Rand Paul stops in Niles

Presidential candidate makes a visit to talk taxes, government. Page 4

Presidential candidate Rand Paul exits the stage after speaking during a rally at Royal Bath and Kitchen Cabinets in Niles on Aug. 1.

Niles gun shop permit extended
Area residents opposed to the permit spoke at the Village Board meeting. Page 6

World-class players
The Chicago Red Stars are attracting families looking for inexpensive entertainment and pro-level women's soccer. Page 43

Planning a picnic
Make any summer picnic more fun with tips and activities—plus recipes—from Mommy on a Shoestring. Inside
SHOUT OUT

Gayle Weinhouse, parade volunteer

Gayle Weinhouse is a key member of Skokie's Fourth of July Parade Committee, which recently completed a successful and well-attended event in downtown Skokie. Although a Chicago resident, she has regularly contributed to Skokie projects. The Skokie Review recently caught up with her for a series of questions.

Q: What do you or did you do for a living?
A: A writer and editor and developer of conferences and events. The title "Special Projects" seemed to follow me around for much of my career.

Q: Where did you grow up?
A: Rogers Park, on Chicago's North Side.

Q: Where did you spend most of your time in Skokie?
A: I've never been a Skokie resident, but Old Orchard was a second home for quite some time. I currently live in Chicago's Lakeview area.

Q: Do you have any pets?
A: None currently, but I'm an absolute dog lover.

Q: What book are you currently reading, and what book would you like to read next?
A: I'm currently reading "The Art of Social War" by Jodi Wing, and I am making way for "The Power of Your Subconscious Mind" by Joseph Murphy.

Q: What's your favorite charity?
A: I was a longtime board member of Variety Club Children's Charities.

Q: Is there a movie you'd recommend?
A: "Chef" and, because of my love of music — "Whiplash." I haven't seen it yet, but "Love & Mercy" is next on my list.

Q: As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?
A: A teacher. I taught four years on the city's South Side.

Q: What's your favorite charity?
A: I was a longtime board member of Variety Club Children's Charities.

Q: What's your favorite charity?
A: I was a longtime board member of Variety Club Children's Charities.

Q: What was your first job?
A: I'm currently reading "The Art of Social War" by Jodi Wing, and I am making way for "The Power of Your Subconscious Mind" by Joseph Murphy.

Q: What was your first job?
A: A Lerner Home Newspapers circulation and editorial department.

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Paul pushes ‘economic freedom zones’ in Niles

BY LAUREN ZUMBA
Chicago Tribune

U.S. Sen. Rand Paul opened a Niles campaign stop Saturday with a call to cut taxes and shrink government.

“Why are businesses relocating overseas? Because our taxes are too damn high,” said Paul, speaking at a rally and book signing at the Royal Kitchen and Bath Cabinets warehouse. He said he'd scrap the current tax code for a single-rate system while eliminating the payroll tax entirely.

The libertarian-leaning senator from Kentucky - vowing his campaign's long-term goal “is not just the primary, our long-term goal is Hillary Clinton” - said Republicans will need to court African-American voters to win the general election in 2016.

Part of his plan, he said, is a tax-cutting program for businesses in low-income areas that are growing and creating jobs, which he pitched during a May campaign stop on Chicago’s South Side. “What I want to do is...not take your money and send it back, but leave it in the community and never take it to begin with.”

His call for smaller government included cuts to spending, a less powerful presidency and limits on government surveillance. “Let’s collect more records of terrorists and less records of innocent Americans.” He also called for reductions in prison sentences, particularly for those convicted of nonviolent drug crimes.

Paul's appearance in the northwest suburb, which drew a crowd of roughly 300, was organized by the Republicans of Maine Township, said Committeeman Char Foss-Eggemann. The group has invited all Republican presidential hopefuls to meet with local voters, and Paul is the only candidate to take the group up on the offer, Foss-Eggemann said.

Paul is polling well enough that he is expected to be included in Thursday's Republican candidate debate, to be hosted by Fox News. The Ohio debate is limited to the 10 candidates leading in the polls. Paul said he thinks the crowded field will boost his campaign. “It’s easy for me to be a different kind of Republican.”

Jan Bach, 58, of Park Ridge, said she's a longtime Paul supporter who liked what he said about limiting government. "I just wish there had been more people there," she said.

Others, like Phil Oenning, 65, of Park Ridge, said they're undecided and wanted to get a closer look at one of the contenders. "No one's really said anything yet," he said of the GOP candidates. "It will be interesting to see what happens (at the debate)."

lzumbach@tribpub.com
School supply drive provides 'proper tools' for education

BY ALICIA RAMIREZ
Pioneer Press

August has begun, and with it the promise of a new school year, filled with new folders, pencils, backpacks and everything else a child needs to excel in the classroom.

For many families, buying school supplies can put a strain on already tight budgets, which is why Fred Braun, street superintendent for the Niles Public Services Department, decided to hold a school supply drive Aug. 1 at Jewel-Osco, 8730 Dempster St. in Niles.

“We were trying to think of ways that we could give back to the community that haven’t been done already,” he said. “We hadn’t heard of anyone doing a school supply drive and kids need the proper supplies so they can get a proper education so they can become better adults, so we said let’s put together a school supply drive.”

By coordinating with the Family Services Department and the local school districts, Braun and his team – Tony Dety, village forester, and Jack Grana, utilities superintendent – came up with a list of school supplies that were most in demand and put their plan into action Aug. 1.

“We’ve been standing out here since 8 a.m. distributing fliers as people walk in the stores,” Braun said. “We’ve filled carts over and over and put them in the truck, so I’d guess we have over 100 shopping bags.”

By noon, the front seat of the public services truck was filled and bags were being put into Braun’s and Grana’s vehicles to be taken to Mark Twain School first thing Aug. 3.

“I was raised by a mom who was a retired public school teacher from the Niles schools, my sister also used to teach in the Niles school district and I know the value of a good education and how important it is to have the proper tools to get that education,” Braun said. “The employees with the village of Niles are blessed and we have some things that people can’t afford, so we figured this is one way that we can give back to people in the community who we serve.”

For Dety, being able to do something that will immediately affect the lives of local children and help out their families was great.

“I think it’s nice to give back to the community and help out families who need a little extra help, especially with the expense of school for kids,” he said. “It makes me feel good to know that kids are going to have everything they need for school and not feel like they’re getting the short end of the stick.”

As a father, Dety knows the cost of school supplies quickly add up, especially if there is more than one child in the home.

“You see all of the kids at school when you drop your kids off and you see some of them who don’t have everything they need and now I know that at least we did something” he said. “A lot of people have four or five children who they have to send to school and it all adds up. It’s a big expense.”

Along with the supplies collected Aug. 1, a donation of 50 backpacks filled with school supplies was given to family services to help those in need.

Alicia Ramirez is a freelancer for Pioneer Press.
Amended lawsuit adds new defendant, specifies alleged threats to community

BY LEE V. GAINEs
Pioneer Press

An amended lawsuit against the village of Niles and the company that plans to open a gun shop and range in the village was filed July 27 by a Skokie-based gun control advocacy group that aims to prevent the facility from locating within five miles of several schools.

The initial lawsuit, filed last October by the advocacy group People for a Safer Society, sought to annul a special-use permit approved last July by the Niles Village Board that would allow for the sale of firearms, an indoor firing range and gun safety training at a yet to be built facility at 6143 Howard St., in addition to preventing any such facility from opening up shop on that parcel of land in the future.

The group's lawsuit, as previously reported by Pioneer Press, was dismissed without prejudice in June by Circuit Court of Cook County Judge Franklin Ulyses Valderrama.

To address the concerns outlined by Valderrama in his June ruling on the matter, Tony Hind, an attorney for the group, said the amended suit names the 6143 Howard Partners, the company that plans to open the gun shop and range dubbed Sportsman's Club and Firearms Training, as a defendant alongside the village of Niles.

Hind said the new suit also lays out specific alleged damages that would result from the existence of such a facility in addition to outlining the harm the gun shop and range would pose to the general public.

For example, the suit alleges that People for a Safer Society member, NewHope Academy, a school for students with emotional disabilities that is located about 600 feet away from the site of the yet-to-be-built gun shop and range, will suffer a decline in enrollment if the Sportsman's Club and Firearms Training is allowed to open up shop. The suit also alleges that the existence of the gun shop and range will endanger the current and prospective student body at the school.

As a result, the suit claims that NewHope abandoned a plan to upgrade to a larger facility within its current location and is now planning to leave the building altogether.

In addition to NewHope, the gun shop and range, if built, would also be within a mile from District 219's Niles West High School and Niles Central in Skokie, as well as several other schools.

Hind said additional parties have expressed an interest in signing on to the lawsuit. If that happens, a motion will be required to have them added and a third iteration of the suit filed.

"If that doesn't happen, I'd anticipate we'd be facing yet another motion to dismiss from the village and the applicant or property owner now named as a defendant," he said.

Mike Connelly, an attorney for the village, said he expects that the lawsuit filed Monday will likely be amended once again.

"But if the current suit stands, Connelly said he doesn't believe it will "survive a motion to dismiss." People for a Safer Society founder, Denysse Stoneback, said at a Village Board meeting July 28 that she believes her group has a "strong case."

Stoneback and other supporters at the meeting urged the board to deny a six-month extension to the special-use permit for the gun shop and range. The board ultimately voted 5-1 to approve the extension.

Like Stoneback, Hind said he's confident that the advocacy group's case is a solid one.

"I think we have a legally valid challenge, and I think it's properly stated," he said.

Lee V. Gaines is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Police crack down on rule-breaking cyclists

BY KAREN BERKOWITZ
Pioneer Press

Bicyclists Jason Ziomek and Michael Bailey had never met before July 28, but their paths crossed while they were completing their cycling regimens.

Almost simultaneously, the two cyclists breezed through a stop sign at a Highland Park intersection where Sgt. Chris O’Neill was specifically watching out for violations.

They had just circled the Fort Sheridan loop and were traveling south — Ziomek heading back to Wilmette, Bailey to Evanston — when O’Neill saw them travel through a stop sign at Patten and Whistler roads.

O’Neill activated his siren, pulled the cyclists over and asked to see their driver’s licenses. After reminding the cyclists that Illinois law requires a complete stop and driver behavior is unpredictable, O’Neill issued both men traffic warnings. The warnings allow violators to avoid a ticket if they take an online quiz on bicycle safety from the League of Illinois Bicyclists within 30 days. Otherwise, the warning turns into a $120 traffic ticket and could require an appearance in court.

“To be honest, I would say that a lot of cyclists, probably the majority, would not have stopped,” confessed Bailey, 58, who was in the middle of a 20-minute interval of fast cycling when he went through the sign. “I definitely looked both ways, because I didn’t want to get hit by a car, but I did not slow down.”

Ziomek said stopping at every stop sign is a pain on a bike because it causes you to lose momentum.

“That’s the hardest thing on a bike, getting back up to your speed,” he said. “I understand the laws and I understand that I should come to a complete stop.”

O’Neill’s focus on stop sign violators along popular cycling routes was part of a 10-day enforcement and education campaign that runs through Aug. 2. The campaign is a joint effort by police in Highland Park, Deerfield, Lake Forest, Highwood and Bannockburn. In Highland Park, two patrol officers were assigned to bicycle enforcement during the campaign, and two officers on bicycles are watching for violations in the downtown district.

“A lot of the complaints are about bicyclists disobeying stop signs and red lights, or failing to yield to pedestrians in marked crosswalks,” said O’Neill.

Another common complaint is about large groups of bicyclists who ride more than two abreast in violation of state law, he said.

“People complain that they’re treating the road as if it’s their own racing course,” O’Neill said.

He said it made sense to collaborate with neighboring departments since bicyclists tend to travel through multiple communities.

“We are trying to make it consistent, because a lot of times we are dealing with the same riders,” O’Neill said. Otherwise, “they might go unchallenged in one community, and get stopped in another.”

Highland Park resident Christine Spore said she was happy to see police officers enforcing bicycling violations on Patten Road in her neighborhood.

“This is a military neighborhood and there are hundreds of children living here,” Spore said. “When the police aren’t here, the bicyclists don’t care. Sometimes they don’t care even when the police are here.”

Bailey, the Wilmette cyclist, said he’d been hit by cars twice while bicycling and both times had to go to the hospital.

“Both times, the driver turned in front of me. In neither case was it my fault,” Bailey said, adding, “I have never caused a wreck.”

Ultimately, he said, drivers can inflict much greater harm on cyclists than the other way around.

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**Local Coverage**

Highland Park police Sgt. Chris O’Neill, right, speaks with bicyclist Tony Pixton, 36, of Highland Park, July 28, after Pixton was pulled over for not stopping at a stop sign.

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**Contact**

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The following items were taken from Niles and Skokie police department reports. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt.

**Niles**

**RETAIL THEFT**
- Bonifacio Hilario, 34, of the 700 block of 19th Place, Chicago, was charged with retail theft on July 23 after he allegedly stole $189 in merchandise from a store.
- A 15-year-old Skokie teenager was charged with retail theft on July 22 from a store.
- A 23-year-old Skokie resident was charged with retail theft on July 23.
- A 22-year-old Skokie resident was charged with retail theft on July 21.

**THEFT**
- Michael R. Lopez, 29, of the 3600 block of West Ainslie, Chicago, was charged with theft.
- A 23-year-old Skokie resident was charged with theft.
- A 36-year-old Skokie resident was charged with theft.

**BURGLARY**
- A man told police that his $10,000 worth of coins were stolen.
- A pair of sunglasses were stolen.
- A pair of shoes were stolen.

**DRUGS**
- A 35-year-old Skokie resident was charged with possession of controlled substance.
- A 34-year-old Skokie resident was charged with possession of controlled substance.

**DUI**
- A 34-year-old Skokie resident was charged with driving under the influence.
- A 23-year-old Skokie resident was charged with driving under the influence.

**Skokie**

**ROBBERY**
- A purse was stolen.
- A bicycle was stolen.
- A pair of Ray-Ban sunglasses was stolen.

**THEFT**
- A 34-year-old Skokie resident was charged with theft.
- A 15-year-old Skokie resident was charged with theft.
- A 24-year-old Skokie resident was charged with theft.

**BURGLARY**
- Electronics were stolen.

**WARRANT**
- A 23-year-old Skokie resident was charged with an outstanding warrant.
- A 36-year-old Skokie resident was charged with an outstanding warrant.

**DRUGS**
- A 22-year-old Skokie resident was charged with possession of controlled substance.
- A 40-year-old Skokie resident was charged with possession of controlled substance.

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Chicago issues plan to cut O'Hare noise

BY JON HILKEVITCH
Chicago Tribune

The Emanuel administration on July 31 proposed an experiment at O'Hare International Airport to rotate the runways used late at night, possibly on a weekly basis, to spread out jet noise, the city's aviation chief told the Chicago Tribune.

In addition, the Chicago Department of Aviation will seek a change in federal rules so government funding could be used to replace or supplement the soundproofing on about 200 previously insulated homes closest to the airfield, Commissioner Ginger Evans said. Using public funds for re-insulation work is not permitted under the existing "once and done" rules, officials said.

The two proposals are part of the first detailed report by the city to mitigate aircraft noise caused by major changes in flight patterns at O'Hare almost two years ago.

The action plan outlines the strategy Evans said have "a high chance of success" in dealing with the noise nuisance but also flatly rules out many other ideas offered by community groups that she said would compromise safety, hamper efficient operations or curtail O'Hare's growth.

The city's proposals still need to be evaluated and approved by a local noise commission and the Federal Aviation Administration.

Her decision to tightly focus noise improvements on nighttime flights and on residential areas near the airport probably will be met with criticism, in part because some of the public outrage over O'Hare expansion involves the seemingly incessant flights throughout the day and noise miles away from the airport.

Proposals officially off the table include:
- Keeping open all of O'Hare's existing runways
- Imposing mandatory "fly quiet" rules regulating flight procedures during the overnight hours
- Regularly shifting runway-usage patterns over the course of each day to prevent jet noise from saturating some areas.

The action plan is supported by the city's Modernization Program, which is slated to end in 2019, and the new law "has no short-term impact" on O'Hare's airfield plans, a city aviation spokesperson said.

Evans said her department will work with the FAA to possibly re-insulate homes closest to the airfield, Commissioner Ginger Evans said. Using public funds for re-insulation work is not permitted under the existing "once and done" rules, officials said.

"You pick a pair. Then you pick a different pair," a week later, Evans said. "That's a lot of options. That's a lot of spreading (flights)."

Evans said officials realize that ongoing noise mitigation programs do not provide relief for everybody affected by airport noise.

Evans said she was unaware until meeting with Bensenville Village President Frank Soto, that residents were being asked to move around their neighborhoods to experience the noise firsthand.

"I had no idea we had residents that are 3,000 feet from the runway," Evans said. "We walked and drove around that neighborhood listening to the aircraft. That's an area of very high impact.

Evans' CDA said her department will work with the FAA to possibly re-insulate homes in areas where the day-night average is 70 decibels or higher.

Rotating runways

The Chicago Department of Aviation released several proposed concepts designed to mitigate noise - especially during the night. One of these proposals suggests dedicated runways for arrivals and departures for days or weeks, then rotating operations to distribute noise in the surrounding areas.

HOW IT COULD WORK

1. One runway is chosen for departures and another for arrivals.

![Arrivals Diagram](http://goo.gl/rtwgKg)

2. To distribute the noise, another pair of runways is used - one for departures and one for arrivals.

![Departures Diagram](http://goo.gl/rtwgKg)

3. Many options are possible. Runways are chosen by the CDA, air traffic control and prevailing winds.

Each runway will probably need a designated alternative to allow for construction, snow removal, runway maintenance and other operational needs.

Sources: Federal Aviation Administration, Chicago Department of Aviation
ILLINOIS municipalities, like Morton Grove, that host video gambling in bars and restaurants won't get their cut of profits from the machines until the state budget is in place, Gov. Bruce Rauner's office announced Aug. 3.

Morton Grove is prepared for the loss of $15,000 a month according to Village Administrator Pro Tem Tom Friel.

Friel said there has been a heightened vigilance around expenditures since the budgetary impasse began.

"Prior to this we had directed our department heads to utilize increased scrutiny and judgment regarding non-mission critical discretionary expenditures," he said. "But we're not going to compromise our safety responses and other critical expenditures."

Friel said that while the $15,000 a month received from video gambling had been factored into the current fiscal budget, it's not uncommon for budgets to change. "We approximate what we think we'll bring in, but these things change sometimes," Friel said.

More than a month into the new fiscal year, the deadlock between Rauner and state lawmakers means Illinois still has no state budget.

The Republican governor and Democrats in the state legislature have been at a budget impasse for weeks. And the state doesn't have the authority to distribute video gambling profits to municipalities across Illinois without a balanced budget, Rauner spokeswoman Catherine Kelly said in a statement.

A spokeswoman for Illinois Comptroller Leslie Munger said attorneys in her office are looking into the video gambling issue.

Without a state budget in place, Illinois isn't able to pay many of its new bills. However, there are some exceptions.

The statement from Rauner's office indicates his belief that video gambling payments won't be among those exceptions.

In the statement, the governor's camp places the blame for the state's inability to pass a balanced budget on "(House Speaker Michael) Madigan and the legislators he controls."

Madigan said he believes Rauner caused the budget holdup, and he argues that the governor could've avoided a partial state shutdown by making changes to the budget that Democratic lawmakers sent to him in May and leaving the rest alone.

"The person who had the singular authority to avoid all this was Gov. Rauner," Madigan spokesman Steve Brown said.

It's unclear how the delayed payments for video gambling will affect municipalities, but the financial hardships could vary widely.
Italian festival moves to Niles on 115th anniversary

BY PAM DEFIGLIO

A legend from the 1600s, an old-world curiosity called the "Flight of the Angels" and a rich part of Chicago's Italian-American history are coming to Niles on Labor Day weekend.

The Maria Santissima Lauretana festival is moving from Berwyn, where it has been held for more than 20 years, to Niles. It will take place from Sept. 4-7 with Italian food, live music, concerts, religious processions, outdoor Masses and more, on Church Street just east of Greenwood.

"The people of Berwyn were very gracious to us, but our members on the Northside complained it was too far, so we moved it back," said Joe Camarda, president of the Maria Santissima Lauretana Society of Altavilla Milicia in Chicago. He credited Tom Bondi, a former Niles trustee and a member of the religious society; and Joe LoVerde, executive director of the Niles Park District, with helping the festival move to Niles.

The Lauretana festival, sometimes called a feast, is known to generations of Chicagoland Italian Americans for one distinctive feature, the "Flight of the Angels". This custom, part religious devotion and part entertainment, originated in the narrow streets of southern Italian towns.

In Italy, they would decorate the balconies of homes across the street from one another, put the kids in harnesses onto ropes strung from balcony to balcony across the street, and make them fly like angels, Camarda explained.

