Four days of summer
Weather cooperates for annual Park Ridge Park District carnival. Page 6

Children take a ride on a roller coaster during the second annual Park Ridge Park District carnival on July 24 in Park Ridge.

Communities ready for National Night Out
Park Ridge, Niles and Maine Township finalizing plans for annual event. Page 12

College bound
Broken arm does not appear to have slowed Milwaukee freshman-to-be Michael Perri. Page 37

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SHOUT OUT

Karen Laner, cyclist and teacher

Karen Laner has been a resident of Morton Grove for nine years, and is a teacher at Chiaravalle Montessori School in Evanston. She is a member of Bike Morton Grove, and a bike enthusiast who loves the freedom that biking gives her.

Q: How did you get involved with Bike Morton Grove?
A: The group started at a village board meeting when they were getting ready to finalize the strategic plan. I was one of the people who spoke up, and I spoke up about cycling. I found some people of like mind and, with some encouragement from the trustees, we started this group. It's a baby group, just starting and we're looking for people to join us to help out.

Q: What is the goal of the group?
A: We're working on that right now. We want to make sure that biking is present in Morton Grove.

Q: What do you like about biking?
A: I like the freedom. I like the ability to get where I want to go. I like the ability to park where I want to park. I like the exercise, and I like the fact that it's better for the environment.

Q: How long have you been biking?
A: Since I was a kid, but more seriously since 1996.

Karen Laner

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.

CORRECTIONS

The July 16 police blotter incorrectly stated that Gina Tricoci had been charged with possession of a controlled substance. In fact, Savannah Tricoci was charged with possession of a controlled substance.

Last week's story about the Notre Dame baseball team's victory over Marist in the Phil Lawler Summer Classic incorrectly stated that it was a quarterfinal game. Since the state tournament had two pools of four teams instead of an eight-team bracket, Notre Dame's game against Marist was an opening-round game, not a true quarterfinal.

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Fun in the sun for second annual carnival

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

The Park Ridge Park District's second annual carnival at Hinley Park drew crowds over four days of warm and mostly sunny weather last weekend.

The carnival, which took place July 23 through 26, featured seven live bands and dozens of rides. The live performances, which included Chicago band 7th Heaven, were a new addition to the carnival this year.

After several years without a community carnival, the Park District relaunched the event in 2014 following a series of "mini summer carnivals," organizer Mary Bart said.

The next Park District event geared toward families is the Country Farm Fair on Aug. 1 at Wildwood Nature Center, 529 Forestview Ave., from noon to 3 p.m. A petting zoo, hayride, pie-eating contest, a tug-of-war and water balloon toss will be featured.

A mother with her son, above, enjoy bumper cars during the second annual Park Ridge Park District Carnival on July 24 in Hinley Park. A girl, at left, makes her way up a ladder attempting to win a prize.
Dead mosquitoes collected for the Northwest Mosquito Abatement District are processed in a centrifuge and then tested for West Nile virus.

Lake, Cook county Mosquitoes test positive for West Nile virus

By Dan Moran

The first confirmed indicator of West Nile virus being found among Lake County mosquitoes was announced Thursday when officials reported that a batch sampled July 16 in Gurnee has tested positive for the disease.

In 2014, the Lake County Health Department announced the first indicator of West Nile out of Deerfield in early July. That turned out to be the start of 31 pools of mosquitoes that tested positive last year, along with one case of an infected bird.

In September 2014, officials reported that a 49-year-old Gurnee man was treated and released at a local hospital after contracting West Nile, the first of two confirmed cases. Six human cases of the disease were recorded in 2013 in Lake County.

The announcement out of Lake County came the day after the North Shore Mosquito Abatement District confirmed that it had also collected adult mosquitoes that tested positive for West Nile virus. That sample was reportedly collected in Lincolnwood July 13.

Lake County health officials advised caution with the arrival of the hottest days of summer, during which mosquitoes that carry the disease are more active. The health department tests mosquito traps weekly for the presence of the virus from late spring through autumn.

“The Culex mosquito that carries West Nile virus thrives in hot weather,” said Tony Beltran, executive director of the Lake County Health Department. “Now that hot summer weather is finally here, it is especially important to protect yourself against mosquito bites by following the three R’s — reduce your exposure to mosquitoes, repel them by wearing insect repellent, and report areas where mosquitoes typically breed.”

The health department also reminded residents that it maintains a West Nile virus hotline at 847-377-8300 to report areas of stagnant water — which are conducive for mosquito breeding — or to obtain more information on the signs and symptoms of West Nile encephalitis. Information can also be found at www.fightthebitenow.com.

According the health department, “while most people infected with (West Nile Virus) have no symptoms of illness, some may become ill, usually three to 15 days after the bite of an infected mosquito. In some individuals, particularly the elderly, the virus can cause muscle weakness, inflammation of the brain (encephalitis), stiff neck, stupor, disorientation, tremors, convulsions, paralysis, coma or death.”

The North Shore Mosquito Abatement District covers communities that include Evanston, Glencoe, Glenview, Golf, Kenilworth, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles, Northbrook, Skokie, Wilmette and Winnetka.

Danmoran@tribpub.com Twitter: @NewsSunDanMoran
Fun in the sun at Lincolnwood Fest

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

Lincolnwood Fest, a Proesel Park summertime favorite for all ages, accommodated sizable crowds with sunny weather July 24, the second date of the four-day weekend celebration.

Among the fun were rides, games, food, music, classic cars (on June 26) and bingo brought to you by the American Legion.

Jackie Boland, who serves on the Friends of Lincolnwood 2015 committee, described the event as a tradition.

Boland, who is also the Lincolnwood Chamber of Commerce & Industry executive director, was there early making sure volunteers or staff were properly trained in the beer and wine tent.

Under the tent there was ample signage promoting local businesses.

“I love connecting all of the businesses and everybody wins, everybody loves it,” Boland said.

Money raised via the fest has benefited civic projects in previous years. Examples of projects have included wood flooring to upgrade community spaces or improvements to park shelter structures.

Boland said the goal this year is to break even with extra dollars as a welcome bonus to assist community purposes.

“Everyone cooperates and makes it happen,” Boland said, complimenting several helping hand groups such as the Lincolnwood Public Works Department and the Lincolnwood Parks and Recreation Department.

“We cooked 40 pounds of steak and 20 pounds of chicken,” said Anthony Vallone of the South Elgin-based Taco Factory, whose favorite menu item is the steak quesadilla on a corn tortilla.

“The people who run it [Lincolnwood Fest] are really good,” Vallone said.

Greg Bloden of Skokie and Tom Johnson of Chicago sat at a small table, braving the setting sun while the band Rose Hill Revival did a sound check before performing Allman Brothers tribute music.

“I rode my bike here yesterday and when I saw how well everything was organized, I thought I'd come back,” Johnson said.

“I think it’s great so far,” Bloden said.

Lincolnwood Mayor Jerry Turry officially kicked off the festival July 23.
Skokie fire chief to be named village administrator for Morton Grove

By Natalie Hayes

After nearly a decade serving as the chief of the Skokie Fire Department, Ralph Czerwinski, plans to circle back to where his early roots in public service began, with the village of Morton Grove.

Morton Grove Mayor Dan DiMaria announced in a July 22 press release that Czerwinski will be appointed as the village administrator of Morton Grove, a position he previously held for two years starting in 2003 until he was offered the fire chief position with Skokie in 2005.

Czerwinski started his career as a firefighter in Morton Grove when he joined the Fire Department in 1975. He rose through the ranks to fire chief, a position he held for 13 years until he became village manager under former Mayor Daniel Scanlon.

Czerwinski said the decision to return to the place where he had built his career didn’t come “without deliberation.”

“I love municipal government. I don’t golf, I hardly fish, but what I really just enjoy is municipal government and the challenges of it,” he said. “I learned a lot from the high caliber of municipal management here in Skokie, and now I’m ready to move on to the next level.”

Morton Grove’s fire Chief Tom Friel — Czerwinski’s former colleague before he left to work for the Skokie Fire Department — has been working two jobs while serving as pro-temp village administrator after the vacancy left by Ryan Horne last month. Horne could not be reached for comment.

Czerwinski — who said he plans to focus on economic development — said he first ascertained that Friel wasn’t interested in the position before he decided to accept the offer.

“I’m humbled to have the opportunity, as it’s a great opportunity,” Czerwinski said. “I think I stunned (Skokie) a little bit when I told them I was doing this, because our relationship really has been fabulous — I think I’m leaving the department in a good place.”

The village administrator, a role known as the village manager in most larger municipalities, runs the day-to-day operations of the village and oversees the community’s annual budget.

The Morton Grove Village Board will swear Czerwinski into his new post on Aug. 10, and he starts his new job the next day, he said.

His last day with the Skokie Fire Department will be Aug. 6.

James Walters, who is Skokie’s deputy fire chief, will be named chief on Aug. 7, after Czerwinski is sworn into his new position, a village of Skokie press release said.

Both DiMaria and Friel could not be reached for this story.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
The following items were taken from the Niles and Park Ridge police department reports. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt.

**Niles**

**RECKLESS DRIVING**
- Austin Storie, 19, of the 8700 block of Ozark Avenue, Niles, and Timothy Walley, 20, of the 3400 block of Brookmead Drive, Rolling Meadows, were each charged with reckless driving on July 21. Walley was also charged with fleeing and attempting to elude police. According to police, an officer witnessed both men speeding and driving recklessly around a parking lot on the 7600 block of West Dempster Street, just after 8 p.m. while other vehicles were parked in the lot. When the officer entered the parking lot to investigate, a blue Chevrolet Cavalier, driven by Walley, allegedly accelerated at a high rate of speed and fled the parking lot. Police said the officer pursued the vehicle east on Dempster Street at speeds of more than 70 miles per hour before it cut through a gas station parking lot at Dempster Street and Waukegan Road, and continued south on Waukegan. The officer lost sight of the vehicle, but it was later located by police near Rodje Street and Oriole Avenue, and Walley was taken into custody a short time later on the 8700 block of Ozark Avenue, police said. In addition to the criminal charges, Walley was also ticketed for improper lane use, disobeying a stop sign, disobeying a traffic signal, expired registration and driving an uninsured vehicle. Both men are scheduled to appear in court on Aug. 26.

**RETAIL THEFT**
- Tolana Hargrove, 31, of the 1500 block of West Jonquil Terrace, Chicago, was charged with retail theft on July 21. Police said she stole an undisclosed amount of merchandise from a store on the 8500 block of Golf Road while accompanied by her teenage daughter and a toddler.

**PROPERTY DAMAGE**
- Daniel Tus, 38, of the 5100 block of North Monitor Avenue, Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence on July 19 following a traffic stop near the intersection of Milwaukee Avenue and Greenwood avenues at 4:40 a.m. He has an Aug. 7 court date.

**BURGLARY**
- A resident of the 9800 block of Melbourne Avenue, Park Ridge, was charged with criminal trespass July 18. Bond was set at $1,500. He has an Aug. 12 court date.

**TRESPASS**
- Philip Seaton, 31, of the 700 block of Goodwin Avenue, Park Ridge, was charged with criminal trespass July 18. Bond was set at $1,500. He has an Aug. 12 court date.

**DRUG POSSESSION**
- James Suriano, 28, of the 1200 block of Lincoln Avenue, Park Ridge, was charged with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia July 16 after the car in which he was a passenger was stopped by police. Police said Suriano was in possession of 3 grams of suspected marijuana and a glass pipe. Bond was set at $1,500, and he has an Aug. 24 court date.

**THEFT**
- A 1996 Honda was reported stolen July 21 from outside a home on the 7500 block of Kedzie Avenue, Park Ridge. The rear hatch door of a vehicle parked at Kedzie Avenue and Oriole Avenue, was damaged, as well. He suspects someone kicked it, police said.

**BURGLARY**
- A resident of the 9800 block of Kedzie Avenue, Park Ridge, was charged with criminal trespass July 18. Bond was set at $1,500. He has an Aug. 12 court date.

**DRUG POSSESSION**
- James Suriano, 28, of the 1200 block of Lincoln Avenue, Park Ridge, was charged with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia July 16 after the car in which he was a passenger was stopped by police. Police said Suriano was in possession of 3 grams of suspected marijuana and a glass pipe. Bond was set at $1,500, and he has an Aug. 24 court date.

**Park Ridge**

**UNDERAGE DRINKING**
- A resident of the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue on the 7000 block of Dempster Street, Park Ridge, was charged with under age drinking July 16 after police said they came to the Park Ridge Police Station looking for someone who was involved in a dispute with another woman in the parking lot. They were released on their own recognizance and assigned an Aug. 11 adjudication hearing date.

**TRESPASS**
- Philip Seaton, 31, of the 700 block of Goodwin Avenue, Park Ridge, was charged with criminal trespass July 18. Bond was set at $1,500. He has an Aug. 12 court date.

**DRUG POSSESSION**
- James Suriano, 28, of the 1200 block of Newton Avenue, Park Ridge, was charged with possession of marijuana and possession of drug paraphernalia July 16 after the car in which he was a passenger was stopped by police. Police said Suriano was in possession of 3 grams of suspected marijuana and a glass pipe. Bond was set at $1,500, and he has an Aug. 24 court date.
Rally rekindles spirit of King’s 1965 appearance

BY KAREN BERKOWITZ
Pioneer Press

Hundreds of North Shore residents gathered on the Winnetka Village Green July 26 to rekindle the fight against housing injustice that drew thousands to the park in 1965 to hear Martin Luther King Jr. speak.

The Justice Day 2015 rally both marked the 50th anniversary of King’s appearance and honored the activists whose work to end housing discrimination against blacks and Jews during the 1960s brought King to the North Shore three years before the federal Fair Housing Act was enacted.

"It is housing that will determine whether you have resources to retire on," said Shelton, noting that for most Americans, home ownership is the means of accumulating wealth. "Housing determines where your kids go to school, how secure you are in your neighborhood and where you work. It is housing that makes so many decisions for us, economically and socially.

A bronze marker at the Winnetka Village Green commemorates King’s appearance on July 26, 1965, with a quote from his address.

"History has presented us with a cosmic challenge," King is quoted as saying. "We must now learn to live together as brothers, or we will perish together as fools."
National Night Out returns to Park Ridge, Niles and Maine Township

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

August is around the corner and that means local police departments are gearing up for National Night Out activities. The annual nationwide event bringing citizens and police together to take a stand against crime and support for safer communities will take place Aug. 4.

The Park Ridge Police Department will host a night of activities from 6:30 to 9 p.m. at Hodges Park, Courtland and Vine avenues. Visitors will find games, music, a petting zoo, small train ride for kids, bounce house, K-9 demonstration and crime prevention information, among other activities, according to the Police Department.

This is Park Ridge's 11th National Night Out event, said Community Strategies Officer Julie Genualdi. The honorary master of ceremonies this year will be the Park Ridge Kiwanis Club, she added.

Unincorporated Maine Township's National Night Out will again take place at Dee Park, 9229 Emerson St., from 6:30 to 9:30 p.m. The event is scheduled to feature performances by the Artistry in Motion Dance Troupe, games, prizes, raffles, giveaways and information from agencies like the Cook County Sheriff's Police, North Maine Fire Department and Maine Township Office of Emergency Management.

In Niles, activities will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. at Oak Park, Main Street and Ottawa Avenue. The night will feature a self-defense demonstration, an impaired/distracted driving course, games, identification kits for children and live entertainment.

After sundown, participants will be invited to take part in a walk against crime and are encouraged to bring flashlights, according to the Police Department.

According to the National Association of Town Watch, the organization that hosts National Night Out, more than 16,000 communities across the country celebrate the event each year.

jjohnson@pioneerlocal.com
Twitter @Jen_Pioneer

A dunk tank enhancess the activities during Maine Township's last National Night Out festivities. The event brings police and the public together to take a stand against crime.
With sunny skies and a cool breeze, the 6th annual Harrer Park Classic Car Show was a success with more than 100 in attendance.

Those who came out were able to vote on 65 cars spread across six categories while listening to 60s tribute band ShinDig and enjoying food fresh off the grill and ice cream treats.

"We live in the area and we're just stopping by," Kevin Orloske said, who came out with his 6-year-old daughter Kassandra. "It's a nice atmosphere with the era of the music complementing the era of the cars."

While most people came to look at classic cars meticulously restored by their owners, Kassandra was voting on which cars were simply the prettiest.

"I like the turquoise ones or maybe if there was a rainbow one," she said. "But it's not always the color, sometimes they have decorations."

As the sun began to set and the band started on its version of Sonny and Cher's "I Got You Babe," the final ballots were coming in for the contest and the car owners were relaxing with their cars ready to answer questions.

Marty O'Brien has spent the last decade restoring a 1972 Chevrolet Nova that he painted a bright yellow.

"I happened to be at the right place at the right time when we bought it," he said. "We bought it with no motor, no transmission, nothing. I got tired of working on it, threw paint on it and said, 'I'm driving it; I'm done.'"

As for the voters, with so many cars to choose from, some of them had a hard time whittling it down before the final vote.

"It's just the condition, the look and how you display it," Rich Chase said. "I've got about 12 cars that I like, but it's hard to pick just one."

He was there with his friend Frank Mandel who said the winners were also the cars that were in demand. Their only hope, that the park district put on events like this more often.

