Funding shortfall
Local charity serves up food to help fight $25 million funding deficit. Page 4

Volunteer Bozena Slmkowski serves food during an Easter week supper at Catholic Charities Northwest Regional office.

Spring show
Gear up for the Chicago Botanic Garden's Antiques Garden & Design Show. Page 19

Opening day
Area resident turns around Chicago Cubs minor-league affiliate. Page 43

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SHOUT OUT

Terri Schmidt, PRCHC chairwoman

Though nearly disbanded late last year, the Park Ridge Community Health Commission is revamping itself with a new focus and new direction, according to chairwoman Terri Schmidt.

“I see us as a centerpiece for coordinating aspects of public health and environmental health,” said Schmidt, a local social worker.

The Health Commission meets at 7 p.m. on the fourth Thursday of the month on the second floor of Park Ridge City Hall, 505 Butler Place.

Q: What have been the biggest changes to the commission?
A: The expansion of its core mission. When it was started in 2005 by Ald. Frank Wsol and Dr. John Bello, the primary concern was substance abuse by minors ... [Over time] the membership on the commission dropped and a lot of members were not attending meetings. There was a concern [by aldermen] in November that the commission should be dropped. But a decision was made to expand the mission. We now have 11 commissioners and it's a very active commission right now.

Q: Generally, what does the commission do for the community?
A: It's about increasing public health awareness and opportunities in terms of helping people know what they need to do to become resilient, no matter what happens, and how to locate resources to increase that knowledge.

Q: How will the group help citizens locate resources?
A: We're looking at whether we want to put information online or distribute it in literature. The Healthier Park Ridge Coalition was formed in response to the 2013 community survey and one of the biggest responses in that survey was the need for increased mental health, as well as dental services, in Park Ridge. Just last week, we finished up a brochure with mental health resources for people in Park Ridge. We're figuring out how to distribute it.

Q: What else are you working on?
A: One of the things I'm excited about is emergency preparedness. I became a member of CERT (Community Emergency Response Team) a few years ago because my area was without power for two weeks ... I wanted to find out how to launch an emergency preparedness plan. One thing we are thinking about is having short classes in emergency preparedness.

—Jennifer Johnson, Pioneer Press
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Catholic Charities confronts $25M deficit

Agency hopes to fund 150 social service programs

BY KAREN ANN CULLOTTA
Pioneer Press

An upcoming fundraiser is being counted on by Catholic Charities to help fill the gap left by $25 million owed the agency by the state and to keep serving impoverished Cook and Lake County residents.

Despite the Illinois budget impasse delaying more than $25 million in statewide funding to Catholic Charities, officials at the agency said this month they are determined to continue serving more than one million vulnerable and impoverished residents living in the two counties.

"Hearts for Hope" on April 16 will help fund the 150 social service programs in 160 locations, spokeswoman Kristine Kappel said.

The programs most at risk from the delay in funding caused by the state budget impasse aiding senior citizens, ensuring that 25,000 seniors are able to stay in their homes, and child development centers, which assist low-income families with young children, Kappel said.

"It is truly heart-wrenching to see seniors who have no support system, but who are not at the point yet where they need to live in a nursing home," she said.

The nonprofit agency provides home visits that help seniors with housekeeping and transportation to medical appointments, Kappel said.

"We are providing people with the tools they need to keep their lives intact, and when you take away a block, all of a sudden their lives start crumbling, and they start falling deeper into poverty," she said.

Indeed, with the state's budget shortfall and funding delays not expected to be resolved any time soon, Kappel said officials are now counting on their "Hearts for Hope" fundraiser on April 16 to raise needed dollars to support programs for low-income residents in the northwest suburbs.

"It is our hope that our elected leaders will take responsibility and pass a budget that is not balanced on the backs of the poor, and remember our most fragile citizens of the state," Kappel said. "We don't want our clients to worry. We're still here for them."

To purchase tickets for "Hearts for Hope," go to www.catholiccharities.net/hearts or call 847-576-2118.
"Residents are invited to participate in a survey to help gauge satisfaction with their experiences in Niles," Hayley Garard, a spokeswoman for the village, said in an email.

Officials: Niles aims to improve village services

Residents have until April 11 to fill out community survey

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

The village of Niles is hoping to use the results of a new public survey residents can now take online to help shape future decision-making in multiple facets of local government, from police and fire services to garbage pickup and the functionality of the village website.

The community survey, available through April 11, asks residents to anonymously rank their satisfaction with the level of service provided by the village like snow removal and tree maintenance, but it also covers safety, asking residents to rank how safe they feel while walking alone at night.

So far, about 100 residents have taken the 35-question survey since it opened on the village website on March 18, according to Hayley Garard, spokeswoman for the village of Niles.

"We're here to serve residents and our businesses, so this is a chance for us to see whether people are happy or not," Garard said.

The village of Niles for several years has wanted to conduct a community survey, but local officials were deterred by the cost, which can reach upward of $15,000 for municipalities that pay out of pocket, according to Assistant Village Manager Hadley Skeffington-Vos.

The village jumped at a rare chance to do the survey at no cost when it was invited earlier this year to participate in a study being held at the University of Illinois at Chicago's master's degree program for public administration, known as the MPA degree.