In the United States, members of the society assemble a rope and pulley system between two elevated platforms. Two young girls are chosen to be the angels, and they spend weeks memorizing the prayers they will chant. During the festival, each girl climbs up her platform and is fitted into a harness. Society members then use the ropes and pulleys to move the girls toward each other. When they meet in the center, they recite prayers to Mary, known as the mother of God and a sacred and revered figure in Catholicism.

"The purpose of the Flight of the Angels has to do with how the Archangel Gabriel went to tell Mary she was going to bear the son of God," Camarda said.

Assembling the flying apparatus "takes a lot of know-how," Camarda said.

In addition to the Flight of the Angels, the festival will feature Heaven and Iliana Incandela in concert Sept. 5, and the Rat Pack Reprise, a tribute group, will perform Sept. 4. On Sept. 7, the festival will wrap up with Enzo and Iliana Incandela, Tony Soprano and Gino Nuccio.

On Sept. 6, there will be religious processions at 9 a.m. and 3:30 p.m., an outdoor Mass at 1:30 p.m. and Flight of the Angels at 5 and 8 p.m.

Those elements go to the core of the Lauretana society's purpose, which Camarda said is to maintain and expand faith in the Blessed Mother.

"It's our tradition from our hometown [Altavilla Milicia]," he said.

Pam DeFiglio is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Niles Historical Society to serve up fun with ice cream social fundraiser

BY ALICIA RAMIREZ

The dog days of summer have arrived and for many, there is no better way to cool off than enjoying some cold, refreshing ice cream.

Luckily for the people of Niles, that's exactly what the Niles Historical Society will be dishing up during its annual fundraiser Aug. 8 from 12 p.m. to 4 p.m. at the Niles Historical Museum, 8970 N. Milwaukee Ave.

"It is based on the old style ice cream social where people would gather and share," Michael Crisci, Niles Historical and Cultural Center administrative assistant said.

"It's an ice cream social plus pie by Baker's Square," Crisci said.

Food tickets at the event are $2 each with free parking available in the rear lot. Along with the pie and ice cream, there will be hourly tours of the Niles Historical Museum and caricature artists, according to the village website.

This year will also feature a special guest, Ruthie Jager, Miss Illinois 2015.

According to Crisci, the fourth annual event is raising funds for enhancements to the building, including restoration and security costs.

"These events have been pretty good as long as it doesn't get real hot," Crisci said. "We're hoping for between 200 and 400 people. Last year we got 150, so we're trying to get more people involved."

For more information about the Niles Historical Society and Cultural Center, call (847) 390-0160 or email NHS@vnelies.com.

Alicia Ramirez is a freelance writer for Pioneer Press.
Godzilla fans descend on Niles

BY ALICIA RAMIREZ
Pioneer Press

Roughly a dozen fans and interested individuals came out to the inaugural Godzilla Mini-Fest hosted by the Niles Historical Society and Cultural Center Aug. 1.

Fans of the Japanese monster spent the afternoon looking at action figures, listening to a panel and discussing the merits, and foibles, of this cult classic through the years before watching the Kaiju classic, "Godzilla vs. Mothra."

"I feel like Godzilla was very interesting because I've never seen another character kind of go through a transformation like that where it starts off as this one thing, where the original movie was very dark and was a very serious movie," panelist Alex Andrea of Harwood Heights said. "And then, as the series progressed, it turned into essentially kids movies and they kind of hero Godzilla up and I've never seen a character go through that transition before."

While panelist Mark Carter of Niles said the late Ishiro Honda, the creator of Godzilla, thought the campiness of Godzilla movies in the 1970s took away from the character and the original idea, the audience and Andrea disagreed, saying it adds to their affinity for the franchise.

Whether Godzilla is presented as a serious monster, the result of nuclear fallout or a monster battling other giant creatures, such as King Kong, Andrea thought the Godzilla movies acted as a barometer of what was popular in American movie culture. For example, in the film "Godzilla vs. Mechagodzilla," which came out in 1974, the bionic monster was created by a race of war-like humanoid apes, much like those that took over the world in the 1968 American film, "Planet of the Apes."

"That was a theme in a lot of the Godzilla movies. They'll take from other movies," Andrea said. "Especially in the '90s, almost every movie had some sort of influence from an American production."

Movies featuring Superman, Terminator and Indiana Jones have all been influences in Godzilla movies, according to Andrea, with some scenes mimicking their American counterparts almost exactly.

"I guess to just kind of keep Godzilla relevant, because I mean, how much substance is there really? It's a giant monster that fights another monster," he said. "I guess you've kind of got to force it sometimes."

One of those times it was forced, according to both Carter and Andrea, was when Godzilla was put into a movie meant for King Kong.

"The big indicator that it was supposed to be a King Kong movie was that Godzilla has an interest in a girl, which I mean there's this pretty girl and he's just staring at her," Andrea said. "That's not Godzilla. He has other things to do, he has no time for girls."

Campy or not, many of these fans, young and old alike, say they will continue to follow the franchise in whatever direction it takes, from the original films that used six-foot-tall costumes worn by Japanese actors to the current films that use computer-generated imaging.

"To a lot of people, they see this and they don't get it," Andrea said. "But to me, I see people who wanted to make a movie, so they made a movie. It's much more impressive to see all that work on screen - to make all of these things work - than it is to see it come to life on a computer screen."

Alicia Ramirez is a freelancer for Pioneer Press.
For nearly two years, a Cook County-led construction project has forced drivers, local residents and the nearby Lincolnwood School District 74 community to muster up extra patience as crews tore up the roadway and ripped up sidewalks along busy Crawford Avenue.

The total reconstruction of a mile and a half stretch of Crawford from Howard Street in Skokie to Devon Avenue in Lincolnwood is expected to wrap up by the end of this year, according to Andrew Letson, assistant to the Lincolnwood public works director.

The major aspects of the project are scheduled to be completed by the end of August, but crews will continue landscaping and restoring medians and parkways through the fall and spring.

The two-lane traffic pattern that has diverted motorists traveling in both directions to the east side of the street this year will continue through the duration of the project.

A slightly different traffic pattern started Aug. 3, however.

The Lincolnwood Public Works Department announced the closure of the two innermost lanes between Touhy and Wallen avenues starting that day, and the two outermost lanes opened instead.

The four-lane road has been reduced to two traffic lanes during the spring and summer months of 2014 and 2015 while the project continues.

When the new Crawford Avenue reopens this year with four newly-constructed traffic lanes, the road will be lined with new sidewalks and fire hydrants and LED streetlights.

“It’s going to be a brand new road,” Letson said. “The project will wrap up with the installation of the new streetlights along with landscape and restoration work on the median and the sides of the road.”

Crawford is owned by Cook County, and county representatives have been working with the Illinois Department of Transportation and the villages of Lincolnwood and Skokie on plans to reconstruct the roadway for several years.

Since the construction period began in early 2014, drivers have had to navigate new traffic patterns and changing detours periodically set up at various points along Crawford.

Meanwhile, residents living along the construction route dealt with water shut-offs during the installation of the water main and closures of their driveways and some side streets.

Some lawns along Crawford were also torn up during construction while new sidewalks were put in, and Letson said new sodding would likely be put in to the torn-up areas in the fall when temperatures drop.

During the first part of the two-phase project in 2014, the entire east side of Crawford was reconstructed before the project shut down in the winter months and resumed in the spring with the reconstruction of the west side of the road.

Crews have been repeating the work that was completed on the east side of the road since the final project phase began on the west side of Crawford in March.

School District 74, which lies in the heart of the construction zone at Pratt and Crawford avenues — has had to work with ongoing traffic challenges posed by the project.

School officials plan to continue offering free bus service to families this year to reduce traffic volume during pick-up and drop-off times.

In Skokie’s stretch of Crawford, the northbound and southbound traffic lanes from Howard to Oakton streets, and the northbound lanes from Devon Avenue to Howard Street were reconstructed last year.

This year, the southbound lanes from Devon Avenue to Howard are being reconstructed.

Crews are conducting maintenance on the signals at the CTA crossing, along with median work, traffic signal upgrades, new street lighting, and sidewalk and drainage improvements, according to information on the village of Skokie’s website.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Storm leaves downed trees, branches all over the area

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

It didn’t take Mother Nature long to wreak havoc throughout Skokie after a brief but brutally intense thunderstorm whipped through the area after 3 p.m. on Aug. 2.

Following about 20 minutes of pounding rain and pelting hail, Skokie properties and streets were littered with fallen branches and even entire trees. Some streets were temporarily impassable.

At Tripp Avenue near Oakton Street, a fire truck rushed to the scene when a large downed tree branch fell on top of power lines; the quiet Skokie North Shore Sculpture Park looked like a collection ground for kindling after the storm.

The Chicago Tribune reported that one person was killed, three people were seriously injured, and 17 to 20 more were taken to area hospitals when a tent collapsed at the Wood Dale Prairie Fest near Wood Dale Junior High, according to Wood Dale Deputy Police Chief Mike Rivas.

The Tribune also reported the collapse of a dome in northwest suburban Rosemont and the temporary evacuation of the music festival Lollapalooza in Grant Park downtown.

In Skokie, there were no reported serious injuries following the storm, according to the Fire Department. But it appeared as though the Skokie Public Works Department was going to have a busy time picking up tree branches from streets and alleys, sidewalks and parks.

The National Weather Service had issued severe thunderstorm warnings for areas north and west of Chicago earlier in the afternoon, according to the Chicago Tribune.

One warning was issued until 3 p.m. for northern Cook County and northern DuPage County. That storm, moving east at 45 mph with 60 mph wind gusts, and golf-ball sized hail was expected to affect communities like Elgin, Schaumburg, Oak Park, Park Ridge and Evanston and O’Hare International Airport as well as Skokie before moving out over Lake Michigan.

Latrice Moreno cleared away tree debris from her vehicle when the skies quieted after the brief storm.

These tree branches could have fallen on a car, she said. "They could have fallen on someone inside a car or caught outside. If clearing away some tree branches is the worst we got, we should consider ourselves lucky."

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Whole Foods employees welcome shoppers to the store opening at 2748 Green Bay Road in Evanston on July 29.

Third Whole Foods store opens in Evanston

BY BOB SEIDENBERG
Pioneer Press

Evanston resident Kelly Marcelle, a shopper at the Dominick's Finer Foods store at 2748 Green Bay Road before it closed, was one of the many who got her first look on July 29 at the new Whole Foods store that has taken its place.

"The minute I walked in, it just so open and spacious," she said, opening her arms to emphasize the point. "This is amazing."

Marcelle joined hundreds who gathered in the parking lot before the store's Evanston grand opening, one of the many people attracted by the band, coffee truck and gift cards to the first 500 customers.

Whole Foods officials didn't cut a ribbon but instead, according to company tradition, broke chunks off a loaf of bread in what they called a "bread-breaking ceremony" tossing the pieces to the crowd as the store officially opened.

For the city, the event marked the second major supermarket opening officials attended in a week. Evanston officials had gathered the week before to welcome Valli Produce, which opened in another former Dominick's site at Dempster Street and Dodge Avenue in the Evanston Plaza Shopping Center.

Evanston Mayor Elizabeth Tisdahl welcomed Whole Foods, which now has three stores in Evanston, to the newest spot. Whole Foods officials said the most recent location will employ 221 people, 54 of whom live in Evanston.

The new store clocks in at 53,004 square feet. By comparison, Whole Foods' other Evanston stores, are at 24,000 square feet, for 1111 Chicago Ave., and 33,000 square feet at 1640 Chicago.

The largest store has a number of special features, too, including beer and wine bars, a coffee bar and a sandwich station with in-house smoked meats such as brisket, pork and chicken.

Dan Gordon, store team leader, said a juice bar in the location also offers "smoothie bowls," described as thick and creamier smoothies, served with fruit and nut toppings.

Randi Schwartz, a Deerfield resident, and Jasmine Hauser, of Evanston Ald. Jane Grover, 7th, speaks to a crowd at the Whole Foods opening in Evanston.

Wilton, stopped by the wooden wine bar on the first day.

It was too early to order wine, Hauser said, "But we can study the menu." Schwartz said a group on her block already has planned to have an outing there.

The former Dominick's played an important role in residents' lives, said Ald. Jane Grover, 7th, in whose ward the supermarket is located.

She said that after learning of the store's closing in late 2013, neighbors threw a farewell party for Dominick's employees, many of whom they had struck up relationships with over the years.

The new store includes large seating areas and several TVs, which Grover said encourages camaraderie.

She said the store should also benefit other nearby businesses.

Whole Foods announced previously it would feature an exclusive beer brewed by Evanston-based Sketchbook Brewing Co.

"We've partnered with local breweries for the last six stores we've opened in the Chicago area and are always excited to see what new beers the brew masters create," said Mike Kilgore, Whole Foods Market's Midwest associate coordinator for store bar venues.

The store also will participate in Whole Foods efforts such as "Community giving," in which 1 percent of the day's net sales will go toward North Shore-based organizations including the Evanston Public Library, the Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, the Evanston Animal Shelter, the Wilmette Park District and the Winnetka Community House.

Under the company's "One Dime at a Time" program, customers who bring their own bags for shopping have the option of getting 10 cents per bag off their total or they can donate it to the month's selected charity organization.

When Dominick's was in the location, budget shoppers could shop at both Dominick's and the Jewel grocery a few blocks north in Wilmette. Whole Foods, with organic and specialty items, brings a different dimension to the area, but in some cases, also higher prices.

"You'll probably see people shop at both (Whole Foods and Jewel)," said Jeff Smith, a longtime representative of the Central Street Neighbors Association, an active community group in the area. "You figure out which store items you like."

It's not all that different, he said, than on Chicago Avenue right now, where a Jewel, Trader Joe's and Whole Foods operate in close proximity.

"People really want to have a second grocery store," he said.
Boy Scouts move to allow gay leaders is overdue

A few years ago, my son got a job at a Boy Scouts summer camp. When he came home, he shared stories about camp and some of the other adult leaders who served as camp counselors or teachers.

One of them, he told us, was gay, and it wasn’t a big deal. Of course, if he admitted he was gay, it would have been a big deal because, at the time, gay adult leaders were banned from Boy Scouts.

That policy came to a rather quiet end last week when Robert Gates, former U.S. defense secretary and current president of Boy Scouts of America, announced the end to that ban.

Over the years, I’ve seen this issue tear apart local Scouting communities and the local service organizations that fund them. I’ve seen families quit Boy Scouts and join other groups over the issue. And I’ve seen community groups stop funding local Boy Scout troops because of it.

I decided to stay in Scouting with my sons throughout the debate for a couple of reasons. First, I wanted the positive influence Scouting would have on my sons, and second, I thought it best to work to change policy from within. It seems the strategy has worked.

And here’s why I think internal advocacy has had a greater impact than any outside pressure applied by social action groups. The media says the old policy was a ban on adult gay leaders. It never explains a simple fact — if you are a parent or legal guardian of a boy in Scouting, you are an adult leader.

It’s less common for Scouts to have strangers stepping forward, applying for jobs as adult leaders and being screened and interviewed for the jobs.

Although that is a procedure for paid positions, it’s not the case at the individual troop level, where the real interaction between Boy Scouts and adult leaders occurs. Basically, the adult leaders are your local leaders.

And now it is happening.

Over the years, society has changed to the point where it is more and more likely that a boy coming into Scouting might have two moms or two dads. That simple fact under the ban would have put local Scout leaders in the position of denying a mom or dad the opportunity to spend time with their son at meetings, merit badge workshops and camping trips.

I don’t think that was going to happen.

So policy change or not, gay adult leaders was going to happen. There is a need to protect young people from sexual predators and pedophiles. As we have all learned over the years, homosexuality does not equate with pedophilia or other sexual deviation any more than heterosexuality does.

And anyone’s sexual orientation, sex in any shape or form has no place in Scouting. It just isn’t appropriate.

The direction seems to be to an electronic payment-based economy. So policy change or not, gay adult leaders was going to happen.

There is a need to protect young people from sexual predators and pedophiles. As we have all learned over the years, homosexuality does not equate with pedophilia or other sexual deviation any more than heterosexuality does.

And anyone’s sexual orientation, sex in any shape or form has no place in Scouting. It just isn’t appropriate.

The idea that a gay leader might start teaching Scouts about being gay is just nonsense. It’s inappropriate for leaders to talk about sexuality at all.

Finally, adult leaders are offered training in youth protection, so we are on the lookout for behavior, talk and activity that is inappropriate with Scouts.

Scouting is about developing leadership and outdoor skills for boys.

For years, we’ve been teaching boys to treat everyone equally and fairly. And now it is happening.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
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OPINION

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Ditka's son should get jail time

On Mike Ditka's son: I read the item in last week's Buffalo Grove Countryside and am extremely concerned. I guess being the son of a famous father entitles one to certain benefits, including only getting your wrist slapped when being afoul of the law. This concerns me because the younger Mr. Ditka lives in Deerfield and I live in Buffalo Grove. Who knows? On his next DUI he's likely to run into me.

I think the judges are being too kind to Mr. Ditka and should spend some time locked up. But I guess he and “da coach” have some great attorneys.

Roger Gorlicki, Buffalo Grove

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Jack's was like 'home' for customers, employees

Jack's Restaurant on Touhy Avenue, an institution in Skokie for the last 50 years, is closing its doors for good in August.

The employees, the working family of Jack's, have labored here for 20 to 30 years. The customers, Jack's other family, have been eating at the restaurant for generations. The customers know the waitresses, busboys and cooks by name. Jack and George, the father and son owners of Jack's, know their customers.

Jack's has been the go-to place for politicians, actors, gangbangers, ministers, priests and rabbis; for families, kids, for the bride and groom still in their wedding attire. Jack's has been the place to go for a quiet cup of coffee, a sandwich, a bowl of soup, a salad and conversation with someone from the Jack's family who cares, who listens.

Now the end is near. All the customers will have to find a new home, but it won't be the same. The employees will be looking for a new home, too. But none will be the same as that very special place called Jack's.

Kathy Sugars, Skokie
Preventing USPS mishaps

In my last column, I mentioned how I was freaking out because a bunch of my son's bar mitzvah invitations that I handed to a lady at the post office had never gotten to their destinations. I ended up contacting one of the most helpful customer relations coordinators in the corporate communications office for Hargadon, who helped me figure out this mystery.

First, I told my story to a really nice gentleman who asked me a few questions in order to find out what went wrong. "What color were the envelopes, ma'am?" was his first question. "I hope you didn't use blue because that's the hardest color for the computer to read!"

"Um... well, I used this really fabulous, two-toned, muted blue color," I said. "But it was certainly not too dark."

"And how about the ink color?" the man asked. Apparently black or red ink on a blue envelope is also difficult for the computer to read.

I told him I used a cool black. It was also very dense and thick, and was extremely legible. Furthermore, I got the envelope from an incredible company that, I'm sure, wouldn't be using these amazing envelopes if they weren't getting to their destinations.

And, when I handed a huge pile of blue envelopes to an actual person, shouldn't someone have put them in a sort-by-person pile and not the "sort-by-computer" pile?

The post office man put me in touch with Sean Hargadon, a really helpful customer relations coordinator in the corporate communications office for

the post office in order to investigate further and help the readers of this column on any future mailing endeavors.

First, what's the deal with colored envelopes? Should they be avoided and why? "Envelopes in different colors are OK to mail," Hargadon said. "The key thing to remember is that the ink must be legible against the background color of the envelope. That's why it's important to use black ink for printing purposes, so the letters and numbers can be read easily on a different colored background."

Next, are labels read easily by the machine? "Standard white and clear labels can be used on an invitation and can be read by the machine provided the font is legible and the ink reads well," Hargadon said.

And what about the shape of the envelope? "Shape does matter in terms of postage," Hargadon said. "A standard letter envelope is used for many different types of mailings and costs the price of one first-class stamp to mail. Larger sizes and different shaped sizes can affect the price of postage. For those inquiries, customers can go online to usps.com and talk with the retail associates at the local post office about specific details."

Last, Hargadon gave a list of additional invitation tips:

- A well-addressed envelope is important. Did you know mail is sorted on high-speed equipment as fast as 35,000 pieces an hour? The machines "read" the addresses, so it's important to print or write clearly. If there is an apartment number, be sure to include it on the same line as the street address. The last line in the address should include the city, the two-letter abbreviation for the state and the ZIP code.

- Avoid mailing invitations that are bumpy because of thickness or uneven contents. This can jam processing machines and damage the invitation.

- Whether you dress your invitation in a traditional style or use more flamboyant papers and embellished envelopes, take care with the most important accessory — the address. Provide a complete return and delivery address, including apartment number, on each envelope.

- The delivery address should be typed or printed clearly and parallel to the longest side of the letter so the address is legible from an arm's length away.

- The return address must contain the complete address of the sender, including the ZIP code, in the upper left corner of the address side of the envelope. Only one return address may be used, and it must be located so it does not affect either the clarity of the destination address or the application of service labels and notations, such as postmarks.

- Be sure to use first-class postage on all your invitations.

