possible Rema was found wandering near a highway in Michigan City and was picked up by a truck driver, kept as a pet, and then abandoned when she and her puppies became too difficult.

“Somebody was taking care of them,” he said of the dogs. “They were well-fed, didn’t have the look of a pet, they were not skinny, they were in very good condition and their temperament was pretty good — they were not aggressive at all. All four were pretty friendly and socialable.”

Babikan points to the discovery of Rema as why pet owners should have microchips implanted in their animals.

“They’re great things to have in your pet — as long as your information is valid and up to date,” he said.

Last year, the Niles Police Department took in 41 stray cats and dogs, reuniting 20 of them with their owners and placing 18 in area shelters, Babikan said. Feral cats are more often than not euthanized because their wild behavior prevents them from being adoptable, he said.

Niles police work largely with Heartland Shelter, a no-kill facility in Northbrook. Pit bulls, pit bull mixes and any animal Heartland cannot take might be transported to the Animal Welfare League in Chicago Ridge or Antioch Animal Society in Chicago, Babikan said.

So far this year, 15 stray animals have ended up with Niles police. Weather often plays a factor.

“It goes up and down, but as the weather gets warmer, people are leaving gates open or the gates were damaged during the winter and they haven’t been able to fix them yet,” Babikan said.

“These are some of the most common things to happen this time of year.”

Some people who find strays outside of Niles — or have a dog or cat they don’t want anymore — have been known to choose the village as a place to leave the animal, Babikan says.

“We do have people who live in Chicago who will come just over the Niles border and say ‘We found these dogs in Niles! They don’t want them to go down to Chicago Animal Control,’” he said.

Sewer repair study will save money in the long term, public works says

BY IGOR STUDENKOV
Pioneer Press

The village of Niles Board of Trustees hired Strand Associates to develop an improvement plan for the village sewers.

Under the terms of the contract, the company will examine the village sewers and determine its strengths and weaknesses. Using that information, it will develop a plan to fix the existing issues, make improvements and otherwise make sure the sewer system will keep working smoothly.

The contract cost Niles $96,520, which is $6,520 more than originally budgeted, board documents show.

As the documents submitted to the Village Board explain, the actual repairs and improvements would be a separate project. The village does expect that the plan will help obtain water project grants from the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency.

According to the board documents, the contract has been in the works since the beginning of the year. The village went out to bid in February.

“The Water System Master Plan shall evaluate the village of Niles’ current and future water demands and capital needs,” the bid documents say. “But have an emphasis on the maintenance and capital improvements needed to maintain the current system. In addition, the plan shall assess the village’s water rate structure to ensure proper funding for current and future capital and operational costs.”

According to the board documents, a total of three firms bid for the project.

“It was determined Strand Associates demonstrated the best knowledge, understanding and experience required for this project,” the document said.

“The older (the meters] are, the less accurate they are,” said Mary Anderson, Niles Department of Public Works director.

Documents say, “But have an emphasis on the maintenance and capital improvements needed to maintain the current system. In addition, the plan shall assess the village’s water rate structure to ensure proper funding for current and future capital and operational costs.”

According to the board documents, the contract cost Niles $96,520, which is $6,520 more than originally budgeted.

The board documents mentioned another benefit. Once the plan is finished, the village would be in a better position to obtain funding for actual repairs.

“This Master Plan is a necessary element for the village to apply for IEPA revolting loan funds for future water projects,” the documents said.

A short discussion, the Village Board unanimously approved the contract.

Igor Studenkov is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Maine East graduate accused of stealing instrument from school

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

A self-proclaimed “grand master” of music is accused of stealing from his former high school in Park Ridge and leaving graffiti around the campus, authorities said.

Davide Cirrincione, 21, of the 7900 block of Foster Street, Morton Grove, was charged with theft, criminal trespassing and damage to property on May 1 after he entered Maine East High School, 2601 W. Dempster St., and allegedly stole a violin belonging to the school.

According to Park Ridge police, Cirrincione, a Maine East graduate, removed the violin from the band room and was spotted inside the school around 7:45 a.m. by staff members, who contacted the school’s resource officer. Cirrincione was carrying books and a violin case at the time, police said.

Deputy Police Chief Lou Jogmen said surveillance cameras showed Cirrincione writing on school property and he admitted to tagging between 15 and 20 locations with a pen. The writing reportedly included an acronym referencing Cirrincione’s supposed musical abilities, police said.

A Facebook page under Cirrincione’s name states that he works at Maine East High School, but Maine Township District 207 spokesman David Beery said Cirrincione is not employed by the school.

His bond was set at $1,500 and he is scheduled to appear in court on June 12, police said.

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The following incidents were listed in the official bulletin of the Niles Police Department. Readers are reminded that an arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt. Only a court of law can make that determination.

THEFT
Sentiya Chaharbakhsh, 26, of the 7700 block of Nordica Avenue, Niles, and a 16-year-old girl from Skokie were charged with retail theft on May 5 after they allegedly stole an electronic toothbrush and a carpet roll from a store inside Golf Mill Shopping Center. Chaharbakhsh has a June 22 court date, and the 16-year-old was petitioned to juvenile court, police said.

Peter Gikas, 38, and Gini Pavlov, 38, both of the 8000 block of LaCrosse Ave., Skokie, were each charged with retail theft on May 6 after they allegedly stole $358 worth of fixtures from a store on the 8600 block of Dempster Street. They have a June 1 court date.

ASSAULT
Stephen Drummon, 52, of the 1900 block of Margold Lane, Round Lake, was charged with assault and disorderly conduct on May 4. According to police, a pregnant female driver on the 9400 block of Milwaukee Avenue placed a cup of vomit outside her car after she became ill and was confronted by Drummon, who was in the car behind her. The woman told police that Drummon picked up the cup, threw it inside her car and made a racial slur directed at her. Drummon has a June 1 court date.

BURGLARY
Alexandre Bevell, 22, of the 9100 block of Elmwood Drive, Niles; and Oscar Montesinos, 21, of the 9100 block of Cumberland Avenue, Niles, were each charged with felony burglary to a vehicle and resisting arrest on May 2 after police said they were found in possession of items from several burglarized vehicles parked in a lot on the 9100 block of Elmwood. Both men allegedly ran from officers, but were apprehended following a brief chase, police said. They have a May 15 court date.

BATTERY
James Collins, 52, of the 7200 block of Howard Street, Niles, was charged with battery on May 3. Police said Collins was identified as one of two men who allegedly punched the male driver of a vehicle on the 6700 block of Howard. The victim was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital after suffering a bloody nose and swelling, police said. Collins has a May 16 court date.

AGGRAVATED ASSAULT
Police said a man reported that a driver pulled out what he believed was a handgun during an apparent road rage incident on May 5 on the 7900 block of Waukegan Road. The driver then fled east on Oakton Street, but the victim was able to obtain the license plate information, police said. An investigation was pending.

COUNTERFEIT CURRENCY
On May 2, a man allegedly attempted to make a purchase at a gas station on the 5900 block of Touhy Avenue using a counterfeit $20 bill.

RECKLESS DRIVING
Joel Jex, 28, of the 7300 block of North Ridge Avenue, Chicago, was charged with reckless driving and driving at more than 35 mph above the speed limit on May 3. He was taken into custody on the 7200 block of Milwaukee Avenue at 4:16 a.m. He has a May 19 court date.

ATTEMPTED BURGLARY
A resident of the 8500 block of Greenwood Avenue told police that on May 2 a woman and two men began pounding on her door, forcing it open. When the resident screamed, the suspects fled, police said.

Someone attempted to enter a home on the 8200 block of New England Avenue between April 29 and May 3.

PROPERTY DAMAGE
A car parked on the 8300 block of Osceola Avenue was hit four times with a paintball gun between the morning of May 4 and the morning of May 5, police said.

Skokie bank robbed

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

An unknown amount of money was taken during a bank robbery May 6, according to Skokie Police.

Police said a male suspect entered MB Financial, 4801 Golf Road, Skokie, and put a note on the teller's counter, in which he demanded money.

The suspect was described as a black male with a dark complexion and a large build, about 5 feet 10 inches tall.

The Skokie Police Department and Federal Bureau of Investigation are seeking assistance from the public in identifying the suspect, police said.

Any information or knowledge regarding the incident should be reported to the Skokie Police Department at (847) 982-5900.
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D219 board president resigns in wake of election

BY IGOR STUDENKOV
Pioneer Press

Shortly before the newly elected Niles Township High School District 219 Board of Education members were sworn in on May 5, board President Bob Silverman announced his intention to resign effective June 1.

Silverman has served on the board for the past 23 years. In his speech, he said that he wanted to resign because his day job demanded more attention and because he didn't want to get in the way of the newly elected board members. His term was scheduled to expire in April 2017, so the term was scheduled to end earlier than expected.

The election winners were sworn in during the May 5 board meeting. The meeting was divided into two parts. The first part had the incumbent board approve some routine expenses and receive reports from the district superintendent and principals. The second part involved public comments and certifying the election results.

But before adjourning to swear in the new members, the board was addressed by Silverman. He said goodbye to the departing board members, saying that he was an honor to serve with them. He said that, during his 23 years on the board, he has seen many good ideas come to fruition. He cited improvements to the district's fine arts, STEM and summer school programs, expansion and improvements to district facilities, technology improvements, initiatives designed to expand transparency, building relationships with local businesses and adding student health clinics, along with other initiatives.

"I've also been fortunate enough to have been elected as president for the past 19 years," said Silverman. "This experience has enriched me personally, and I consider it an honor to have served this community for 23 years, as an unpaid volunteer, and without any hidden agenda. I've done my best to prepare for each and every board meeting. And I've attended events in all different disciplines at both Niles North and Niles West buildings."

He expressed confidence in the new board members. "Being a board member is an awesome responsibility," said Silverman. "I know that each new board member will bring something new and unique to this district, and they will continue the legacy of past boards of education, and also create new legacies."

Because of that, he said, he felt comfortable enough to retire. "I wanted the new board to be able to elect new board leadership, and be able to lead without the burden of having a long-term past president looking over their shoulder," said Silverman.

He also said that health issues, along with "dramatic increases in [his] career responsibilities" also contributed to his decision to leave the board.

Silverman said that while the board has made some mistakes, he and other board members tried to do what they thought was best for the school and the community. He ended his speech by wishing the best of luck to the new and continuing board members. "I wish nothing but continued success to each and every one of you," he said. "And I know that the past 23 years have left a legacy of educational excellence for the communities we serve. Hashtag — thank you."

Afterward, the new board members were sworn in, and the new board elected the new officers. Different board members suggested different candidates, but ultimately, Sproat was elected the new board president, Lambert was elected vice president, Novak was elected secretary and Ko was elected secretary pro tem.

Sproat said that he was relieved when the election was over and that he looked forward to what the next four years will bring. "It's been a very exciting process," he said. "I'm very excited to be one of the seven board members to be representing District 219."

How did he feel about Silverman's decision to retire?

"I think he's done a phenomenal job," said Sproat. "He's got a lot of information and experience, and that will be sorely missed."

Igor Studenkov is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Niles North, West students strut their stuff at township fashion show

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

As the clock ticked closer to show time the night of May 4, at Lincolnwood Town Center, a group of about 60 fashion students from Niles North and Niles West high schools took their places for the annual Niles Township fashion show.

When the stage finally came alive with music and lights, all eyes turned toward the mall's center court, as the student models strutted their stuff down the runway, flashing their fiercest fashion attitudes.

Modeling wasn't the only talent showcased on the runway, however.

The show-stopper of the night was the one-of-a-kind fashion, which was designed and handmade by students in the fashion design and construction and merchandising classes at both schools.

By the end of the 45-minute show, the Niles Township High School District 219 students had shown about 40 outfits they had created over the course of the school year, covering a range of collections including spring, fall, formal, costume and trashy fashion.

The trashy fashion category wasn't necessarily disrespectful, but it earned its tasteful, but it earned its place among the crowd.

One of the challenges in class was to create a piece of clothing made entirely from garbage or a recycled material, according to fashion teacher Kay Coughlin.

"One of the dresses is a 1920s-style flapper dress made almost entirely from coffee stirrers," Coughlin said as a model wearing the dress (made by student Andrew Gonzalez) marched down the runway.

Another recycled dress was a long flowing white sheath affixed with aluminum cans at the hem that were crafted from colorful Arizona Iced Tea cans, and the bodice of another beverage-inspired dress was made from old Coca-Cola cans.

Senior Shira Elovic helped introduce the models as the show's announcer and also showcased four of her own handmade pieces in the show.

Elovic said four years of fashion classes during high school helped her realize her dream of pursuing a career working in fashion.

"I started in fashion (program) freshman year, and stuck with it for four years," Elovic said. "(High school fashion classes) helped me get into Kent State University's fashion design program this fall."

The fashion show was the second big event in as many weeks for Niles North's fashion students, who won the Judge's Choice Award at a style competition at the Chicago History Museum on April 30.

A group of eight fashion students on Niles North's team, #CarefulChaos, won the award for their design of an ensemble inspired by a museum exhibit called "Chicago Style: Fashioning the Magnificent Mile."

Their design will be on display at the museum through the summer, according to information from the school district.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Emerson Middle School bonds with Niles police

By Jennifer Johnson
Pioneer Press

Staff at Emerson Middle School in Niles defied student predictions when they took to the basketball court last week for a game against members of the Niles Police Department.

A majority of students predicted the police would come out the winners of the May 1 game, but it was their principal, teachers and other members of the Emerson School family who ended up victorious with a final score of 50-43.

"I'm just glad for us old people that no one got hurt," Principal Jim Morrison joked.

The game, Morrison said, was the result of Emerson's school resource officer inquiring about ways for the Police Department to do more community outreach.

"Many years ago, (the police) used to do a similar game against the teachers at Gemini Junior High," Morrison explained. "I was there when that occurred because I used to be the assistant principal at Gemini. It had stopped for many years and they wanted to see if we would re-engage it."

So a date was set, players were recruited and a fundraising element was added. Through the sale of raffle tickets during lunch periods, Emerson's Student Government Association raised money for an Alzheimer's research charity. Part of the fundraiser was submitting a prediction on which team would win.

About $100 was raised, according to Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 spokeswoman Bernadette Tramm.

Students and families of players came out for the game to cheer on the team they wanted to win.

"It was exciting," Morrison said of the game. "Winning or losing, it was a good time. It was somewhat competitive, but it wasn't to the point where it was out of control. It was a lot of fun."

Sophie Noggle collects Niles PD signatures during the basketball game at Emerson Middle School May 1.

Emerson Middle School's Assistant Principal Tim Benka, 42, is guarded by Niles police Officer Chris Koch, 24, during the game at Emerson Middle School in Niles May 1.

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In memoriam
Student art auction held to honor life of late Maine South teacher

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Sophia Pichinos liked to call herself “the ultimate diva,” her former students at Maine South High School remember. It’s a nickname that produces smiles as they recall a teacher who was tough, but caring, and never one to shy away from using criticism as a tool to encourage her students to be better artists.

“When a student gave up, she wouldn’t give up on that student,” said Maria Pfister, a senior who plans to continue her study of art in college. “She’d keep pushing them.”

Pichinos, an artist and an educator for more than 25 years, died Feb. 3 after a long battle with breast cancer. She was 64.

In reflecting on the loss of their colleague, Maine South art teachers Antoinette Viola and Cherie Tymkew decided to create a scholarship fund in Pichinos’ name. To raise money for the fund, they invited members of the Maine South Art Club, students of art class and anyone else wanting to participate to create original paintings for an online auction.

“Many students were affected when Ms. Pichinos passed away,” Tymkew explained. “We were thinking of things that would make a legacy for her and make sure she’s not forgotten because she was a major part of the art department. To kind of compensate for that loss we’re all feeling, we thought this would be therapeutic and proactive and something to honor her name.”

Up to 100 student paintings on canvas measuring 4 inches by 6 inches will be auctioned, in addition to another 30 paintings on slightly larger canvas created by art teachers of all three District 207 high schools and some members of the senior class, Viola and Tymkew said.

The work will be auctioned May 13, 14 and 15 at www.32auctions.com/SFScholarship. Paintings not auctioned off and those geared toward their own age group will be sold in the Maine South cafeteria during lunch periods over a three-day period, the teachers said.

After school on May 5, art students filled Room V111 with sketch books, canvases and paint to continue work on their pieces for the auction. Junior Christina Mihalopoulos had just finished painting a snapshot of London street scene, with a towering Big Ben overlooking a bustling road. Mihalopoulos admitted that she was not always confident about her art until Pichinos told her, “No, you can do it.”

“She would connect with you personally, find out what you were passionate about and enhance the abilities you have,” she said.

“She’d teach students to make an impact,” Pfister said. “She wouldn’t just let you go about and do your own work. She would always be coming around the classroom to critique and criticize your artwork. And she wasn’t afraid to say if it looked bad. If it was bad, she’d even throw it away and make you start over.”

Pfister smiled as she said this, noting that this type of teaching was ultimately positive.

“She pushed to my full potential,” she said of Pichinos.

“She really saw potential in every one of her students,” added senior Ryan Kovac, who is also planning to study art in college.

Basta Chruscinski, a junior who took two classes taught by Pichinos, described her late teacher as someone always willing to give advice.

“She taught me to be confident in myself,” she said.

In addition to her teaching at Maine South, Pichinos led the school’s Art Club and partnered with the Kalo Foundation of Park Ridge, teaching art students how to design silver jewelry in the way silversmiths of the early 20th century art colony in the city had.

Pichinos also exhibited her own work and was responsible for contributing to fine arts standards adopted by the Illinois State Board of Education, according to her obituary.

Lincolnwood street named after village’s retired public works director

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

The village of Lincolnwood’s former public works director was recognized May 11 with a street named in his honor.

Lincolnwood’s Mayor Jerry Turry gathered with a group of village employees and family members of the former public works director, Manuel “Manny” Castaneda on the corner of Lawndale and Lunt Avenues on a rainy Monday morning as the street was dedicated.

Castaneda retired in November of last year after 35 years working for the village of Lincolnwood, first as a laborer in 1979 before working his way up to superintendent in 1989 and later being promoted to director of public works in 2003, according to information from the village.

Following his retirement, the village board decided to designate the portion of Lawndale Avenue directly in front of the Public Works Department building as “Manuel Castaneda Way.”

Castaneda led the community through many of its landmark moments during the past three decades, including the construction of the Village Promenade, the building of the Proesel Park Family Aquatic Center and the switch to an automated electronic water meter reading service, according to information from the village.

His colleagues at the village have said Castaneda’s career has been more deeply defined by what they describe as his quiet intelligence, patient demeanor and the pleasant attitude he brought to the job every day.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Morton Grove cousins win James Beard award

BY PAM DEFIGLIO
Pioneer Press

While they grew up in Morton Grove eating American and Armenian food, Carrie Nahabedian and her cousins Michael and Tom Nahabedian, who are brothers, have risen like cream to the top of the national culinary scene. On May 4, Tom Nahabedian's design firm (with partner James Gorski), won a James Beard award for Carrie and Michael Nahabedian's second restaurant; Brindille, in Chicago's River North neighborhood.

The three Morton Grove cousins didn't grow up eating the French haute cuisine that Carrie has made her trademark. Instead, Carrie remembers their parents would take them to Hackney's on Harms Road, the Tower Restaurant in Skokie and a restaurant called Bon Vivant on Milwaukee Avenue in Niles, just south of Golf Mill.

"We used to go eat pizza at Esposito's, we went to Tasty Pup, Tommy Tucker, Golf Mill," Carrie recalled. They also went to the Mill Run Theater, where her aunt worked.

Carrie attended Melzer School, while Michael and Tom attended Nelson School. They all went to Gemini Junior High and Maine East High School.

One day, Carrie's adviser at Maine East made a suggestion that — along with a lucky turn of events — ended up changing the cousins' lives dramatically.

"My counselor said, 'You're so involved in food, style and ambience, take this class - you'll get two credits and learn food service and the food occupation.'"

Most of her classmates in that work program class worked at fast-food restaurants, however, Carrie's father had been part of the team doing the carpeting and design at the Ritz Carlton before it opened next to Water Tower Place in 1975. As only the second Ritz Carlton in the United States and the first luxury hotel to open in Chicago since the 1930s, Carrie said, Chicagoans were greeting it with excited anticipation.

The hotel was bringing in chefs from France, and Carrie's dad was a combat-wounded U.S. World War II veteran who had served in France. He would speak with the chefs in French.