The MPA students at UIC worked with village staff to come up with the questions, which follow guidelines from the International City Management Association, according to Skeffington-Vos. Many of the questions mirror community-based surveys that have been distributed by other Chicago-area towns like Naperville, for example.

The results of the survey will be analyzed by the UIC students, and the results will be provided to the village sometime in May, according to Garard. Village staff will next compare the responses with the results of other nearby communities that have done similar surveys.

Village officials planned to go over the feedback at committee or Village Board meetings later in the year, according to Skeffington-Vos.

"We've already passed our budget this year, but the results could help us with prioritizing next year's capital projects," she said. "Everyone who lives here is a customer of the village, so if they're not happy this is a good time to bring it up."

The survey is available on the village website at https://www.survey monkey.com/r/niles survey. Residents can also visit the Niles Public Library at 6960 W. Oakton St. or the senior center at 999 Civic Center Drive to take the survey online.

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Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Woman killed, 6 hurt when car hit by train

BY NATALIE HAYES AND MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

One woman was killed and another woman critically injured April 4 after a car they were in collided with a CTA Yellow Line train at a grade crossing in Skokie, injuring five passengers on the train, according to Skokie police.

The woman killed about 10:20 a.m. in the crash at East Prairie Road and the Yellow Line tracks was identified as Blandina Hernandez, 62, of the 4100 block of Oakton Street in Skokie, according to the Cook County medical examiner's office. She was pronounced dead at 11:02 a.m. at Skokie Hospital.

Service on the Yellow Line was suspended April 4 following the crash at East Prairie Road, and drivers were asked to avoid the road, with closures in effect from Oakton to Howard streets, according to Eric Swaback, of the Skokie Police Department. Full train service was restored about 5 p.m., according to the CTA.

The car was heading south on East Prairie when it hit a train heading east on the Yellow Line about 10:20 a.m., police said. Five ambulances responded.

In addition to the woman killed, a 45-year-old woman who also was in the car was taken to Presence St. Francis Hospital in Evanston, and five passengers from the train were taken to area hospitals for treatment of less serious injuries, according to police.

Several blocks north and south of the crash scene on East Prairie Road were closed off well into the afternoon. Yellow tape surrounded the site of the crash, which was located only a few blocks to the north of East Prairie School.

Dozens of personnel from the Skokie Police Department, the CTA and the Major Crash Assistance Team from the North Regional Major Crimes Task Force (NORTAF) were on hand to investigate.

The demolished red car was moved to the side of the tracks.

Skokie Village Trustee Ilonka Ulrich, who was home from work because of a death in her family, lives around the corner from the crash location. Her backyard faces the tracks.

"I just took a shower and was looking out the back window," she said. "I heard this loud explosion or a bang. I then see the train just stopped there."

Ulrich's first thought, she said, was that the train hit something on the tracks before the intersection. She said she could hear the sound of a railroad crossing although she could not tell whether the gates were down.

"I saw smoke coming out of the bottom of the train that was just sitting there," she said. "I came out with my dogs and then I heard from the train, 'ladies and gentlemen, there has been a derailment. Call your employers. You're going to be here for awhile.'"

At that point, Ulrich said, she walked to the alley and looked at the wrecked car for herself.

"I knew there had to be a fatality," she said. "It just shows you how tenous life is. It shows you to appreciate the people in your life."

With CTA Yellow Line service shut down following the crash, it was an unusual midday scene a few blocks north at the Oakton Street station in downtown Skokie. No commuter was waiting on the platform and trains were nowhere to be seen or heard.

Freelancer Natalie Hayes contributed to this story.

Four men are facing charges in connection with identity theft.

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

Four men are facing charges in connection with identity theft.

The men allegedly attended to police they had obtained the fake documents from someone on the South Side of Chicago who met them in a basement a few days before their arrest. They were given a list of high-priced items and were instructed to go to retail stores to use instant lines of credit opened under victims' names, police said.

They then planned to resell the items and use the money to buy heroin, according to statements two of the offenders made to police.

Bobby Gordan, 60, of the 300 block of North Keystone Avenue, Chicago; Earl Stanley Rawls, 61, of the 9000 block of South Princeton Avenue, Chicago; and Brian Washburn, 42, of the 4200 block of West Monroe Avenue, River Grove, were charged with identity theft and credit card fraud.

Gordan, Rawls and Washburn have extensive criminal histories, including drug possession and forgery charges, according to police records.

Police said their first stop was at the Home Depot store in Niles in the 9000 block of Cicero Center Plaza, where Rawls charged $3,385 in merchandise to an instant line of credit using the information of one of the victims.

After loading the items, including a whirlpool, toilet and a lawn mower, into the back of a U-Haul truck being driven by Washburn, the four men stopped at Menards in the 6300 block of Oakton Street.

Gordan went into the store while the others waited outside, police said. He brought three water heaters and several other items, totaling $2,663, to the counter and asked the clerk to pull up his credit card information because he had left his Menards store-issued credit card at home.

After his request was denied, police said, a store manager wrote down the license plate of the U-Haul truck and called police. When police arrived in the parking lot, they found the truckload of merchandise from Home Depot, along with fake identification cards. Expertin credit reports with the victims' information and other financial documents, according to police.

After he was taken into police custody, Rawls allegedly told officers that he has been addicted to heroin for at least 30 years and that he commits crimes to support his habit.