- You can confirm ZIP Codes easily at www.usps.com by clicking on "Find a ZIP Code" on the navigation bar.

Well, although I'll never know exactly what happened to some of those invitations, especially since I did follow all the aforementioned rules, I will definitely make sure my son uses plain, white envelopes for his thank-you cards!

To contact me about future columns or to be on my email list when I take a poll or do a survey, email susandubin@usps.com.

Susan Dubin is a freelance columnist.
Find Yourself @ the Center! | 9 New Shows On Sale Friday at 10am!

Vijay Iyer Trio | Sep 18
Jake Shimabukuro | Oct 14
BritBeat: America's Premier Tribute to The Beatles | Oct 17

NEW!
Indian Ink Theatre Company
The Elephant Wrestler | Oct 21 & 24

Jesse Cook | Oct 22
Christine Ebersole | Big Noise from Winnetka | Oct 24

Béla Fleck & Abigail Washburn | Oct 25

An Evening with Dianne Reeves | Oct 28
Duo Amal: Yaron Kohlberg and Bishara Haroni | Nov 01

Chazz Palminteri | A Bronx Tale | Nov 21

Salt Creek Ballet's The Nutcracker | Dec 12 & 13

NEW!
Elvis Tribute Artist Spectacular | Jan 07

The Capitol Steps | Mock The Vote | Jan 21-24

NEW!
Three Little Birds | A Bob Marley Family Musical | Feb 13

NEW!
Thodos Dance Chicago | Feb 20

NEW!
Lightning Thief | May 07
Top cabaret artists sing the blues

BY DOROTHY ANDRIES
Pioneer Press

Billie Holiday, whose touching voice and tragic life made her a legend of the jazz world, is being honored on the centennial of her birth as part of the Ladies Sing the Blues II concert at the Skokie Theater.

The cabaret-style production initially opened with eight singers at Davenport's Piano Bar on Milwaukee Avenue April 6 and repeated on Holiday's actual birthday April 7. It was so successful that when it was presented at the Skokie Theater June 12, the show was sold out. The Aug. 13 show is an encore, giving Lady Day's fans another chance to remember her. A few of the cast members have changed, bringing new voices to the mix.

The ladies singing the blues in this production will be Amy Armstrong, Elaine Dame, Kimberly Gordon, Jassondra Johnson, Frieda Lee, Liz Mandeville, Tecora Rogers and Jeannie Tanner.

“For me it all starts with the music,” said Daryl Nitz, the show's director. He worked for a year on the production celebrating the singer's 100th birthday year, searching through Holiday's vast repertoire. “She recorded 588 songs, often recording the same song many times during her career. I selected 40 that I thought would work for this show!"

Next came the casting. “People tell me that I am good at matching people to a song, and I think that is true,” he said. “So I offered my list of 40 to some of the finest cabaret singers in town. They told me what they wanted to sing and we finally ended up with 24 songs in the show.”

Tecora Rogers speaks frankly about the reason she is drawn to the show. “It's not only her music,” she said. “It's her life. My sister Juanita was 10 years older than me. She loved to sing and play the piano. She wanted to be a singer, and many things that happened to Billie happened to her. She struggled with drugs, she was taken advantage of, she suffered from racism. She's deceased now. So when I sing Billie's songs, I guess I am really singing about my sister too.”

Elaine Dame will perform Billie holiday's "You're My Thrill" and "The Blues Are Brewin'" for Ladies Sing the Blues II.

Rogers' numbers are "Easy Living" and "Pennies From Heaven."

Rogers' interests are diverse. She heads an 11-member gospel group that she is taking to Russia in the fall while also earning her Ph.D. at DePaul University in African-American religious history and culture. Her goal is to create a program for African-American males ages 10 to 12 years old. "Singing is my joy and I believe we should use our gifts," she said. "But you can get lost in that whole show business thing. I like Billie, like my sister."

Elaine Dame is singing "The Blues Are Brewin'" and "You're My Thrill."

I recorded ‘Thrill’ on my CD ‘Come Love,’ she said, noting that this will be first time she has taken part in this show. "It really is a thrill to work with such great singers."

The Elaine Dame Quintet plays at the Uptown Underground, 4707 N. Broadway from 6 to 8 p.m. Saturday nights, and she will take part in the Chicago Jazz Fest, which runs Sept. 3-6 in the Chicago Cultural Center and Millennium Park.

Jassondra Johnson will sing "Strange Fruit," the haunting song about lynching. "She'll follow it with a Fats Waller medley," Nitz explained. "Ain’t Misbehavin,' I Can't Give You Anything But Love,' and It’s a Sin to Tell a Lie."

Frieda Lee, who has performed in all three shows, will sing "A Fine Romance" and "I've Got My Love to Keep Me Warm," as well as "Tain't Nobody's Business" with Rogers. A choral conductor and vocal coach with the Chicago Public Schools, Lee will guide the singers in the final number, Holiday's own song, "God Bless the Child."

Jeannie Tanner, a well-known Chicago-based jazz singer and composer, also is doing the show for the third time. She will sing Johnny Green's "Body and Soul" as well as "Promise Me the Moon," a song of her own composing. "Billie recorded so many songs with 'moon' in the title," she said. Among them are "Moonlight in Vermont," "What a Little Moonlight Can Do," "Blue Moon," "Moon Glow," and "I Wished on the Moon."

So Daryl asked me if I would compose a song with 'moon' in the title," she continued. "I had a something in the works and that's the one I'll be singing."

Tanner has been a full time musician for the last seven years, including writing music for television. She heads the Jeannie Tanner Quartet, which plays regularly around the Chicago area.

"The people producing 'Ladies Sing the Blues' are really great," Tanner said. "And the acoustics in the Skokie Theatre are fantastic. We love working there."
Take time to be a dad today.

BY BRUCE INGRAM
Pioneer Press

Twelve-year-old rapper MattyB (aka Matthew David Morris) became an overnight sensation five years ago when his debut video, a cover of Justin Bieber's "Eenie Meenie," racked up 500,000 YouTube views within 24 hours.

Since then, the clean-cut, tween-friendly Georgia native has continued to achieve phenomenal success on YouTube, with five million subscribers and more than two billion cumulative views. He has also embarked on a successful concert career, including an upcoming Aug. 9 performance at the North Shore Center for Performing Arts in Skokie.

We caught up with him on the road for a few quick questions about his music, his goals and how he feels about being compared to Bieber.

Q: How long have you been performing?
A: About five years. I've been making videos for five years and performing live shows for two years.

Q: What made you realize you wanted to do this?
A: My cousin Marshall (Manning) was a rapper and I was always asking him to help me make a video. So, finally, he put me on YouTube and it went viral overnight — with half a million views. So, we just kept doing it.

Q: Half a million views overnight?
A: Yes sir, it was just crazy. Because he was a rapper and he'd put me on there just for fun. And it just blew up.

I was really excited because I thought only my family would see my videos and it ended up being more like the whole world did. That was really great.

Q: Do you enjoy recording and performing?
A: Yes, but performing, mainly. That's the best part. I love doing live shows. I love seeing all my fans. They're amazing. I love the energy level when I walk on stage and everyone's screaming. It's just great.

Q: Speaking of that, who do you see as your main audience? Who are you trying to reach?
A: Mainly, it's young girls, but we have all different ages.

Q: What are you trying to achieve with your music? Is it true that one of your goals is presenting a more wholesome image for rap?
A: Yes sir. I've always loved rap music, but a lot of the rap nowadays is really dirty. So a lot of kids my age can't listen to it. I like the idea of keeping it clean so kids my age can listen to good rap.

Q: Do people ever compare you with Justin Bieber, since he also started out very young on YouTube?
A: Yeah, they do a lot. But I think that's good because he started out the same way and now he's really big.

Q: Can you see yourself in the future being in that sort of position, with that sort of fame and all that goes with it? How do you think you'd feel about that?
A: I like the idea of being very well known for the music part. But not the bad part...

Q: You mean with all the trouble he's had and the paparazzi and all that other stuff?
A: Yes. But the music part would be cool.
Here's a look at the latest news on local authors, actors, artists, musicians and more.

Luke's in "Love": La Grange native Luke Michal Grimes is in the cast of The New Colony's world premiere production of Mr. Margaret Svetlove's, "Stanley in the Name of Love." Grimes is an ensemble member with First Floor Theatre and has appeared in shows at Goodman Theatre, Victory Gardens Theatre, Red Orchid Theatre, Writers Theatre and About Face Theatre. Performances run through Aug. 29 at the Den Theatre. For tickets, visit www.thenewcolony.org.

Most wanted: A crime wave hit the Wilmette Theatre stage on Aug. 1 and 2 when students in Actors Training Center's Musical Theatre Intensive presented "Bonnie & Clyde the Musical." The cast included Wilmette residents Lucas Alcantara, Logan Aldrich, Madi Hart, Liam Oh, Reilly Oh, Malina Sayed and Cameron Wise. Evanston residents in the show were Elizabeth Baker, Colleen Dauherthy, Eloise Lushina and Seth Steinberg. Winnetka residents were Frankie Nayman, Gracie Nayman and Faith Steinman. Also performing were Megan Delaney (Western Springs), Sammie Landau (Buffalo Grove), AJ Milianas (Libertyville), Logan Scofield (Oak Park), Jaden Levine (Northbrook), Katherine Melulis (Glencoe), Jacob Simon (Deerfield), Megan Wilcox (Park Ridge) and Isabel Koleno (Lake Forest).

They've got your number: If you're game you can play Bingo, eat dinner and mingle with actors at the interactive dinner-theater show, "We Gotta Bingo" at Chicago Theater Works. It's produced by Bill Collins of Elmwood Park. Cast members include Skokie resident Jane Allyson-D'Arienzo and Michael Tatar of Evanston. For tickets, visit wegottabingo.com.

Here comes a hero: A Latin superhero comes to the rescue in Juan Francisco Villa's "Don Chipotle" being presented by terraNOVA Collective and the Playground Theater, Aug. 25-Sept. 27 at the Storefront Theater. Glenview native Isabel Quintero is on that magical adventure. She has performed with Goodman, Lifeline, Steppenwolf, Victory Gardens, and Teatro Vista. Quintero used to be a DJ on the highest rated Spanish language radio program in Miami-Fl. Lauderdale. Visit tix.com for tickets.

The cast of "Bonnie and Clyde" performs. The show ran at the Wilmette Theatre.

La Grange native Luke Grimes

Killer cast: Libertyville native Michael Joseph Mitchell, Oak Park native Ryan Kitley and Evanston resident Mark Ulrich are three of the four cast members in "Assassination Theatre: Chicago's Role in the Crime of the Century" by Hillel Levin, Aug. 11-Nov. 7, at the Museum of Broadcast Communications. Director Kevin Christopher Fox is an Oak Park resident. The show, based on secrets revealed by retired FBI agents, posits that the Chicago mob killed President John F. Kennedy. For tickets, visit assassinationtheater.com.

Check out Movies in the Parks, Tuesday Family Festivals and Wednesdays on the Green.

Calendar online at SkokieParks.org.

Pack up the kids, blankets and lawn chairs and head to Lorel Park for an evening of free family fun. Movie will begin at sunset.

Thursday, August 13
Sundown at Lorel Park
8135 Lorel Ave.

Go to SkokieParks.org
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Talk to Chicago from your soapbox. If you want to blog, simply pick a topic you're passionate about and send us your pitch. If chosen, you'll join ChicagoNow, a network of hundreds of local bloggers. No worries if you're a newbie — we'll help you build and launch your platform. So get going, the Windy City is listening.

chicagonow.com/pitch

FAMILY FRIENDLY

Exotic animal meet and greet at Niles Library

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Beth Wagner has been connecting kids with exotic animals for over 25 years. You can expect your children to have exciting creature encounters when the owner of Scales & Tales Traveling Zoo visits Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., 2-3 p.m., Aug. 9.

"I sit the children in a circle and I take the animals out one at a time," Wagner said. "Everybody's going to get a chance to touch and hold and even wear animals."

Kids will have some unusual experiences at this library event.

"We're going to bring an anteater you can walk by the tail, an owl that flies, a pig that eats like a vacuum cleaner and chinchillas you can wear," Wagner said.

Several other animals will visit, including a two-toed sloth.

"It's entertaining for all ages," Wagner said. "You get to interact with animals you never get to meet up close."

Pick up free tickets 30 minutes before the program in KidSpace.

For details, call (847) 663-1234 or go to www.nileslibrary.org.

Here come the sharks

Your kids, ages 3-12, can join a Shark Week Celebration, 4-4:45 p.m., Aug. 10-Aug. 14 at Eisenhower Public Library, 4613 N. Oketo Ave., Harwood Heights. They can drop-in any of those days to do shark-themed crafts and play shark-themed games.

For details, call (708) 867-7828 or go to www.eisenhowerlibrary.org.

Moving music

The Great Chicago Kiddie Express Train Company will take kids on trackless train rides at Oak Park, Lee and Ottawa in Niles, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Aug. 7. Meanwhile, the Juke Box Band will play pop tunes, classic rock, blues, country and jazz. Food will be available for purchase.

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

Get your money's worth

Bring your old coins and paper money to the World's Fair of Money, Aug. 11-Aug. 15 at the Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road, Rosemont. Your family will see such treasures as a rare nickel that is worth $2.5 million. Admission is $6 for adults; free for children 12 and under. There is complimentary admission for everyone on Free Appraisal Day, Saturday.

For details, go to www.money.org/worldsfairofmoney.

On your mark...

School starts soon so get your first-timers prepared at Get Ready, Get Set...Kindergarten! 1-2 p.m., Aug. 12 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. There will be stories and games and a surprise guest. Kids must be accompanied by a grownup.

For details, call (847) 673-7774 or go to www.skokielibrary.info.
Pack a basket of picnic fun

Make your own portable games, snacks with Mommy on a Shoestring. Page 3
Apples to apples
Baker shares her award-winning pie recipe

By Judy Buchenot
Naperville Sun

There are not too many people who can say they grew up on a farm, but there are even fewer who can say they grew up in the middle of an apple orchard like Naperville resident Kay Slocumb.

"The whole time I was growing up, we had lots of apples," Slocumb said. The farm was northwest of Schererville, Indiana, and offered both picked and picked-your-own apples. Slocumb recalled working in the orchard with her two brothers. "We picked apples for other people, and we also picked up apples that had blown out of the tree to make apple cider," she said. "We grew all different varieties."

As one might expect, the family enjoyed gallons of apple cider, dozens of apple pies and many other apple dishes. "My mother [Esther Hilbrich] was a terrific baker and my dad liked his desserts, and we had plenty of apples," Slocumb said.

So when Slocumb heard that the Naperville Heritage Society was looking for contestants for the apple pie contest during the annual Hometown Picnic last year, she decided to enter.

"I broke my foot last Fourth of July so, I couldn't golf," said Slocumb, who started golfing when she was a child on the farm. "So to keep busy, I decided I would make a pie."

Slocumb based her pie on a recipe she found in a pie and pastry cookbook that she got as a gift for others to try as apples. There should be some for juice, some for texture and some for flavor."
She hand flutes her crust by placing two fingers on the rim of the pie pan and pushing the thumb of her other hand between them to make a scallop.

Slocumb nestled her pie in a large round pasta bowl to protect the crust. "I thought there was no way that I would win," she said.

"There were some beautiful apple pies at the picnic when I went to drop mine off. But I wanted to enter because I have this affinity for apples."

She was surprised that she won first place. "My mom would have been proud," she said with a grin.

Now retired, Slocumb enjoys baking and cooking when she isn't golfing, volunteering at Naper Settlement, playing piano or traveling. She and her husband Frank have taken several trips with Overseas Adventure Travel.

"The interesting thing about traveling with this company is that it is more of a cultural exchange and there is always a home-hosted meal one day during the trip," she said.

She has tried upside down chicken in Jordan, home-cured stuffed prosciutto in Dubrovnik, Croatia, and guinea pig in Machu Picchu, Peru. "Guinea pig is a special meal for guests and we all tried it but, well, it is always interesting to try what people feels is a special meal."

Slocumb's idea of a special meal usually includes dessert.

"My mom was known for her French Pastry, which was really an ooey-gooey bar cookie that was crispy on the outside and soft in the middle. I never was able to master that one," she said.

But Slocumb does make her mom's apple cake.

"It's a great cake because it is small and filled with lots of apples. It is very simple and very tasty. My mom made it a lot," Slocumb said. She shares her apple pie recipe for others to try as apples begin to ripen. She encourages others to enter upcoming apple pie contests and perhaps take home a winning ribbon like she did.

Kay Slocumb is a freelancer.

Kay's Apple Pie

CRUST

| 1 1/3 cups flour | 1/2 teaspoon salt |
| 1/2 cup shortening | 3-4 tablespoons ice water |

1. Place flour, salt and shortening in a bowl and use a pastry cutter to cut into mixture until pea-sized pieces of dough form.

2. Start sprinkling water into mixture, one tablespoon at a time while tossing with a fork. Keep adding water until dough almost cleans the sides of the bowl.

3. Gather up dough into a ball. Roll out on a floured pastry sheet or waxed paper. Lift crust and place into 9-inch pan. Trim crust about 1/2 inch from rim of pan. Turn under this edge and flute.

FILLING

| 3/4 cup sugar |
| 1 1/2 cups sugar |
| 1 teaspoon nutmeg |
| 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon |
| dash salt |
| 6 cups peeled and thinly sliced apples |

1. Place sugar, flour, nutmeg, cinnamon and salt in a bowl and mix. Toss apples in the mixture to coat. Spread mixture into crust.

FRENCH CRUMB TOPPING

| 1 cup flour |
| 1/2 cup firm butter |
| 1 cup firmly packed brown sugar |

1. Place flour, butter and brown sugar in a bowl. Use a pastry cutter or fork to cut together until crumbly. Sprinkle over the apple filling. Bake at 125 degrees for 50 minutes. Cover top with foil for the last 10 minutes if the top is getting too dark.

Find more suburban cooks on page 4
There's a reason picnics are a summertime staple. They're versatile, relatively easy to prepare and offer a great excuse for getting your family outside and off their screens. Although I can't promise an ant-free picnic, the following tips and activities can help you keep things engaging and hassle-free.

**The Essentials**

Planning on sitting on the ground? Bring along a blanket that has a waterproof lining or pack an old shower curtain, which can be used as a protective barrier. Skip the paper goods and opt for melamine plates and cups. These shatterproof dishes are sturdier than their paper counterparts and won't buckle or spill so easily. For a touch of elegance, rap flatware in cloth napkins, which can double as placemats.

**What to Serve?**

For picnic food, just about anything goes. But if you're looking for easy, child-friendly edibles, stick with finger foods that taste good at room temperature. Sub sandwiches, flatbread pizza, and peanut butter and jelly pinwheels are typical crowd-pleasers. So is anything that can be served on a stick.

**What to Do?**

If you're picnicking at the beach or in a park there's usually no shortage of activities. But if you want some DIY fun, try these easy-to-assemble, portable activities.

**Flamingo Ring Toss**

**You need:**
- Pool noodles
- Lawn flamingos
- Strong packing tape

**Directions:**
- Make pool noodle rings by connecting the ends of each noodle with heavy-duty packing tape.
- Place flamingoes in the lawn as desired. You might want to assign different points to each flamingo based on its distance and accessibility.

**To play:**
- Players take turns tossing their rings onto the flamingoes.

**Blanket Boggle**

**You need:**
- Blanket
- Card stock or heavy duty paper
- Markers
- Velcro tape
- Timer or hourglass

**Directions:**
- Write one letter on each piece of cardstock and then stick a small piece of Velcro (rough side up) on the back the card.
- Place nine pieces of Velcro (soft side up) on your blanket spaced to accommodate nine cardstock letters.

**To play:**
- Designate one person to randomly place nine letters on the blanket. As in traditional boggle, players race to come up with as many words as possible using the letter combinations on the blanket. The person or team with the most words wins.

**Foam Dice Top It!**

**You need:**
- Foam dice (Buy foam dice via Amazon, at a teacher supply store or consider making your own with Styrofoam cubes and paint)
- Gummy fish (pennies, bottle caps, or poker chips also work)

**To play:**
- Each player has 2-3 dice. Players roll their dice at the same time and each player or team adds their dice together. The player or team with the highest number wins a fish. Continue playing until fish are gone or lunch is ready.

Any food you can put on a stick is ideal picnic fare.
Beekeeper educates people about honey

By Judy Buchenot
Beacon-News

When Oswego resident Ed Bell was 12 years old, he enjoyed reading the Foxfire series of books, which recorded the traditional folk culture in Appalachia from building log cabins to faith healing.

“I really liked the story about beekeeping and always wanted to try keeping bees, but my family moved around too much for me to try it,” he said.

The interest in beekeeping was forgotten as Bell pursed his doctorate in education and started a 27-year career in university administration. Then came a series of events that allowed Bell to think about making a career change. “I decided to start riding the green wave and be part of the food chain,” said Bell, 53. “I started working with bees about nine years ago.”