Alicia Ramirez is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

The muscle cars were well represented at the show and drew a number of spectators throughout the night.
Evanston remembers its fallen firefighters

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

The Fallen Firefighters Remembrance Ceremony July 22 at Firemen’s Park, brought out Evanston fire and police personnel, plus elected officials and family members of Marty Leoni, late Evanston firefighter/paramedic.

“We’re all brothers, and when a brother passes, you mourn them and you honor them and that’s why I’m here,” said Fred Tanenbaum of the Evanston Police & Fire Foundation.

The remembrance ceremony at the corner of Simpson Street and Maple Avenue honored three fallen firefighters: Leoni, William Craig and George Stiles.

Leoni was a four-year department employee, who lost his life July 22, 1985 while searching for an infant trapped on the second floor of a burning building, the Tribune reported at the time.

The child, one month old, was found and taken to the hospital.

“(Leoni) was a credit to the Evanston Fire Department and the city of Evanston,” Evanston fire Chief Greg Klaiber said.

The Marty Leoni Scholarship Award is an Evanston Township High School honor awarded annually. Leoni played safety for the Wildkits football team.

The Marty E. Leoni Memorial Fun Run is a tradition that recognizes Leoni’s fellowship and athleticism.

“(Leoni) is in the hearts of not only me but of all the citizens of Evanston who are incredibly grateful to him for his sacrifice on our behalf,” Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl said.

Craig and Stiles died after being trapped in a fire at the Clayton Marks manufacturing plant at 1900 Dempster St. on Dec. 13, 1905 when an east building wall collapsed.

“These three tragedies are a reminder to all of us of the dangers that Evanston firefighters face on a daily basis,” Klaiber said. “And what we can take away from these terrible tragedies is forever an appreciation of the tremendous responsibility that firefighters are asked to carry on when duty calls.”

Fire Department Chaplain David Jones of Evanston offered a prayer and a moment of silence during the ceremony.

Jeff Leoni, a relative of Marty Leoni, spoke. “I was chosen by our family to thank you all. You have kept (Marty’s) spirit alive.”

Kirie Angeli Luc is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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SPECIAL REPORT: Is the CPD still undercounting murders?

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Flower recycling group to collect glass containers

BY RONNIE WACHTER
Pioneer Press

Larsen Jay can make the idea of bringing glass vases to the Buffalo Grove Farmers Market on Sunday sound like a matter of course. “Think of it as a food bank, for flowers,” he said of the nonprofit group that the market will benefit this weekend.

Jay’s group is Random Acts of Flowers, and they will be collecting glass vases from 9 a.m. to noon on Sunday at the market, 951 McHenry Road.

He said his organization collects gently used flower arrangements - leftovers from weddings, funerals and all kinds of other gatherings - throws out the stems that are starting to wilt, trims and revitalizes the rest, then delivers them to bedridden patients in area hospitals.

The idea, Jay said, is for volunteers to drop in on sick or recovering strangers and hand them what looks like a fresh bouquet, for no reason. “We quite literally take garbage, and we turn it into grins,” he said.

Jay is full of self-aware quips about what he does for a living. “We’re a mental health charity that’s trying to, as dorky as it sounds, make the world a little better place, with waste,” he said.

But in Buffalo Grove, Jay said his crew will not be looking for blossoms - only for unneeded glass vases to set them in.

The group’s Chicago chapter is expanding. Jay and chapter director Andrea Lutz said they moved from one Evanston location to a larger one at 2000 Greenleaf St. earlier in July. And while they reuse their vases as much as possible, eventually some of them get dropped or lost in the hospital system.

Random Acts of Flowers volunteer Lynn Snarr performs the group’s “triage” procedure for a batch of roses donated from an Evanston grocery store.

Jay said he founded Random Acts of Flowers on July 29, 2008 in Knoxville, Tenn. - one year to the day after the crash that nearly killed him gave him the idea. He said he found himself bored while stuck in a plain-looking hospital room.

Eventually, he said he was filled with a new zest for life, and the subject of a lot of well-wishing from friends. People brought him flowers, a gesture that Jay said he was totally unaccustomed to, and he did not know what to do with all those flowers.

Until he was able to push his wheelchair around the hospital a bit. He said he started noticing all the other people stuck in ugly rooms.

“So we just started loading up my wheelchair with flowers, and started delivering,” said Jay, who still lives in Knoxville. “We just went room-to-room with my flowers. We didn’t get permission from the hospital, we didn’t ask anybody, we just started doing it.”

It prompted him to think about the mounds of beautiful stems that get tossed out of wedding reception venues every Saturday night, and out of funeral homes daily. And he said he found compelling marketing angles: a grieving family could enable a lost loved one to perform one more kind gesture, from beyond the grave.

The organization now has four chapters, serving Chicago and Knoxville, as well as Tampa, Fla, and Silicon Valley, Calif. On Monday, while her afternoon volunteer crew sorted through a batch of donations from an Evanston grocery store, Lutz said her six-month-old chapter had distributed about 8,800 recycled bouquets to 75 facilities. Jay said the four groups together bring flowers to about 1,500 people each month.

The “triage” element is found in the RAf’s recycling process. After one volunteer eliminates the stems that are too far gone, another gives them a fresh clip, dumps them into mineral-rich water and sticks them in a 45-degree, walk-in cooler. In less than 48 hours, bouquets are salvaged, re-arranged and delivered — sometimes via volunteers’ vehicles, other times with one of the organization’s vans.

“The giving of flowers is one of the most genuine signs of goodness, across every culture,” he said. “Especially when it’s not the holidays.”

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Wood playground at Evanston's Penny Park can be restored

BY BOB SEIDENBERG
Pioneer Press

Parks consultants told Evanston officials recently that Penny Park, the city's only wooden playground and a recreation place for generations of families, could be restored to near its original status.

But a number of issues would have to be addressed because of the popular park's heavy use, a playground safety expert told the city's parks and recreation board.

Tony Malkusak, president of Abundant PlayScapes, a consultant brought in to assess the playground's safety, said a community volunteer effort, such as the one that took place at the time of the original park's building 25 years ago, makes sense.

"You've got a strong volunteer list with names and phone numbers and email addresses," he said, speaking to the board at the July 16 meeting at the Noyes Cultural Arts Center, 927 Noyes St.

To restore the playground, the city would remove the existing playground equipment, and restore it as closely as possible to its original condition, he said. He compared the process to restoring a vintage car.

Malkusak, considered an expert in inclusive play environments, said he conducted an inspection at the playground on April 20, when weather conditions were cloudy with some rain.

"That gave me a lot of information," he told the board. "You go to any other playground in the Midwest, rain and 40 degrees you're not going to see anyone out there. And there were children out there with parents and family."

He said conversations with city staff members didn't turn up reports of serious incidents at the playground. All the same, "we do know there are some conditions that need a course of action," he said.

Some of the wear and usage issues noted in his inspection report included wood splintering - which he said was a fairly common occurrence for wooden playground equipment - as well as rusted hardware and nails, and fasteners coming loose.

Some other conditions noted, such as around the playground slides, could lead to entanglement, where children's clothing could get caught, he reported.

The city could renew the playground, replace it or restore it, he said.

Replacing the playground equipment with the modular type common to other city playgrounds is a possibility, the report found.

But the downside of such a move would be the effect on the "spirit of place," and the "uniqueness of existing playground environment would be lost," the report found.

"If you're looking to re-capture the pixie dust," of the original, "I don't think that's the way you want to go," he said.

Residents raised concerns about some of the reasons given for replacing the wood structure, and claimed there was a lack of community participation in the proposal's creation. Their opposition led the city council to send the issue to the parks board, seeking that group's expertise on park issues.

"I think everybody I'm aware of agrees there are certain things at the park that need to be fixed, replaced or updated, and compliant with new safety and accessibility standards," she said.

Park board members expect to take the issue up in full at their Sept. 17 meeting, scheduled for 7 p.m., at the Robert Crown Center, 1701 Main St. The board's recommendation will eventually go back to the full city council, which has final say on the issue.

The parks board's goal is to make the dialogue "as transparent as possible," said board President Daniel Stein, "so that all stakeholders have a voice, and we can transmit that voice to the council," for their decision.

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Food desert no more

Valli Produce supermarket comes to Evanston Plaza

BY BOB SEIDENBERG
Pioneer Press

Evanston Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl was clearly relieved the moment had arrived as she prepared to snip the ribbon, officially declaring the opening of Valli Produce International Fresh Market in the Evanston Plaza Shopping Center on July 22.

"I've never had so many people ask me 'When are you going to cut the ribbon there?'" she said about the build-up to Valli opening a supermarket at the former Dominick's site at 1910 Dempster St.

The mayor made it official, snipping the ribbon to cheers and applause and letting loose shoppers armed with sales circulars to scope out the store's extensive offering.

"The produce section looks great," said Dickelle Fonda, a longtime resident of the area. "The fruits and veggies look good. And they have wine I have to get in Skokie."

"I've been going mainly to the Jewel on Chicago Avenue," said Joanne Zolomij, who also lives in the area. "I don't have to drive far to get groceries again."

Bea Rashid, owner of the Dance Center Evanston, located toward the north end of the same shopping center, brought some young dancers with her - 26 as a matter of fact - to check out what she described as an important refueling stop for them between classes.

"Dancers eat healthy, and we're very excited about the food here," she said.

The new store occupies the space vacated by Dominick's, which pulled up stakes from Chicago in 2013.

The new supermarket is family-owned Valli's sixth, with the others mostly concentrated in the far northwest suburbs and Rockford.

Valli completed a total remodeling of the former Dominick's site, adding an additional 11,000 square feet to bring total space close to 70,000 square feet.

The store features over 250 produce selections, including some organic and hard to find fruits and vegetables; fresh meat and fish departments; a sushi bar, gelato, sliced to order deli and sub sandwich sections; and extensive wine and craft beer selections.

"We've got produce from all over the world," said Valli President Carmine Presta. "We get stuff from China. We get stuff from India. We have a full line dairy and milk department."

He praised the cooperation the company received from the city. Of all the places Valli has been in, Evanston worked to make the venture happen "versus giving us obstacles," he said.

Of the 120 jobs generated by the store, some 85 percent went to Evanston residents, Ald. Peter Braithwaite announced to applause at the opening ceremony.

Virgil Edwards, the new produce manager, is one of those residents. Edwards said he worked some 30 years for Dominick's, another family business at the start, and said he sees some of the same attention to detail and quality with Valli.

"They're family-oriented," he said. "As long as you're doing your job you're fine."

Braithwaite, in whose ward the shopping center is located, said Valli, as owner-operator of the shopping center, too, could make an even bigger impact as time goes by:

"It's great for the ward and it's great for the city of Evanston," Braithwaite said. "They're going to continue to invest money into the center. They're going to continue to attract retailers."

The West Village area is experiencing a renaissance, said Fonda. Heartwood Center, a holistic health center, has expanded to the east and helped raise money to open Curt's Cafe South, which provides employment opportunities and training to at-risk girls.

A drive-through Starbucks opened at the northwest corner, and the shopping center is beginning to repopulate with businesses like AT&T and Play It Again Sports, which buys and sells new and recycled sports equipment.

"Neighbors call it 'Plaza Alive,' " Fonda said of the new optimism about the area.

It almost didn't happen, Presta revealed.

Valli was looking at different places to put its sixth store. Meanwhile, following Dominick's announced closing, Tisdahl had established a special committee to scout the market and try to find a replacement at the two vacated sites - 1910 Dempster and 2748 Green Bay Road.

Whole Foods ended up looking at taking the Green Bay Road site, to construct its third Evanston store there.

Officials are scheduled to gather at another ribbon-cutting ceremony, introducing that store July 29 at 9 a.m.

Paul Zalmezak, the city's economic development coordinator, "reached out to us," Presta recalled. "We were actually in the middle of talking about a deal in Naperville at the time Paul contacted us. We started weighing out, which one, which one,' and Evanston ended up working for us better than Naperville."
A failing grade for Hinsdale’s District 86

RANDY BLASER

There’s a couple lessons to be learned over at Hinsdale High School District 86 that have little to do with reading, writing and arithmetic.

The lessons concern official conduct toward students and transparency. On both counts, the school has yet to earn a passing grade.

Let’s talk about the first issue: How officials conduct themselves with students.

On March 12, Marissa Dupont, then a senior at Hinsdale South High School, was passing out campaign literature for candidates for the school board. She was with another adult, Mary Sullivan, and together they passed out leaflets in front of the school to people arriving to see a school play.

They soon were approached by Claudia Manley, a school board member, and her husband Noel Manley. As it turns out, the campaign material being handed out by the student and adult supported a slate of candidates to which Manley was opposed.

Since this is a free country and we have free elections, the polite thing to do would be to take the material and head on into the play. But we also have free speech, and it would also be normal and expected that people with opposing political views could engage each other in a civil debate about the issues.

Unfortunately, it doesn’t seem Claudia Manley did either. Instead, she tried to shut down Dupont’s free speech by telling her that campaigning was not allowed on school grounds.

It’s worth noting that this was not a simple matter of differing opinions between two citizens. This was a government official – Manley, a member of the school board – telling a student that she is violating school policy.

Turns out Manley was wrong, not the student. District 86 Superintendent Bruce Law had consulted with district attorneys and determined that campaigning was not prohibited on school property and that Dupont and was well within her rights to campaign outside Hinsdale South. On top of being misinformed about school policy, an outside investigation determined that Manley was “mean-spirited and rude” in her interaction with Dupont.

The lesson?

School board members set school policy. They don’t enforce it. The proper course would have been for Manley to go to the play and enjoy it. If she was concerned that some school policy was broken, she should have reported it to a school official and let the proper school employees handle it.

An adult person – let alone an education professional – should never be “mean-spirited and rude” to a teenager, especially one who is exercising their most basic rights as an American.

Unfortunately, the story doesn’t end there. The school security cameras recorded the encounter. But rather than release the video for all to see and to let people make up their own minds, school officials kept it secret.

It took a ruling by the Illinois Attorney General’s office to prod officials to release the video. Even after that, the school still stonewalled, claiming officials needed to discuss how to release it.

Finally, the video was released to Pioneer Press. It is rather unrevealing regarding the details of the encounter between Manley and the student. But the whole episode reveals District 86 needs to go back to school regarding how officials deal with students and how to handle public disputes.

The lessons might start with a little common sense and transparency.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Frequent PBS pledge drives make no sense

PAUL SASSONE

It’s a good thing August is a hot month and there is a lot to do outside.

Because if you were thinking of stretching out in air-conditioned comfort to watch your favorite PBS shows – think again.

A huge chunk of August on PBS will be yet another in what seems to be an increasingly frequent “pledge periods.” During these weeks, PBS defies logic and removes the shows we watch PBS for in the first place in order to encourage viewers, or would-be viewers, to give PBS money.

Once the pledge period is over and PBS has collected its money, it goes back to the regular programming. So, if you’ve previously sent money in hopes of seeing more old Simon and Garfunkel concerts, you are out of luck next month.

You try to figure out the logic and the marketing strategy, because I can’t. All I know is that many of TV’s best shows seem to be deliberately not broadcast more and more each year.

And I’m talking great stuff: the “American Experience,” “Frontline,” “Masterpiece Mystery,” “Masterpiece Theatre,” “NOVA,” “Nature” and “Great Performances” to name just a few.

And what “special programming” do we get during these pledge periods? How about “Why Gloria Steinem Women Never Age?” Or maybe you’d prefer “The Fast Metabolism Revolution?” There’s all sorts of TV’s best shows seem to be deliberately not broadcast more and more each year.

Many of TV’s best shows seem to be deliberately not broadcast more and more each year.

What about the inevitable Suze Orman piece offering “Financial Solutions for You.”

All these and more are yours during August.

Maybe this is the time to look at PBS’ mission statement: “PBS’ mission is to create content that educates, informs and inspires. To do this, PBS offers programs that expand the minds of children, documentaries that open new worlds, non-commercialized news programs that keep citizens informed on world events and cultures, and programs that expose America to the worlds of music, theater, dance and art.”

“Driving Miss Daisy,” which I saw on PBS recently, certainly fulfills that mission. But “Glorious Women Never Age?” Come on.

I know Republicans and other flat-earthers always have their axes out for PBS. And I don’t mean to pile on. But, come on. Perhaps the people who run the local PBS station ought to take a long, hard look at the PBS mission statement.

If not, then give me a pledge period show in which I can sell my crackpot ideas on life, love, happiness and wealth. Who knows? My advice could be as good as the nirvana-sellers PBS broadcasts during pledge periods.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
My dad was more than ‘just a guy in a cubicle’

It’s been seven months or so since my father passed away and I made it through Father’s Day with a few glasses of wine and recently his birthday, the day after the 46th anniversary of our first landing on the moon. I sat on the grass next to his grave and drank a couple of Budweisers. We’re a Budweiser family. It was a beautiful day and I could see why he chose that site. A tree to block the afternoon sun, a hill from which to view the world around.

And now I sit, writing about him, listening to Sinatra at the Sands. I know all the words, even the talking parts. (If you want a window of understanding into the casual racism of the early ’60s, give Sinatra’s monologue on that album a listen.)

When I was born, in New York, my father worked for Grumman, on the lunar module. I was just a few weeks old when he woke me up and sat me on his knee in front of our tiny black-and-white console television to watch man’s first steps in another world. This was one of many things about my father that made me proud, caused me to boast. But he would always slow my roll.