It was unclear how the victims' private information was stolen, but Yaras said police were looking into the possibility that it was stolen from a database kept at a Chicago-area law firm.

Gordan, Rawls and Washburn were released from jail on March 7 with electronic monitoring, according to the Cook County Sheriff's Department. They were taken to Skokie Hospital.

Four charged with identity theft, credit card fraud

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Reptiles removed from residence

BY DANIEL I. DORFMAN
Pioneer Press

Five exotic reptiles are in foster care after being removed from a Winnetka home last week, according to hospital officials. The property owner soon found the reptiles and contacted authorities, and then they were taken to Skokie's Chicago Exotics Animal Hospital, the officials said.

Mede said last week that of the four geckos and five pythons originally brought in, two snakes and two geckos died and one of the surviving geckos was in critical condition.

"We've seen animal abuse in reptiles before, but this is probably the worst case I have seen," she said last week. "We had to wear protective gloves and a face mask to handle these animals. We had to change our clothes because of the parasites."

Whether charges will be pursued in the case remains unclear. Hospital office manager Lamor Gatien said last week the incident was reported to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Conservation Police. Chris Young, DNR spokesman, said in an email last week that Conservation Police officials directed that the animals should be taken to the Skokie hospital.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Daniel I. Dorfman is a freelance reporter.
Park Ridge VFW rezoning stirs up talk of annexation

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

The recent sale and proposed redevelopment of property belonging for decades to a Park Ridge VFW post has the city's elected officials raising objections — and talk of annexation.

Aldermen on March 21 voted 6-0 to approve a resolution against a proposal from Canfield Higgins LLC to rezone the property at the northwest corner of Higgins and Canfield roads from single-family residential to a "restricted industrial district." Because the property is located within unincorporated Cook County, the rezoning request will go to the county's Zoning Board of Appeals, which is slated to hear the case at 1 p.m. April 6 at 69 W. Washington St., Room 2840 in Chicago.

Park Ridge's objection will force a supermajority vote by the Cook County Board to pass the rezoning request, City Attorney Julie Tappendorf said.

In a Nov. 6, 2015, letter to area property owners, attorney Nicholas Pitkas, who represents Canfield-Higgins LLC, said the plan was to establish a "commercial and/or retail use" on the property at 10 W. Higgins Road, which had long been owned by VFW Post 3579. It was recently sold to the LLC, VFW representatives told the Park Ridge Herald-Advocate.

There have been discussions of building a McDonald's or a convenience store there, according to a report from Strategy Planning Associates, hired by Canfield Higgins LLC to "evaluate the fiscal and economic impact to the taxing jurisdictions of development."

Cook County Commissioner Peter Silvestri, whose district includes the property, said he is unaware of what is being considered, though industrial zoning includes "provisions for commercial use."

"The application [before the ZBA] is not specific on the intended use of the land," he said.

Despite having a Park Ridge mailing address, the VFW property was never annexed by the city. However, the possibility of new development on the site has the City Council now talking annexation, which was an option suggested by Tappendorf on March 21.

"If the city annexes it, it becomes part of the city's jurisdiction and subject to the city's zoning and control," she said, adding that any tax dollars generated would go to the city, which would have to provide emergency services.

Because the property borders Park Ridge on the west and north, it could be annexed, Tappendorf said, but it would be more difficult if development started before annexation goes through.

"If we annex a property into the city, then whatever current uses are on the property are grandfathered in," she said. "The zoning isn't grandfathered in, but if they start [building] and have a specific use on that property, even though we have zoning control over them, we can't apply any zoning that would be contrary to an existing, continuing use on the property. Let's say it was currently used as the VFW and was annexed in. We couldn't stop the VFW use."

Though resident Jeana Chammas told the City Council she had received notice from the county in November of the planned rezoning, Tappendorf said the city had not received a formal notice until March 21. Tappendorf acknowledged that "we had heard about it before," though no concrete development proposals had been shared with city officials.

The fact that the property was for sale had been public for more than a year. The Park Ridge Herald-Advocate reported in April 2015 that the land had already been up for sale for several months (with a large sale sign affixed to the building) and had a potential buyer, according to a member of the post.

Having sold the property, the VFW membership is preparing to move to space within the White Eagle banquet hall at 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave. in Niles by early summer, said Harry Benjam in, quartermaster and treasurer. The age and size of the building, which had served the VFW for more than 60 years, as well as costs for upkeep, prompted the sale, he said.

johnson@pioneerlocal.com
Twitter @Jen_Pioneer
The following items were taken from the Niles Police Department reports. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt.

**POLICE REPORT**

**RESISTING ARREST**
- Serge Makeyev, 52, of the 7900 block of Milwaukee Avenue, was charged with resisting arrest, criminal damage to property and battery on March 27. According to police, an officer was attempting to speak with Makeyev, who was involved in a battery several days earlier, when Makeyev threw a metal snow shovel in the officer's direction. Makeyev allegedly resisted attempts by police to take him into custody and a Taser was used on him, though police said it was ineffective. According to police, Makeyev made statements like "You're not the real police" and "911 is not real police." He was taken to a local hospital for an evaluation and later charged, police said. He has a May 10 court date.