Today his company, Belfry Bees and Honey, sells honey and offers educational classes related to honey.

“We have around 150 to 160 hives at 19 sites,” Bell said. “I have developed a great relationship with area farmers who welcome bees. All of our bees are kept on USDA certified organic properties.”

Each hive produces between 40 to 120 pounds of honey for harvest.

“We leave between 60 to 80 pounds of honey for the bees to have to survive the winter,” he said. Bell sells most of the harvested honey at area farm stands and farmers markets, including markets in Aurora and Geneva.

“I have seen a real growth in hobbyist beekeeping,” Bell said. “It is simple enough that anyone can do it provided their city ordinances allow it.” He teaches classes about honey and the art of beekeeping at several area locations, including SciTech in Aurora. He will be part of the free Aug. 23 event at the Conservation Foundation’s Dickson-Murst Farm at 1550 Dickson Road in Montgomery.

Bell is buzzing with honey information.

“Honey is actually a mixture of a variety of sugars. The bee does an amazing job of taking nectars, adding enzymes and making honey. We can tell what is in honey but we don’t know the secret recipes.”

He points out that honey is about 25 percent sweeter than processed sugar, which means less can be used. Honey is also easier to digest than sugar.

“Personally, I use honey as a general sweetener. I drizzle it on salads and fish. I mix it up with some other ingredients for a steak sauce. I also use it in my coffee, which surprises people who thought honey should only be used in tea.”

One of the perks of being a beekeeper is that he has access to capped honeycomb, which is unprocessed honey straight from the hive.

“It is very impressive to place a capped honeycomb on a cheese platter right next to the Brie and prosciutto ... delicious,” Bell said. He does sell some capped honeycomb at The Garden Faire in Oswego.

Buying honey from a local beekeeper is preferable, Bell said.

“First, you know where your honey is coming from and you know it is made with local pollens, which some people claim helps them deal with allergies,” Bell said.

“Local honey helps support the local economy and most local honey is raw, which means there is little or no processing unlike the big companies.”

The color of honey comes from the flower nectars, Bell said.

“My honey is wildflower honey but there are some varieties like buckwheat honey, which is almost black,” Bell said. He also pointed out that honey that is crystallized has not gone bad. The jar just needs to be gently warmed in hot water to turn back into a liquid state. The honey only needs to be about 100 degrees to be liquid.

Bell said honey can be used in many ways. “Honey is great mixed with soy sauce,” noted Bell, who said the sweet flavor complements the saltiness of the soy sauce. He thins honey with soy sauce, adds a little hot sauce and marinates chicken legs and thighs in the mix. He then bakes the chicken in the oven or grills it at low heat.

“The honey caramelizes on the skin of the chicken and it is so good,” he said.

Bell noted that honey recipes are popping up everywhere. There is even a recipe for peanut butter honey play dough that can be found at the website for the National Honey Board. Bell shares one of his favorite recipes using honey for others to try.

Judy Buchenot is a freelance writer.
How to deal with a hacked email account

Want to know a secret? Help Squad has a mother and she has consumer issues, too.

In fact, Help Squad Mom recently called requesting assistance with a problem: her email had been hacked and her account suspended. As a dutiful daughter and run-of-the-mill consumer (not a Help Squad columnist), I contacted AT&T technical support on her behalf. This wound up being a two-and-a-half-hour odyssey that began via online chat with an offshore AT&T technical support representative (while Mom listened to and followed instructions read to her via speakerphone), transitioned to a phone call with the same rep and ultimately concluded with an escalation to a U.S.-based tier 2 technical support representative.

Tier 1 support determined that if Mom could just reset her password, she would be back in business. This was easier said than done, however, for in order to reset a password, one must first remember the answer to one’s security question and also have a functional email or cell number to which a new temporary password can be sent. These were stumbling blocks 1 and 2. Though Mom was able to guess the answer to the security question she set up 10 years ago, the secondary email she included was no longer in use, and its associated password had long been forgotten.

As the password for the secondary email address could not be ascertained, the password for the hacked email account could not be reset. AT&T tier 1 support finally gave up and escalated me to tier 2 support.

At this point, the tier 2 rep cut right to the chase. Rather than spending any more time on the secondary account, he got right to investigating the details of the initial, suspended account. And guess what was discovered? Due to security risk, the hacked email had been permanently suspended — it would never be re-enabled, even if the password challenge could somehow be conquered!

So what did we learn from this time-consuming and somewhat stress-inducing exercise?

- Be sure your email account has a unique password that includes a combination of upper- and lowercase letters, numbers and symbols so it cannot be easily deciphered.
- Make sure you have an operational secondary email address, as well as a text-enabled phone number associated with your account for password reset and other account communications.
- If your email is hacked, ask upfront if your account has been permanently suspended. It's not clear whether you will receive a definitive answer, but it's worth inquiring. When Help Squad put this question to AT&T's senior public relations manager Phil Hayes, he said simply: “We strive to resolve every customer problem as efficiently and expeditiously as possible. Our front-line customer service representatives are able to troubleshoot and resolve the vast majority of phone calls made to technical support.” Hayes also offered the following if an account has been compromised:
  - Notify contacts using an alternate email address to warn them not to open anything from your compromised address.
  - Create a new email address. It's best to start fresh if you can.
  - Keep records of every activity tied to your email account.
  - Keep browsers updated. This is the simplest, most effective way to protect all your information.

Need help?

Did a company overcharge you or deny your request for a return? Are you the victim of fraudulent business practices? Do you have a consumer question you would like answered? Send your questions, complaints, injustices and story ideas to Help Squad pioneerlocal.com and we will be happy to help you.

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

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There's a term making the rounds in the world of art restoration: Ghost Owl.

As in, “Let's Ghost Owl this painting.”

The expression can be traced to an 8-year-old cat — Ghostowl — owned by Katy Gallagher, the coordinator at Restoration Division, a fine arts conservator in Chicago.

Ghostowl was a rescue, adopted from the River Grove Animal Hospital. She was about 4 months old and had been found living in a trash can.

“Since she hadn’t had any human contact before that point, she is basically feral,” Gallagher says. “I have friends and family who have never seen her. We have a very close relationship, but she doesn’t permit anyone else, not even my husband, to pet her.

She is very beautiful and kind of elusive quality gave her the name.”

It was a work discussion a couple of years back that launched Ghostowl to fame.

“Should we buy an X-ray for the studio? It’d be very useful to us;” Gallagher thought of Heal Veterinary Clinic, a fine arts conservator in Chicago, where Ghostowl was an occasional patient.

“Because my cat came here, I liked this place,” she says.

So the next time Restoration Division needed to have a painting X-rayed, an appointment was made at Heal. The name on the file was Ghostowl, of course. And the name prominently displayed on the top of the X-ray was Ghost Owl.

That was about 2½ years ago. Since then, the term has crept into the lexicon of Restoration Division employees and clients.

It started after a New York antiquites and art dealer had an item X-rayed. When he wanted another one done, he said, “Give me the Ghost Owl.”

The folks at Restoration Division knew exactly what he meant, and it’s now part of their vernacular, something they share with their clients, Gallagher says.

Over the last few years, there have been about five Ghost Owl X-rays, none of which Ghostowl was present for. The most recent was in mid-July.

There are no prohibitions against veterinarians using their X-ray machines for such purposes. They bought them; they can use them as they see fit.

A vet’s X-ray also make more sense than a dental X-ray (too small) or a hospital’s (too much paperwork, too little whimsy).

“Probably the most important reason to X-ray is to determine if an artwork is a good copy,” says Dmitri Rybchenkov, owner and director of Restoration Division.

“Take 17th-century Flemish art — it’s a late Renaissance piece, severely damaged and restored several times, the last time recently and not very well;” Rybchenkov says. He estimated the painting was done in the second half of the 17th century, maybe the middle of the second half. And now, thanks to Ghostowl, the restoration work can begin.

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In lieu of birthday gifts, husband opts for love letters

Choosing a birthday gift for a spouse isn't always easy, especially if he or she is one of those "really hard to buy for" types. The difficult search could have you walking around the mall, wondering if you should go with perfume, a pair of Lululemon pants, an Apple watch or a Bloomingdale's gift card.

But one of my readers solved this problem a long time ago. Goran Mladenovic, of Glenview, doesn't buy his wife, Rolinda, birthday gifts. Instead, he gives her handwritten love letters.

Below are a few passages from Goran's "gift" for Rolinda's Aug. 4 birthday:

**The Simple Sight of You**

Good morning my Darling. I LOVE YOU and HAPPY BIRTHDAY. I was just thinking does an "I love you" on your birthday carry any more weight than it does on every other day of the year? I don't know. I do know that there was an "I love you" coming your way today anyway, the same as every day before this and the same as every day after.

The words are ripped out of me by an irresistible and undeniable force. That same force is capable of constricting my throat in mid-swallow or denying my lungs air in mid-breath. It is capable of diverting my eyes in an instant, while it compels my hands to reach out with urgency and longing.

So, what is the catalyst? What is the trigger? What is the cause that gives birth to this all powerful force? Why, my darling, it is compellingly and wonderfully the simple sight of you.

Happy Birthday. I love you.
Goran / 2015

Reading Goran's intimate letter to his wife caused the hair on my arms to stand up straight. The beauty of this heartfelt and passionate letter stems from the amount of time the Mladenovics have been together. Theirs isn't a new relationship consumed with butterflies and lust.

I think it is safe to say that the couple, who have two pre-teen children, have most likely faced adversity during their
ROUNDUP | CHILDREN'S BOOKS

**Pieces and Players**
*By Blue Balliett, Scholastic, 306 pages, $17.99, ages 8-12*

The thieves struck the Chicago art museum at night, making off with 13 works — including a Manet and a Vermeer. How did the villains evade the night guard? And why did they snatch a brass eagle, but leave a Michelangelo? The task of unraveling the mystery falls to five 13-year-old detectives, assembled by a prickly museum trustee who may herself have something to hide. Readers will have to wade through some back story, as the author of "Chasing Vermeer" unites heroes and heroines of previous books, but the preparation pays off. Balliett has a great feel for tween angst; I've never read a more convincing passage about the trials of middle school acne. Her characters are just the right combination of awkward and inspired, and their journey into the Chicago art world — complete with a visit to the Chicago Picasso sculpture in Daley Plaza — is full of intriguing twists and turns. Adults are going to be pushing this book on the smart kids — a good move — but one of the pleasures of "Pieces and Players" is that it explores many gifts: the ability to make unlikely friends, to get adults to tell you their secrets, to connect with a work of art. Kids who don't see themselves as brainiacs, but should, will find a lot to love in this tale teeming with art and ideas.

**Interstellar Cinderella**
*By Deborah Underwood, illustrated by Meg Hunt, Chronicle, 40 pages, $16.99, ages 3-5*

I can't think of a tougher fairy tale to retell than Cinderella — witness Disney's pretty but forgettable screen version earlier this year. The idea of sweetness, patience and beauty rewarded by princely love may not be (remotely) modern or egalitarian, but it has a primal power — like Barbie or "The Bachelor" franchise — that defies the forces of progress. Enter Deborah Underwood, who battles the siren call of the glass slipper not with reason alone but also with humor, magic and power tools. Her Cinderella is a whiz with a wrench who can fix any appliance but dreams of a career in spaceship repair. When the prince of the kingdom announces the Royal Space Parade, the wretched stepmother leaves Cinderella with a broken spaceship to repair — and no tools. "My toolbox!" her heroine laments. "We're stranded here, I guess." But in true cute sidekick fashion, her robot mouse, Murgatroyd, sends out a "cosmic SOS" and a fairy godrobot appears. The cheeky retro illustrations — think, the Jetsons' hipster cousins — perfectly match the can-do spirit of the book, and the ending is laugh-out-loud funny. It's the perfect antidote to fantasies of princely rescue.

CHICAGOLAND BEST-SELLERS

2. "To Kill A Mockingbird" by Harper Lee (Grand Central, $8.99).
5. "The Wright Brothers" by David McCullough (Simon & Schuster, $30).

NEW IN PAPERBACK

**The Short and Tragic Life of Robert Peace**
*By Jeff Hobbs, Scribner, 419 pages, $16*

Hobbs explores the life of his former college roommate, who was shot and killed at age 30. Raised by a single mother in a rough neighborhood of Orange, N.J., Peace earned a full scholarship to Yale, graduating with a degree in molecular biology and biochemistry, but secretly divided his life between the intellectual and street worlds and became involved in the drug trade.

**The Secret Place: A Novel**
*By Tana French, Penguin, 480 pages, $17*

The Secret Place is a pinboard where the girls at St. Kilda's boarding school pin secrets anonymously. When someone posts she knows who killed the handsome and popular Chris Harper, detectives Stephen Moran and Antoinette Conway investigate the year-old murder — finding they must navigate their suspicions of each other, the school's PR-conscious administration and a fellow detective whose daughter attends St. Kilda's.

**The Return of George Washington**
*By Edward Larson, William Morrow, 367 pages, $16.99*

Larson examines Washington's life during 1778 to 1789, looking at Washington's retirement from the Continental Army, domestic life at Mount Vernon and the beginning of his first term as president in 1789. Larson also explores the failed Articles of Confederation, the 1787 Constitutional Convention and Washington's vital role as the convention's presider in shaping the federal government.

**Prisoners, Lovers, & Spies**
*By Kristie Macrakis, Yale University, 377 pages, $20*

Macrakis details the impact of invisible writing on history. Macrakis considers examples such as a 5th century BC Persian slave's tattoo, Ovid's advice to use milk for secret love notes, Mary Queen of Scots' invisible ink messages to Catholic supporters and al-Qaeda's hidden instructions embedded in pornographic movies. The book includes kitchen chemistry recipes for invisible ink.

**Panic In a Suitcase: A Novel**
*By Yelena Akhritoskaya, Riverhead, 309 pages, $16*

The Nasmertov family immigrates to New York and attempts to be American while maintaining their Eastern European culture. A Printers Row Journal review called the book a "valuable addition to the novels capturing the Eastern European immigrant experience... Akhritoskaya has found a bit of grotesque fun in this age-old story."

*Jeremy Mikula*
Technology supports engaged learning

Latest stats indicate that more students, parents and educators are turning to digital learning resources than ever before.

From personal mobile devices to electronic communication with teachers and exploration with 3D printers, robotic and specialized labs, area private schools are making cutting-edge technology a priority.

Take a look at a handful of the most exciting, innovative offerings below:

During the summer, Regina Dominican High School in Wilmette converted one of its classrooms into a specialized Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math (STEAM) Lab.

“The STEAM Lab opens the door to a more creative environment for the students to learn and grow,” Sandy Locher, RDHS mathematics teacher and a former engineer, explains.

The lab will be home to the school’s robotics club as well as a 3D printer. Locher stressed the importance of an innovative learning environment for female students who are uniquely motivated by global issues.

“They want to feel like they are helping and improving people’s lives,” she says. “Whether it is making prosthetic limbs or designing buildings that can survive hurricanes or earthquakes, they want to contribute to a bigger ideal. The STEAM lab will demonstrate how girls can tackle global issues on a local scale.”

As part of an ongoing 3D-printer curriculum at North Shore Country Day School (NSCDS) in Winnetka, its 5th grade class has partnered with Over the Rainbow, an Evanston-based organization that supports people with physical disabilities.

Many of the OTR residents are in wheelchairs, and some use Dynavox devices to assist in speaking.

“The residents have a variety of physical disabilities that make daily living significantly more difficult,” explains Dani Chung, communications associate for NSCDS. “Working in small groups with their OTR partners, the fifth-grade students brainstormed ideas for items they could design to make daily tasks easier for the residents.”

Patrick Hughes, founder and CEO of Inclusion Solutions, an Evanston organization that helps people with disabilities navigate the world, says he appreciated how the group jumped in to learn more about each other. “I think it was a win-win partnership for everyone.”

At Nazareth Academy in LaGrange, students combined scholarship and service while developing Engineering Projects in Community Service (EPICS). The program, which originated at Purdue University, connects students with area charitable organizations and provides an innovative outlet to explore engineering solutions.

“We are so lucky to have students who want to make a difference in the world,” explains Dr. Roberta Zasadzinski, the Nazareth physics teacher who brought EPICS to the school following a workshop in 2012. “Sometimes they don’t see science-and engineering as a way to do that, so they shy away from those subjects.”

Last year, Zasadzinski’s AP Physics class and students participating in an after-school club partnered with the MidAmerica Service Dog Foundation and Aspire, a human-services nonprofit.

For the 2015-2016 school year, students hope to work with Helping Hand Center, another nonprofit dedicated to those with disabilities. Also on the horizon-weaving EPICS into the school’s Environmental Science curriculum.

In Libertyville, students at St. Joseph Catholic School enjoy a bevy of digital tools right at their fingertips. Middle-schoolers each have Chromebooks, and the school regularly uses iPads, Google Apps for Education and PC technologies to teach students 21st-century skills.

“In general, the technology in our building provides teachers and students with tools to create, formatively assess and differentiate instruction,” Kelly McMahon, director of technology, says. “Our staff and students find new uses every day.”

Whether students are re-acting a novel through movie creation on an iPad, sharing a Google Doc with a teacher to exchange feedback during the writing process or explaining mathematical thinking using screencasting software, students are encouraged to embrace varied tech tools and look for new ways to think critically and creatively.

The school employs a robust technology staff, and it is also home to a media center and Engineering for Kids, a STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math) program.
Baker Demonstration School
201 Sheridan Road
Wilmette, Illinois 60091
847-425-5800
bakerdemschool.org
Baker is the independent school on Chicago's north shore that is nationally recognized for excellence in progressive education. Baker serves bright, self-motivated students from two years old through eighth grade who are equipped to participate fully in the challenging, hands-on, community-minded education. Founded in 1918 by Clara Belle Baker, a leader and pioneer in progressive education, the curriculum today still reflects the philosophy that children learn best through meaningful experiences and connections. Baker is proud of its heritage while being completely committed to the future.

Chicagoland Jewish High School
1095 Lake Cook Road
Deerfield, IL 60015
847-470-6700
cjhs.org
Chicagoland Jewish High School (CJHS) is a co-ed, college-preparatory high school committed to academic excellence that has served the Chicagoland Jewish community for 15 years. Its mission is to create a culture that inspires students to think critically and to achieve their full potential while preparing them to live Judaism as responsible and involved citizens in the modern world. CJHS offers a comprehensive education, which includes exceptional general and Jewish studies programs supplemented by athletics, fine arts, extracurricular activities and leadership opportunities. CJHS is committed to making education affordable through tuition assistance. If you are interested in learning more, contact Riv Lynch at rlynch@cjhs.org or 847-324-3706. Save the date: open house on Nov. 1.

Lake Forest Country Day School
145 S. Green Bay Road
Lake Forest, IL 847-234-2350
lfcds.org
Lake Forest Country Day School delivers a diverse and rich educational experience grounded in academics, arts and athletics to two-year-old through eighth-grade students. The LFCDS Advantage ensures that talented teachers will inspire and challenge individual students at the top of their abilities, according to their needs. At LFCDS, students from more than 30 communities thrive in a state-of-the-art, hands-on learning environment that encourages self-expression and confidence through inspired teaching, academic rigor, individualized attention and responsible citizenship.

Two important beliefs are at the heart of the teaching philosophy: social and emotional development is inextricably linked with academic achievement; and experiential learning creates a foundation for deeper understanding. Highlighted by a better than 7:1 student/faculty ratio, an LFCDS education sets the stage for a bright future in secondary school and beyond, with 20 percent of LFCDS graduates attending colleges and universities ranked in the top 20 by U.S. News and World Report.

To learn more about the LFCDS Advantage, visit fcds.org or call the admission office at 847-615-6151 to register for an open house.

LFCDS will also host a fall Special Speaker Series featuring two New York Times best-sellers that will be open to the public. On Tuesday, Sept. 29, Dr. Michael Thompson will offer insights on how children can navigate success in school and in life. On Wednesday, Oct. 21, Dr. Ned Hallowell will offer advice on raising happy children. To register, visit fcds.org/speakerseries.
Tips to keep kids healthy and safe

Back-to-school prep means more than a trip to the office supply store. Help kids stay strong, healthy and safe this school year by putting wellness front and center.

"Thinking about back-to-school now can help parents keep kids on track for a healthy summer and start to school," says Dr. Sandra Hassink, MD, FAAP, president of the American Academy of Pediatrics.

With that in mind, Hassink recommends taking the following steps.

Ease into the school schedule

Ease the back-to-school transition by keeping bedtime and meals scheduled during the summer and adjusting timing as school approaches. If your child has been going to bed later than usual, begin adjusting his or her bedtime earlier toward the end of summer. Depending on age, children and teens need between 8.5 to 9.5 hours of sleep nightly.

For young children, arranging to see their new classroom and meet their new teacher before school starts can calm first day jitters. Go over the school schedule with your child, including how she will get to school and what the plans are for after school time.