“I was just one of tens of thousands working on that project,” he would say. Just a guy in a cubicle. I just worked on just one very small part.”

There are a few things that I learned from him that I didn’t understand until he was gone. Like, how anger is nearly always just a side effect of fear and anxiety.

And the truth is that we are all just a guy in a cubicle. Whatever machine of which we are a cog, we are connected in unfathomable ways to parts of the world that we might never see. Every moment of kindness, of gratitude, of selflessness, of hard work, of anger, of hatred, of intolerance, of selfishness — these things will ripple, for a moment, through a room or the universe. We all know this.

Each one of us is just a guy in a cubicle, right? Sending a man to the moon.

Happy Birthday, Dad.

Viki Gonia

Living with adult ADHD

Six months ago, at the age of 46, I was diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. It first occurred to me that I might have ADHD four years ago, during an “ah-ha” moment at my front door.

A neighbor dropped by unexpectedly, and I grew increasingly anxious she’d see the messy interior behind me. I attempted a joke: “I must have adult ADD. My house is always disorganized.”

“I understand,” she said, explaining that she’d been diagnosed with ADHD as an adult. I’d wrongly assumed it was limited to children — and often outgrown.

Describing herself, I realized she described me, as well: avoided mundane tasks, distracted, late and disorganized. She shared her psychiatrist’s contact information and this: “It’s nothing to feel ashamed about.”

Yet, exhausted from constant feelings of inadequacy and in the absence of any real diagnosis, I was more than ashamed.

I was nervous. Is it true? Yet, exhausted from constant feelings of inadequacy and in the absence of any real diagnosis, I was more than ashamed. Is it true? Would I have to take medication? Would I change? Lose my edge, my creative spirit? And can I still drink wine?

The doctor sent two surveys before our evaluation — one for me, another for my husband — about thoughts on my behaviors, habits and attitudes. Yet I never went to my first appointment. Part avoidance, part shame — typical ADHD behavior.

This question from my website manager finally pushed me to get evaluated: “What can you clear from your ‘emotional plate’ so you’ll finally start adding new content to your site?”

I’d anticipated discussing topics like impulsive thought and emotional regulation, but the evaluation also covered everyday situations involving executive functioning skills like planning, foresight, organization and time management — skills I do not come by naturally.

After receiving my official diagnosis — ADHD, predominantly inattentive type — I started medication and improvement came immediately. Projects got finished. The house got more organized. I prioritized.

I’m still “unlearning” coping skills built over time — like purposely leaving things out of cabinets, drawers and closets to make them easier to find.

Sarkis, a mental health counselor and specialist in the treatment of ADD and ADHD, says 4.4 percent of the overall population has ADHD, and that various studies show 50 to 90 percent of children retain symptoms into adulthood. In other words, an adult diagnosis suggests I’ve always had ADHD.

More concerning than physical and behavioral changes are the real statistics on ADHD. Sarkis says patients with ADHD have an increased likelihood of substance abuse and alcoholism; of suffering head injuries and accidental death; and of receiving a speeding ticket and living with lower socioeconomic status.

Sarkis also says ADHD is highly inheritable, meaning there’s a 75 percent chance one or both parents also has it — and that 50 percent of people with ADHD suffer from depression and/or anxiety.

Recently reclassified as a neurodevelopmental disorder in the American Psychiatric Association’s DSM-5 manual on mental disorders, Sarkis points to 20 genes identified for ADHD.

“It’s genetic,” Sarkis says, adding that the “stigma keeps lessening with time.”

Medication’s only changed me for the better, I think, and I’ve come to see the benefits of my ADHD — like an immediate sense of a project’s long-term appeal and my insatiable readiness to discover new things. I’m also grateful for supportive family members and intuitive teachers who encouraged my strengths rather than spotlight my shortcomings.

As the public should know about ADHD, Sarkis said simply: “There’s treatment available — and hope.”
Suds and salutations

BY JOANNA BRODER
Pioneer Press

If you are a wannabe yogi with a penchant for craft beer, a new trend might have you bounding out of the house before you can say “namaste.”

Chicago area breweries have caught on to trends in Colorado, California and other spots around the country by launching their own brand of yoga and beer tasting events. The result seems to be a light, fun social scene where loose limbs and tasty brews give way to a less inhibited crowd and a relaxed vibe which might appeal to those new to or intimidated by traditional yoga classes.

“It really encourages you to stay after because you’re there for yoga and beer,” said John O’Hara, a participant at a recent beer/yoga event at Temperance Beer Company in Evanston. “It sort of forces you to talk to everyone else.”

Temperance Beer Company (www.temperancebeer.com) offers afternoon yoga/beer events - aptly named Temperance Trikonasana (or triangle pose) - the third Saturday of every month for $15. The Lucky Monk in South Barrington (www.theluckymonk.com) offers Pints and Poses featuring yoga on an outdoor patio in warmer months followed by beer tasting for $30. Yogaquench, in Chicago (www.yogaquench.weebly.com) hosts yoga/wine and yoga/beer events that are both public and private at a variety of Chicago locales for $25-$35 per ticket.

A yoga studio approached The Lucky Monk about offering the Pints and Poses event. Nichole Bajko, Lucky Monk’s events coordinator, thought they had the perfect spot - the outdoor patio which overlooks a pond. Following the yoga session, attendees sampled beer and appetizers. The first event, held on a 70 degree day in mid-May, drew 22 people. A second event took place in June and Bajko hopes to have another one in August.

Temperance Beer Company in Evanston’s first event was last May during Craft Beer Week. Ten minutes before the 1 p.m. start time, nobody was filling up the 1,700 square-foot space at the back of the brewery which overlooks a pond. Following the yoga session, attendees sampled beer and appetizers. The first event, held on a 70 degree day in mid-May, drew 22 people. A second event took place in June and Bajko hopes to have another one in August.

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Brewery yoga trend spills over to Chicago

spills over to Chicago

All proceeds from Temperance Trikonasana go to area charities such as the Talking Farm in Skokie, a working farm that focuses on cultivating sustainable communities and educational outreach, or Curt’s Café in Evanston, which provides job training to at-risk youths.

“My main goal is really to have a fun time, introduce some people to yoga and raise some money for area charities,” Breen said.

Maureen Malungcot and Kristie Wagner, both certified, part-time yoga teachers in Chicago, are the creators of Yogaquench, a company that pairs yoga with wine or beer tastings and offers public and private events.

“It can be intimidating if you’ve never done a downward dog,” Wagner said. “We wanted to show that yoga doesn’t have to be so serious.”

While the women started by hosting yoga/beer events, and still do, they soon added wine tasting. They did so after realizing that their get-togethers to plan for future events often happened over a glass of wine.

Turn to Yoga, Next Page
Embrace aging

Instead of dreading getting older, some are looking forward to stability and shedding the anxieties of youth. Page 13
Suburban Cooks

Chocolate zucchini bread is easy to make

By Judy Buchenot
The Beacon-News

Working in her kitchen is not a chore for Oswego resident Sandy Jacobsen Baechler. She finds cooking and baking to be a relationship builder between generations, a way to tie a family together and a wonderful perk of friendship. "When I was little, I was always standing on a chair pulled up to the counter watching what was going on and helping where I could," said Baechler, 48. "The whole family was often in the kitchen helping."

Her parents, Bonnie and Richard Jacobsen, of Montgomery, enjoyed sharing recipes with their children. "My dad is an awesome griller and makes the best chili," Baechler said. "My mom makes all sorts of cookies at Christmas like my grandmother did."

In addition to learning things from her family, Baechler said, "I have had so many different mentors teaching me things. When I was learning to cook 24 years ago, there was no Food Network channel. I learned things from many different people like Roxanne Schramer, who was a friend's mom."

Baechler has many memories of going to the Schramer home and sharing freshly baked cookies that were cooling on the shelf of a vintage Hoosier cabinet. When her friend's mom decided to part with the cabinet, Baechler was happy to welcome the 100-plus-year-old piece into her own kitchen. She cools cookies on the tin counter now just like Mrs. Schramer did years ago.

Baechler also has collected recipes from friends she has worked with in her 24-year career in banking. "One of my favorites is from Anna Miller. She gave me a recipe for chocolate zucchini bread," she said. "I tweaked it a little bit but I make it all of the time and think of her every time. The bread is moist and chocolate like a brownie but lighter."

When the zucchini in her garden are about ready to be picked, Baechler measures the dry ingredients for the recipe in plastic bags. She can then quickly add the remaining ingredients to whip together a batch of the bread as the zucchini ripen. "I think the bread is even better the day after it is baked," she said.

There are several notebooks and containers in Baechler's kitchen that hold her favorite recipes. "I like handwritten recipes the best," she said. "When someone shares a recipe with me, it is so special to me. I have several recipes from my mother-in-law who passed away. I pull some of them out and make them for my husband every so often because he remembers them so well."

In the spirit of carrying on the tradition of family in the kitchen, Baechler is pleased that her daughter Lauren has taken an interest in cooking together. "She is really into eating lighter and we have made some great things," she said.

Baechler also enjoys baking with her siblings, Melissa and Rick Jacobsen. A few weeks ago, Rick shared his recipe for banana cake in Fox Valley Cooks, which he claimed to be better than his sister Sandy's cake. When asked if her banana cake outshines his, Baechler responds without hesitation, "Oh, yeah, mine is better. I can out-bake that boy all day long. But he does try, which is good. You know, they say imitation is the sincerest form of flattery. The way I see it is this—we each have our niches. He can smoke meat. Smoking meat is his thing and baking is mine."

In addition to working at Castle Bank, Baechler is active with the Oswego Chamber of Commerce and is a member of the Oswego Junior Women's Club. She has made friends and collected some interesting recipes through both organizations.

The Junior Women's Club is hosting a membership drive at 7 p.m. Aug. 6 at the Tap House Grill in Oswego. "The group raises money for local causes with a focus on women and children. It is a great group of women," said Baechler, who encourages other women to consider joining the group.

Baechler is sharing her recipe for chocolate zucchini bread, one that she has never shared with anyone before. The recipe makes three loaves and freezes well.

"Judy Buchenot is a freelance writer for The Beacon-News."

Find more suburban cooks on page 4.
Pro pickler shares his love for fermented foods

By Veronica Hinke
Pioneer Press

There's nothing quite like being able to say "I made those pickles" — unless, that is, you've got an equally clever way of showing them off in a tasty, seasonal recipe.

David van Alphen and Dan Hanson of La Grange-based SuckerPunch Gourmet — the company whose jarred pickles features a playful boxer with his dukes up on the label — have the lowdown on more than just pickles; they also have a recipe for using them to accent grilled pork chops with charcuterie sauce.

"When you can open a jar of pickles in winter, the sound of the cap opening takes me back to planting the seeds, tending to the plants, and the preparation involved in carefully preserving them in the flash of a second," Hanson said. "Pickling is a great way to make sure everything in a garden has a purpose, that nothing goes to waste."

That's what van Alphen and Hanson, a Le Cordon Bleu-trained chef, do for summer produce annually when they make pickles. At the same time, they add a punch of flavor. The name SuckerPunch was actually inspired by the dilly-sweet flavor their pickles have up front, followed by a spicy, savory taste seconds later.

"I love seeing people try our pickles for the first time, describing the heat they can taste and feel," Hanson said. "They then completely understand the company name."

Hanson described the texture of the pickles as having a crunch at first, with a little bit of give toward the center.

"The 'snap' of the pickle skin versus the fleshy center is one of nature's great creations," he said.

Hanson enjoys growing a wide variety of vegetables that he can pickle.

"I like to grow fruits and vegetables that I can enjoy for a few months at a time like strawberries and green beans. Zucchini is great because it can be used in so many ways whether you're eating the fruit itself or using the flowers, and I have a little patch of asparagus that finally took root two years ago."

One of Hanson's favorites is Mexican Table Mix, a blend of pickled jicama, carrots, cauliflower, jalapenos and garlic.

"The Mexican Table Mix covers all the bases that a good pickled product has — it's spicy, sweet, savory, crunchy and leaves you wanting more. It's also a way of adding flavor and texture that fresh fruits and vegetables just can't compete with."

Dan Hanson, co-owner of La Grange-based SuckerPunch Gourmet, preps ingredients for his grilled pork chops with charcuterie sauce.

"The Mexican Table Mix is one of nature's great creations," he said.

"I have a great aunt who got me into pickled asparagus," Hanson said. "I made her a half-gallon last summer, and I got a call a week later that she wanted more. Pickled asparagus is really, really good because of the slightly bitter taste of the stalks with the salty brine and the spicy aftertaste."

Dilly beans are another pick.

"I hadn't tried them until last summer, and I was shocked at how much I loved them," he said. "The heavy dill taste, and the way they hold up being so crunchy makes them an addictive food. Ice cold, they're perfect on a summer day as a snack. Also, they're perfect for anyone that has a garden because beans grow continuously throughout the summer and there always seems to be enough to make a jar or two." Hanson enjoys the full cycle of growth and "being able to plant seeds, and to literally see your hard work come to life is something that never gets old," he said. "I love it because I'm involved in a tradition that's thousands of years old. But it's more than that. It's not just a way of preservation and making the most of what you have, it's also a way of adding flavor and texture that fresh fruits and vegetables just can't compete with."

SuckerPunch Grilled Pork Chops with Charcuterie Sauce

(Always at room temperature)

FOR THE CHARCUTERIE SAUCE:

1. Take a jar of SuckerPunch Pickle Brine and use a fine strainer to separate the liquid from the spices. Reserve two ounces for the charcuterie sauce.

2. Place pork chops into a freezer bag and pour in the brine. Place bag inside a bowl to help immerse all four chops. Marinade in refrigerator for 3-4 hours.

3. Grill over medium heat 5-7 minutes per side or until the center temperature reaches 145 degrees. Once at 145, let rest for five minutes.

FOR THE CHARCUTERIE SAUCE:

1. Melt butter in a medium-size cafe pan, add shallots and cook until softened (about 1 minute). Add wine, stir, and reduce liquid by half.

2. Stir in minced pickles, Dijon and add stock. Reduce liquid until it reaches a syrup like consistency. Add salt and pepper, if needed. Serve over pork chops (cooked). Garnish with chopped parsley.
Brunch chef likes learning on the job

By Judy Buchenot
Naperville Sun

So how does a kid who liked cooking class at Crone Middle School end up being lead chef for weekend brunch at a trendy Chicago tavern at the age of 29? It takes time, talent and determination, according to Scott Weisner who grew up in Naperville and currently is the lead for weekend brunch at White Oak Tavern & Inn in Chicago.

Weisner recalls that one of the events that helped him make his career decision was a middle school home economics assignment.

"We were supposed to cook a whole meal for our family. I made Cornish hens and roasted potatoes for my family," he said. He enjoyed the preparation as well as the praise for the meal and knew he was on the right path.

Although he attended Kendall College to complete an associate degree in culinary arts, he said learning on the job was an important part of his education.

"Sometimes you have to work for free and learn everything you can from the chef. You have to show the chefs what you can bring to the table and what skills you have and then, they take an interest in you and act as your mentor."

The first chef Weisner worked with was Perry Hendrix, a classically French trained chef at the Custom House Tavern in Chicago.

"I was working unpaid and still going to school at first. But then he hired me," When an opportunity arose to help open a gluten-free restaurant with chef Noah Sandoval, Weisner took the position. He said that Sandoval "helped bring Japanese flavors to my cooking." His next stop was at Chef Paul Kahan's Nico Osteria and he often visits them. He has many memories of his life in Naperville before moving to Chicago six years ago.

"My first job was the cart and bag boy at Jewel and then I washed dishes at Caputo's. But my family went to lots of places in Naperville. We love Francesca's. My personal favorite is Gemato's with that wood grill. Meson Sabika is great and so is Macarena Tapas where they have this roasted red pepper sirloin with blue cheese on toast with a balsamic drizzle that is amazing. I like Moshi Moshi for sushi too." Weisner is excited to be setting up a new brunch menu at White Oak Tavern.

"John (Asbaty) is the chef and he is very likable. He really gets along well with the local farmers which helps us get the best produce in the Midwest," he said.

The menu at the restaurant changes with the seasons. "Right now, I think I have the menu set as long as everything is in season," Weisner said.

Among his current dishes are a Slagel Farms beef hash served with sunny-side-up eggs and the flavors of pastrami, pea shoots and horseradish vinaigrette. One of the newest dishes is a fried, skinned, boneless chicken thigh served on a cornbread biscuit with McBride's spicy, garlic pickles from Michigan, hard-seared onions and a splash of Bourbon Maple Syrup.

Mixing flavors has been Weisner's special talent.

"I think I have a Japanese style with a Southern flair to my cooking. I love soy sauce but I cook with it. I can mix with the rich buttery flavors of Southern foods," he said. He would like to open his own restaurant in the future but is content to be working with some of Chicago's best chefs for now.

Grilled asparagus with nduja cheese, bread crumbs and fried egg

2 tablespoons rendered nduja fat
1 cup ricotta or cream cheese
4 ounces nduja
4 tablespoons honey
1/4 cup sherry vinegar
1 cup canola oil
3 cups of day-old baguette chunks
2 tablespoons rendered nduja fat
1 1/2-2pounds asparagus
3/4 cup olive oil plus extra for cooking
2 tablespoons sea salt plus extra for taste
1 teaspoon black pepper plus extra for taste
2-4 eggs
3 cups peas shoots or arugula
juice of one lemon

Nduja cheese: Cook 4 ounces of nduja with a tablespoon of olive oil to render out the fat. If unable to find nduja, chorizo, pepperoni or bacon can be substituted. Whisk fat with cheese. Season with salt.