**PUBLIC INTOXICATION**
- A man, 35, was ticketed for public intoxication and cost of emergency services on March 25 after police said he was found semi-conscious and smelling of alcohol on the 8200 block of Oak Avenue at 12:30 a.m. He was taken to Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge.
- A Northbrook man, 53, was ticketed for public intoxication and cost of emergency services on March 25 after police said he was found unconscious in a parking lot on the 8500 block of Golf Road at 11 p.m. He was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge.

**DISPUTE**
- A man alleged that the driver's side window of a car following a traffic-related dispute at Oakton Street and Waukegan Road was damaged.

**THEFT**
- A woman reported that an Army-issued medallion was stolen from her husband's headstone at St. Adalbert Catholic Cemetery, 6800 N. Milwaukee Ave., between Jan. 2 and March 19.
- A woman told police that her backpack, containing an iPad, two pairs of shoes, makeup, clothing and a hair straightener, was stolen on March 26 from the front lawn of her home on the 7800 block of Octavia Avenue while she was out running.
- Police said a 54-year-old Chicago woman lost several thousand dollars in a scam after she received a message via Facebook telling her she had won a lottery. According to police, the woman was told she would need to pay processing fees by making wire transfers in order to claim the lottery winnings.

Lincolnwood man shot, injured Easter Sunday

BY NATALIE HAYES
Pioneer Press

A 23-year-old man was shot and injured March 27 when someone shot at his car while it was parked near his home with other people when a black-colored vehicle had pulled up and started shooting into the vehicle, according to Lincolnwood police Lt. Randy Rathmell.

Police said the Easter Sunday incident was isolated, and that the victim and the other people in the vehicle were shot at by a car parked near his home along St. Charles Road, according to Rathmell.

Police said the Easter Sunday shooting was isolated, and that the victim and the other people in the vehicle were shot at by a car parked near his home along St. Charles Road, according to Rathmell. The victim was cooperating with an ongoing police investigation, Rathmell said.

Lincolnwood police have increased patrols in the area of the shooting.

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
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Poster power

Student artists join project to support police, fire departments

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

If you're a student artist, what is the best way to say thank you to the first responders of Skokie - to the men and women of the village's Police and Fire departments who do not always get the glory they deserve?

A dozen or so Niles North High School students gathered after school recently to answer that question without even having to speak. The illustrated posters they created, sitting in front of them, spoke loudest of all.

The students who participated in the contest were all from the school's advanced painting programs, Niles North art instructor Lori Real said. Three of these finalist posters were named winners that will be used to promote a ribbon-tying celebration during the last half of May throughout the village.

"What's nice is a sophomore one, a junior one and a senior one were selected, and we didn't plan that," Real said after the winning posters were announced.

Skokie resident Elbine Eliasoff formed the idea of a celebration, saying she wanted to honor the village's Fire and Police departments by tying blue and red ribbons around trees. In getting the project rolling, she quickly gained enthusiastic support from different corners of Skokie, she said - from the village itself to the Chamber of Commerce to Niles North.

Real said she and her students were immediately interested in joining.

"We talked about the community and what our police and fire mean to the community," Real said. "We approached this as a graphic design project. This gave them real world experience."

Niles North student artists created their posters before finalists were pared down to 13 and then the three were selected. Although the finalist posters were diverse in how they expressed appreciation for police and fire - some were a bit more abstract and symbolic, others more realistic - they each shared visual commonality.

All of the posters reflected local police and fire in some way and included a rendering of a tree with ribbons wrapped around it.

"Your posters were amazing," Eliasoff told the students before the winners were selected. "Trying to choose was actually impossible for me."

Eliasoff later said that selections were a collaborative choice among different parties involved in the project, including the school and the chamber.

"The program is honoring Skokie's finest and brightest," Eliasoff explained to the students. "We're doing a ribbon-tying campaign around Skokie just as a way of showing gratitude toward the people who take care of us and keep our streets safe."

In addition to Eliasoff, Skokie Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Howard Meyer attended the winners announcement as did Principal Ryan McTague.

Posters created by students Dechen Tsechen, Cindy Salazar, and Revathi Ravindran were named winners.

"I was really excited as soon as I heard about the project," said Ravindran, a sophomore. "It's because my work had a chance to be displayed for everyone to see - especially Skokie because my family lives here."

Ravindran said she kept her design "pretty simple" as she believed that would have the most impact.

"I went for a comic book style," she said.

Salazar, a senior, enthused about being able to create the poster in whatever way she wanted.

The project, however, was an assignment that was graded and had some parameters, Real said. But not as many as some other projects because it was important to let students have the freedom to create from scratch, she said.

Salazar said she initially was stumped for ideas so she asked her family for suggestions. She didn't like most of them, she said, and then she came up with an anime-style drawing of a firefighter and a police officer standing side by side, a large tree with a ribbon behind them.

She said it was a great experience - especially in light of what she sees for herself in the future.

"I want to be an animator," Salazar said.

misaacs@pioneerlocal.com

Pioneer Press PHOTOS

Niles North High School student artists created posters as part of a class assignment to help promote a May ribbon-tying campaign to honor Skokie Police and Skokie Fire personnel. Three posters were selected to use in the program.
Two D219 debaters win big at national championship

BY NATALIE HAYES

The high school debate programs at Niles Township School District 219 didn't escape school board-approved budget cuts this year, but a national triumph recently secured by the debate team at Niles West High School is evidence that academic success was still possible.