Schedule a pediatric visit

The back-to-school season is a good time for scheduling a pediatric exam. Create a list of items you want to discuss with your child's pediatrician. This list should include ensuring your child is up-to-date on vaccinations, a crucial part of preventive care.

It's a good idea to build a medical home with a pediatrician by sticking with one doctor or medical practice throughout childhood and adolescence. The doctor will be better informed of your child's medical history and aware of any emerging problems.

Beyond medical testing, pediatricians are well-equipped to counsel patients and parents on emotional and social issues, as well as issues that often crop up during adolescence, such as smoking, drugs, drinking, sexual activity and depression.

"Parents can ask a pediatrician about anything related to the care of their child or teen, medical or not," says Hassink. "The visit can be a good way to bring up these issues."

Consider sports

Sports can foster confidence, cooperation and healthy habits, and the start of the school year brings many opportunities to join various programs. Hydration, nutrition and proper conditioning are important for any sport, especially those with intense training in warm weather.

Schedule a sports physical with your pediatrician to discuss your child's overall health and how to prevent injuries.

Talk safety

If your child will be walking to school, travel the route with him to assess its safety. Find out about traffic patterns and crossing guards. Teach your child safety rules like looking both ways.

If possible, have your child commute with an older sibling or neighbor. If your child will be riding a bike or skateboard, be sure he wears a helmet. Review basic rules for safer riding.

Bus riders should also be mindful of safety rules, like remaining in one's seat and listening to the driver.

More back-to-school tips can be found at healthychildren.org.

StatePoint

Lake Forest Country Day School

OPEN HOUSE

Thursday, October 15, 9:00 a.m.
Tuesday, November 17, 9:00 a.m.

To learn more about the LFCDS Advantage
Please call (847) 615-6151 or email admission@lfcds.org to register for an Open House.

An LFCDS education sets the stage for a bright future in secondary school and beyond, with recent graduates currently attending:

- Harvard
- Claremont McKenna College
- Colby College
- Cornell University
- Dartmouth College
- Duke University
- Emory University
- Middlebury College
- Northwestern University
- Princeton University
- Stanford University
- Tufts University
- University of Chicago
- University of Notre Dame
- U.S. Naval Academy
- Vanderbilt University
- Yale University
- and many more...

A co-educational independent school for students age 2 through Grade 8. Graduating students of strong character with a passion for learning since 1888.

145 South Green Bay Road, Lake Forest, IL 60045 | www.lfcds.org | (847) 615-6151
Local independent schools offer up new talent, cool opportunities for learning and several celebrations

Back-to-school means back to the hustle and bustle of carpool, homework and extracurricular activities. It also means a fresh start and exciting, new developments to share.

Here is a round up of some of the latest happenings at area private schools and learning centers.

Entering its second year this fall, Beacon Academy in Evanston offers an innovative Montessori-based high school education with an intimate student body (less than 40 students) and educational freedom that includes community partnerships and open spaces for exploratory learning.

Similar to a small liberal arts college, students meet in long class blocks a few times a week to foster "student agency and a deep dive into learning," says Kate Anderson, director of admissions and marketing. "We have abundant opportunities for hands-on investigation, student-centered discussions, experimentation, critical thinking and fieldwork."

Anderson said the school's pioneering approach has already piqued the interest of higher-learning institutions such as Northwestern excited about observing its direct impact on the development of students' independence.

At Beacon, one of only 16 Montessori high schools across the nation, about 20 percent of student learning happens outside of the classroom with expertise and support from professional actors, musicians, artists and physical education specialists.

Roycemore, in Evanston, will celebrate its centennial this year. The school has revamped its strategic plan and added core values and an update its mission statement.

"In tandem, these sustain our goals of inspiring and nurturing excellence while maintaining an environment that celebrates the contributions of individuals within our communities," Headmaster Kevin Smith explains in a recent blog post about the school's 100th anniversary.

The first day of school, June 1,
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Adverbially Speaking: Served with a twist

BY S.N. | EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN
(stanxwords.com)

ACROSS
1 Firm understanding
6 Press conference, for short
11 Home of twigs
15 Sean Connery, by birth
19 Shakespearean swain
20 Coalition
21 Telltale sign
22 Fantine creator
32 The good dishes
34 Scrumptious
35 Bits of gossip
36 Still in dreamland
37 “I’m donating these”
38 Gave it a go
40 “Look at all the dryer lint”
41 Baloney
42 Veteran sailors
43 Roger Rabbit’s Part of TGIF
44 Installs a driveway
45 “Pomp and Circumstance” composer
46 Hunters’ org.
47 Basic French verb
48 Double Indemnity author
49 Overdue
50 “Don’t be...” (Google slogan)
51 Beer holder
52 “I’ll have another cutlet”
56 Sacked out
57 Went round and round
59 Wee hour
60 Play excerpts
61 Bridal accessories
62 More pleasant
63 Show surprise, perhaps
64 Japanese religion
66 Band-Aid rival
67 Twiddle one’s thumbs
70 Swiss chocolatier
71 “We call our convertible Christine”
72 Wagon wheel’s occupant
73 Itinerary word
74 Heart charts: Abbr.
75 Male turkeys
76 Young socialites
77 Hanger-on
78 Sushifish
79 “Give a treat to Fido and Fluffy”
80 Wall covering of a sort
81 Commandeered
82 Brewpub product
83 Grew tired
84 Ask too much
85 Small pranksters
86 Atlas dot
87 Put trust in
88 Tablet downloads
89 Passageways for Santa
90 Korean autos
91 Buffalo Bill wore one
94 Ending meaning “attendee”
95 Wane
99 “I write jingles”
101 “The wordplay is a little off”
102 Luau souvenirs
104 Luau souvenirs
105 Undeniable
106 Pay the IRS online
107 Spine-tingling
108 Deputy, for short
109 Oracle
110 Mover’s device
111 Perfume measures

DOWN
1 Graph paper pattern
2 Pantheon’s city
3 Sound boosters
4 Alaskan mail carrier
5 Witch’s brews
6 Captain of the Caine
7 Raggedy dolls
8 Petty peeve
9 Buck, for short
10 Ever again
11 Wanderer
12 Wax-coated cheese
13 Letters on a Chicago cap
14 Tot’s wheels
15 Piece of the action
16 Religious sect
17 Stare at
18 Trifles (with)
19 Fail to be
20 Prone to sulking
21 “The Mammoth Hunters” author
22 The good dishes
23 The wordplay is a little off
24 The good dishes
25 “Haste makes waste”
26 “The lions have fled”
27 Can’t stand
28 Alternative to “sir”
29 Spanish conquistador
30 Overly extended
31 “The waiting room is empty”
32 Rain holder
33 Was a guide
34 Work at a keyboard
35 Incubator occupant
36 Yonder
37 Rate of walking
38 Put trust in
39 Part of TGIF
40 Tablet downloads
41 “Look at all the dryer lint”
42 Veteran sailors
43 Roger Rabbit’s Part of TGIF
44 Installs a driveway
45 “Pomp and Circumstance” composer
46 Hunters’ org.
47 Basic French verb
48 Double Indemnity author
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110 Mover’s device
111 Perfume measures

For interactive puzzles and games go to chicagotribune.com/games

Last week’s answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island

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This and That

By CHARLES PRESTON

ACROSS
1  "Viva Zapata!" cry
2  Bills' title: abbr.
3  B'way Burrows
4  Rebekah
5  Grain sorghum
6  Java neighbor
7  Kind of computer
8  Uncertain "for Peace": Ike
9  Swing jazz band
10  Singer Jerry
11  Classics 101 text
12  At no time: Ger.
13  Auto
14  Made of: suffix
15  Margot Fonteyn, e.g.
16  Publican's serving
17  Spanish diacritic
18  Le Misanthrope author
19  Flower bed
20  -- culpa
21  Storm
22  Elects
23  Margot Fonteyn, e.g.
24  Publican's serving
25  The Cyclists artist
26  Doris nee von Kappelhoff
27  Eliot's Silas
28  Encourage
29  Instrumental
30  Swift heroine of Greek myth
31  Shocks
32  Show on TV
33  Nick's wirehair
34  The Tempest role
35  Echo
36  Brick
37  Buy and sell
38  Hero's partner
39  Mormon state
40  Masonic organization
41  Jelly and jam
42  Fr. battle site
43  Cleric's tunic
44  Brighton break
45  Dogpatch nickname
46  Defeat Truscott
47  Smell
48  Indulges lightly
49  Freeway feeder
50  Escargots
51  One hundred makuta in
52  Construction unit
53  Kinshasa
54  One hundred makuta in
55  Flriver
56  Seine feeder
57  Construction unit
58  Rungs
59  Cheek mark
60  Rue Morgue murderer
61  Czech state
62  Paul on guitar
63  Norwegian state
64  The --- Sandra Bullock
65  Filmmaker
66  Nabokov heroine
67  First name in newscasting
68  Sounds of uncertainty

DOWN
1  Bill's title: abbr.
2  B'way Burrows
3  Roulette play
4  Rebekah
5  Grain sorghum
6  Java neighbor
7  Kind of computer
8  Uncertain "for Peace": Ike
9  Swing jazz band
10  Singer Jerry
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50  Escargots
51  One hundred makuta in
52  Construction unit
53  Kinshasa
54  One hundred makuta in
55  Flriver
56  Seine feeder
57  Construction unit
58  Rungs
59  Cheek mark
60  Rue Morgue murderer
61  Czech state
62  Paul on guitar
63  Norwegian state
64  The --- Sandra Bullock
65  Filmmaker
66  Nabokov heroine
67  First name in newscasting
68  Sounds of uncertainty
NOTICE OF SALE PURSUANT TO JUDGMENT OF FORECLOSURE AND SALE UNDER THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW.

Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on the 8th day of August, 2015, in the Circuit Court of Cook County, State of Illinois, Plaintiff, BMO Harris Bank N.A., vs. Defendant, 7439 KARLOV AVE., Morton Grove, Illinois 60053, will sell at public auction on the 9th day of September, 2015, at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m., at 10:00 a.m.
Celebrities reinvent themselves, so did we

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We remember when you partied like it was 1999

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that makes sense to them, explains Antoinette Watson, center director. "Knowing that education is more than just memorizing facts and crunching numbers, we strive to help our adolescent students discover who they want to be and to prepare them to take on a role in the adult world," says Roxy Krawczyk, a middle-school teacher at Alcuin.

"Practically every student has been working hard to develop their math skills. The learning center (ages 6-18) will celebrate with an end-of-summer pizza party this month. The center opened nearly two-and-a-half years ago and serves around 100 students from area schools. It's aim is to teach kids math in a way that makes sense to them, explains Antoinette Watson, center director. "While we are focused on filling specific math gaps, we also like to work on other math skills with games," she says. "The kids learn all kinds of math concepts from simple addition with games like Blackjack and 99 or Bust to probability games like Liars and Dice and Yam Slam."

For students who meet goals, a pizza party is an opportunity to hang out at the center with their favorite instructors, play games and enjoy recognition of their achievements.

"We are pleased to sponsor this series as we believe that well informed parents are better able to provide the appropriate support and partnership that leads to student success," says Whelan, LFCDS head of school. The speaker series is open to the public. To register visit lfcds.org/tomorrow."
Area athletes gear up for successful seasons

Striving for excellence both academically and in competition, student-athletes shine.

Work hard. Play harder. That seems to be the motto for so many athletes at Chicagoland's suburban private schools.

Here's a look at some of the best - and unique - sports programs, to share what's brewing on the field, in the pool and around the Gatorade cooler.

Twenty-four members of Lake Forest Academy's class of 2015 will be playing at the college level this fall across 10 sports, including eight for Division I teams such as Cornell, Stanford and Boston College. This is especially impressive considering the small size of the school and the fact that LFA is not a member of any athletic conference.

"To have 24 college athletes in a class of 124 is truly amazing considering how strong our school is academically and the time commitment it takes for both school and training for your sport," shares Darrin Madeley, athletic director, of the players he's seen mature through his program. "It really shows how special these student athletes are."

LFA has a strong track record of athletic success and requires all students to participate in sports as a graduation requirement. In 2014, LFA had 14 students continue their athletic careers to the undergrad arena, and former student Alex DeBnncat was recently named Rookie of the Year for the Canadian Hockey League.

St. Norbert School, a K-8 in Northbrook, proudly offers a sports program that emphasizes integrity, sportsmanship and team spirit along with open invitations for inclusion and participation.

Programs including track, football, basketball and more begin in fifth grade and help students "develop strong, healthy and disciplined minds and bodies," as part of the school's athletic mission.

"We are blessed with dedicated coaches who provide instruction, motivation, and who work together to build team unity," the school's athletic page says of St. Norbert's coaching staff.

The school's varsity boys' football team reigned as 2011-2014 football champions and has plans for success on the field again this year.

With more than 24 boys and girls sports teams, Carmel Catholic High School in Mundelein will continue its hugely successful athletic program still riding high from a host of wins from the 2014-2015 school year. Thanks to updates done over the summer, athletes will be playing on a newly replaced football turf, freshly resurfaced outdoor track and refurbished tennis courts.

Brienne Minor was named state champion in girls' tennis last season and ranked ninth in the country. This earned her a full athletic scholarship at the University of Michigan. Girls' varsity soccer advanced to the state finals. Gymnastics state qualifier Samantha Lococo placed third in floor exercise and 11th in all-around. David Biondo placed seventh in pole vault at the state track and field meet. Carmel saw two wrestling medalists as well.

Also notable, alumnus Sean McGrath recently signed to play with the Indianapolis Colts after time with the Seattle Seahawks and the Kansas City Chiefs. In addition, current varsity football player Sean Foster was one of only 400 players in the country nominated to play in the U.S. Army Bowl.

Montini Catholic High School, located in Lombard, welcomes a new head basketball coach for the 2015-2016 school year. Daryl Thomas's impressive resume includes a basketball scholarship from Indiana University where he played for the legendary Bobby Knight, a short career with the NBA Kings and 14 years of playing professionally overseas.

Thomas formerly worked as the manager of player development and lead basketball instructor at the Chicago Bulls/White Sox Academy in Lisle. He was also an assistant varsity and head sophomore boys basketball coach at St. Joseph's High School in Westchester, where he worked with his former high school coach, Hall of Famer Gene Pingatore.

"Daryl brings a great deal of coaching, instructional and personal basketball experience to the present and future young men who will be participating in our basketball program," says Jim Segredo, president of Montini Catholic. "I am very excited about the future of our basketball program."

Fenwick High School in Oak Park hopes to continue its stellar athletics program. The boys' basketball team is eager to compete as a top contender in state next year.

More than two dozen students are playing at the college level from the class of 2015. Grace Cronin is poised to take a state championship in track and field after finishing second in two state events last spring.

"Grace is a great student who is extremely dedicated in the classroom and in athletics," shares Scott Thies, athletic director.

Recognized by Sports Illustrated as a top athletic program in the nation, Fenwick values bringing out the best in every student.

Last year, Fenwick staff earned several coaching awards - including a Hall of Fame win - as part of the Chicago Catholic League and East Suburban Catholic Conference. Both its boys and girls water polo teams placed third in the state, and numerous athletes were named to All-State teams.

"We are proud of the Class of 2015 and all they contributed to Fenwick High School," Thies says. "Our underclassmen learned a lot from this graduating class and we expect great things from them moving forward."
Celebrities reinvent themselves, so did we

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Calling all creative thinkers. We invite you to pick a topic you're passionate about and send us your pitch. If chosen, you'll join ChicagoNow, a network of hundreds of local bloggers. No worries if you're a newbie - we'll help you build and launch your platform. So hurry, Chicagoland's waiting to see what you've got.

chicagonow.com/pitch
Are your dentist's or doctor's views or hobbies fair game for patients?

By Nara Schoenberg
Chicago Tribune

She found out about the Cecil the lion controversy when a co-worker mentioned that a dentist in nearby West Bloomington, Minn., was under fire for allegedly killing the beloved Zimbabwean lion after it had been lured from its national park.

"Oh! I go to a dentist in West Bloomington," the 54-year-old Minnesotan said casually.

She got on the Internet and discovered that her longtime dentist, Walter Palmer, was the lion hunter in question.

Palmer, a noted big game hunter, has said in a statement that he relied on professional guides to ensure a legal hunt and didn't know the lion was a local favorite.

"I didn't think I'd have as strong a reaction," says the woman, who asked to remain anonymous because of the furor over the issue.

"It makes you think: Do you research everyone? And who has time for that? Do you just assume the best unless someone throws something in front of you and you feel like you have to make a moral decision? I don't know!"

In the wake of the Internet uproar, which has included attempts to put Palmer out of business with outraged online reviews, it seems reasonable to ask: To what extent do we want to know about our health care provider's controversial views and activities? And to what extent should they matter?

Interviews suggest that actively quizzing a health professional on her political views and outside activities is rare, and that parting ways with a health care provider over such issues is even rarer.

Chicago dentist Barbara Mousel says patients generally don't try to determine her views on controversial issues such as abortion or gun control.

"In the dental office setting, bringing up controversial topics is not necessarily a good thing. It's just like dinner conversation," she says. If a patient does bring up a topic such as abortion or gun control, she tries to move on to a topic that's less likely to be divisive.

Asked if a patient has ever left her practice because of her views or hobbies, she pauses to think.

"You know, I've been in practice 32 years, and I can't recall that happening," she says.

Dr. David A. Harrison, an assistant professor in the department of psychiatry at the University of Washington School of Medicine in Seattle, says that when he's a patient, he actually prefers not to know too much about a medical provider.

"I just want to know that they're competent, that we're developing a good relationship," he says. "I don't want to get distracted by their (personal) stuff."

That allows him to focus on providing his doctor with all the information that he or she needs to know to treat him, and on complying with the doctor's treatment plan, he says.

"I certainly want to have confidence that they're skillful, in terms of their technical skills, their knowledge and their relational skills," he says. And, yes, some behaviors would be deal breakers: "Obviously, I would not want to have a pedophile as a health care provider. But in some ways I don't see their beliefs as being critical to my care."

Mousel, similarly, said there are issues that are deal breakers, but also areas of disagreement — say, differing views on legal hunting in the U.S. — that she can accept. Among the issues she would weigh the degree of disagreement between her and the health care provider, and the skill level required for the procedure.

"He was a great dentist. Really highly skilled, and does a lot of cosmetic dentistry and great root canals," she says.

But, she feels she has to take the allegations about Cecil, and more importantly a black bear in Wisconsin, into account. In 2008, Palmer pleaded guilty to making false statements to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service about shooting the bear. The bear was shot in an unauthorized area, according to court records.

"It makes you think: Do they have a pedophile as a health care provider?" she says casually.

A much-loved Zimbabwean lion named Cecil was allegedly lured out of the Hwange National Park boundaries and killed, sparking international outrage.

CDC reports teens having far less sex than they used to

By Heidi Stevens
Chicago Tribune

A possible upside to teens being eternally tethered to their devices? They're having a lot less sex than they used to.

A new Centers for Disease Control and Prevention report says from 2011 to 2013, 44 percent of females ages 15 to 19 and 47 percent of males ages 15 to 19 had experienced sexual intercourse at least once.

That's a sharp decline from previous decades. In 1988, for example, 51 percent of female teens reported having had intercourse at least once, and 60 percent of male teens reported they had.

And they're all about that birth control, with 79 percent of female teens and 84 percent of male teens using contraception the first time they had intercourse, according to the report.

"They learn from doctors that you can catch HPV even if you use a condom," Brooke Bokor, an adolescent medicine specialist at the Children's National Health System, told the Post. "They might think: How else can I stay healthy?"

A decent (though disputed) number of teens are also hearing from their parents about sex, according to a survey of 2,000 parents and their teen children conducted in 2011, the beginning of the years mentioned in the CDC report.

Forty-two percent of parents said they've talked to their 15- to 18-year-old kids "many times" about abstaining from sex, but just 27 percent of teens said their parents have talked to them "many times."

Fifty-nine percent of parents reported talking to their teens about when sex should or shouldn't take place; 29 percent of teens agreed with that statement.

Perhaps the truth is somewhere in the middle.

One indisputable fact, reported in the CDC study, is that teen births have fallen 57 percent over the past three decades.

All in all, good news.
What you should know before taking out a reverse mortgage

JANET KIDD STEWART
The Journey

If you took out a reverse mortgage without adding your spouse to the documents, do you know what could happen with the property after you die? Did you know you could lose the house if you forgot maintenance or get behind on property taxes?

Are you under the impression that reverse mortgages are not government loans? While lenders offering federally insured reverse mortgages must comply with certain rules, the loans themselves are not taken out directly with the government.

Reverse mortgages, which typically pay homeowners 62 and older a portion of their home equity until the borrower dies or moves, are complex products with provisions that occasionally are a moving target.

So it's little surprise when the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau recently showed consumer ads about the products to about 60 seniors who had very little knowledge about them, the homeowners had trouble even understanding that the products were loans that have to be repaid.