"He told them, 'my daughter's crazy about cooking!' So that's how I got my foot in the door," Carrie explained.

Two years ago, they opened Brindille at 534 N. Clark St., Chicago, about a block from Naha.

"Brindille means branch of new growth in French," Carrie said. "It's a little bud coming off of Naha.

"With Brindille, we wanted to create a space of refinement, comfort and luxury that makes you feel like you're in a jewel box, a cocoon of luxuriousness," she explained. "Michael and I gave Tom just some inspirational ideas, and he took it and created the space. We just helped."

And thus they won this year's James Beard award for design.

All three of the cousins might have gotten some inspiration from the food they ate at home as children in Morton Grove.

When asked about her early influences, Carrie started by naming her grandmother Rose.

"She taught me all her Armenian delicacies," Carrie said. "But the biggest thing was my mother. And Michael and Tom's mother (Pauline, who still lives in Morton Grove with her husband, George) is Greek, and she's an exceptional cook."

Those women were all influenced by the European mindset of eating what's fresh and readily available in spring, summer, fall and winter.

"We did 'eat the season,' as they say, even back then," Carrie remembered.

Pam DeFiglio is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
A giant "penny farthing" bicycle, with a front wheel nearly five feet tall and a diminutive back wheel, got people talking when the Morton Grove Historical Museum opened its "Recreation and Leisure History of Morton Grove" exhibit May 9 at the museum, 6240 Dempster St.

"Art Loutsch [a Morton Grove resident of decades ago] owned the bicycle and would ride it in parades, such as the Morton Grove Days parade," said Melissa D'Lando, the historical society's executive director.

The first parade was held in 1921 to honor veterans of the Great War, which was how people then referred to World War I. Having enjoyed it, residents established the Morton Grove Days parade as an annual event starting in 1927. It has always been held during the Fourth of July period.

Exhibit visitors speculated on how Loutsch was able to mount the tall bike, and how long his legs must have been to reach the pedals. A period photo of him atop the bike in a parade provides proof he did actually ride it.

"There were quite a few bowling alleys in town," D'Lando said.

"St. Martha's Young Ladies' Softball League. A photo of the 1935 players wearing the uniform is mounted next to it."

A large, intricately detailed silver-colored cash register, still quite shiny and functional-looking, was positioned below a photo of the Dilg building, built in 1909 and demolished in the 1970s. Sitting north of the train station, it served multiple functions: as a tavern, post office, general store, ballroom, public meeting place and hotel.

A pair of old-fashioned ice skates sits in one of the exhibit cases. D'Lando explained that Morton Grove residents used to skate on the Chicago River when it was frozen. One elder resident, John Slater, recalled that people used to also go bowling on the river when it was iced over, D'Lando said.

Scott DiBasilio, who was viewing the exhibit with his wife and children, looked out the window at the Haupt-Yehl historic house next door, and said his mother's aunt had married a Haupt-Yehl, giving him a personal tie to the house, which is operated by the Morton Grove Historical Society.

Mark Matz, a Historical Society Board member, said the Haupt-Yehl house, which has period furnishings and a docent who explains the items in the house, is expanding its hours. It will be open to the public for viewing Monday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. and on Saturday mornings from 9 a.m. to noon during the Farmers Market season. That will make it convenient for customers of the Farmers' Market, which is in the parking lot in front of the historical society and Haupt-Yehl house, to view it. The house will go back to more limited viewing hours in the fall.

The historical society is also selling raffle tickets, and the winner will get an enclosed premium viewing area behind the Haupt-Yehl house for viewing the Fourth of July fireworks. Tickets are $10 each or three for $25, Matz said.

Pam DeFigilo is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Morton Grove farmers market holds preview

BY PAM DEFIGLIO
Pioneer Press

Spring produce, tamales, Belgian waffles, artisanal pasta, handmade bath and body products, new vendors and returning vendors all created a presence at the May 9 Morton Grove farmers market, drawing a good-sized crowd despite damp and cloudy conditions.

It was the spring preview of the market, which will kick off its regular weekly Saturday morning schedule June 6. Despite being so early in the season, however, some vendors were selling greenhouse-grown herbs and a few early vegetables, such as asparagus.

"Everything's doing well — most of the vendors are back and we've added some new ones," said Rich Block, who is one of several volunteer managers of the market.

This year, they hope to ask the vendors in advance which vegetables they'll be bringing and provide recipes for shoppers.

The managers have to establish a healthy mix of vendors, balancing the types of wares they sell so that there aren't too many of one type, he added.

Some of the vendors had stories to tell. John Patyk of Patyk's Farm Market and Greenhouse in Richmond, Ill., said he grew up in Morton Grove, attending St. Martha School and Niles West High School, and his grandparents farmed in Skokie until about 1962.

With farming in his blood, he and his wife moved to Richmond to continue the family tradition — but brought a piece of Morton Grove with them.

"When Frank's Nursery and Crafts in Morton Grove went out of business, I bought their greenhouse and took it to the farm in Richmond," Patyk explained.

The controlled conditions in the greenhouse enabled him to grow the flowers and herbs he had for sale, grouped into hanging baskets and planters.

One thing he couldn't do in Morton Grove, however, is keep the four cows, 20 goats and 300 chickens he's able to keep at the Richmond farm.

The farmers market also includes a number of vendors selling artisanal products, such as Sam Davis, who crafts artisanal soaps made with olive oil, safflower oil and coconut oil, in flavors such as blueberry, red clover and tea, lemongrass coriander and "luscious," a blend of oak moss, orange, jasmine and patchouli.

"I also sell beer soap for guys, which is definitely a guy thing," said Davis, who owns Distinct Bath and Body in Chicago's Portage Park neighborhood. "And I'll have soap on a rope for Father's Day."

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Block said a new vendor this year, culinary school-trained Mari Plotnik, sells coffee beans and hot Belgian waffles with homemade whipped cream from her Delicate Flour Baking booth.

Both she and Tamales Express sold out before the market ended Saturday.

Block was also happy that NorthShore University Health System and BMO Harris continued their sponsorship of the LINK program, which enables lower-income people who qualify for the state's Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program to buy fresh foods at the market.

"People are getting healthier and eating fresh," he said.

Pam DeFiglio is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Are we better off on the back deck than the porch?

Randy Blaser

How we spend our time outside of our home says something about us as a society.

There was a time when we spent our time outside the house by relaxing on the front porch. We would sit outside in the early evening and watch the world go by. Sometimes we'd read the paper, sometimes talk to friends.

If you like old TV shows, you're probably a fan of the old Andy Griffith Show. Nearly every episode ended with Andy and Barney sitting on the back porch, reflecting on the episode's events.

And that's how it was in America. You would sit on the back porch and reflect on the day's events with family, neighbors and friends.

At the end of a long day, after supper time, I can recall sitting on the front stoop in the cool part of the evening and enjoying the end of the day. We'd listen to the radio - a ballgame or the top hits of the day - and wait for friends to come for a visit.

The front porch was the place to watch the neighborhood go by. It almost welcomed the outside world to sit a spell and visit with you. And that way you got to know your neighbors.

But we don't do that now. Today, we are more of a back deck community. Everyone has a back deck. That's where you go to spend the relaxing end to a long day.

That's where the easy, relaxed conversations of summer occur. Just like it was for the front porch, the back deck is the summer time, outside gathering spot.

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What kind of Mother's Day gifter are you?

Paul Sassone

Flowers? Candy? Which kind of a son or daughter are you? The kind who gives mom flowers or candy for Mother's Day?

But, let me ask you this, do you remember what was the very first gift you ever gave your mother on Mother's Day? I do.

I was still in early grade school. I didn't have much money, but I wanted to get Mom something just from me, instead of my Dad buying her something and saying it was from us kids.

I didn't know what to get her, but I knew where. Just a short bike ride from our house was a neighborhood shopping area where everyone bought most of the necessities of life.

In just one block there was a drug store, a sporting goods store, a department store, a movie theater, an ice cream parlor, a hardware store, a liquor store, a barber shop and - best of all - a shoe store that had an x-ray machine we could stick our feet into and watch our toe bones wriggle.

I didn't have enough money for any of these places. So, I headed for the two dime stores. And at Woolworth's, I found it. The Gift.

No, I didn't pull a Leave It to Beaver and buy my Mom a baseball, or the latest Batman comic.

I didn't get her a kid gift, but something useful for a grown-up. What it was this real neat book of checks, you know, like waitresses have to write down what you order and to give you your bill. This one had a cover that kind of looked like leather.

My Mom could use this for a lot of things, like making store lists, or a list of things to do, or what to buy people for Christmas or birthdays.

I even thought she could give my Dad a check for dinner some night.

Pretty funny, huh? She didn't do that.

In fact, I'm not sure what she did with the check book. She smiled, thanked me and kissed me when I gave it to her, I remember that. I guess she liked it.

Next year my sister insisted that she and I and our brother go in together and buy Mom a Mother's Day gift.

And being a girl, she naturally insisted on picking out the gift - a foot-high plaster statue of the Virgin Mary.

That was appropriate, too, I conceded. If not as useful as a check book.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Today we are more private, more inward, more cautious.

We worry about what disaster might come from the outside world. So we look inward.

The back deck is for privacy. The back deck encourages us to look inward, to enjoy what we have, by ourselves. And that's the difference I guess.

We once were an outward looking people, looking out for what would come our way.

Today we are more private, more inward, more cautious. We worry about what disaster might come from the outside world. So we look inward.

I don't think we're necessarily better off these days, moving from the front porch to the back deck. Studies indicate Americans are increasingly becoming more isolated and lonelier than ever before.

While we crave our privacy, more is known about our spending habits and our presence online than ever before.

So we retreat into our spaces, from the front porch to the back deck, from front parlor to family room to the finished basement.

Letters to the Editor

We want to hear from you! Send your letters to the editor to suburbanletters@tribpub.com. Letters should not exceed 250 words and should include your name, phone number and address (only your name and town will be published).
Affirming talk on resilient children closes speaker series

Sara Clarkson

first hearing. But Brooks described a charismatic adult as someone from whom a child or adolescent can gather strength. What a beautiful idea it was to be the kind of adult that strengthens and supports a child.

Brooks encouraged parents in the room last week to be self-reflective in determining whether they were charismatic adults to their children. At the end of the day, when you tuck your child in, he said, ask yourself, “What did I do to make my child become stronger that day?”

Brooks offered up these additional questions for self-reflection: What three people are your own charismatic adults (and to laughter in the room, he added that he hoped a spouse would be part of that list)? What three people from your childhood were charismatic adults to you?

Here is another exercise: fold a piece of paper in half vertically. On the left write all the words you would hope your children would use to describe you. On the right, write down what you have said or done in the past few months that would make them use that word. See if the two sides match.

Charismatic adults do not deny a child’s problem — “Oh, that’s all in your head” — and also do not lose sight of the child’s own “islands of competence,” those things that engage and feed the child.

“We must learn to accept our children for who they are and not who you want them to be,” he said.

Resilient people see problems as things to be solved rather than overwhelmed by, he added.

Brooks also emphasized that we have to raise compassionate kids. The focus can’t always be on achievement. He said asking children to help out, especially when phrased: “I need your help,” boosts their dignity and motivation. Children have an inborn need to help, he said.

“Do your kids see you helping others?” he asked. “What do you do as a family that is charitable?”

Brooks encouraged parents to read the book “Emotional Intelligence” by Daniel Goleman. He also encouraged them to use his website www.drrobertbrooks.com which contains numerous articles and resources.

He closed by saying we have thousands of opportunities to build people up. Let’s use them. The last words Brooks’ father ever spoke to Brooks before his death were just those kind of words. Brooks’ father told Brooks, “I love you so dearly. You are so special to me.”

I have used those exact two sentences with my college-age children already. They were a little surprised by how specific I was, but I also think they felt a little fuller.

Guest Column

Local governments trying to become less accountable, less transparent to taxpayers

As state government scours to fill a projected $8 billion deficit in the 2016 fiscal year budget, it would seem to make sense to move beyond successful compromises and proven solutions already in place and instead focus on issues that truly have a significant impact on the state’s finances.

At least you would think so given the seriousness of the fiscal crisis.

But that’s not the case with some elected officials and local government lobbyists that represent the more than 7000 taxpayer-funded units of government in Illinois.

Behind-the-scenes efforts are currently taking place that would reduce their obligation of accountability and transparency to taxpayers, all under the guise of the state’s financial crisis. It’s a “smoke-and-mirrors” attempt by local governments at a time of fiscal crisis where Illinois taxpayers would end up paying the losing end.

One successful compromise and proven solution that is now in its fifth year of operation is the Public Notice Illinois (PNI) website, or www.publicnoticellinois.com. PNI is a centralized, aggregated website for all public notices from the state of Illinois, units of local government, and the Illinois court system. It’s a free-access website that is updated daily. It’s an example of a proven, successful public-private partnership that is already saving taxpayers money and should be supported by elected officials at all levels of government.

Public notices or legal notices as they are often referred to, are a fundamental component in the foundation of our democracy and our legal system. For more than 200 years, newspapers have been paid to print public notices and to serve as the critically important independent third-party between units of local government and taxpayers, and have functioned as the official notification system of our court system. Notice of publication in newspapers provides the proven and necessary verification, certification and archiving solution that ensure individuals and taxpayers rights are protected and preserved.

Frankly, it’s a process that has worked so well and for so long that those wanting to eliminate it or change it to another process rarely consider the chaos and disruption to government bodies and to the court system that would take place without this proper verification, certification and archiving of public notices and notices of the courts.

PNI was created by state law in 2011 and was approved unanimously by both chambers of the Illinois General Assembly. Yes, unanimously. Key components of the law called for the creation of a centralized website for public notices that would be managed by Illinois newspapers. It requires newspapers to upload all notices to PNI after the notices appear in print. All of this is done at no additional cost to government.

No taxpayer money goes toward supporting or managing the public notice website.

With each new session of the Illinois General Assembly, local government lobbyists — whose paychecks are funded largely by your tax dollars — repeatedly push bills to eliminate public notices or remove them from newspapers and PNI in favor of their own individual websites. These bills rarely make it out of committee because, frankly, state lawmakers understand that forcing citizens to attempt to locate notices across 7000 websites doesn’t make sense. (Actually, it would be about 4,000 websites as many units of local government do not yet have a website.)

Such legislation was introduced and failed again earlier this session. However, local government groups are now using behind the scenes tactics to remove public notices from print and from PNI and, instead, have the notices placed on their individual websites. But, this time they have a new twist: They are claiming that having to be accountable and transparent through the current public notice process is an “unfunded mandate” and they want to do away with it. The simple fact is this issue is not about money, it’s about reducing transparency and accountability to the taxpayers.

Every year Illinois citizens dutifully fulfill their obligation of paying many types and amounts of taxes to support these thousands of local government units throughout the state. Each of these units has an annual operating budget that ranges from tens of thousands of dollars to hundreds of millions and even billions of dollars. Taxpayer dollars, that is.

It’s not at all about “saving the taxpayers money” because that has already been done successfully through the 2011 legislation and PNI. Local governments will still try to sell it that way, however. Local government officials should focus on the big-impact issues, allow the proven public notice solution in our state to keep on working, and not spend so much time and taxpayer dollars on how to be less accountable and less transparent.
Builders discuss the housing preferences of Millennials; many opt for suburban living

Home builders view defining the desires of Millennials as a key area in designing and marketing homes. Frequently described in the popular culture as wanting trendy city neighborhoods, urban conveniences and smaller spaces, for many members of Generation Y, city living may be a post-college phase on the way to forming families and moving to the suburbs.

Generation Y or the Millennials, born between 1980 and 2000, are the largest generation in history, according to a recent study by Goldman Sachs. There are 92 million Millennials as compared with 61 million Baby Boomers. They are expected to have a huge impact on the economy, but the recession has had an impact on them too.

"Gen Y seems to be more cautious and practical due to the economic environment of recent years," said Christopher Naatz, Vice President of Sales for D.R. Horton's Chicago Division. "The American dream has changed dramatically for some of them as they watched their parents navigate through a changing housing market, and they tend to be more reflective about their values and priorities. Recently, with low interest rates and increases in rents, the affordability of homes has become so great that many Millennials are deciding that it makes more sense to buy than to rent. A large percentage of the buyers in our various new home Chicagoland communities are now Millennials, and many say they are seeking their "forever" homes."

"For Millennials, it's all about lifestyle," states Debbie Beaver, Vice President of Operations for the Chicago Division of William Ryan Homes. "Many are older than former first-time buyers, have saved more money and act in non-traditional ways. Many can afford to bypass the first smaller, more basic home and purchase a larger, more luxurious home. They most likely grew up in the suburbs and want to remain in the suburbs, yet close to roads, commuter trains and plenty of conveniences."

While William Ryan Homes builds single-family detached homes and D.R. Horton offers both single-family homes, townhomes and condominiums, Optima Old Orchard Woods provides yet another attractive suburban choice.

"Many young singles and married couples enjoy the suburban condominium lifestyle at Optima Old Orchard Woods because the building's contemporary design and excellent location provide a sense of urban convenience along with a scenic setting overlooking the Harms Woods forest preserve," said David Hovey, FAIA, widely respected architect and developer of several condominium buildings, also including Optima Chicago Center in Streeterville. "In addition to offering vistas of wooded open space, Optima Old Orchard Woods is environmentally friendly with green roofs and sky gardens and also as high on the list of walkable communities, two important features to Gen Y. The building is close to the Metra station, the Kennedy Expressway and is three blocks from Old Orchard Shopping Center. Downtown Chicago is about 20 minutes away."

"We are close to our parents, our friends, our congregation and we are just 20 minutes from the city if we wish to have dinner there or attend a downtown event," Anisa said. "We have a beautiful forest preserve to walk in, and within the building, we use the fitness center on the penthouse floor of our tower and enjoy the pool and sun deck. People here are very friendly and represent all age groups, including Millennials."

"D.R. Horton, Optima, Inc. and William Ryan Homes are Equal Opportunity Builders.
I wish more teachers knew

PAT LENHOFF

Halfway through the second-most glorious month of the year, it's hard to stifle the spring fever ping around. The urge to get out and play, shirk responsibility and smell the roses runs rampant right now. So with that in mind, today we'll revisit the land of Loose Ends & Random Ramblings, stories and issues small in stature but often responsible for the spice in our day-to-day life.

First up is a touching story about a simple school assignment and how it has spun into a wider dialogue. Last month, it was reported that a Colorado third-grade teacher gave her class a writing project, a kind of "finish the story" type exercise. Now, I am familiar with those kind of assignments, having been summoned to my son's second-grade class to view his effort on a similar project. Somehow, the teacher didn't appreciate the seamless, superfast efficiency of his "and they lived happily ever after" story completion. Much as I understood her point, I had to laugh, although it was a revelation to me that on occasion, he could complete a school task quickly and — technically — correctly. In a different way, the Colorado teacher who made news recently got her own eye-opener with a similar assignment when she asked students to complete the sentence, "I wish my teacher knew..." One student wrote, "I wish my teacher knew I don't have a friend to play with me," ABC News reported.

How can your heart not ache at reading that? Or another reply she got, in which a pupil stated they had no pencils at home to do homework. With that small assignment, a whole dialogue was opened up about how much children might be dealing with outside the confines of the classroom. I hope this kind of project could become a staple in classrooms, not only to help children but also, so that the full extent of outside influences on pupils can be factored in when judging performance, especially if teachers are to be tied so tightly to test scores in their classrooms.

In local news, it was announced last week that salvaged bricks from Libertyville's Brainerd School building will be available for sale, the intent being to give the public a sentimental keepsake of the National Register of Historical Places building that doesn't exist any more. I think I'll save my money for when the Italian government announces the sale of stones from the Colosseum, another old historic building. Oh wait, in other countries they don't tear down aging buildings like we do here.

And finally, a small, silly undoubtedly naïve suggestion. After reading that the owner of Garden Fresh Market in Mundelein had serious concerns for his business with the prospect of a Super Walmart being built across from his store on routes 45 and 60, I couldn't help but think of how much people on the north end of town would welcome a grocery store in the old Dominicks spot on Route 176 and Midlothian. Food for thought perhaps?

Pat Lenhoff is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Email: viewfromvh@yahoo.com

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For the 1 in 5 kids with learning and attention issues, every day can be a challenge. Explore Understood.org, a free online resource designed to help you help your child thrive in school and in life.