Despite losing $12,500 in funding this school year as part of $25,000 in total cuts the school board made to the debate programs at Niles West and Niles North high schools, two sophomores on the junior varsity division at Niles West won the 2016 national championship on March 20 for second-year policy debaters.

The students, Nathan Glancy of Niles and Nasim Salehitezangi of Lincolnwood, scored high enough to beat the 38 other teams from seven different states that competed in the national championship tournament hosted by Woodward Academy in College Park, Ga.

Niles West debate coach Eric Oddo described Glancy and Salehitezangi as one of the most successful debate duos he's had in the club's six-year history. Oddo helped reinstate the debate club after it was defunct for more than 10 years.

"It's a fantastic year for them as sophomores," Oddo said. "The funding cuts took out a few tournaments for us, but we're thankful that we still had enough funding to make it to the national championships."

The win was made even more special, Glancy said, because three of the four teams pitted against Niles West in the final rounds of the competition were private schools that had better access to funding.

"Debate is largely governed by the private schools, so it's awesome that our school's program allows us to travel all the way across the country to compete against some of these other teams," Glancy said.

With annual tuition in the $30,000 range, the private schools beaten by Niles West included Carrollton School of the Sacred Heart from Miami, Fla.; Greenhill School near Dallas; and the University of Chicago Laboratory School. Cabot High School from Arkansas was the other public school that made it to the final rounds, according to Oddo.

"It shows that kids can succeed, no matter what background they come from," Oddo said. "I think it's important for kids to know, that it's possible even if they don't have the means to attend private schools."

"Debate is largely governed by the private schools, so it's awesome that our school's program allows us to travel all the way across the country to compete against some of these other teams," Glancy said.

Popularity of the debate program has reached all-time highs since the school district started offering debate class as one of four courses that meet a public speaking course requirement that was instituted four years ago, according to Oddo.

Of course, some students leave debate after fulfilling the mandated course requirement, but other kids who end up taking a liking to the thrill of winning an oral argument choose to stick around and become part of the after-school debate program.

"The public speaking requirement has exposed more kids to debate, and it's now more popular than it was before," Oddo said. "It fluctuates, but we're definitely not losing any students."

Natalie Hayes is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Buffalo Grove returns safety signs

Visually impaired resident seeks policy change

BY RONNIE WACHTER
Pioneer Press

In recent years, the borders of the world have been closing in on Maureen Elias, but she continues to fight to keep them as expansive as she can.

For a woman who is losing her vision, knowing that people who drive through her neighborhood are watching out for her is reassuring.

"As you lose your sight, your world becomes a little bit smaller," she said. "Those signs really made me feel more secure."

But sometime between March 11 and March 16, the two signs cautioning drivers of a visually impaired pedestrian in the area disappeared. About two weeks later, they were back. Why the signs disappeared and how they were replaced highlights a Buffalo Grove policy that Elias hopes more people become aware of.

"I'm ecstatic that they're back," Elias said. "I feel very relieved."

Elias and her husband, Mark, live on the curvy White Pines Road north of Dundee Road. Maureen said she suffers from diabetic retinopathy, which started impairing her eyesight about seven years ago.

In 2011, the Eliases requested a pair of signs from Buffalo Grove's public works department. They were installed and for five years provided Elias peace of mind.

When they were first put into place, Elias could still see a bit. However, as the years progressed, her sight continued to deteriorate. Today, she is completely blind in her left eye and only has 10 percent of vision capacity in her right, she said.

Jessie Elias makes a point of driving by her parents' house most days on her way home from work. On March 16, she said she noticed the signs and their poles were gone.

The Eliases filed a police report. The responding officer, noting that it might have been a theft, listed the signs' value at $100 and filed a request for replacements from public works. A crew completed that request on March 29.

"The signs' disappearance was not in fact the result of a theft. It's just a simple miscommunication," said village engineer Darren Monico.

He said it boils down to this: Buffalo Grove will put signs up notifying drivers that a disabled person lives in an area, but will automatically take them down five years later unless the beneficiary remembers to call the village and ask for them to be kept up, officials said.

The Eliases did not call. Maureen said she and Mark do not remember anyone explaining that policy to them, but she pointed out, they have been through a lot since 2011.

In emails on March 30, Monico explained that Buffalo Grove has only three sets of the signs on its streets right now. But those signs, and all the sets that came before them, do not stay up forever. A disabled person might move or die, and leaving outdated warnings on residential streets only makes matters worse, Monico said. When a sign is no longer needed, it has to come down, he said.

"But when do you make that change?" she asked. "Because it happens."

Monico says the village's current policy instructs him to keep track of when each set of disability caution signs go up. The responsibility is on the resident to ask for the signs to be kept up at the five-year mark, not on the village's staff to reach out and alert them to looming sign removal, Monico said.

At the start of the year, Monico was updating his records and saw that Eliases' signs were nearing their five-year limit. Though not required to, Monico said he sent the Eliases a letter.

"I didn't want them to miss the deadline," he said.

The day after her signs reappeared, Elias said she hoped the Village Board would consider a new policy, which would require their staff to contact the postings' beneficiaries with a notice that their five years were almost up.

"Had I gotten a phone call, it would have made a world of difference," she said.