Nduja vinaigrette: Combine nduja, honey and sherry vinegar. Mix in blender. Blend on high until nduja is a puree. Turn blender on slow and add canola oil until emulsified. Add a touch of water. Season with salt and pepper.

Nduja bread crumbs: Tear bread into bite-size pieces. Toss in 1/4 cup of olive oil. Bake at 350 degrees until golden brown — about seven to ten minutes. Cool. Toss with rendered fat and season with salt and pepper.

Grill asparagus: Wash asparagus and remove the woody stems. Blanch asparagus for a few minutes in boiling salted water and then shock in ice water to stop cooking. Toss asparagus in olive oil to coat. Season with salt and pepper. Grill asparagus, being sure to create char marks from the grill grate. Cover bottom of a pre-heated cast iron pan with olive oil. Crack eggs into oil and grill until edges are brown and the whites are set. Place arugula or pea shoots in a bowl. Add lemon juice, 1/2 cup of olive oil and sea salt. Toss to coat the greens. Set aside.


Scott's Culinary Cue

Culinary programs are great for the basics but working along side a talented and experienced chef is an educational opportunity that should not be overlooked.

Judy Buchenot is a freelance writer.
Dear Help Squad,

What are the best options for home phone, cable TV and Internet? Are there any choices besides Comcast and AT&T? I would especially be interested in speed, reliability and cost for unbundled Internet. We will use the service for watching Netflix and Amazon Prime on the computer and TV, and YouTube videos on the computer and iPhone. We'll also be doing the usual browsing and homework stuff. Thanks for any guidance you can provide.

Renee, Glenview

Help Squad turned to the Citizens Utility Board, Illinois' leading nonprofit utility watchdog. Jim Chilsen, CUB's director of communications, said: "We don't recommend companies, but we do try to give people good info so they can make the right choice." He then put us in touch with communications specialist Megan Carlson, who provided a wealth of information.

**Internet**

**Availability:** A list of Internet service providers by ZIP code can be found at www.ispprovidersinyourarea.com.

**Speeds:** Download speeds range from 1 megabyte per second to 1 gigabyte. If you are just doing simple tasks on the Internet, like reading your email or surfing the web, you likely don't need more than 3 MBPS downloading speed. However, if you plan to watch videos or play games, you'll probably need higher speeds.

For speeds in your area, check the FCC's Household Broadband Guide.

**What type?** DSL is cheaper but slower, and quality depends on distance from a provider's central office; it uses a phone line and top speeds are around 25 MBPS.

Broadband is an umbrella term that covers all of the "always-on" types of Internet connections: cable, satellite, DSL and fiber optic (for more info, see "How Do I Choose the Best Internet Service?" at lifehacker.com.)

Cable Internet is pretty fast, but you share bandwidth with neighbors, which can slow speeds. It doesn't depend on proximity to a central location like DSL. It's widely available, but sometimes few providers serve a particular area (for example, Comcast and RCN dominate Chicago).

Satellite Internet covers areas where cable isn't available. It's often the only option in rural areas, and is slower and more expensive.

Fiber optic service (FiOS) is the fastest type of service, but it's not available everywhere yet. AT&T and Verizon have introduced FiOS service.

**Bundled or unbundled?** Often Internet, cable and TV are bundled together as part of a package. However, this can be unnecessary and expensive if you're only using one of the services.

Bundles can be your best bet, however, if you want to purchase TV, Internet and phone together.

**Home phone**

Don't bundle if not using TV or Internet. Phone service is often cheaper unbundled.

Beware of big flat-rate plans. Packages offering unlimited local and/or long-distance calls — as well as a long list of features, like call waiting and voicemail — for one set monthly price can look better than they actually are.

For long distance, consider Pioneer, which offers rates of 2-3 cents per call vs. the normal 7-10 cents per call, plus monthly fees. Or consider using your cellphone to make long distance calls.

Data ends up being the biggest money waster on cellphone plans. Pay attention to your actual monthly usage and modify your plan accordingly.

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
Romance unleashed: Finding love with a fellow dog owner

By Vicki Salemi
Tribune Newspapers

When Karith Foster met her future husband, Craig Russell, in February 2011, it was love at first bark.

Pointing out it would have been an “absolute deal breaker” if he didn’t like her Chihuahua, Lealah, she says, “As soon as Craig walked in the door (on the first date), she wagged her tail, bowed down, then begged him to pet her. They bonded instantly.”

One marriage, two kids and the same Chihuahua later, Foster recalls sparks flying immediately; he moved in with her after their second date, and they were engaged by June.

Romance had turned out just as planned for this Riverside, Calif. couple; they had each joined Leashes and Lovers.com, an online social community for dog lovers, looking for a long-term, dog-friendly love connection. “The idea behind meeting somebody who had an animal or who at least had an affinity for animals was important,” Foster says.

Psychologist Seth Meyers, author of “Dr. Seth’s Love Prescription: Overcome Relationship Repetition Syndrome and Find the Love You Deserve” (Adams Media), says doggy deal breakers in dating are not uncommon.

“Simply put, dog lovers come only as a package deal: them and their dog,” he says.

Some guidelines for creating leash-inspired love connections:

**Join a niche dating site.** Laurie Davis, author of “Love at First Click: The Ultimate Guide to Online Dating” (Atria Books) and founder of eFlirt Expert, an online dating consulting firm, suggests registering on two dating sites: a niche site such as DateMyPet.com and a mainstream site like Match.com. “With a niche site you may not find there are many matches, but quantity isn’t always that important,” she says. “You already know you have something in common. It’s easy to strike up a conversation.”

**Join a local dog community.** Sarah Edwards launched social network MuttMate.com for dog owners to “arrange walks and meet up with locals” in Mutt-Clubs.” Passion for pooches is common ground for visitors who are making new contacts online by searching for breed and/or location to build a local doggy network. “I never set up MuttMate for this (finding love),” Edwards says, “but I realize that I’ve created something that could change people’s lives for the better.”

**Ready-made conversation.** Whether you go to a pet park, attend a “bark in the park” ball-game, volunteer at your local animal shelter or bring your dog along to a pet store, Sheryl Matthys, founder of the LeashesandLovers website and author of “Leashes and Lovers: What Your Dog Can Teach You About Love, Life and Happiness” (L&L Media), encourages people to strike up a conversation. “Think, I’m going to say hello to somebody today,” Matthys says. “Even just smile. Be open to that.” And while you’re at it, leverage your common interest. Open by complimenting someone’s dog and following up with a question: “What a lovely golden coat your dog has. Where do you get him groomed?”

If you’re really looking to find love, your dog is really your wing-paw,” Matthys says.

**Attend dog-friendly singles mixers.** Meyers says singles events are another way to meet people who value dogs but, he cautions, “keep your expectations for meeting a potential partner in check.”

**Do we have to add this? Yes, we do.** Although it might sound enticing to break the ice via a dog, Meyers cautions against going to extremes by getting a pooch solely as a date magnet. “Pets require a lot of time, attention and money,” he says, “so be sure you get a pet for the right reasons.”

Saloni is a freelance writer.

**PET OF THE WEEK**

A move to a no-pet home is how I find myself here. I would be the perfect cat for anyone looking for a cat that loves attention. While I may be a bit older, I know a good thing when I have it. My perfect sleep position is close to you, usually by your head and with my paws or face gently resting on you. I am a gentle and very loving cat that at times can be talkative. I get along with other cats and leave them the toys. I appreciate the occasional treat but my favorite thing is really hanging out with people.

She is about 17 years old, spayed, up-to-date on routine shots (including rabies), tested negative for feline leukemia and FIV and microchipped.

For additional information, go to www.saveapetil.org.

chicagotribune.com/pets
Visit us daily for the latest pet and animal news from the suburbs, city and beyond, plus:

- Our adoptable animals blog featuring photos and descriptions of Chicagoland pets in need of homes.
- Our suburban and city pet events calendar
- Photo galleries, videos, more
Karma calling for AshleyMadison.com?

I hate to admit it, but I don’t feel sorry for AshleyMadison.com getting hacked. In fact, there’s a sense of justice I feel knowing a cheating website whose slogan is “Life is short — Have an affair” might have gotten what it deserved.

Call me judgmental, but the fact is, the adultery site makes it really easy for men and women to resort to cheating when life at home isn’t as blissful as they’d prefer. Instead of trying to fix a romantic relationship or even leave an unhealthy situation, people can visit AshleyMadison.com, a veritable candy store with endless flavors of potential cheating partners.

I should know. I recently joined the site to learn in more detail why it gets 124 million hits per month, according to web analytics company SimilarWeb.com.

It took less than a minute to set up a profile that asked me for my ZIP code, age, height, weight, body type, ethnicity and, shockingly, a photo! Who would be crazy enough to put a photo of themselves on a dating site for married people who want to cheat? Millions of people, apparently.

“Tell me more about you” was the last question of the profile setup, with a sample answer that read: “I’m looking for a man who can provide the passion that has long been missing from my marriage.”

This answer made my heart sink. The site’s philosophy is basically saying that if your relationship lacks good sex, joining a dating site to find someone else to sleep with is a good solution.

After I set up my profile, I went walking with a friend. When I got home an hour later, my inbox was flooded with inquiries from men who wanted to cheat with me. And I didn’t even have a photo posted!

I read some of the profiles of the interested cheaters. Their taglines:

“Just curious.”

“Sexy guy looking for fun.”

“Where’s my tiger?”

“Searching for what’s missing.”

“Drink, live, love as much as possible.”

“Looking for someone special.”

“Good manners and no drama.”

Looking for someone special? How about the woman you vowed to spend the rest of your life with? No drama? Isn’t that an oxymoron?

I decided to call Lisa Kaplin, a certified life coach and psychologist, and the founder of her Long Grove-based practice, Smart Women Inspired Lives, to ask how this website from hell ended up with 37 million members.

“When people look to cheat, they are struggling either personally, in their marriage or it’s a combination of both,” Kaplin said.

Kaplin said if men and women have the desire to cheat but wish to resist such feelings, they first need to figure out where it is stemming from.


“Most people report that they cheat because their spouse doesn’t pay attention to them.”

She said once you figure out what the issue is, either via therapy or self-discovery, the next step is having a heart to heart with your spouse to share what you need and want, or to find fulfillment for yourself. In other words, fill the void that is causing your unhappiness.

Kaplin also said that although it might be extremely difficult, you might end up having to accept the reality that you’re not in a relationship that works for you any longer and end it.

“A divorce can feel like a failure; it can be devastating to children and being alone is very scary,” she said. “But if you cheat instead of leave, you could be hurting your spouse more.”

The bottom line: AshleyMadison.com is a Band-Aid. For some, it might be fun for awhile, but I find it hard to believe that anyone could find long-term happiness with someone they meet on the site. Additionally, I can’t imagine its members having a lot of self-love.

“The basic problems you have with your spouse will still be there even during and after the affairs,” Kaplin said. “But if you cheat, now you have the problems plus the affair.”

And after the hacking, millions of users now have a new problem: their names, email addresses, birthdays, passwords, ZIP codes and sexual preferences could now be in the hands of the hackers. Can you say blackmail?

Jackie Pirossoph is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
**ROUNDUP | YOUNG ADULT FICTION**

**Lois Lane: Fallout**
*By Gwenda Bond, Switch, 304 pages, $16.95, ages 12 and up*

She's not just Superman's girlfriend. She never has been. In her earliest incarnation in the 1930s, the start of the Golden Age of comics, Lois Lane emerged as a tough, whip-smart reporter, Clark Kent's main professional rival, the furthest thing from a damsel in distress. Now, in this first volume of a planned series, Y.A. author Gwenda Bond carries these traits over into a contemporary teenage Lois, whose first day at East Metropolis High School presents her with a mystery she refuses to leave unsolved. One can't help comparing Bond's Lois to TV's Veronica Mars and Buffy the Vampire Slayer. Yet given the DC Comics character's long tradition of ass-kicking, it's more accurate to compare Veronica and Buffy to her. Having moved often to accommodate her army general father's career, Lois enters East Metropolis with a reputation for troublemaking and a new list of personal rules, such as, "Don't swim with sharks... (Even if they're jerks, and you're just standing up for someone they're tormenting, like in California. And Germany. And Michigan.)" She breaks that rule fast. Aided by fellow student journalists — all of whom work, as she does, for the Daily Planet's teen Web page, the Daily Scoop — and a secret online friend she knows only as SmallvilleGuy, Lois investigates a possible case of cyberbullying involving a sinister-looking group of online gamers. But is the group acting alone, or are they part of an insidious mind-control experiment sanctioned by the school principal? It's not a bird, it's not a plane, it's Lois Lane, boldly following clues wherever they lead, taking readers along for a thrilling ride.

**More Happy Than Not**
*By Adam Silvera, Soho Teen, 295 pages, $18.99, ages 14 and up*

Sixteen-year-old Aaron Soto didn't attend his father's funeral because, as he says to his best friend, Thomas, "how do you look at someone who wanted to get away from you?" Suicide at one point seemed like the answer to Aaron, too, but he's trying to leave that dark period behind, focusing on people like Thomas and his girlfriend, Genevieve, "who love (him) enough to stay alive even when life sucks." Though sometimes subway ads for the Leteo Institute's new "memory-relief procedure" spur him to wonder what it would be like to start completely fresh, to forget everything that causes him pain, including his developing romantic feelings for Thomas. Silvera's heartfelt debut novel deals with heavy subjects, but Aaron's narration is funny and sweet, especially in the everyday moments when he's browsing his favorite comic book store or talking with Thomas about movies or lying on the rooftop of Thomas' Bronx apartment building watching "Jaws." The futuristic twist, with its poignant repercussions, building watching "Jaws." The futuristic twist, with its poignant repercussions,

**CHICAGOLAND BEST-SELLERS**

1. "All the Light We Cannot See" by Anthony Doerr (Simon & Schuster, $27).

**NEW IN PAPERBACK**

**The Rise & Fall of Great Powers: A Novel**
*By Tom Rachman, Dial, 399 pages, $16*

Tookey Zylberberg is the American owner of an isolated Welsh bookstore where no one asks her awkward questions about her life. Taken from her home as a child, she was raised by an international group of outsiders who were implicated in illegal activity throughout the world. Tookey will never understand her background, but when she learns startling news, Tookey goes on a worldwide search for answers.

**Soldier Girls**
*By Helen Thorpe, Scribner, 411 pages, $17*

Thorpe follows the lives of three female soldiers from the Indiana National Guard over the course of 12 years, from their paths to the military, to overseas combat, returning home, and, for two of them, a second tour. Thorpe explores their friendship, how they deal with the unwanted attention of men on base, and how life changed after one soldier's vehicle hits a roadside bomb.

**War of the Whales**
*By Joshua Horwitz, Simon & Schuster, 429 pages, $16.99*

Horwitz details Joel Reynolds' legal fight against the U.S. Navy after discovering their submarine detection system sends high-intensity sound that drives whales onto beaches. Horwitz also profiles marine biologist Ken Balcomb, who took an oath of secrecy while serving in the Navy but must confront his conscience when he witnesses a mass stranding of whales near his research station in the Bahamas.

**Last Chain on Billie**
*By Carol Bradley, St. Martin's Griffin, 322 pages, $16.99*

Bradley examines the life of Billie, an infant elephant captured and shipped to the U.S. in the 1950s. Billie was groomed for abusive circus life but was taken off the road after attacking its trainer. The elephant was one of 16 rescued by the Department of Agriculture in the largest elephant rescue in American history.

**A Brave Man Seven Storeys Tall: A Novel**
*By Will Chancellor, Harper Perennial, 338 pages, $15.99*

Stanford water polo player Owen Burr is blinded in one eye, derailing his hope of competing in the Olympics. In crisis, Owen moves to Berlin to become an artist and cuts off all contact with his previous life, including his father, who follows in pursuit and transforms himself to draw Owen out.