As older consumers consider reverse mortgage loans to tap into their home equity, they need to be careful about those late-night TV ads that seem too good to be true. CFPB Director Richard Cordray said in issuing a consumer alert about the products, "It is important that advertisements not downplay the terms and risks of reverse mortgages or confuse prospective borrowers.

CFPB officials stopped short of claiming any of the 97 ads met the regulatory definition of deceptive marketing practices, and a trade group representing reverse mortgage lenders said it has filed a freedom of information act to review the ads used in the focus groups.

But the false impressions created by the print, TV and Web ads pointed out some useful tips for seniors who are starting to research whether such a product is right for them, and recent changes to some of the terms affecting holders of reverse mortgage holders are worth noting.

These are not government loans. While lenders offering federally insured reverse mortgages must comply with certain rules, the loans themselves are not taken out directly with the government.

Home for life. CFPB also said the ads created a false impression that a reverse mortgage guarantees you can stay in the home the rest of your life. In fact, there are upkeep provisions, as well as different financial terms that don't come with the lifetime guarantee. For example, if you take the money out in large installments early in the life of the loan, you could exhaust the payments relatively quickly.

Read the fine print. Homeowners applying for a federally insured he equity conversion mortgage (HECM) are required to undergo counseling about the terms. Make sure you understand them before signing, including the fact that you could face foreclosure if you fail to maintain the property or pay property taxes. The CFPB said few ads mentioned interest rates or repayment terms.

Widow relief. In a separate action on June 12, the Federal Housing Administration issued a fix on a HECM policy that consumer advocates said had been pushing many widows and widowers into foreclosure after their spouses died because they hadn't been included on the loan. The revision, which eliminates certain requirements for survivors to assume the reverse mortgage, had previously been for mortgages originated after Aug. 4, 2014. Now, holders of earlier mortgages have the same protection.

Share your journey to or through retirement or pose a question at journey@janetkiddstewart.com.

How to reap biggest rewards using cash-back websites

CAROLYN BIGDA
Getting Started

You're probably familiar with using promotional codes to save when you shop online. But what about getting cash every time you click "buy" at a major retailer?

That's the concept behind cash-back websites, which link you to retailers and allow you to earn dollars when you make a purchase. Today, more than a dozen cash-back sites exist, with shoppers typically earning between 5 and 7 percent on each transaction, according to Cary Tang, co-founder of CashReporter, a cash-back website comparison search engine. Sometimes you can pocket more.

"There are promotions around busy holiday seasons, especially Christmas, where cash-back amounts are doubled," she said. "That's when unknowing consumers are really missing out."

To maximize these potential rewards, here's what you need to know.

Pick a site. Cash-back and coupon websites earn a commission from stores when they direct shoppers to retailers. When you make a purchase, you get a cut of that commission in the form of a cash reward.

The business model is sound, and you can count on the payouts," said Joanie Demer, co-founder of The Krazy Coupon Lady, which tracks coupons and other deals.

Some websites, however, may work with more retailers or be able to negotiate higher rebates. Demer, for example, contends that Ebates have some of the best rewards. She also likes FatWallet, Mr. Rebates and TopCashback, among others.

You can use a search engine such as CashReporter to compare cash-back offers, or visit a handful of sites until you find one that offers the best rewards for the stores you visit most.

Follow directions. In order to earn cash, you must create a direct trail between the cash-back site and the retailer. If you don't — say, you visit a store's website in another window or on your Internet browser — you may not be credited with rewards.

"If you can't show a clear path that you were motivated to buy on Amazon through Ebates, for example, you might not get credit," Demer said. "Beware of exclusions too. You may not earn rewards if you use a gift card to make a purchase, and some products or brands do not qualify. So be sure to read the rules and directions on cash-back websites before you begin shopping.

Claim your cash. Once you start earning cash, some cash-back sites may automatically send you a payment via PayPal or mail you a check once a month or once every three months. Other companies will require you to request payment. And before you can start to receive money, you may have to accumulate a minimum rewards balance, often $10.

Over time, the money can add up. Scott Kluh, founder of CouponCabin, which launched a cash-back program in November, estimates that users will earn about $500 per year in cash rewards.

Maximize savings. As tempting as the cash bonus may be, though, Demer cautions against letting the rewards drive your shopping.

"Don't buy things you don't need just because there is cash back," she said. Also, be sure to shop around. While you may be able to snag cash for a product at one retailer, another store that doesn't qualify for cash rewards may sell the same item for a lower price altogether.

And consider other ways to save. Demer said she sometimes gets a better deal by buying a discounted gift card from websites such as Gift Card Granny and using the card to make a purchase.
Create right mindset to pay off credit card debt

By Valencia Higuera
GoBankingRates.com

Paying off credit card debt might be one of the best moves for your personal finances. It can improve your cash flow, giving you an opportunity to build an emergency fund or save for retirement. In addition, paying off credit cards helps increase your credit score.

But if you have huge credit card balances and live paycheck to paycheck, it can feel as if you'll never make headway.

American households carrying credit card debt have an average balance of $15,609, according to personal finance website The Simple Dollar. From this data, you might conclude that credit card debt is simply a way of life. But just because some people live with massive debt doesn't mean you have to be a permanent member of this club.

Paying off large debt is by no means easy; but if you change your mindset and adjust your approach you can trick yourself into getting out of debt.

Double payments

Minimum payments are a trap to keep people indebted for as long as possible. Interest accrues every month you carry a balance on your credit cards. This increases how much you owe overall, and it makes your credit card company richer.

To pay down large balances faster, you should pay more than the minimum, so set a goal to double your minimum payments every month. This is a simple concept, yet it can be hard to drum up the extra cash. This is where a little trickery comes in handy.

You might say you don't have enough cash to make higher credit card payments, but I'm willing to bet you spend money impulsively on at least a few items every month. This can be extra junk food tossed into your grocery cart or random $5 purchases at a convenience store. These purchases seem minor, but you're failing to realize that every impulse buy wastes money that could be used to increase your minimum payments and pay off debt sooner.

So the next time you're about to spend impulsively, have a heart-to-heart with yourself. Think about your debt goals and ask yourself: Do I really need this item? This approach works because you're able to take a step back and think about what you're buying and perhaps realize the purchase is pointless. But don't just put the item back on the shelf and move on. Take the money you would have spent on this “almost” impulse buy and use it to pay down your credit card debt.

Money-saving expert Andrea Woroch offered a practical suggestion for making this approach a part of your daily routine. “If you feel the urge to buy a new pair of shoes or sunglasses, take a quick peek at your credit card debt by viewing your mobile app,” she said. “This will remind you of your debt-free goals, and every time you seriously avoid an impulse purchase, make a payment in the amount that you would've spent on that item.” This is an effective trick because you're able to make room in your budget for additional payments with very little effort.

Even if you only pay an extra $10 every month, you'll save on interest and pay off the debt quicker.

Reward yourself

Getting out of credit card debt takes willpower, which some of us lack. It takes willpower to cut up your credit cards and live off cash, and you need willpower to consistently make higher payments. If you haven't been successful with meeting your debt payoff goals in the past, there's a simple way to boost your willpower.

According to the American Psychological Association, you can build up self-control and reach goals by rewarding yourself for reaching milestones. You might think you have to stop spending altogether to pay off credit card debt. But depriving yourself long term can backfire. Obviously, you'll need to make sacrifices and cut some spending to get rid of credit card debt, but this doesn't imply never having fun or treating yourself. You might find it's easier to stay on course if you reward yourself with a free or low-cost activity or splurge for every $1,000, $500 or $250 of debt you pay off.

This approach is different because it strikes a healthy balance between saving and splurging, plus it reduces the risk of frugal fatigue, which can trigger overspending later. It's also effective because you're giving yourself an incentive to stick with a plan.
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Diagnosis produced drastic lifestyle change and switch to 'veganic' food growing

By David Templeton
Pittsburgh Post-Gazette

PITTSBURGH — Before the diagnosis and long before any thoughts about "veganic farming," Janet McKee was devoting physical and mental energy to a frenzied corporate career.

That lifestyle caught up with her when she learned she had ulcerative colitis — inflammation of the lining of the large intestine, linked to stress, medications and poor diet. Her doctor prescribed drugs while warning she'd likely be on them for the rest of her life and also might need surgery.

She accepted the diagnosis but not the prognosis.

Instead, she dove headlong into scientific research that prompted lifestyle changes and adoption of a whole-plant vegan diet, which cured the colitis. She sought formal education to help others fight health problems through dietary and lifestyle changes, which eventually led to her decision to use veganic farming to raise more nutritious fruits, vegetables, herbs and seeds.

Veganic? Combine the vegan idea of avoiding cow and chicken manure and bone meal as fertilizer, with the concept of organic farming — avoiding genetically modified plants and chemical fertilizers. Among other practices, veganic farmers use cover crops rather than manure to restore nitrogen to the soil.

"Why would you spread animal manure on your field when you eat a vegan diet?" McKee said. "I wanted to grow the healthiest produce for the public that's possible, and one of the concerns is E. coli, which comes from the manure and not from the spinach or vegetables."

E. coli is a bacterium that causes food poisoning. Her opinions were bolstered when she learned that the bone and blood meals used in organic farming are byproducts of slaughterhouse production.

"If you think about it logically, the practical reality is that there is not enough poop available to grow the vegetables we need," said Ron Khosla, a champion of veganic farming who supports www.go-veganic.org. He operates Huguenot Street Farm, a 77-acre veganic farm in New Paltz, NY.

Still a rare agricultural practice, he said, veganic farming offers a more environmentally sound way to recondition the soil and reduce greenhouse gases produced by manure and also has cost advantages.

Animals and the soil both contain microbes to convert plants into fertilizer.

"You have to eliminate the middle men — the cows and the chickens," Khosla said.

McKee's road to veganic farming was a winding one.

After returning to good health through a vegan diet, managed stress and improved sleep, she no longer needed medications. Quitting her corporate job in 1997, she became board-certified as a holistic health counselor, among other credentials.

In time she would become a preferred provider for the University of Pittsburgh Cancer Institute's Hillman Cancer Center and advisory board member of the Nemacolin Woodlands Resort's new Holistic Healing Center.

In 2012, she started SanaView (www.sana-view.com) to take her message online with videos and webinars.

The 50-year-old Franklin Park, Penn., resident remains a popular speaker on health topics while counseling individuals and groups about combining a whole-plant diet, especially raw plant foods, smoothies and high-nutrition juicing, with stress control and quality sleep. Her website includes testimonials from people who have used her methods to improve health, several involving cancer.

Sherina Tiberia represents a dramatic example. The former New Castle, Pa., resident now living in Bonita Springs, Fla., had lung cancer (bronchoalveolar adenocarcinoma) with aggressive tumor growth. Her doctor told her to get her finances in order, saying she had three to six months to live.

She went on experimental drugs that stopped the tumors' progression but left them intact. About then she began seeing McKee, who put her on a raw-plant diet with fasted water, juicing and exercise, all of which made Tiberia feel so much better that she decided to quit the medications she'd been taking for 14 months.

Within six months, she said, the tumors were shrinking, and seven years later there is no evidence of tumors. "She saved my life," Tiberia said. "I am living proof that a clean, good, organic diet works."

In a word of caution, McKee said she always recommends that people who consults continue following physicians' advice and treatments.

McKee said she eventually realized that store-bought organic vegetables, picked before ripe and shipped long distances, weren't providing optimal nutrition. "They lose their life force," she said. "The things that benefit health and life are diminished."

And I was guilty as anyone of eating blueberries from Ecuador in January."

Three years ago, she and her son Nathan created a hill and spotted a 52-acre historic farm for sale in Donegal Township, Pa., with a log cabin covered by wood siding as the main house.

She bought that farm and restored the large barn and several outbuildings, including a springhouse. Farm manager Kevin Kesiar, 40, continues building greenhouses heated and lit by solar panels, which also power electric fencing.

No-till farming practices help preserve soil biology. "It's funny that I'm ordering beneficial insects that will eat the non-beneficial ones," McKee said. "If the soil is healthy, there aren't as many pests. I'm still in the learning phase."

She already sells vegetables and herbs to local restaurants and an area country market.

The Fruit Tree Planting Foundation, based in Pittsburgh, is growing seedlings on her farm and giving them away for donations to help the Pittsburgh Food Bank. The farm also houses 30 rescued bee hives to pollinate her crops.

For now, she continues soliciting advice from farmers about alternatives to herbicides, pesticides and manure. In time she says she wants to grow most of her own food and have greens available year-round in her greenhouses.

"There is nothing more fulfilling and healthy than growing your own food, and it is so rewarding when you have that, although it obviously involves freezing and canning with dried herbs, kale chips and jars and jars of fermented red and green cabbage," she said.

The farm is available for tours, meetings and workshops.

Good health requires sufficient sleep, hydration and managed stress, but "the key is food," she said. "Food is medicine."

Khosla, formerly an international organic certification consultant to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, said veganic farming avoids the salts and remanants of antibiotics and growth factors found in manure, all of which can end up in the vegetables and groundwater.

Transporting manure from factory chicken farms and spreading it on fields in large quantities is costly and labor-intensive and also causes the release of nitrous oxide, a greenhouse gas 300 times more potent than carbon dioxide.

The veganic alternative involves legumes and other crops that draw nitrogen from the air and are then plowed into the soil. Veganic methods also help control weeds.

"The biggest advantages go to the soil, planet and water table," Khosla said. "Most of the folks attracted to organic farming come from an idealistic perspective. But if you just care about money and looked at this system, you'd say, 'Gosh, the numbers work, and this is what we should be doing.'"
Palatial estate in Western Springs for $2.99 million

ADDRESS: 4050 Central Ave. in Western Springs
ASKING PRICE: $2.99 million
Listed on April 9, 2015
This palatial, 10,000-plus-square-foot estate is nestled on a half-acre of land. The home includes six bedrooms, 5.2 baths and a four-car garage. Although grand in stature, the cozy feel of the home is pervasive in the design and intimate layout. Architecturally significant touches and refined details are showcased in each of the 22 rooms. The residence is in one of the state's top school districts and offers upscale shopping nearby, a short commute to downtown Chicago and is equidistant to O'Hare and Midway airports.
Agent: Steve Siciliano of Coldwell Banker Residential Brokerage, 708-352-4840

At press time this home was still for sale.

chicagotribune.com/homes
Visit us online for exclusive Home of the Day photo galleries, plus views of other featured homes and real estate stories.
Quick ways to catch cooler air

What you need to know about cooling down your house when the temperature heads for upper register

By Danielle Braff
Tribune Newspapers

It feels as if it's 100 degrees inside, and you need some tools to cool down your house stat. We rounded up some experts who offered quick-fix tips to get your home down to a reasonable temperature - even if the sun is trying its hardest to make you sweat.

Install an Energy Star ceiling fan. These can quickly lower the temperature of your room by 4 to 6 degrees - and they cost just a few cents per hour to operate. "For better results, pair with an air conditioner that provides cooler, drier air that the fan can then circulate," said Jaclyn Pardini, Lowe's spokeswoman.

Seal your home. Save up to 10 percent on electricity bills by using caulk, weather strips and spray foam around windows, doors and other hot spots including basements, crawl spaces and attics, Pardini said.

Remove moisture from the air. A dehumidifier can make an instant temperature difference in how a home feels on humid days. "Drier air will make the home feel cooler, particularly in areas that have inadequate ventilation, and will prevent the buildup of mold and mildew," Pardini said.

Install thermal curtains or cellular shades. More than 30 percent of home heating happens through your windows because they have the thinnest insulation barrier in the home, Pardini said. Thermal curtains - which cost about $25 per panel - can reduce monthly energy bills by up to 25 percent.

Add Insulation. Attics are often the largest source of potential heating and cooling loss in the home, and about 65 percent of homes in the United States are under-insulated, Pardini said. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, homeowners can save up to 20 percent on the heating and cooling portion of their energy bill with a properly insulated and air-sealed home.

Install a window air conditioner. These are the most popular units because they are easy to install and they're affordable - and some models can double as a heater, said Todd Marks, regional merchandising manager for The Home Depot. Keep in mind that most models can be installed in a single or double-hung window, and typically come with accordion panels that allow for a secure fit. Some models are designed to fit in sliding windows, but they require a support of some kind, such as a wooden plank or a specially designed shelf that can be attached to the exterior of your home.

Be savvy about air conditioner size and type. Before you shop for a window air conditioner, measure the square footage of the space you plan to cool, said Chris Hoffmann, project manager of heating, ventilation and air conditioning at Abt Electronics in Illinois. "Take a picture of the window (or wall sleeve) where you would like to place the unit, and bring along measurements so the sales associate can help you pick the proper unit," Hoffmann said. Also, make sure you have a proper electrical plug available, because many older homes aren't properly wired or don't have the proper plugs. They should be 115 or 220 volts, he said.

Get a portable air conditioner. "Portable air conditioners or freestanding units can be used to cool a specific area in a home such as a bedroom," Marks said. "They are easy to set up and don't require permanent installation." These have a standard window venting kit for the exhaust hose, and many are mounted on casters so you can move them from room to room. Many also have reservoirs that need to be emptied periodically.
Build some character: start a blog

We're all ears. If you want to blog, pick a topic you're passionate about and send us your pitch. If chosen, you'll join ChicagoNow, a network of hundreds of local bloggers. No worries if you're a newbie - we'll help you build and launch your platform. So don't delay because everyone loves a great story.

chicagonow.com/pitch
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Live Music Every Wed. - Sun.

MISSION: IMPOSSIBLE ROGUE-NATION
Now - Aug. 12
Navy Pier IMAX® Theatre

BOATS!
Now - Nov. 1
Chicago Children’s Museum

DISNEY’S THE LITTLE MERMAID
Now - Aug. 15
Chicago Shakespeare Theater

navypier.com
TREND

Feeding the Greek soul: 15,000 come out to Niles food fest

Big Greek Food Fest of Niles

Benefiting: Holy Taxiarhai & Saint Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, Niles

Purpose: Festival proceeds represents 15 percent of the church operating cost, and will support new and improved facilities that include a new classroom, new gymnasium, a second floor and kitchen expansion.

Location: Church parking lot, filled with busy food tents, smoking meat grills, music and dancing.

Attended: 15,000

Dates: July 18 to 20

Websites: www.saintharalambosgoc.org and www.biggreekfoodfestofniles.org

Perry Glannopoulos, of Arlington Heights (from left), chairman of the festival and parish council president, with festival volunteers: Conny Mitas, Nitsa Davos and Sue Adraktas, all of Chicago and Jim Papakostas, of Niles

Andrea Gulliford, of Chicago (left); and Maryann Kanelos, of Niles, volunteers

Volunteer Eleni Kozlowski, of Chicago (left); and Anna Lemperis, of Niles, admissions chairwoman

Koula Kalogeros, of Deerfield (from left), chairwoman of the food tent; Father George Lamberti, of Addison, assistant pastor; and Eleni Lanzourakis, of Morton Grove, public relations chairwoman

Georgia Presvytera and husband Father Dean Botcis, senior priest at Holy Taxiarhai & Saint Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church of Niles

Elaine Couris, of Morton Grove (from left); Terry Bougioukos, of Niles; and Litza Kalogeros, of Morton Grove, kitchen assistants

Eleni Siavelis, of Glenview, vendor of "Eleni's Jewelry & Accessories"

Elaine Couris, of Morton Grove (from left); Terry Bougioukos, of Niles; and Litza Kalogeros, of Morton Grove, kitchen assistants
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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, public-record.com
REAL ESTATE HOMES IN YOUR AREA

GLENVIEW
4-bedroom, 2-bath home with expanded windows. There is a custom kitchen, featuring stainless steel appliances, sliding stove, built-in microwave and granite counters. Hardwood floors throughout the house and all marble bathrooms feature new vanities. Professional landscaping with all new sod and plants. Finally, large fenced-in backyard with fruit trees.

Address: 107 Julie Drive
Price: $149,900
Schools: Notre Dame High School College Prep
Taxes: $6,393
Agent: Elda Kramarski/Exit Realty Redefined

LIBERTYVILLE
4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms. This Cape Cod home features great curb appeal with a white picket fence yard, which leads to a covered front porch/seat area. The home also has hardwood floors and an updated kitchen with custom cabinets, newer appliances and granite counters. There is a soffet ceiling in the dining room with nice trim work. The master suite is spacious, with dual vanities and separate tub and walk-in shower.

Address: 524 Broadway St.
Price: $439,000
Schools: Libertyville High School
Taxes: $8,547
Agent: Kim Sanders

LAKE ZURICH
3 bedrooms, 3.5 baths. The living and dining rooms feature vaulted ceilings, hardwood floors and a 3-way fireplace. The large kitchen has plenty of cabinet and storage with lots of counter space. There is a bay eating area overlooking the deck, which leads to a backyard surrounded by the woods. First floor features large master suite with private luxury bath including a whirlpool, separate shower and walk-in closet. The second level features two bedrooms with a Jack & Jill bathroom, as well as a possible fourth bedroom.