On March 31, Village President Beverly Sussman said she had spoken with Monico about the policy. There are no plans to examine it, but Sussman said she would be open to reconsideration if she heard from the Eliases or anyone else with a concern.

"It is etched in stone? Of course not," she said. "We're happy to discuss it."

But she noted that, even if the responsibility to communicate about the five-year deadline shifted to the public works department, her staff needed to maintain the ability to remove its signs at some point. She said families with such markers sometimes move in less than five years, and they rarely think to call Village Hall.

"Usually when we hear about it, it's from a neighbor who says 'Hey, can you come and get these, we don't need them any more," Sussman explained.

Elias says she still takes walks to show that she has some measure of independence. She, her dog Ryno and her white cane would traverse the generally quiet streets of her neighborhood and sometimes even cross Dundee to visit the businesses on the south side.

Not everyone, she said, notices the white cane, or knows what it signifies.

"I've had people honking at me, pretty loudly," she said.

And, in a growing number of instances, the horn is the first noise she hears from a car. Hybrid and electric engines run quietly, and she said they can sneak up on her.

Ryno died months ago, but Elias said she was still looking forward to walking this spring until the signs disappeared.

But the world got a little larger for Elias when her signs returned. Spring is here, the family is thinking about buying a new dog, and even if it is just Maureen and her white cane, she said knowing that White Pines drivers are looking out for her again is reassuring.

"This is my strong belief: You have to be grateful for what you do have," she said.
Volunteers take part in anti-hunger event despite weather

BY KARIE ANGELI LUC
Pioneer Press

Approximately 100 volunteers worked in 35-degree weather, often in snowy conditions, April 2 at the Hunger Resource Network Community Outreach Day to distribute boxes of frozen chicken to more than 100 Chicago-area food pantries, soup kitchens and shelters.

The early Saturday morning event took place at Whole Foods Market at Northbrook's Willow Festival Shopping Center, 840 Willow Road.

"How appropriate for it to snow in April when we're distributing 125,000 pounds of frozen chicken," said Glenview's P.J. Weiland, an HRN board member. HRN had a similar distribution event in November at Sunset Foods in Northbrook.

Volunteers used forklifts to load pallets of chicken onto trucks, and loaded boxes by hand into cars driven by other volunteers.

"It's a good feeling knowing we're doing our part to help those who don't necessarily have the means to provide for themselves or their families," said Northbrook Fire Chief Jose Torres, who loaded boxes with his son, Joseph Torres, a fire engineer in Santa Monica, Calif.

Matt Settler of Buffalo Grove, board president of the Northbrook Civic Foundation and co-chair of the Northbrook Days Festival, greeted Father Louis Marie of Fraternite Notre Dame of Chicago, who drove a large truck.

"This means a lot to our community," Marie said.

"I love helping out the HRN," Settler said. "It's such a great cause.

"It's a partnership of people giving back," said volunteer Alan Karzen of Northbrook and a Rotary Club of Northbrook Rotarian. "It's major feel good."

The April 2 donations were sent to organizations including: the Emmaus House of Hospitality in Lake Zurich, Youth Services of Glenview/Northbrook, the New Trier Township Food Pantry in Winnetka, the Maine Township Food Pantry in Park Ridge, Kingswood United Methodist Church in Buffalo Grove, Hillside Food Pantry in Evanston, Mision San Juan Diego of Arlington Heights, the Niles Township Food Pantry in Skokie, Willow Creek Care Center of South Barrington, Lake County Haven of Libertyville, St. Mary of Vernon Parish in Indian Creek, the Salvation Army of Evanston, Second Baptist Church of Evanston, Santa Maria del Popolo Catholic Church of Mundelein, Connections for the Homeless of Evanston, Ebenezer AME Soup Kitchen, Elk Grove Township Food Pantry, Northfield Township Food Pantry in Glenview, Moraine Township Food Pantry of Highland Park, Mihut Romanian Charitable Mission of Niles, St. James Parish of Highwood, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Parish in Glenview, St. Irenaeus Church of Park Forest, the Angel Network of Flossmoor and St. Nicholas Catholic Church of Evanston.

Karie Angell Luc is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

First responders and volunteers are around a car driven by Bob Robinson, a volunteer and driver from Northbrook. Thirty boxes of donated chicken is the car at the Hunger Resource Network Community Outreach Day April 2.
Highland Park looking at gender-neutral restrooms

BY KAREN BERKOWITZ
Pioneer Press

The City of Highland Park plans to designate some single-stall restrooms in city buildings as gender-neutral facilities as an accommodation to transgender individuals.

The city announced March 29 that a proposal to create gender-inclusive restrooms could be on the city council's agenda for action April 11.

Highland Park Mayor Nancy Rotering said a Tribune article several months ago brought the issue to her attention.

She said subsequent conversations with high school students reinforced the need to make bathrooms available without binary gender labels.

"I suggested the concept to the city council and received unanimous support that we take steps to protect an individual's choice to use a public restroom that is independent of binary gender identity," Rotering said in an e-mail.

Highland Park's proposal could affect nine of the city's 27 public restrooms, according to an analysis presented to a city committee March 21.

"Since announcing our initiative, we have already received emotional feedback from a number of residents supporting the plan," Rotering said.

Unlike a City of Evanston measure requiring gender-neutral facilities, Highland Park's proposal would apply only to city buildings.

