One last round of applause
Regulars gather for Niles supper club's final meal. Page 4

Mary O'Neill applauds for singer/pianist Judy Roberts and saxophone player Greg Fishman at Chambers, 6881 N. Milwaukee Ave., in Niles, on May 28.

Outdoor music season coming
Check out the summer's schedule of area concerts. Page 36

SPORTS
Boys state track
Niles West, Niles North relays don't reach 3A finals. Page 52
SHOUT OUT

Lisa Halverson, incoming D64 principal

Lisa Halverson is set to join Jefferson School in Niles as its new principal following the retirement of Leslie Lapping later this month.

Halverson currently serves as a pupil services administrator with Hinsdale School District 181, where she has also directed an extended day kindergarten program. She began her career as a school psychologist and special education coordinator.

Jefferson is an early childhood center, which also serves students with special needs, and offers an extended day kindergarten program for Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 students.

Halverson, of Evanston, recently answered a few questions for Pioneer Press.

Q: What made you interested in working at Jefferson?
A: I have a passion for early childhood education and had stepped away from building administration jobs in my current position. I missed being a principal.

Q: You are originally from Waukon, Iowa. How does Chicago compare?
A: I grew up in a very small town—there are only about 4,000 people. It was a great place to grow up, but I do enjoy the diversity of Chicago, culturally, ethnically and linguistically. I also like the networking that goes on here.

Q: What are some of your hobbies outside of work?
A: I like to bike, I enjoy snowboarding, gardening, reading and hiking.

Q: What would you like parents to know?
A: Parents should know that early childhood education is an important part of the whole school experience. So much growth and learning happens and it’s important for kids to go through it in a quality program because it sets them up for early success.

Q: Anything else?
A: I’m a really strong believer of having a “we” philosophy. It takes everyone in the school to make sure we take responsibility and ownership of all students. I’d really like to help move us along in that philosophy, as well as make sure we are inclusive of students of a variety of differences, whatever that might be.

—Jennifer Johnson, Pioneer Press

Shout Out is a weekly feature where we get to know and introduce our readers to their fellow community members and local visitors throughout suburban Chicago.
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News

Chambers Seafood Grille closes, celebrated as the ‘Cheers’ of Niles

BY IGOR STUDENKOV
Pioneer Press

On May 28, regulars gathered at Niles' Chambers Seafood Grille & Chop House one last time.

The supper club has been around since 1972, offering seafood, steaks and sandwiches. Chambers has also become known for live music, especially jazz musicians. Regulars that spoke to the Niles Herald-Spectator said the music and friendly atmosphere was what drew them there.

The current owners, brothers Joe and Tony Maranto, purchased Chambers in 1996. But when the Park Ridge-based Home Comfort Services Inc., an air conditioning and heating service company, offered to buy the building, the brothers accepted. Home Comfort owner Dan Schanke said that he expects to move to the new location sometime in August.

Schenke said that he offered to buy the space for a simple reason — Home Comfort’s current space became too small to suit his needs. One of the major advantages of the new building, he said, would be that he would have a bigger showroom. While the interiors and exteriors would be remodeled, the basic structure would largely remain intact.

On May 28, the piano room at Chambers was completely full, and the bar quickly filled up. The customers thanked servers and bartenders, with many of them bringing gifts.

Singer and pianist Judy Roberts and saxophonist Greg Fishman were among Chambers' most popular regular performers, performing there since 1993 and 1983, respectively. It was only natural the married duo would perform during Chambers' closing night. Throughout the performance, Roberts said that she would take any and all requests — except anything by Miley Cyrus. During breaks, she went around the room, chatting with guests, servers and bartenders.

During a break in their set, Roberts told the Niles Herald-Spectator that, to her, Chambers was something special.

“I played here for 23 years,” she said. “It's more than a place to play — it's a family.”

Roberts said that she liked that Chambers attracted a diverse crowd, drawing in people of all ages, races and ethnicities. She said she felt that what made the closing harder to take was that there would be no other supper club to replace it.

Roberts said she was looking forward to a new gig — she and her husband will be playing at Marie's Pizza, in Chicago's Mayfair neighborhood.

Michelle Wiznitzer, of downtown Chicago, was one of the many people who came from across Chicago to see Roberts perform. She said while she regularly came to the supper club for Roberts, Chambers enhanced the experience and she would miss it.

Marianne Batchen, on the other hand, came to Chambers for the camaraderie and atmosphere.

“This is like the 'Cheers' of Niles,” she said. “Everybody knows your name — and when you don't show, they wonder where you are.”

Batchen felt Chambers tried to attract people of all ages — not just young people — which she appreciated. She said she has been coming here with her husband and friends for decades.

“I remember when the (Maranto) brothers bought the place,” Batchen recalled. “I remember when Tony proposed to his beautiful wife. I remember when they had their child. So many good memories.”
Niles police receive 'generous' donations at Cop on a Rooftop

BY IGOR STUDENKOV
Pioneer Press

Niles police officers waved from rooftops of three Dunkin' Donuts locations on Friday, May 29, to raise money for the Law Enforcement Torch Run - the state's largest Special Olympics fundraiser.

Now in its 13th year, the Cop on a Rooftop was designed to collect funds and raise awareness about the Torch Run and Special Olympics, which involves hundreds of officers from departments throughout Illinois.

During the event, which ran from 5 a.m. to 2 p.m., Dunkin' Donuts customers were encouraged to make donations. Customers who did received coupons for free doughnuts, and those who donated at least $10 were eligible to receive prizes such as hats, T-shirts, lapel pins and coffee mugs.

According to the event press release, the Law Enforcement Torch Run is the largest Special Olympics fundraiser in the state. Each year, more than 3,000 police officers throughout Illinois cover 1,500 miles carrying the Flame of Hope through the streets of their towns, as well as during the state's annual Special Olympics' Summer Games, which are held in Normal. The money raised during the Torch Run is used to cover training and competition costs for Special Olympics athletes.

While the Torch Run has been around for the past 29 years, it wasn't until 13 years ago that Dunkin' Donuts teamed up with police departments throughout the state to help raise money for the event. In a statement to the press, the chain indicated it donated $1,500 to the Torch Run. It also created a limited-time Champion doughnut - a glazed doughnut that used Special Olympics red and white colors. It was available at Dunkin Donuts during the last week of May.

The Cop on a Rooftop event involved a total of 194 Illinois Dunkin Donuts locations. At the 7039 W. Dempster St. and 7525 N. Harlem Avenue locations, some officers went up on the roof while others remained inside the lobby. Officers were also present at the 7235 N. Caldwell location at the western tip of the Touhy Triangle, but they did not climb on its roof.

At every location, customers who donated got coupons for free doughnuts. Customers who donated $5 could receive lapel pins, while $10 donations earned them coffee mugs and a cup of coffee. $15 donations got them Torch Run hats or T-shirts.

Deputy Police Chief Vince Genuardi was one of the officers at the Dempster Street location. He told the Niles Herald-Spectator that, by noon, they were already doing well.

"We actually think we've made more money than last year," he said. "The people have been very generous."

Igor Studenkov is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Niles Memorial Day celebrates ‘gift of freedom’

BY IGOR STUDENKOV
Pioneer Press

While rain hit the Niles Veterans Memorial Waterfall several times in the hours leading up to the May 25 Memorial Day ceremony, none fell during the ceremony itself.

The ceremony was organized by the Niles-based Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7712 and the village government. Local Boy Scout troops and members of the Niles Fire and Police departments joined in. In spite of the threat of rain, the number of residents who came to see the ceremony was about the same as it was during the sunny, clear Memorial Day the year before.

Mayor Andrew Przybylo, Village Manager Steve Vinezeano and Village Clerk Marlene Victorine attended the ceremony. Dean Strzek onki and Denise McCauley attended the event before, but this was the first time they attended as village officials. Trustee Danette Matyas also attended.

The ceremony started at 11 a.m. Post 7712 Cmdr. Tom Amirante thanked everyone for coming, especially given the weather.

VFW Post 7712 chaplain and former Niles Trustee Chris Hanusiak led the crowd in prayer, praising the men and women who gave their lives in battle.

The post then presented Przybylo and Victorine with awards for their service to the organization. They also planned to present the awards to Niles Trustee and Niles Park District Director Joe LoVerde and the Niles Park District Services Department Superintendent Jim Majewski, but neither was present.

Vinezeano later explained that Post 7712’s headquarters are on the Niles Park District property.

Victorine said she’s been a longtime supporter of the VFW, and she tries to help the organization any way she can.

After the awards were handed out, Przybylo addressed the crowd. He said that freedom all Americans enjoy wouldn’t have been possible without the sacrifices of the members of the military.

“Let us celebrate their lives and their gift to us — the gift of freedom,” Przybylo said.

He also said he was recently pleased to learn that the Niles Department of Family Services has been working on programs to help local veterans.

Niles Fire Department District Chief Orlando Diaz emphasized that everyone must remember that Memorial Day isn’t just a day off — it’s a day to remember all of the fallen soldiers.

Deputy Police Chief Vince Genuardi said that, a day before, he had a get-together with friends and neighbors. He asked the kids what Memorial Day meant to them. “Every response had a theme of thanking soldiers who served our country,” Genuardi said.

He urged everyone in attendance to do something to recognize veterans past and present, including sending cards to active service members.

VFW members then laid the wreath at the memorial, adding flowers to symbolize soldiers in various wars. After another prayer, Amirante took the microphone again. The ceremony ended with the VFW’s rifle squad giving the veterans a three-rifle salute.

Igor Studenkov is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Former Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7712 Cmdr. Jim Kozak salutes in memory of fallen American soldiers during the Niles Memorial Day ceremony on May 25.

Members of the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7712 salute the American flag.

Boy Scouts from Troop 175 salute the American flag during the Niles Memorial Day ceremony.
Court date pushed back for Golf woman

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

A Cook County Circuit Judge has continued the court date of a Golf woman charged with felony disorderly conduct for an incident that happened last winter when police said she allegedly lied about being stabbed.

Wendy Barron, 29, appeared in court at the Skokie courthouse on May 22, and a judge continued her next court appearance to Friday, June 19, according to information provided by the Cook County State's Attorney's office.

Barron's case had appeared before a judge at the Skokie courthouse on May 1, making the May 22 continuance her second this month.

Barron, who police said was also charged with filing a false police report, was arrested on Feb. 18—three days after police said she called to report that she had been forced out of her car and was robbed and stabbed by a man.

According to police, Barron allegedly said the man had followed her after she left a Walgreens store on the 9300 block of Waukegan Road around 9:20 p.m.

Police said Barron allegedly said the man had flashed his head lights to warn her of a flat tire, and then approached her vehicle when she pulled over.

Barron allegedly told police the man then stabbed her and took off with her cash.

She was hospitalized for her injuries, but police released a statement three days later discrediting her story and claiming that the incident had never occurred.

Commander Paul Yaras, of the Morton Grove Police Department, said detectives charged Barron in the crime based on video evidence that disproved her claims of an attack.

A representative of the Cook County public defender's office confirmed that Barron had hired a public defender for representation, but could not provide the name of the public defender.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Park Ridge considers allowing cab companies to set own fares

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Citing increased competition from ride-sharing services and a changing business environment, a local taxi company is asking the city of Park Ridge to drop its practice of setting mandatory cab fares.

Patti Carpenter, owner of Pink Taxi, wants companies that are licensed to do business in Park Ridge to be able to set their own fares and fare structures. Currently, a city ordinance regulates how much taxi drivers may charge for the first mile of service ($2.50) and every one-tenth mile after that (21-cents) if two or more passengers are in a car and if trips are taken outside Park Ridge city limits or to O'Hare Airport.

"I feel it's not the responsibility of Park Ridge to determine our customer pricing structure," Carpenter told the City Council on May 26. "You don't tell the Pickwick how much to charge for a ticket going in and you certainly don't tell the gas stations on Touhy Avenue how much to charge per gallon."

Carpenter also referenced the ride-sharing service Uber, whose drivers are not licensed with the city and are not required to follow the mandated fare structure.

"Uber has changed the playing field for everybody," she said, adding that her own company needs to be "flexible, yet profitable." Aldermen appeared to agree with Carpenter's request, reaching a consensus to change the ordinance and allow for rate setting by cab companies licensed to operate in the city, but requiring them to submit the rates and any time they change to the city for publication.

"We should absolutely get out of the business of setting rates for taxicabs," 4th Ward Ald. Roger Shubert said.

If the council moves forward with a plan on June 22, the changes to the taxi ordinance will still need to be approved during a regular City Council meeting later this summer.

Park Ridge City Manager Shawn Hamilton said few area communities regulate taxi fares.

City Attorney Everette "Buzz" Hill suggested a complete overhaul of Park Ridge's taxi ordinance. Sixth Ward Ald. Marc Mazzucca also suggested opening up the community to additional cab companies. Currently, Pink Taxi and Park Ridge Taxi are the only companies licensed to pick up fares in Park Ridge.

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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.

**CHILD ENDANGERMENT**
- Daniella Moreno, 29, of the 1700 block of North Spaulding, Chicago, was charged with child endangerment May 24 after police alleged that she left her 2-year-old child unattended inside an unlocked car parked in a lot in the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue. According to police, the child was asleep inside the car and the temperature was described as "comfortable," with the outside air temperature at about 64 degrees. Moreno was given a June 22 court date and the Department of Children and Family Services was contacted.

**DOMESTIC BATTERY**
- Monika Miskoweicz, 39, of the 6500 block of West Ebinger Drive, Niles, was charged with domestic battery on May 23. She had a May 27 court date.

**RETAIL THEFT**
- Cathy Ippolito, 51, of the 1900 block of Parkside Drive, Park Ridge, was charged with felony retail theft on May 22 after she allegedly stole food and cleaning supplies from a store in the 8900 block of Greenwood Avenue. Ippolito has previous convictions for theft, police said. She remained in Cook County Jail with bond set at $10,000.

**DUI**
- Mark Leduc, 55, of the 2800 block of Cherry Street, Park Ridge, was charged with felony aggravated driving under the influence and driving on a suspended license on May 25. Police said Leduc's license had been revoked because of a previous DUI conviction. He was taken into custody at Oakton Street and Greenwood Avenue at 12:30 a.m. and assigned a May 29 court date.

**THEFT**
- Plastic bins containing undisclosed memorabilia were stolen between May 21 and 22 from a vehicle parked in the 8800 block of Merrill Street. A window was broken with a brick to gain entry.
- A woman reported that her purse, containing credit cards and $150 in cash, was stolen on the night of May 22 from a bar in the 8700 block of Milwaukee Avenue.
- Three cellphones were reported stolen May 23 from an athletic facility in the 6400 block of Howard Street.
- A series of cash thefts between April 18 and 28 at a retail store in the 9500 block of Milwaukee Avenue were reported to police. The loss was estimated at $1,000.

**Park Ridge man accused of threatening cab driver**

**BY JENNIFER JOHNSON**
Pioneer Press

A Park Ridge man was arrested after he allegedly threatened to shoot a cab driver who had picked him up from a Niles bar, police said.

Peter L. Basquin, 43, of the 300 block of West Touhy Avenue, was charged with disorderly conduct and assault in connection with the alleged incident, which Niles police said occurred on the night of May 23 outside an establishment in the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue.

According to police, the driver reported that Basquin got into his cab, told him to start driving and then said, "I'm going to shoot you. I have a .38 in my pocket."

The driver refused to take Basquin anywhere and called 911, police said.

No weapons were found in Basquin's possession, according to police.

A manager at the bar reportedly told officers that Basquin had been a customer at the establishment for the past three nights and was seen trying to pick fights with other customers. After being asked to leave the bar, Basquin allegedly stated that he was a federal agent and would return to write the employees tickets, police said.

Basquin was released on bond and assigned a July 7 court date.

Niles police say Basquin was on probation for a federal offense at the time of his arrest, though the nature of the offense was not referenced in the police report.

Basquin has three prior convictions for misdemeanor disorderly conduct dating back to 2006 and one 2008 conviction for fraud, all in the state of Wisconsin, online court records show.

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Looking to the future

Niles North, West classes of 2015 embrace rain during graduation ceremonies

KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

The show went on despite the rain for both Niles Township Community high schools of District 219 on a Memorial Day weekend in Skokie Sunday, May 24.

Rain abated but returned with a few sprinkles for the 550 Viking graduates at Niles North High School.

Families with umbrellas settled in the stands along Chuck Pos Stadium grandstands where it was 62 degrees and cloudy by noon.

What would a Niles North mortarboard be good for besides as a Viking umbrella?

"To throw up in the air!" said Shivam Rami, 18, of Skokie, a Niles North graduating senior.

The 51st commencement began at high noon for the Niles North school colors of purple and white.

"This is just an incredible class," said Dr. Ryan McTague, Niles North principal. "They've all created a strong sense of community."

Meanwhile, the show was set up inside two gyms, one for commencement, the other for the orchestra at Niles West High School.

"We can't control the weather," said Dr. Jason Ness, Niles West principal.

"But we can control the ceremony and make it the best possible day."

The Niles West Wolves (red and white) had about 600 graduates.

"They've had a fabulous four years," Ness said. "What I'm most proud about this class is how much they've given back to their community."

Karine Angell Luc is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Niles North's Alexia Pitter presents "the Senior Moment," a spoken word performance.

Jordan Goldberg, Niles West's Class of 2015 student speaker.

Niles North Class of 2015 President Med Jimenez delivers the senior address.
D219 Board of Trustees searches for new member

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

The resignation of the president of the Niles Township School District 219 Board of Education last month has triggered a search for a new board member.

Robert Silverman announced on May 5 his intention to cut short his 23-year run on the school board by resigning from his post on June 1 — two years before his current term expires.

The school board — now led by newly-elected President Mark Sproat, has to select a replacement board member to fill the vacancy.

Sproat — one of three newcomers to the board who were elected in April — said the board was focused on assuring that the selection process is conducted in a fair manner.

"We welcome anyone to submit an application to be on the board," Sproat said. "This is new for all of us — I'm excited to see who comes out and to have a new board member."

Applicants are asked to submit a letter of intent and fill out a short questionnaire with five questions asking them to describe, for example, their intentions for being on the School Board and explain how they would address certain issues facing the school district.

"The questions just give the [applicants] an idea of what will be asked in the interviews," Sproat said. "They won't be any different than the questions we were asked during the debates."

Following Silverman's departure, Ruth Klint and Carlton Evans are the only incumbent school board members besides David Ko to remain seated on the board.

Three of the four incumbents running to keep their seats lost the election. Longtime board members Sheri Dortiger Greenspan, and Eileen Valfer lost to newcomers Sproat, Brian Novak, and Linda Lampert.

Ko was reelected after serving two years on the board. He was first appointed to the school board in 2013 following the death of longtime board member Lynda Smith.

Silverman couldn't be reached for comment, but said during a special board meeting when he resigned that he didn't want to get in the way of the new board members.

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

Applications for the board vacancy can be accessed at www.niles-hs.k12.il.us.

The application deadline is June 8, and the board will host interviews later this month, according to Sproat.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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24 Hour Service
Members of the 1st Michigan Engineers and Mechanics Civil War re-enacting group made the Niles Historical Society's museum their base of operations on May 24 to show off uniforms, weapons and equipment of American soldiers from several historic conflicts.

While two of the re-enactors donned Civil War garb, one of the re-enactors represented a soldier from the Spanish-American War, two more wore World War II uniforms and one re-enactor dressed as a soldier from the Vietnam War. The re-enactors not only talked about uniforms, weapons and equipment, but they showed how those things evolved during the past 150 years.

The event also served as a preview for the larger event on Aug. 22, when several Civil War reenactment groups will gather at Niles' Washington Park. The outfits will set up camp and conduct Civil War-era military drills.

1st Michigan Engineers member Dan McCarthy, of Western Springs, said that the group primarily plays Civil War military engineers from the real life 1st Regiment Michigan Engineers and Mechanics. While the regiment could fight as regular troops, if necessary, McCarthy explained that their primary purpose was twofold. They would build and repair railroads, bridges, signal towers and fortifications, as well as survey the land ahead of the advancing Union troops. They also sabotaged Confederate railroads, bridges and other infrastructure.

McCarthy explained that all members of the group know how to do the kind of work the actual historical 1st Michigan Regiment engineers did. These skills have occasionally come in handy.

"One reenactment, there was a river between the parking lot and the reenactment site," said McCarthy. "So we built a trestle bridge, so people could get from the parking lot to the reenactment site."

While the reenactment group has a 'Michigan' in its name to represent the real regiment, the group members are actually from Illinois, most of them hailing from the Northwest side of Chicago and the Northwest suburbs, McCarthy said.

Out of the re-enactors, only McCarthy and Nick Lamberdin were in Civil War uniforms, playing their regular roles of lieutenant and private, respectively. Chris Mantas, of Morton Grove, played a Spanish-American War soldier. Chris Kubacki played a paratrooper from the World War II's European theater, while Dean Mantas, Chris' son, played an infantryman serving in the Pacific theater of World War II.

Eric Percy played a Vietnam War soldier.

While the event was scheduled for 2 p.m., the group arrived a few hours earlier, setting up tables with military equipment in front of the Niles Historical Society building and talking to passersby.

The re-enactors took turns talking about their uniforms, weapons and supplies. Their weapons were loaded with blanks, they were otherwise fully functional, as were their supplies.

The re-enactors delved into how the demands of the environment and the nature of their work affected their gear. Kubacki said because paratroopers had to function behind enemy lines, they were loaded up with supplies and equipment and trained to use enemy vehicles and weapons. Dean Mantas said soldiers and Marines in the Pacific theater fought in a tropical climate, his uniform was lighter than what Kubacki wore and he carried less.

The re-enactors also touched on some of the day-to-day realities of being a soldier. McCarthy explained that the soldiers' rations were so scant that they often wound up stealing from local farmers. Percy explained the use of helicopters for medical evacuations, which was pioneered during the Korean War and expanded during the Vietnam War improving the chances of survival for the wounded.

Studenkov is a freelancer for the Pioneer Press.
Officials spread word about Purple Line pilot plan

BY BOB SEIDENBERG
Pioneer Press

Evanston officials are reaching out to local businesses and residents in an effort to ensure there is good participation when a Purple Line Express pilot program kicks off next week, testing later train service.

Officials have lined up a wide spectrum of businesses and restaurants — some of which will offer “Purple Plate” specials and other promotional activities.