Brought to you by 15 nonprofit partners.

understood.org
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REAL ESTATE HOMES IN YOUR AREA

WILMETTE

Address: 2048 Birchwood Ave.
Price: $579,000
Schools: New Trier Township High School
Taxes: $8,683
Agent: Yvonne Sito/Properties

PARK RIDGE
Updated Tudor on large lot near Uptown. Refinished hardwood floors on 1st floor and updated kitchen with granite and a butler pantry and eating area. Formal living room with fireplace and separate dining room. Large 1st-floor family room with bay window and Franklin stove. Four upstairs bedrooms have hardwood floors under carpeting. Newer roof in 2013 plus fenced yard with deck and 2.5-car garage.

Address: 613 South Cumberland Ave.
Price: $369,000
Schools: Maine South High School
Taxes: $12,996
Agent: Andee Hausman/RE/MAX Executive

BUFFALO GROVE
Upgraded roof, fridge, H2O heater, and windows w/ lifetime warranty. Newer carpet upstairs and laminate floors throughout 1st floor. Living room has fireplace and flows into family room/playroom. Custom blinds, spacious bedrooms and private bath in master. Slider from kitchen leads to deck and backyard. Exterior freshly painted and landscaped. Four bedrooms, 2.5 baths.

Address: 38 Arbor Gate Lane
Price: $565,000
Schools: Adlai E Stevenson High School
Taxes: $8,722
Agent: Frank Genuardi/Coldwell Banker

LIBERTYVILLE
Five-bedroom, 2.5-bath home backs to Old School Forest Preserve. Large master bedroom with sitting area and fireplace. Open floor plan with outdoor living space - large deck and screened porch. Lots of hardwood flooring. Ceramic tile throughout kitchen and foyer. Family room has wet bar and fireplace. Slatestone quartz countertops in kitchen.

Address: 1280 Deer Trail Lane
Price: $565,000
Schools: Libertyville High School
Taxes: $13,309
Agent: Robert Picciariello/Premio Realty Group

Listings from Homefinder.com.
Hands of Peace develops 'peaceful connections'

Gretchen Grad will never forget a sleepless night she had a few months after the Sept. 11 attacks. The Glenview resident, who at the time was a securities trader, said she was awake because an idea came to her to create connections in a world rapidly splitting apart.

Grad's revelation was the start of the Glenview-based non-profit organization Hands of Peace, which is going into its 13th year, raising an estimated $170,000 last month at its largest annual fundraiser to date.

"Sept. 11th was a defining moment in motivating me to do something to foster peaceful connections in the Middle East," said Grad. "I called a friend of mine who is Jewish and told her about the idea and she said, 'Oh yeah, we need to do this.'"

Hands of Peace is an interfaith organization with a mission of developing peace building and leadership skills in Israeli, American and Palestinian teens through dialogue and personal relationships.

Funded by individuals, foundations and religious organizations, Hands of Peace sponsors teens from all three countries to stay with a host family on the North Shore for three weeks, while engaging in daily dialogue sessions co-led by both Israeli and Palestinian professional facilitators.

"It starts out with ice-breaking and trust-building activities, and moves into emotional and intense discussions about conflict and personal experience, violence, and prejudices they've experienced," said Executive Director Ashley Bates. "They often have such strong identities that have been ingrained in them since the day they were born, but at the end of the day, they're all teenagers with the same dreams and hopes and fears."

"I'll never forget the first summer," said Grad. "The first day, we were sitting at a park and we looked at all the kids and couldn't tell who was an Israeli and who was a Palestinian. They all just looked like teenagers, wearing the same T-shirts and sneakers and listening to music. During the process, they realize there's another narrative that is completely different than the one they've been brought up hearing."

State Rep. Laura Fine, D-Glenview, and husband Michael hosted a 17-year-old Palestinian citizen last summer, and said within one day they noticed kids of the different nationalities becoming friends.

"They realize they are the same in 99 percent of ways," Michael Fine said.

Hands of Peace will sponsor 45 teens this summer in Chicago, as well as 28 kids in its newly launched San Diego branch.

"These kids go home to a very entrenched and traumatic reality, and if we were to just end with the summer program, the progress would be lost," said Bates, who was the organization's program director for seven years before moving into her current position last year. "There would be no system in place to support these kids as they try to talk to community members and friends about their experience."

"The only way there is going to be resolution over there is from the ground up," Fine said. "These kids - in 10 or 20 years, they will be the next generation of leaders. They made it work here. They co-existed. If they take what they learned here into that forum, they can make change and they can create peace."

To learn more about Hands of Peace, visit HandsOfPeace.org.

Jackie Piloossoph is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter: @Iovessentially
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, May 14

Save A Star’s Drug Disposal Program: Save a Star Drug Awareness Foundation’s Drug Disposal Program box is in the lobby of the Des Plaines Police Department. Accepted are: prescription medications, (including controlled substances), all over-the-counter and pet medications, samples, vitamins, liquids and creams. Call 847-579-1300 Ext. 146. 9 a.m. Thursday-Wednesday, Niles Police Department, 7000 West Touhy Ave., Niles, free.

Mah Jongg In Review: Brush up on your Mah Jongg skills in this six-week class. Instructor Pamela Max guides you through games and focuses on technique. Bring a current Mah Jongg card or purchase one for $8. Contact the Park Ridge Senior Center. 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Park Ridge Park District - Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, $52 member or $57 guest, 847-692-3597.

Save A Star’s Drug Disposal Program: Save a Star Drug Awareness Foundation’s Drug Disposal Program box is in the lobby of the Park Ridge Police Department. Accepted are: prescription medications, (including controlled substances), all over-the-counter and pet medications, samples, vitamins, liquids and creams. Call 847-579-1300 Ext. 146. 9 a.m. Thursday-Wednesday, Wilmette Police Department, 710 Ridge Road, Wilmette, free.

Friday, May 15

Smile & Rhyme Storytime (ages 2 & up with caregiver): Miss Fran shares stories, rhymes and songs in the Cafe. Snack and chat after the program. Younger siblings welcome. Children must be accompanied by an adult. Just drop in. 10:30 a.m. Friday, Heinen’s Grocery Store, 1020 Waukegan Road, Glenview, free.

GlenVIEWINGS Spring Film Series: “Unbroken”: The true story of Louis Zamperini, an Olympian, a soldier and a prisoner of war. Captured by the Japanese Navy in WWII, he becomes the favorite target of a cruel prison commander. A difficult, but ultimately heartwarming, story of survival and forgiveness. A casual audience-led discussion follows matinee screenings. Just drop in. (137 min/PG-13/2014). 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Glenview Square Dance Club 65th Anniversary Dance: Glenview Square Dance Club celebrates its 65th Anniversary with dinner and square dancing. Call for advanced tickets at 847-692-5001. Cash Bar at 6:30 p.m.; dinner at 7:15 p.m.; dancing at 8:15 p.m., with callers: Bob Asp and Mike Richard. 6:30 p.m. Friday, White Eagle Banquets and Restaurant, 6831 N. Milwaukee Ave., Niles, $35, 847-647-0660.

Duplicate Bridge: The senior center offers a friendly bridge game every Friday morning at 9 a.m. Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-692-5127.

Saturday, May 16

Suburban Tap FLiPOver: Any Chicago beers that tap out from the May 15 event are being replaced with a suburban brewery’s beers. Friday, Solera Oath’s Wreckage Master is being tapped. 4 p.m. Saturday, Bigby’s Pour House, 1700 West Lake St, Addison. Varies.

Plant Sale: Shop for a variety of flowering pots, baskets, herbs and native plants. 10 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, The Grove, 1421 Milwaukee Ave., Glenview, free, 847-299-6096.

Dave DiNaso’s Travelling World of Reptiles (families): Up close and personal: Experience reptiles and amphibians from around the world. Preference is given to Glenview Library cardholders. Register at glenviepl.org/register, at Ext. 7900, or at the Youth Services Desk. 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Cinema Sleuths: “Charlie Chan at the Opera”: Film screening and discussion lead by author and film historian Doug Deuchler. A dangerous assassination escape from an asylum, in the opera house, and is suspected of getting revenge on those who tried to murder him 13 years before. (1936, not rated, runs 1 hr. 6 min). Cast: Warner Oland, Boris Karloff. 2 p.m. Saturday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

Get Hooked Craft: Plant a Miniature Garden: For ages 12 and up. Design and create miniature fairy garden in a teacup, ceramic bowl or planter. Class size limited to 20. Bring a container for your mini-garden. Potting soil, plants and decorative materials provided. 10 a.m. Saturday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

Park Ridge Garden Club Plant Sale: Choose from an assortment of annuals, perennials, hanging baskets, herbs and vegetables. Perennials from members’ gardens featured. These plants are proven hardy in this area and in local soil conditions. 9 a.m. Saturday, Hodges Park, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, Free admission.

Sunday, May 17

What Happens at TJM?? Come for a gala evening to benefit Temple Judea Mizpah in the TJM Kaplan/Shavitz Community Hall. The evening will include dinner, entertainment by TJM Players, bingo and raffles. 6 p.m. Saturday, Temple Judea Mizpah, 8610 Niles Center Road, Skokie, $50, $25 child 14 and under, 847-676-1566.

Preserving Survivor Stories Interactive with “New Dimensions In Testimony” Technology: Illinois Holocaust Museum is the first world-wide testing site for New Dimensions in Testimony, an interactive educational tool that permits students far into the future to “talk” with Holocaust Survivors about their life experiences. Free with Museum admission. Ask Holocaust Survivor Pinchas Gutner any question, and “natural language” technology software retrieves an appropriate response, creating an interactive dialogue, as if Pinchas were in the room! Noon Saturday.

Turn to Calendar, Next Page
WHAT IF THE FUTURE OF KIDS WAS A STOCK YOU COULD INVEST IN?

Introducing Better Futures—a whole new kind of investment with a greater return than money. When you invest, it helps kids go to college. Because a mind is a terrible thing to waste but a wonderful thing to invest in.

Invest in Better Futures at UNCF.ORG/INVEST

CALENDAR

Monday, May 18

Books in the Woods: Registration required. This book discussion at L. Woods features "And the Dark Sacred Night" by Julia Glass. Living with his unknown paternity has always been a struggle for Kit Noonan. Who did his mother pair up with all those summers ago when she was a 17-year-old cellist at an illustrious music camp in Vermont? Noonan grudgingly embarks on a journey of self-discovery, following the well-meaning advice of his stepfather and others. "And the Dark Sacred Night" is a tender, insightful and winning exploration of the modern family and the infinite number of shapes it can take. Reviewed by Kendra Harpster for people. 7:30 p.m. Monday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-965-4220

Knitting Roundtable: Come work through knitting projects and socialize with fellow knitters. Expert knitters can show you how to solve knitting challenges. Don't forget your current knitting projects and needles! Call 847-929-5101 or visit mgpl.org for more information. 2 p.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Yarn Gang: Kids in grades one and up are invited to try their hand at knitting, crocheting or other yarn crafts. 4 p.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

MGPL Kids: Monday Morning Playgroup: Drop-in play time for preschoolers with a parent or caregiver to introduce young children to the library in a low-key, unstructured session. Call 847-929-5102 or visit mgpl.org for more information. 10:30 a.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Taste of the Senior Center: Visit the Park Ridge Senior Center and check out all they have to offer! A short presentation begins at 11:15 a.m., explaining the membership, activities offered and other pertinent information. Also, register in advance for our Taste of the Senior Center Luncheon beginning at 12:30 p.m. when the Senior Center Choraliers, Tappers and Uketones perform their annual spring concert. Fee is $16 members, $18 non-members. Or without lunch, $6 members, $8 non-members. 11:15 a.m. Monday, Park Ridge Park District - Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, $6-$18, 847-692-3597

Turn to Calendar, Next Page
**MONDAY, May 18**

**Money Matters Discussion:** The group meets on the first and third Monday of each month. 10 a.m. Monday, Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-692-3597

**A History of Advice-Giving from Agony Aunt to Dear Amy:** From "letters to the lovelorn" to "Bintel Briefs," people have poured out their hearts in the pages of newspapers. It began with the print media, but now the Internet also offers comfort and advice. Join Beverly Friend, Ph.D., for a look at romantic, economic, psychological and ever-personal queries. What life lessons could you share? Hosted by and taking over-personal queries. What life lessons could you share? Hosted by and taking them now? Robyn Flakne, Natural Resources Manager, Village of Glenview, and Judy Kisiezek, Environmental Education Supervisor, Park Ridge Park District, will discuss these ancient Illinois dwellers and what they can teach us about today's landscapes. As part of Invasive Species Awareness Month, also explore some of the more challenging plants spreading into natural areas and residential gardens, and how to help combat their proliferation. Register at glenviewpl.org/register, call Ext. 7600 or stop at the Reader Services Desk. 2 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Wednesday, May 20**

**Immigration Records:** Find your immigrant ancestors. Learn about different types of immigration records, where to find them, and how to use them. Register at glenviewpl.org/register, 847-729-7500 Ext. 7700, or the Reference Services Desk. 2 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Bernard Weinger Jewish Community Center Men's Group:** The Men's Club meets throughout the year on Wednesday mornings. For adults 55 and over. Every week there's a stimulating new topic for the guys to talk about at the J. The JCC Men's Club gives one a chance to meet up with others for fellowship and intellectual stimulation. Enjoy the camaraderie while coming together for a broad range of interesting programs and lectures. There's always something new to learn! The club continues through June 24, 2015. Meeting from 10-11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Bernard Weinger JCC, 300 Revere Dr., Northbrook, free, 224-456-9200

**"I Could Keep On Singing": A Tribute to Judy Garland:** Julie Butler Chanteuse in a Judy Garland Tribute, "I Could Go on Singing, The Capitol Years." Featuring Garland's best recordings of all time. Accompanied on Piano by Bobby Schiff. 2 p.m. Wednesday, Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, $15, 847-677-7761

**World War II Veterans' Roundtable:** Vets gather for lively conversation and coffee. Newcomers are welcome. 10 a.m. Wednesday, Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free

Have an event to submit? Go to chicagotribune.com/calendar
600 supporters turn out for Team Moore Benefit

Benefiting: Kevin Moore of Ridgewood High School, a wrestler who experienced a spinal cord injury.
Location: Victoria Beau Jolie, Schiller Park
Date: April 18
Attended: 600
Event: Music by the Shannon Rovers Irish Pipe Band, buffet, auction
Family message: “Kevin Moore, his family and Team Moore wish to convey their deepest gratitude for the support shown to Kevin since his injury. The kindness and generosity has been a source of amazing strength. The efforts of friends, family and community have provided for Kevin a foundation upon which he will continue to strive and achieve” — Heidi Moore, Kevin’s mom.

Gino Pascazio of Chicago (left) and Karen Lanners of Harwood Heights

Niall Kenny (from left), Alex Lipski and Owen Moore, all of Norridge. Owen is Kevin Moore’s little brother.

Philomena O’Leary of Elmhurst (from left) with John and Mary Hughes of Harwood Heights
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Extrabucks® Rewards offer limit of 3 per household with card.extrabucks® Rewards offer limit of 3 per household with card. Offer Not valid in Hawaii. The item pictured is for display purposes only. "Price Feature Plus" is an exclusive property of News America Marketing.

Take the first step toward being BIOTIC with Florastor®!
DON'T RISK CLEANING ANOTHER GUTTER!

PROBLEM - Clogged gutters can damage your roof, foundation, fascia and landscaping. Cleaning out gutters is dangerous — falls are the number one cause of accidental death and injury around the household.

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for up to 4 rooms

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In up to 4 rooms

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with DIRECTV

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ACT NOW!

ACT NOW!

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Benefiber® Healthy Shape is clinically proven to curb cravings and help you feel fuller longer*

100% NATURAL

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OXY® Rapid Treatment Face Wash and 3-in-1 Pads use the maximum level of clinically proven ingredients for fast results. Guaranteed.

If you are not completely satisfied within 30 days of purchase, you may return it for a full refund. Limit one refund per household. For details, visit oyskin.com.

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SAVE $2.00 on any one (1)
Benefiber® product

Use as directed.

TWO WEEKS ONLY!

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ON ANY ONE OXY® PRODUCT

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Use as directed.

OXY® Rapid Treatment Face Wash and 3-in-1 Pads use the maximum level of clinically proven ingredients for fast results. Guaranteed.

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Kills Acne Bacteria
Skin Soothing Formula

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Benefiber® Healthy Shape is clinically proven to curb cravings and help you feel fuller longer*

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2 for $21.99 Beverages included
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Committee of Local 130, U.A.

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1400 W. Washington Blvd. 2114 S. I-80 Frontage Rd. 31855 N. U.S. Hwy 12
Chicago, IL 60607 Joliet, IL 60436 Volo, IL 60073
(312) 421-1028 (815) 725-0278 (815) 759-5900

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TIME: Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9-11 a.m. and 1-3 p.m.; Thursdays from 9-11 a.m., 1-3 p.m. and 5-8:00 p.m.

REGISTRATION FEE: $25.00 Money Order or Cashier’s Check payable to: Plumbers’ J.A.C., Local 130

Optional, if you wish to purchase the test taking tip book, your money order or cashier’s check should be in the amount of $35.00 (no cash, credit cards or personal checks will be accepted)

REQUIREMENTS:
1. Must be at least 18 years old
   a) 17 and a Senior in H.S. may apply with a Student I.D.
2. Valid Driver’s License
3. Birth Certificate or U.S. Passport
4. Sealed H.S. or College transcripts OR a G.E.D. Certificate

REGISTERED WITH:
U.S. Department of Labor
Office of Apprenticeship
Approved Apprentice Program

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NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY AS TO STUDENTS

The Trust Fund for Apprentice and Journeymen Education and Training, Local 130 U.A. and Chicago Journeymen Plumbers’ Local Union 130, U.A., school admits students of any race, color, national and ethnic origin, or sex to all phases of Apprenticeship. It does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national and ethnic origin or sex in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, scholarship and loan programs, and other school administered programs.

JAMES F. COYNE
CHAIRMAN

JOHN J. YOCK, JR.
TRAINING DIRECTOR

ROBERT F. MELKO
CO-CHAIRMAN

www.jac130.org
May Flowers: Hidden in the six longest answers

BY S.N. | Edited by Stanley Newman
(stanxwords.com)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Across</th>
<th>1</th>
<th>Bits of food</th>
<th>41</th>
<th>Ocult doctrine</th>
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<th>Backwoods refusal</th>
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<td>Paintball sounds</td>
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<td>Milton and Millay</td>
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<td>Gladden</td>
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<td>Universal remedy</td>
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| 8 | Designer | 48 | Down | 20 | Author of "Blonde"

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<td>Decorator</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>First Masterpiece</td>
<td>18</td>
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</table>

Last week's answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island.
Quote-Acrostic

1. Define clues, writing in Words column over numbered dashes.
2. Transfer letters to numbered squares in diagram.
3. When pattern is completed, quotation can be read left to right. The first letters of the filled-in words reading down form an acrostic yielding the speaker's name and the topic of the quotation.