— Jeremy Mikula
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On the Sea: Bring your board if you like

BY GAIL GRABOWSKI | EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN (stanxwords.com)

Across
1 Argyle, e.g.
5 Ran in neutral
toggle
10 New England catch
15 Sit for a portrait
19 Not at all colorful
20 Substantive
21 Treasure stash
22 Bring up
23 David Cameron, alma mater
24 Lusterless finish
25 Electrical glitch
27 Give the remote a workout
30 Brody of The Pianist
31 Yarn measures
32 Pretentious
34 Short snooze
38 CD forerunners
39 Gyro holder
40 Inevitable
42 Stagger
44 Ice-cream flavor
45 Hair salon
46 Choir-loft garb
47 Demeanor
48 Irritating people
62 Places to park
63 Cantina chip
69 Boyfriend
70 Common... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... monogamous... 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Quote-Acrostic

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

Clues  Words

A. Quality assurance  129 97 72 35 42 142 12 84 145 157
B. Manage the cost  149 115 31 55 123 74
C. Door opener?  6 76 23 66 92 155 57 105 13
D. Work perk  136 152 56 24 124
E. Sports authority  48 28 159 135 94 82 70
F. Wealth  7 37 75 128 146 113 104 46 22
G. Involve  26 85 121 150 54 33 5 100 107
H. Shakespeare comedy; 2 wds.  138 117 130 101 19 61 106 87 154
I. Icy precipitation  153 78 141 41 56 132 114 119 63

J. Ebb  73 140 79 40 143 20
K. Net property value  67 96 111 17 90 9
L. Strand  120 109 65 47 36 99
M. Higher level  133 49 4 25 62 91 77 156
N. Public official  59 50 151 116 134 102
O. All over  3 27 98 112 137 71 80 14 43 122
P. Plunder  51 64 83 10 131 18
Q. Attach  118 93 11 144 21
R. Dental pain  110 10 125 88 39 52 15 139 34
S. Pure  103 108 145 89 29 158 127 1 45
T. Frankfurt river  60 147 86 69
U. Egyptian queen  126 18 30 95 8 36 81 53 146

Married to Their Work

BY CHARLES PRESTON

Across
1 - Bill 18 Dudes, '60s style
6 Tale 21 Place for an ace?
10 Bird's crop 22 Current unit
14 garde 23 Dull pig?
15 Bound 25 Dodge model
16 Castor's mother 29 Track shape
17 French physicist born 1867 30 Measured off
19 Sharif or Khayyam 32 Operatic solo
20 Stop sign shape 34 Mild cheese
21 Singles, socially speaking 35 Chambermaid's concern
22 Most capable 37 "_girl!"
24 Follower 39 Mythical monster
26 Actress Peeples 40 Education
27 Pronoun for Miss Piggy 41 Some evergreens
28 Sponge up 44 Mich. city
31 Lea 45 Physicist husband of 17 Across
32 Expert ensemble 46 Reach
33 More conceded 47 Examine
35 Subject for 17 Across 49 Shopper's mecca, now
36 Perspectives 53 Shopper's mecca, then
42 Like some seals 55 Satisfy, as a debt
43 See 68 Across 56 Showalter's successor
44 TVA project 58 Stack role
45 Knock one's socks off 60 Basics
48 See 68 Across 61 More, philosophically speaking
50 TVA project 63 Forty winks
51 Judge in 1995 headlines 64 Half a sharp turn
52 Teachers' org. 65 Some M.I.T. grads
54 Manet or Monet, e.g.

Down
1 Dawber, of Mork and Mindy 57 Formal jackets
2 Little _,'60s singer 59 Spanish treasure ship
3 Panthers' home 62 Clear leaves
4 Secured 63 Award for 17 Across in 1903
5 Puts back 67 Rainbows
6 Belt 68 With 45 Across, golfer with an army, familiarly
8 Plane beginning 69 Tolkien creatures
9 Progress 70 Moon missile
10 Solidify 71 Hoods
11 Return to custody; a suspect 11 Down
12 Slowly, to Schubert 18 Dudes, '60s style
13 Poland birthplace of 17 Across 21 Place for an ace?
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION

JUDICIAL SALES - REAL ESTATE

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

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

MARIAN E DE KELATA AND MÁRÍN E DE KELATA

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14 CH 04697
Why we probably won’t see any more babies named Atticus

By Alison Bowen
Tribune Newspapers

It seemed a solid name choice.

Over the years, many parents named a baby after Atticus Finch, the moral hero in Harper Lee’s 1960 classic novel, “To Kill A Mockingbird.”

But now, an unexpected second showing of Atticus in Lee’s recently released “Go Set a Watchman” reveals him as a racist.

“You would have thought there couldn’t have been a safer name,” said Laura Wattenberg, author of “The Baby Name Wizard” and the website. “It’s an example of how a name can change its cultural meaning overnight.”

Naming babies after characters, whether in books, television or celebrity culture, can carry a bit of risk.

The case of a literary hero is a bit unusual, Wattenberg said.

“People really don’t name after heroes anymore,” she noted. “That’s a dramatic change from past generations.”

Bold-faced names can often inspire what’s written on birth certificates, but that can also lead to unintended consequences.

“A lot of babies are named Kobe and Kanye and Miley, and those names really fell off a cliff after publicity turned bad,” Wattenberg said.

If parents are considering a trendy name, Wattenberg had a few tips.

“If that celebrity is referred to as first-name only in the press,” she said, “that’s a sign that, in the popular imagination, they own the name.”

And a child will be saddled with the baggage. “If the name only came into popularity because of that one person … then bad publicity toward that celebrity can really rub off on the name,” Wattenberg said, however, that she expects parents will keep being inspired by characters.

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LIFE SKILL

Loading a dishwasher

It would seem the simplest of household tasks: Grab dirty plates, pop them in the dishwasher and run them through a rinse cycle. Donzo.

Well, not so fast. If “clean” dishes are coming out with smudges or residue, it’s time to rethink your technique. Here with a refresher course on properly loading your dishwasher is Jennifer Ford Berry, a Buffalo, NY.-based professional organizer and author of the “Organize Now!” book series.

“Your dishes need to be clean, but your dishwasher does too,” says Ford Berry. “So before you even begin, wipe the inside down with a warm wet cloth. I use hot water, vinegar and a long-handled scrub brush to clean out the hard-to-reach places, like the dispenser.”

Then use Ford Berry’s quick, easy tips to go from dirty to sparkling.

Organize glassware between the prongs on the top shelf. “Most people put cups on the prongs, instead of using them as dividers. If you do that, you’re losing a whole row,” she says.

All silverware should be face up in the basket, except for knives. Spoons and forks go handles down, face up, in the basket for optimal cleaning. Knives positioned that way are a safety hazard, though, so those go sharp-edge down. Also try to keep flatware from nesting next to each other, which prevents some surfaces from getting cleaned.

Put similar items together. “Not only will you save space if you group bowls and plates in the same row, but it makes it easier to grab them all and put them back in the cupboard after cleaning,” Ford Berry says. Again, be careful they aren’t nested.

If you have bigger utensils, like large mixing spoons, move them to the top. Designate one row in the top shelf and lay utensils there together.

Wash pots and pans by hand. While it’s tempting to throw them in the dishwasher, Ford Berry notes that they will take up a lot of space. But if you do put them in, she says, “don’t cover up other items with pots and pans. The hidden items will not get nearly as clean.”

Be careful with plastic. Ford Berry recommends not putting plastic pieces in the dishwasher because of the exposure to heat. But if you do, she cautions that they must go on the top shelf because a dishwasher is always hotter at the bottom.

Instead of standing them up. If you’re dealing with delicate glass, there is always a chance of breakage. Laying down wine glasses on their sides — and even placing a washcloth or sponge between each piece — reduces that risk.

Still not getting clean dishes? Call a service person. You might have a filter that needs replacing, food caught in the drain or a hidden issue. Sometimes only a pro knows!

Kelly Aiglon is a freelance reporter.
How to throw a $5,000 wedding

It can be done — with smart planning and a lot of DIY

By Cameron Huddleston
Kiplinger Consumer News Service

A wedding can be an incredibly special event — and incredibly expensive. The average cost in the U.S. is $31,213, according to The Knot.com's latest Real Weddings Study, and that doesn't even include the honeymoon.

Just because other couples are spending that much on weddings doesn't mean you have to shell out big bucks to get married. In fact, you can cover the cost of a dress, invitations, flowers, photographs, ceremony and reception for a fraction of the average amount couples spend on weddings. Just ask Sandy Smith and LaTisha Styles, who both stuck to a budget of about $5,000 for their weddings.

What's especially impressive is that Smith has been able to keep costs so low for a wedding and reception in New York, where the average amount spent on a wedding is more than $76,000, according to The Knot.com.

Styles, who got married March 14 in Marietta, Ga., benefited from the fact that her wedding wasn't in a high-priced market. Smart planning and a lot of DIY also helped keep costs low.

If you're planning a wedding and looking for ways to keep down costs, take some tips from Smith and Styles.

Keep it small. One of the biggest keys to keeping costs down is to limit the number of people you invite. According to the Knot.com's study, the average wedding has 136 guests. Both Smith and Styles wanted an intimate gathering with just family and close friends.

Smith invited 50; Styles had 40 in attendance. With fewer guests, you'll pay less for food and can opt for a smaller venue.

Stick to a single venue. Rather than pay for a ceremony at one place and a reception at another, Smith and Styles opted to hold both at the same location. Styles paid about $3,600 for a ceremony and reception at a historic mansion that provided a buffet meal, tables, chairs, linens, plates, silverware and centerpieces. Smith chose a restaurant with a private garden that will provide hors d'oeuvres, a buffet meal, a cake, tables, chairs, linens, plates and silverware for about $3,600 (including taxes and gratuity). She says that by having the ceremony and reception at one place, she also eliminates the cost of transportation from one place to another and condenses the amount of time a photographer is needed.

Avoid prime wedding times. Styles said a Saturday evening wedding package was the priciest at the mansion where she got married. So she saved $800 by opting for an afternoon ceremony and reception from noon to 4 p.m. Smith negotiated a discount on her venue by opting for a weekday wedding from 2 to 6 p.m. Be aware that the most popular month to get married is June, followed by October, according to TheKnot.com. With most people demanding high at those times, you'll be less likely to get a deal on a venue.

Take it easy on the alcohol. Smith and Styles were willing to compromise on alcohol because it can be such a budget-buster. Styles didn't offer any and knew she could get away with it without many gripes because she had a daytime reception. Smith had a champagne toast (included in the cost she negotiated for the reception) and a cash bar.

Craft your own invitations. Smith found a company online that would have designed and printed her invitations for $200. Instead, she bought a Wilton pressed floral invitation kit on Amazon for $27.90 and used Photoshop to design her invitation. If you lack confidence in your design skills, Smith says that you likely can find someone to do it for you for just $5 on Fivver, an online marketplace for services. Styles took a similar DIY route. She spent $48 on card stock and envelopes from Hobby Lobby and used an art program on her computer to design her invitations. She asked guests to RSVP online (to avoid the cost of additional stamps and envelopes) at a Web site she created for her wedding for free through TheKnot.com.

Look beyond the bridal shop. The average amount spent on a wedding dress is $1,357, according to TheKnot.com's study. Smith spent just $313 (including shipping) by ordering a formal dress — not an actual wedding gown — through Etsy.com from a company in China. She searched specifically on Etsy for vendors outside the U.S. because she knew the prices would be lower. She took her own measurements, and the dress was custom made for her. Styles saved money — and contributed to a good cause — by buying a previously worn dress at a Brides Against Breast Cancer bridal show. The organization sells donated gowns at 50 percent off their original price. Another money-saving strategy is to rent a wedding dress.

Skip the florist. Smith discovered that flowers from the florist "can be ridiculously expensive." So she bought 350 stems of mixed flowers from a wholesaler, Potomac Floral for $191, and she assembled bouquets and centerpieces herself. Styles says that she received a quote of $450 from a florist for three bouquets and two boutonnieres. "I told her 'No, thank you' and took my money and went to Costco," where she spent $96 for a bulk purchase of roses. She bought floral supplies from Michael's and spent about an hour the night before her wedding assembling bouquets and boutonnieres on her own. Sam's Club also sells flowers in bulk online.

Don't dismiss the dollar store. Smith bought vases for her floral arrangements for 99 cents each and packs of tea lights for less than $1 at a local dollar store. These discount retailers also can be a great source of inexpensive gift bags (for favors), ribbon and other craft supplies.

Take advantage of the Web. Smith scored a discounted photography package on Groupon for just $223. And she found an officiant for her ceremony for just $125 (versus an average of $266, according to TheKnot.com) on Thumbtack, a site for finding professionals in all 50 states.

Ask friends and family for favors. Smith, who is from the Caribbean, wanted a rum cake at her reception in addition to the cake that's being provided by the restaurant as part of her reception package. So a friend baked one as her wedding gift to Smith. And Styles got a discount on pictures of her wedding from a cousin who is a photographer.
New reverse mortgage rules offer protection for spouses

Q. I'm following up on a recent column about changes to the reverse mortgage program. My husband is 85, and I am 72. Neither of us is in good health. When my husband dies, the provision to sell the house when he dies isn't the one I'm interested in because I'm too young to qualify so it is in his name only. My earliest understanding is that once he died I would have to sell the home and leave. Due to health and taxes, I have to sell the home and leave. I would like more information on how the insurance payments, those that once he died and also due to health and taxes, I have to sell the home and leave. I would like more information on how the insurance payments, those that once he died, to pay those that once he died, to pay for about $500 per month. On the COBRA policy, I was told you could keep up the payments. On the reverse mortgage, she said, and insurance are paid and the property is maintained.

She was told that all would be covered just as it was with my COBRA coverage. After we took the policy and started paying the premiums, I filled both of my insulin prescriptions at $45 each. Then in May, I processed an auto-refill and found out my cost was up to $400 per each. Where is the affordability? My wife was told I had to meet my deductible of $2,500 before my prescriptions would go into effect. How can we be told one thing to only find out something different? Can anything be changed?

A. If you were misinformed about your plan by an insurance company, your situation might qualify you to make a switch without waiting for the next general enrollment period. Check out this link detailing the special enrollment process: health.gov/sep-list.

Class action: Take steps to cut college expenses

College is a large financial undertaking, but with the economy on the rebound, more families are willing to shoulder the cost.

That's the finding of the latest annual survey, "How America Pays for College," by student loan provider Sallie Mae. According to the study, families of undergraduate students said their total cost of college — using savings, grants, loans and other resources — increased an average of 16 percent for the 2014-15 academic year. (Sallie Mae in April surveyed 800 parents of undergraduates, along with 800 undergraduate students.)

That contrasts with previous years, when spending remained essentially flat even though college costs were rising annually.

High-income families (those earning $100,000 annually or more) were the biggest spenders. But overall, parents shelled out an average of $7,683 from income and savings, up from $6,292 a year ago.

"How much more money parents were putting into saving for college was probably the most interesting increase that we saw," said Marie O'Malley, senior director of consumer research at Sallie Mae.

"Parents reported feeling less worried than in previous years about their income declining or the value of their home dropping. They were also more optimistic about their child finding a job after graduation. That said, with college costs continuing to rise, the survey did reveal ways both parents and students are trying to save, which may be worth considering if you're trying to trim college costs.

Comparison-shop. When deciding which college to attend, families consider cost throughout the application process and often eliminate schools because of price.

According to the study, 39 percent of families decided against a college because of the price tag, even before researching a school. Sixty-two percent eliminated a school because of costs after applying.

It's often a good idea to wait to cut a school until after you receive a financial aid package. That's because a university's published cost tends to be more than the net price — what families actually pay. During the 2014-15 school year, for example, the published cost for tuition, fees, and room and board for in-state undergraduate students at four-year public universities averaged $18,940, according to the College Board, a nonprofit organization with more than 6,000 higher education institutions as members. The average net price: $12,830.

Be resourceful. On average, parents cover the largest portion of college expenses — nearly a third of the bill, but students are mindful of costs. In fact, 74 percent of students eliminated a school during the college search because of cost, compared with just half of parents.

"Students are worried about debt and don't want to burden their parents with a big sticker price if they don't have to," O'Malley said.

But beyond taking out student loans, there are other ways to make college more affordable. The vast majority of students work during the school year. In other cases, families may target universities that are close to home (reducing travel expenses) or maximize tax deductions and credits for higher education, among other things.

Plan ahead. According to Sallie Mae's study, families that planned and saved for college paid 21 percent more in total college costs than families that didn't do so. But the average borrowing of students in families with a plan was 40 percent less.
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Chicago Tribune
COVER STORY

Why some Americans are embracing aging

By Alison Bowen
Tribune Newspapers

Forget all those tabloid covers screaming about beach bods and Botox — Americans aren't afraid to get older, at least according to a new study.

And experts say more are embracing the maturity, financial stability and freedom that can arrive with advancing age.

A report released July 22 by Inside Tracker, a health analytics company, reveals far more people would choose to stay at age 50 than 20. And more said they'd prefer to be older than 40, rather than younger, the company reported.

Many say this attitude is becoming more common, helped along by seeing others age vigorously and a desire to shed the anxieties of youth.

"Now we're saying the 40s are the new 30s, and the 50s are the new 40s," said Dr. Tiffany Sanders, a Chicago-based psychologist.

Facebook allows anyone to browse photos of retirees vacationing in far-flung locales — a radical view of retirement, Sanders said.

"That helps shatter this myth that by the time you're in your 60s and your 70s, you are in a rocking chair out in the country," she said. "In her mid-30s herself, Sanders said she finds herself jealous of older friends' adventures, and at the same time quite willing to leave behind earlier, perhaps more insecure, decades.

"I would never want to redo my teens or my 20s, because those are the turbulent years," she said.

Seeing those who seem to be living well helps. And numbers back up that hunch about happiness: A recent Gallup study found happiness gets better with age.

In the Gallup Well-Being Index released July 14, it shows older Americans report better standards of living and less anxiety about money.

For example, 62 percent of people over 75 said they had enough money to do everything they wanted, compared with 35 percent for those under 54.

"We see these friends and family members who are having these awesome 50th birthday parties, traveling the world," Sanders said. "It gives us something in our 20s and 30s to say, 'I don't mind getting older, if this is what it's like.'"

In the InsideTracker study, 72 percent said they expect to live into their 80s.

"We're living longer, we're working longer, we're healthier and fitter than previous generations," said Barbara Hannah Grufferman, a contributor to the AARP's Bulletin newsletter.