“What a great opportunity, a total game changer for downtown,” said Annie Coakley, executive director of DowntownEvanston.org, which promotes downtown, addressing members of the city’s Economic Development Committee May 27.

The pilot program kicked off June 1 and runs through July 10. Under the program, the last southbound express train will depart the CTA’s Linden stop in Wilmette at 7:58 p.m., and arrive at Evanston’s Davis Street stop at 8:05 p.m. The train will then make all Evanston stops — running express from Howard Street to Belmont Avenue — before stopping at Fullerton Avenue and heading into the Loop.

A return northbound train from the Loop is scheduled to arrive at Belmont at 9:20 p.m., Davis at 9:44 p.m., and arrive back at Linden at 9:50 p.m.

Currently, the last express train leaves Linden at 6:30 p.m., heading to the Loop, and then making the run back to arrive at Linden at 8:22 p.m.

The CTA agreed to initiate the pilot after several surveys of local riders, including one of Northwestern University students, indicating strong support for later train service.

For the service to continue beyond the pilot dates, the CTA is requiring ridership of at least 468 people on the train, or 39 people per car on a six-car train (this includes both Loop-bound and Linden-bound service), city officials said.

The CTA has set June 25 as the date when it will conduct its official count of riders, Ylda Capriccioso, the city’s assistant to the city manager, told aldermen at their city council meeting May 26.

If the pilot is successful and reaches the 468-rider threshold, the CTA will evaluate funding to continue service, she said.

The city has been reaching out to organizations such as Pace, making sure that system’s riders are aware of the new connection times, she said.

She said connections have also been made with representatives of Skokie and Wilmette, as well as with aldermen in Chicago whose stops will be affected.

Meanwhile, DowntownEvanston.org is working with businesses on a number of promotions around the event “to make sure we can capture our downtown work force and get them to stay around” and take the later train, Coakley said.

During the six-week pilot, businesses have planned a fun run, as well as a wine walk. DowntownEvanston.org will move its popular Let’s Dance series closer to the Davis station. There’s also a scavenger hunt planned.

Alderman Jane Grover, 7th Ward, noted that a number of Chicago Cubs night games are scheduled during the pilot period. She asked if there was a way to cross-market with the Cubs, get word out, to which officials said they had already begun making inquiries.

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Members of the Peking Acrobats, who are scheduled to perform daily during the 2015 season at Six Flags Great America, put on a demonstration for early-arriving guests May 29.

What a ride it's been

Great America marks anniversary with throwback rides

BY DAN MORAN
News-Sun

More than 40 years after Gurnee voters were asked to say yes or no to a theme park on farmland east of the Tri-State Tollway, Dick Welton can report not only the mood around that referendum but also the exact results that came in.

"They wondered what it would do to little Gurnee, with 2,000 people," Welton recalled of the days when the Marriott Corp. first proposed a $30 million, 300-acre amusement park. "At the time, growth was sweeping through all of Lake County, and we were surrounded. (We) were going to blow up and disappear unless we did something exciting."

The former Gurnee mayor added that opponents of what would become Great America "would come with rotten tomatoes, rotten cucumbers, guns and knives, and they'd throw them at me, and I've had to dodge them. But those were the outside people. Those were the no-growthers and the environmentalists. They didn't care about Gurnee."

"The anti-Great America people thought they'd beat us. They had petitions signed, and they wanted a referendum," said Welton, recalling the final tally from that November 1973 balloting: 773 votes in favor of the development to 252 against.

"To this day, we are still the largest gated tourist attraction in the state of Illinois."

—Hank Salemi, Six Flags Great America park president

Welton's history lesson was shared with early arrivals to what is now Six Flags Great America on Friday, as park officials hosted a formal celebration of the park's 40th operating season, which opened earlier this month.

To commemorate the anniversary, Great America has brought back three rides that opened with the park in June 1976 — the Lady Bugs, Red Baron Planes and Tot's Livery carriages, all of which accommodate riders 54 inches and shorter and have been set up in Hometown Square Park.

Gurnee Mayor Kristina Kovarik told the gathering in Hometown Square that Great America has now been around so long that a generation has grown up with the park.

"For those of us who live around here or in the region, when you say 'Six Flags' we have wonderful family memories," she said. "I have years of the little (souvenir) photos of my kids. I keep them handy, because they grew up in a blink and moved away. Now I can look back and see them in their strollers and their little backpacks."

Turn to Great, Next Page
Great, from Previous Page

"I think about the summer and how excited they would be to get measured and see if they could go on the ride they couldn't go on before," added Kovarik, "and my relief when they met the height requirement, and I wouldn't have to go on with them anymore."

The 2015 single-day admission of $66.99 for guests taller than 48 inches is a far cry from the $7.95 charged in 1976, but Kovarik and Welton both pointed out that the amusement, food and beverage taxes have helped Gurnee move away from being a village with volunteer firefighters and gravel roads.

After it was pointed out that Great America outdrew both the Cubs and White Sox in 1976, park President Hank Salemi said that is still the case.

"To this day, we are still the largest gated tourist attraction in the state of Illinois," Salemi said. "We're also one of the largest employers in the state of Illinois, and that truly doesn't happen without the vision, the dedication and the drive of (former) Mayor Welton. We're so proud to have him back today. We're always happy to have him back."

Welton said he feels that Great America "laid the basis for Gurnee Mills" and residential growth in high-end subdivisions like the 1,500-acre Hunt Club Farms.

"The town (was) supposed to dry up and blow away," Welton said. "I'm here to say that (the village) is all beautiful, and we owe it all to Six Flags Great America and our current mayor, who can carry on and do incredible things."

Welton added that "I'm glad when I wake up every morning - because I'm at the age where I might not - that Great America is here."

danmoran@tribpub.com  
Twitter @NewsSunsDanMoran

Characters greet guests at the ceremony to open the 40th operating season of Six Flags Great America on May 29.
Low minimum wage hurts you and me

There are lots of reasons to support a nationwide increase in the minimum wage.

Certainly, one of the most compelling reasons is that employers who pay minimum wage salaries are ripping us off—ripping me off, ripping you off.

The harsh truth is that it is very difficult, if not impossible, to live and support any kind of family on minimum wage pay. So, if workers can’t live — buy food and clothing, pay rent, etc. — on what they earn, they must pay for these necessities some other way.

And that other way is through government programs that assist the poor.

A study by the University of California at Berkeley found that 73 percent of people who receive public benefits are people who work. And, nationwide, 63 percent of public benefits spending (food stamps, Medicaid and earned income tax credits) goes to families that work.

These workers are paid so little that they are eligible for federal poverty programs. And if it’s not just low wages. Eighty-seven percent of these workers don’t receive health benefits through work.

What it means is that you and I are paying low wage workers through our taxes because employers won’t pay their workers a living wage. You and I are uncompensated stockholders in minimum wage-paying corporations. In this unholy partnership, you and I pay the expenses, the corporations reap the profits.

That’s a lot of fancy words to point out a fact that most folks can understand.

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Race underlies debate over prospective Lake Forest principal

Some years ago, a friend told me a story about enrolling his son at Oak Park and River Forest High School.

Concerned about how the boy might fare in honors classes, he told the counselor about his father’s concerns. The counselor advised that the boy should be put in honors, rather than a regular class. Even if he struggled in honors, it would be better than the regular class.

Oak Park is a community in which race can be an underlying aspect of many situations and conversations, and the above interaction can also be interpreted as such: The counselor perhaps was advising my friend that even if his white son struggled in honors, he would be better off than in a regular class, where most of the school’s black students were placed.

I think that’s what Chala Holland, the top candidate for principal at Lake Forest High School, is trying to say in a rather confusing statement her opponents are quoting to keep her from being hired as principal at Lake Forest High School.

She allegedly wrote on a blog that even racially diverse schools are “beacons of racial inequities disguised by a false notion of meritocracy and the reality of white privilege and internalized racism.”

That’s a lot of fancy words to point out a situation where a white student who probably merited a regular class placement was put in honors because ... his whiteness was deemed good enough to probably be OK in honors.

While the statement probably rings true for a place like OPRF, the same statement is reason enough for a number of Lake Forest residents to deny her becoming the next principal at Lake Forest High School.

More than 100 residents attended the school board meeting May 26 to protest her potential hire, which resulted in the board putting off the approval until next month to allow more discussion on her hiring.

Here’s the issue: Oak Park and River Forest High School, where Holland is currently an assistant principal, is 25.5 percent black. Lake Forest High School is 12 percent black, according to the Illinois Interactive Report Card.

What is highly relevant in Oak Park about tracking — placement of kids in honors classes and an achievement gap between blacks and whites that has long been recognized as a local concern — is just relevant to Lake Forest High School.

Why that is so is a topic for another day. But the reality is the differences are rather stark. Holland’s statement is a topic for lively debate in Oak Park, but an outrage in Lake Forest.

Holland has supporters at OPRF, for sure. And the Lake Forest High School screening process thought enough of her to make her the No. 1 pick.

There must be good reasons.

But I doubt we’ll ever know. Because labeling something “racist” is the nuclear bomb of public debate. Holland said tracking is racist and that’s racist. End of the debate.

The issue is so radioactive, Holland’s statements about it have been removed from the Internet.

And that attempt at taking back your words doesn’t help the candidate’s cause.

I suspect we need to talk about this stuff a lot more.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for the Pioneer Press.
Trust busted is trust denied

There is a current movement to increase motor fuel tax to repair and maintain crumbling highway infrastructure purportedly caused by inadequate funds currently generated.

In 1956, federal motor fuel taxes were designated a Highway TRUST Fund for construction and maintenance as a user pays system. Beginning in 1983, funds were diverted from this trust to pay for mass transit and other projects. Currently about 25 percent of the funds are diverted from the original purpose.

Raising the tax will only give the politicians more funds to divert. Restore the misappropriated 25 percent, and if the public at large benefits from other projects currently being funded by these taxes, switch that funding to a user pays or general tax obligation as well.

Don't trust the politicians who have busted the trust.

— Earl Weiss, Skokie

Christa McAuliffe for $20 bill

If the movement to put a female on the $20 bill is ultimately successful, I recommend teacher Christa McAuliffe, one of the seven crew members who died in the 1986 Space Shuttle Challenger explosion. She is a true American hero representing the best in American womanhood — mother, teacher, scientist, explorer and a courageous trailblazer.

— Rolf Eilhauer, Northbrook

LETTER 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).
Graduation marks an ending for parents, too

"Get to know the other parents, because you are in the long ride,"

LYNN PETRAK, Home on LaGrange

Graduation season is a time of reaching milestones and reflecting on them. The Valdes family of Countryside, for example, is moving on after 16 years at St. Cletus School in La Grange after the May graduation of their eighth-grade daughter. They weren't the only ones, either, according to mom Liz Valdes. "For about half the class, this was their last year. And it did impact the whole school year - other parents and I kept saying, 'This is our last...' for so many things," she says. "It was bittersweet for many of us." A lot of things happen during such stretches of time. "We've gone through a lot. We've lost teachers, we lost a principal to death, we've lost parents," notes Valdes, adding the group also spent life events like Sept. 11, 2001 together. "I remember being at the kids' school soccer game and a plane flew over a week after 9/11. We all stopped and looked at the sky because it was the first time we'd seen a plane since then." Like the Valdes family, the Weller family of La Grange just finished up a 16-year tenure at a local school, St. Francis Xavier. "Emotions are bittersweet for sure," agrees mom Cindy Weller. "SFX has been a great, dynamic community and the friendships that form there are lifelong. Some of our best friends are the parents of our children's friends. My older kids are still best friends with their SFX friends and I hope the same for my son." The school recognizes such longtime family commitments at the eighth-grade graduation and dinner dance during a special rose ceremony, Weller says. "I would encourage parents just starting out to get involved in the school/church community as much as possible, advises Weller. "Volunteer in the classroom. Be a room mom. Chaperone field trips. Attend social events for both the kids and parents. Encourage your kids to try everything that SFX has to offer: theater, band, math club, chess club, sport, the list goes on. You never know what hidden passion or innate talent your child might have and it will set the groundwork for a rich and satisfying experience both in elementary school and beyond." Valdes echoes those words of wisdom. "Get to know the other parents, because you are in this together for the long ride," she says. "We're still close with my oldest son's friends and my middle son's friends and parents. We talk about lifelong relationships for the kids, but it's for the parents, too," she points out. "And get involved. That's how we got so many great friendships."
Readers sound off on ice cream truck noise

PAT LENHOFF

Hang on, students (and teachers) everywhere ... you're almost there! Summer vacation has begun for some and is hovering on the horizon for the rest. Soon your books will be replaced by bicycles and bathing suits, and even though it is said that the mind is a terrible thing to waste, at the very least you'll get a short respite from academia. Considering the shift in focus, it seems a good time to go with that flow today and let you, the reader, take over the remote control from my usually steady hands. Let's hear what you have to say for a change.

Earlier this spring, I wrote about school closings for bad weather, wondering why it was unsafe to go to school but not to the mall, library or grocery store. Many readers shared those sentiments, but reader Amy Perlow disagreed. "After reading your musings about inclement weather days, I would like to offer another point of view," she wrote. "The poor weather conditions not only affect our children but the workers who must be outside to get the children safely to school. On the next snow day (hopefully in 2016), consider the bus driver whose bus breaks down mid-route. Consider the teachers, whose commute may be over an hour, possibly getting stranded. Consider what a crossing guard has to endure." Good point, Amy.

As spring progressed and ice cream season drew closer, I wrote about a north suburban community's plan to stifle the music on ice cream trucks that cruised neighborhoods in the summer. My argument in support of the music was that this little piece of Americana should not be legislated away due to our increasing need to control everything in our lives. Reader Dave Turnbaugh had a different perspective. "Several things should happen before the truck hits the street: a business license in the village; a background check run on the driver; a health department inspection of the vehicle," he wrote. "There is also the risk of excited children running into the street. My biggest gripe is the incessant music. How many times must I sit on my deck and hear 'Pop Goes the Weasel'? The village should at least be allowed to limit the volume. In my childhood, it was a bicycle with a box on the front, with dry ice and ice cream bars. No electronic music, just a bicycle bell." Long distance California reader and retiree Rick Tully sent in a humorous counterpoint: "Where can I sign the petition? I agree, it is a bygone era of summer fun. Darn old people, always complaining." Rick may be retired, but his sense of humor is not! And finally, on the subject of Grammies, other readers also feel that unique bond between grandchild and grandmother that I discussed in a column for Mother's Day. Connie Helmbock wrote: "Beautiful! I am the proud Jamma of five of the best grandchildren I could ever dream of. I just sent your article to my friends that are lucky like you and I to have been blessed." And reader Chris Grable added her own thoughts: "Thank you for a beautiful article about grandmas. Being a grandparent is a marvelous and blessed privilege. I love the conversations my grandchildren and I share." I agree, Chris. Some of the best times with my Grand Girls are not the big events but those quiet pre-or-post nap chats we have, me listening while they go off into a verbal journey that makes little logical sense but is another one of our treasured secret adventures. I can't wait to see where Magnificent Max wants to take me, when he's old enough to speak of his dreams.

Dick and Susan Royce sell frozen treats from their old time Good Humor ice cream truck on July 15, 2013 in St. Charles.

Experience Earth's most perfect water

The legend began on the remote island of Iceland over 5,000 years ago when a colossal volcanic eruption created a miraculous resource beneath the Earth's crust. The legendary Olfus Spring was born and has been constantly replenished by snowmelt and rainfall ever since. Cherished by generations, this is the source of Icelandic Glacial. This pristine natural spring water is filtered through ancient lava rock, creating remarkable purity and optimal mineral balance. Clean, crisp and untouched, celebrate nature's perfection with every sip. Icelandic Glacial.
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This list is not intended to be a complete record of all real estate transactions. Data compiled by Record Information Services. © 630-557-1000. www.record-connection.com
HIGHLAND PARK

Contemporary home bathed in light across from West Ridge Rec Center, baseball fields, soccer fields, playground and a short walk to Red Oak Elementary school. Updated kitchen with wood cabinets, granite countertops and stainless steel appliances. Master bedroom with new elegant bathroom. All bathrooms remodeled. Lower level family room/exercise room with sliding glass doors to backyard fun.

Address: 611 Ridge Road
Price: $549,000
Schools: Highland Park High School
Taxes: $10,858
Agent: Sonia Munwes Cohen/Coldwell Banker

NILES


Address: 8653 North Merrill St.
Price: $339,900
Schools: Maine East High School
Taxes: $6,687
Agent: Kathy Paluch/Classic Realty

VERNON HILLS

Four-bedroom home with first-floor master suite. Move-in ready condition with open floor plan, new gleaming hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings, skylights, brick fireplace, brick paver patio and large roof sizes throughout. Gourmet kitchen with newer stainless appliances & eating area with bay window & overlooking fenced yard. Large formal dining room, first-floor laundry, new 98 percent efficient furnace, and more.

Address: 152 Southfield Drive
Price: $409,900
Schools: Vernon Hills High School
Taxes: $11,978
Agent: Allan Lewis/Smart Choice Real Estate Services Inc.

WHEELING

Largest model in Avalon finished throughout. Chef's kitchen with island and granite counters opens to family room. Master suite has two walk-in closets, double vanity, quartered, Grohe fixtures, shower with body spray. Enjoy gatherings in the rec room complete with kitchenette, custom cabinets, granite counters and bath. 14'x24' deck in large fenced yard.

Address: 1955 Bordeaux Court
Price: $469,500
Schools: Wheeling High School
Taxes: $12,324
Agent: John & Cathy Stocki/Baird & Warner

Listings from Homefinder.com.
Morton Grove, neighboring chambers network

BY BRAVETTA HASSELL
Pioneer Press

The dictum that it's "all about the relationship" when it comes to business rang true the evening of May 28 when business leaders from villages across the northwest suburbs convened in Morton Grove for a multichamber of commerce event.

The reception, set up inside the former Lin-Mar Motors garage overlooking Oakton Street, gave business owners the opportunity to meet the historic auto body shop's new owner, CarCare Collision Centers, and also connect in person — something seemingly more and more uncommon in an extremely wired world.

At this event, chamber members could connect with different business owners who could potentially help them meet their own operational needs. They could share information and ideas in a context that would never lose value — over a drink or food or both, live and in full color.

Gone are the days of house calls, where drumming up new business meant knocking on doors, Mark Matz, marketing director for the Morton Grove Chamber of Commerce explained.

"That doesn't happen," Matz said. "This is a chance for people to actually meet face-to-face, look each other in the eye and have a conversation without having to text right away.

In addition to the Skokie and Morton Grove chambers, business owners from the Niles, Edgebrook, Park Ridge, Glenview and Sauganash chambers were also in attendance at the multichamber of commerce event.

It's about new faces, said Wayne Hildner, owner of the carpet and upholstery cleaning business Sure-Clean.

"Obviously when you go to one chamber function you see a lot of the same people over and over again. So, the multichamber, you can kind of introduce yourself and meet people from the area, from other villages that you don't get to see.

The connections Hildner makes at events such as these might not generate anything immediately but have often resulted in work down the road.

"People say, 'Oh, I remember I met a carpet cleaner at the chamber meeting' and then they'll call the office," Hildner said, recalling a lead he'd received because of a multichamber event.

Jo Machina, co-owner of the Arlington Heights-based App To Do It, works in brand optimization and helping businesses be found more easily online. She said she tries to attend as many of these networking events as she can.

"People do business with people that they know, like and trust, so the more you can get your face out there, the better for us," said Machina, who is a member of the Skokie Chamber of Commerce.

About 150 people attended the networking event that was organized by the Morton Grove Chamber of Commerce and catered by the dining and entertainment venue Pinstripes, which is among the chamber's newest members.

In addition to the Skokie and Morton Grove chambers, business owners from the Niles, Edgebrook, Park Ridge, Glenview and Sauganash chambers were also in attendance.

Morton Grove Chamber of Commerce President Jeannine Como said receptions like this serve to connect business owners and encourage teamwork within and across chambers.

Bravetta Hassell is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Audi dealership celebrates opening in Morton Grove

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

A Glenview Audi dealership that closed and later reopened in Morton Grove last fall celebrated its grand opening event this month.

Audi Morton Grove opened at 7000 Golf Road in a 60,000-square-foot facility after closing its former location in Glenview in November — a smaller building that was located at 301 Waukegan Road, according to Nancy Radzevich, director of community and economic development for Morton Grove.

The dealership occupies a swath of property that used to be a parking lot for the former Kraft campus, which now houses Illinois Tool Works, Radzevich said.

Audi Morton Grove is owner Gary McGrath's second dealership in Morton Grove. McGrath Automotive Group also owns McGrath Acura of Morton Grove at 9105 Waukegan Road.

There are now four auto dealerships in Morton Grove, including Castle Honda at 6900 Dempster St. and Auto Match at 9040 N. Waukegan Road.

About 200 people attended a grand opening party for the dealership on May 14, including Mayor Dan DiMaria and the president of Audi of America, Scott Keogh, according to a news release from the village of Morton Grove.

McGrath was issued the permits to build on the property in May of 2014, according to information from the village.