Clues Words
A. Flea: 2 wds. 129 54 121 14 143 92 72
B. PC software 115 149 16 27 106 132
C. Word's opposite 113 139 50 3 16 87 75
D. Imprint 31 38 51 83 98 28 125
E. Bean 77 128 10 100 22 25 55
F. Diverse 40 154 80 15 95 140
G. Meantime: 3 wds. 35 127 96 112 62 59 88 151 1
H. Jaunty 103 138 157 82 114 33
I. Misleading image 109 134 118 69 17 44 48 66

J. Lawn tools 122 45 32 137 74 58
K. Tissue band 6 19 99 148 73 61
L. Cowardly 11 39 124 146 91 101
M. 'You had better!' 46 108 18 158 86 145 34 71 64 131
N. Opposite of Word C 105 90 49 142 70 56 119
O. With Word T, Nassau resort 94 133 84 123 37 156 6 116
P. Buffalo sight: 2 wds. 97 76 144 152 107 28 135 53
Q. 'I give up!' 52 36 102 57 67 111
R. Calculator 25 81 63 126 12 93
S. Ran away 150 136 41 47 68 29 104 20 8 78
T. See Clue O 65 13 147 88 23 2
U. Arctic cetacean 4 9 42 26 130 85 155
V. 'Thanks, senor' 24 30 120 141 60 79 153

All Saints' Day

BY CHARLES PRESTON

Across
1. Of a lung part 48 New York city
6. Aaron walllop 50 Clairvoyant's comment
11. Harlem Brundtland: Norway PM
14. Message boat
15. Saw
16. School dance
17. Spooky comedian?
19. Umpire's call
20. Kind of cap
21. Stain
22. Discernment
24. Slow thinker
26. Brought to a stop
27. Unpretentious one
30. Solzhenitsyn subject
31. Roman magistrate
32. Merit
34. Where L.
37. Musical symbol
38. Coup follower
39. Roseanne, originally
40. Rainbow
41. Part of NYU
42. Pianist Claudio
43. Uses the microwave
46. Does cryptography

Down
1. Spree
2. Hot spot
3. Endure
4. Congregate
5. Korean soldier
6. Spooky times
7. Greek theater
8. Dillon
9. Conceit
10. Hertz offering
11. Spooky service branch?
12. Way
13. Chose
18. Spanish river
23. In the manner of
25. Mine find
26. Quest
27. Ms. Horne
28. Bouquet
29. Spooky furculae?
30. Eerie marker
33. When some lunch hours start
35. Scottish hillside
36. Odyssey beggar
38. Tax
39. Introduced
42. Expert
44. Corn unit
45. Beast
47. Garish light
48. In great haste
49. Spear
50. Jots
52. Stumble
54. Tops
55. Old stringed instrument
56. Drumbeat
59. Eggs, to Cato
60. Youth gp.
LITERARY CIRCLES
By Jacob Stulberg / Edited by Will Shortz

ACROSS
1 Theater purchase: Abbr
4 Fertility doctor’s focus
8 Little sucker?
11 Mountain-to-mountain transport
16 Sch. with a Manchester campus
19 Apple product
20 Fail to grant, in court
21 Showed humility
22 Spoon River Anthology* poet Edgar
   Masters
23 California’s Rancho
25 Appeared amazed
26 Tattle’s threat
28 At a high rate
29 “...Folks,” Charles
   Schra’s first strip
30 Scheme
31 Visibly sad
32 Making environmentally friendly
38 No dover
40 One in a jungle trail
41 Walk with swaying hips
43 Archous
46 Relative of a Great Dane
47 6 letters?
48 Like cars in a used-car lot
49 Source of feta cheese
51 Prominent parts
54 Put-on
55 Clinton secretary of state
59 Ingratiate
60 Like the American pronunciation of many
   Polish names
62 1/2-foot Ming
64 Item extending over a gunwale
65 “Sesame Street”
66 An airbag can prevent it
70 Fixer-upper’s need, for short
72 Counterpart of Aurora
74 Good part of a record
75 Diverge
79 Look good on
82 Citizen
84 Camera option, for short
85 She’s courted in
“The Courtship of

Miles Standish”
88 Shipping unit: Abbr.
91 Country that’s
   won the most medals in the history of the
   Winter Olympics
91+ or – thing
92 How-to aid
93 Kind of omelet
97 1990 Mike Leigh
   comedy/drama
100 Maven
101 First word of
   Dante’s “Inferno”
102 “E.T.” boy and
   others
103 “Would you let me
   take a look?”
106 Plagues
109 Funny
110 Coffee mate?
111 Lady in “Lady
   and the Tramp,” e.g.
113 Fix, as a braid
117 From the top
119 Battery size
120 Put forth
121 107-Down subject
122 Org. concerned
   with toy safety
123 ___ Search (Bing
   frontrunner)
124 Renaissance-fair
   wear
125 Put on

126 Road
127 Where costumes
   are worn
128 1868
129 “...Arizona Skies”
130 “...Just a minute,” in
texts
131 Cousin of an aardvark
132 Army Rangers beret
133 Branded footwear
134 Circle
137 Cousins
138 Ones who work are
   decreasing?
139 Severe penalty
140 Harry’s home key
141 Liberal arts subj.
142 Da _____ Vietnam
143 Fright-wig wearer
144 Comic impressionist
145 David
146 Lie in the hot sun
147 Thick
148 Group mailing tool
149 “31 Days of Oscar”
   network
150 Mound
151 Code contents
152 Barrier to some
   websites
153 River through
   Deutschland
154 What a cousin can
   be twice
155 Done
156 Flips
157 What may you make you
   duck down?
158 Certain salt
159 Falafel holder
160 Steppes dwelling
162 “Beowulf” and
   others
163 It might have an
   escalator
164 Bias
165 Artist Maar depicted
   in Picasso’s “The
   Weeping Woman”
166 MCAT topic; Abbr.
167 ___ room
168 Intro to biology?
169 Screen
170 Lib. listings
171 Astronomer’s std.

DOWN
1 Dutch pot contents
2 Toll
3 1935 poem with
   one word per line ...
   as spelled out by this
   puzzle’s circled letters
4 Start of a reminis-
   cence
5 Where bills may
   accumulate
6 Sullied
7 Extinct wingless bird
8 California’s
   Freeway
9 Common pizzeria
   name
10 Blue shade
11 Piece of Tin Pan
   Alley music
12 Midwest tribe
13 Ahab e.g.
14 Decorative border
15 Writer of S-Down
16 Exist
17 Pay-stub abbr.
18 Remove, in a way
19 Mad magazine car-
   toonist Drucker
20 Like about 45% of
   human blood
21 Internet, toll-
   ionally
22 Cells that protect
   neurons
23 Ramsack
24 In conclusion: Fr.
25 Levi’s Stadium
   athlete, informally
26 Some Pontiacs
27 Who’s much
   praised
28 Capt’s inferiors
29 Clutch
30 Cause déjà vu,
   perhaps
31 “...talk
32 “Family Guy”
33 Certain heirress
34 ___ Period, 1603

Last week’s crosswords

“Finishing Touches”

DIAL BATH CRAY ELEPH FRAM OKRA SIMBA MARK FRAM OKRA GET DOWNPAT PIGNAPOK O HEGE ASLAGE ASTRAL DEER APRICOTS FISHING ACKL OYED JATLY SYRIN WAKES CRANCY ON CATCH BY SLICE YEN POE HOAGIE CLIDE CUPS OWL TAHOE SPINE SPINNY LORI TRES DEER FTN MELT IRON TIMMY BRON MURRAY BEEN SPORK STICK IMP NOCA PLATE STOCK LOUTS FTN TWIN TARSK HAWAII HUNTING PIGSKIN LAST BURR TUN ORAL LEAVE BARES POUND COLD ALTS AMBO LEEDS DEREAL REINK LEAP FERREY EWIR MEW

Last week’s Quote-Acrostic

L (Lenore) SKENAZY: FREE-RANGE KIDS:
Fun things parents did in their youth are
now regarded as insanely risky.
Ironically, increasingly quizical child
safety products elevate worry that kids
aren’t safe. Think knee pads for crawling
infants.

Last week’s Sudoku

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

This week’s Jumble

LOUNGE ANYWAY CAVITY
ROOKIE HINDER AROUND
After the woman gave birth in the
taxi, the driver told her there was
NO DELIVERY
CHARGE

chicago
tribune.com/games
Interactive puzzles and games
The Circuit Court of Cook County, Illinois County Department

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION

WEINGARDEN v. MORTGAGE CORPORATION

11 CH 30734
1064 S HARBOR DRIVE, ROUND LAKE BEACH, IL 60073

NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to the judgment foreclosure and sale entered June 2, 2015, at the Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 25th Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60606, at which time all persons having any legal or equitable interest in the property described below will be accorded the right to redemption, the property described below will be sold at the time and place shown below:

The property described below is subject to the highest bid by the mortgagee or any other person. The successful bidder shall pay all expenses of the sale including filing and recording fees, and all other costs and expenses incident to the sale. The balance, including the judicial sale fee for abandoned residential property, shall be paid to the judicial sales corporation. No third party checks will be accepted.

The successful bidder shall be required to submit a deposit of $5,000.00 in certified funds or wire transfer. The balance, including the judicial sale fee for abandoned residential property, shall be due and payable to the judicial sales corporation. No third party checks will be accepted.

The sale is subject to the highest bid by the mortgagee or any other person. The successful bidder shall pay all expenses of the sale, including filing and recording fees, and all other costs and expenses incident to the sale. The balance, including the judicial sale fee for abandoned residential property, shall be paid to the judicial sales corporation. No third party checks will be accepted.

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NOTICE TO BIDDERS
OUCTION FOR
PHASE III PROJECTIONS

PARK RIDGE PUBLIC LIBRARY
20 SOUTH PROSPECT AVENUE
PARK RIDGE, ILLINOIS 60068

Description of Project:
The Project consists of the construction of the new library building located at 20 South Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge, Illinois. The Project includes the demolition of the existing building, the construction of a new building, and the installation of various systems.

Sealed bids will be received by the Library at the address below until 10:00 AM on Monday, May 25, 2015.

Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked with the project number 15-007 and the name of the owner, Park Ridge Public Library.

All questions regarding the Project shall be directed to Natalie Mendel at 866-399-0537 or visit the Library's website.

ATTORNEY

The attorneys of the project shall be the subject of the legal notices published in the local newspapers.

Notice of public hearing shall be included in the legal notices.

BID NOTICE

The notice of public hearing shall be published in the local newspapers.

The purpose of the hearing will be to discuss the Project.

All bidders must be present to attend and will be given an opportunity to be heard.

All interested persons should attend and will be given an opportunity to be heard.

ADVERTISERS

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Garden & Home Improvement
Spring 2015

Luxury living
Page 2

What’s the buzz?
Page 7

Gardening tips
Page 5
Maintenance free luxury living at its best

When you are ready to live the way you've always wanted, only the most exquisite home features will do. Meadow Ridge homes in Northbrook are built for the beauty and function of day-to-day living and the lasting value of a forward-thinking investment.

Exterior
- Fully sodded lawns with underground sprinkler system.
- All-brick construction.
- Exterior address block.
- Carriage style overhead garage door with decorative windows and electric openers.
- Concrete patio and walks.

New construction highlights
- Custom designed and constructed for energy efficiency by KZF Development.
- Unique "backwards basement" second-floor room appropriate for finishing (use as storage, exercise, media, or office area).
- Energy efficient, maintenance-free vinyl windows.
- Architectural asphalt shingle with 30-year warranty.

To learn more about Meadow Ridge, call 847-559-9800 or visit meadowridgenorthbrook.net.

A custom-designed kitchen is one of the many features of a KZF Development home.

A creek is one of the landscape features found in Meadow Ridge in Northbrook.
Comfortable, private serene living has never been so convenient.

Introducing new construction Northbrook homes. When you are ready to live the way you've always wanted, only the most exquisite home features will do. Centrally situated in the heart of Northbrook and just steps from Northshore's most vibrant destinations. Meadow Ridge homes are built for the beauty and function of day-to-day living and the lasting value of a forward-thinking investment.

NEW CONSTRUCTION DUPLEXES AND TOWNHOMES $499,000

Sales Center & Furnished Model Homes Open Weds. – Fri. 11am – 6pm, Sat. – Sun. 12pm – 5pm, or by appointment.

Founders Drive and Techny Road, Northbrook IL 60062 | 847-559-9800 | MeadowRidgeNorthbrook.net
rv "Sonny" Hirsch started AA Service Co. Heating & Cooling in 1965 out of his garage — and built it into a thriving enterprise through hard work, a can-do attitude and the highest level of business and personal integrity.

Hirsch knew all along that business is personal. He realized that people do business with people they trust, people they can count upon when they have a problem, and people who will stand behind their work. These values hold true to this day.

Thanks to Irv's sons, Al and Larry, and lifelong family friend Glenn Weintraub, AA Service has remained a family owned and operated company.

In 1997, the former Sky Harbor Airport Terminal was purchased and renovated into a state-of-the-art mechanical facility. Because of this, AA Service has been able to produce some of the finest and most efficient mechanical systems in the industry. AA Service was an integral part of the design and construction of the first zero energy home in the state of Illinois — which was highlighted on WLS-TV (Channel 7).

AA Service has been an award-winning contractor for decades, with thousands of successful Chicagoland installations. Working with residential, commercial and industrial clients, AA Service is able to meet every HVAC need.

To celebrate its 50th anniversary, AA Service is hosting its annual car show and food drive from 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. Sunday, May 31. A donation of a nonperishable food item to benefit Northfield Food Pantry would be appreciated.

AA Service Co. is located at 550 Anthony Trail, Northbrook. For more information, call 847-729-7889 or visit aaserviceco.com.
Spring garden tips

Gray, cold winter days have passed and the weather is starting to warm, tulips and daffodils are blooming, and grass will be green: sure signs of spring.

"Grab your trowel and get ready for spring with the following tips," says Ron Wolford, a University of Illinois Extension horticulture educator.

Don't rush the growing season
Be prepared for late-spring frosts. Cover tender plants with row covers, cardboard, blankets, hot caps, or newspaper. Do not use metal or plastic for protection; they can conduct cold to plants.

"We have had frost as late as Memorial Day," Wolford adds.

Never work your soil when it is wet
Tilling or digging when the soil is wet will cause it to dry into concrete-like clods. Pick up a handful of soil before digging and squeeze. If it crumbles easily, it is ready to be tilled. If it doesn't crumble, it is too wet. Allow the soil to dry for a couple more days and test again before digging.

Avoid damping-off disease when starting seeds
Damping-off will cause seedlings to wilt and die. Use a sterile soil medium. Keep the temperature around 65 to 70 degrees for best germination and provide bottom heat if possible.

"Most of all, avoid overwatering," Wolford cautions.

Buy healthy transplants
Leaves and stems should be green and healthy without any signs of yellowing or browning. Gently remove transplants from their pot and check the root system. Roots should be white with visible soil. Check for insects such as whiteflies or aphids.

Harden off transplants
Before exposing transplants to cool spring temperatures, wind, and sun, gradually introduce them to the outdoor environment over a seven- to ten-day period.

Divide perennials in the spring
Dig around the plant and lift the clump out of the ground. Break the clump into sections. Larger sections will reestablish quicker than smaller sections. Keep the clumps moist until ready to plant.

Cut back ornamental grasses
Cut back ornamental grasses to about 4 to 6 inches. Not removing the foliage will delay the warming of the crown of the plant and will slow new growth. Ornamental grasses should be divided in the spring if the center of the plant has died out or if it has become overgrown.

Spring is the time to kill Creeping Charlie
Creeping Charlie has kidney bean-shaped leaves and blue flowers. It is most susceptible to weed killers when it is in flower in the spring. It tends to establish itself in parts of the lawn that are too shady for grass. You can also control Creeping Charlie with hand removal or hoeing before it sets seed.

For more timely garden tips, check out the U of I Extension website "Garden Calendar" at urbanext.illinois.edu/hort/.

Source: Ron Wolford, extension educator, horticulture, rwolford@illinois.edu.
Rainwater management, cumulative stress problems, corresponding color schemes, new compact hybrids and heightened concern for butterflies, birds and bees will define home gardening in 2015, according to experts at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Glencoe.

"Two fundamental issues will drive gardening trends in 2015: erratic weather patterns and a growing concern for the environment," said Tom Tiddens, supervisor of plant health care at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Additionally, gardeners will move away from contrasting color schemes and increase their use of outdoor spaces for entertaining and relaxing.

Here's a closer look at what the Chicago Botanic Garden experts anticipate for the coming season:

Rainwater Management
More home gardeners will take steps to either improve or prevent the lake that seems to form in their yard every time it rains, says Heather Sherwood, senior horticulturist. Rain barrels and rain gardens will be two increasingly popular solutions. Rain gardens temporarily hold rainwater and rely on specialized native plants to wick water into the soil. Rain gardens offer many environmental benefits, soaking up 30 percent more water than a typical lawn and minimizing the pollutants that flow into storm drains. The native plants used in rain gardens provide habitat for birds, bees and beneficial insects. To learn more go to chicagobotanic.org/conservation/rain_garden

Cumulative Stress
Several years of erratic weather — drought followed by prolonged, record-breaking cold — have had a cumulative stress effect on many plants, especially evergreens. "I think we will be seeing more stress-related problems in 2015," Tiddens says. Stress causes a lack of vigor, increasing plants' susceptibility to pests and diseases. Give your plants extra TLC and be on the lookout for viburnum leaf beetle, expected to hit the Chicago region soon, the garden's experts advise. Other high-consequence plant pests and pathogens to watch for include brown marmorated stink bug, lantern fly and thousand cankers disease. Emerald ash borer and Asian longhorn beetle remain threats.

Corresponding Color Schemes
Gardeners will move toward more monochromatic displays, such as using shades of oranges alone, or shades of purples and blues together in the same design, according to Tim Pollak, outdoor floriculturist. Increased use of leaf interest will provide texture and shades of green. Red also is seen as a color of interest, from the earliest tulips, to azaleas, dahlias, Japanese maples, large maples in the fall and lastly the red twigs of dogwood for seasonal hues. Pollak also predicts home gardeners will use their outdoor spaces more and more for relaxing and entertaining, increasing the demand for outdoor decor.

Less is More
Jacob Burns, curator of herbaceous perennials, is excited to see new compact hybrids to make their way into the U.S. market and expects them to catch on with home gardeners. New breeding efforts have produced dwarf versions of Japanese anemones (Anemone x hybrida) that are perfect for containers or the front of the border. Rare among these fall-blooming windflowers is anemone "Wild Swan," which produces white blooms with a blue backing. Burns also welcomes new compact cultivars of little bluestem (Schizachyrium scoparium) available in 2015. "Cinnamon Girl" reaches a height of just 28 inches and transitions to red-purple foliage by late summer. Also on his list are "Twilight Zone" and "Smoke Signal."

Birds, Bees and Butterflies
The increased availability of equipment and support — both online, at better garden centers, and the Chicago Botanic Garden — will help boost the number of backyard beekeepers, said Lisa Hilgenberg, horticulturist, Regenstein Fruit & Vegetable Garden. Hand in hand with the hives will be the continued rise of bird- and pollinator-friendly gardens filled with nectar-rich and native host plants. Pollak predicts a continued upward trend in demand for organic, pesticide-free and non-GMO plants and products.

The Chicago Botanic Garden is located at 1000 Lake Cook Road, in Glencoe. For more information, visit chicagobotanic.org.
What's the buzz?

Create a pollinator-friendly garden

Just imagine your dining table without the delectable fruits of apples, blueberries, cherries and peaches or the versatile almond or pumpkin.

Flowering plants and their associated pollinators are responsible for an estimated one out of every four mouthfuls of food and beverage. Unfortunately pollinators are in perilous decline, reports Sandra Mason, a University of Illinois Extension educator.

Pollinators include butterflies, moths, beetles, hummingbirds, bats, flies and wasps. In North America, 99 percent of pollinators are insects and, of those, most are bees.

"The causes of pollinator decline include a combination of habitat loss, infectious disease, and pesticide misuse; however, the implications ripple through our native areas and crop lands," says Mason. "Not only does pollinator decline affect our food production, but pollinators also sustain plant communities by pollinating native plants that provide food, nesting, and shelter for wildlife.

"Yet gardeners can be a positive influence on pollinator populations and diversity if we all do our part to plant pollinator-friendly gardens," she adds.

A "pollinator-friendly garden is also a people-friendly garden," as we enjoy many of the same plants, Mason noted. "We just need to add a few elements to provide pollinators with food, water, shelter, and a nice place to raise the 'kids,'" she says.

Mason provided a few of the basics for a pollinator-friendly garden.

Food for pollinators is generally provided by flower nectar and pollen; however, some pollinators such as butterflies need specific plants such as milkweeds for monarchs to serve as food for caterpillars. To attract particular pollinators, conduct additional research to determine their needs during each of their life stages.

Good pollinator plants include asters, bee balm, native roses, Joe Pye weed, purple coneflower, great blue lobelia, white indigo, lead plant, blazing stars, beard tongue, bellflowers, hollyhocks, monkshood, snapdragons, sunflowers, foxglove, mints, butterfly weed, goldenrod, larkspur, milkweeds, herbs, and many more "be-utiful" flowers.

When possible choose native plants and not cultivars of native plants. Ornamental changes within cultivated plants may not provide the necessary attributes of a good pollinator flower. Exotic plants such as butterfly bush can provide food for bees and butterflies but cannot sustain the complete life cycle of pollinator insects.

In addition, native plants provide food for a greater diversity of pollinators.

Plant masses of similar flowers and design areas to have flowers blooming all season. Aim for a variety of flowers blooming at once.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8
Add easy-to-grow annual seeds such as zinnia and sunflower to existing perennial flower gardens to support flower diversity.