Address: 24674 West August Lane
Price: $380,000
Schools: Lake Zurich High School
Taxes: $8,265
Agent: Michele Vold/Coldwell Banker Residential

DEERFIELD
4 bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms. The home features a living room with hardwood floors, a separate formal dining room, a kitchen and spacious family room. The master bedroom has an ample walk-in closet and private bath. The home also has a back yard and is close to parks, shopping areas and restaurants.

Address: 1042 Gordon Terrace
Price: $149,900
Schools: Keshet Day School
Taxes: $10,591
Agent: Michele Vold/Coldwell Banker Residential

Listings from Homefinder.com.
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, August 6

Summer Camp at The Actors Gymnasium: A summer day camp for young people aged 9-15. The Actors Gymnasium Circus and Performing Arts Camp is perfect for young performers who want to stretch, stretch and flex their creative muscles. 9 a.m. Daily, Actors Gymnasium, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, $1,180 per session, $2,775 for both sessions, 847-326-2795

The Last Supper: 660 Plates Illustrating Final Meals of Death Row Inmates: By contemporary artist Julie Green, features white ceramic plates decorated with cobalt blue mineral paint to depict the last meal requests. 2 p.m. Daily, Block Museum of Art, Fisk Hall, Room 217, Northwestern University, Evanston, free, 847-491-4000

Model Railroad Garden: Landmarks of America: Train and garden enthusiasts, young and old, return year after year for this exhibition which features 18 G-scale trains chugging along 1,600 feet of track past replicas of American landmarks including the Statue of Liberty. 10 a.m. Daily, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, free, 847-835-5440

Fruit and Vegetable Garden Family Drop-In Activities: Discover where food comes from and how plants grow. 10 a.m. Daily, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, free, 847-835-5440

Butterflies & Blooms: 10 a.m. Daily, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, free, 847-835-5440

6 Wicket American Croquet: North Shore Croquet Club offers free coaching sessions and practice games. 11 a.m. 1 p.m. & 3 p.m. Thursdays, Saturdays and Wednesdays, Glenview Golf Club, 241 Westley Road, Glencoe, free, 847-409-5526

National Haute Couture: Features garments that showcase American Indian artistry and expertise in tanning, weaving, embroidery, beadwork and tailoring. 10 a.m. Daily, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-1030

Book Bites: Reading Social: "Mary Coin" by Marisa Silver. 7 p.m. Thursday, Glenview House, 1843 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-742-0692

Twitter: Get acquainted with this online social networking service that has more than just text messaging. Sign up for a Twitter account before class. 2 p.m. Thursday, Glenview Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, $2,729-7500

Chagall for children: This highly interactive exhibit features hands-on activities and audio descriptions of each of Marc Chagall's works. 9:30 a.m. Daily, Kohl Children's Museum, 2100 Blvd., Glenview, $10, 847-832-6600

Enter to win Lincolnwood Town Center's Back to School Model Contest: This top model contest is open to 13-17 year olds. All registrants must "like" or "follow" one of the following Lincolnwood Town Center's social media: Facebook, Twitter or Instagram account. Daily, Lincolnwood Town Center, 3333 W. Touhy Road, Lincolnwood, free, 847-674-1219

Shakes, Rattles and Roll: Ages birth-2 years with caregiver. Registration required. 10 a.m., Thursday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Converting Your VHS Home Movies: The new Digital Media Lab is the place to learn how to convert old home movies on VHS to a DVD or digital format. Registration is limited to four, with Morton Grove residents' priority. 10 a.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Teen Art Studio: No previous skill or supplies needed. Ages 13-18 welcome. Registration is required. 1:30 p.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

The American Legion, Post 134 seeks volunteers: Raise funds for Poppy Days to help veterans. For more information, call Kurt Trumbull at 847-663-0539. 6 a.m. Daily, The American Legion, Post 134, 6144 West Dempster St, Morton Grove, $22 plus a two-item food/drink minimum, 847-349-5008

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. For further information, call Ezra-Habonim, the Niles Township Jewish Congregation office at 847-675-4141. Daily, Walgreens, 3945 West Dempster St, Skokie, free, 847-675-4141

German Stammtisch: Practice German and learn about German culture. For all experience levels, from native speakers to beginners. 1 p.m. Thursday, Oakton Park Community Center, 4701 Oakton St., Skokie, free

Niles Township School Supply Drive: Niles Township is holding a school supply drive to assist area children in need this coming school year. New supplies and monetary donations will be accepted. Additional information and detailed school supply lists can be found online at school district web sites in Skokie, Morton Grove, Lincolnwood, Niles and Glenview. 9 a.m. Weekdays, Niles Township Government, 5255 Main St, Skokie, free, 847-727-9510

Free museum admission for military: Free admission is extended to all military personnel and their families through Labor Day in participation with Blue Star Museums. 10 a.m. Daily, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, free, 847-967-4835

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

Manhattan Medium: World-renowned clairvoyant, Thomas John, is also known as the Manhattan Medium. Chicago author and journalist Jennifer Weigl interviews John and facilitates his psychic messages to audience members. 7 p.m. Thursday, Wilmette Theatre, 1122 Central Ave., Wilmette, $20 advance, $25 door, 847-251-7424

Turn to Calendar, Next Page
**Friday, August 7**

**Tab Benoit**: 8 p.m. Friday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $36-$56, 847-492-8860

**Nia: Holistic dance fitness**: 11 a.m. Friday, Raydant Day, 1400 Greenleaf St., Evanston, $11 drop-in. $80 unlimited class pass, 847-869-6477

**Mitchell Museum of the American Indian free admission day**: 10 a.m. Friday, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, Free, 847-475-1030

**Pinterest for Small Businesses**: This social media program can help a business grow by increasing visibility on the web. 2 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd, Glenview, Free, 847-729-7500

**GLENergy presents Barbra Streisand**: Hy Speck returns with an informative and entertaining tour through the life and career of Barbra Streisand, one of the greatest female entertainers of the last fifty years. Register at glenviewpl.org/register, call ext. 7600, or visit the Reader Services Desk 1 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd, Glenview, Free, 847-729-7500

**CALENDAR**

**Make It and Take It**: Kids with a parent or caregiver are invited to stop by and make a craft to take home. 10 a.m. Friday, 1 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd, Glenview, Free, 847-729-7500

**Concert in the Park**: Listen to The Juke Box Band play their crowd pleasing repertoire of classic rock, blues, country and jazz. 6:30 p.m. Friday, Oak Park, 7700 Lee St., Niles, Free, 847-967-6633

**Gentile Yoga**: Admittance on first-come, first-served basis. 10:30 a.m. Fridays, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, Free, 847-224-6224

**Parisian Salon Concert**: featuring George Lepauw: In a complete performance of all 24 Preludes and Fugues from The Well-Tempered Clavier Book I by J.S. Bach. 7:30 p.m. Friday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, Free, 847-224-6224

**Services Under the Stars**: All are welcome to join in learning from the large range of Jewish teachings. 6:45 p.m. Friday, Congregation Beth Shalom, 3433 Walters Ave., Northbrook, Free, 847-498-4100

**Tot Shabbat with pizza/pasta dinner**: This service is for children up to age seven and for families; older siblings are encouraged to join. Contact Janice Hadesman at 847-205-9982 Ext. 211, or jhadesman@templebeth-el.org, to RSVP for dinner. 5:30 p.m. Friday, Temple Beth-El, 3610 Dunne Road, Northbrook, Free, 847-205-9982

**Share The Warmth**: Join a group of warm, friendly, supportive women (men welcome) to prepare one-of-a-kind fleece blankets for chemotherapy patients. Bring lunch. 9 a.m. Fridays, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Rd, Northfield, Free, 847-293-6755

**Backyard Summer Psalms and Fellowship**: Each week come enjoy fellowship together as this congregation reads and reflects on one of the Psalms of Ascent and the present journey of our lives. Bring a beverage and a snack to share. Call the church office for location. 7 p.m. Fridays, Wilmette Covenant Church, 1200 Hibbard Rd, Wilmette, Free, 847-446-4430

**Dupliicate Bridge**: 9 a.m. Fridays, Park Ridge Senior Center, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, Free, 847-692-5127

**Saturday, August 8**

**Health & Safety Fair**: Tour fire trucks, climb walls, get tips on healthy eating and participate in free health screenings, including blood pressure, BMI and blood glucose. Consult with a doctor about your health concerns while your children participate in games and other activities. 9 a.m. Saturday, Holy Family Medical Center, 100 N. River Rd, Des Plaines, Free, 847-297-4800

**Renegades Travel Baseball Tryouts**: The tryouts/evaluation camps for U11-U12 begins at 10 a.m. each day followed by U13-U14 at 1 p.m. each day. Visit the website for more information. Saturday-Sunday, Maryville Academy, 1150 N. River Rd, Des Plaines, Free, 847-350-8435

**Golf Maine Summer Party**: All area families are invited to join in the evening's activities: Inflatable bounce house, food, music, face painting and family games. At dusk, the movie, "Big Hero 6" begins. 6 p.m. Saturday, Deer Park, 9229 West Emerson St., Des Plaines, Free, 847-297-3000

**Downtown Evanston Farmers Market**: 7:30 a.m. Saturdays, Oak Avenue and University Place, Evanston, Free

**Ronnie Earl & The Broadcasters with Diane Blue**: 5 p.m. Saturday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $25-$65, 847-492-8860

**FUSE: Studio**: Drop in with friends to wire LEDS, compose a ringtone, build an amp, mix chemicals to make gel beads, navigate a robot obstacle course and more. Noon Saturdays, Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston, Free, 847-448-8600

**Signature Entertainment Presents: LOL Saturday**: 9 p.m. Saturdays, Chicago's Home of Chicken & Waffles, 2424 W. Dempster St., Evanston. $15 adult advance, $20 at the door, 847-521-6434

**Garden Chef Series**: Top local chefs show how to prepare delicious meals using the freshest fruits, herbs and vegetables. 1:30 p.m. & 2:30 p.m., Saturdays-Sundays, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd, Glencoe, Free, 847-835-5440

**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. Saturdays-Sundays and Wednesdays, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd, Glencoe, Free, 847-835-5440

**Gardeners of the North Shore Show**: Judged exhibition with more than 500 entries of anything a home gardener can grow. Noon Saturday-Sunday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd, Glencoe, Free, 847-835-5440

**Kite Festival**: Enjoy set-to music stunt-kite performances by members of the Chicago Fire Kite Team at the 11th Annual Chicago's Home of Chicken & Waffles, 2424 W. Dempster St., Evanston. Free, 847-835-5440

**Farmers market**: Glenview: 9 a.m. Saturdays, Wagner Farm, 1510 Wagner Road, Glenview, Free, 847-657-1506

**Freshmen College Bootcamp**: While high school graduates anxiously wait college life, PEER Services provides a three hour course that puts some worries to rest. The program focuses on decision making skills. With health, stress, roommate relationships and time management all on the agenda, students can get a head start. Noon Saturday, PEER Services Inc, 3633 West Lake Ave, #305, Glenview, $75, 847-492-1778

**Crafting for Charity**: Join in this summer charity project, making lap blankets for the sick and infirm. Email info@mgpl.org for details on donating acrylic yarn or participating if not available for this meeting. 10 a.m. Saturday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, Free, 847-985-4220

**Morton Grove Farmers Market**: 8 a.m. Saturdays, Dempster Street and Georgia Avenue, 6210 Dempster St., Morton Grove, Free, 847-750-6436

**Saturday First Run Feature - "Pitch Perfect 2"**: 2 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, Free, 847-272-6224

**Northfield Farmers Market**: 7:30 a.m. Saturdays, Happ Road and New Trier Court, 6 Happ Road, Northfield, Free, 847-446-4481

**Ages 18 and Up - Weekend Film Camp**: Takes place Aug 8-9-14-16 and 21. Learn how to develop a story and a film through the art of screenwriting. Each class is devoted to one aspect of filmmaking: Script development, pre-production, two days of production, post-production and then ending with a film festival. Class takes place on Friday evenings from 7-9 p.m. and Saturdays and Sundays from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m. Park Ridge Park District- Centennial Activity Center, 100 South Western Ave, Park Ridge, $130, 847-692-3597

**Park Ridge Farmers Market**: 7 a.m. Saturdays, Park Ridge Farmers Market, 15 S. Prairie Ave., Park Ridge, Free, 847-318-5217

**Motley Crue**: With special guest Alice Cooper. 7 p.m. Saturday, Allstate Arena, 6200 Mannheim Road, Rosemont, $50-$149, 847-635-6601

**Preserving Survivor Stories**: Ask Holocaust Survivor Pinchas Gutter any question, and "natural language" technology software retrieves Pinchas' response, creating an interactive dialogue. Free with Museum admission. 10:30 a.m. Saturdays, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9600 Woods Drive, Skokie, Free, 847-967-4635

**Wilmette Farmers Market**: 8 a.m. Saturdays, Wilmette Village Center, Along 12th Street and Wilmette, Central and Greenleaf Avenues, Wilmette, Free

**Sunday, August 9**

**Sean Hayes with Brother**: 7:30 p.m. Sunday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $20-$34, 847-492-8860

Turn to Calendar, Next Page


**Interfaith Concert on the Lake:**
Headline performer Nimo Patel brings his own brand of music to the stage, along with Chicago's Poetry Pals, who perform their readings and music. Visit InterfaithActionofEvanston.org or SpiritualPlaydate.com. 2 p.m. Sunday, Evanston History Center, 225 Greenwood St., Evanston, free, 847-361-1254

**Do Not Submit: A Storytelling Open Mic:** Sign-Up 6 p.m. Sunday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-846-1679

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

**“Love Is Strange” (96min/R/2014):** A tender tale about longtime partners, Ben and George, who face late-in-life crises. Starring John Lithgow and Alfred Molina. A casual audience-led discussion follows matinee screenings. 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Glenview Squares Benefit Dance for C.A.R.E.:** Proceeds go to Community Animal Resource Effort. Followed by Mainstream/Plus Square Dance. 6 p.m. Sunday, Glenview Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave., Glenview, 847-309-1329

**“Music in the Air”:** Cantor Benjamin Warszawski is recognized worldwide for his extraordinary talents. 6:30 p.m. Sunday, Ezra Habonim, The Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, $95, 847-675-4141

**Skokie Farmers Market:** 7:30 a.m. Sundays, Skokie Village Hall, 5217 Oakton St., Skokie, Free, 847-673-0500

**Monthly Museum Architecture Tour: “Symbolic by Design”:** Explore how the Museum’s architecture and interior design help to tell a story and enhance understanding. 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, free, 847-987-4835

**Monday, August 10**

**11th Annual Chicago Police Memorial Foundation Golf Outing:** This golf outing will feature current and former Chicago sports celebrities. All funds benefit the Chicago Police Memorial Foundation in efforts to raise money for families of fallen and catastrophically injured Chicago police officers. 11 a.m. Monday, White Pines Golf Club, 500 W. Jefferson St., Bensenville, $60-1000, 812-499-8899

**Nia: Holistic dance fitness:** 11 a.m. Monday, Rayland Day, 1400 Greenleaf St., Evanston, $11 drop-in. $80 unlimited class pass, 847-969-6477

**Book Babies:** Songs, games, story time, and free play for babies ages 2 and younger with a caregiver, 10:15 a.m. Monday, Evanston Public Library - North Branch, 2026 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-448-8400

**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:** 7 p.m. Monday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, free, 847-835-5440

**hoopla, MyMediaMall & Zinlo Individual Appointments:** Meet with trained Library staff for a 45-minute one-on-one session and learn how to discover books, audiobooks, magazines, movies, TV shows, or music to your portable device. Glenview Library card required to register. 10 a.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Drop-in Chess Club (up to grade 8):** Bring your own chess set if possible. Children under age 8 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. 7 p.m. Monday, Evanston Public Library - North Branch, 2026 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-448-8400

**Music on the Esplanade:** Unwind with free live music. Bring a picnic (allowed only on concert evenings) and enjoy the sunset. Listen to a different musical genre each Tuesday. Hours are 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, free, 847-729-7500

**Drop-in Drop-in Movies in the Community Room:** 10 a.m. & 1:30 p.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Book Discussion: “A Thousand Acres”:** By Jane Smiley. 11 a.m. Monday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5440

**Community Service Club:** Make placemats for Meals on Wheels, create coloring books for children in need, complete compassion and engaged projects for the community while earning community service hours. Contact us at 847-677-5440.

**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. Expert knitters can show you how to solve knitting challenges. Don't forget your current knitting projects and needles. 2 p.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

**Free Walking Clinic/Instruction from certified personal trainer. All fitness levels can participate. Call to register. 6 p.m. Monday, Gillson Park, Sheridan Road & Michigan Avenue, Wilmette, free, 847-251-6834

**Tuesday, August 11**

**Rotary Club of Evanston LightHouse:** 7:35 a.m. Tuesday, Hilton Garden Inn Chicago North Shore/Evanston, 1818 Maple Ave., Evanston, free

**Tuesday Morning Music:** Garden visitors can enjoy free hour-long meditative musical performances on Tuesday mornings in the McGinnis Pavilion overlooking Evening Island. Music varies from string quartets to Native American flutes, and are focused towards an older crowd. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, free, 847-987-5440

**Music on the Esplanade:** Unwind with free live music. Bring a picnic (allowed only on concert evenings) and enjoy the sunset. Listen to a different musical genre each Tuesday. Hours are 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, free, 847-729-7500

**Open Hockey Rat Time:** Players 18 years and older wearing full equipment can partake in a pickup hockey game. 12:15 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Ice Center, 1851 Landwehr Road, Glenview, $10, 847-724-2800

**Word 2010 Basics:** 10 a.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Ready for Kindergarten:** Teachers from Extraordinary Kids Kindergarten Enrichment Program engage children (those entering kindergarten) in science, math and art activities. 11 a.m. & 1 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glencoe, free, 847-729-7500

**Storytime at the Pool:** 12:45 p.m. Tuesday, Proesel Park, 7055 Kostner Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

**MGPL Kids: Listen Up:** Drop-in story and play time for preschoolers with a parent or caregiver. Call 847-929-5102 or visit mgpl.org/kids for more information. 4:45 p.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

**Country in the Park:** Free concert series. 7 p.m. Tuesdays, MB Financial Park at Rosemont, 5501 Park Place, Rosemont, free, 847-349-5008

**World’s Fair of Money:** Visitors can see eye-opening exhibits of historic, multi-million dollar rare coins and colorful paper money including the Treasury Department’s Billion Dollar Showcase featuring $100,000 bills. 10 a.m. August 11-15, Donald E. Stephens Convention Center, 5555 N. River Road, Rosemont, $0-6, 719-482-9867

**Jewish Short Stories:** 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

**Great Books Discussion Group:** For more information on joining, call 847-673-1814. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St, Skokie, free, 847-673-7774

**Wednesday, August 12**

**Bensenville French Market:** 4:30 p.m. Wednesday, Bensenville Village Hall, 12 South Center St, Bensenville, free

**Summer program to begin at Des Plaines History Center:** This program is for children who would like to make a dream catcher, paint and race a wooden car, and create a stained glass transom, and much more. The program is designed for children, ages 5-12, with an adult. 1 p.m. Wednesday, Des Plaines History Center, 781 Pearson St., Des Plaines, $3/$2 with a member, 847-391-5390

**Kasey Chambers:** 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $30-$55, 847-492-8860

**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

Turn to Calendar, Next Page
Farm Dinners: Learn first-hand from Windy City Harvest Youth Farm students how the organic produce is planted, cultivated and harvested. 5 p.m. Wednesday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, $220, 847-835-5440

Dancin’ Sprouts: Enjoy free musical entertainment for the Garden’s youngest visitors. Hours are from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. on the Esplanade. Wednesday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, free, 847-835-5440

Girls Like Us: The Music of Joni, Carole & Carly: Celebrate the ground-breaking music of Carole King, Carly Simon, and Joni Mitchell. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Intro to Microsoft Excel 2010: 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277.

Classics on Wednesday Film Series: 1 p.m. Wednesday. Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Chess Club: Whether you’re a skilled player looking for an opponent or a beginner interested in learning new skills, join our new weekly chess club. Chess sets and clocks provided. No registration required. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Storytime and Snacks (ages 2 and up with parent/caregiver): Join Mrs. Schmitt for stories and fun in the Lifestyle Center. 10:30 a.m. & 11:15 a.m. Wednesday, Whole Foods Market, 840 Willow Road, Northbrook, free, 847-205-5353

Northbrook Farmers Market: 7 a.m. Wednesday, Cherry Lane and Meadow Road, Northbrook, free.