"They opened six weeks ahead of schedule," Radzevich said. "They wanted to make sure they were settled in before they had the grand opening.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Thursday, June 4

Save A Star’s Drug Disposal Program: Accepted are: prescription medications, all over-the-counter and pet medications, vitamins, liquids and creams. 9 a.m. Thursday-Wednesday. Evanston Police Department, 1454 Elmwood Ave., Evanston, free

Ribbon Cutting at Goldfish Swim School Evanston: Enjoy a free family swim after the ribbon cutting ceremony and reception. 11 a.m. Thursday, Goldfish Swim School Evanston, 2008 West Dempster St., Evanston, free, 847-401-5544

Let’s Talk at Lunch: Participants bring their lunch, the YWCA Evanston/North Shore provides the beverage, facilitator and a topic, article or video clip as the catalyst for honest conversation. Noon Thursday, Family Focus Building, 2010 Dewey Ave., Evanston, free, 847-864-8445

All My Relations: A Seneca History: In collaboration with visual artist and dancer Rosy Simas (Seneca), this exhibit introduces the history of the Seneca culture through milestones in the lives of Simas and her relations. 11 a.m. Thursday-Wednesday, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, Free-$5; $10-$12 for talk, 847-475-1030

Native Haute Couture: The year long exhibit celebrates the history of Native American fashion from pre-contact to today. 10 a.m. Thursday-Wednesday. Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, Free-$5; $10-$12 for talk, 847-475-1030

“Melancholy Play”: A Chamber Musical: Tilly’s irresistible sadness inevitably draws those in her life to fall hopelessly in love with her. When her melancholy transforms to joy, her change wreaks havoc on those around her in this poetic meditation on the love of sadness. 7:30 p.m. Thursday-Sunday, Piven Theatre Workshop, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, $20-$30, 847-866-8049

Made in Evanston Open Studios Evanston: More than 100 artists exhibit and perform during Open Studios Evanston. This citywide art celebration is a free, public initiative that engages the arts community of Evanston and the public. 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, free, 847-448-8260

Friday, June 5

Mitchell Museum of the American Indian Free admission day: Visit exhibitions, the library, museum shop and more at no charge at this museum devoted exclusively to American Indian and First Nationals peoples throughout the U.S. and Canada. 10 a.m. Friday, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, Free, 847-475-1030

Silver Screen Series: “The Parent Trap”: Teenage twin girls swap places and scheme to reunite their divorced parents. Cast: Hayley Mills, Maureen O’Hara. 2 p.m. Saturday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave, Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

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

Paul Wertico and Erin McDougald: Songs of the Sunry Kind: Seven time Grammy winning drummer Paul Wertico teams up again with critically acclaimed jazz vocalist-composer and bandleader, Erin McDougald. 8 p.m. Friday, Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, $35, 847-677-7761

Winnetka Children’s Fair: The Board of Directors of the Winnetka Community Nursery School hosts the Winnetka Children’s Fair. Admission to the fairgrounds is free and open to the public. 10 a.m. Friday and Saturday, Winnetka Village Green, Elm St. and Maple St., Winnetka, see description, 847-446-4432
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CALENDAR

Calendar, from Previous Page

Morton Grove Farmers Market: Browse a wide variety of vendors and enjoy live entertainment and kids activities at this weekly market. 8 a.m. Saturday, Dempster Street and Georgiana Ave., 6210 Dempster St., Morton Grove, free, 847-750-6436

Kick Off! Bike Safety + Bling Your Bike: Join for free bike inspections and safety tips. The first 30 visitors can get a free EL Wire Kit and glow in the dark spoke beads to bling out their bike. 9:30 a.m. Saturday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Park Ridge Farmers Market: Shop for fresh produce, olive oils, flowers, pickles, pasta, baked goods and meat. 7 a.m. Saturday, Park Ridge Farmers Market, 15 S. Prairie Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-318-5217

Pages Book Discussion: Join MGPL for a book discussion of “Tell the Wolves I’m Home,” by Carol Rifka Brunt. Meet monthly to chat about these fresh, popular reads. 7 p.m. Saturday, Barnes and Noble, 5405 West Touhy Ave., Skokie, free, 847-329-8460

Devar Emet Messianic Synagogue marks 10 Year Anniversary in Skokie: Devar Emet Messianic Synagogue will celebrate 10 years of ministry in the Chicagoland area, with a special Shabbat service. 10 a.m. Saturday, Devar Emet Messianic Synagogue, 7800 Niles Ave., Skokie, free, 847-674-9146

Sunday, June 7

Naomi Ruth Cohen Mental Illness Stigma Conference: The theme of the annual NRCI for Mental Health Education 14th Annual Community Conference is Understanding and Overcoming the Stigma of Mental Illness. 9:30 a.m. Sunday, Beth Emet Synagogue, 1224 Dempster St., Evanston, $55-20, 312-304-1480

Artifice: fiber, fashion, and embellishment: This exhibition features works from students at Columbia College Chicago and others that are involved with contemporary fiber arts. 10 a.m. Sunday-Wednesday, Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-5300

Grand Opening at Goldfish Swim School Evanston: Have a great time with crafts, snacks and outdoor activities, plus prizes and giveaways. 2 p.m. Sunday, Goldfish Swim School Evanston, 2008 West Dempster St., Evanston, free, 847-401-5544

A Vision In Sound: Mussorgsky's Bunch, Higdon: The Chicago Philharmonic closes its 2014-15 season with a show dedicated to the five senses with a celebration of sights in music. 7 p.m. Sunday, Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, $25-$75; $10 for students, 312-957-0000

“The Fantasticks”: Light Opera Works presents the musical about two fathers who plot to get their children together by keeping them apart. The production is accompanied by a full orchestra. 2 p.m. Sunday, Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson St., Evanston, $34, 847-920-5360

Glenviewings Summer Film Series: “Birdman”: A washed-up actor attempts to recover his family and his career in the days leading up to the opening of his Broadway play. 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Get Out and Go Treasure Hunt: Take the family on a nature-inspired outdoor treasure hunt. Search for hidden clues while exploring the natural areas of Gallery Park and Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie. 11 a.m. Sunday, Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie/The Tyner Center, 2400 Compass Road, Glenview, free, 847-901-6828

Chicago Honor Ride and Run: The Honor Ride & Run provides a life changing experience for healing heroes. Cyclists choose one of three distances to ride, while runners will complete a 5K. 8 a.m. Sunday, Evanston Subaru, 3340 Oakton St., Skokie, $65 for cycling, $40 for 5K run, 847-869-5700

Skokie JLI "Judaism Decoded:" The Origins and Evolution of Jewish Tradition: 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Lubavitch Chabad of Skokie, 4059 Dempster St., Skokie, tuition, 847-677-1770

Monday, June 8

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

Storytime at the Park: Centennial Park: Bring a Blanket and enjoy 30 minutes of stories and finger plays geared to birth-5 year olds. In case of rain, storytime will be canceled. 10 a.m. Monday, Centennial Park, 6801 McCormick Boulevard, Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Turn to Calendar, Next Page
Knitting Roundtable: Come work through knitting projects and socialize with fellow knitters. Don't forget your current knitting projects and needles. 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. 10-30 a.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Johann Strauss Jr. and the Viennese Waltz: Through lecture and listening to music, Michael Vaughn will explore these marvelous works and their impact upon Viennese society. 10 a.m. Monday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $10 member; $13 non-member, 847-784-6000

Recycling in Skokie: Clothing that is somewhat worn, stained, faded or torn is all acceptable. Clothing that is in good condition will be donated to those in need. Material that is not in good shape will be re-purposed; that is torn into rags or broken down to make filler. Clean material should be brought to the synagogue in plastic bags; sorting and processing will be done by Chicago Textile Recycling and Wipeco, Inc. 9 a.m. Monday-Wednesday, Ezra Habonim/the Niles Township, 4500 West Dempster St., Skokie, free, 847-675-4141

Tuesday, June 9

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

Storytime at the Pool: Enjoy a brief, poolside story with a librarian. Enjoy books at the pool or take home for further reading. 12:45 p.m. Tuesday, Proesel Park, 7085 Kostner Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

DIY Teen Craft: Make your own Amigurumi: Make a stuffed pig, bunny, cat, ghost or light bulb with Amigurumi--the Japanese art of crocheting stuffed toys. 5:30 p.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Wednesday, June 10

Eat your lunch and listen to free music: The Music Institute of Chicago's free faculty lunchtime concert series has new concerts every month. 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, Sherman Theater, 1702 Sherman Ave., Evanston, free, 847-905-1500

Preschool Story Time: Stories and songs for children ages 3-5 and a caregiver. 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston, free, 847-448-8610

Jackman Park Summer Concert Series: Clear your calendar and head outside for musical entertainment at the Jackman Park Summer Concert Series. Bring your dinner, folding chairs and lawn blankets. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jackman Park, 1930 Prairie St, Glenview, free, 847-724-5670

Food for Thought — The Power of Glamour: A lunch and presentation about the women who enchanted the world and left their legacy. Including Joan Crawford, Greta Garbo, Katherine Hepburn, Tallulah Bankhead and Marlene Dietrich. 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Park Ridge Park District - Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, $17 member; $19 guest, 847-692-3597

Have an event to submit? Go to chicagotribune.com/calendar
The Ridgewood High School and United Airlines Mentoring and Leadership Program benefit May 1 at Franklin Park American Legion Post 974 brought out 75 supporters and raised $4,700 to benefit the program.

“I am so thankful to live in such a giving and caring community and I would like to thank everyone for attending and/or contributing,” said Laura McGready, a 19-year Norridge resident and co-organizer who shared duties with Carol Valentino-Barry of Chicago. “It is greatly appreciated by the students and myself.”

The Mentoring Program recently won the Points of Light Award and received a certificate from President George H.W. Bush. This, along with the mentoring scholarship was presented at Education Board meeting on May 28.

McGready’s son, Adam, is a 2010 Ridgewood High School graduate. McGready continues to volunteer for Ridgewood High School as a mentor in part to engage freshmen early in their high school careers.

“I think as mentors, we connect them to the community,” said McGready.

According to the Ridgewood High School website: “The goal of the Mentoring and Leadership Program is to establish a tiered network for increased student support and achievement using the unique architecture of engaged community volunteers and stakeholders.”

See more on the Ridgewood High School Mentoring and Leadership Program at www.ridgenet.org.
“Believe in yourself.” That’s the first piece of advice Louise Roe gives in her new book, “Front Roe: How to be the Leading Lady in your Own Life” (Running Press). From there, Roe has ideas on everything from dressing for a first date or job interview to techniques for creating the perfect cat-eye or ways to turn your bedroom into a nurturing sanctuary.

The author and fashion guru was in Skokie recently for Westfield Old Orchard’s Fash Bash, signing her book and shared top tips for looking stylish this season.

Unstructured, wide-legged pants

“Boho Chic” is going mainstream this season with unstructured, wide-length pants. Roe loves this look that pays homage to the ‘70s, but with its bright patterns, adds a fresh new twist. Just be sure to pair your pants with a simple, fitted top. There’s a fine line between effortlessly chic and just sloppy.

Sorbet colors

Sorbet colors are the “new black,” at least when it comes to what’s cool and trendy in summer wear. Roe likes colors that look good enough to eat: tangerine, lemon, pistachio and raspberry.

Fringe

Fringe is fun, funky and, this season, is giving jackets and purses a hip new flair. Remember with this fashion though, a little fringe goes a long way. Unless you’re heading out west to become a cowboy.

Culottes

With different shapes and styles to fit your mood, culottes are back. Pair with a t-shirt and sneakers when running errands and later transform your look by slipping on a silky top and some sexy sandals.

Want to see your event in Trend? Debbie Hoppe, Trend editorial assistant, will send you guidelines. Email her at dhoppe@pioneerlocal.com.
Quick help for Comcast customer

Dear Help Squad,

I know you must get millions of complaints about Comcast. Here is mine and I hope you can help. I have spoken to several Comcast people about these issues with no results. This all started on May 3.

I just moved into my new home in Downers Grove and had a home inspection done. This is important information, as you will see.

Here are the issues:

1. A Comcast worker drilled a hole through the tile in my bathroom wall while trying to run the cable line from the outside. He saw the hole was placed wrong and drilled another. The man vehemently denies that he drilled the hole. However, it is not on my home inspection sheet and I know it was not there before he came. The inspector would have addressed the defect in the report.

2. The Comcast worker ran a bright orange cable from my house to the telephone pole in my neighbor's yard. It is now buried in both yards without permission from my neighbor. The orange cable is visible going down my outside wall in the backyard.

3. The cable he used on the west side of the house is black, while my house is white. Black was the wrong color to use.

On May 14, a supervisor was scheduled to inspect the damage, but Comcast was a no-show. My mom missed the appointment that day to cover the appointment. She called the same day and was told there was a service ticket, but no record of an appointment for that day. The customer service representative said he would contact a supervisor and get back to me in 20 minutes. It has been four days.

What I need to happen:

1. The bathroom tile must be replaced. Matching is impossible. Comcast needs to pay for all new tile surrounding the tub.

2. The orange cable is now buried, but is still visible on my outside wall. I want it changed to white.

3. Also want the black cable changed to white.

All is work to be at no charge to me. It is the Comcast installer's experience or incompetence that caused these problems. If you can be my advocate, I would be so thankful. I want my baby to take a bath in the tub, but I will not get rid of the evidence until this matter is taken care of. Your service to the community is invaluable. Thank you!

Aubrey, Downers Grove

CATHY CUNNINGHAM
Help Squad

Dear Help Squad,

I also want the black cable changed to white. All is work to be at no charge to me. It is the Comcast installer's experience or incompetence that caused these problems. If you can be my advocate, I would be so thankful. I want my baby to take a bath in the tub, but I will not get rid of the evidence until this matter is taken care of. Your service to the community is invaluable. Thank you!

Aubrey, Downers Grove

CATHY CUNNINGHAM
Help Squad

Mom Bod just as not as Dad Bod

In last week's column, I wrote about my conflicted feelings on the "Dad Bod" and how people are celebrating the cuteness of men with larger midsections and less than perfectly sculpted arms.

It got me thinking about the "Mom Bod," so I Googled the term and found several articles written by women demanding that if Dad Bod is so trendy, then Mrs. Dad Bod should get the same reception.

It's kind of funny that the Mom Bod backlash is happening right as bathing suit season begins; a time when women spend hours trying on dozens of one- and two-piece, standing in front of the dressing room mirror wondering, "Is this my body?" or "Am I good enough?"

I feel sad and frustrated that so many women I know — whether young or old, tall or short, lean or large, all have a less-than-healthy self-image physically.

"It doesn't matter if they're size 0 or 24; most women are insecure about their bodies," said Suzanne Newman, who is the founder of her North Shore-based wardrobe consulting company, Find Fashion Happiness. "We live in such a looks-conscious society with so much pressure to be perfect. Women find it difficult to accept their bodies and tend to see every imperfection."

This is the paragraph in my column where I would ordinarily begin my ranting about the importance of self-love and appreciating and nurturing our healthy bodies instead of focusing on what we don't like about our post-childbirth figures. Not going any further on my soapbox, though. Instead want to share a few comments made by men when I asked this question on social media:

"If a woman is older or doesn't have the perfect body, can she still look good in a swimsuit?" Here are some of the replies I received:

"The answer is no in the cut or color of the suit or the age or shape of the model ... attractiveness is in the energy born of self-acceptance, quiet confidence and peaceful enjoyment of the moment. A swimsuit (or a business suit) is most successful when it makes the wearer feel awesome, not when it approximates what a viewer might like (a recipe for uncertainty and insecurity as it is always unknowable)."

"Confidence and a healthy self-esteem are very hot no matter what kind of swimsuit someone is wearing."

I firmly believe if anyone - man or woman - is comfortable in their own skin, they can wear whatever they please. The phrase 'Clothes do not a person make' is so true. I have a saying, 'What you think about me is none of my business.' I know who I am. We are all attractive as that which we allow others to see in our hearts.

"How to Get Your Body Ready for a Bikini: 1. Have a body. 2. Put a bikini on it."

So there you have it. Remember that these comments came not from yours truly, but from men: the people we think are so critical, when in reality they are easy. We are the ones with the issues over our own undeserved hard time.

I think some of the most attractive women aren't the most beautiful and physically fit. There is an inner light and true glow that shines brightly on a woman who is passionate, who loves life and who loves and accepts herself.

I'm not saying people shouldn't work at their physique, and that burgers and fries are acceptable at every meal. What I'm trying to convey is that I think life is a hell of a lot more fun when you take an occasional break in your efforts for physical fitness and savor an appetite for life's pleasures, which include food that isn't so good for you.

I'm basically saying that the same philosophies which apply to the Dad Bod (going to the gym occasionally and eating eight slices of pizza if you want) really do hold true for his wife.

CATHY CUNNINGHAM
Free-lance columnist for Pioneer Press.

CONTACT HELP SQUAD: @HelpSquadCC

Jackie Pirossop
Love Essentially

JACKIE PIROSSOPH
Love Essentially
PARTIES
STEPPENWOLF THEATRE COMPANY’S GALA
ANIXTER CENTER’S BENEFIT FOR ABILITY
GOODMAN THEATRE’S GALA

Guide to summer!

JENNIFER BEALS
THE CHICAGO NATIVE STARS IN TNT’S NEW DRAMA ‘PROOF’

Plus 10 Stops to Make This Season
THE MOMENT PERFECTED.

Santa Margherita

Exclusively presented by TERLATO WINES
SIMON PERRY PHOTO EXHIBIT AT VIRGIN HOTELS
The ultra cool hotel brand dips into fashion with a photo series by Perry on display in The Commons Club June 4-August 4. The hotel’s penthouse suite and newly opened Cerise rooftop serve as the backdrop for the shoot, which features looks from local designers like Lana Jewelry and Idle Wild and boutiques like Lkrm. 203 N. Wabash; Virginhotels.com

(At left) Bodysuit: Dru Du Mal, Barneys New York, 15 E. Oak; Fleundungan.com Top: Yiqing Yin, Blake, 212 W. Chicago Jewelry: Lana Jewelry; LanaJewelry.com Clutch: Idle Wild; ShopIdleWild.com

< OLLY VITAMINS
There’s a new, more colorful and even tastier vitamin on the shelf. The supplement brand—which launched last month—offers 20 types of gummies and easy-to-swallow softgels, from beauty and sleep enhancers to probiotics and vitamin C, all made with natural flavors and sweeteners from fruits, vegetables and herbs. Starting at $14. Available at Target locations citywide; Target.com

> SEURA OUTDOOR TVS
Outdoor entertaining gets a sleek boost with this luxury tech-solution company’s new outdoor TVs, Storm and Storm Ultra. Both models are crafted to withstand direct sun, shade and storms, preventing screen washout and ensuring you don’t miss a single game or summer premiere. Starting at $2,899. Abt, 1200 N. Milwaukee; Seura.com

> DRUMBAR’S SUMMER COCKTAILS
Beat the heat with the cocktail spot’s refreshing summer libations, perfect for sipping on the rooftop patio. Try the That’s Your Journey (above), made with Cerau liqueur, vodka, celery juice and lime; or the Sunset Tin, with Mt. Gay Black Barrel Rum, pineapple gum and tawny port ($13 each), and don’t miss the liquor-infused freeze pops and slushies. 201 E. Delaware; Drumbar.com

More at ChicagoSplash.com

< We catch up with former Splash cover star Mariel Hemingway
• Our 2015 Cannes Film Festival fashion recap
• Bonus parties and event coverage, wedding photos and more

SPLASH
HOW DO YOU BEAT THE HEAT?
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”The East Bank Club (500 N. Kingsbury) hosts pool with my 3-year-old niece Blake.”

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”With a beach suit and a cold beer.

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Michael Ferro

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GILIAN BEKOR
JUNE 1  
**HUBBARD STREET SPOTLIGHT BALL**  
An evening of dinner and dancing supports Hubbard Street Dance Chicago's education, community and artistic programs. This year’s Spotlight Awards go to Archer Daniels Midland Company (CEO A. Woerth will accept the honor) and renowned choreographer William Forsythe.  
**Time:** 6 p.m.  
**Place:** Fairmont Chicago, 200 N. Columbus  
**Cost:** Starting at $600. For tickets, visit Hubbardstreetdance.com/spotlightball.

**BY THOMAS CONNORS**  
**THIS WEEK**  
**JUNE 1**  
**FEAR NO ARTS THE DINNER PARTY**  
Cultural journalist Elysabeth Alfano always rounds up an intriguing group for her live talk shows. This time it’s actor Joe Mantegna, relationship expert Bela Gandhi and sommelier Jon McDaniel — with Chef Chris Gawronski of Acanto creating the menu.  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** City Winery, 1200 W. Randolph  
**Cost:** $50. For reservations, visit Citywinery.com.

**JUNE 3**  
**21ST ANNUAL MAKING HISTORY AWARDS**  
The Chicago History Museum recognizes those who make an impact on the city. This year’s honorees are Motorola Solutions, John A. Canning, Jr., former Mayor Richard M. Daley, Fritzie Fritzshall and Jesse White. The evening’s proceeds support the museum’s education programs.  
**Time:** 6 p.m.  
**Place:** Four Seasons Hotel Chicago, 120 E. Delaware  
**Cost:** $500. For tickets, visit :citychicago.org/event/chicagohistory.

JUNE 4  
**3RD ANNUAL CHEFS’ PLAYGROUND**  
A who’s who of Chicago chefs offer their spin on school lunch at this culinary celebration in support of the Academy for Global Citizenship.  
**Time:** 6 p.m. VIP, 7 p.m. event  
**Place:** Terzo Piano, Modern Wing of the Art Institute of Chicago, 159 E. Monroe  
**Cost:** $200-$375. For tickets, visit Acchiicago.org/chefsplayground.

**JUNE 6**  
**AN EVENING WITH MARK RUFFALO**  
The Academy Award-nominated actor and environmental activist comes to town to receive the Gene Siskel Film Center Renaissance Award. The event supports the film center’s adventurous programming, lectures and visits from film scholars and moviemakers.  
**Time:** 6 p.m.  
**Place:** The Ritz-Carlton Chicago, 160 E. Pearson  
**Cost:** $500-$1,000. For tickets, call (312) 846-2072.

**JUNE 6**  
**CRAFT BEER FESTIVAL**  
Now in its second year, this suds fest showcases more than 45 breweries — including such locals as Baderbräu, Emmett’s and Flesk — plus beer-worthy snacks and music by ’90s tribute band Run Forrest Run.  
**Time:** 1-5 p.m.  
**Place:** The Morton Arboretum, 4100 Illinois Route 53, Lisle  
**Cost:** $40 members, $50 non-members. For tickets, visit Mortonarb.org.

**NEXT WEEK**  
**JUNE 12**  
**RUSH ASSOCIATES BOARD CASINO NIGHT**  
Let loose the gambler in you at this spirited evening in support of the Road Home Program: The Center for Veterans and Their Families at Rush. In addition to blackjack, craps and roulette, the evening includes dinner, dancing and a silent auction.  
**Time:** 6:30 p.m.  
**Place:** The Montgomery Club, 500 W. Superior  
**Cost:** $200. For tickets, visit Rush.edu.
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The Ritz-Carlton Chicago Ballroom (160 E. Pearson) was in full bloom May 18 as the Service Club of Chicago, hosts Susan Colletti and Kristina McGrath and Service Club President Myra Reilly celebrated the annual “Afternoon in the Garden.”