Convert a section of your lawn to a "Pollinator Pocket," a suggested planting plan developed by Mason, Master Gardeners, and Master Naturalists. Designs are developed for an approximately 5-foot by 5-foot space and include options for a variety of sun, shade and moisture conditions. Check out "Pollinator Pockets" at web.extension.illinois.edu/cfiv/pollinators/ for designs and additional pollinator information.

Allow spaces between masses of flowers to provide shelter from wind and cold. Leave dead stems over the winter to provide shelter and nesting areas.

Limit, or better yet, eliminate pesticide use. Plants tolerate some leaf damage without affecting plant health. Learn to live with some plant damage. Check with your local U of I Extension office for plant problem diagnostics and least toxic options. To find the office nearest you, go to web.extension.illinois.edu/state/index.html.

"If you are worried about luring something into your garden that can sting, keep in mind bees are not bullies looking for a fight," Mason says. "A happy bee is like a gardener in a garden center, focused on each flower."

Source: Sandra Mason, extension educator, horticulture, slmason@illinois.edu.

The experts at Sherwin-Williams offer suggestions for homeowners concerning deck or porch maintenance.

Q: New decks look great. What should homeowners do to keep them looking that way?
A: All wood, especially exterior wood, needs care and maintenance. Protecting your deck from water, moisture and ultraviolet rays will prolong its life.

Q: There are so many exterior deck care products on the market. What should a homeowner look for when picking the best product for the job?
A: The first step in selecting the right coating for your deck or porch is to consider the age and condition of the wood. For newer wood, clear and toned products can prolong the life of your deck without covering up the beauty of the wood's grain. Waterborne semi-transparent and solid stains such as Sherwin-Williams DeckScapes stains are great choices for older woods since they provide the maximum protection and can help conceal surface imperfections or marks. Your local Sherwin-Williams store offers DeckScapes products that can protect and beautify your deck.

Q: What deck cleaning products should you use?
A: Similar to selecting a finishing coat for wood, the type of cleaning product you need will depend on the condition of the wood.

For more information, visit sherwin-williams.com.
PRIVATE SCHOOLS
MAKE THE MOST OUT OF YOUR MAY

INSIDE:

* Education that fosters cultural awakening
* Give your graduation party festive flair
* Plan for a healthy and fit summer
* Find your ideal internship.

Pioneer Press
Experiential and multicultural learning for students

Cultural awareness education programs open eyes, minds and hearts to diverse populations. Young students will have enriching and indelible experiences as well as engaging adventures that deepen not only their lives but also their academic careers.

Columbia College Chicago offers a concentrated three-week college-level program designed for students interested in studying the arts, media and communications subjects: High School Summer Institute (HSSI) or Summer in the City. HSSI is open to students who will have completed their sophomore, junior or senior year of high school in 2015 and who have not yet matriculated to college. It has provided opportunities for thousands of students from diverse backgrounds since 1982. Students have gained insight into the Columbia College Chicago experience, which has helped them explore their creative pursuits and academic goals.

Capable Columbia faculty creates hands-on educational courses that are intended to challenge students, enable them to find their creative voice and help them develop technical skills that will further their academic careers. Students will also have the opportunity to build up their portfolios and exhibit their accomplishments at the HSSI Showcase. The best part: high school students can earn college credit. Credits earned transfer directly to Columbia College Chicago as well as into other participating colleges and universities.

Abbey Road's academic study abroad summer programs, founded by Stanford alumni in 2000 and directed by Dr. Arthur Kian, have been the source of great growth and experience for students. Its professional instructors lead the way and help young students participate in the culture in a very real and applied way. Teens will interact with the locals, visit museums and monuments, eat fresh and local food every day and study the history and culture. Experiential learning in a non-traditional learning environment is the name of the game.

Concordia Language Villages (CLV), a platform that stems from Concordia College — a private liberal arts college that focuses on global education — offers several youth and family programs, including pre-K enrichment opportunities, sleep-away camps (one-to-four weeks) and high school credit programs. Programs are available for school groups and some even to the entire family as well.

"Every year I've gone to the Concordia Language Villages, I've had a remarkable time. I manage to learn so much in the four weeks I am there," says Paige Saskia, 16, a German villager.

CLV sets out to create environments in which learning other languages and studying other cultures in an applied manner becomes necessary to nurture conscientious citizens.

"Concordia Language Villages provides immersion language and culture programs each summer at our summer camps in northern Minnesota," says Carl-Martin Nelson, director of marketing and enrollment. "Students live the language and culture by eating culturally authentic meals, participating in authentic games and learning language from native speakers."

Participants can come to CLV for language immersion programs and delve into a new experience that will allow them to learn through authentic educational programs that use only their chosen language. Languages include Portuguese, Arabic, Korean, French, Russian, Chinese and many more. Fifteen languages are available for every age and level of ability.
Plan a graduation party with panache

Your senior's imminent graduation means that a big celebration is in order. From casual to sophisticated, the below four options are sure to set a memorable backdrop for an extraordinary event that honors your graduate and propels him, her or them into the world with style.

Celebrate in style

“Graduation season is one of our favorites,” says Jodi Fyfe, principal at Paramount Events. “We love seeing families celebrating together and we share in the excitement of the graduate moving on to their next step.”

Paramount Events — experts in the events, wedding and catering space — hosts private parties at its intimate 40-seat catering facility, Smith on Lake. This place is beautiful. Envision high ceilings, inspiring artwork, orb lights, delectable eats and signature drinks full of panache. If you're interested in having more people join the party, turn it into a reception. Smith on Lake can accommodate 75 standing guests. If you decide that an at-home party is ideal for your graduate, Paramount Events can facilitate drop-off catering.

“At Paramount Events, we’re honored to be a part of those special moments and always take the time to create a graduation party that reflects the tastes of the guest of honor and their families,” Fyfe says. “The food is guaranteed to be as memorable as the event itself. Currently, soda bars and donut/candy bars are very popular, as are snack stations featuring build-your-own nachos or our homemade soft pretzels.”

To kick it up a notch, make the festivity an interactive culinary party by using the ample kitchen space at Smith on Lake. Guests will have the opportunity to create and eat their feast and participate in cooking competitions. The events team at Paramount Events will take care of everything from the planning to the celebration to the cleanup, ensuring that the party runs smoothly.

Party in The Loft

A delightful local option is Grillhouse by David Burke in Schaumburg, where James Beard award winner and Bravo Top Chef Master Chef David Burke is serving his twist on the diverse farm-to-table fare. Add elegance and flair to your graduation party at the Grillhouse private space, The Loft. Guests can view a photograph slide show of the graduate, indulge in a delicious meal.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE
and enjoy floor-to-ceiling windows and a private balcony. The talented Grillhouse culinary crew will create a custom menu, with only the best ingredients, ensuring that everyone will have a lovely meal.

"Grillhouse is an ideal venue for parties of every size," says Tom Barone, Grillhouse by David Burke, COO. "And with customizable menus that range from burgers, kid's food and buffets to formal sit-down fare, Grillhouse has something for everyone. Congratulations graduates and we would love to help you celebrate!"

The 7,000 square feet of versatile private space allows you to configure parties into various sizes that accommodate both large and intimate arrangements, from 20-150 seated guests or a cocktail party of 300. The Loft also features The Shaker, a cozy little space that has its own bathroom, shower and balcony. These can be used for multiple purposes including a children's play space or an extra room for guests.

A contemporary vibe
The food at Seven Lions, a modern-day version of the classic clubhouse restaurant, is delicious and exceptional, without veering too far off the path. The contemporary vibe, complete with barn wood covered walls, monochromatic furnishings and gold-gilded crystal chandeliers, creates a truly exquisite environment. Located right across from The Art Institute of Chicago, near Millennium Park and the theater district, Seven Lions is accessible and ideal for a graduation party. "The variety of private dining spaces makes Seven Lions a perfect place for a celebration," says Alpana Singh, Seven Lions proprietor and master sommelier.

"Plus, guests could organize a themed wine tasting or an interactive Wine Tasting 101 experience to make for an engaging and fun party."

Multiple options are available for a private party at Seven Lions. The Blue Room, located on the main floor, seats 12; The Lion's Den, also on the first floor, seats 32; and The Symphony Room, named after the building's previous tenant's musical practice space, which is located down a flight of stairs, seats 100. If you want an alfresco graduation party, you can host your event along Michigan Avenue to offer your partygoers an inimitable space. It seats 80.

Unique celebratory spaces
Finally, check out Soho House Chicago, a hotel and private member's club with plenty of public areas, located in the bustling Fulton Market District. For unique graduation celebratory spaces, Soho House Chicago offers Pizza East, Chicken Shop, The Allis, The Belt Room and Cowshed Spa.

Pizza East serves traditional flavorsome pizzas made in a wood-burning oven. The open floor plan provides diners with a view of the kitchen and the sidewalk patio offers remarkable alfresco dining for 28. Chicken Shop serves delectable free-range chicken fare in a casual setting. The Allis offers afternoon tea, fresh juices, light meals, pastries and the best bread around. The Belt Room, located on the fourth floor, is available for swanky private parties, seats 60 for dinner or 100 for cocktails. If you have a small group gathered to celebrate your graduation, visit the Cowshed Spa for facials, manicures or even a hot shave from the barber.

Now, go celebrate graduation with bravura.
Breathe and engage: summer health and fitness

Warmer weather usually means more time being active, engaging in the community and enjoying the sunshine. School fitness programs and sports, as well as local organizations, promote healthy lifestyles that enrich the overall summer experience as well.

Educators lead the pack

Getting tips on health and fitness from educators is a no-brainer. School methodology has long included physical education, recess and access to sports as an extension of academic programs. At Lake Forest Country Day School (LFCDS), educators believe in physical fitness so much that they’ve implemented no-cut sports programs. LFCDS encourages all of its students to continue physical activity during the summer.

“The benefits of sustained physical activity are scientifically proven, and we want to make sure our students have the opportunity to gain the essential life skills and healthy habits that sports provide,” says Andy Sperling, head of upper school at LFCDS.

Ted Stewart, athletic director at LFCDS, says that New Vision Athletics and Finish Strong Athletics will host programming this summer that encourage children to diminish screen time and increase outdoor play.

“Creating opportunities for unscheduled free play allows children to develop physical, emotional and mental acuity,” Stewart says.

At St. Celestine School in Elmwood Park, gym classes include programming developed for specific age groups. Participants learn the fundamentals of sports. Moreover, they develop strong, healthy and disciplined minds and bodies as well as a sense of good sportsmanship, fair play and team spirit.

“Our school includes a cardiovascular program, Project Fit, where students do particular exercises to improve their heart health,” says Maria Gedroc-Malo, director of development at St. Celestine School. “This program has shown significant growth of cardiovascular fitness in our students through tracked data.”

Schools are great initiators of community involvement and family fitness. St. Celestine School organizes an all-school walk/run-a-thon, a nine-day exercise program for students. The school also promotes wholesome living through its community fitness and nutrition fair where it invites local businesses and health and nutrition experts into the school for a family fun-day. St. Celestine School’s scout groups are also staunch supporters of fitness and an active lifestyle, which continues throughout the summer.

“The school is very proud to have our students supporting our local community and their sports programs over the summer,” Gedroc-Malo says. “We realize that fitness and exercise education needs to go beyond our schools and into our homes.”

What do Google, Amazon, and Wikipedia have in common?

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Summer internships: More than just a resume-builder

Students that capitalize on the free time in the summer will be ahead of the game come fall.

They will gain unprecedented real-world experience by advancing their academic careers through summer internships. Moreover, they might receive credit towards a degree and memories that will last a lifetime. Internships help students develop contacts and resources that might prove valuable post-graduation.

Northwestern University has many summer internships and research opportunities that enable students to apply their classroom knowledge to the workforce. Experiential education at Northwestern spans to every school at the university. Susan Fox, director of the University Academic Advising Center, said that in addition to the outside internships listed on the website, Northwestern offers Civic Engagement Program, Chicago Field Studies and Engage Chicago.

“Engage Chicago” gave me a rare opportunity to put my intellectual progress in perspective by judging it against the real world,” says Matthew Walsh, student and Internship participant. “It also gave my academic studies a significance, which they hadn’t had before.”

“This was the single best summer experience I have had in my life,” says Jesse Gainsburg, an additional student and Internship participant. “Nothing could have reaffirmed my desire to work in the nonprofit sector more than participating in Engage Chicago.”

Summer is a competitive time to participate in an internship. Students at Northwestern can develop relationships with employer partners, which create meaningful experiences for all those involved.

Northwestern’s Chicago Field Studies program guides students in their development through a series of courses and practical skills. Classes in health, civic engagement, humanities, social justice, business or legal field studies are paired with a 15-40 hour-per-week internship.

“They learn about issues in the workplace, contribute to an organization’s needs and reflect critically on those experiences,” says Karen A. Allen, associate director of Chicago Field Studies at Northwestern University. “Students make a difference and the experiences that students gain provide valuable skills for a lifetime.”

Undergraduate research opportunities offer students with the chance to take

the lead in their education, follow their passions, learn and explore.

“We hope that students learn that research is about the process — things rarely go according to plan — and how you deal with it determines how successful you will be in the project (and in life),” says Dr. Peter Civetta, director of Undergraduate Research at Northwestern University. “Undergraduate research is about preparing students for what life is like on the outside of academia, where there are huge, complex, messy problems that need their creativity, intelligence, and dedication.”

Loyola University’s Center for Experiential Learning gives students resources, support and information as well as connects them to community agencies and professional organizations. Undergrad students can take advantage of the summer months through academic internships, service learning and undergraduate research.

“Students have a unique opportunity to apply their learning by engaging in research and internships over the summer, when their schedules are different,” says Dr. Patrick Green, director of Loyola University Chicago’s Center for Experiential Learning. “Not only do these high-impact experiences deepen their learning, they build skills that transfer to future opportunities such as employment and graduate school.”

The Loyola Undergraduate Research Opportunities Program offers 18 different funded fellowships for undergraduate research. Students conduct original research and work in labs, research groups or out in the community.

“This research opportunity helped shape my future plans for graduate school,” says Melissa Orozco, a senior psychology major who received a Provost Fellowship for undergraduate research award. “The experience exemplifies the transformative education that Loyola stands for, where people are prepared to better understand the world through research and better understand themselves through self-reflection.”

Loyola’s Academic Internship Program connects students to placement courses and occupations. While working on an internship, students also enroll in a class, which leverages the students’ experience in a professional setting with their course of study.

“I interned as an Olympic Rugby Ambassador for USA Rugby and the Illinois Youth Rugby Association,” says Tim Schultz, a senior political science major. “We traveled to 55 schools in the Chicago area, teaching and coaching rugby. I also took a class through Loyola’s Center for Experiential Learning that allowed me to reflect on my experience.”

Lake Forest College helps students to obtain summer internships — in business, communication, social services, sciences, government, arts and more — through a database with hundreds of opportunities. They also teach students networking skills to strengthen their understanding of their chosen field. Through a designated team of faculty and career advisors, students navigate the workplace and connect their academic experiences to the summer internship.

“Students have a unique opportunity to apply their learning by engaging in research and internships over the summer, when their schedules are different,” says Bill Padjen at bpadjen@tribpub.com

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Kevin's siblings, (from left) Elise, Kelran, Owen and Rory look on as Kelran reads a thank you letter to everyone written by Kevin.

Members of Team Moore are, (back row, from left), Rob St. John of Northbrook, Athletic Director at Ridgewood High School, Fiona Tanny and Elizabeth Ringelstein of Norridge, Jack Coulter of Galena and Colette Scalaletta of Harwood Heights; front row from left, Mary Murray, Deirdre Kenny, Marla Carlingella, Lou Mezzano and Tom Lorscheider, all of Norridge.

Want to see your event in Trend? Debbie Hoppe, Trend editorial assistant, will send you guidelines. Email her at dhoppe@pioneerlocal.com.
The rules of love and jewelry

When I asked my friend Claudia Bongiovanni why she thinks women love jewelry so much, the veteran jeweler, gemologist and owner of Glenview's Raphael Jewelers replied jokingly, "That's like asking why women love shoes or clothes!"

Bongiovanni's serious answer was, "Jewelry is a significant gift. It's something a woman knows she will have forever, and it signifies a long-term commitment on a man's part."

In my opinion, most men are clueless when it comes to jewelry (no offense). So, if a man goes into a jewelry store to buy his wife or girlfriend a gift, he usually relies on what the salesperson tells him "she will love," or "what's really popular right now?"

I asked Bongiovanni if there were some good guidelines or "rules" to jewelry buying, in hopes to provide readers with tips on what items to focus on for certain occasions, what gems and pieces are significant at certain times, and of course, price. These rules aren't set in stone (no pun intended) but they just might come in handy.

Engagement rings

- Diamonds really are a girl's best friend when she is getting engaged. The trend right now: round brilliance and/or cushion cut diamond settings.
- Guys, the stone should be set in white gold or platinum. Gold is NOT IN. Don't let the jeweler talk you into it.
- Wedding bands: if the engagement ring has a

Anniversaries

- According to Bongiovanni, significant anniversaries where jewelry might be a suitable include: one year, 5 year, 10 year, 20 year and 25 year. I say if you're fortunate to make it past 25, every year should be jewelry year!
- Whether in a ring, bracelet, necklace or earrings, yellow diamonds are a popular choice for anniversary gifts because they symbolize renewal, hope, prosperity and joy.
- A big anniversary is a good opportunity to upgrade an original engagement ring, with either a new setting that includes other stones, or by purchasing a new ring and using the old stone as a pendant for a diamond necklace.

Mom gifts

A woman goes through a pregnancy for nine months. She then pushes out the baby, which in and of itself isn't very fun, in my opinion. Upon realizing she then has several pounds to lose (in my case, 50), she must then spend the first 8 weeks of the baby's life waking up several times during the night to feed and change him or her. I would say she deserves a nice piece of jewelry, wouldn't you?

Bongiovanni recommends pulling together the child's and mom's birthstones into a meaningful piece, or engraved initials are also meaningful. Engraved initials are also very meaningful. Charm bracelets are popular, also birthstone colored stack rings.

Congratulations, birthday, thank you, or just because gifts

- These occasions are a good opportunity to buy her something trendy or unique. A statement ring or hand ring is always appreciated. Looking at magazines is a great way to figure out what's "in."
- You can't go wrong with staple pieces that can be mixed and matched and that are timeless. These include: a diamond necklace pendant, pearls, a tennis bracelet, a long chain. Or, what women wouldn't want diamond stud earrings?

In closing, here is a tip for ladies. If you are looking for a really great gift for your guy, there is nothing more attractive than a nice watch.

Just as women enjoy multiple shoes or handbags, many men like to have a collection of watches, said Bongiovanni. "A nice watch makes a statement, and it makes a man feel confident."

Bongiovanni's favorite watch designer is Maurice Lacroix.

Mine: a Rolex, of course.

Jackie Pilosoff is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

What do you do when online vendor doesn't deliver?

Dear Help Squad,

I've been persistent, but to no avail, so here I am. On Sept. 1, 2010, I ordered four oversized photo albums and four matching slipcases from Century Photo for $88.11. I tried and tried to get the order delivered. Finally, on Sept. 22, 2011, I filed a complaint with the Better Business Bureau. The BBB sent the company two letters, received no response and closed my file on Oct. 24, 2011. After a few more calls to Century Photo, I finally gave up.

Then on Jan. 6, 2014, I received a catalog from another company. Woo-hoo! They had the albums I needed. I called and placed my order and was told that the new company, Archival Albums & Photo Pages, took over the other company, Century Photo. In addition to my new order, I would also receive the albums I ordered in 2010! Unfortunately this was not the case. Phone calls, online chats, emails and call-backs all resulted in promises but no deliveries. One time I was even given a tracking number, but UPS had no matching number in its system. UPS told me there was another business at the same address, called Plastic Retail Displays LLC, but it no longer had a UPS account. On Feb. 17, 2013, I mailed the BBB in California (where the company is located) to submit a complaint against Plastic Retail Displays LLC.

I called the company last night and was on hold for two and a half hours. I finally called from another phone and the recording said I'd called after business hours, call back! How can they still be selling anything?

Century/Archival/Plastic (whatever they're called now) owes me $242.55: $164.16 from Jan. 6, 2014 and $88.39 from Sept. 1, 2010. At this point, I just want my money back. I have 36 documented instances since Jan. 6, 2014 of trying to clear this up. Hopefully you will solve this one before a lot more people are scammed out of their money. Thanks for considering this challenge.