The City of Evanston's ordinance, which took effect Nov. 9, applied to public restrooms and gave existing businesses and places of public accommodation 60 days to comply.

"It is good policy having all-gender, single occupant restrooms in city buildings, like City Hall, as gender neutral," Michael Ziri, director of public policy for Equality Illinois, which advocates on behalf of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals.

"It benefits a wide variety of people," Ziri said. "It provides safety and security for the nursing mother, a parent with a child of the opposite sex and, of course, the LGBT community, especially transgender individuals who so often face harassment and humiliation."

The Illinois Human Rights Act protects individuals against discrimination in the use of public accommodations based on sex, gender identity or sexual orientation.

By law, transgender individuals are allowed to use a public restroom of choice without regard to gender designation, according to Equality Illinois.

"Searching for a bathroom for transgender individuals can be an anxiety and stress-inducing experience," noted a City of Highland Park memo explaining the rationale for the change.

"Due to fear of judgment and hostility from fellow bathroom occupants, some transgender individuals may choose to forgo using public restrooms."

In accordance with the Illinois Plumbing Code, the city would retain one restroom for men and one restroom for women in each building with at least two washrooms.

No changes would be made to restrooms with multiple stalls.

The city would replace the "men" and "women" signs on some single-occupancy restrooms with all-gender signage.

The changes could affect restrooms at Highland Park City Hall, the Highland Park Public Works facility, the Highland Park Senior Center and the Firehouse Youth Center.

The city's Ravinia and downtown train stations and the Highland Park Police Department would not be affected because they have only two public restrooms.

kberkowitz@pioneerlocal.com
Twitter @KarenABerkowitz
Police seek license-plate scanning cameras on cars

BY KEVIN BEESE
Pioneer Press

It might seem like something out of "RoboCop," but Burr Ridge police may soon be able to find wanted individuals through facial recognition scanning.

That is just one of the possibilities with a license-plate recognition program the village is considering. The village is pondering mounting front and rear cameras on two of its 11 police squad cars at a cost of $36,000.

The cameras continually scan vehicle license plates in front of and behind the squad and continually run the plates through a law enforcement data base. When a scanned plate is linked to an individual who has a warrant out for his arrest, the officer in the squad is notified.

Although the facial recognition scanning is part of a higher premium service than the village is considering, police Chief John Madden did not rule out eventually seeking Village Board approval for that.

Madden had originally proposed purchasing a radar speed trailer, where passing motorists would be shown their vehicle speed. The trailer also included four license plate recognition cameras. However, when he wanted to move forward with purchasing the trailer, he discovered it was no longer being made.

The vendor told the Burr Ridge chief that a similar product could be provided. "But it was nowhere near the quality and had half the number of cameras for the same amount of money," Madden said.

The Police Department then considered a system where cameras would be mounted on power transformer poles.

"But it would cost $1,000 every time we wanted to transfer the cameras to a different residential area," Madden said. "So that wasn't an option."

He said officers in their squad cars do not type license plate numbers into their computers while on the road, noting that would be considered texting while driving.

Madden said the proposed mobile program would mount two cameras in the front and one camera in the rear of two squad cars.

Village Administrator Steve Stricker said that police cars are used two out of the three shifts in a 24-hour period.

"I would like to have them on the street more often," Madden said, "but we can't run them 24/7" because of the excessive wear it would put on those squads.

Madden said he would hope to be able to add the license recognition cameras to one squad per year until all 11 cars in the Police Department's fleet are equipped. He noted by adding at least one vehicle a year, the village would be able to get a free year of data base service.

The data base service runs $5,000 per year and annual maintenance of each camera is $750 annually.

The Village Board tabled making a decision on the cameras until more information is gathered on the total cost of the project to the village.

"This would keep our police safe and our residents safe," Trustee Guy Franzese said. "I fully support it."

Thirty-eight states, including Illinois, are part of the license-plate recognition data base.

Madden said the camera scans are recorded and saved so if officers determine there was a burglary a month ago in a certain area, they can go back and see what cars were there that day.
Budget crisis affecting college enrollment

Potential students looking elsewhere amid concerns

BY DAWN RHODES
Chicago Tribune

When Michael Houlihan narrowed his choices for college, Eastern Illinois University and Illinois State University made the short list.

But as he neared the end of his senior year at De La Salle Institute in Bronzeville, Houlihan and his mother became uneasy at what they were hearing about public colleges and universities amid the state's budget crisis: Schools were laying off staff, setting furlough days, halting construction work and making emergency plans in case they still hadn't received state funding by summertime.

Despite pledges from college officials that their schools will stay afloat, Houlihan and his family decided to change course - and take Illinois public universities off the table. The 17-year-old now is pursuing private schools and scholarships both in and outside the state.

"I told him, '(Private schools) are going to cost us more money, even though you're getting good scholarships. But you're not going to be in a situation where you're worried about your program being shut down,'" said Houlihan's mother, Michaelene Rosa, of Chicago's Mount Greenwood neighborhood.

This apprehension among prospective students appears to be growing as the budget stalemate slogs into a 10th month. Heads of public universities have warned lawmakers that institutions will fail if Springfield does not soon reinstate funding for operations and financial aid.