Ladies donned exquisite hats and fascinators — and captured their allure in a photo booth — plus enjoyed music by pianist Stanley Paul. The $75,000 in proceeds raised will benefit children and families in need through the Service Club, which, in its 125 years, has raised millions of dollars for numerous Chicagoland agencies.

LEZLEY HODES in an Arturo Rios hat and Milly dress
TINA WELLER in a Loreta Gorsetti hat and Alice + Olivia dress
SHERRY LEA HOLSON in a hat by florist Arturo Mar and Flores & Flores dress
LARISA KRONFELD in a hat from Oui, Madame and Victoria Beckham dress
BRENDA WEST in a vintage hat and Marchesa dress
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Watch how James Beard Award winner Donnie Madia maintains calm family dinners despite his busy restaurant empire at marianos.com.
**ANIXTER CENTER’S BENEFIT FOR ABILITY**

The scene: More than 325 guests convened in Harold Washington Library’s Winter Garden (400 S. State) April 30 to toast Anixter Center’s mission to help those with disabilities find meaningful jobs at this annual event, themed “Empowerment through Employment.”

The invite list: After a lively cocktail hour, Master of Ceremonies Marion Brooks and host David Doebler, both of WMAQ-Channel 5, kicked off the ceremony, which honored Comcast’s Matt Summy for his devotion to Anixter’s vision.

The bottom line: The event raised nearly $490,000 to continue to provide services for those with disabilities through 34 different programs and 35 locations across the greater Chicago area. —Samantha Gross

Splash was the media sponsor of this event.

**STEPPENWOLF THEATRE COMPANY’S GALA**

The scene: More than 550 guests were transported to a contemporary English garden — mimicking the suburban London setting of the theater’s production of “The Herd” — at this annual bash May 9.

The invite list: After watching a scene from the play in the Downstairs Theatre (1650 N. Halsted), guests moved to the gala tent, where Jonathan Kraft hosted a live auction featuring dinners with Steppenwolf co-founders Jeff Perry and his “Scandal” castmates Bellamy Young, Portia de Rossi and Tony Goldwyn. The soirée was hosted by co-chairs Eileen and Christopher Murphy and Rhonda and Scott Swanson and featured entertainment by Gary Sinise and the Lt. Dan Band and a dinner by Limelight Catering.

The bottom line: The gala raised more than $1.2 million to support the company’s arts and education programming and community outreach. —Samantha Gross

Splash was the media sponsor of this event.

- Gary Sinise performs with the Lt. Dan Band.
- Co-chairs Scott Swanson and Eileen and Christopher Murphy.
- Jeff Perry.
- Steve Loucks and Doug Lyon.
GOODMAN THEATRE’S GALA

The scene: Fairmont Chicago Millennium Park’s Imperial Ballroom (200 N. Columbus) was transported in time to exude the glamour of the ‘20s for a black-tie fête May 16. Throughout the evening, guests sipped on the signature drink of the night, Kir Royale, and danced to the sounds of Gentleman of Leisure.

The invite list: The annual gala — hosted by Women’s Board members Linda W. Aylesworth and Frances K. Del Boca and Board of Trustees member Jeffrey W. Hesse — featured a special performance by Tony Award-winning stage and screen star Sutton Foster, who captured the audience performing hits like “I Get a Kick Out of You” from “ Anything Goes” and “ Gimme Gimme” from “Thoroughly Modern Millie.”

The bottom line: More than $900,000 was raised to benefit Goodman’s education and community engagement programs.

— Carely Fitzgerald

Solash was the media sponsor of this event. The Sun-Times Foundation and the Chicago Community Trust will match every dollar donated to the Goodman Theatre up to a total of $25,000. Up to $1,000 can be matched per individual donation.

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A BETTER CHICAGO'S ANNUAL BENEFIT

T here are countless Chicago fundraisers, but the lucky crowd who jammed into the UIC Forum (725 W. Roosevelt) May 14 to hear A Better Chicago CEO and founder Liam Krehbiel speak were treated to one of the most articulate, focused analyses of how his organization improves educational opportunities for low-income Chica- gorans by funding and scaling the most effective schools and programs in our region.

Among those seen at the $1,000-per-person fête, naturally, were the evening’s co-chairs, Leslie Hindman, Jay Franke and Scan Berkowitz. They were joined by a well-dressed bevy of social movers and shakers that included Melissa and Ward McNally, Mary Lou Corno, David Henao, Bethany McLean, John and Stephanie Harris, Christopher Keogh, Ross Jannotta, Shawn Donnelley, Phil Palmer and Mike Noonan, Desiree Rogers and Peter Smith.

In his riveting remarks, Krehbiel explained when the spark of inspiration first hit: “I was in boarding school back East and I was tutoring this great kid in Watertown, Connecticut several times a week. He was struggling with addition and subtraction. He was already in third grade. That [told] me this kid was already two years behind children from middle-class schools—and it was very likely he would never catch up to the rest of us. Those gaps would only increase.”

Thus, A Better Chicago focuses solely on finding needy, qualified kids and giving them a fighting chance, working with a series of special charter schools like Kipp Chicago Schools and OneGoal.

Thanks to the commitment of A Better Chicago supporters, improvement is well on the way. The gala was completely underwritten, meaning the ticket sales and corporate funding added another $1.7 million to the organization’s goal of raising $110 million by 2025.

In Krehbiel’s words, “It’s a question of will, combined with heroic generosity.” For more information, visit Abetterchicago.org.
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The good fight

New mom Kathleen O’Malley on her will to live

January 19, 2015 was the best day of my life. After three years and multiple failed rounds of IVF, my husband and I welcomed our miracle babies: boy-and-girl twins Sean and Shea. Our joy was overwhelming—we couldn’t wait to start our new lives as parents. But three days later, my life was turned upside-down as I was diagnosed, at age 38, with stage 2 breast cancer. This could not be happening.

My mother died from breast cancer in 1989 and I started getting mammograms at age 30. I did my monthly checks and was acutely aware of any changes to my body. Ultimately, this saved my life. The day after I gave birth, I felt a strange lump in my right breast. Feeling that it was suspicious, my doctor set up a mammogram for the following morning—but still, never did it cross my mind that it could be cancer. I kissed my husband and was wheeled into my test.

A technician conducted the mammogram and proceeded with an ultrasound, then said she needed to grab the doctor to make sure she was seeing everything. The doctor took over and told me we needed to do a biopsy for what she was concerned could be breast cancer. I actually laughed. I told her I’d just had twins and it was probably a clogged milk duct. She blinked and looked at me and shook her head, repeating what she just said. At that exact moment, my life changed forever. I felt a rush come over my body as my worst fear came true. I knew I was following in my mother’s footsteps and that I had breast cancer.

The next day, through a constant stream of tears, I held my babies tighter than any mother should have to. The biopsy confirmed everything—now we were lining up appointments with oncologists, breast surgeons, plastic surgeons and so on. This was 100 percent treatable, but it was going to be a long road.

We met with an amazing team and set a plan: I would have six rounds of chemotherapy followed by a double mastectomy and reconstruction surgery. I also tested positive for the BRCA gene. I’d been told five years ago that, since my older sister had tested negative for it, I didn’t need to get checked. We now know we were given false information.

Today, I’ve completed five rounds of chemo and have my surgery date lined up. Cancer has taken my hair and it will take my breasts, but it has not taken my spirit. I have been surrounded by so much love and support and have fought hard. There comes a point when you’re diagnosed with cancer that you have to choose to fight—it took me a few weeks, but I got there. I wanted others to know my story and I worked with my sister to start #TeamKat for the Susan G. Komen Race For the Cure on Mother’s Day. I was blown away by the response and the help of my friends and family. We were the overall top fundraising team, raising more than $43,000. It was an absolutely amazing day filled with love, commitment and strength—and it just reiterated the outstanding support I have in my life.

I will not let this awful disease take over my life—I have two beautiful babies to live for. I caught my cancer early and will have a different outcome than my mother. I will fight, I will live and I will live my life to help others.
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born on the South Side of Chicago to an African-American dad and Irish mother, Jennifer Beals rose to fame in 1983's "Flashdance"—just her second on-screen role—but stardom wasn't what she was looking for; she wanted something deeper.

"I was [never] the person who was practicing my Academy speech," says the actress, 51. "I wasn't the person who sought after fame. But there was something that happened when I acted that was really intriguing to me—[the idea] that I could be transported to another place and another field of energy was really beyond addictive."

In her latest role, she's searching for something bigger too: evidence of life after death. "Proof," the Kyra Sedgwick-produced drama premiering on TNT June 16, has Beals as Carolyn "Cat" Tyler, a heart surgeon hired by a famous tech billionaire to find out scientifically and definitively—if there is an afterlife and, if so, what it's like.

"I'm in the middle of the greatest mystery of all," the actress says about the role. "Sometimes I feel like I'm Alice, gone down the rabbit hole...I'm a bit of a science nerd, and I also practice meditation. So it was this perfect combination, where I could explore things that my heart told me were so and things that had to be proved by my mind."

The plot may have Beals questioning her beliefs, but it's not the first role that has had such a profound effect on her.

Filming "Flashdance" as a teenager, she learned the price of being in the public eye: "[You get] the notion that there are these dual realities going on," she says. "There's the you that you experience, and then there's the you that everybody else seems to think they know."
Maybe for that reason, a series of smaller roles followed until, in 2004, Beals resurfaced in Showtime's groundbreaking show, "The L Word," on which she went outside her comfort zone as lesbian Bette Porter. "I didn't know anything about that community or the issues regarding that community," she says. "I learned so much about activism and social justice and compassion and perseverance that I took with me to the next gig" — the short-lived "The Chicago Code," which brought her back here for a time in 2011. "Everything builds on itself and you have the opportunity to use those other aspects you've explored ... and bring them into your life if need be, or you can leave them at the door if they don't [suit] you."

Of course, Beals brought them into her life, becoming an icon in the gay community and earning the GLAAD Golden Gate Award in 2005 and the Human Rights Campaign's Ally for Equality award in 2012. "[Being on "The L Word"] made me an unapologetic activist," she says. "It made me realize how important it is to use your voice to stand up for what you believe in — it's just crucial. And you can say that — and people go around in their lives and they give that idea lip service — but the fact is, there are moments where it is difficult to stand up and do the right thing, and you have to be extraordinarily brave."

Gay rights isn't the only cause Beals champions: She also serves on the board of Mount Sinai's Environmental Health Center in New York, despite living in L.A. (She doesn't get back to her hometown Chicago much, since "my mom has elected to leave Chicago in the winters and come live [near] me," she says.)

Now, filming "Proof," Beals is learning more tangible skills, throwing herself into the role with her usual vigor. "My character is an avid runner — she's much faster than I am — and so it was important to me to make sure that my running form was good, because I thought hers would be very good," the actress says. "So I worked with a coach who has worked with Olympic athletes. And we [have] various surgeons and med techs come to set to advise us — I will not be performing heart surgery anytime soon," she laughs.

Though Beals never chased fame, it's suited her quite well — for three decades she has stayed relevant but avoided glaring scrutiny — and people go around in their lives and they give that idea lip service — and she certainly wouldn't be the same without it. "For me, it's always been about the pursuit of the things I love the most," she says. "What I didn't realize is that when you're acting, you have the possibility to expand into areas you know nothing about."
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This season, pack your schedule with once-in-a-lifetime concerts, long-awaited outdoor events, jam-packed street festivals and market excursions. We pick some of our favorites — new and old — and dish insider tips to make the most of each.

BY SAMANTHA LANDE

> EXPLORE: THE 606

Years in the making, The 606 is an elevated railway track turned walking trail that connects four (and eventually six) green spaces across the city. Fittingly, it opens June 6 (with a preview gala June 5, see sidebar), and features a 2.7-mile above-ground Bloomingdale Trail through Wicker and Humboldt Parks, Bucktown and Logan Square. More than just a connector, though, it also includes playgrounds, a seasonal observatory, art installations and, in phase two, a wheel-friendly performance space.

Insider tip: In the park's first season, the Trust for Public Land is experimenting with programming and events like bike repair shops along the trail, toy and musical instrument-making and themed festivals on the weekend. Find out more at The606.org/events/trailmix.

< WANDER: WICKER PARK FEST

This annual street festival draws over 70,000 people in two days for stellar music, funky art and plenty of food and drink along Milwaukee Avenue (from North to Paulina) July 25-26. This year's headliners include Veruca Salt, Blonde Redhead and Charles Bradley — plus there's a kids' fest for those with little ones in tow. $5 suggested donation; Wickerparkbucktown.com

Insider tip: Check out the installation from Sheryl Oring, an international artist whose “I Wish to Say” project features a mock office, where someone transcribes real letters to the president in order to help the average person voice his concerns on the current state of affairs. So far, thousands of letters have been sent to the White House through the project.

Keep strolling: Also worth checking out is the Wells Street Art Festival (June 13-14). One of the country's best art fests, it celebrates its 41st year with over 200 booths filled with everything from paintings to pottery. $7 suggested donation; Wellsstreetartfest.us

JUNE 5

ABOVE THE RAILS INAUGURAL GALA

This sneak preview of The 606 includes nibbles from chefs Rick Bayless and Bill Kim, libations concocted by award-winning mixologist Charles Joly and a lively afterparty.

Time: 6 p.m.
Place: The 606 at the Western Trail Head, 1821 N. Ridgeway
Cost: $350, $500 VIP. For tickets, visit The606.org.

More to explore: Another green space to check out is Maggie Daley Park (337 E. Randolph), a brand-new, state-of-the-art space that's not just for kids: It also has amenities like a 40-foot climbing wall and tennis courts (coming late summer).
EAT: CHICAGO FOOD + WINE FESTIVAL

A collaboration between C3 (the company that produces Lollapalooza), Texas chef Tim Love and Food & Wine magazine, this first-ever Lincoln Park festival is a full weekend of culinary fun featuring local and national chefs. There will be bites and pours during The Grand Tasting — from chefs like Rick Bayless and Stephanie Izard (below right) — cooking demos and panels, a "Toast & Taste" in Grant Park and a "Last Call" full of cocktails and sweets at a yet-to-be-announced location.

Insider tip: Love offers a few tips to make the most of the festival: "Take a look at the schedule [ahead of time] and pick the demos you really want to see — the good ones fill up early. Chefs tend to bring something cool out of nowhere to these things." And drink water, of course. "People forget! It's a marathon, not a sprint, at these types of events."

August 28-30. For tickets ($175 day pass, $75-$225 events, $550 all-in pass), visit Chicagofoodandwinefestival.com.

SHOP: RANDOLPH STREET MARKET

This year-round vintage market's real draw is its summertime outdoor component, which highlights midcentury repurposed furniture and large architectural pieces. There's also a beer garden for soaking up the sun, or head inside for a look at pieces by indie designers and to stroll around the global food hall. Founder and producer Sally Schwartz recommends checking out vendors like Sanford Schorr (Fort Worth, Texas), who has the world's largest collection of vintage charms and buttons, some of which were featured in the movie "The Curious Case of Benjamin Button"; and Olde Good Things (New York), which excavates items like mirrors and mantels from lavish establishments like The Plaza Hotel.

Insider tip: Come with a focus on something particular — furniture, jewelry, clothes — and then peruse from there to avoid getting overwhelmed. For bigger pieces, take advantage of the market's free delivery service (Chicago area only), as well as its onsite appraiser. Avoid the parking nightmare with free trolley services throughout the West Loop and Fulton Market, or from Michigan Avenue and Pearson, every hour during the market.

June 27-28, July 25-26, Aug 9-10, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Plumber's Hall, 1340 W. Washington, $8 in advance, $10 at the door: Randolphstreetmarket.com

Shop 'til you drop: Dose Market returns with its summer event June 14 at Venue One (1034 W. Randolph), featuring over 40 new vendors, cocktails from Cocktail Courier and Smilebooth photos with props from famed Chicago artist Matthew Hoffman. $8: Dosemarket.com

Left: Doug Sohn of Hot Doug's
This summer, Chicago is host to a myriad of musical performances, from the heavily-hyped three-night Grateful Dead reunion to festivals like Lollapalooza and Pitchfork. But it's not every day that a popular band plays at an unconventional venue, like Mumford & Sons will for their 6 p.m. show June 17 at Cricket Hill at Montrose Beach (4400 N. Lake Shore), a space known for its amazing views of the city and kite flying in the summer.

Insider tip: The general admission concert may be sold out, but there are plenty of tickets floating around on sites like StubHub (Stubhub.com) and Vivid Seats (Vividseats.com). Since there's no seating chart, you can still snag an up-close view when the gates open at 4:30 p.m.

Listen up: No summer is complete without a trip to Ravinia Festival (200 Ravinia Park, Highland Park). Grab lawn tickets, pack a picnic and hop on the Metra for one of the many concerts, from The Steve Miller Band (July 10) to Gladys Knight (Sept. 11). For a full schedule, visit Ravinia.org.

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MEREDITH WOOD PRINCE'S SUMMER ESSENTIALS

The Scout Guide, a publication highlighting and celebrating the best local businesses, rolls out at the Above the Rails Inaugural Gala June 5. We asked TSG editor Meredith Wood Prince to pick her summer must-haves from some of the Chicago spots featured in the 2015 edition.

Pick up a copy of TSG at participating businesses, or email Meredith at thescoutguide.com.

> Miguelina: Cristalitee croc-embossed cotton-lace kettan, similar styles available at Neapolitan collection, 215 Elm, Winnetka, Neapolitanonline.com

"It looks amazing with a tan in a easy to pack and makes you feel like you're in a tropical paradise."

Jane Iredale: PureGloss lip gloss in Kir Royale, $24, Salon Duo, 1400 N. Lake Shore, Salon duo400.com

"All you need in the summer is some mascara and a dab of this amazing lip gloss. It stays on forever — even in the water."

< Whole Beauty Institute: sunscreen, $50, 737 N. Michigan, Johncookmd.com

"It’s paraben free, SPF 30 and has a moisturizer in it — I wear it every day, May through September."

< J. Markell Designs: Mara clutch, $650, Jmarkell-designs.com

"Nothing makes a statement in the summer more than a candy-colored bag. This one is the perfect size for a large phone, keys, money and lip gloss — and it's beautifully made."

< Leah Chavie Skincare Boutique: Thermojet Spanish Infrared Body Wrap, $125, 2457 N. Halsted; Leahchavie.com

"We have long winters here in Chicago, and getting ready for bathing suit weather takes a little more than just diet and exercise. I love this treatment — it always helps me feel more confident at the start of summer."
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Pine Lake - 2.5 Acre property, vintage boathouse, cottage style home $2,650,000

Lake Beulah - 100 ft. sand beach frontage, 4 acres, 4 BD/3 BA home, 8 car GA $1,795,000

Lower Neshotah Lake - Serene wooded setting, 4 BD / 4.5 BA home, 150 ft. frontage $1,499,000

Silver Lake - 3 BD / 4 BA ranch, boathouse, sunset views, great swimming frontage $925,000

Nagawicka Lake - 3 BD / 3 BA lakefront home, walk to shops in downtown Delafield $699,500

Lake Keessus - 3 BD / 2 BA lake cottage, 50 ft. frontage, large det. GA $439,500

Pine Lake - Exquisite 11,000 SF lake front estate, guest house, 3 acres $5,950,000

Silver Lake - 4 BD / 3 BA, Waukesha County Bike Trail access, 1 min. from I-94, 62 ft. frontage $925,000

Druid Lake - "Up North" feel w/o the drive! 4 BD / 1 BA, 6 acres, level frontage $384,500

Lake Beulah - Modern Mediterranean 4 BD/3.5 BA home w/sandy, level frontage $1,699,000

Pewaukee Lake - 3+ BD / 2.5 BA home, level frontage, 2 mins. from I-94 access $925,000

Pewaukee Lake - 3 BD / 2.5 BA, ranch w/walk-out LL, 50 ft. level frontage $629,000

Pewaukee Lake - Lakefront Cape Cod, 4 BD / 2.5 BA, 100 ft. frontage $899,000

Potters Lake - Updated ranch w/ walk-out LL, 100 ft. level frontage $449,000

Nagawicka Lake - 70 ft. level frontage, 4 BD / 3 BA, sunsets, ideal location between I-94 & Hwy. 16 $749,500

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www.wilakehomes.com
A well-traveled couple turned to Chicago-based interior designer John Cannon to update their Lisle, Illinois home — and make it an oasis where they could relax when they aren’t globetrotting. “I was given a house built in the ’80s, and everything that was Frank Lloyd Wright had to be removed,” Cannon laughs. Here’s what he came up with for the dining room. Cannon Frank, 222 W. Merchandise Mart, Suite #1530b, (312) 595-1550, Cannonfrank.com

**Dining table:**
custom, Donghia, 222 W. Merchandise Mart, Suite 631; Donghia.com

**Fabric:**
Interiorcraftsinc., fabric: Bergamo, 222 W. Merchandise Mart, Suite 631; Kravet.com

**Painting:**
Jamali Fine Art, 7330 Sandscove, Winter Park, Florida; Jamali.com

**Urn:**
Vignoli Faenza, Mayors, 6000 Glades, Boca Raton, Florida; Mayors.com

**Chairs:**

**Light fixture:**
Made from paper and wood, the light fixture is earthy and organic. Stephen White; Culturesource.net/stephenwhite

**Fireplace:**
A monolith of white limestone. the fireplace is the focal point of the room and serves as a divider from the living space. Exotic Marble & Tile, 1160 Milwaukee, Glenview, Exoticmarble.com

The subtle differences between the overdrape, sheers and valance add beautiful texture to the room. Fabricated by Parenteau Studios, 230 W. Huron; Parenteaustudios.com

**PH Painting:**
Jamal Fine Art, 7330 Sandscove, Winter Park, Florida; Jamali.com

**Urn:**
Vignoli Faenza, Mayors, 6000 Glades, Boca Raton, Florida; Mayors.com

**Photo by E3 Photography**
Are you allergic to your home?

It's allergy season, which means it's time to call Stanley Steemer. Stanley Steemer is the first carpet cleaning service to be certified asthma and allergy friendly by the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA). To earn this certification, Stanley Steemer's carpet cleaning process and equipment underwent scientific testing with an independent, accredited testing facility. Getting certified asthma & allergy friendly by the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America (AAFA) was not a simple task and took over 2 years of thorough testing by an independent testing group.