Kay, Yorkville

Help Squad first called the phone and fax numbers listed on Archival's website. The phone disconnected before ringing, the fax consistently rang busy. We then contacted the Chicago & Northern Illinois Better Business Bureau to see what assistance they could offer. Tom Joyce, vice president of marketing and public relations stated, "The current report on Archival Albums & Photo Pages, which was developed by the BBB of San Diego, shows a letter grade of F with 255 complaints received within the past 12 months, 201 of which involved delivery issues." He continued, "Consumer complaints also allege difficulty reaching the company to obtain a refund or receive missing items." When we asked what recourse Kay might have, Tom advised, "[Kay] can get legal advice and possibly file a claim court with an attorney."

It was at this point Help Squad asked Kay if she had contacted her credit card company to request a chargeback for undelivered goods. She said she had not and went to work locating the relevant statements. The September 2010 payment was charged to her Chase Visa card, the January 2014 charge appeared on her Discover card. Kay and Help Squad reached out to each of the credit card companies. What we learned was the following.

Chase: One day after inquirig, Chase spokesperson Paul Hartwick informed Help Squad, "We are able to process a chargeback even if a company goes out of business or ceases to exist. To process chargebacks, Chase needs to follow the payment network's (Visa/MasterCard) rules. Visa's rules state that a chargeback must not exceed 18 months from when the charge took place." Unfortunately Kay's charge was more than four years ago, and as such was no longer eligible for dispute.

Discover: After three weeks of Help Squad inquiry and Discover investigation, we received the following from spokesperson Abbe Kalina. "Discover is completing an investigation into the transaction that the merchant processed on [Kay's] account for $164.16 on January 6, 2014, and her claim that two weeks ago she received no response. We cannot speculate on a result prior to the completion of an investigation."

Abbe additionally stated, "Customers may request to dispute a transaction at any time by calling, sending a letter, fax, email, or secure message via Discover.com. Help Squad learned, per Discover's website, that "To reach the best [dispute] resolution possible, a customer should contact us no more than 120 days after a transaction posts. However, Discover Card does not impose a time limit. Kay did not receive her goods and her dispute falls within the recommended timeline. As a result, her chargeback odds currently look promising."

For now, Kay has received a temporary credit to her account as well as a new Discover card. Within the next two weeks, she will learn if the credit is permanent. Help Squad will keep you posted as we hear more.

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Helpsquad@pioneerlocal.com
First step on allergies: Clean up the indoor atmosphere

By Megy Karydes
Tribune Newspapers

Allergic rhinitis, also known as hay fever, is the fifth most common disease in the U.S. "Hay fever" is a term I think most people use for seasonal pollen allergies (tree, grass, weed pollen)," said Dr. Sheila Y. Lin, associate professor in the Department of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. "People can also be allergic to pet dander, dust mite, cockroach and mold."

"When you inhale something you're allergic to, the inside lining of your nose becomes inflamed, resulting in congestion, runny nose, sneezing or itching," she explained. Because allergies are so common throughout the year and especially during high pollen counts, doctors in a wide range of fields treat them and use a host of options, from over-the-counter medications to eliminating prepared foods altogether and taking additional steps to help them manage symptoms.

"Neither allergies nor asthma is a normal condition," Dr. James Sublett, an allergist-immunologist in Louisville, Ky., and president of the American College of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology (acaai.org), said identifying and avoiding triggers as much as possible is key. While most people think about external environmental factors such as seasonal plant pollen as the biggest culprit of seasonal allergies, he said, indoor air quality needs to be considered in overall allergy management.

Sublett recommends several ways allergy sufferers can improve their indoor air quality.

- No smoking inside the home at any time.
- Leave the furnace/air-conditioner fan on to create a "whirlpool" air filtration to remove particles that may trigger allergies and asthma, and schedule heating and air-conditioning unit inspections and servicing every six months. Change the filter often.
- In the bedroom, where we spend most of our uninterrupted time, keep pets out at all times and remove wall-to-wall carpeting. If possible. In fact, Sublett recommends removing wall-to-wall carpeting throughout the house.

"Use a HEPA air cleaner in the bedroom with an adequate CADR (Clean Air Delivery Rate) for the size of the room," he added. "Encase mattresses and pillows with 'mite-proof' covers; wash all bed linens regularly, using hot water.

- Keep indoor humidity below 50 percent. "Do not use vaporizers or humidifiers," he advised. "You may need a dehumidifier. Use vent fans in the bathrooms and when cooking to remove moisture."

- Use a vacuum with a HEPA filter, and remember that it takes more than two hours for dust to settle down after vacuuming.

As for medical intervention, new guidelines published earlier this year by the American Academy of Otolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Foundation (entnet.org) suggest that acupuncture can be effective for some patients who suffer from allergic rhinitis, according to Lin.

Over-the-counter medications can provide relief for some patients, while others will require prescription medications. The new guidelines recommend topical steroids, or nasal steroid sprays, for patients whose symptoms hinder their quality of life, and second-generation and less-sedating antihistamines for those patients whose main complaint is sneezing and itching.

Sublett recommends that patients suffering from seasonal allergies schedule an appointment with a trained, board-certified physician who specializes in allergies or asthma to identify their triggers and implement steps to help them minimize symptoms.

"Neither allergies nor asthma should restrict a person from a normal active life," Sublett said. "Find relief; see an allergist."

The American Academy of Allergy, Asthma & Immunology also provides pollen and mold data online and via a mobile pollen app (pollen.aaaai.org).

Karydes is a freelance reporter.

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PEOPLE'S PHARMACY PRESCRIPTIONS AND HOME REMEDIES

How low should sodium go?

By Joe Graedon and Teresa Graedon
King Features Syndicate

Q: I was feeling awful for several weeks and went to see my doctor. He had no idea why I felt so terrible.

Eventually, I went to the emergency room. There I was put through a lot of tests. The doctor found I was low in sodium and said I should add salt to my diet. I was surprised and said my primary-care doctor had told me to restrict my salt intake to help control my high blood pressure.

I followed the ER doctor's advice and started putting salt in my food. Before long, I felt better. Am I making my hypertension worse?

A: Most doctors suggest cutting salt to reduce blood pressure and the risk of stroke or heart attack. The American Heart Association recommends that patients suffering from hypertension should "reduce the amount of sodium in their diet to less than 1,500 mg a day."

That target is challenging and would require eliminating prepared foods as well as the water. But it may be extreme. An analysis of research in the American Journal of Hypertension (September 2014) found both very low salt consumption and very high sodium intake associated with an increased risk of mortality.

When sodium levels fall too low, the condition is called hyponatremia. Symptoms may include fatigue, lethargy, confusion, nausea, headache and memory problems, as well as muscle cramps, weakness or spasms.

Diuretics, certain blood-pressure medications, acid-suppressing drugs, some antidepressants and seizure medications may increase the risk for this serious problem, so sodium levels should be measured periodically. You will need to monitor your blood pressure to tell whether adding salt to food has a negative impact.

Q: I am taking ginseng/raisins for arthritis in my right hand, and it is working really well. Is there any interaction with my meds: hydrochlorothiazide, simvastatin, terazosin and finasteride?

A: I have been doing the gin/raisins for a month or two, and the relief has been fabulous.

Q: I read a lot about the dangers of high blood pressure, but mine is abnormally low. Is that a problem?

A: If your blood pressure is naturally low, there may be no problem, especially if you don't have symptoms like dizziness or lightheadedness.

People with cognitive dysfunction who take blood-pressure medicine are at higher risk for dementia if their treatment blood pressure goes too low, with systolic pressure under 128 (JAMA Internal Medicine online, March 2, 2015).

In a related commentary, Dutch gerontologists suggest that the old idea that lower is always better is more about this raisin remedy may be interested in our Guide to Alternatives for Arthritis. To get a copy, please send $3 by check or money order with a long (No. 10) stamped (70 cents), self-addressed envelope to: Graedons' People's Pharmacy, No. AA-2, P.O. Box 52027, Durham, NC 27717-2027. It also can be downloaded for $2 from our website: peoplespharmacy.com.

In their column, Joe and Teresa Graedon answer letters from readers. Send questions to them via peoplespharmacy.com.
Reezy-peezy is a funny name for a restaurant dish. Visiting Paul Fehribach's Big Jones restaurant a few years ago, we ordered the reezy-peezy because we liked the sing-songy sound of it.

In his just-published “The Big Jones Cookbook” (University of Chicago Press, $30), Fehribach explains that reezy-peezy - a combination of broken rice, Sea Island peas and seasonings - is a “slave-kitchen staple, an ancestral dish of the more familiar Hoppin’ John.”

As Fehribach recounts, reezy-peezy was the recipe “that first captured my imagination and led me down the path of historically dated dishes on the menu.”

If you’ve ever been to one of Fehribach’s historically themed dinners at his restaurant in Chicago, you know that for him context is almost as important as taste.

Through the foods of the American South, he explains, “we can connect with this history and geography through the achingly powerful senses of smell and taste.”

Reezy-peezy is just one of many colorfully named dishes. Fehribach covers the book, including gumbo ya-ya, sawmill gravy and voodoo greens.

Fehribach takes a scholarly approach to the kitchen, explaining how to prepare traditional Southern dishes, usually with reference to the history behind them. Many recipes are grouped by specific geographic regions of the South, including the low country, South Louisiana, Appalachian Highlands, delta and Deep South, as well as Fehribach’s home region, Kentuckiana.

For those who may be a little vague on such fine geographic distinctions, Kentuckiana covers portions of Kentucky and Indiana, basically the area around Louisville.

This kind of regional division is important, said Fehribach in an interview.

“(Although) lifelong Southerners will already get it, most Northerners don’t,” Fehribach said. “To a lot of them, the South is just this big piece of land over there where people eat fried chicken and biscuits. ... As much as Big Jones has had to tilt against that head wind to establish ourselves in a Northern city, here the message is loud and clear: Southern cuisine is very broadly regional, sophisticated, and its emerging reputation as one of the world’s great cuisines is deserved and overdue.”

Fehribach explained he wrote the book to put “our recipes into the hands of customers who were asking for them ... to tell the story behind Big Jones ... to inspire people to cook at home more often and more ambitiously ... and to serve homesick Southerners while educating our largely Yankee clientele on the many regional nuances of Southern cooking.”

Much as Rick Bayless has done for Mexican food, so Fehribach has done for Southern culinary traditions, excavating old recipes, researching the foodways that surrounded them and seeking out hard-to-find ingredients, some of which seem exotic though they once grew abundantly.

We asked Fehribach why it’s important to learn traditional recipes based on regionally sourced ingredients.

“We can see now in California how our industrial food strategy is actually a threat to our nation’s food security, with less than a year’s worth of groundwater left and agricultural chemicals concentrating in what’s left,” he said. “Every region and community should have a diversity of farms and a culture that includes local foodways.”

Local greens are at “their absolute peak” in early summer when leaves are tender and their flavor fresh and clean. In our home kitchen, we prepared voodoo greens for their seasonality and simplicity. Many of the recipes in Fehribach’s book are more sophisticated.

About the name, voodoo greens: “This is one of those quintessentially Southern mysteries,” Fehribach said, “although my understanding is that it comes out of the Afro-Caribbean subculture of New Orleans, which had a steady stream of Haitian immigrants for years.”

Hammond is a freelance writer.
The cooling effect

BY LISA FUTTERMAN
Tribune Newspapers

Next time you order a margarita, repeat after me — “Pepino margarita, please.”

Pepino is the Spanish word for “cucumber.” The humble vegetable, with its cooling properties, makes a fresh riff on the classic cocktail and has been popping up at restaurants like Bar Takito in Chicago.

Partner and general manager Adam Weber says, “The demand has always been crazy. We put it on the spring cocktail menu when we opened Takito Kitchen, and it has been our No. 1 seller, even in winter, so we keep it on year-round.”

Weber uses fresh, premium ingredients to craft his drinks, including fruit and vegetable juices; agave syrup instead of sugar for depth of flavor; and Cointreau, a premium version of triple sec, made from the peacheen, a premium version of triple sec, made from the peaches peacheen, a premium version of triple sec, made from the peaches peacheen, a premium version of triple sec, made from the peachs.

Variations on this refreshing cocktail are limited only by one’s imagination.

- Infuse hot peppers into your tequila. The chilies’ essential oils release beautifully into alcohol for a real kick, while the cooling nature of the cucumber will refresh the palate.
- Celebrate the fact that watermelons and cucumbers are both members of the Cucurbitaceae family of gourds. Substitute watermelon puree (hold the peel) for cucumber, and a refreshing pink margarita will appear.
- Use cucumber vodka (Effen and Crop Harvest Earth make good ones, or you can infuse your own) instead of tequila to create a cucumber kamikaze.
- Add pineapple juice for a pina pepino. Because who doesn’t want to say, “May I please have another pina pepino?”
- Create a traditional (and nonalcoholic) cucumber agua fresca by combining cucumber puree (see recipe) with fresh lime juice, agave syrup and water to taste. Prepare a large ice jug-full for your next fiesta, garnish with sliced limes and cucumbers.

Futterman is a freelance reporter.

Cucumber margarita

Makes: 1 cocktail
From Bar Takito.

1 1/2 ounces blanco tequila
1 ounce fresh cucumber puree, see recipe
1 ounce strained, freshly squeezed lime juice
3/4 ounce agave syrup
1/2 ounce Cointreau

Combine all ingredients over ice in a cocktail shaker; shake vigorously until well chilled. Strain into a spicy salt-rimmed glass (see below) over fresh ice. Garnish with a cucumber slice and serve at once.

Fresh cucumber puree: Partially peel 1 English cucumber. (The skin provides the green color.) Puree in a blender with a pinch of kosher salt; strain.

Spicy salt rim: The team at Bar Takito dehydrates leftover lime juice and mixes the powder with salt and spices. We recommend substituting Tajin, a salt-lime-chili mix available at Latin American groceries.

Grilled shrimp skewers get spicy spin and salsa pairing

BY DIANE ROSSEN WORTHINGTON
Tribune Content Agency

This grilled recipe never goes out of style. The Mexican flavors of cumin, lime, tequila and chipotle hot sauce give the shrimp a spicy spin for Cinco de Mayo or other cookouts.

Make sure to use 13- to 15-per-pound count shrimp that have been peeled and deveined with the tail left on. (This makes a pretty presentation, and they also fit nicely on skewers.)

You can buy the shrimp with the shell on and follow the recipe; but make sure to have a bowl for the shells and plenty of napkins because it is a bit messy. Shrimp is best when cooked until just opaque. A good way to tell when they are cooked is when the shrimp become bright orange on both sides.

Skewers have changed in the past few years. Flat skewers make all the difference because they won’t turn the food, which makes it easier to cook everything evenly. Make sure to soak them for an hour before using. Look for bamboo or stainless steel skewers 9 or 10 inches long.

Serve some rice, black beans or corn on the cob as a side dish. Choose your favorite beer or a big batch of margaritas to get the party going.

Mexican shrimp skewers with mango avocado salsa

Prep: 40 minutes  Cook: 8 minutes  Makes: 6-8 servings

3 pounds peeled, deveined large shrimp
1/4 cup fresh lime juice
1/4 cup blanco tequila
2 medium cloves garlic, minced
2 medium shallots, finely chopped
2 teaspoons cumin
1/2 teaspoon chipotle hot sauce
Salt and freshy ground black pepper
1/3 cup olive oil
Lime wedges
Mango avocado salsa, see recipe

1 Thread the shrimp on skewers (3 to 4 per skewer). Lay in a shallow, nonaluminum dish.

2 For the marinade, whisk together the lime juice, tequila, garlic, shallots, cumin, hot sauce, and salt and pepper to taste. Slowly add the olive oil, whisking until combined. Taste for seasoning. Pour over the shrimp, marinate, refrigerated, at least 30 minutes and up to 4 hours.

3 Grill the shrimp over medium-high heat, 3-4 minutes per side. Remove shrimp from the skewers. Serve, garnished with the sliced limes and with the salsa on the side.

Mango avocado salsa: In a bowl, combine 1 mango, peeled, seeded, diced; 1 large ripe avocado, peeled, diced; 1 jalapeno, seeded, finely chopped; 1 shallot, finely chopped; 2 tablespoons finely chopped mint; 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice; and salt to taste.
Sample spring: A guide to area farmers markets

BY ELIZABETH SCHIELE
Tribune Newspapers

Some 150 farmers markets — at least seven of them new this year — will bring the bounty of Illinois, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan to Chicago and suburban shoppers hungry for just-picked fresh produce after a record-setting cold winter. Relief is here. The farmers market season has begun, with several markets already opening, more opening this weekend and the majority coming in the next few weeks.

Suburban markets

Listed alphabetically by town name. If your community is not listed, call the chamber of commerce, city hall or park district to find out what markets may be available.

Des Plaines: Ellinwood Street, between Pearson and Lee streets, 3 p.m.-7 p.m. Fridays, June 19-Oct. 16.

Evanston: Downtown Evanston Farmers Market, University Place and Oak Avenue, 7:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays, May 9-Nov. 7; West End Ethnic Market, Evanston High School parking lot, Church Street and Dodge Avenue, 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays, dates to be determined; Ridgeville Market, Ridge Avenue and South Boulevard, 3:30-7 p.m. Wednesdays, June 3-Oct. 7; McGaw YMCA Market, 1000 Grove St., 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Wednesdays, dates to be determined.

Glencoe: Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Sundays, May 3, 17, June 7, 21, July 5, 19, Aug. 2, 16, Sept. 6, 20; dates to be determined.

Morton Grove: 6210 Dempster St, 8 a.m.-noon Saturdays, June 6-Oct 17 (no market July 4).

Glenview: Wagner Farm, Wagner Road and Lake Avenue, 8 a.m.-noon Saturdays, June 27-Oct. 10.

Mount Prospect: Metra lot, Northwest Highway and Route 83, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays, June 7-Oct. 18.

Park Ridge: 15 Prairie Ave., south of Metra station, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays, May 23-Oct. 31.

Skokie: Village Hall, 5127 Oakton St., 7:30 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Sundays, June 14-Oct. 25.

Wilmette French Market: Downtown Metra parking lot, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturdays through Nov. 7.

City Markets

For more information, call the Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events, 312-744-3316, or go to www.chicagofarmersmarkets.us.

Sunday

Galewood-North Avenue: 6700 W. North Ave., 9 a.m.-2 p.m. Sundays, June 7-Oct. 11.

Glenwood: 6950 N. Morse Ave., between Morse and Lunt avenues, 9 a.m.-2 p.m. June 7-Oct. 25.

Jefferson Park: Jefferson Park Field House, 4800 N. Long Ave., 9:30 a.m.-1 p.m. p.m., June 14, 28; July 12, 26; Aug. 9, 23; Sept. 13, 27; Oct. 11, 25.

Logan Square: 3107 W. Logan Blvd., 10 a.m.-3 p.m. May 17-Oct. 25.

Portage Park: Berteau and Central avenues, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. June 7-Oct. 4.

Wicker Park/Bucktown: 1425 N. Damen Ave., 8 a.m.-2 p.m. June 14-Oct. 25.

Monday

Loyola: Loyola Plaza, 6540-50 N. Sheridan Road, 3-7 p.m. Mondays, June 8-Sept. 21; 2:30-6:30 p.m. Sept. 28-Oct. 12.

Tuesday

Federal Plaza: Adams Street and Dearborn Parkway, 7 a.m.-3 p.m. May 19-Oct. 27.

Lincoln Square: Parking lot at Western CTA Brown Line station, 7 a.m.-1 p.m. June 2-Oct. 27.

Museum of Contemporary Art/Streeterville SOAR market: Museum plaza, 220 E. Chicago Ave., 7 a.m.-2 p.m. June 2-Oct. 27.

Wednesday

Andersonville: 1500 block of Berwyn Avenue between Clark Street and Ashland Avenue, 3-8 p.m. May 20-Sept. 9; 3-7 p.m. Sept. 16-Oct. 14.
Smylie Brothers Brewing hosts Craft Beer Week event

BY TOM WITOM
Pioneer Press

Smylie Brothers Brewing Co. in Evanston is poised to roll out the welcome mat to three fellow microbreweries in town on May 21, as part of this year's Chicago Craft Beer Week, May 14-24.