Knitting Studio: Learn to knit, brush up on skills, learn new techniques, or spend an afternoon knitting with others. All ages and skill levels welcome. 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, free, 847-784-6030

Beginning Bridge Lessons: 1 p.m. Wednesday, Park Ridge Park District-Centennial Activity Center, 100 South Western Ave., Park Ridge, $75 member, $83 guest, 847-692-3597

Wine 101 Class and Outing: This Wine 101 Class/Outing for “55 and Over” meets at WineStyles for a class filled with wine facts and tastings. After the class, and samplings, browse the store for different wines to take home. 2 p.m. Wednesday, WineStyles Park Ridge, 105 South Northwest Highway, Park Ridge, $10 member, $12 guest, 847-692-3597

Diabetes month by month: Learn how to prevent, manage and take care of your diabetes to prevent complications. Class is bilingual (English and Spanish). 5 p.m. Aug. 13, Erie Family Health Center Evanston/Skokie, 1285 Hartrey Ave., Evanston, free, 847-666-2346

Digital Memories: Drop by the library to learn how to use the scanner in the Digital Media Lab for preserving photos, negatives and more. Registration is not required. 2 p.m. Aug. 13, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Party at the Y Community Cookout: The public is invited to enjoy a cookout picnic, inflatable bounce houses, live music, and more in a relaxed social atmosphere. 5:45 p.m. Aug. 13, North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techny Road, Northbrook, free, 847-272-7250

Walking the Talk Series: Nutritional IV Therapy: A monthly guest speaker covers topics that integrate health and wellness into your lifestyle. 7 p.m. Aug. 13, Chicago Sports Institute, 1847 Oak St, Northfield, free

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

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Understood
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"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 pre-dated 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 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

"Minions" ★★
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, Fresno Bee

"Pixels" ★★½
PG-13, 1:06, comedy. In "Pixels," directed by Chris Columbus, the 40-something self-described losers who spent too much time at the arcade are the ones who will inherit the earth — led by their benevolent leader, Adam Sandler, of course. When a mysterious alien invasion that looks eerily similar to "Galaga" hits a military base, President Cooper (played by Kevin James) has no choice but to call in his big guns. The only ones who can combat this invasion are the Arcaders: Sam (Sandler), Ludlow (Josh Gad) and former nemesis Firecracker (Peter Dinklage), sprung from the clink for the occasion. "Pixels" is a blast of energetic fun, though it doesn't attempt to stray outside the lines or reflect on its "Godzilla"-style formula; the novelty of nostalgic video game characters as space invaders sustains the film. — Katie Walsh, Tribune Newspaper Service

"Southpaw" ★★½, R, 2:04, drama. Jake Gyllenhaal stars as a boxer who spirals into near-instantaneous poverty, unemployment, heavy drinking, suicidal craziness and indecipherable levels of Method mumbles, while his daughter is taken into custody of child services. The champ must retrain himself for life inside and outside the ring, under the tutelage of wizened trainer Tick Willis (the formidable and ever-welcome Forest Whitaker). The fights look like a hundred other fights we've seen in the movies, with slightly zazzed, sped-up action and quick cutting that's more expedient than inspired. The same can be said of the whole movie. — M.R.

"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 gaudom. "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 persona that has 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.R.
HANCOCK, DR. JAMES LYLE

DR. JAMES LYLE HANCOCK, age 93, formerly of Skokie. U.S. Navy Pearl Harbor survivor. Graduate of Northwestern University and Illinois College of Podiatry; Past President, Glenview Rotary Club. Beloved husband of Leila; dear father of James Brian (Linda), Keith Anthony (Rebecca), and Rory Martin (fiancée, Nicole); loving grandfather of Shannon (Scott) Knight, Courtney J. Brian Il (Kristie), Hilary, Kimberly, Andrew, Heather, and Kelsey; cherished great-grandfather of Grace and Harper; and fond brother of the late Clifford (the late Pat).

Funeral Mass, Friday, August 14, 2015, at 9 a.m., at Addolorata Villa, 555 McHenry Rd., Wheeling, IL, 60090. Interment, Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery, Elwood, IL. Memorial contributions may be made to Wounded Warrior Project (www.woundedwarriorproject.org), RO., Box 758517, Topeka, KS, 66675 or Rotary Foundation, 14280 Collections Center Dr., Chicago, IL, 60693. Info: 847.673.6111 or www.habenfuneral.com.

Krackenberger, Mary Patricia

Mary Patricia Krackenberger, née Welch, age 69, died on Saturday, August 1. She was the beloved wife of John; loving mother of Katie (Scott Baker), Michael, and Peter (Christine) Krackenberger; dearest grandmother of Ryan and Colin Hegg. Born August 11, 1945 to Frank and Frieda Welch and younger sister of Dennis and Kathrine Welch, and “sister” of Amy Thompson, she was a lifelong resident of Skokie, IL. In 1967, Mary traveled to India where she volunteered as a member of the U.S. Peace Corps. She attended John Marshall Law School, where she met her husband-to-be. Mary and John were married on February 6, 1971 and graduated from law school in 1973. Mary was a practicing attorney, loving wife, mother, grandmother, sister, aunt and friend to many, and active member of the St. Lambert Church community. Despite battling cancer for nearly 10 years, Mary remained active and in great spirits, traveling with her husband, frequently visiting the Chicago Botanic Garden, snuggling with her dog, Jasper, and spending time with her many friends and family who will miss her dearly. According to Mary’s wishes, her body is being donated to the Anatomical Gift Association of Illinois so that future doctors may have the opportunity to further their medical knowledge. A Memorial Mass will be celebrated on Saturday, August 8th, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at St. Lambert Church 8148 Karlov Ave., Skokie, IL. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Misericordia, 6300 N. Ridge Ave., Chicago, IL, 60660 (www.misericordia.org), where Mary was a volunteer. Funeral Info: 847-673-6111 or www.habenfuneral.com.
We know your favorite spot better than your spouse

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Can '16 Prius save hybrids?

Segment's sales are stuck in niche

BY CHARLES FLEMING

AND JERRY HIRSCH

Tribune Newspapers

The next Toyota Prius will arrive just as hybrids seem to be going out of fashion.

Set to debut this fall, the 2016 version of the groundbreaking green car leads a segment beset by falling gas prices and the rising efficiency of conventional gasoline cars.

The fourth-generation Prius, analysts say, will have to be an extraordinary car to match its previous successes, and it’s unlikely to breathe new life into the flagging hybrid segment.

“The Prius and hybrids in general are in a very tough position right now,” said Kelley Blue Book senior analyst Karl Brauer.

In many ways, the Prius is the hybrid segment. Last year, Toyota sold 207,635 of the three Prius models combined, accounting for 42 percent of the hybrid market, according to IHS Automotive.

It’s by far the best-selling hybrid in U.S. history, having sold more than 1.8 million units since its debut as a 2001 model. It has, in recent years, often been the best-selling car of any kind in California.

But Prius sales this year are off 15.8 percent from 2014, according to industry research firm Autodata Corp., a figure that mirrors falling sales for all hybrids.

Toyota has so far said little about the 2016 model, but the automaker has acknowledged a few key facts: It will be in dealerships by year-end, come first in hatchback form only — with wagon and compact versions to arrive later — and look more like a conventional sedan.

Prius dominates

The Toyota Prius is the best-selling hybrid in the U.S., accounting for 42 percent of the hybrid market last year and the biggest slice of sales over the last five years.

UNIT SALES OF HYBRID VEHICLES
Scale in thousands

<table>
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<th>Year</th>
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<tr>
<td>2014</td>
<td>207.6</td>
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</table>

Source: IHS Automotive

But the Prius and dozens of other hybrids — most of them converted versions of conventional models — amount to only about 2.5 percent of all U.S. auto sales.

If the next Prius can’t grow sales, that wouldn’t bode well for hybrids from other brands.

“If the Prius cannot be successful this time around,” Brauer said, “I don’t know how any hybrid can be successful.”

Unless, of course, gas prices rise.

“You are always one fuel price spike away from people falling back in love with alternative-fuel vehicles,” said Ford sales analyst Eric Merkle, whose company makes the C-Max and Fusion hybrids.

Some automakers have even offered hybrid models at the same or only slightly higher prices than their conventional gasoline equivalents.

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GTI earns best-of-year love

**BY ROBERT DUFFER**

Tribune Newspapers

The 2015 Volkswagen Golf has had a banner year. It was Motor Trend's car of the year. It was the North American Car of the Year. It was at or near the top of every 10 best auto list of 2015.

We tested the sportier two-door GTI. The most noticeable difference is hidden beneath the hood. The direct-injection 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine, part of VW-Audi's MQB architecture shared by the Audi A3 and TT, generates 210 horsepower and 258 pound-feet of torque, a 20 percent increase over the previous generation. It's not overly impressive from a stop, but as soon as the turbo kicks in, anywhere from 2000 to 4000 rpm and beyond, it has the kind of power and quickness that make you smile.

The GTI sits slightly lower than the Golf and has sturdier sway bars, so zipping in and out of corners doesn't roll you off the seat. Tight turns and the ability to get in and out with a burst are the most impressive performance elements of the always-fun without ever being obnoxious hatch.

Zipping around town was enabled by the six-speed manual transmission, which comes standard. The gear stick has a dimpled golf-ball handle, and the gearbox should be used in driving programs intent on revving the manual transmission. It's smooth, direct and simple. It makes driving fun and isn't a nuisance in traffic.

The flat-bottom leather-wrapped steering wheel adds to the sporty tactile impression while driving. Yet the fun factors don't have to sacrifice economy. We averaged 37 mpg at highway speeds averaging 50 mph over 83 miles, which is well above the EPA estimated 34 mpg highway.

Try to give your rotors a break

**BOB WEBER**

Motormouth

Q: I have a 2011 Ford Edge with 50,000 miles. My Ford dealer indicated that brake linings (pads) were 5 mm on all brakes. This put my brakes in the "yellow zone" on the vehicle checklist report. I asked if the brake linings could be replaced now to avoid damage to the rotors, and they recommended not replacing the linings only. They told me that both the rotors and the linings should be done together because the rotors and the linings "wear together" and that replacing only the linings will result in squeaky brakes since new pads will not fit well on the existing rotors. In the past, I had always heard that you replaced the brake pads before the rotors needed to be reground. Has this recommendation changed, and what would you recommend?

— VB, Ann Arbor, Mich.

A: Unless the rotors are worn beyond the mandatory discard thickness, we prefer to replace the pads only. Not only does this obviously save money, but time. New pads must be burnished into new rotors before the best braking performance is achieved. Burnishing involves making multiple stops (with cool-downs in between) to transfer some of the brake lining material to the rotors. It takes about 200 normal brake applications to achieve this if the technician fails to burnish your brakes using a quicker method. This is unnecessary if the old rotors are used.

Q: We own a 2008 Ford Taurus. In 2011, the paint on the hood started bubbling and chipping off. The local Ford dealer told us it was not covered under any warranty and we were out of luck unless we wanted to shell out about $1,800 to repaint the hood. We have quite a large patch of bare aluminum on the hood of the car. Can you tell me if car owners have any other recourse for what is clearly a defect in the manufacturing of this car?

— JO, Riverside, Ill.

A: The Center for Auto Safety suggests contacting the service manager at your local Ford dealership. The service manager has access to the field representative and should submit your request for financial assistance to the rep. Sometimes, partial payment of the repair costs is offered. You may choose to accept or go to small claims court. Check out the Center for Auto Safety website, www.autosafety.org for guidelines.

Q: I have a 2007 Toyota Highland Hybrid with 115,000 miles. I have been faithful in its recommended maintenance. Is there any data regarding the longevity of the hybrid battery; is there anything that reflects miles versus battery replacement? Would it be advisable to trade my hybrid, or can I presume the Highlander Hybrid has more miles?

— JO, Chicago

A: The hybrid batteries have a design life of at least 10 years. Chances are they will live long beyond that. Toyota claims that the batteries will last "the life of the car." The company warrants its batteries for 8 years/100,000 miles. In California the warranty is 10 years/150,000 miles.
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Red Stars soccer caters to enjoyable family experience

BY KEN RYAN
Pioneer Press

Editor's note: This is the final in a series of stories about things for sports fans to do and see in and around the Pioneer Press coverage area.

It's a sunny Saturday evening and my wife and I have loaded our three children into the minivan to head out for a new family experience.

After a 15-minute drive from our west suburban home, we arrive at the campus of Benedictine in Lisle -- the home of the Chicago Red Stars women's soccer team.

Parking, which is free, is quick and easy. I easily navigate the family vehicle through the ample parking lot, past tailgaters and groups of children kicking soccer balls. We secure a parking spot a moderate distance from the entrance to the university's sports complex.

Easy parking without much walking is essential to our family, as one of my sons, Jay, is physically handicapped. He makes it to the stadium with no difficulties.

I've been to Benedictine many times over the years in my capacity as a sports writer covering high school events, ranging from soccer, track and field, to baseball. It's always been one of my favorite venues, a well-designed, professionally looking complex that I would expect to see at a university twice the size.

Tonight the complex has taken on a whole new personality. This atmosphere feels like a party. My family and I are immediately greeted by friendly faces and free giveaways.

We are handed cups of fresh, sliced mango from a smoothie vendor and, much to the delight of all three of my kids, people are distributing complementary chocolate milk jugs courtesy of Nesquik. My son Caleb chugs his within moments, while Jay and Kristine tuck theirs into the backpack to enjoy later.

It's not long before Jay and Kristine spot the Red Stars' mascot, Supernova, who poses for a friendly photo with Jay and offers a high-five to Kristine. Caleb and my wife, Susan, line up for a showdown that involves transferring jelly beans from one jug to another. Caleb's reward for winning is a handful of Red Stars temporary tattoos.

One more giveaway -- a water bottle that Caleb happily snatches up -- and our family is ready to hit the concession stands.

Concessions are simple, but offer enough selection to please our family: pizza combo for Caleb, chicken strips for Kristine and nachos for Jay. Susan and I go with a brat and a burger, with chips and drinks to round out our order. The prices are reasonable in comparison to other professional sporting events: Our dinner for five is $28.

After filling our bellies, we venture into the stadium to find our seats.

The stadium, which features a synthetic turf field, has a seating capacity of 3,071 and is mostly filled on this night. Tickets prices begin at $10, while upscale VIP guest suites each can accommodate 20 people, and a premium table offers seating along the sidelines. For us, the bleachers are just fine.

As the public-address announcer introduces the starters before the game, the crowd saves its biggest applause and cheers for fan-favorites Julie Johnston and Christen Press. The pair rewards the fan support by each scoring in a 2-2 draw against defending Women's National Soccer League champion FC Kansas City.

The Red Stars (7-6-6), established in 2007, are currently in second place in the nine-team league and feature FIFA Women's World Cup stars, including American champions Johnston and Press. They are joined by U.S. teammates Lori Chalupny and Shannon Boxx, as well as the Canadian trio of Karina LeBlanc, Melissa Tancredi and Adriana Leon, and New Zealand captain Abby Erceg.

Red Stars personnel keep fans involved by encouraging different chants and Jay enjoys banging on the bleachers as "We Will Rock You" blares through the loud speakers.

We strike up a conversation with a family sitting in front of us, who is attending its first game of the season but has been to a few games in previous seasons.

Hannah Bressner, a 20-year-old from Darien, watches the game with her parents and boyfriend. She's wearing an old Red Stars jersey of former player Casey Nogueira, whom she met during a summer camp in North Carolina a few years back.

"I just love the fun atmosphere," says Bressner, who played a season for Heartland Community College in Normal, and wants to try out for St. Xavier this fall. "It's a low-maintenance experience. It's easy to get in and out and there's not a bad seat in the house."

With the Red Stars enjoying a 1-0 lead at halftime, the crowd is treated to more family fun. Participants squeeze inside giant inflatable balls and play Knockerball soccer, which involves a fair amount of collisions.

Supernova shoots T-shirts into the stands, which is always a dependable crowd-pleaser. Despite sitting in one of the last rows of the bleachers, Jay tries his best to catch a souvenir, with no luck.

His disappointment doesn't last long as we purchase a T-shirt with a Red Stars logo inspired by the Chicago flag, on the way out of the stadium.

A new Red Stars fan is born.

Ken Ryan is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Par-King offers one-of-a-kind test of mini-golf skills

BY BOB NARANG
Pioneer Press

Located on Milwaukee Avenue in Lincolnshire, just across from the Regal Cinemas, the giant pink castle is a hard-to-miss local symbol along a busy stretch of road amid numerous corporations and chain restaurants.

The pink castle is the centerpiece of Par-King Skill Golf, a hidden gem for sports fans or families seeking quality entertainment in the area. With two 18-hole courses that include 19 moving obstacles and seven water holes, the pink castle is an eye-catching aspect of the Par-King miniature golf course.

Just ask Mundelein junior Matt Szczepanski, a 16-year-old from Wauconda.

"It was a really cool course," Szczepanski said. "It was really nice. We were bummed out since we couldn't go in the castle. We thought it was part of the course."

Par-King Skill Golf is not your normal, run-of-the-mill miniature golf course.

Szczepanski and two of his friends all visited Par-King on Friday, July 24 for the first time. All three found the course to be unique and enjoyed the different aspects of each hole.

A golfer at Mundelein, Marco Rosales admitted the course was tough.

"I thought this course was really nice," Rosales said. "I don't go mini-golfing very often, but I'm an actual golfer. This was actually very difficult for me putting. I like all the props. Some of the holes were really tricky. It is easily the best golf course that I have been to."

A multi-generational, family-owned business that has been in operation since the 1950s -- when it was based in Morton Grove and called 4G Fairways -- Par-King bills itself as one of the most creative courses in the county. Par-King's Lincolnshire course opened in 1977 and doubled the size of the Morton Grove course that had been referred to as one of the most elaborate in the nation.

Unlike most miniature golf courses, Par-King does not have a theme. Each hole is a unique experience, from the giant clown to the golf ball rollercoaster, the Statue of Liberty hole, the Sears Tower and the 1970s-style spaceship and the huge roulette wheel.

"We took the best of everything, from what we thought out clientele liked from not only the miniature golf but the landscaping," Par-King owner George Boznos said. "During the daytime, this is a great family business. All you see out here is families. But at night, there's a whole another segment of customers that come in until dinner."

After dinner, it's a date place. Our clientele during the day is young children and families. At night, it's high school and college students. For families, this is great. It's good, clean, wholesome fun."

Elliott Sathoff, a 16-year-old from Hawthorne Woods, called the miniature golf course a must-attend place for local residents.

"It was really fun," he said. "I liked the courses and it was very interesting with all the obstacles and we had a good time."

With parking for 200 cars and extra parking available in the grass, Par-King Skill Golf can accommodate more than 200 people and is open seven days a week in June, July and August. Able to hold corporate events and birthday parties, Par-King is a unique, and memorable, aspect of the community.

"I know for sure that I'll definitely be back," Szczepanski said after completing one of the 18-hole courses.

Bob Narang is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter: @bobnarang
Top-tier athleticism sets Louis, Green apart

BY MATT HARNESS
Pioneer Press

By Division I standards, Taylor Louis and Amanda Green still are in the learning stage of their careers, according to Marquette women's volleyball coach Ryan Theis.

Both Louis and Green - graduates of Niles North - started playing the sport as freshmen in high school.

"They are relatively late to volleyball," Theis said. "Both have a good understanding of the game, and they have played at high levels. But they have some deficiencies."

That doesn't mean Theis is down on the players he recruited from Skokie. It's quite the contrary.

"Athletically, they will be two of the best on our team and maybe rival some of the best in the Big East," he said. "We like getting those athletes and teaching them the game. It's easier to teach great athletes."

Louis, a 6-foot-2 outside hitter, will be a redshirt freshman this season, and the 6-1 Green, also an outside hitter, will be a true freshman. Theis said both of them can reach as high as 10-5, more than three feet higher than the net.

"The ability to play that high above the net is elite," Theis said.

Despite their athleticism, Louis and Green - varsity teammates for three seasons at Niles North - both admitted they are behind most of the women at the Division I level.

Louis said she agreed with Theis' decision to redshirt her last year.

"I came in like Bambi," she said. "The players were more advanced, more experienced. I had to clean up my hitting and my defense."

Green has spent a little more than a month on Marquette's Milwaukee campus and during that time she's played against her future teammates in open gyms. She said she's no longer the dominant player she was in high school.

"There are a lot better players around me, but I enjoy the competition," she said. "It's going to make me a better player."

A year ago, Marquette went 24-9 and 14-4 in conference play. For the fourth consecutive season, the Golden Eagles advanced to the NCAA Division I women's volleyball tournament. They lost to Illinois State in the first round.

Theis said he sees Louis as a major contributor when Marquette starts its season Friday, Aug. 28, against North Dakota in Ames, Iowa. That's because of her play in the spring. Louis led the team in points during a game on March 28.

"My very last game is when it all started to click," Louis said. "I started seeing things quicker, and I got used to Division I volleyball."
Seeing stars

High-level women's soccer can be found at Chicago Red Stars games. Page 43
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Follow us on Facebook, Twitter @LRSrecycles, LinkedIn and Google+ to discover how we are involved in the community. Together, we can work to make a difference in Chicagoland.