Testing revealed what we knew all along, our carpet cleaning process removes allergens from carpet. We just didn't know how much. It was discovered that Stanley Steemer removes an average of 94% of common household allergens from carpet.

Those common household allergens include dust, pollen and pet dander, to name a few. We now have the scientific research and certification to show that Stanley Steemer has once again set the standard for a cleaner and healthier home. We're excited to be the first in our industry to accomplish this.

AAFA's Certification Standard for Professional Carpet Cleaning Services recommends having a certified professional steam cleaning every 3-4 months. In fact, to make it even easier and more economical for our valued customers and to help ensure a healthier and cleaner home, we offer a customer loyalty program. We call this loyalty program the One Year Clean Guarantee (OYCG) program. The OYCG program provides three additional cleanings a year at a reduced price, plus 20% off additional services. Which means you save while we clean.

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Going out with a bang after a blowout New Year’s Eve bash, River North’s Rockit Bar & Grill closed its doors for four months while, inside, restaurateurs Billy Dec, Arturo Gomez and Brad Young of Rockit Ranch Productions were revamping the 10-year-old space. Executive Chef and Partner Amanda Downing — who began as a sous chef when the spot first opened in 2004 — worked closely with the restaurant group’s Food and Beverage Director Kevin Hickey to scale down the enormous menu. She modernized and lightened it — for example, the Baja chopped salad ($16) is a fresher, less hearty take on the old Ranch-laden Southwest salad.

Here’s what else to expect at the recently reopened Rockit:

Interior update: Chicago designer Kara Mann stripped away the excess to reveal a raw, rock ‘n roll-inspired space. The layout is more streamlined, the table settings more upscale and the urban vibe that always permeated the space is, somehow, chicer — think gorgeous graffiti and a standout Carrara marble bar.

Upstairs, the bar scene lights up at night, when an LED system in the ceiling interacts with the custom DJ booth.

Must try: While Downing was
hesitant to play favorites, she couldn't help calling out a few dishes — namely, the lamb nachos ($13). "I was really happy with this dish," she says. "We're a modern grill and people want nachos — that just seems fitting — but we [thought], 'Let's do something different.'" The result is a Greek take on the bar-food favorite: Braised lamb, feta fondue, Greek olives and tomatoes are slathered over crispy lavash chips.

**Mainstay:** Rockit lovers will be pleased to see some old favorites still on the menu. "The Rockit burger [with brie and medjool date aioli, $19] has been a signature from day one," Downing says. "So we couldn't get away from that." Also salvaged are the popular Rockit pockits ($5 each) and, of course, the truffle fries ($10).

**Final sip:** Beverage Director Joshua Williams' cocktails always delight, but beer lovers weren't overlooked in the update. A new draft system pours 22 craft options, both local and global. Try the Dragon's Milk Barrel-Aged Imperial Stout, a malted beer brewed in nearby Holland, Michigan.

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Whale of a tale

Lookingglass Theatre lands one of literature's great behemoths with 'Moby Dick'

BY THOMAS CONNORS

Like James Joyce's *Ulysses* or Marcel Proust's *Remembrance of Things Past*, Herman Melville's *Moby Dick* is one of those books many of us mean to read, but somehow never get around to cracking open. (Yet it plays no small part in the collective consciousness, thanks to John Huston's 1956 film adaptation starring Gregory Peck.) Now, Lookingglass Theatre's David Catlin offers his own take on the tale, opening at the company's home in the Water Tower Works June 10.

A dizzyingly discursive, symbol-strewn work, "Moby Dick" is anything but a pure adventure story; the cast of characters — Captain Ahab, the cannibal Queequeg, narrator Ishmael, chief mate Starbuck — provides plenty to think about. "Ishmael is alone, un-moored and rudderless," Catlin says. "I think we all, at some point in our lives, have felt that way to some extent."

As for Ahab, a man whose mission amounts to a mania, "he believes the whale, Moby Dick, is evil incarnate and that the task of killing it is noble," Catlin says. "He is consumed by his task and rallies Ishmael, Queequeg and the crew to join him on his quest. I think we understand the desire for this passion. With all that vies for our attention, we want to be consumed by a task, we want to get lost in it."

In staging the piece, Catlin worked with The Actors Gymnasium, an Evanston-based circus arts organization that has had a hand in developing several Lookingglass productions. Central to this partnership is the idea of developing "a physical vocabulary that expresses the visceral life of scampering through the rigging high in the air, nightmares of being eaten by cannibals, bounding across the waves in hot pursuit of massive whales, sequences of drowning and being saved from the briny depths," Catlin says.

Not surprisingly, launching Melville's novel onstage has been a voyage for Catlin and his crew — one that included a two-week residency at The University of Chicago and a developmental production at Northwestern University last spring. But Lookingglass has never shied away from the challenge of taking things from the page to the stage, and Melville seems made for its aesthetic. Book passage now.
ever after

IT'S IN THE DETAILS

Bride's gown: Vera Wang, 945 N. Rush; Verawang.com
Bride's shoes: Vince Camuto, Bloomingdale's, 900 N. Michigan; Bloomingdales.com
Bride's jewelry: Carolee, Bloomingdale's, 900 N. Michigan; Bloomingdales.com
Bride's hair & makeup: Kate Johnson, Kate Johnson Artistry; KateJohnsonArtistry.com
Groom's attire: Giorgio Armani, 800 N. Michigan; Armani.com
Groom's shoes: Det Toro, Nordstrom, 55 E. Grand; shop.nordstrom.com
Bridesmaids' dresses: Mango; Shop.mango.com
Groomsmen's attire: Mens Wearhouse, 112 S. State; Menswearhouse.com
Florists: Juliet Tan, Juliet Tan Floral Design, 220 N. Halsted; JulietTanFloralDesign.com
Decor: Art of Imagination, 100 S. Halsted; Artofimagination.com
Cake & sweets: Sugar Hills Bakery, 3235 W. Addison; SugarHillsBakery.com
Entertainment: Abhi Rajasekhar, AbhiRajasekhar.com; DJ Megan Tyler, Fig Weddings; FigWeddings.com; Chris Pastello, ChrisPastello.com
Photobooth: 312photobooth, 701 N. Damen; 312photobooth.com
Videographer: Vanilla Video; VanillaVideo.com

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PHOTOS BY OLIVIA LEIGH OF OLIVIA LEIGH PHOTOGRAPHIE

Whitney Harris & Kadmiel Christmas

A few months after exchanging business cards at a fundraiser in August 2011, Kadmiel Christmas finally worked up the courage to ask Whitney Harris out on a date. "We went to a preseason Bears game and hit it off right away,” Christmas says. Fast-forward three years: Harris, a consultant at Vera Wang Group, was busy planning Christmas's 40th birthday party at Public Chicago Hotel (1301 N. State) but, little did she know, Christmas was planning a surprise of his own — during the party, he proposed. "He completely threw me off!” Harris says. "I burst into tears.”

On March 21, the couple said their "I do's" in an interfaith Jewish and Christian ceremony at the Renaissance Blackstone Chicago Hotel (636 S. Michigan) in front of 200 guests. "We customized our whole ceremony to capture both our backgrounds and heritages,” says Christmas, owner and managing director of Adon Solutions. Harris adds: "My mom and his mom lit Christian unity candles and then we broke the glass and had the rabbi give us his final blessing.

After the ceremony, guests leaped on the dance floor and kept the party going all night. "We had a dance fest the whole time,” Harris laughs. "We [ate] our first course and then everyone danced, then the second course and everyone danced. People didn’t sit down!” Despite the dancing frenzy, Christmas remembers being in awe: "Being in the middle of the crowd surrounded by everyone we love was a precious moment.” —Chira Milianof
who to watch

blown away

The creator of on-demand beauty app Blohaute makes every day a good hair day

“
My clients refer to it as ‘miracle spray.’ It’s the greatest stuff!”

BY CHIARA MILIOULIS
PHOTO BY RAMZI DREESSEN

It’s different than a jacket and good for [summer]. I love long jackets, so this is a good trade-off.

Zara: long tailored waistcoat, $99.90, 700 N. Michigan, Zara.com

I want to start a collection and have all [the looks]. The straps give a little more support and I like the heel height — I can’t go any higher!

Valentino: Rockstud leather halter pump in Marine, on sale for $360, Neiman Marcus, 757 N. Michigan; Neimanmarcus.com

AMANDA DIEDRICH

AGE: 25 CLAIM-TO-FAME: Founder and CEO of Blohaute, which launched in February LIVES IN: Bucktown

ALL THE BUZZ: Women would come into [Asha SalonSpa, where I worked as a hair colorist and stylist] just to have their hair styled. Clients would say, “Amanda, why can’t you just come to me?”

It’s such a pain to have to worry about parking or getting a babysitter for such a quick service. Then I read an article that said on-demand beauty apps are on the rise, and I said, “That’s it.” Everyone wants convenience nowadays.

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A ROSY COLLAB: [Former Bachelorette] Desiree Hartsock reached out to me through social media asking if I was interested in contributing to her blog [Desireehartsock.com]. Once a week, I do a pictorial or video tutorial and it’s all directed back to Blohaute.

LUSCIOUS LOCKS: This summer, it’s all about lived-in looks. Beachy tousled waves or really messy braids are huge.

PRO TIP: Less product is better — more product will just weigh your hair down. All you need is a good texture spray.

Blohaute is available for iOS in the App Store. To book an appointment with Diedrich, select the “Pick a Stylist” feature on the app.
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### GREAT ON THEIR OWN, BETTER TOGETHER

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<tr>
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<th>Price</th>
<th>Digital Coupon</th>
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<tr>
<td>Tide Laundry Detergent</td>
<td>$10.99</td>
<td>-1.00 MyMixx Digital Coupon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Downy Fabric Softener</td>
<td>$3.74</td>
<td>-0.75 MyMixx Digital Coupon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bounty Paper Towels</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cascade Dishwasher Detergent</td>
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<tr>
<td>Crest Toothpaste</td>
<td>$2/$4.00</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scope Mouthwash</td>
<td>$2/$7.00</td>
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<td>Charmin Bath Tissue</td>
<td>$6.99 ea.</td>
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<td>Head &amp; Shoulders</td>
<td>$2/$5.98</td>
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<td>Old Spice Deodorant</td>
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BY CHARLES PRESTON

ACROSS
1. South Pacific island group
2. Not of the cloth
3. Wake-up call
4. Stravinsky
5. d'Or
6. Ancient moon goddess
7. Bristle
8. Baby beaver
9. Charlotte and Norma
10. Wynn's namesakes
11. Flee
12. More macho
13. Bosc
14. Bay window
15. Le Havre hubby
16. Kind of grease
17. Layoff payoff
18. Portrait
19. Friendly lion
20. Aconcagua's range
21. Moon conqueror
22. A Buster
23. Before, in poesy
24. Pose
25. Latin love
26. Spanish gold
27. Crowd's comment
28. Esoteric
29. Hunter's companion
30. Bit part
31. Nastase
32. Cold time, in Madrid
33. Dutch treat
34. Finale
35. Chalcedonies
36. Droops
37. Cosmetic additive
38. Shopper's destination
39. Array
40. Ready to agree
41. Put a ___ on it
42. Iron and Bronze
43. Hercules' captive
44. Standards
45. Here, in Tours
46. Borrowed without permission
47. Needle case
48. Remainder
49. ___-do-well
50. Bounder
51. Salesman's case
52. Hall-of-famer Warren
53. Start work on the PC
54. Bakery by-product
55. Marathoners' measures
56. Finnish port
57. List of typos
58. Ooze
59. Ego leader
60. Peevish
61. Anagram of 46 Across
62. Pertaining to aquatic organisms
63. Informers
64. Gen. Bradley
65. Rage
66. Elaborate solo
67. Fairy-tale villain
68. Crucifix
69. Earthen pot
70. Woody's scion
71. Journalist/diplomat
72. Whitelaw
73. Assert
74. Egghead
75. Love god
76. D.C. party
77. Herb or mint

Last week's answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island
LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Village of Skokie Zoning Board of Appeals will hold a public hearing on the proposed settlement of accounts and appointment of the Fiscal Officer for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

This public hearing will be held on Wednesday, June 3, 2015, at 10:00 A.M. in Skokie Village Hall, 5121-5129 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois. All interested parties are hereby invited to present written or oral testimony regarding the settlement of accounts and appointment of the Fiscal Officer.

The purpose of this hearing is to clarify all aspects of the settlement of accounts and appointment of the Fiscal Officer. This hearing is pertinent to the proposed settlement of accounts and appointment of the Fiscal Officer for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2015.

All interested parties are hereby invited to present written or oral testimony regarding the settlement of accounts and appointment of the Fiscal Officer. Written testimony should be submitted to the Village Clerk at Skokie Village Hall, 5121-5129 Dempster Street, Skokie, Illinois, prior to the date of the hearing.

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Keeping brain healthy can be fine art

Study: Artistic pursuits may derail dementia

BY LESLIE MANN
Tribune Newspapers

Since she moved to Florida, painting has kept 91-year-old Mary O'Neill happy and filled the empty frames in her Port St. Lucie home. It also keeps mild cognitive impairment at bay, according to a study released in April. Unlike memory loss that typically comes with age, MCI can lead to dementia.

After four years, 121 of the 256 participants in a Mayo Clinic study developed MCI. But people who did artwork in their middle and old ages were 73 percent less likely to develop MCI than those who did not. Socializing made them 55 percent less likely. Using computers, 53 percent. Crafting, 45 percent.

"The 'use it or lose it' adage is true," said Dr. Rosebud Roberts, co-author of "Risk and Protective Factors for Cognitive Impairment in Persons Aged 85 Years and Older." It's all about neurons, explained Roberts, professor of neuro-epidemiology and neurology at Mayo. Engaging the mind with the above activities protects our neurons and stimulates the growth of new ones. Consider them the brain's building blocks, Roberts said.

The study participants were Minnesotans, mostly Caucasian, with an average age of 87. The authors gave them cognitive tests every 15 months and quizzed them about their participation in arts, including drawing, painting, sculpting, woodworking and quilting; social activities such as going to movies, book clubs and traveling; and using computers for games, purchases and searches.

"We've learned to control more diseases, so we're living longer," Roberts said. "U.S. Census projections show ages 85 and older a fast-growing segment of the population. But many older people lose their purpose in life, so they're more likely to withdraw and become depressed."

Staying active in activities like the arts "keeps us using our brains to learn new things," Roberts said.

O'Neill started sculpting in her 30s, then switched to painting. Although she downplays her artwork ("my sister was the true artist in the family"), she admits she's sold more portraits than she can remember, and her paintings "can pass as professional," she said. "I'm very lucky to have the gift and the interest. Yesterday, when I went to brunch, I couldn't wait to get back to my painting."

She used to play bridge and golf too, which suited her competitive streak. "With painting, I compete with myself," said the retired homemaker. "I challenge myself to make each one better than the last."

At age 77, Donald Hall is ahead of the game. After the Binghamton, NY., pharmacist retired in his 60s, he started building a miniature world for his HO Scale model trains. It requires a combination of activities recommended by the Mayo study. Learning art skills, socializing and using a computer - check, check and check, he said.

"I joined a train club to learn how to do the wiring and make each part of the scenery," Hall said. "I follow tutorials from an online supplier that tells you how to use its materials. With my grandson, I built a roundhouse and a railroad station."

Currently under construction in Hall's workshop are roads, waterfalls, rivers, landscaping and a village. "It's 9-by-13 feet - so far!" he said.

In addition to model-building, Hall walks, works out and reads Clive Cussler thrillers.

"Don't be a couch potato," is Hall's advice to other seniors. "Get out. Be active, physically and mentally. It keeps you thinking. And, it's more fun."

Although vision loss in one eye limits her physically, O'Neill said, it hasn't slowed the pace of her artwork. "I'm working on three paintings now - acrylics, in black and white," she said. "So if I go next week, there will still be works in progress and empty frames to fill."

The study was published in Neurology, the journal of the American Academy of Neurology.

Mann is a freelance reporter.
In rich nations, risky drinking is on the rise as total drinking declines, a new report says.

**Big-drinking countries: 100 bottles a year per person**

**By Rick Noack**

The Washington Post

Does consuming 100 bottles of wine a year sound like a lot?

It turns out that this is actually the average alcohol consumption per person in many wealthy countries, according to a recent report. With the equivalent of a little more than 85 wine bottles per year, Americans consumed less than citizens of many other surveyed countries in 2012.

The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) examined alcohol consumption patterns in its 34 member states and its conclusion is damning. “The cost to society and the economy of excessive alcohol consumption around the world is massive, especially in OECD countries,” the organization’s secretary-general, Angel Gurría commented on the report, which especially emphasizes the increasingly risky behavior of women and younger citizens.

“Alcohol now accounts for a higher proportion of deaths worldwide than HIV/AIDS, violence and tuberculosis combined,” the report warned.

Increased drinking has become particularly worrisome in Israel, Iceland, Finland, Norway, Poland and Sweden, it says. Less dramatic but nevertheless alarming were consumption increases in Russia, Brazil, India and China. The study blamed the easier availability of alcohol in many countries, as well as its affordability and lax advertisement restrictions.

Despite increases in some countries, the average alcohol consumption in OECD member states has fallen by 2.5 percent between 1992 and 2012. It now stands at 2.4 gallons of pure alcohol per capita which is above the U.S. average of 2.27 gallons. Citizens of Estonia, Austria, France, Ireland and the Czech Republic consume the most alcohol among OECD members.

Although global alcohol consumption has decreased, according to the authors of the report, “harmful drinking is on the rise among young people and women.”

Whereas in the 2000s, 30 percent of all boys 15 or younger and living in OECD member states had been drunk at least once, that number had risen to 43 percent by 2012. The researchers observed a similar trend among young girls.

Surveys from other countries have shown that heavy drinking is not only a hazard to one’s personal health but also a burden on taxpayer money. A 2013 study by the British Association of Chief Police Officers estimated that binge drinking caused costs of $18 billion a year in the nation.

Other countries recently have taken measures to decrease heavy drinking among young girls and boys. According to a new law passed this April, in-citing binge drinking is now punishable with up to a year in jail or a hefty fine in France.

While regular alcohol consumption among French youth has historically been low despite lax regulations, binge drinking poses a new and previously little-known problem. Between 2010 and 2013, hospital admissions of young drinkers rose by an alarming 30 percent.

In its report, the OECD comes to the conclusion that European countries such as the Czech Republic or Germany could serve as role models in reducing rates of heavy drinking. Public health policies there have recently had a significant impact, according to the organization.

“Raising costs, for example through increased taxes, or imposing minimum prices on cheaper alcohol” are some of the proposals mentioned in the report.

PEOPLE’S PHARMACY PRESCRIPTIONS AND HOME REMEDIES

**Can Communion wafers spread germs via hands?**

**By Joe Graedon and Teresa Graedon**

King Features Syndicate

Q: You have written about a concern that baristas may spread germs when they handle coffee-cup lids. I have a similar concern.

The pastor of our church passes out Communion wafers without using food handlers’ gloves. This is after he has greeted dozens of parishioners by shaking their hands.

I worry that his older members or those with compromised immune systems could be susceptible to germs. My husband has had a kidney transplant and is on anti-rejection drugs that leave his immune system very low. Am I being foolish to worry?

A: There has not been much research on this question. One study found that “some bacteria do survive in the wine, on the chalice rim, or on a wine-soaked wafer” and thus there is a potential for spreading infections (Journal of Environmental Health, July-August 1997).

The researchers found, however, that people taking communion did not get sick more frequently than those who did not participate.

Your husband’s compromised immune system does make him more vulnerable than most people. You might want to give the pastor a hand sanitizer as a gift. One interesting product is CleanWell, using the antimicrobial properties of thyme oil.

Q: For several weeks, I’ve been experiencing moderate thigh and butt pain from osteoarthritis in my back. I’m getting some moderate relief from meloxicam, an NSAID. But recently I am enjoying additional relief from eating fresh pineapple. Not only is the pain greatly reduced, I’m able to walk with increased ease, stamina and flexibility. What’s more, the pineapple is delicious.

I remember being given “ananase,” a pineapple derivative, to reduce swelling from an injury to my face decades ago. I assume that the active ingredient in my improvement is ananase, but I can’t seem to find this drug. Do you have any information on ananase?

A: Ananase is also known as bromelain. In the U.S., bromelain is sold as a dietary supplement. It has been shown to reduce pain and swelling after molar extraction as effectively as the NSAID diclofenac (Journal of Oral and Maxillofacial Surgery, June 2014).

Q: I am 68 years old and take losartan and amiodipine for high blood pressure. I have started taking a potassium supplement with my doctor’s reluctant approval. I’ve also added magnesium citrate to my regimen.

My blood pressure has come down. Would it be safe to gradually reduce the blood-pressure medication under my doctor’s supervision? Are there other things I should be doing?

A: We are concerned about your supplements. Although potassium and magnesium may be helpful in lowering blood pressure, they may each interact with losartan. Potassium levels should be monitored, as they could build up and put the kidneys at risk.

There are many other ways to get your blood pressure down, including a DASH diet (Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension), beets, chocolate or pomegranate juice (Nutrients, April 14, 2015; Nutrition Journal, March 4, 2014).

You will find many more details in the Guide to Blood Pressure Treatment we are sending you. Anyone who would like a copy, please send $3 in check or money order with a long (No. 10), stamped (70 cents), self-addressed envelope to: Graedons’ People’s Pharmacy, No. B-67, P.O. Box 52027, Durham, NC 27717-2027. It also can be downloaded for $2 from www.peoplespharmacy.com.

In their column, Joe and Teresa Graedon answer letters from readers. Send questions to them via peoplespharmacy.com.
2 guys venture into world of yoga

While nearly 1 in 10 adults practice it, the great majority are women

BY DES BIELER AND MIKE PLUNKETT
The Washington Post

Yoga in America is on the rise. One survey found that 9.5 percent of adults, nearly 21 million, practiced yoga in 2012. Another report estimates that there are more than 30,000 Pilates and yoga studios in the United States.

But there's something missing: men. On the whole, women make up three-quarters of yoga classes, a percentage representative of our recent experiences. Why is this?

First, it seems there is a major misconception among men that yoga doesn't equal strength. In our culture, we have the image of a "strong and fit male," who usually lifts weights and bulks up. Weight lifting does increase strength, but there's more to being strong, like having good balance and mobility.