On that day, besides showcasing four of its mainstay beers, Smylie Brothers also will open its guest taps to brewery/taproom Temperance Brewing, 2000 Dempster St, TemperanceBeer.com; brewery/restaurant Peckish Pig, 623 Howard St, ThePeckishPig.com; and Sketchbook Brewery, 825 Chicago Ave, SketchbookBrewing.com.

The public event is designed to highlight the recent explosive growth of the craft beer movement and draw attention to its presence in a town once a bastion of the Temperance Movement, one that remained dry until the early 1970s.

"Everybody's beer is different and has something unique to offer," said Jen Peterson, Smylie Brothers' marketing manager. The rapid growth of craft brewing parallels how consumer palates have become more sophisticated as they branch out to try not only new beers but wines as well, she adds. "People love local — and as Evanston's brewpubs expand, they want to support them."

The other Craft Beer Week-related event Smylie Brothers will host is a Brothers Brunch, partnering with Warrenville's Two Brothers Brewing Company from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. May 17 for a buffet-style brunch paired with beers from Smylie Brothers and Two Brothers. Tickets cost $65. Two Brothers Brewing Company's Sarah Rempala and our Smylie Brothers' Head Brewer Brad Pulver will be on hand to discuss the pairings.

Founded in June 2014 by Mike Smylie and his four brothers, Smylie Brothers has a 10-barrel capacity, equivalent to 31 gallons per barrel and is focused on keeping up with demand, said Pulver.

“We're maxed out with fermenter space and serving tanks,” Pulver noted. All of its product is sold to customers in refillable take-home growlers or consumed on the premises, which includes a restaurant known for comfort food dishes including barbecue, brisket and pizza.

Pulver said Smylie's Pale Ale, Farmhouse, Cali Common, Blood Orange Dunkelweiss and, most likely, Irish Red Rye, will be featured during the Evanston Tap Takeover event. "It's a non-competitive event to celebrate handcrafted beer, and we're leaving it up to the participating brewers [none of which is older than three years] to select the best examples of what they produce," he said.

Discussing the steady growth in the industry, Pulver observed: "I honestly don't know that there can be too many microbreweries. Right now we are on track to reaching pre-Prohibition levels. In the past, every community of size had its own local brewery to supply the region."
Kayaks and canoes take off for Des Plaines River

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

It's been decades since Jack Snarr paddled a kayak from his home in Evanston to his downtown job to train for the Des Plaines River Canoe Marathon, but he's still an enthusiastic supporter of the event. This year, Snarr is co-chairman with Al Pilgrim of the 58th Annual race, now known as the Des Plaines River Canoe and Kayak Marathon.

Snarr has a lot of company in his involvement with the event. Some 450 canoes and kayaks are expected to traverse the 18.5-mile course, on Sunday, May 17. The course begins at Oak Springs Road in Libertyville (the road is one way west on race day, so enter from St. Mary's Road) and ends at Dam No. 2 (Kensington Road) in Prospect Heights.

"About five years ago we changed the name of the event because kayaks have become much more popular," Snarr said. Both one-person and two-person kayaks race in the event.

There are a variety of classes in the race including the No Contest Class. "There aren't awards given," Snarr explained. "We do give people a time so they can compare their performance from one year to the next."

Boats are launched in heats every two minutes with eight boats to a heat. It's quite a challenge for the organizers. "Every 15 seconds, you've got to get another boat in the water and somehow line up," Snarr noted with a laugh.

There have been a couple of additions in the last few years. "In 2007, for the first time, we had a standup paddleboard," Snarr reported. They are expecting 10 paddleboarders to compete this year.

Another recent change is a 5.25 mile Minithon option. The Minithon begins along the east bank of the river in Potawatomie Woods, north of Dundee Road in Wheeling. Participants will be started at intervals between 10:30 a.m. and noon.

Snarr competed in the race in the early '70s. "My job responsibilities changed in '75 and I didn't have the time to devote to training," he said. "When I retired 11 years ago, I started to get more involved in it again and was chairman for several years and then became co-chairman for the last three or four years."

Snarr said that the fastest competitors are usually two people in a kayak. "They will come in very close to two hours," he said. The slowest competitors can take six hours.

Once the race is over, the partying begins. "We have two food trucks and an ice cream truck," Snarr said. "Some canoe clubs will have displays. There's a band playing and a lot of people around."

Every competitor receives a participation patch. The first place team members each get a trophy. Second and third place winners receive a cloth medallion.

"All of this contributes to the festivity at the finish," Snarr said.
Japanese culture comes alive at Botanic Garden

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Kids will learn about the culture and customs of Japan at the Malott Japanese Garden Children's Festival, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, May 16 and Sunday, May 17 at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe.

“We are bringing back our beloved performers,” said Director of Education Eileen Prendergast. “Michael Gould will be doing shakuhachi flute. Chicago Koto Group is coming to do a koto harp performance. One of the things that's really exciting is that there's going to be a 6-year-old girl performing with the Chicago Koto Group.”

Also returning this year is storyteller Anne Shimojima and members of the Urasenke Chicago Association to do a tea ceremony.

Kids can cook

...with the help of an adult at Campfire Cookout, 11 a.m.-12:45 p.m. Saturday, May 23 at Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie. Families will make a three-course lunch over a campfire. All food and equipment will be provided. Cost is $8 per person for residents; $10 for nonresidents. Reservations are required.

For details, call (847) 674-1500, ext. 2500 or go to www.skokieparks.org/emily-oaks-nature-center.

Pause on paws?

A feline who likes to dance is featured in “Ballet Cat: The Totally Secret Secret,” the picture book of the month. 11 a.m. Saturday, May 16 at Barnes and Noble, 55 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. Kids will hear the story about friendship and do a related activity.

For details, call (847) 676-2230 or go to www.barnesandnoble.com.

Join the crew

Your family can make a difference at the Des Plaines River Clean Up, 4-5:30 p.m. Tuesday, May 19. Group will meet at the Maine Park Leisure Center flagpole, 2701 W. Sibley St., Park Ridge, then head to the river to pick up unwanted litter. Registration is required.

For details, call (847) 692-5127 or go to www.prparks.org.

Take time to be a dad today.
FOOD

Raise a cup for Victoria Day and a new princess

BY VERONICA HINKE
Pioneer Press

A new princess! That's the call of town criers still echoing across England as the world celebrates the birth of Britain's newest Princess, Charlotte. From the hospital, Princess Charlotte went home to live in London's Kensington Palace, where another princess, Victoria, was born on May 24, 1819.

Queen Victoria ended up being the longest-sitting monarch, leading the British Empire for 63 years (although Queen Elizabeth II is poised to eclipse her tenure this year). So significant was Victoria's influence that her birthday is still celebrated in many parts of the world. In Canada, her birthday is celebrated on the Monday before May 25 each year. Victoria Day, or la Fête de la Reine, as loyal Canadians say, will be celebrated this year on May 18. On Victoria Island in British Columbia, that means starting the day with a birthday parade.

"She was one of the most prolific of British monarchs. Queen Victoria was very fashion-forward, and tea was very fashionable during her time," said Quinn Leary, assistant manager at Adagio Teas at Westfield Old Orchard in Skokie. "Without Great Britain, we wouldn't have tea like we do today."

Whether you're raising a tea cup to Princess Charlotte or to Queen Victoria this month, you won't have to travel far.

In April, Drury Lane in Oakbrook Terrace started high tea services from 3-5 p.m. on Saturdays. "This is the first time that we are hosting afternoon tea, and we are excited to share it with our guests," General Manager Adrian Papaprico said.

From the customized pattern in the China to the menu design to the piano music, everything about the service says top hats off to England. The menu, too, includes all of the traditional high tea sweets and savories — from petit fours and macaroons to smoked salmon whitefish caviar and dill and a variety of tiny tea sandwiches.

"We really enjoyed working on the flavors and recipes to create small bites that pack big flavor while perfectly accompanying the tea selection," said Bill Kummrow, the Drury Lane chef who introduced curry chicken salad to the tea service. "He loves it for its balance of outstanding flavors. "Mango chutney is highlighted in the curry chicken salad, which is both sweet and sour, and tangy and spicy at the same time," Kummrow said.

Any bread can be used to make a sandwich with the curry chicken, but Kummrow prefers it on a croissant. "They're soft and buttery and a perfect balance for any kind of chicken salad," he said.

The chicken salad is studded with finely chopped celery, red onion and apple. "Finely chopping ingredients creates the best texture match for a delicate and elegant tea sandwich," Kummrow said.

"It seems like Victoria Day is every day at Gerris' Tea Room in Long Grove where Gerri Gwarnicki provides a high tea service from noon to 4 p.m. daily in full Victorian decor and dress. She and her staff wear Victorian clothing to serve guests on Shelly of Worcester antique China tea cups and saucers. Guests have the option of donning Victorian-era hats. "They love the ambiance of my tea room," Gwarnicki said. "They love that it's so authentic.""

Gwarnicki, a Hawthorn Woods resident, is from Ireland and trained in culinary arts in London. She has been providing the high tea service in Long Grove for two years. She offers multiple varying menu options, including one luxurious six-course tea service that features demitasse soup, beef tenderloin on light rye bread triangles and Scottish smoked salmon pinwheels with fresh lemon basil mayonnaise. This month, her new feature is lavender scones. Gwarnicki also makes strawberry cucumber soup and smoked trout salad. Sometimes the teas end on a sweet note of apple-rhubarb pie with fresh mint and cream.

There is no high tea service at TeaLula in Park Ridge, but there are plenty of options for learning about tea. TeaLula offers tea classes like Introduction to Loose Leaf Tea and, soon to come, The Teas of Japan and The Teas of Darjeeling.

"We have the perfect tribute to the new princess with our special house blend English Afternoon, which is hand-mixed from premium Assam, high grown Ceylon and Indian teas," Wilkens said. "Come raise a cup to the new Princess Charlotte."
Listings are subject to change. Please call the venue in advance.

Friday, May 15

**The Sisters Rosensweig**: This production explores the lives and romances of Sara Goode and her two sisters, Gorgoeous Teitelbaum and Pfenkensweig. 8 p.m. Friday, Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, St. Bonaventure Church, 25 W. Diversey Parkway, Chicago, 773-304-7022

**Blue Man Group Chicago**: 2 p.m. Friday to Wednesday, Briar Street Theatre, 3133 N. Halsted St., Chicago, $49-$59, 773-327-3830

**Jeff Tweedy**: 8 p.m. Friday, Vic Theatre/Brew & View, 3145 N. Sheffield Ave., Chicago, $15, 773-472-0449

**Local Brews Local Grooves**: Sample a wide variety of draft beers while listening to live music: 4:30 p.m. Friday, House of Blues, 329 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, $10-$30, 312-923-2000

**Target Behavior**: After being admitted to an adolescent psychiatric ward, Kendra is trapped in a world of safety scissors and suicide checks until she can overcome her target behavior: 8 p.m. Friday, 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, Prop Thtr, 3502 N. Elston Ave., Chicago, $20, 616-533-7017

**Ring of Fire: Music of Johnny Cash**: Audiences journey through the icon's career, from the cotton fields of Arkansas to the Grand Ole Opry: 8 p.m. Friday, 4 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, Prop Thtr, 3502 N. Elston Ave., Chicago, $20, 616-533-7017

**Wired Fridays**: A lunchbreak dance party with local and national DJs and electronic musicians: 9 p.m. Friday, Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., Chicago, free, 312-744-3315

**Evanston Literary Festival**: The Evanston Literary Festival is a series of free public literary events around Evanston, Friday, Saturday, Sunday, Monday, Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston, free, 847-448-8600

**All My Relations: A Seneca History**: 11 a.m. All week, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St, Evanston, Free-$5, $10-$12 for talk, 847-475-1030

**Shining Lives: A Musical**: Four courageous women upend their lives with a determination to change the future in this new musical: 11 a.m. All week, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-1030

**The Last Supper: 600 Plates Illustrating Final Meals of U.S. Death Row Inmates**: Julie Green has painted images of death row inmates’ last meal requests: 10 a.m. Friday through Sunday, Mary and Leigh Block Museum of Art and Pick/Laudati Auditorium, Northwestern University, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, free, 847-491-4000

**Doubt: A Parable**: Writers Theatre premieres a new original work by company member Keith Gatchel: 8 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, 7:30 p.m. Sunday, 7:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd, Skokie, $15-$54, 847-673-6300

Saturday, May 16

**Family Movie Night**: "Alexander...the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day": All ages. Bring the whole family for a movie. Snack provided. Limit: 75. Free tickets distributed 30 minutes before the program. 7 p.m. Friday, Indian Trails Library District, 355 Schoenbeck Road, Wheeling, free, 847-659-4100

**Individuation quintet**: Jazz trumpeter Greg Duncan leads his group through a series of original compositions influenced by Swiss Psychologist Carl Jung. 5 p.m. Saturday, Andy's Jazz Club, 11 E. Hubbard St, Chicago, $10-$15, 312-642-6805

**Senior Exhibition**: Loyola's graduating fine arts majors show recent work in ceramics, painting, drawing and photography: noon Saturday, The Ralph Arnold Fine Arts Annex, 1341 W. Sheridan Road, Chicago, free, 773-508-8400
Go Calendar, from Previous Page

“Cowboy Versus Samurai”: A-Squared presents are-imagining ofCyran De Bergerac set in a small Wyoming town where two Asian men fall for an Asian woman who only dates Caucasians. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, The Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $25, 773-231-0832

Miguel Migs: Featuring CZ Boogie, Sleepy Pilch and more. 10 p.m. Saturday, Evil Olive, 1551 W. Division St., Chicago. $15, 773-235-9100

School of Rock Hinsdale: 11 a.m. Saturday, Subterranean, 2011 W. North Ave., Chicago, $10; Free for children under 10, 773-278-6600

“El Bandolero & Souphonetics”: 10 p.m. Saturday, Masada, 2206 N. California Ave., Chicago, $10-$20, 773-697-8397

Anna In The Afterlife”: Polarity Ensemble Theatre presents Richard En- gling's play that explores the mystery of a suicide and its repercussions in life and beyond the grave. 8 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, The Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, $25, 773-404-7336

Gerard Way: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Vic Theatre/Brew & View, 3145 N. Sheffield Ave., Chicago, $10, 773-472-0449

“The Wild Duck”: Halcyon Theatre presents an adaptation of Henrik Ibsen's play about a father who dreams of a new invention that can restore his family's name to greatness. 8 p.m. Saturday, 6 p.m. Sunday, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3253 W. Wilson Ave., Chicago, $15-$20, 773-404-7336

“Scotland Road”: Jeffrey Hatcher's thriller tells the story of a woman who found floating in the Atlantic. 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, BoHo Theatre at Heartland Studio Theatre, 7016 N. Glenwood Ave., Chicago, $20, 866-811-4111

Fire and Beer: The Annoyance Theatre, 851 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, $12; $8 for students, 773-697-9693

The Great Superhero Exposition: A Spring Youth Circus Production: As a superhero exposition falls victim to a team of villains out for revenge, a young nobody finds a strength within herself to save the world. 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, Actors Gymnasium, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, $12.50-$15, 847-328-2795

Grayslake Farmers Market: Shop for a variety of fresh, homemade and locally grown goods at the weekly market open until 2 p.m. on Saturdays. 10 a.m. Saturday, Downtown Grayslake, 147 Center St., Grayslake, Free, 847-289-7138

Organic Plant Sale & Farm Open House: Support the farmers growing food for the Chicago region. 10 a.m. Saturday, Prairie Crossing Farm, 3240 Harris Road, Grayslake, free

106th Spring Fair: The annual fest features games and prizes, music, face painting, a petting zoo and more. 11 a.m. Saturday, The Church of the Holy Spir- it, 400 E. Westminster Road, Lake Forest, free, 847-234-7633

Cinema Sleuths: “Charlie Chan at the Opera”: Film screening and discussion lead by author and film historian Doug Deuchler. 2 p.m. Saturday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Face N Time: 8:30 p.m. Saturday, Blu Bar, 2 West Busse Ave., Mt. Prospect, free, 815-385-7273

Pre-fest International Films: Fri. at 8 p.m.
Special Performance by Funkadesi: Sat. at 6 p.m.

SkokieCultureFest.org

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We're Still Here - A Modern Love Story to the Songs of Stephen Sondheim: Using Sondheim's profound repertoire, CGMC takes attendees on the journey of meeting that special someone and making it all work. 8 p.m. Saturday, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, $25 - $50, 773-296-0541

Coriolis Spring Concert: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Christ Church, 784 Sheridan Road, Wilmette, $20 adults; $10 children through 18, 847-869-0223

Sunday, May 17

Northwest Symphony Pops Concert: Annual Pops Concert, and features Ursula Steele, viola. 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Forest View Education Center Theater, 2211 S. Goebbert Road, Arlington Heights, $20 adults; $15 seniors; $10 students; free 14 and under, 847-965-7271

Godsmack: 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Aragon Ballroom, 1106 W. Lawrence Ave., Chicago, $50.13, 773-561-9500

“Belfast Girls”: Artemisia presents the American premiere of Irish writer Jaki McCarrick’s play about five street women orphaned by the Irish Famine who travel to Australia for a fresh start. 6 p.m. Sunday, The Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $25, 773-252-4336

“Cowboy Versus Samurai”: A-Squared presents a re-imaging of Cyrano De Bergerac set in a small Wyoming town where two Asian men fall for an Asian woman who only dates Caucasians. 3 p.m. Sunday, The Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $25, 773-231-0832

Pipeworks vs Emporium: Tap Takeover Edition: Emporium Arcade hosts this tap tasting of 25 Pipeworks Brewing selections. noon Sunday, Emporium Arcade Bar, 1366 N. Milwaukee Ave, Chicago, free, 773-697-7922

Founders KBS Tapping: Scofflaw hosts a tapping of not only Founders KBS, but also Founders Doom, Bolt Cutter and Sweet Respite. Noon Sunday, Scofflaw, 3201 W. Armitage Ave., Chicago, free, 773-252-9700

Streetlight Manifesto: With Dan Potthast and Sycamore Smith. 7 p.m. Sunday, Riviera Theatre, 4746 N. Racine Ave., Chicago, $22-$25, 773-275-6800

Tame Impala: With Mini Mansions. 7 p.m. Sunday, Riviera Theatre, 4746 N. Racine Ave., Chicago, $22-$25, 773-275-6800

Evanston Children's Choir Spring Concert: 4 p.m. Sunday, Unitarian Church of Evanston, 1330 Ridge Ave., Evanston, free, 847-733-0814

Music of the Baroque: War and Peace: Two choral works bring Music of the Baroque’s season to a stirring close as Jane Glover leads the orchestra, chorus and soloists in an exploration of war and victory. 7:30 p.m. Sunday and Monday, Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, $38-$75; call for $25 senior tickets, 312-551-1414

Spring Highland Park Strings Concert: Masha Lakisova, teenage violin prodigy performs with the Highland Park Strings. 3 p.m. Sunday, Highland Park High School, 433 Vine Ave., Highland Park, free, 847-831-3810

The Jazmer Trio: Spend an afternoon with The Jazmer Trio. 2 p.m. Sunday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Norwegian Constitution Day Parade: Celebrate Norwegian culture with marching bands, singing groups, folk dancers, costumes and more. The pre-parade bash at the park includes vendors, refreshments, entertainment and children’s activities. noon Sunday, Hodges Park, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free

Wilmette Historical Society’s 28th Annual Housewalk: This year’s housewalk, “Preserving Our Past,” celebrates four homes whose current owners’ preservation and restoration efforts show great respect for the history of the home. 1 p.m. Sunday, Wilmette Historical Museum, 609 Ridge Road, Wilmette, $25-$60

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Monday, May 18

Jenny Lewis: 8 p.m. Monday, Vic Theatre/Brew & View, 345 N. Sheffield Ave., Chicago, $15, 773-472-0449

Dance: Watch with Skype - Kodakine: 5:30 p.m. Monday, House of Blues, 29 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, $24, 312-923-2000

LIVE Bluegrass, Roots and Folk: Every Monday in the pub, The Mudclapps perform. 8 p.m. Monday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679

Tuesday, May 19

Adult Programming Movie Series - "Gentleman's Agreement": Watching the film, "Gentleman's Agreement" which is about journalist Phil Green. In order to glean information on anti-Semitism, Green decides to pose as a Jew. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Congregation Beth Am, 1370 Abbott Court, Buffalo Grove, $5 CBA members; $8 non-CBA members, 847-383-5017