Couple this with the anxieties of youth — unstable finances, unsure careers, faltering relationships — and a porch swing might beckon.

"Individuals who are younger, they want to get to a level of peace, where they don't have to worry about peer pressure, the looks, do I have the right car," Sanders said.

Of course, just because people might embrace aging doesn't mean they want the physical effects — more than half told InsideTracker they changed their diet to maintain a youthful look.

Others cited creams and a gym as ways to combat evidence of aging.

Hannah Grufferman preaches the perks, and she urges a mantra of maturity.

"It's just an added level of confidence and maturity that definitely comes with aging," she said. "I feel it. I am much more secure in what I say, what I do, than I was when I was in my 20s, or even quite frankly in my 40s."

For her 55th birthday, she ran the New York City Marathon. And she's in the midst of her third career, including penning "The Expert's Guide to Style, Sex, Health, Money, and More."

"If you get rid of the whole fear factor, the world is your oyster," she said.

Just ask Florida oncology and hematology specialist Dr. Robert Drapkin.

At 70, he's a body builder who regularly takes top spots in competitions. Just last weekend, he competed at a national championship.

Abowen@tribpub.com
At press time this home was still for sale.

Colonial with home theater on the Village Green

ADDRESS: 528 Maple St. in Winnetka
ASKING PRICE: $1,890,000
This impeccably remodeled colonial boasts numerous amenities, from a wraparound porch and home theater to a lower-level rec room. Storage space is never an issue in this five-bedroom, four-and-a-half-bath home. Set on the Village Green in the heart of town, the stately house is near town, a train station, shops and the lake.
AGENT: Sherry Molitor of Koenig Rubloff Realty Group, 847-204-6282

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Beating back those backyard pests

By Danielle Braff
Tribune Newspapers

It's a bug's life out there, but if you'd prefer to keep those critters off your skin, then you need to use some sort of repelling device.

The key is figuring out which ones work and which ones wili simply bug you.

Citronella candles and other repellent devices like lanterns are intended to confuse mosquitoes so they can't easily detect people - but some studies have shown that they are only effective for six to 10 feet, said Michael Waldvogel, director of the Structural Pest Management Training & Research Facility in North Carolina.

Add a little breeze, and those lanterns and citronella candles will be useless.

"Plus, some of these devices use chemicals for which there are warnings to avoid directly inhaling the vapors," Waldvogel said.

A better choice could be a geraniol candle or diffuser. A 2009 study published in the Journal of Vector Ecology compared the degree of protection provided by citronella, linalool and geraniol in the form of candles or diffusers, and found that outdoors, citronella diffusers repelled female mosquitoes by 22 percent, linalool repelled them by 58 percent, and geraniol repelled females by 75 percent.

"The key is the concentration level, said Mike Roe, professor of entomology at North Carolina State University.

"Any chemical will repel an insect if the concentration is high enough,

He recommends using a spray rather than a candle, diffuser, wristband or patch - and spraying the repellent directly onto your skin or clothing.

The wristbands or the patches that you can stick to your clothing will work within a few inches of where it's installed, but it's not going to protect your whole body," he said.

Not all sprays are created equal, however.

While many people have turned to non-DEET products because of health-related warnings (the EPA reported seizures in one per 100 million users, and DEET is not recommended for infants younger than 2 months), the studies haven't found non-DEET products to be very effective. A study published in the New England Journal of Medicine compared botanical insect repellents with DEET repellents and found that the DEET-based products provided complete protection for the longest duration. A formulation containing 24 percent DEET had a complete-protection time of 302 minutes, compared with a soybean-oil-based repellent, which protected against mosquito bites for an average of 95 minutes.

Of course, there's always the retro bug zapper — more formally called an electrical discharge insect control system — which attracts insects because of its light and zaps them when they arrive.

"Insects are attracted to light, so it's going to attract all kinds of insects, good and bad," Roe said. "But why would you want to indiscriminately kill all the insects in your yard? They're not bad things — they're part of our ecology.

Roe suggested using the zapper in an enclosed porch, where the number of insects entering the space is lower — and you're only killing the bugs that may potentially be entering your home.

The Environmental Protection Agency has an online tool to help consumers determine the repellent that's right for them, and you can do a search by the amount of time you'll need to be protected, the type of bug you'll need protection from and the active ingredient you desire. It also lets you search by company name, and the products are all EPA-registered repellents. Check out the EPA website for more information.

One key point, however, said Waldvogel:

"These are repellents, so they don't actually kill the mosquitoes or other biting pests.

"I like to use the analogy that if you're driving the highway and you come across a detour, presumably you just don't sit there," Waldvogel said. "So particularly with mosquitoes, make the effort to eliminate the breeding sources of the mosquitoes where possible - very often in our own backyard or your neighbor's backyard."
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Ralph Hamilton took a risk and became a poet

BY GINA GRILLO
Pioneer Press

For Evanston's Ralph Hamilton, writing poetry helped him make sense of the world, giving him a way of being, not more factual, but true. Hamilton's new book, "Teaching A Man To Unstick His Tail," is a meditation on relationships, on love and loss, and came out of a period when his mother and brother died, his son left home for college, his family broke up, and he experienced a painful romantic misadventure.

"Writing this book enabled me to put many of those things into perspective, to come to a clearer understanding, to heal perhaps, and to move forward," Hamilton says.

When Hamilton, now 60, was approaching age 50, becoming a poet was the furthest thing from his mind. Working as a successful senior research associate and co-director at the Chapin Hall Center for Children at the University of Chicago, Hamilton describes himself at the time as a man at odds with the life he was leading. "I was wrestling with questions like - how to open myself up, how to protect myself less, how to live a less cautious life, a less closed life," he says. "I wanted people to look at my life and say 'he lived, he risked.'"

Hamilton, who studied at Oxford and earned his masters degree from Harvard, first entertained aspirations of becoming a great writer while in college studying philosophy and religion, but the lack of discipline required for a writing life made this prospect illusive.

Hamilton says his studies in poetry began with an inspired connection with renowned Evanston poet, Chris Green, professor and lecturer in the English department of DePaul University and author of poetry books, "The Sky Over Walgreens," "Resume" and "Epiphany School." Green agreed to monthly tutoring sessions with Hamilton at a neighborhood Evanston cafe where he would read and give feedback on 10 poems.

For six months, these casual workshops marked the beginning of Hamilton's transition into a literary life. In addition to becoming a working poet, Hamilton is also the senior editor of RHINO, an independent poetry journal founded in Evanston, celebrating its 40th year. At RHINO, the review of poetry submissions is a collaboration between its 12 editors.

"A good poem comes from a different place and sense of time than our daily chores and duties, though it could be well about those tasks. It gives voice to things beyond picking up the kids at school or getting a report finished by five," Hamilton says. "Those daily undertakings are necessary, to be sure, but life is infinitely more bountiful and challenging and mysterious than that."

"In "Teaching A Man To Unstick His Tail," Hamilton reveals the beauty and pain of everyday life, haunting the reader with those human questions that have no answers, and presenting a world full of strange and poignant order. He is currently working on his next book, "The Barnyard of Boyage," which will reflect how different his life has become, focusing on fathers and sons, male identity and growing up.

RHINO sponsors a monthly poetry reading and open mic, RHINO Reads, at Bros K Coffee shop in Evanston, and a monthly open poetry-writing critique session with a master poet, at The Poetry Forum, at Evanston Public Library. The next RHINO Reads takes place at 6 p.m. July 31 at Bros K, 500 Main St., Evanston. Featured poets are Jan Bottiglieri and Sandra Marchetti. See Rhinopoetry.org.

Finding zen with beer and yoga

Yoga, from Previous Page

"Why are we talking about beer? We are drinking a glass of wine," said Wagner, who is also studying to be a sommelier. "We both share passions for yoga as well as a great beer or a glass of wine. We cannot be the only two people in the world who do."

John O'Hara, a lawyer from Los Angeles, was visiting Chicago during Craft Beer Week last spring when he found out about the first Temperance event while researching things to do in the area. Since he does yoga/beer events weekly in L.A., he was excited to find out about this one.

O'Hara said he enjoyed doing yoga in the industrial space at Temperance, where they keep the kegs, surrounded by the noise of the machinery and the earthy smell from the malt.

Since O'Hara moved from Chicago to L.A. two years ago, he has found a community in the participants of yoga/beer events offered at L.A.'s Golden Road Brewing. He said doing yoga puts you in a vulnerable physical position and then beer helps drop your guard even more, allowing people to get to know each other. His group of yoga/beer friends now meet up outside of yoga to watch roller derby, go hiking or attend barbecues.

The shared bond grew out of an enjoyment of both beer and fitness, O'Hara said. "In that way, it's more indication of a broader movement of people who are less extreme in either one," he said.

It might be too early to tell what type of attendees these yoga-meets-beer events will draw since some of them are just starting up, but at Yogaquench, participants are usually in their late 20s or early 30s, Wagner and Malungcot said. At the two events Temperance have held so far, participants have ranged in age from 22 to 50,

Breen noted. So far about 60 percent are female, she said. Breen said that yoga/beer events may be an ideal introduction for people - especially men - into the world of yoga. However, she ensures the alcoholic component doesn't overshadow the essence of yoga.

"I make sure to incorporate the yoga philosophy and the mindfulness behind it," she said. "It's not just an arbitrary 'hey, let's do exercise and drink a bunch of beer.'"
Before you rock out at Skokie's Backlot Bash start your Saturday with a 5K run through beautiful and historic downtown Skokie.

Kids' 1/2-Mile Run 8:30 AM  5K Race 9 AM

For info, call Jennifer Bever at (847) 674-1500, ext. 3510.

The Backlot Dash course starts at Skokie Public Library

Online registration at skokiesbacklotdash.itsyourrace.com

Race day registration: 6 - 8 a.m.

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Teen troupe presents 'Beauty and the Beast Jr.'

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

A troupe of teens will tackle a tale as old as time when Skokie Park District's Teen Summer on Broadway Camp presents, "Beauty and the Beast Jr.," 2-3 p.m. and 7-8:30 p.m. Aug. 4 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St.

"All the Disney shows are really good for teenagers because they have reference material they can refer to," said director Brian Rooney. "So we can create richer and fuller characters."

It's also a good performing vehicle because "the music is familiar," Rooney said, adding "it's a family favorite so they know their brothers and sisters are going to enjoy it as well."

Children in the audience should be particularly enchanted by the fact that the actors will be using the entire theater. "The performance will come off the stage," the director revealed. "And there will be some slight audience interaction."

Pick up free tickets a half-hour before your preferred performance.

For details, call 847-673-7774 or go to www.skokieibrary.info.

Catch some Rays

The Sting Rays will perform music from the '50s, '60s and '70s that will have everybody moving along 6:30-8:30 p.m. July 31 at Oak Park, Lee & Ottawa, Niles. There will also be a Party in the Park with face painting and a balloon artist for kids.

For details, call 847-967-6633 or go to www.niles-parks.org.

Make the Green scene

Popular children's entertainers Wendy and DB will present an interactive all-ages concert 7 p.m. Aug. 5 on the Village Green adjacent to the Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. The performance is part of the Wednesdays on the Green series.

For details, call 847-674-1500 or go to www.skokieparks.org.

Great Shakes

Introduce your children to the Bard with Muse of Fire Theatre Company's one-hour production of "Cymbeline," 2-3 p.m. Aug. 2 at the Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave. The magical tale should enchant children and the abbreviated version will be perfect for their attention span.

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

Lyric lab

Kids will become songwriting partners when ScribbleMonster performs as part of Wilmette Park District's Children's Concert Series at Mallinckrodt Park Gazebo, 1041 Ridge Road, Wilmette, 12:30-1:30 p.m. Aug. 5. "We're going to sing, we're going to dance, we're going to share ideas and we're going to have a good time," said leader ScribbleJim.

For details, call 847-256-6100 or go to www.wilmettepark.org.
Scotch Doubles bowlers support Morton Grove

The Scotch Doubles Bowling Night Fundraiser

Location: Morton Grove Classic Bowl
Benefiting: Charitable programs of the Morton Grove Chamber of Commerce

Attended: 50
Date: June 19
Website: www.mgccci.org

From left: Deb Manno, Mike Simkins, Jeanine Como, Rich Block and Oscar Chung, all of Morton Grove

From left: Dan DiMaria, Morton Grove Mayor, Bill Grear, Morton Grove village trustee and Janine Witkow, village trustee

Melodee DiMaria, left, and Jan Grear, both of Morton Grove

Phoebe Block of Niles

Tracy and Chris Minx of Morton Grove

Debra Stombres, Morton Grove Public Library director, with her husband Joel Stombres

Mark Matz, president of the Morton Grove Historical Society, left, and Mark Manno, Morton Grove Park District board of commissioners
### REAL ESTATE TRANSACTIONS

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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 u publlc-record.com
REAL ESTATE HOMES IN YOUR AREA

WILMETTE


Address: 2616 Wilmette Ave.
Price: $499,000
Schools: Niles North High School
Taxes: $9,487
Agent: Margaret Goss/Baird & Warner Winnetka

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

Custom five-bedroom, 2.5-bath Pioneer Park Colonial located on quiet cul-de-sac close to town & train. Hardwood floors throughout. Eat-in kitchen, family room, dining room, first-floor laundry/mud room & bonus office/1st-floor bedroom. Newer Pella windows, roof & furnace. Family room with fireplace looks out on private yard & patio.

Address: 16 S. Princeton Court
Price: $465,000
Schools: Rolling Meadows High School
Taxes: $10,055
Agent: Susan Duchek/Picket Fence Realty

PARK RIDGE


Address: 719 N. Dee Road
Price: $674,900
Schools: Maine East High School
Taxes: $10,557
Agent: Gretchen Gullo/Coldwell Banker

LAKE FOREST

Lot is 60'x180'. Hardwood floors (under living room carpet) and a recreation room in basement with stone fireplace. Enjoy the sun room and overlook the back lawn and lovely woods. Garage has added storage room. Two bedrooms, two bathrooms.

Address: 236 Park Ave.
Price: $375,000
Schools: Lake Forest High School
Taxes: $3,155

Bankrate.com

Pioneer Press

MORTGAGE GUIDE

Check rates daily at http://pioneerlocal.interest.com

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LENDERS, TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS AD CALL BANKRATE.COM @ 800-509-4636

Legend: The rate and annual percentage rate (APR) are effective as of 7/23/15. © 2015 Bankrate, Inc. http://www.Interest.com. The APR may increase after consummation and may vary. Payments do not include amounts for taxes and insurance. The fees set forth for each advertisement above may be changed to open the plan. (A) Mortgage Banker, (B) Mortgage Broker, (C) Bank, (D) S & L, (E) Credit Union. (B) indicates Licensed Mortgage Banker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Registered Mortgage Broker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Licensed Mortgage Banker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Registered Mortgage Broker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Licensed Mortgage Banker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Registered Mortgage Broker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Licensed Mortgage Banker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Registered Mortgage Broker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Licensed Mortgage Banker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Registered Mortgage Broker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Licensed Mortgage Banker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Registered Mortgage Broker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Licensed Mortgage Banker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Registered Mortgage Broker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Licensed Mortgage Banker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Registered Mortgage Broker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Licensed Mortgage Banker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Registered Mortgage Broker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Licensed Mortgage Banker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Registered Mortgage Broker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Licensed Mortgage Banker, NYS Banking Dept., (BR) indicates Registered Mortgage Broker, NYS Banking Dept.
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Listings are subject to change.
Please call the venue in advance.