More so, stretching and flexibility exercises are generally seen as means to an end, not a worthy practice in and of itself. That's a mistake.

"Guys have tighter shoulders, it seems -- carry a lot of the weight of the world on their shoulders," said Wes Smith, who has been teaching an all-male class for more than two years. "Hamstrings are tight, so (we're) trying to loosen up all of that. So if you just do some basic poses, you will move everything in your body to wherever it needs to go."

The spiritual elements of yoga may also be off-putting for some men. Mistrust of yoga's religious implications, New Age oddness and meditation techniques conflict with many cultural assumptions about American masculinity.

Plus, yoga can be just plain hard. Many of the poses are awkward for a beginner and can easily lead to insecurity about your body (especially in a room full of women). And what type of yoga practice do you pick? In looking for different yoga classes, Des and I saw restorative yoga, rocket yoga, power yoga and the like. Our yoga knowledge was nonexistent, so we relied on friends and co-workers to choose a studio.

We had thought about starting with a men-only class; it didn't work out, but some beginners might want to try that option. As it turned out, we did wind up with two male instructors. We encountered the first, Michael Peterson, during our first baby step into yoga, not even leaving our own building. The Washington Post has its own gym, and we spent an hour there doing Vinyasa yoga with Peterson and several colleagues.

After that, we ventured not only outside but into the scary world of Bikram yoga, which is hot these days, in more ways than one.

This was the first time I laid out a mat with a bunch of other people and a teacher and did what I would consider proper yoga. Vinyasa is a form of yoga in which one pose flows into another, and movements are linked to inhaling and exhaling. "That's part of the connecting thing," Peterson told us.

"You have to breathe and move at the same time, and you have got to pay attention to your body and your breath, and that lining up is where the yoga happens, in a sense."

In order to help us line things up, Peterson, a full-time instructor for several clients, had atmospheric music playing softly in the background. He explained that music and low lighting contributed to "creating an atmosphere where you're able to just focus."

I wasn't that nervous, but I also wasn't exactly "focused." I mean, right off the bat I was having trouble keeping my eyes closed.

Peterson encouraged the class to focus on breathing, "listen for sound vibrations" and ignore our own internal commentary. Mike later said he found himself hearing the treadmills in the gym next to us and worrying about not running.

Personally, I was thinking about the story we were going to write, then I was thinking about how I was going to write about thinking about that.

Focusing on our breath did help distract us from the fact that we were the only male students in our group of seven, a ratio that was similar in the next class we took. After a little while the self-consciousness started to abate.

We tried to do crow pose, which seems a bit advanced, given that you place the weight of your body on your arms and lift your bent legs off the ground. Mike achieved liftoff for just a moment. Then he quickly fell onto the floor. I had no shot at completing crow or bound side angle, which involves reaching a hand under the same side's leg, then clasping it with the other hand, which happens to be behind your back.

But I also didn't feel as if it was a hopeless cause; I just needed a lot more practice.

A couple of days after

Peterson's class, we headed over to the Bikram Yoga Takoma Park (Maryland) studio to see what that was all about. It's often called "hot yoga," and I think that might be a bit of an understatement.

Bikram is a series of 26 poses done in a room heated to a humid 105 degrees or so. The heat is meant to loosen up the muscles and allow for greater flexibility.

Stephen Pleasant, owner of the studio, looked at us with wary eyes when we paid the drop-in fee and explained our story idea. He said our goal as first-timers was merely to stay in the room the entire time and endure the heat. Ninety minutes is a long time to spend in a steaming environment, pushing oneself through unfamiliar activities.

While the first yoga class was quiet and meditative, this class was lively. The lights were on, and there was no music. Although some poses were similar to those in the other class, Bikram felt harder. Pleasant, who taught the class, encouraged us to lie down to rest if needed, and at times it was needed. When we got to rabbit pose, Pleasant told us to sit this one out because it's hard to do.

"That's not a problem," which got a good laugh.

Des did attempt some version of all the poses, but for the most part the only thing he had in common with the woman in front of him, who was actually executing them, was that they were both depositing a bathtub's worth of perspiration into the carpeting.

Pleasant said that Bikram is a good form of yoga for beginners, and that makes sense, because it is so structured. It's the same 26 poses every time, in the same order, and the only goal is to get better at them.

While I don't mind the spiritual elements of yoga, Des liked how Bikram dispensed with mysticism and focused on the physical activity. Pleasant told us to keep our eyes open. Unlike the other yoga class, where we tried to center ourselves, Bikram asked us to be where we were, in the class, sweating with everyone else.

In both classes, Des and I felt that all the poses were in some variety doable. We both can attest that our whole body got a workout, and believe us, it took a lot of strength to do it.
Healthy pasta? It's not impossible

Siblings serve up waist-smart recipes

BY ALISON BOWEN
Tribune Newspapers

You're thinking through your weeknight meals, and you'd like to incorporate at least a few that resemble healthy. But you'd also like an easy, flavorful pasta you know you can whip up quickly. Are these two things compatible?

A new cookbook by Joe Bastianich, co-owner of Batali & Bastianich Hospitality Group and Eataly, and Tanya Bastianich Manuali, who owns restaurants and has co-authored five previous books, promises that pasta can be healthy. More specifically, the book's title pledges recipes for "Healthy Pasta: The Sexy, Skinny, and Smart Way to Eat Your Favorite Food."

The cover trumpets 100 recipes delivering under 500 calories, spanning ziti (partnered with savory cabbage and pancetta) to shells (featuring lentils and shrimp mixed with white wine, red pepper flakes, garlic and thyme).

Partly inspiring the book? The role pasta plays in the siblings' lives: Their mother is restaurateur, cooking teacher and author Lidia Bastianich.

Joe Bastianich says he realized he needed to change his eating habits and add exercise. "Ironically enough," he writes, "it was my love of pasta that played a major role in helping me attain my fitness goals."

Here are a few of their tips for cooking healthy pasta dishes:

- Counting calories does not mean you're eating healthy.
- Write Food: the cover trumpets 100 recipes delivering under 500 calories, spanning ziti (partnered with savory cabbage and pancetta) to shells (featuring lentils and shrimp mixed with white wine, red pepper flakes, garlic and thyme).
- Partly inspiring the book? The role pasta plays in the siblings' lives: Their mother is restaurateur, cooking teacher and author Lidia Bastianich.

"This is not a diet book," they warn, "just a simple guide to enjoying more of the food you love in ways that are good for you."
- Don't focus on deprivation. Instead of giving up something you love to eat, like pasta, find other ways to enjoy it: smaller portions, fewer ingredients, using cheeses with less fat.
- Change your ingredients. Peeled tomatoes, for example, have less sodium.
- Cook pasta al dente; chewing stimulates your digestive enzymes, they write. Taking longer to eat also means your body has more time to feel full.
- The better the ingredients you put in, the more flavor you'll find. Higher-quality pasta has more protein content. Using excellent olive oil allows you to use less.
- Learn to substitute. If you want to skip grated cheese, toast breadcrumbs and crushed almonds in olive oil instead.
- "Water is the perfect calorie-free ingredient," the authors say. Toss some flavor-packed pasta cooking water in at the end to make the sauce a bit thinner at no extra cost to your waistline.

The mushroom and asparagus mostaccioli in "Healthy Pasta," by Joe Bastianich and Tanya Bastianich Manuali, calls for roasting the vegetables, which uses less oil than sautéing them. The book was inspired by the role pasta plays in the authors' lives.

Recipe from "Healthy Pasta" by Joe Bastianich and Tanya Bastianich Manuali. Penne or ziti can be substituted for the mostaccioli. "Mushrooms can take in a lot of oil when you sauté them," the authors note. "So we roast them here with herbs and garlic to cut calories and add flavor."

**Mostaccioli with asparagus and roasted mushrooms**

Prep: 20 minutes  Cook: 25 minutes

Makes: 6 servings

Recipe from "Healthy Pasta" by Joe Bastianich and Tanya Bastianich Manuali. Penne or ziti can be substituted for the mostaccioli. "Mushrooms can take in a lot of oil when you sauté them," the authors note. "So we roast them here with herbs and garlic to cut calories and add flavor."

1 pound mixed mushrooms, such as button, cremini, shiitake, oyster, chanterelle or porcini
1 bunch medium asparagus, about 20 spears
3 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil
10 fresh sage leaves, chopped
1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves, chopped
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt, or as needed
Freshly ground pepper
10 cloves garlic
1 cup chopped green onions
1 pound mostaccioli
1/2 cup fresh Italian parsley leaves, chopped
1/2 cup freshly grated grana Padano

1 Heat the oven to 450 degrees, with two rimmed baking sheets on the bottom rack. (If your oven is not large enough to fit two pans on one rack, you can put one on the top and one on the bottom and rotate halfway through the cooking time.)

2 Heat a large pot of well-salted water to a boil for pasta. Wipe the mushrooms clean. Discard the stems. Cut the mushrooms into large chunks. Snap off the woody bottom stems of the asparagus and peel the lower half of the remaining tender stems. Cut the asparagus on the bias to about the same length as the mostaccioli.

3 In a large bowl, toss the mushrooms with 1 tablespoon olive oil and half the sage and thyme.

4 Add the mostaccioli to the boiling water. Meanwhile, in a large skillet over medium heat, add the remaining 1 tablespoon olive oil. Add the green onions and cook until wilted, about 3 minutes. Add the roasted garlic and mash with a wooden spoon. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Roast on the second pan until the asparagus is golden and tender, and the garlic is soft, about 10 minutes. Move both pans to the stove top to keep warm.

5 When the pasta is al dente, remove it with a small strainer; add pasta directly to the sauce. Wipe the mushrooms clean. Discard the stems. Cut the mushrooms into large chunks. Snap off the woody bottom stems of the asparagus and peel the lower half of the remaining tender stems. Cut the asparagus on the bias to about the same length as the mostaccioli.

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3 In a large bowl, toss the mushrooms with 1 tablespoon olive oil and half the sage and thyme. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Roast on one sheet pan until the mushrooms are browned and tender, tossing once or twice, 18 to 20 minutes. In the same bowl, toss the asparagus and garlic with 1/2 cup olive oil and remaining sage and thyme. Season with salt and pepper to taste. Roast on the second pan until the asparagus is golden and tender, and the garlic is soft, about 10 minutes. Move both pans to the stovetop to keep warm.

4 Add the mostaccioli to the boiling water. Meanwhile, in a large skillet over medium heat, add the remaining 1 tablespoon olive oil. Add the green onions and cook until wilted, about 3 minutes. Add the roasted garlic and mash with a wooden spoon. Season with salt and pepper to taste; add 1 cup pasta water. Heat to a simmer and cook until the garlic breaks down in the sauce, about 3 minutes.

5 When the pasta is al dente, remove it with a small strainer; add pasta directly to the sauce. Wipe the mushrooms clean. Discard the stems. Cut the mushrooms into large chunks. Snap off the woody bottom stems of the asparagus and peel the lower half of the remaining tender stems. Cut the asparagus on the bias to about the same length as the mostaccioli.

**Nutrition Information per serving:** 420 calories, 11 g fat, 2 g saturated fat, 6 mg cholesterol, 65 g carbohydrates, 17 g protein, 291 mg sodium, 6 g fiber

MICHAEL TERCHA/TRIBUNE NEWSPAPERS PHOTO; LISA SCHUMACHER/FOOD STYLING

Thursday, June 4, 2015 | A Chicago Tribune Publication
Homemade tonic syrup creates a riff on G&T

BY LISA FUTTERMAN
Tribune Newspapers

It is not terribly difficult these days to find bartenders who are making their own tonic water and using it in exciting riffs on the classic gin and tonic. Mixologists at bars like Chicago's Billy Sunday, Portland's Clyde Common, and Charleston's FIG have been sipping house-made tonics for years.

Nor is it difficult to find a recipe for homemade tonic syrup or artisanal tonic syrups for sale.

When embarking on making your own tonic, perhaps the most difficult task is sourcing the rather exotic ingredients necessary for the quintessential quinine cocktail. Cinchona bark provides much of the tonic's classic bitter edge, plus the quinine. Citric acid adds punchy acidity and helps preserve the mixture. Aromatics like citrus zest, allspice and lemongrass enhance the floral, spiced and citrus notes of whatever gin you select.

Enter Steven Tobiason, proprietor of Epic Spices, a tiny storefront in Chicago that supplies spices and seasonings to dozens of local restaurants and bars. He's seen the demand for cinchona bark increase steadily in the three years since he started his business.

His favorite tonic syrup recipe comes from the blog Pinch and Swirl, mainly because it uses cold extraction to get the purest flavors from the ingredients. "My extra thing," says Tobiason, "is to substitute kaffir lime leaves for lavender as your secret ingredient. They are floral like gin and help you build a unique flavor."

He's even been known to drop fresh cucumber peels into the infusion to "make a bridge" when using a gin known for its cucumber notes, such as Hendrick's.

Once armed with the proper ingredients and the recipe below, the only thing between you and a custom gin and tonic is a few days infusion time, a bottle of your favorite good gin, a bottle of soda water and some ice cubes. Don't forget the limes.

Tonic syrup

Prep: 15 minutes Rest: 72 hours (3 days) Cook: 5 minutes

Makes: about 4 1/2 cups, or enough for 72 cocktails (or the entire summer).

infusion:
1 1/2 cups water
3/4 cup (1 ounce) chopped chinchona bark
1/4 cup citric acid
Zest of 3 limes, 3 lemons and 2 oranges
Stalks fresh lemongrass, chopped
Whole allspice berries
Whole cardamom pods
Kaffir lime leaves
1/2 teaspoon kosher salt
Rich simple syrup:
2 cups natural cane sugar
1 cup water

For the infusion, combine all ingredients in a one-quart lidded glass jar. Shake to combine. Refrigerate 72 hours, shaking the jar at least once per day.

Strain into a large container, then strain again through a coffee filter or fine cheesecloth.

Meanwhile, make rich simple syrup by heating 2 cups sugar in 1 cup water over medium heat until sugar is completely dissolved. Allow to cool, then chill thoroughly.

Whisk simple syrup into strained tonic infusion until thoroughly combined. Store in bottles or jars in the refrigerator.

Gin and tonic: Fill a highball glass with ice. Add 1 tablespoon tonic syrup, 2 ounces gin and 2 ounces sparkling water. Stir to combine. Serve at once with a lime wedge.

Provenance: Adapted from pinchandswirl.com.

Adding crunch to lunch

Green salad with golden beets, raspberries and pistachios

BY ELLIE KRIEGER
Special to The Washington Post

It doesn't take much effort to turn a simple salad into a spectacular one; all you need is a little inspiration. Two colorful produce items that looked especially fresh and bountiful at my market recently, golden beets and plump red raspberries, constituted the perfect muse for this one.

I knew their colors would be outstanding atop a pile of greens, which I decided should be a mix of deep green arugula and tender, mild butter lettuce. I relished the thought of how, once roasted, the beets' deep, earthy sweetness would play off the bright tang of the berries, and it occurred to me how nice it would be to add a crunchy element. I found this in the gemlike, buttery pistachios stashed in my refrigerator. An easy lemon-Dijon vinaigrette brought all the flavors together beautifully.

Because it was coming on lunchtime, I thought it would be nice to turn the salad into a light meal by toasting garlic-rubbed baguette slices slathered with soft goat cheese. As I happily devoured the salad with the warm cheese toast, I thought about how it would also be delightful with a bowl of soup for dinner.

Nutrition Information per serving: 310 calories, 21 g fat, 6 g saturated fat, 15 mg cholesterol, 23 g carbohydrates, 11 g protein, 410 mg sodium, 5 g fiber
**Shelf Life**

**By Judy Hevrdejs**

Tribune Newspapers

**What a whimsical dish**

Set a summer table with retro-style dishes from New York's legendary Fishs Eddy, which teamed with West Elm to create the ceramic pieces. Nestle a well-dressed wiener in one, a burger and chips in the red-striped barge. Or use them to serve snacks. They're microwave- and dishwasher-safe. The Hotdog Host is $12; the Burger Barge is $18. Buy online or locate a store: www.westelm.com

**No ice cream machine? No problem**

Thanks to Leslie Bilderback, cookbook author and pastry wizard from California, those without an ice cream machine can still make ice cream at home with coaching and recipes from her "No-Churn Ice Cream" (St. Martin's Griffin, $22.99). If you have a freezer that chills to at least zero, she'll guide you through making dreamy desserts based on a French parfait, as well as gelato, sorbet, granita and toppings. Recipes range from classics to a strawberry-rhubarb and pineapple-pepper. At bookstores nationwide.

**Picnic-perfect beans**

Whether for salads, soups or snacking, a line of ready-to-eat organic bagged beans from Fig Food Co. is a fine place to start. Think canned beans, no can opener needed. The line of eight beans includes black, borlotti, cannellini, chickpeas, red kidney, navy, pinto and small red. We found the chickpeas (a hummus recipe's on the back) and borlotti a snap to use. And the pouches are BPA free. Prices start at $3 for a 15-ounce pouch. For a store locator: www.figfood.com

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**A bit of 'hummus' heaven**

In my recent travels to Brazil, I experienced some of the freshest, juiciest, sexiest ingredients I've ever come across. The mangoes made me question whether I'd ever truly tasted a mango before. The hearts of palm melted in my mouth like none I've ever bitten into. Tucupi, extracted from a manioc root in the Amazon jungle, made my taste buds go wild. And there is no doubt in my mind that I was born to drink Brazil's classic sugar cane cocktail, the caipirinha.

The true culinary treasure of my trip to Sao Paulo, however, was from our very own Italian marketplace opening right in the heart of the city. Fulvio Marino, who helps develop and refine baked-good recipes for Eataly locations around the globe, captured my dreams in a single piece of focaccia, featured in "Molto Batali" (Ecco, 2011) when I returned to New York. The freshness of shelled peas from my local farmers market combined with sweet, smoked Spanish paprika and crispy Italian flat bread bites was enough to transport me back to the trip of a lifetime in Sao Paulo. The paired caipirinha in hand was just the feather in my cap.

Inspired by this focaccia greatness, I whipped up the pea "hummus" featured in "Molto Batali" when I returned to New York. The freshness of shelled peas from my local farmers market combined with sweet, smoked Spanish paprika and crispy Italian flat bread bites was enough to transport me back to the trip of a lifetime in Sao Paulo. The paired caipirinha in hand was just the feather in my cap.

**Pea 'hummus' with focaccia crostini**

**Prep:** 20 minutes  **Cook:** 15 minutes  
**Makes:** 8 to 10 servings as a side dish

- 3 cups shelled fresh peas (from 3 pounds in the pod)  
- Grated zest and juice of 3 lemons  
- 6 tablespoons tahini  
- 6 cloves garlic  
- 6 tablespoons plus 2 tablespoons extra-virgin olive oil  
- Salt  
- Freshly ground black pepper  
- Pimenton (sweet smoked Spanish paprika)

1. Heat a large pot of well-salted water to a boil. Set up an ice bath nearby.
2. Drop the peas into the boiling water; bring back to a boil and cook until tender and still vivid green, about 3 minutes. Transfer the peas to the ice bath.
3. When the peas have cooled, drain them; transfer to a food processor along with the lemon zest and juice, tahini, garlic and 6 tablespoons olive oil. Process until smooth. Season with salt and pepper to taste.
4. Cut the focaccia into narrow slices; toast them in a toaster oven or under the broiler.
5. Place the hummus in a serving bowl; create a shallow well in the center. Drizzle the remaining 2 tablespoons of oil into the well; sprinkle the pimenton around the walls of the well. Serve at room temperature or cool, with the focaccia crostini.

Mario Batali is the award-winning chef behind 25 restaurants including Eataly, Del Posto, and his flagship Greenwich Village enoteca, Babbo.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency
Bayless is back with engaging new cookbook

'More Mexican Everyday' coaches cooks to improvise with his recipes

BY JUDY HEVREDSJ Tribune Newspapers

Mix the passion chef Rick Bayless has for the cuisines of Mexico with his enthusiasm for serving it up at his many restaurants and on his TV series "Mexico: One Plate at a Time," and it's easy to see how that could never be contained in a handful of books.

It should come as no surprise then that he's written a ninth cookbook, "More Mexican Everyday: Simple, Seasonal, Celebratory" (WW Norton & Co, $35) in his engaging style, with recipes and meal-time ideas for the home cook, whether they cook every day for their families or for themselves.

"This is a book for people who love to cook," Bayless told us. "Not for people who feel cooking is somehow a drudgery, but for people who enjoy the act of cooking as much as they enjoy eating."

Bayless is quick to note, though, that "in this day and age, most of us have such rich lives that even if we're the avocational cook for the weekend, you're probably not going to spend 10 hours in the kitchen making one meal. My goal is to offer people recipes that are not dumbed down, that are smart recipes utilizing ingredients and cookware and techniques to be the most efficient," he says, including some recipes that use a slow cooker or rice cooker.

"More Mexican" arrives 10 years after "Mexican Everyday: Easy, Full-Fa- vored, Tradition-Packed," and, as with the earlier volume, it was written with his wife, Deann Groen Bayless. It picks up, Bayless says, where "Mexican Everyday" left off, so there's an emphasis on ingredients that have become more accessible over the past 10 years.

"One of the great joys for me is to go to the store and the farmers market and buy things I think are really beautiful, and that's sort of the focus of this book," he says.

Which means, in the Bayless kitchen, those things might be transformed into a mustard greens soup with poblanos and almonds. Or sweet-sour pickled tomatillos may share a salad plate with Little Gem lettuce and pumpkin seeds. And poached eggs go bold when set atop a mix of ancho chili, kale, potato and fresh cheese. They are among the 30 vegetable dishes in the book.

He does not ignore meat and fish, of course, nor desserts — such as farmers market fruit with warm tequila-lime espuma (foam). But especially helpful are his "secret weapon" flavorings: two marinade-type adobos, a spicy-sweet chipotle mix and a roasted garlic mojo. They are used in several recipes and designed for improvising to suit your tastes and the ingredients you have on hand.

Improvisation is at the heart of this book. "I have really worked to help people understand why a recipe is the way that it is. And that hopefully, will release people from their ties to the recipe as something to slavishly follow," he says. "I want people to understand how to cook so that you can read my recipe, get your idea, then go to the kitchen and make something that's just exactly right for you."