"I Saw You": This comedy performance is based on actual local missed-connection postings, personal ads and solicitations for sexual encounters. 8 p.m. Wednesday, Town Hall Pub, 3340 N. Halsted Ave., Chicago, $5, 773-336-2682

Irish music session: Enjoy Irish music every Tuesday night. 7 p.m. Tuesday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679

Instrumental music: Choir concert: Merit School of Music students perform selections from their well-rehearsed repertoire at the school. 6 p.m. Wednesday, Merit School of Music, 38 S. Peoria St., Chicago, free, 312-786-9428

Thursday, May 21

"Jersey Boys" at Cadillac Palace Theater: McHenry County College's Trips and Tours program hosts a trip to see the "Jersey Boys" musical at the Cadillac Palace Theatre in Chicago. The story of Frankie Valli and The Four Seasons. Lunch included before the 2 p.m. matinee. 9:15 a.m. Wednesday, McHenry County College, 8900 US Hwy. 14, Crystal Lake, $129, 815-455-8782

History Center to examine popular WWII biography: Adults and high school students are welcome to this discussion of "Unbroken." 6 p.m. Wednesday, Des Plaines History Center, 781 Pearson St., Des Plaines, free, 847-391-5399


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MOVIES

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“The Age of Adaline” ★★★½
PG-13, 1:50, drama. Hollywood long ago ceded “love that stands the test of time” to the realm of science fiction and fantasy, so “The Age of Adaline” falls neatly into a genre that includes “The Time Traveler’s Wife,” “About Time” and even “Somewhere in Time.” But building this film around all the willowy, world-weary grace that Blake “Gossip Girl” Lively can muster pays off. As a 20-something who stopped aging 80 years ago, Lively suggests several lifetimes of experience in a love story that ranges from wistful to hopeful, a romance whose female half understands its consequences. — Roger Moore

“Avengers: Age of Ultron” ★★★½
PG-13, 2:22, fantasy. “Avengers: Age of Ultron” won’t disappoint a majority of its presold, culturally obligated fans. Action, relentless and assaultive. Wisecracks, numerous, pretty sharp and evenly parcelled out among Robert Downey Jr. (Iron Man), Chris Hemsworth (Thor), Mark Ruffalo (Hulk), Chris Evans (Captain America), Scarlett Johansson (Black Widow), Jeremy Renner (Hawkeye) and so on. Three years ago, writer-director Joss Whedon’s “The Avengers” turned out to be a sprightly wallop of an all-star superhero blockbuster. So why does the new one seem... a little... small? Entertaining as much of “Avengers 2” is, Whedon’s picture meets expectations without exceeding them. — Michael Phillips

“Furious 7” ★★★
PG-13, 2:20, action. Under the hood we’re all Vin Diesel, trying to live a meaningful life a quarter-mile at a time. Yet the film series begun in the pre-9/11 era with “The Fast and the Furious” has sustained itself through weak sequels and exuberant ones. Keep it coming, pal. We’ll tell you when we’ve had enough. Even with its dull stretches and hacky, maniacal editing rhythms, “Furious 7” does the trick. It’s roughly as realistic as Georges Melies’ “A Trip to the Moon,” of course. But revisiting our old pals (one of whom is played by an actor who is no longer with us) and watching them survive one unsurvivable collision or plunge after another continues against the odds to have a walloping charm all its own. — M.P

“Home” ★★★
PG, 1:36, family. The cuddliest alien invasion movie ever, “Home” contains nifty turns of phrase and some actual, verifiable verbal wit, owing in large part to its source material, Adam Rex’s 2007 children’s book “The True Meaning of Smekday.” In the grand Hollywood tradition, DreamWorks Animation threw out most of that book (and the film’s original title, “Happy Smekday!”) after optioning the property seven years ago. Even though screenwriters Tom J. Astle and Matt Ember overpack the revised storyline, they get some crucial aspects right. — M.P

“Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2” ★
PG, 1:34, comedy. “Paul Blart: Mall Cop 2” is even more of a kids movie than the 2009 original — slapstick and sight gags built around a clueless plump lump. It’s harmless, and Kevin James tries to find a place among the pratfall kings. None of this ever rises above a slight grin. Sequels are cynical by nature, but this one, with its casino product-placement ad and director Andy Fickman apparently checking his text messages instead of trying to punch the limp gags into shape, is purely a paycheck. — R.M.
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Death Notices

CARNEAL, MERCEDES F.
MERCEDES F. CARNEAL, age 90, of Skokie. Beloved wife of the late Thomas E.; dear mother of Thomas E., Ill (Georgie), Celeste L. (Clark) Carneal, Linda E. (Edward) Jacobson and Peter D. (Kathleen); loving grandmother of Maria, Vincent, Michael and Caryn; cherished great-grandmother of Jacob and Molly; and fond sister of Liliana Domiani.

Memorial Service will be held Saturday, June 6, 2015, at 2 p.m., at the Kingdom Hall of Jehovah's Witnesses, 6730 Beckwith Rd., Morton Grove. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the National Parkinson Foundation, P.O. Box 5018, Hagerstown, MD, 21741-5018. Funeral info: 847.673.6111 or www.habenfuneral.com.

GLASSBRENNER, MAE S.

Triarisco, Patricia H.
Patricia H. Triarisco (nee Hockmuth), of Park Ridge, beloved wife of the late Thomas; loving mother of Claudia Triarisco (Thomas Prebbi), Gina Triarisco (Brian Piper), Charles Triarisco (Mary Markarian) and Tracy (Peter) Schetter; cherished grandmother of Maria, Clint, Elisa, Lauret, Lara, Sophia, Andrew, Gianna, James and Julia; dear twin sister of the late Barbara Wartford. Visitation Friday, May 15 from 4 - 9 p.m. at Nelson Funeral Home, 620 W. Talcott (at Cumberland), Park Ridge. Funeral prayers Saturday, 9:45 a.m. at the funeral home with a procession to Our Lady of Hope, 9711 Devon Ave., Rosemont for Mass of Christian Burial beginning at 10:30 a.m. Interment private. Patricia will be missed by her family and friends as well as her beloved cat, Nellie. Memorial contributions welcome to PAWS Chicago, www.pawschicago.org. For more info 847.823.5122 or www.nelsonfunerals.com.
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The rise and fall of the Thunderbird

Ford's iconic sports car has lasting legacy in American car lore

The 1955 Ford Thunderbird, left, debuted with a $2,695 starting price; the 1958 T-Bird, right, was a big seller for Ford.

T-Bird gets its wings

The Whiz Kids running Ford, a fabled group of 10 Army Air Force statistical experts who in 1945 were hired as a unit by Henry Ford II to impose order on the company after World War II, determined that four seats sell better than two, so Thunderbird grew for 1958, eliminating Corvette's domestic competitor. Purists wonder if four seats were a mistake.

“Not for sales, it wasn’t,” Wake said. “Ford sold almost as many ’58s as the prior three years combined. It became a more practical car for more people. In the classics, you can’t pick up a couple and take them to dinner.”

Wake has owned four Thunderbirds, including a ’56, two ’61 “bullet birds” and a 2004 “retro bird.”

“I bought my first ’61 in 1963 and brought two sons home from the hospital in it,” Wake said. “When I sold it, I missed it so bad that I bought another. I’ve had the second one 46 years and will never sell it. The ’61 has always been very special to me.”

Ford produced 198,191 of the 1958-1960 models, far more than the 10,000 annual production planned for the two-seat model. Sleeker style came in 1961, but square themes returned for 1964. The larger 1967 model wasn’t available as a convertible, but you could get a two-door coupe.

Moving into the ’70s and early ’80s, Thunderbirds were aligned with the Lincoln Continental, meaning they became large cars with long hoods. A more efficient midsize model debuted for 1977.

Redesigned for 1983 with an aerodynamic body, Thunderbird begat Taurus but wouldn’t last. Adrift in an SUV-dominated market, Thunderbird ceased after 1997. The coupe migrated from the American market, and Ford already had a proven sports car in the Mustang.

Retro bird

Ford re-introduced the two-seat Thunderbird for 2002 with retro styling that recalled themes from 1955-56. It shared its chassis and V-8 with the Lincoln LS and Jaguar S-Type, but thin nostalgia and tough competition limited sales. T-Bird went back on hiatus after 2005.

“We brought it back, but it had limited marketability,” Kreipke said. “Young people want something new. It may not have had the sales figures, but it was a real eye-opener. We wouldn’t have T-Bird clubs if it wasn’t.”

Today’s younger drivers prioritize practicality over style, leading them to crossovers and sport sedans. But back in the ’50s, Thunderbird gave Ford a sportier image that was parlayed into today’s Mustang and GT supercar.

Some want to compare Thunderbird’s uneven history with Corvette. Chevrolet has maintained clear vigilance over Corvette’s style and performance, while Thunderbird’s image is convoluted. The retro roadster re-established Thunderbird as a comfortable two-seater while evoking the 1955-57 models that defined it.

When Ford needs another roadster, Thunderbird will be ready to fly.

Williams is a freelancer.
A relative newcomer to hurdles, Niles West junior Jazmine Rafanan will be chasing after her second consecutive trip to the Class 3A state meet on Thursday, May 14, at the Loyola Sectional.

In less than a full season running hurdles as a sophomore, Rafanan earned her way to Charleston in the 300-meter low hurdles. This season, Niles West coach Mark Medland said he believes she can qualify in both the 300 and 100 high hurdles.

"We could tell right away she had natural ability, but she needed to refine her technique and build up her strength," Medland said. "Making it to state last year really captured her attention, and she worked all summer with us. She takes to coaching well."

At the Central Suburban South meet on Thursday, May 7, Rafanan finished first in the 300 (48.73 seconds) and second in the 100 (16.42) at New Trier in Winnetka. Her top time this season in the 300 is 47.63 and it's 15.80 in the 100.

Those finishing first and second at the sectional earn automatic bids to state. The Class 3A state standard for an at-large berth in the 300 is 46.94 and 15.34 in the 100.

"Jazmine has learned quite a bit in a little over a year, but the work is not over yet," Medland said. "She's very strong in both events, but she knows she has her work cut out for her at the sectional."

The Wolves, who finished fourth at the conference meet with 78 points, will be one of five CSL South teams at Loyola. Conference champion New Trier, Evanston, Glenbrook South and Maine South also will be at the sectional in Wilmette.

Maine South

Sophomores Olivia Holmes (12:05.46) and Maura Lally (12:30.41) went three-four in the 3,200 to total 10 points, while senior Casey Bomrad (5:27.53) and freshman Olivia Niziolek (5:34.56) finished third and fifth, respectively, in the 1,600 for eight points. Junior Kalina Gardner was third (2:29.16) in the 800, and senior Annie Bogard was sixth (2:42.12) in the 800 for a seven-point total.

The 4x800 relay team's second-place finish (10:02.29) earned the Hawks eight points.
Blue Demons finish ninth at sectional

By SPORTS DEPARTMENT

The Maine East boys gymnastics team finished ninth out of nine teams at the Hoffman Estates Sectional on Saturday, May 9, with 91.250 points. Willowbrook won with a score of 148.400.

The Blue Demons did not have any gymnasts earn a top-five finish and automatically qualify for the state tournament. The team didn't have any at-large qualifiers either.

Maine East's Jose Gonzalez competes on the still rings during the Hoffman Estates Sectional on May 9. The junior tied for 38th (5.600).

Niles West boys water polo team's fifth season marked by tougher schedule

By MATTHEW PARAS

Five seasons ago, Niles West boys water polo coach John Przekota took on an ambitious undertaking when he started the school's varsity program. Through the first four years, Przekota's goals were just to teach the fundamentals of the sport and make it accessible to students.

After going 23-8-1 and finishing second at last year's Glenbrook South Sectional, however, things have changed at Niles West.

The Wolves (14-15, 2-2 Central Suburban South) have played 20 games against opponents ranked in the www.illpolo.com top 20.

But it's been a rewarding experience as Niles West is also ranked No. 25 in the state.

"Literally every weekend, we're playing one or two of the top 15 teams in the state... As a coach, that's something I really believe in. I'd rather have that tough competition and be around .500 because the tougher the grind your schedule is, the more they're going to be prepared for the postseason," Przekota said.

Przekota said his current group of players has grasped his expectations for a higher-level program. Przekota, who played in college at Iona, tries to help his team as much as possible. He quotes Walter Payton's speech on what it means to be a winner and brings in Division I water polo coaches to hold clinics.

Przekota's passion for the sport has carried over to his players.

"I had John as my teacher my freshman year and he was always making jokes to come out and try out for water polo," senior Matt Lefler said. "The first practice I went to I absolutely fell in love with it."

Lefler is one of the top goalies in the state, Przekota said. He's played a large role in the team's success.

Lefler said it's been difficult facing tougher competition, but that it's helping the Wolves find their strengths and weaknesses.

"We've learned that we're really good at defense, and that we need to work on our offense," he said. "At practice, we work on our shooting. I think we lost a lot of players from last year who scored goals for us, and we're trying to make that up."

Senior Max Yusim, who is Niles West's primary scorer at the two-set position, and Przekota said the main objective for the Wolves is to finish the regular season strong so they can ride that momentum into the sectional, much like they did last season.

Niles West did just that, beating Glenbrook North 16-3 on Saturday, May 9, to finish third in the CSL Tournament. Niles West, which received the fourth seed, is scheduled to open play in the Glenbrook North Sectional on Thursday, May 14, at 5:45 p.m. against fifth-seeded Glenbrook North.

As the Wolves worked to get into peak form, Yusim said he noticed the stark difference from his freshman year.

"When we started off, it was really just about having fun and making small improvements every game," Yusim said. "But as we got better, we got more serious. We actually have the chance to make it farther in sectionals."

"...It's still about having fun, but it's more serious. In the end, can we win those important games and get to where we want to be at the end of the season?"

Paras is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Jamiyankhuu leads Niles West boys gymnastics team to state

BY MATT HARNESS
Pioneer Press

Nearly everybody in the Fremd gym stopped what they were doing — even other competing gymnasts — to watch Niles West junior Dalai Jamiyankhuu's routine on the high bar.

Audible oohs and ahs filled the air while Jamiyankhuu wowed fans, gymnasts, coaches and officials on his way to winning the boys gymnastics sectional title with a score of 7.950. It was one of four first-place finishes for Jamiyankhuu, who also captured the all-around championship on Saturday, May 9, in Palatine.

"Yes, I could hear everything," Jamiyankhuu said. "That was a cool moment."

But Jamiyankhuu's appearance at the sectional was cause for celebration, too. Jamiyankhuu was competing in only his third meet of the season — and first in all six rotations — since recovering from a bilateral fracture of the L5 vertebrae in his back, an injury due to overuse, he said. Jamiyankhuu's first competition was an invite at Niles North on April 24.

"I was worried about missing the season because I would not be fully healed," said Jamiyankhuu, whose rehab mostly consisted of rest. "But there's been no irritation or pain or stress. I feel pretty good."

Now a state qualifier in all three of his seasons, Jamiyankhuu also won pommel horse (8.750), floor exercise (9.300) and parallel bars (8.600). He totaled 51.800 to win the all-around. Jamiyankhuu placed fourth on the still rings (8.400) to earn another automatic berth. The top five and ties in each event advanced to the state meet. He also received an at-large berth in the vault (8.800).

"He was phenomenal," Niles West coach Adrian Batista said. "He was on fire."

With Jamiyankhuu back in the lineup, the Wolves won the sectional (146.850) and qualified for back-to-back state trips. Last year's appearance was the first since the 1985-86 school year.

"We didn't think we'd have him back, but it all worked out," Batista said. "He makes us a state qualifier."

Jamiyankhuu had the second-best all-around score among competitors at the five sectionals. Only Wheaton Warrenville South senior Ben Szot (53.850) earned a higher score.

Jamiyankhuu tempered his expectations for the state meet, which is Friday, May 15, and Saturday, May 16, at Hinsdale Central. After all, last week was the first week he practiced all six events this season.

"We will see how it goes," he said. "It's all about getting all of my skills back. Some have come faster than others. But I was happy with how I did [May 9]."

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4 Niles North boys gymnasts qualify for state

BY MATT HARNES Pioneer Press

Niles North senior gymnast Mark Wilson knows what it's like to be on both sides of the bubble. As a junior in his first varsity season, Wilson came close to receiving an at-large bid to the state meet, according to Niles North coach Richard Meyers.

On Monday, May 11, he found out he was on the right side of the IHSA's selection process, earning a trip to Hinsdale Central this weekend on the floor exercise.

"Last year, I really didn't do my best, but it really motivated me to work harder," said Wilson, whose near-miss last spring also came on the floor exercise.

At the Fremd Sectional in Palatine on Saturday, May 9, Wilson tied for eighth on the floor exercise with an 8.700. Only the top five and ties earn automatic bids to the state meet. He said he went on the IHSA's website over the weekend, constantly refreshing the gymnastics results page to see if he got in. At-large berths are awarded to the top 25 finishers among the five sectional who didn't advance automatically.

"Sunday was a long day," he said. "But it was such a good relief to find out [Monday] morning that I made it."

Wilson was one of four Vikings — Wilson, junior Jordan Brewer, junior Raymond Tang and junior Aaron Niederman — who received an at-large bid to the state meet, which is May 15, and May 16. Brewer scored an 8.800 on the vault at the sectional to advance, while Tang scored an 8.050 on the parallel bars and Niederman picked up a 7.450 on the still rings. Tang and Niederman were on the cut line.

All of them will compete at the state meet for the first time.

"The kids really left it all out there and did a great job," Meyer said. "I am very happy for all of them."

Niles North's Aaron Niederman performs on the still rings during the Fremd Sectional on May 9 in Palatine. He scored a 7.450 to earn an at-large berth in the state meet.

3 locals earn all-CCIW honors at Augustana

BY NICK BULLOCK Pioneer Press

Three area athletes who helped the Augustana women's lacrosse team to an outstanding season made the all-College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin team.

Junior attacker Kevin Gleason, a Loyola graduate, and junior goalkeeper Jordon Brewer, from Maine South, were named to all-CCIW first team. Junior defender Tyler Amidei, a Vernon Hills graduate, was named to all-CCIW second team.

Other area athletes on the team include senior defenders Ty Benson of Libertyville and Taylor McGinnis of New Trier.

The Vikings (14-5) won the CCIW tournament title and a trip to the NCAA tournament, where they fell to Albion 13-12.

Gleason led the team with 57 points on 42 goals and 15 assists. Peters tied for the team lead with 46 ground balls. Amidei paced the team with 18 caused turnovers. Benson played in 16 games, starting two. McGinnis played in 18 games, starting 14.

New Trier grads win Big Ten title

Brothers Jared and Aron Hiltzik, both New Trier graduates, powered the Illinois men's tennis team to a Big Ten title with a 4-0 victory against No. 2 seed Ohio State on April 26 in Urbana. Aron Hiltzik, a freshman, won 6-4, 6-4 at No. 4 singles. Jared Hiltzik, a junior, was playing at No. 1 singles, but Illinois wrapped up the victory before he had a chance to finish the match. Jared Hiltzik did earn a victory at No. 1 doubles, upsetting Ohio State's top tandem, ranked No. 4 in the country.

Both Jared and Aron Hiltzic were all-Big Ten selections. Jared Hiltzik, a unanimous first-team selection, also received the team's Most Valuable Player award for the 2014-2015 season.

Senior Blake Bazarnik, from Stevenson, received the Illini's sportsmanship award.

Heilenbach goes 9-inning distance

Lyons graduate Steve Heilenbach, a junior pitcher for the Illinois State baseball team, threw the Redbirds' first nine-inning complete game in almost two years. Heilenbach allowed just four hits and one run while striking out three and walking one batter. The win improved the team to 24-22.

Several of Heilenbach's teammates also hail from the Chicago area. Mundelein's Derek Parola is a freshman infielder, Vernon Hills' Tyler Feece is a redshirt freshman pitcher, Oak Park-River Forest's Nick Kowaleczek is a redshirt freshman infielder, Hinsdale South's Sean Beesley is a junior outfielder, Lyons' Brian Redmoyer is a redshirt junior infielder and Libertyville's Jeffrey Barton is a freshman pitcher.

Have a suggestion for the College Roundup? Email Nick Bullock at bullockpioneerpress@gmail.com

Bullock is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Jamiyankhuu wins all-around title at sectional after missing much of season with back injury.
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