Thursday, July 30

Save A Star's Drug Disposal Program: Save A Star Drug Awareness Foundation's Drug Disposal Program box is in the lobby of various local police departments, including those in: Des Plaines, Evanston, Glenco, Niles, Northbrook, Park Ridge and Wilmette. Accepted are: prescription medications (including controlled substances), all over-the-counter and pet medications, vitamins, liquids and creams. Call 847-579-1300 ext. 146. 9 a.m. every day, free

The Incredible Executive Presence Tour: Workshop for talented, career-minded business people who want to learn how to show up with executive presence. Register today at school/executivepresence.com. 8 a.m. Thursday, Hilton Garden Inn Chicago OHare, 2930 S. River Road, Des Plaines, $297, 312-832-9008

It's Thursday, Let's Dance: Decoy Prayer Meeting: Listen to live music while enjoying dinner or drinks from a surrounding restaurant. 7 p.m. Thursday, 1603 Orrington Ave. Plaza, Evanston, free

Live Music Every Thursday: The Josh Rzepka jazz trio performs. 6:30 p.m. Thursdays, Found Kitchen & Social House, 1631 Chicago Ave., Evanston, free, 847-868-8945

Native Haute Couture: The year-long exhibit celebrates the history of Native American high fashion from pre-contact to today. 10 a.m. every day, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 301 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-1030

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. all week, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 301 Central St., Evanston, free-$5, $10-$12 for talk, 847-475-1030

Summer Camp at The Actors Gymnasium: A summer day camp for young people aged 9-15. Students learn circus and aerial skills: juggling, tumbling, trapeze, tightwire, stilts, and more. 9 a.m. Thursday-Friday, Monday-Wednesday, Actors Gymnasium, 927 Noyes St, Evanston, $1180, 847-328-2795

The Last Supper: This exhibition features the work of Julie Green, who created 600 white ceramic plates decorated with cobalt blue mineral paint to depict the last meal requests of U.S. death row inmates. 2 p.m. every day, Block Museum of Art, Fisk Hall, Room 217, Northwestern University, Evanston, free, 847-491-4000

Butterflies & Blooms: The garden's summer-long exhibit featuring hundreds of butterflies and the flowers on which they reside. 10 a.m. all week, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, $6-$8, 847-835-5440

Fruit and Vegetable Garden Family Drop-In Activities: Join at the Regenstein Fruit & Vegetable Garden for fun, hands-on activities for families and children. 10 a.m. all week, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, free, 847-835-5440

Watercolor Ballroom Dance: Learn how to show up with executive presence. Register today at school/executivepresence.com. 8 a.m. every day, Northwestern University Evanston, 2795 Foster St., Evanston, $1,180, 847-328-2795

Story Walk: Get outside and enjoy reading the children's book “Pete the Cat and the New Guy” while taking a journey along the train in Little Bear Garden. 8 a.m. Thursday-Sunday, Gallery Park, 2001 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, free, 847-724-5670

Chagall for children: This interactive exhibit features activities and audio descriptions of each of Marc Chagall's works that are specifically appropriate for children ages 2-12. 9:30 a.m. every day, noon on Sunday, Kohl Children's Museum, 2100 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, $11-$10, 847-832-6600

Freshmen College Bootcamp: While high school graduates are anxiously awaiting college life, PEER Services provides a three-hour course that puts some worries to rest. The program focuses on decision making skills, health, stress, roommate relationships, time management, and substance use. 6 p.m. Thursday, PEER Services Inc, 3633 W. Lake Ave. #305, Glenview, $75, 847-492-1770

Everybody Move: 8-Week Session for ages 4-12 years with caregiver. Registration required. Celeste Cifala Roy, from Evanston's early childhood movement and music program Everybody Move, has planned an hour of activities and exploration including scarves, balls, hoops and instruments to get the children up moving, singing and dancing. 9 a.m. Thursday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Lincolnwood Summer Concert Series: Free kid's activities, including inflatables, bongo and face painting, start at 6 p.m., and the live music follows at 7 p.m. Thursday, Proesel Park, 7055 Kostner Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5270

Do More with Word 2010: 2 p.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Awesome Grilling: Chef Dave Essau of Dave's Specialty Foods demonstrates how to make kabobs, steak, grilled pineapple and more. Samples are served. Registration is required. 7 p.m. Thursday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-2958

Rockin' in the Park 2015: Featuring the music of classic cover bands, food and beverage tents on the park's lawn and a musical fireworks display after every show. 7 p.m. Thursday, MB Financial Park at Rosemont, 5501 Park Place, Rosemont, free, 847-349-5008

Friday, July 31

St. Stephen Family Festival: Local food vendors, rides and games for children, raffle prizes, and musical entertainment. 10 a.m. Thursday and Sunday, Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 8555 N. River Road, Rosemont, varies, 301-785-9982

Niles Township School Supply Drive: New supplies and monetary donations will be accepted. Additional information and detailed school supply lists can also be found online at school district websites. 9 a.m. every day, Niles Township Government, 5225 Main St, Skokie, free, 847-777-9510

Chicago Bears Youth Football Camps in Winnetka: Safe, non-contact football instruction for kids ages 6-14 years old. 8:30 a.m. Thursday-Friday, Little Duke Field, 1259 Cherry St, Winnetka, $259, 312-226-5553

Wood Dale Prairie Fest: This four-day festival includes culinary delights, music, a carnival and a fireworks display. 6 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 1 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Wood Dale Junior High, 655 N. Wood Dale Road, Wood Dale, free

National Sports Collectors Convention: 10 a.m. Thursday and Sunday, Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 8555 N. River Road, Rosemont, varies, 301-785-9982

Food Drive In Skokie: Requesting donations of canned goods and dry food products to fill the shelves of the Niles Township Food Pantry. All foods can be dropped off at Walgreens. Business hours, Walgreens, 3945 W. Dempster St., Skokie, free, 847-675-4411

Wood Dale Prairie Fest: This four-day festival includes culinary delights, music, a carnival and a fireworks display. 6 p.m. Thursday-Friday, 1 p.m. Saturday-Sunday, Wood Dale Junior High, 655 N. Wood Dale Road, Wood Dale, free

Turn to Calendar, Next Page
Saturday, Aug 1

Red, White & Blue John Kurtz 5K Run/Walk: Come out and help honor our veterans in this fun 5K run/walk. We will have performance shirts, entertainment, refreshments and prizes for top finishers immediately following the race. 8 a.m. Saturday, Pines Park, 531 S. Church Road, Bensenville, $25 before race day, $35 day of race, 630-766-7015

Weinberg's prints: The art of Penny Weinberg is on display on the third floor of the library until Aug. 31. These prints capture the moment in time from observation of daily life. 9 a.m. Saturday, 1 p.m. Sunday, Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St, Des Plaines, free, 847-827-0515

Downtown Evanston Farmers Market: 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Oak Avenue and University Place, 1090 University Place, Evanston, free

Marshall Crenshaw: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave, Evanston, $20-$40, 847-492-8860

Evanston Lakeshore Arts Festival: 110 talented juried artists are selected to participate in the festival. 11 a.m. Saturday-Sunday, Dawes Park, 1700 Sheridan Road, Evanston, free, 847-448-8264

FUSE: Studio: Drop in to wire LEDs, compose a ringtone, build an amp, mix chemicals to make gel beads, navigate a robot obstacle course and more. For grades six to 12. Noon Sunday, Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave, Evanston, free, 847-448-8600

LOL Saturday: Adult Comedy every Saturday night. 9 p.m. Saturday, Chicago's Home of Chicken & Waffles, 2424 W. Dempster St, Evanston, $15 adult advance; $20 at the door, 847-521-6434

Native Plant Garden Family Drop-in Activities: Explore the plants and animals in aquatic habitats and learn what kinds of animals depend on ponds and lakes. 10 a.m. Wednesday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glenview, free, 847-835-5440

Park Ridge Farmers Market: 7 a.m. Saturday, Park Ridge Farmer's Market, 15 S. Prairie Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-318-5217

Kelly Clarkson: 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Allstate Arena, Rosemont, $30-$100, 847-635-6001

Rickie Lee Jones: 8 p.m. Saturday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Preserving Survivor Stories: Ask Holocaust Survivor Pinchas Gutter any question, and natural language technology software retrieves Pinchas' response, creating an interactive dialogue, as if Pinchas were in the room. Free with Museum admission. 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, 847-967-4835

“Bonnie and Clyde: The Musical”: 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday, 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sunday, Wilmette Theatre, 1122 Central Ave., Wilmette, $15, 847-251-7424

Wilmette Farmers Market: 8 a.m. Saturday, Wilmette Village Center, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Ballroom Dance classes: Ballroom instructor, dancer and host Vito Magrone teaches Bolero to the group. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Just Dance Studios at Georgetown West, 301 S. Prospect Ave, Wood Dale, $10, 630-542-7644

Sunday, Aug 2

Tinsley Ells with the Sharrows: 7:30 p.m. Sunday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $15-$27, 847-492-8860

Maltz Japanese Garden Family Sundays: Take part in engaging educational and fun activities related to Japanese gardens and other aspects of Japanese culture. Take home projects include: making miniature dry gardens, trying chopsticks or practicing calligraphy. 11 a.m. Sunday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, free, 847-835-5440

Chicago Botanic Garden Farmers' Market: 9 a.m. Sunday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glenco, free, 847-835-5440

*"Interstellar": A casual audience-led discussion follows matinee screenings. 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Glenview Public Library, 1702 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Chess Wizards: 4-week session for grades 3-9. Registration required. Chess stimulates the mind and helps children strengthen skills such as focusing, visualizing goals, abstract thinking and forming concrete opinions. 3:30 p.m. Sunday, Wilmette Village Center, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

National Coloring Book Day for Adults: Artist Mary J. Winters-Meyer hosts a drop-in coloring party for adults in honor of National Coloring Book Day. Attendees are encouraged to bring their own supplies, however, coloring pages are provided. 1 p.m. Sunday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Turn to Calendar, Next Page
Calendar, from Previous Page

Skokie Farmers Market: 7:30 a.m. Sunday, Skokie Village Hall, 5127 Oakton St., Skokie. Free, 847-673-0500

Summer Family Day: Activities available for children ages 4-14, where children may art or make, explore the interactive Harvey L. Miller Family Youth Exhibition, or learn lessons through hands-on activities. 11 a.m. Sunday, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie. Free program with museum admission or membership, 847-967-4835

Rummage Sale: The Sisterhood of Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah hosts its semi-annual Rummage and Book Sale. 9 a.m. Sunday, Beth Hillel Congregation Bnai Emunah, 3220 Big Tree Lane, Wilmette. Free, 877-256-1213

Erica O'Rourke: Join in the celebration of the release of Erica O'Rourke's new young adult novel "Resonance," the sequel to "Dissonance." Erica discusses the creation of the Dissonance duology, answers questions from the audience and signs copies of her work. 3 p.m. Sunday, The Book Stall at Chestnut Court, 811 Elm St., Winnetka. Free, 847-445-8880

Monday, Aug 3

SkillTwins Soccer Camp: Youtube Soccer sensations Josef and Jakob, also known as the SkillTwins, conduct a footwork summer camp. Open to ages 7 to 18, 11:15 a.m. and 5:45 p.m. Monday-Aug. 6. Addison Youth Soccer, 400 S. Rohlwing Road, Addison. $285 plus tax. Free, 847-864-1679

Book Babies: Songs, games, story time and free play for babies ages 2 and younger with a caregiver. 10:35 a.m. Monday, Evanston Public Library - North Branch, 2026 Central St., Evanston. Free, 847-448-8600

Live Bluegrass, Roots and Folk: The Mudflapps perform. 8 p.m. Monday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston. Free, 847-864-1679

Carillon Concert Series: Enjoy a 45-minute musical performance of carillon bells. Meet carillonneurs from around the world and try ringing the bells during a complimentary tour of the carillon tower prior to the concert. 7 p.m. Monday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. Free, 847-835-5440

Tech Talk: 7 p.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview. Free, 847-729-7500

hoopla, MyMediaMail & Zinio Individual Appointments: Meet with trained Library staff for a 45-minute one-on-one session and learn how to download books, audiobooks, magazines, movies, TV shows, or music to your portable device. Visit or call the Reader Services Desk at ext. 7500 for questions, to register, and for appointment locations. 10 a.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview. Free, 847-729-7500

Page Turners: "Behind the Beautiful Forevers: Life, Death, and Hope in a Mumbai Undercity" by Katherine Boo. 1 p.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview. Free, 847-729-7500

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

Knitting Roundtable: Come work through knitting projects and socialize with fellow knitters. 2 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

Lego Club (grades 1-4): 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview. Free, 847-729-7500

Music Lab (Teens): Write and make a song using the library's music recording software and equipment. No previous skill required. Teens 13-18 are welcome. Registration is required. 2 p.m. Tuesday- Wednesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Country In the Park: Free concert series. Guests can also visit food and beverage tents on the park's lawn. Parking is free with validation. 7 p.m. Tuesday, MB Financial Park at Rosemont, 5501 Park Place, Rosemont. Free, 847-349-5008

Jewish Short Stories: A three-part class filled with discussion and learning led by Rabbi Jeffrey Weill and teacher, Claire Shulman. The class is free and open to the public. Stories by familiar authors as well as works by lesser-known writers to be read. Materials provided in advance of each class. 2 p.m. Tuesday, Ezra Habonim, The Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie. Free, 847-675-4141

Wednesday, Aug 5

Bensenville French Market: 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Bensenville Village Hall, 12 S. Center St., Bensenville. Free, 847-816-5333

Summer program at Des Plaines History Center: Participants tour the 1907 Kinder House. 1 p.m. Wednesday, Des Plaines History Center, 781 Pearson St., Des Plaines. $3 per child, $2 with a member, 847-391-5399

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

Open Mic Night in Evanston: Sign-up begins at 8 p.m. Wednesday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston. No cover, 847-864-1679

Dancin' Sprouts: A special concert for children with sensory differences. Food and beverages, including wine and beer, are available for purchase onsite. In the event of inclement weather, concerts are held in the McGlinny Pavilion or the Regenstein Center. 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. Free, 847-835-5440

Drop-in Chess Club (up to grade 8): Learn fundamentals and improve strategy with volunteer chess instructor Steve Levenson. Bring your own chess set if possible. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview. Free, 847-729-7500

Starlight Movie in the Park: "Ferris Bueller's Day Off" 7 p.m. Tuesday, Penny Park, 1500 Lake St., Evanston, free, 847-448-4311

Rotary Club of Evanston LightHouse: 1:15 p.m. Tuesday, Hillcrest Garden Inn Chicago North Shore/Evanston, 1818 Maple Ave., Evanston. Free, 847-988-4845

Let's Talk @ Lunch: At this drop-in program, participants can talk through the issue of racism and practice honest conversation skills by looking at our own experiences in light of what we're learning about how racism affects us all. 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, YoFresh Yogurt Cafe, 655 Chicago Ave., Evanston, free, 847-864-8445

Tuesday Morning Music: Hour-long meditative musical performance. Music varies from string quartets to Native American flutes, and are focused toward an older crowd. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. Free, 847-835-5440

Music on the Esplanade: Bring a picnic (allowed only on concert events) and enjoy the sunset. Listen to a different musical genre each Tuesday. In the event of inclement weather, concerts will be held in McGlinny Pavilion or the Regenstein Center. 1:30 p.m. Tuesday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. Free, 847-835-5440

Dempster St., Skokie. Free, 847-675-4141

Music Lab (Teens): Write and make a song using the library's music recording software and equipment. No previous skill required. Teens 13-18 are welcome. Registration is required. 2 p.m. Tuesday-Wednesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Country In the Park: Free concert series. Guests can also visit food and beverage tents on the park's lawn. Parking is free with validation. 7 p.m. Tuesday, MB Financial Park at Rosemont, 5501 Park Place, Rosemont, free, 847-349-5008

Jewish Short Stories: A three-part class filled with discussion and learning led by Rabbi Jeffrey Weill and teacher, Claire Shulman. The class is free and open to the public. Stories by familiar authors as well as works by lesser-known writers to be read. Materials provided in advance of each class. 2 p.m. Tuesday, Ezra Habonim, The Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, free, 847-675-4141

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Now playing

"Ant-Man" ★★★
PG-13, 1:57, action. "Ant-Man" has been skittering around the development corridors of Hollywood so long, the earliest unproduced screenplays about the tiny superhero actually preceded the Disney film "Honey, I Shrunk the Kids." That was another age (1989), decades before our present Age of Ultron — an epoch of expensive cheap thrills dictated by the steady, crushing rollout of so many Marvel movies that even the good ones start to seem like ants at an endless picnic. But wait. The "Ant-Man" we have now before us, half-an-inch tall and played by genial, skillful Paul Rudd, turns out to be better company than you'd think possible in a multistrand franchise lousy with corporate directives. — Michael Phillips

"Inside Out" ★★★ ½
PG, 1:35, animation. Home, and where the heart is, guides the thinking of "Inside Out," which follows a few months in the life of Riley (voiced by Kaitlyn Dias). She's the daughter of a loving Minnesota couple (Diane Lane and Kyle MacLachlan) whose lives are shaken up by a move to San Francisco. Suddenly Riley's sense of place is scrambled, and she's looking for a compass. Director Peter Docter's "Inside Out" springs from a single, terrific idea. What if a person's basic emotions were tiny humanoid sprites sharing a command center, a spacious variation on the one in the starship Enterprise but inside the human brain? While the idea isn't new, it is vastly adaptable. Saying "Inside Out" is the best Disney-Pixar picture since "Up" in 2009 says less than it should. — MP

"Jurassic World" ★★ ½
PG-13, 2:10, action. Bailed out by a few good jolts, "Jurassic World" gets by, barely, as a marauding-dinosaurs narrative designed for a more jaded audience than the one "Jurassic Park" conquered back in 1993. Of course you know what you're getting in "Jurassic World." I wasn't expecting the world, but I wouldn't have minded sharper jokes and grander action scenes. — MP

"Minions" ★⭐ ½
PG, 1:31, animation. It's the role of a minion to be a servile follower of a person in charge. That means they are resigned to playing the supporting role. That's the problem with the new animated comedy "Minions." The pill-shaped, yellow characters introduced in "Despicable Me" as the subordinates to the villainous Gru have now taken center stage. The charm and humor they brought in tiny doses in the previous films now come in a massive blast that wears thin quickly. — Rick Bentley

"Trainwreck" ★★★ ½
R, 2:02, comedy. At the risk of raising expectations, the first few scenes of "Trainwreck" are among the best that director Judd Apatow has ever done, in or out of the "The 40-Year-Old Virgin"/"Knocked Up" universe of arrested-development yuckdom. "Trainwreck" hails from the universe next door: arrested-development, female division. Amy Schumer plays a fictionalized variation on herself, also named Amy, or more accurately a variation on the stand-up and "Inside Amy Schumer" Comedy Central personae that have carried Schumer to her current showbiz location. "Trainwreck" is all kinds of funny, and as with any talent showcase worth its salt, the tone of the humor adjusts to suit the talents on screen. — M.P
Barrett, John E.

Passed away unexpectedly on July 13th, 2015 in Mexico while visiting his wife's (Alex) family. A memorial mass and cremation took place in Mexico on July 14th, 2015.