The chapter titled "How to Win a Top Chef Quickfire Challenge," says Bayless, who won the first season of "Top Chef Masters," "is really the essence of getting people away from recipes because it teaches you how to cook and how to think like a chef. And to tell you the truth, almost everybody who is cooking dinner on a weekend is doing a Quickfire challenge. You don't have very much time. You just have to get dinner on the table but you want it to be delicious."

Among keys to Quickfire success: understanding of flavor, texture and how to balance them.

Since opening Frontera Grill in the mid '80s, Bayless has watched and adapted as our appetites for Mexican flavors and you're going to have an amazing meal."
Ah, summer!
It's time once again for the annual round-up of outdoor concerts, created to help you enjoy these few months of Chicago's best weather to its fullest. So grab your lawn chairs and blankets and be sure to keep this guide handy all season.

**Edison Park Fest**, Aug. 14-15 in the downtown area around the Edison Park Metra Station, 6730 N. Olmsted, Chicago. The event includes food, beverages, live music, Family Stage activities, and Kids' Play Area. Band schedule: Friday, 97Nine 5:30-7:30 p.m., Rod Tuffcurls and the Bench Press 8-10:15 p.m.; Saturday, Treehouse noon-1:30 p.m., Smokin Gunz 2-3:30 p.m., Sons of Mary 4-5:30 p.m., Northshore 6-7:30 p.m., Wedding Banned 8-10:15 p.m.; Sunday, Centerfold noon-1:30 p.m., Hot Rocks Band, 2-3:30 p.m., 4-5:30 p.m., Tanqueray Mist 6-7:30 p.m., Sixteen Candles 8-10 p.m. Admission is free. Visit www.edisonpark.com/epfest.

**Des Plaines**


**Lincolnwood**


**Mount Prospect**


**Niles**


**Norridge**

*Island in the City Festival*, July 9-12 at Norridge Community Park, 4631 N. Overture Hill. Free admission. The event features live entertainment, food vendors and carnival rides. Hours are 5-10 p.m. Thursday, 5-11 p.m. Friday; 11 p.m. Saturday, and 1 p.m. Sunday. Music lineup - Thursday: Serendipity, 6-7 p.m., 7th Heaven, 7:30-9:30 p.m.; Friday: Bitter Sweet, 6-7:30 p.m., Infinity, 8-10:30 p.m.; Saturday: "It's So About You", "Turn to Concerts, Next Page"
Take in the sounds of summer

Concerts, from Previous Page

2:30-3:30 p.m., Todka & Vonics, 4-5:30 p.m., Sonic 7, 6-7:30 p.m., Hi Infidelity, 8:40-9:30 p.m.; Sunday: Six Strings Crossing, 2:45-3:45 p.m., Smokin Gunz, 4-5:30 p.m., The Mantz Brothers, 6-8 p.m., The Lost Trailers, 8:15-9:30 p.m., TBA. Visit www.islandinthecity.com.

Park Ridge


Rosemont


Skokie

Skokie’s Backlot Bash, Aug. 28-30 in a closed-off, two-block portion of Oakton Street, between Lincoln and Laramie, adjacent to Village Hall, features live music, an amusement park/carnival, 5K run and more. Visit www.backlotbash.com. Friday, Aug. 28: 6:45 p.m., Decoy Prayer Meeting; 8:30 p.m., The Fabulous Thunderbirds featuring Kim Wilson. Saturday, Aug. 29: 11:30 a.m., Angela James; 12:45 p.m., Gillespie Jazz Trio; 1:45 p.m., Matt Hendricks; 3 p.m., Infamous Banjolele Bandit; 4 p.m., Nu Bamba; 5:15 p.m., Eric Unger; 6:45 p.m., The Luck of Eden Hall; 8:30 p.m., The Psychedelic Furs. Sunday, Aug. 30: noon, Steve Rosen; 11:45 p.m., Infamous Banjolele Bandit; 2:15 p.m., Jess McIntosh; 3:30 p.m., Chris Corsale; 4:30 p.m., Dann Morr & The Smashing Bastard Sideshow; 6:15 p.m., Tributosaurus becomes The Cars.

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Glenview’s Kaylee Durow sold out two shows at Davenport’s in Chicago and is now bringing her show to the Skokie Theatre.

Singer Kaylee Durow fulfilling lifelong dream

BY JACKIE PILOSOFF
Pioneer Press

When asked why she’s been a performing vocalist most of her life, Kaylee Durow responded, “Singing fills my soul.”

The Glenview mother of five, who for years has been singing in church and at weddings and funerals, is now the star of her new show, “Kaylee Durow Live,” which takes place June 11 at the Skokie Theatre.

“I love the emotional side of performing, of getting into the music, of feeling it,” said Durow, who grew up in Lincolnwood. “I reach out and I can feel the people watching me and being brought in. It’s really heartfelt.”

“Kaylee Durow Live” is a mix of contemporary, classic and pop songs woven together with stories and conversation. The show, which includes Durow’s accompanist and co-ar-ranger, John Hopkins, as well as guest vocalists and musicians, will feature songs from artists and composers such as Norah Jones, the Beatles, Sting, Natalie Merchant and Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Durow, who has lived in Glenview for 16 years with her husband, Tim, and their children, holds a degree in psychology, was an elementary school teacher and music instructor for several years, both in Deerfield and in Florida. Her show came about when she and Hopkins were looking for ways to expand outside of the church. They attended a show last winter at Chicago’s Davenport’s, where vocalist Daryl Nitz was performing.

“I pulled [Kaylee] up on stage and she did some numbers during my show and I saw that she was a great vocalist and performer,” said Nitz.

Durow and Hopkins were then offered two performances at Davenport, one in January and one in February. Both shows sold out.

“That’s not an easy thing to do,” Nitz said. “There’s an honesty in what she does. There are people who sing at you and people who sing for you. Kaylee sings for her audience.”

“My cheeks hurt from smiling so much,” said Durow. “It was like finally, after giving my life to my kids, this was something I was doing for myself. I was 40 and achieving my lifelong dream. It was amazing.”
Catch the rhythm with a Be the Groove performance

BY MYRNA PETLICKI  
Pioneer Press

Kids will get a bang out of watching, hearing and being a part of the “Be the Groove: Make the Rhythm, Keep the Beat” performance, 2-3 p.m. Saturday, June 13, at Morton Grove Public Library, 6440 Lincoln Ave.

“Rhythm can be both seen and heard, so there will be an energetic mix of rhythmic choreography and body percussion,” said Kevin Brown, director of education for Be the Groove. He noted that parts of the show are interactive and that the performance “imparts musical terminology while emphasizing the importance of teamwork.” One segment deals with the issue of bullying—but does it in a playful, musical manner. The high-energy show features four performers who employ rhythmic choreography, technical drumming, beatboxing and spoken-word poetry. Audience members will be involved as a group, as well as individually, with some being invited onstage.

Both grownups and kids will be encouraged to consider new ways of applying rhythm to their everyday lives.

For details, call 847-965-4220 or go to mgpl.org.

A wheel deal

Summer is a great time for family bike rides. Your first stop should be the Oakton Park parking lot, Oakton Street at Knox Ave., Skokie, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, June 6, for Bicycle Safety Day. There will be games for kids through age 14, plus a bicycle safety course.

For details, call 847-933-8232 or go to skokie.org.

Far out

Dino O’Dell will introduce “Heroes of Outer Space” to families with children in preschool through third grade, 3-3:45 p.m. Tuesday, June 9, at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. You’ll meet astronauts, fix alien spaceships and learn about our solar system in this storytelling journey through outer space. Pick up tickets at 2:30 p.m. that day.

For details, call 847-673-5127 or go to prparks.org.

Try your luck and buy a duck

Ducks will zoom down the waterslide at Centennial Aquatic Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge during the Sunny Saturday Duck Race, 11:15 a.m. Saturday, June 6. Purchase a duck for $5 or 3 for $10 and your family may win a prize.

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

A wheel deal

Summer is a great time for family bike rides. Your first stop should be the Oakton Park parking lot, Oakton Street at Knox Ave., Skokie, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday, June 6, for Bicycle Safety Day. There will be games for kids through age 14, plus a bicycle safety course.

For details, call 847-933-8232 or go to skokie.org.

Green scene

Kids will learn the importance of preserving the environment through fun activities and entertainment during World Environment Day, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, June 6, at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. The Dreamtree Shakers perform at 11:30 a.m. and Layla Frankel at 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. For details, call 847-885-5440 or go to chicago botanic.org.
DIY projects that help prevent summer brain drain

June is here and we've almost made it through another year of school. Soon homework assignments, crazy carpools and early morning wake-up calls will be replaced with sunny days, warm nights and unstructured freedom. Summer is also a great time to teach our children new things, reinforce critical skills and have fun.

**Backyard Scrabble**

Turn your backyard into a jumbo Scrabble board with the help of bathroom tiles, permanent markers and the sun.

You need:
- Ceramic tiles (available at most home repair and hardware stores)
- Permanent markers (such as Sharpies or Paint Pens)

Directions:
- Use a permanent marker to write one letter on each tile.
- Place tiles outside in direct sunlight for about an hour. The warm temperature will bake the color right into the tile.
- Once your tiles are dry, you're ready to play. You can use your tiles to play scrabble with the whole family, or have your kids play an anagram game where they have to turn one word into new words using the same letters.

**Make Your Own Journal**

When it comes to journaling, everyone benefits. Journaling encourages kids to write without fear, as there really is no "right" or "wrong" way to journal. Writers can express their dreams and emotions, or describe their day.

Encourage your kids to make their own journals using recyclables such as grocery bags, magazine covers or cereal boxes. Below are the directions for a cereal box journal, though the process can be used with any sort of recyclable.

You need:
- Empty cereal box
- Notebook paper
- Ribbon
- 3-ring hole punch
- Beads or charms (optional)

Directions:
- Make the front and back covers by cutting the cereal box into two 9x11-inch rectangles.
- Punch three holes on the left side of each cereal box rectangle.
- Arrange the notebook by sandwiching notebook paper in between the front and back covers.
- Thread ribbon through each hole, and tie at the top.
- If desired, add a few beads or charms.

**Solar Powered S'mores**

Here's a tasty way to learn about the sun's heat, courtesy of The Museum of Science and Industry's Summer Brain Games series. This free summer program includes weekly hands-on activities that incorporate science, math and foster critical thinking skills. To learn more and sign up for the weekly activities visit www.msichicago.org/programs/summer-brain-games

You need:
- Empty pizza box
- Wooden ruler
- Aluminum foil
- Plastic wrap
- Tape
- Sharp scissors or craft knife (adults only)

S'mores ingredients: graham crackers, chocolate and marshmallows

Directions:
- Create a flap on top of the box by cutting three sides of a square on the pizza box lid, about two inches from the sides. Use a craft knife or sharp scissors (adults only).
- Fold back the flap and cover the inside with aluminum foil (shiny side out). Use tape to keep the foil in place. Open the box and cover the bottom and sides with aluminum foil, shiny side up. Use tape if necessary.
- Pull up the top flap and cover the hole with plastic wrap. Use tape to hold it in place.
- Place s'more on a paper plate and place inside the box. Close the lid, fold back the foil flap and prop it open with a ruler.
- Place pizza box oven outside. Make sure the flap is directly facing the sun.
- The next step is to wait! It can take up to one hour to cook. Be careful when removing the s'more, as the oven can be hot.

**Let's Read!**

Don't forget to read this summer! Most local libraries offer free reading programs that include awards and other incentives. Need advice on new and exciting books? Find a list at the American Library Association: www.ala.org/alsc/compubs/booklists/summerreadinglist.

**Talk Back to Mommy!**

Do you have a favorite place to buy second hand clothes? Perhaps you have a DIY clothing project to share. We are looking for kid clothes ideas that parents can buy/make on a shoestring budget. Send us your thoughts via Facebook, www.facebook.com/beth.engelman.7 or by email Beth@mommyonashoestring.com. You may be featured in an upcoming article.
Friday, June 5

"Lady Windermere's Fan": Oscar Wilde's four-act comedy of morals. 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 2:30 p.m. Sunday, Stage 773, 1225 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, $20-$40, 773-327-5252.

"Bad Jews": A Jewish family gets together for a funeral where two cousins battle over a treasured family heirloom. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, $12-$24, 773-975-8150.

"Lettuce Eat Caviar": A comedy that takes place in a Russian restaurant. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, Noorda Center for the Performing Arts, 1735 W. Van Buren St., Chicago, $10-$20, 773-871-9400.

Preview: "Camping: The Musical": A musical that takes place in a camping trip. 7:30 p.m. Friday, 8 p.m. Saturday, 4 p.m. Sunday, Chopin Theatre, 1543 W. Division St, Chicago, $15-$30, 773-278-1500.

"Don't Go Gentle": Judge Lawrence Driver, a conservative powerhouse on the bench but a failure at home, is now retired, widowed and seeking redemption. He volunteers to pro bono legal work with Tanya, a vulnerable ex-con with a troubled teenage son, while working to repair the increasingly complicated relationships with his own adult children. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, $12-$24, 773-975-8150.

"Three Sisters": Three sisters who live in a drab provincial town imagine futures in the big city. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, The Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $28.

"Cowboy Versus Samurai": Two Asian men fall for an Asian woman who only dates Caucasians. 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, The Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $5-$30.

"Belfast Girls": Five street women orphaned by the Irish Famine travel to Australia for a fresh start. 7:30 p.m. Friday, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 6 p.m. Sunday, The Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $25, 832-819-4386.

Into the Bat Caves of Kenya: Scientists Bruce Patterson and Paul Weba, accompanied by vlogger Emily Graslie, venture deep into a cave in Kenya's Mount Suswa to study the varied bats of East Africa. 9 a.m. all week, Field Museum, 1400 S. Lake Shore Drive, Chicago, free, 312-922-9410.

"Other Hands": Someone living in today's world of instant gratification and the high use of technology and quick fixes has to deal with one of life's biggest mysteries: love. 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday and Monday, Josephinen Academy, 1500 N. Bell Ave., Chicago, $10.

"The Little Foxes": A family is torn apart because of a conflict about funding an industrialized cotton mill. 8 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, $18-$67, 312-443-8800.

"Crime Scene: The Next Chapter": A show that raises questions about segregation, poverty, the news media and healing. 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, Flat Iron Arts Building, 1579 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $30-$95, 800-775-2000.

"Three Sisters": A woman survives the end of the world but must grapple with her daughter's reappearance. 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, The Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, $16-$20, 773-404-7336.

"Picasso at the Lapin Agile": Comedian Steve Martin imagines what would happen if Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso were to meet in a bistro. 7:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Wednesday; 2:30 p.m. Saturday, The Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, $15, 773-598-4549.

"Three Sisters": A family is torn apart because of a conflict about funding an industrialized cotton mill. 8 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Goodman Theatre, 170 N. Dearborn St., Chicago, $18-$67, 312-443-8800.

"The Wild Duck": A father dreams of a new invention that can restore his fallen family's name to greatness. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 6 p.m. Sunday, Christ Evangelical Lutheran Church, 3283 W. Wilson Ave., Chicago, $15-$20, 773-413-0454.

"Ring of Fire: Music of Johnny Cash": A journey through the icon's career, from the cotton fields of Arkansas to the Grand Ole Opry. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, Mercury Theater, 3745 N. Southport Ave, Chicago, TBA, 773-325-1700.

"Malice Buyers Club": Evil will win every time, from boyfriends, bank robbers to corrupt businessmen. 8 p.m. Friday, Public House Theatre, 3914 N. Clark St., Chicago, $15, 800-650-6449.

"Maliice Buyers Club": A musical that takes place in a camping trip. 7:30 p.m. Friday, 8 p.m. Saturday, 4 p.m. Sunday, The Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $28, 773-975-8150.

"Cowboy Versus Samurai": Two Asian men fall for an Asian woman who only dates Caucasians. 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, The Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $5-$30.

"Belfast Girls": Five street women orphaned by the Irish Famine travel to Australia for a fresh start. 7:30 p.m. Friday, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 6 p.m. Sunday, The Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $25, 832-819-4386.

"The Herd": An Irish musician and a Czech immigrant are drawn together by their shared love of music. 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, Cadillac Palace Theatre, 151 W. Randolph St., Chicago, $30-$95, 800-777-2000.

"Chalk": A woman survives the end of the world but must grapple with her daughter's reappearance. 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, Victory Gardens Theater, 2433 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, $5-$30, 773-871-3000.

"On Your Feet!": The story of Gloria and Emilio Estefan's relationship and career through their songs, including "Rhythm is Gonna Get You," "Conga" and "Get On Your Feet." 7:30 p.m. Friday, Sunday, Tuesday and Wednesday, 2:30 p.m. Saturday, Oriental Theatre, 24 W. Randolph St., Chicago, $30-$97, 800-777-2000.

"The Fifth Dimension": Twilight zone-inspired sketch comedy based on the delusions of lobster love, Loh Ness life and sugar snap peas. 10:30 p.m. Friday, Donny's Skybox Theatre, 1608 N. Wells St, Chicago, $13, 312-335-3000.

"Picasso at the Lapin Agile": Comedian Steve Martin imagines what would happen if Albert Einstein and Pablo Picasso were to meet in a bistro. 7:30 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Wednesday; 2:30 p.m. Saturday, The Greenhouse Theater Center, 2257 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, $16-$20, 773-404-7336.

"Three Sisters": A trip to the big city. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 4 p.m. Sunday, Flat Iron Arts Building, 1579 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $10-$30, 312-335-1650.

"Belfast Girls": Five street women orphaned by the Irish Famine travel to Australia for a fresh start. 7:30 p.m. Friday, 3 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 6 p.m. Sunday, The Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $25, 832-819-4386.

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"Honorabe Mention": Performance artist Vanessa Vallerie uses puppetry, clown and doll parts to tell stories of failure and success. 8 p.m. Friday, Uptown Underground, 4707 N. Broadway, Chicago, $15, 773-867-3946.

"Too Much Light Makes the Baby Go Blind": A one-hour blitz of 30 extremely brief plays. 11:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 7 p.m. Saturday, The Neo-Futurarium, 5153 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, $9 plus the roll of one die ($10-$15) or $20 for advance reservation, 773-275-5255.

"Inana": 8 p.m. Friday, 5 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, The Neo-Futurarium, 5153 N. Ashland Ave., Chicago, $9 plus the roll of one die ($10-$15) or $20 for advance reservation, 773-275-5255.

"Soon I Will Be Invincible": The dynamic of 21-year-old Andy's birthday party changes when two unexpected guests appear. 7:30 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, The Den Theatre, 1333 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago, $25, 832-819-4386.
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**Parlisan Salon Concert:** George LePauz presents musicians from his International Beethoven Project. 7:30 p.m. Friday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

**Paul Wertico and Erin McDougald:** Compositions will include the music of Tom Waits, Clint Eastwood, Guns N' Roses, Film Noir soundtrack adaptations, Hoagy Carmichael, Billy Strayhorn and more. 8 p.m. Friday, Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, $35, 847-677-7761

**“Shining Lives”:** The young women of Chicago's Radium Dial Company are living a dream and earning good wages. After years of hand painting watch dials, the so-called “harmless” leads to tragic results. 8 p.m. Friday-Saturday, 2 p.m. Sunday, Northlight Theatre, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, $15-$54, 847-673-6300

**Wennetka Children's Fair:** Admission to the fairgrounds is free and open to the public. Tickets for attractions can be purchased. 10 a.m. Friday-Saturday, Wennetka Village Green, Elm St. and Maple St., Wennetka, 847-446-4432

**Saturday, June 6**

**Promenade of Art:** An outdoor festival featuring art, jewelry, sculpture, painting and ceramics from more than 110 artists. There will also be live music, children's activities and the annual "Taste of Arlington Heights," which features food and drink from local restaurants. 10 a.m. Saturday-Sunday, Vail Avenue and Campbell Street, Arlington Heights, free, 847-926-4300

**Japan Festival:** A festival featuring martial arts demonstrations, video game exhibitions, taiko drumming performances, food vendors, a marketplace and kids activities. 10 a.m. Saturday-Sunday, Forest View Educational Center Theatre, 2121 S. Goebbert Road, Arlington Heights, $5; free for kids under age 18, 847-593-1633

**“Queen Amarantha”:** A queen with a tarnished reputation runs away from her royal duties. When the kingdom begins to fall under the rule of her brother, the queen must choose to save the kingdom or keep her freedom. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 4 p.m. Sunday, City Lit Theater Company, 1020 W. Bryn Mawr Ave., Chicago, $20, 773-293-3682

**T.G.I. MON**

**DEADLINE EXTENDED TO**

**27 June**

**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, 1131 W. Sheridan Road, Chicago, free, 773-508-8400

**“The Birds”:** A violent flock of birds attacks and forces a couple to take refuge in an abandoned beach house. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, 3 p.m. Sunday, Theater Wit, 1229 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, $35, 773-973-8150

**Wingout Chicago:** The inaugural celebration of the chicken wing. Attendees can vote for the best wings in multiple categories. 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, St. Michael in Old Town, 1633 N. Cleveland Ave., Chicago, $55, 312-642-2498

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“Proud to be Me” concert and dance: The nonprofit Artemis Singers specialize in performing music written or arranged by women. The dance with live DJ immediately follows the concert. 7 p.m. Saturday, Broadway United Methodist Church, 3338 N. Broadway, Chicago, Suggested donation of $15-$20, 773-764-4465

The Pied Piper: An ensemble cast performs to haunting music based on the Robert Browning poem. 4 p.m. Saturday-Tuesday, Strawdog Theatre, 3829 N. Broadway, Chicago, $15, 773-354-4533

Sweet Water Rolling with John Huber and Marla McCullough: 10 a.m. Saturday, Myron R. Szold Music and Dance Hall, Old Town School of Folk Music, 4545 N. Lincoln Ave., Chicago, Free-$6, 773-728-6000

The Script: With Mary Lambert and Colton Avery. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Riviera Theatre, 4746 N. Racine Ave., Chicago, $32.50, 773-275-6800

“Fire and Beer”: Improvisation based on audience suggestions. 8 p.m. Saturday, The Annoyance Theatre, 851 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, $12; $8 for students, 773-697-9693

Chicago Powwow: The 62nd Annual Powwow will celebrate the Native American culture and community with traditional artisans, dance, music and food. 10 a.m. Saturday-Sunday, Busse Woods Forest Preserve, East Higgins and South Arlington Heights Roads, Elk Grove Village, $10-$15, kids 5 and under free, 773-275-5871