John and his first wife, Nancy (nee McDonald - preceded him in death in 1988) raised 2 daughters, Kathleen (Gary) and Kristine, in Park Ridge and he proudly served as a Park Ridge Police Officer for 25 years. Many residents may also remember him as "Officer Friendly" when he made rounds in the local schools and as "Santa Claus" for the annual Police/ South Park Christmas Parties.

In addition to his daughters, he is also survived by 3 grandchildren; 2 step-grandsons; 5 great grandchildren; 2 sisters; 1 sister in law; 1 brother in law as well as many nieces and nephews.

An on-line Memorial Site has been established for him - http://john-edward-barrett.forevermissed.com

Sign Guestbook at chicagotribune.com/obituaries

Sawusch, Raymond F.

Raymond F. Sawusch, 82, of Park Ridge, beloved husband of Sharon (nee Taylor); loving father of Dwight (Gloria) and Leslie (Don) Reuss; cherished grandfather of Douglas, Tyler and Jacob; dear brother of Bob (Pat) and brother-in-law of Jan (Grant) Kearsey; fond uncle of many. Ray was a proud United States Army Veteran. Visitation Thursday, July 30 from 4 - 9 p.m. at Nelson Funeral Home, 820 W. Talcott (at Cumberland). Visitation will continue Friday 9 a.m. at St. Andrews Lutheran Church, 260 N Northwest Hwy, Park Ridge, IL until time of service at 10 a.m. Interment Concordia Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, please direct memorial contributions to Rainbow Hospice, 1550 Bishop Court, Mt. Prospect, IL 60056 or Cancer Research Foundation, PO Box 0483, Chicago, IL 60690. For more information 847.823.5122 or www.nelsonfunerals.com.

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Small vans make big impact

Demand jumps for European-style commercial vehicles in the U.S.

BY KIRK BELL
Tribune Newspapers

The commercial van market is booming. It started in 2001 when Daimler-Chrysler brought the Sprinter full-size van from Europe to these shores as a Freightliner and two years later as a Dodge.

Other automakers followed suit with European-style vans of their own, and now the same phenomenon is happening with small vans. Ford introduced the first Euro-style van in 2009 with the Transit Connect, and in the past couple years Nissan, Chevrolet, Ram and Mercedes-Benz have all decided to join the small-van market as well. Each van except the Chevrolet City Express can be fitted as a passenger van.

Automakers are making sure that small and large business customers will have a choice of smaller vans that can be sized to their particular needs.

Ford Transit Connect

When Ford brought the Transit Connect to the United States as a 2010 model, it was based on a van that had been offered in Europe for decades. Instead of rear-wheel drive, a bodystyle designed for V-8 power like most American vans, the Transit Connect featured front-wheel drive, a unibody structure and a four-cylinder engine.

Yaro Hetman, the Transit Connect's brand manager, says Ford identified three needs of small businesses that spurred the automaker to bring a small van to these shores: the desire for a right-sized vehicle to fit their needs, the need for a low total cost of ownership and the need for a vehicle that would have little downtime. Ford believes it met these criteria with a smaller van that proved to be cheap to operate (it recently won Vincentric's Fleet Value awards for most affordable total cost of ownership) and could be serviced by any of Ford's 3,000 dealers.

In that first generation, the Transit Connect was offered as a cargo van and a passenger model that sat up to five. A second generation debuted for the 2014 model year, and this time Ford added a seven-passenger wagon version that it markets as the "Un-minivan.

Adding amenities such as heated leather seats and a navigation system has shifted the sales mix from 13 percent passenger models in the first generation to 33 percent today.

Nissan NV200/ Chevrolet City Express

Nissan was the second company among this group to release a European-style small van. The NV200 hit the market in late 2012 as a 2013 model. It was based on a vehicle offered in Europe and Japan but modified for U.S. tastes and crash regulations.

Nissan entered into a partnership with Chevrolet to rebadge the NV200 as the Chevrolet City Express. Released in the fourth quarter of 2014, the City Express is offered only as a cargo van.

Chevrolet recognized a growing market and teamed with Nissan to help serve it. "The market really took off quickly, and the lead time to develop a vehicle might take several years," said Bob Wheeler, General Motors communications manager for fleet and commercial vehicles. "So by partnering with Nissan, it gave us quick access to a good product that we can get in the market really quick and not miss any opportunities."

Ram ProMaster City

Ram saw a growing opportunity in the small, or Class I, van segment and took advantage of its relationship with corporate parent Fiat to bring a product to the United States.

The ProMaster City, which was released at the start of the year, is based on the Fiat Doblo that has been offered in Europe for three generations and has won commercial van of the year a couple times. It replaces the Ram CV, a cargo van based on the Dodge Grand Caravan that was a compromised choice for commercial buyers.

The ProMaster City can be outfitted as a cargo van or a passenger van for five passengers, in longer and shorter wheelbases and with high-roof models.

"There's more space, there's more opportunities, and we'll look to see what our customers need and hopefully push the envelope," said Bob Hegbloom, president and CEO of Ram.

Hegbloom says 85 percent of the ProMaster Cities are sold as cargo vans. The cargo box offers up to 131.7 cubic feet of cargo space, which is beat only by the Mercedes.

Mercedes-Benz Metris

Mercedes-Benz will be the next brand to enter the small van market, though with a product that's larger and at least 12.7 inches longer than the others. The 2016 Metris, due in October, is the U.S. version of the midsize Vito sold in other markets. Mercedes also has a compact van overseas but chose the larger option.

"We saw we could really make an impact in the niche where nobody is right now, the midsize segment. We can steal from the small vans by offering more van, but still in a very economical, efficient package," said Bernie Glasier, vice president and managing director of the newly established Mercedes-Benz Vans USA division.

The Metris will be larger than the competition and will offer more of everything, including power, space, payload and towing capacity. Cargo space will top out at 186 cubic feet, almost 55 more than the Ram ProMaster City.

Mercedes has a brighter outlook. "If you talk to a forecasting institute like IHS Global Insight, their forecast is that, in the next two to three years, 100,000 small and midsize vans will be added to the U.S. market."

Kirk Bell is a freelance writer.

transportation@tribpub.com

Outlook

Projections vary for the future of the small-van class. Ram watched the segment grow from about 25,000 units in 2010 and projects six figures this year. "It's a growing opportunity. It's a 100,000-unit segment," said Ram's Hegbloom. Other brands are projecting more conservative figures in the 70,000 range.

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The 15th hole proved flummoxing during the second round of last week's U.S. Junior Amateur golf tournament. Indeed, it marked the second-hardest hole of the day, with players averaging 4.564 strokes on the par 4. The 50 bogies it produced tied for second.

Orion Yamat, a 2015 Maine East graduate, began the hole at 1 over at the Colleton River Plantation Club in Bluffton, S.C., with seven birdies, six bogies and a double bogey through 32 holes.

His tee shot on the 15th landed in the rough. "Nothing major," Yamat said.

His approach shot was a different story.

"It absolutely sailed over the green and there is a hazard back there that I wasn't aware of," said Yamat, a Niles resident. "It was probably one of the biggest mistakes I made."

His drop wasn't much better — with the tall grass behind him leaving him bereft of a backswing.

"I look back at it now and laugh, but at that time, I really wasn't thinking through," Yamat said. "I was kind of rattled."

He finished with a quadruple bogey, but notched par on the final three holes to advance to match play, where he lost 1 up to Joshua Sedeno of Riverside, Calif., in the Round of 64.

The quadruple bogey surprised Tony Montesano, Yamat's coach at Maine East, who couldn't recall Yamat ever producing worse than a double bogey. His recovery didn't surprise Montesano, who recalled him doing the same at the 2014 Class 3A state tournament.

"He knows he can recover from any situation," Montesano said.

With Yamat trailing Hinsdale Central junior Kenneth Li by three strokes with five holes to play, Montesano told him to go for gold. When Yamat's bogey and Li's eagle left Yamat trailing by six, they decided to focus on second place. Yamat locked up runner-up status with par on the final four holes.

"I don't know that anyone was going to beat that Kenneth Li that weekend," Montesano said. "Orion was as steady as he always has been."

Yamat's performance in South Carolina also drew praise from Kyle Stefan, who will coach Yamat this year at Loyola of Chicago.

"Orion played a very solid first round in stroke play and battled some adversity and weather delays in round two to qualify for match play," Stefan said in a statement. "It's very exciting to have current and future Ramblers as part of this field, the best junior golf event in the United States, on a tough golf course."

While the field was impressive, the new course was equally valuable.

That's one of the key areas where high school and collegiate golf differ.

At Maine East, Yamat and his teammates didn't venture very far. They saw a lot of the Bob Roy Golf Course in Prospect Heights. There were events in Glencoe, Morton Grove, Northbrook, Park Ridge, Highland Park and a couple of trips to White Pines by Chicago O'Hare International Airport.

At Loyola, Yamat and his teammates will actually make use of an airport. The Ramblers hit eight states last year, including North Carolina, Ohio, Texas, Virginia and West Virginia.

The tournament in South Carolina, which ran from Monday, July 20-Saturday, July 25, gave a little glimpse of what's to come, as Yamat had to adjust to the Bermuda grass and Zoysia grass native to warmer climates.

"Being down in the South, the grass is totally different," Yamat said.

"Down there, they have Bermuda greens, Bermuda fairways. It is totally different texture, different reactions. ... It was definitely a great experience for me overall to try different grass types and see how I'm able to adapt and not just play one type of course every time."

While Sedeno bested Yamat by six strokes in stroke play, the two were nearly even in match play. No player ever led by more than a hole.

"I can't say it was a total loss," Yamat said. "It was definitely a positive to know that I was up there and I competed with him. It's not like he absolutely destroyed me."

Sedeno managed par or better on the first 11 holes, keeping the pressure on Yamat — but Yamat didn't bend.

Back and forth, Sedeno and Yamat went. Yamat took the lead on the second hole. Sedeno fought back with wins on the third and fourth holes. Yamat knotted the score on the fifth hole.

Sedeno took another advantage on the eighth hole, a lead that lasted through the 14th hole. His birdie on 16 proved the match-winner.

"It was a great match," Yamat said. "It was very competitive. We both played some great golf."

It was also great preparation, given the schedule the Ramblers play. Take last year's Middleburg Bank Intercollegiate, where Loyola faced Penn State, 70th in Golfweek's rankings; Missouri, 73rd; and Maryland, 77th.

"This is the first time I've experienced a field as prestigious as this," Yamat said.

"I think the experience overall was just absolutely phenomenal."

Jonah L. Rosenblum is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Christopher Nichol stands on the podium after earning a silver medal in the 100-meter backstroke at the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles when he earned a silver medal in the 100-meter backstroke at the Special Olympics Illinois World Games on July 26.

Nichol captures silver medal in 100-meter backstroke

BY RYAN NILSSON
Pioneer Press

Christopher Nichol, who trains at the Leaning Tower YMCA in Niles, became the first Illinois athlete to medal at the 2015 Special Olympics World Summer Games in Los Angeles when he earned a silver medal in the 100-meter backstroke.

Nichol finished in 1 minute, 44.13 seconds on Sunday, July 26. He finished second to John Michalek (1:41.68) in Division M5.

Nichol is scheduled to swim in both the 200 backstroke and 100 butterfly on Thursday, July 30.

A 2014 graduate of Notre Dame College Prep, Nichol lives in Chicago's Edgebrook/Wildwood neighborhood. He is one of 15 Special Olympics Illinois athletes competing at the games.

Jonah L. Rosenblum is a freelancer reporter for Pioneer Press.

Broken arm can't stop Ferri en route to UW-Milwaukee

BY JONAH L.
ROSENBLUM
Pioneer Press

Michael Ferri was having the kind of spring that baseball players dream about as a Notre Dame senior.

The Wisconsin-Milwaukee-bound Ferri posted career highs in batting average (.322), on-base percentage (.422) and slugging percentage (.533) in 31 games before breaking his left arm.

Ferri, a Norridge resident, said the injury occurred when he hit a grounder to shortstop against Marian Catholic on May 16. The first baseman reached into the line to snare the throw and Ferri barreled into his hip.

The Dons missed him. Ferri pitched a scoreless inning in their 2-4 Class 4A regional final loss to Loyola on June 1, but wasn't able to hit.

"He was really kind of our emotional leader so losing him definitely had an impact on the guys and kind of took the wind out of our sails a little bit there at the end," coach Nelson Gord said.

Ferri said he's back to 100 percent, lifting weights and playing baseball.

"I really never had any problems even when I started my comeback," Ferri said. "Once I felt I was fine to go, I was just gone."

Ferri was out six weeks. He didn't need surgery and kept playing catch, broken arm and all.

"I probably tried to come back a little sooner than I should have," Ferri said. "I wanted to be out there so bad. I'm not the type of guy that keeps sitting around, not doing anything."

Gord used the words "dirt-eater," "fiery" and "grinder" to describe the kind of player the Panthers are getting. Indispensable might be equally appropriate.

Milwaukee coach Scott Doffek had similar praise when Ferri signed his National Letter of Intent in 2014.

"Michael is a hard-nosed player that loves to compete," Doffek said in a press release. "He has [a] low-maintenance swing, which I think will project with some added strength. His body control and first-step quickness make him an asset in the middle infield. This kid is a grinder with plus makeup."

Ferri is primarily known as a middle infielder, but he also caught in high school and can play all three outfield positions, according to Gord. Then, of course, there was the L21 ERA, 0.98 WHIP and 24 strikeouts he posted in 171 innings in 2015.

"Mike's biggest attribute is his versatility. He knows how to play the game," Gord said. "You're not going to lose anything anywhere you put him on the field."

In Ferri's case, one result of knowing how to play the game was he had success stealing bases. Gord said Ferri, like many high school base-stealers, simply gained confidence as he aged. Ferri noted learning how to read pitchers and a sizable increase in his speed.

The result was clear: 14 stolen bases in 15 tries in 2015.

"Everything comes down to reading the hitter and the types of swings that they're taking," Ferri said. "I've adjusted myself to where I anticipate [where] the ball is going to go."

"Everything comes down to reading the hitter and the types of swings that they're taking," Ferri said. "I've adjusted myself to where I anticipate [where] the ball is going to go."

Jonah L. Rosenblum is a freelancer reporter for Pioneer Press.
Notre Dame struggles, eliminated from state tourney

BY Matthew Paras
Pioneer Press

Following the conclusion of the high school baseball season, Notre Dame coach Nelson Gord said the No. 1 priority was to fix the Dons’ hitting. Gord felt his team left too many runners on base during the season.

When summer play ended for the Dons on Tuesday, July 21, following a 10-1 loss to Lincoln-Way North and a 3-0 loss to Marist in an elimination game at the Phil Lawler Summer Classic, Notre Dame still had strides to make in that regard. The Dons left a combined 19 runners on base - eight in the first game and 11 in the second - as they were eliminated from the summer baseball state tournament at North Central College in Naperville.

"I thought whenever you have 120 teams or whatever it is and you finish in the top six, it says a lot," Gord said. "I'm proud of the way the guys competed ... [Hitting] is always an uphill battle. When you're winning, it always comes easy. When you're on the wrong side of it, that tends to be the Achilles' heel.

"But when it comes down to it, it's not a mechanics thing or having to fix a guy's batting stance. It's heart. A lot of the times we have to have a better plan and step up in those key spots. We just have to buckle down and get those runs across."

In both games, the Dons (23-8) left the bases loaded and couldn't score. In the game against Marist, Notre Dame came out strong, but left runners at first and third in the first inning and then left the bases loaded in the second.

Marist, meanwhile, scored runs in the first, third and fourth innings to average a loss to Notre Dame on Monday, July 20, in the opening round of the tournament. The RedHawks enjoyed strong games from pitcher Shane Brannigan and first baseman John Carmody (2-for-3, two RBIs).

"We weren't really happy with how [Monday's] game ended, so obviously we wanted another crack," Carmody said. "Shane got out there and threw strikes early and often, and put it in play. We have an outfield that runs the ball down and an infield that can field the ground ball and make the play."

Gord said he noticed his team started to become discouraged when first baseman Scott Kutschke, a senior-to-be, exited the game in the bottom of the fourth after a Marist runner stepped on Kutschke's right hand and cut it.

"I think it was more mentally on us," Notre Dame senior-to-be Sam Ferri said. "I feel like we should have won that game. Everyone on the team feels like we should have won that game. It just didn't happen that way."

In the first game, Lincoln-Way North hammered the Dons, scoring 10 runs on 15 hits. Notre Dame's bats went quiet, registering just four hits and leaving the bases loaded in the first.

After the loss to Marist, Gord gave a lengthy exit talk to his team.

Gord said the message was to build upon the success and make Notre Dame baseball the priority. He added Notre Dame faced similar problems as other teams with players missing for either travel baseball or other sports.

"You can go and do other things, I support that," Gord said. "But you only get one chance to play high school baseball. Those are the guys you are going to remember for years."

Matthew Paras is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Lincoln-Way North’s Pat Troike slides past the tag attempt of Notre Dame catcher Sam Ferri to score in the third inning on Tuesday, July 21. Lincoln-Way North won the game 10-1 at the Phil Lawler Summer Classic.

OUT OF REACH

Notre Dame falls to Lincoln-Way North, Marist at summer baseball state tourney. Page 38
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