Northbrook Symphony/Music Institute of Chicago Collaboration: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Nichols Concert Hall, Music Institute of Chicago, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $30-$40, 847-272-0755

Sustainable Agriculture: A full day of presentations and family-friendly activities focused on sustainable agriculture, eco-friendly gardening techniques and plant science research. WGN-TV chief meteorologist Tom Skilling answers questions from 1 to 2 p.m. about local weather trends and global climate change. 11:15 a.m. Saturday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, free, 847-835-5440

Silver Screen Series: “The Parent Trap”: 2 p.m. Saturday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6410 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Zombie Apocalypse Live: Navigate your way through oncoming infectious zombies. 2 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Fear City, 8240 N. Austin Ave., Morton Grove, $29 - $39, 303-355-3327

Signature With a Song: Laura Freeman, Jeff Hedberg, Frieda Lee, Beckie Menzie, Daryl Nitz, Johnny Rodgers and special guest Denise Tomasello will perform the signature songs of several Great American singers. 8 p.m. Saturday, Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave., Skokie, $25, 847-677-7761

Sunday, June 7

Garfield Park Conservatory Farmers Market: 11 a.m. Sunday, Garfield Park Conservatory, 300 N. Central Park Ave., Chicago, free, 312-746-5100

Redhead Festival: The first Redhead Days Festival in the United States. 10 a.m. Saturday-Sunday, Highland Park City Hall, 1707 St. Johns Ave, Highland Park, free, 630-207-7088

“Eastern Winds”: Flutist Yukie Ota will be featured. 4 p.m. Sunday, St. George the Greek Church, 5535 N. Paulina St., Chicago, free, 773-354-4533

Deerfield Historic Village: Explore five historic buildings, including the oldest building in Lake County. Children can visit a one-room schoolhouse and learn about life in early Deerfield. Free docent guided tours are available. 2 p.m. Sunday, Deerfield Historic Village, 450 Kipling Place, Deerfield, free, 847-948-0680

Art In the Park: Elk Grove Park District's 5th Annual Art in the Park Event highlighting Chicagoland culture and featuring artwork, performances and creative activities. Noon Sunday, Elk Grove Village Public Library, 1001 Wellington Ave., Elk Grove Village, free, 847-437-9494

“A Vision In Sound: Mussorgsky, Bunch, Higdon”: A Chicago Philharmonic show dedicated to the five senses. 7 p.m. Sunday, Pick-Staiger Concert Hall, Northwestern University, 50 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, $25-$75; $10 for students, 312-957-0000

Turn to Go Calendar, Next Page
National Cancer Survivors’ Day: Cancer survivors are celebrated with raffles, giveaway treats and a special survivors lap at 9 a.m. on the indoor track. 8 a.m. Sunday, Advocate Condell Medical Center, 901 S. Milwaukee Ave., Libertyville, free, 847-990-5275

Tuesday, June 9

“Good Morning Lakeview Goodnight”: A parody of “Good Morning America” explores a new issue facing the neighborhood. 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, The Annoyance Theatre, 851 W. Belmont Ave., Chicago, $6, 773-697-9693

“Popeye”: A digitally remastered movie of the long-lived comic strip. 1 p.m. and 7 p.m. Tuesday, Elk Grove Theatre, 1050 Arlington Heights Road, Elk Grove Village, $4, 847-228-6707

“Roadmap Genesis”: A documentary that makes the case that the Book of Genesis is more relevant now than ever and exposes viewers to a wide spectrum of ideas and dialogues. 7:45 p.m. Tuesday, North Suburban Synagogue Beth El, 1175 Sheridan Road, Highland Park, free, 847-432-8900

Movies, Munches, & More: “Words and Pictures,” an English teacher challenges a new teacher on campus to a war between words and pictures, and in the process, sparks an unlikely romance. 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Wednesday, June 10

Richard Thompson Electric Trio: 8 p.m. Wednesday, Vic Theatre/Brew & View, 3145 N. Sheffield Ave., Chicago, $35, 773-472-0449

“I Saw You”: Based on actual local missed-connections postings, personal ads and solicitations. 8 p.m. Wednesday, Town Hall Pub, 3340 N. Halsted Ave., Chicago, $5, 773-336-2682

Jackman Park Summer Concert Series: Bring your dinner, folding chairs and lawn blankets. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jackman Park, 1930 Prairie St., Glenview, free, 847-724-5670

Grayslake Farmers Market: 3 p.m. Wednesday, Downtown Grayslake, 147 Center St., Grayslake, Free, 847-289-7138

Highwood Evening Farmers Market: 4 p.m. Wednesday, Everts Park, 130 Highwood Ave., Highwood, free, 847-433-2100

Have an event to submit? Go to chicagotribune/calendar.
MOVIES

Now playing

“Poltergeist” 
PG-13, 1:33, horror
The closing credits for Gil Kenan’s remake of the 1982 horror classic “Poltergeist” feature the band Spoon covering the Cramps’ 1980 punk classic “TV Set.” Spoon is a tasteful, studious yet largely anodyne indie-rock outfit that has become an NPR staple; the Cramps were a scuzzy, unhinged psychobilly band whose most famous gig took place in an actual mental hospital. It’s hard to think of a more fitting postscript for this professionally executed yet bloodless film, itself an act of homage that hews reverently to its source material while missing the essential spirit and vitality that once powered it. — Andrew Barker, Variety

“Tomorrowland” 
PG, 2:10, action
Walt Disney perfected the 20th century’s selling of utopia, and though it’s hard to pick just one flicker of inspiration that best summarizes Disney’s can-do philosophical insistence on a better, cleaner future where all the PeopleMovers run on time, Tomorrowland is a front-runner. Built for the Disneyland park in 1955, it was a gleaming vision of a future full of innovation and promise. And so, whatever its faults, the new Brad Bird movie is never less than on-message, a buoyant old-school, Disney-certified Imagineering of hopefulness. — Christopher Borrelli

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Erad, Justin A.
Justin A. Erad passed away unexpectedly at age 31. A Celebration of Life service was held for him on Sunday, April 19, 2015. Cherished son, Justin made his parents, Kathleen (nee McCarty) and the late Anthony Erad, very proud. Dearly loved and admired brother, he was a source of guidance and support to his sister Jennie. He is loved and missed by his aunts, uncles, cousins, friends, and all who were close to him.

Justin was a 1998 graduate of Maine South High School in his hometown of Park Ridge, Illinois. He received a varsity letter in Cross Country and was a member of the Mu Alpha Theta Math Honor Society, the Illinois State Champion Constitution Team, and the National Honor Society, as well as being an Illinois State Scholar and a National Merit Semifinalist.

Justin became a proud member of the Sigma Nu Fraternity at Carnegie Mellon University where he graduated four years later with Bachelor's and Master's degrees in Electrical and Computer Engineering. After graduation Justin moved to California where he worked in software design in Silicon Valley.

In his short lifetime he experienced richness and joy; he walked in the natural beauty of our earth; danced until his legs could no longer hold him up; felt the fullness of loving and being loved; and witnessed the miracle of birth. He embraced peace, sought truth, and supported justice.

Justin believed in treating all people with decency and respect. His philosophy was rooted in keeping karma good, intentions loving, possibilities expanding, and staying grateful. He understood it is love that we really need, everything else is dust in the wind. Let peace, love, and eternal light shine upon Justin and in his memory, may we love one another.

A gift to CMU is being made in Justin's name. Interment at Maryhill Cemetery, Niles, Illinois.

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Chicago Tribune
Learning to ride

Proper instruction instills motorcycle safety via classroom, hands-on lessons

BY BOB WEBER
Tribune Newspapers

There are nearly 9 million motorcycles registered for street use, according to the Motorcycle Safety Foundation, nearly three times the number of bikes registered in the late 1990s. The growing popularity had corresponded with a reduction in fatality rates, though in 2012 the number rose again, according to data from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration.

The best way to ensure safety on a motorcycle is to get proper training.

In the 1960s, when fewer than 600,000 bikes were registered annually, most states required nothing more than a driver's license to operate a motorcycle. In the few states that issued a motorcycle endorsement, it involved little more than showing up at the Department of Motor Vehicles and showing somebody that you could ride around the parking lot. I know, because that is what I did back in the '60s. Training came from friends, family or trial and error. The thinking was, if I can ride a bicycle, I can ride a motorcycle, and I won't have to pump the pedals.

Unfortunately, this is a poor way to learn to ride a motorized bike. It can also be quite costly. There is a better way. Learn from a knowledgeable instructor. You will gain the proper knowledge and the skills essential to enjoying the sport and doing so safely.

Whether you are a novice rider buying your first motorcycle or an experienced rider adding to your stable, your skill and ability are more important than the machine you mount.

Motorcycle Safety Foundation

Since 1973, the foundation has set standards in motorcycle safety that are recognized worldwide. The Foundation works with the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, state governments, the International Association of Chiefs of Police and others to improve motorcyclist education and licensing. More than 7 million motorcyclists nationwide have graduated from a RiderCourse since 1974.

The foundation's Basic RiderCourse is designed for beginning riders of all ages. There are two phases to the course - classroom followed by riding.

You begin with eight to 10 hours of classroom-style instruction, which prepares you for 10 hours of hands-on riding exercises in a controlled, off-street environment. The riding is typically on a paved parking lot such as a school where there is little risk of interference from others. The instructors refer to this as the range. Motorcycles and helmets are provided free of charge for your use during the course. In some states you may take the basic eCourse, which you complete online at home, before attending your first formal classroom session.

In the classroom you learn about the different types of motorcycles and the layout and operation of the basic hand controls and foot controls. You will then move to the riding range, where your certified coach will guide you through the basic skills of straight-line riding, stopping, shifting and turning, gradually progressing to swerving and emergency braking.

While the foundation researches and develops the motorcycle safety curriculum used across the United States, each state and military branch is responsible for administering the actual safety program. Costs and class schedules vary from state to state.

Partial list of what is taught in classes

- Pre-ride motorcycle inspection
- Location and operation of important controls and major parts
- Mounting/dismounting procedures
- Elements of good posture
- Using the clutch friction zone for control
- Starting and stopping with precision and control
- Shifting gears and stopping smoothly
- Low-speed maneuvering skills
- Negotiating curves and lane changes

There are many for-profit motorcycle rider training schools. Many of them are excellent, but be sure the program meets Motorcycle Safety Foundation guidelines and that the rider coaches are foundation certified.

Some schools excel in teaching experienced riders how to become exceptional riders. Some of the programs are modeled after the training that motorcycle cops receive. Unless you are an experienced rider, enroll in a basic course first.

For military personnel, there is usually no charge, and courses are offered on military bases.

The course winds up with a classroom knowledge test and a hands-on riding skill evaluation.

With the riding season quickly approaching, the classes will fill up fast. To locate a class near you, go to www.msf-usa.org or call the MSF RiderCourse hotline at 1-800-446-9227.

Webster is an ASE-certified master mechanic and Motormouth columnist.

transportation@tribune.com

Fees vary from state to state. In Virginia, the course costs $60. In some states, it is free. In Illinois, the course is funded by the Secretary of State's office from fees charged to all motorists when they renew their driver's license. Illinois is one of only 24 states with self-supporting motorcycle safety programs.

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Yaris, and the CVT gets an aggressive overhaul to the grille, turning its bland smile into a dour X-shaped frown, but on a small subcompact entry vehicle it doesn't quite fit.

A much nicer note is in the 16-inch alloy wheels, standard on the SE (and LE trims get 15 inches). On the inside, there isn't much to say. And it is a relief.

On the left side of the steering wheel is a radio volume and tuning control. That's it. The centerstack features three large climate dials, topped with a 6.1-inch touch-screen radio that does not double as a backup camera.

Since many buyers will be getting music from their phone, the lack of XM radio and navigation hardly feels like a loss. Toyota's in-car infotainment suite of apps, Entune, is offered. The SE has soft-touch materials on the dash, featuring piano-black interior trim and a leather-trimmed steering wheel and gear shift.

The 60/40 folding hatch enabled me to haul a lawn mower without a problem. The rear seats are roomy enough, and nine air bags improve Yaris' safety score.

The four-speed automatic transmission might be a major curiosity of the redesign. A CVT would go with the four-speed manual is standard, but Americans prefer automatics.

The limited, outdated transmission means the 1.5-liter inline four-cylinder engine works harder to make 106 horsepower and 103 pound-feet of torque, making it less than optimal fuel economy. Increased engine noise and durability. At a starting price of $17,620, you can do better than the SE.

During our week with the sportier SE, the four-door Yaris hatchback held its own. It doesn't have the interior practicality of the rear-collapsing Honda Fit, it's not as fun as the Kia Rio or as well appointed as the Ford Fiesta, but it's a Toyota, so consumers know what they're getting — a durable car ideal for people who need to drive but don't really care to drive.

On the outside, the Yaris gets an aggressive overhaul.

The redesigned 2015 Yaris' main selling point is Toyota's winning formula of reliability.

Changes still leave Yaris short

BY ROBERT DUFFER
Tribune Newspapers

The four-speed automatic transmission might be the most curious part of the redesigned 2015 Toyota Yaris. A five-speed manual is standard, but Americans prefer automatics.

The limited, outdated transmission means the 1.5-liter inline four-cylinder engine works harder to make 106 horsepower and 103 pound-feet of torque, providing a satisfying degree of peppiness. But it comes at a cost of increased engine noise and less than optimal fuel economy.

The engine noise is noticeable at highway speed. You get used to it, and the high-revving engine tempers the driver to zip along, but on long-distance treks with the radio low, it's loud. Competitors are quieter and do a better job of damping a subcompact's inherent rougher ride.

It's surprising that Toyota would go with the four-speed instead of a continuously variable transmission offered in the Corolla, for two reasons: A CVT would ostensibly be quieter and satisfy all the sound-reducing upgrades Toyota made to the interior of the 2015 Yaris, and the CVT gets better fuel economy by 3 mpg city and 6 mpg highway in the Corolla.

In the budget subcompact space, those gains could boost the Yaris' mid-30 city/36 highway to 40, thus creating a standout in at least one subcompact category.

The CVT also costs more, which pales the attraction of the budget proposition.

During our week with the sportier SE, the four-door Yaris hatchback held its own. It doesn't have the interior practicality of the rear-collapsing Honda Fit, it's not as fun as the Kia Rio or as well appointed as the Ford Fiesta, but it's a Toyota, so consumers know what they're getting — a durable car ideal for people who need to drive but don't really care to drive.

On the outside, the Yaris gets an aggressive overhaul.
Gold Glover Colosimo finishes errorless career

BY NICK BULLOCK
Pioneer Press

Anthony Colosimo, a Loyola graduate, remained mistake-free in the field after two full seasons on the Purdue-Calumet baseball team. A senior first baseman, Colosimo did not commit an error during his time with the team, helping him earn one of nine spots on the Chicagoland Collegiate Athletic Gold Glove Team.

In two seasons, Colosimo recorded 522 putouts and 31 assists in 64 starts, and had a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage. He hit .278 with a .361 on-base percentage and 23 RBI. Colosimo was one of two players on the team to record more walks than strikeouts.

The school's baseball program was created in 2014, and Colosimo was one of six players in its first senior class.

Mack brothers
All-MWC South

After leading the Grinnell baseball team to its fifth Midwest Conference South title in six years, brothers Anthony and Andrew Mack, both Libertyville graduates, were named to the All-MWC South team.

Anthony Mack, a junior center fielder, led the team in runs scored (35) and stolen bases (13-for-14). He tied for the team lead with 16 walks, finished second with four home runs and a .563 slugging percentage, and was fifth with a .345 batting average.

Andrew Mack, a freshman pitcher, finished 2-3 with a 3.81 ERA, but was especially sharp in league play, finishing 2-1 with a 2.08 ERA against MWC opponents.

Other area athletes on the Grinnell baseball team include freshman third baseman Brad Weaver from Deerfield, freshman pitcher Jay Goldsher from Highland Park and freshman catcher Wiley Lauerman from Oak Park-River Forest.

Trinity grads lift DePauw softball

The DePauw softball team, propelled by the play of four local athletes, tied for fifth place in the NCAA Division III softball championship. The Tigers' 36-16 record was the fourth best in program history.

Trinity's Taylor Golden, a senior third baseman, finished with a .308 batting average, 397 on-base percentage and .609 slugging percentage.

Her nine home runs tied for the second most on the team.

Fellow Trinity alumna Gabby Smart, a sophomore utility player, played in 49 games, starting 48.

Oak Park-River Forest's Emma Baldwin, a freshman pitcher, led the Tigers with a 2.44 ERA, 175 strikeouts and a .191 opponents' batting average.

New Trier's Beth Chelmowski, a sophomore outfielder, appeared in 41 games for the Tigers.

Have a suggestion for the College Roundup? Email Nick Bullock at bullockpioneerpress@gmail.com.

Bullock is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Loyola graduate Anthony Colosimo is a first baseman at Purdue-Calumet. Colosimo had a perfect 1.000 fielding percentage over two seasons.
Haughton’s rapid rise surprises even his coach

BY BRIAN DE LOS SANTOS
Pioneer Press

The number of official 800-meter races Maine East junior Torrain Haughton has finished can be counted on two hands.

Blue Demons coach Scott Schultes said the first-year track star has probably run six or seven over the course of the season.

Haughton's track experience consists of just his races this season and a brief stint on the track as a freshman.

It's hard for Schultes to fathom, especially since Haughton took fifth on May 30, at the Class 3A boys track and field state final at Eastern Illinois in Charleston.

Haughton ran the 800 in 1 minute, 53.76 seconds. Haughton’s rapid ascent is something his coach had never even seen while running in college, Schultes said.

"I ran at Madison, I didn't see some of the guys at the D-1 level doing some of the things he does," Schultes said. "So I knew he was talented early on right away."

It wasn't easy at the start. Schultes, said he talked Haughton into the 800 early in the season when he noticed Haughton's combination of strength and speed as a runner. But until this year, Haughton considered himself more a soccer player than a runner.

That soon changed.

"It makes me chuckle because some of these other guys, they're running 40-plus miles a week," said Schultes, who earned all-state honors in the 800 in 1996 and 1997 as a Maine East student. "But his distance runs this year were only 4-5 miles because I didn't want to push too much on him, keep him healthy and feeling good."

With one more year of experience, Haughton said he has his eyes set on topping that regimen this offseason.

"Next year, I just want to work harder and get better and help the team," Haughton said. "Just help the team be successful, that's my goal for next year."

Maine East senior Nick Pavlovic finished with a 50-foot, 2-inch shot put in the prelims, but didn't advance to the finals.

Niles West
Niles West's 4x400 relay team of senior Brandon Costantino, senior Mike Malina, sophomore Frankie Santa and senior Jackson Denley finished with a time of 3:31.60 in the Class 3A prelims and did not advance.

Ridgewood
Junior Patryk Panocha, junior Giuliano Vommaro, junior Erick Mangal and senior Ryan Cabot ran the 4x200 relay in 1:39.59 and did not advance to the Class 2A finals, though Vommaro suffered a hamstring pull mid-race and still finished.

In the 4x100 relay, Panocha, Vommaro, Mangal and Cabot finished the prelims in 44.00 and did not advance.
New Trier's Andrew Sommer (12) and Dante Chakravorti (8) attempt to block a shot by Maine East's Daniel Parra during their match on May 29 in the Glenbrook South Sectional semifinal.

BY TODD MARVER
Pioneer Press

The Maine East boys volleyball team's Glenbrook South Sectional semifinal against New Trier pitted contrasting programs.

The Blue Demons had never previously competed in a sectional match, while New Trier was appearing in the sectional tournament for the second consecutive season. The Trevians advanced to the state quarterfinals a year ago.

The Trevians won the first set going away, but a nip-and-tuck second set featured a 25-25 tie before New Trier recorded the final two points to win the match 25-16, 27-25 on May 29 in Glenview. The loss ended Maine East's season.

The Blue Demons (26-8) had a record-setting spring, winning the program's first regional championship and finishing 9-1 in the Central Suburban North to capture the squad's first conference championship since 1991. Maine East ended Glenbrook North's run of 12 straight conference championships.

But Maine East's success in 2015 did not come out of nowhere. The foundation was laid during last season's 19-win campaign when the Blue Demons posted a 7-3 conference record.

"We knew we were getting a good group back," Maine East coach Jon Kulesza said. "It's not like we went from obscurity to this. But they hit our expectations and went beyond. To get a conference title and a regional title is a positive thing for these young men. They earned the respect of New Trier as you see."

The Blue Demons graduated eight seniors that were part of a program that combined for 45 wins over the past two seasons: outside hitters Daniel Parra and Lerin Mathew, middles Andrew Fox and Joe Swoboda, outside hitter and right-side Jose Ortiz, defensive specialist Rushik Patel, right-side Phillip Edat and setter Gian Bobila.

"I'm going to miss them and they're a good group of young men," Kulesza said. "So it's going to be hard for me because I haven't had time to think that, 'Hey, this is the end.' Well, that's the end, so we're going to reflect a little bit back at school and move on eventually."

Maine East's boys volleyball program is not full of club players, so the Blue Demons' success last two years stemmed from competing in summer leagues and working together as a team in the offseason to improve. Kulesza will turn to the same plan of attack this offseason in hopes of recreating the results of the past two campaigns.

"We have to get guys repetitions. We've got to get a lot of games in," Kulesza said. "We will be at our summer league and we will be at Vernon Hills' summer league. They need repetitions and time to play together and they'll get it. They're committed, so this is fun and that's what we'll do."

Marver is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Leaving it all on the track

Three Niles West seniors cap their careers by competing at state.
Capture the Story of Your Life
THURSDAY, JUNE 18TH
12:00PM—2:00PM
Mary Beth Sammons journalist & author will be presenting a memoir writing workshop;
- Discover & preserve the precious stories from family.
- Tips on meeting with family members, organizing memories and creating a book, video or audio story.
Lunch will be served. Community tours & raffle prizes!

Low Back Pain & Prevention
TUESDAY, JUNE 23RD
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Conversation with Dr. Baljinder Bathla a Board Certified Pain Management Doctor, of Chicago Sports & Spine, will be teach us how to prevent & manage back pain. Light appetizers served. Community tours & raffle prizes!

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