The doomsday scenario drew closer last week for Chicago State University, the South Side. School officials said they will not be able to cut psyches after April. The university tried to put the best face on the situation by saying it had no plans to close and would start registration soon for summer and fall terms.

But college officials across the state can't help wondering whether Chicago State is a sign of what they will face soon.

"My overall concern is the tarnishing of the brand of higher education in the state of Illinois that this budget impasse is creating," Illinois State University President Larry Dietz said.

Losing students to financial instability - or even the perception of it - would be a double whammy of tuition reductions, scholarships, and share of university income than state allocations.

College officials say they have kicked up recruitment efforts in hopes of neutralizing the damage, and it's too soon to know what impact there might be on fall enrollments. Some of the state's public colleges and universities report an increase in the number of applications for fall. But getting applicants to enroll is another matter.

Western Illinois University Admissions Director Andy Borst said the school is widening its territory this year, boosting its number of recruitment visits by 15 percent.

"Our primary strategy has been to focus on positive factors - the tuition reduction, scholarships," Borst said, referring to the trustees' decision to lower fall tuition by 3 percent. "(Families) have been following up with paying their enrollment deposits and committing to Western... I just wish we could talk to more of the students and reassure them that the state for higher education is going to be OK once we go through what we're going through now."

Northeastern President Sharon Hahs penned a letter to prospective students this year, acknowledging the state financial troubles as well as pointing to campus highlights like the planned opening of the school's first residence hall in August.

Some leaders said getting families to tour their campuses seems to mollify concerns.

"It's interesting that when people come and see campuses, the great faculty and facilities, they don't seem to ask as many questions as you would think," Northern Illinois University President Doug Baker said. Still, the seed of doubt has been enough to rattale some incoming students.

Linda Hatfield said her son, Evan, a senior at Elk Grove High School, received a full-tuition scholarship from Illinois State University in December.

"Evan and his mother, Juanita Barajas, quickly phoned the admissions office. Barajas said she was told in no uncertain terms WIU wouldn't be a good bet. Evans still has enough to rattle some incoming students."

Evan Hatfield has a scholarship offer to the University of Illinois, but is considering other schools.

"I think (universities) are doing everything they can to keep students. It's really frustrating to hear," said Taylor, of Chicago's Avondale neighborhood. "Do I trust our politicians that they won't really let public education shut down? Do I trust them enough to bet my degree on it? I still haven't decided."

College presidents continue to pressure lawmakers to end their stalemate. Without state money, schools have little option but to dip into savings and lean on tuition dollars.

University income funds, mostly made up of tuition and fees, total nearly 60 percent of educational revenue for state schools, according to the Illinois Board of Higher Education. University budgets have trended more heavily toward tuition over the past 15 years as state funding has dropped.

Governors State University President Elaine Maimon said three-fourths of the school's operating revenue came from the state as recently as 2002. But by 2015, less than half came from Springfield.

"Whatever we have to do until we have the partnership from the state, we're going to be relying more on our tuition revenue," Maimon said. In the end, most college presidents now believe that the strain is temporary and legislators ultimately will right the ship.

"I'm confident this will be resolved, frankly because it's too important not to be resolved," U. of I. President Timothy Killeen said.

Parent Linda Hatfield isn't so convinced.

"I think (universities) are telling people what they want to hear," she said. "I don't think anyone expects anything to go on as long as it has, so who can honestly predict how long it will continue to go on?"
Revisiting bygone eras of baseball greatness

When you're just a kid and great things unfold before your very eyes, you just don't realize you're watching greatness. You just think that's how the world works. You have no clue of any larger meaning or even how we got to this place.

So it was for me during the greatest era of baseball ever. I'm talking about the two decades of baseball during the 1960s and 1970s. And why was it so great? My theory is this: Those decades represent the full flower of the impact of the African-American ballplayer on Major League Baseball. I believe what began on April 15, 1947, when Jackie Robinson stepped onto Ebbets Field to play first base for the Brooklyn Dodgers, culminated in those two great decades more than a decade later.

Everyone by now must know the heroic story of Robinson, chronicled most recently by Hollywood in the film “42” and in the brilliant book “Opening Day: The Story of Jackie Robinson’s First Season” by Jonathan Eig. But there is a rest of the story, as iconic radio personality Paul Harvey used to say. And it is worth contemplating how the courage of Jackie Robinson made it possible. Consider this: In the 11 seasons from 1949 to 1959, African-American ballplayers won the National League’s Most Valuable Player award nine times, including three times by Roy Campanella and twice by Ernie Banks.

Speaking of Banks, I had no idea until his death last year that he was the first African-American to play for the Cubs. By the time I was cheering him, black players were among the best in baseball.

Perhaps the most feared clutch hitter in baseball at that time was Frank Robinson, who won the MVP in both leagues. Hank Aaron was a perennial star whose consistent power numbers helped him surpass Babe Ruth as the home run king in 1974.

Bob Gibson was the best pitcher in baseball during those years. His performance in 1968, 22-9 with a 1.12 ERA and 13 shutouts, led to what’s known in some circles as Gibson’s rule - lowering the pitcher’s mound from 15 to 10 inches, where it stands today.

Willie Mays combined power and speed like no other player before or since.

Don’t fall victim to tax season scam attempts

Are we really that dumb? I keep seeing items in the news alerting us to income tax scams. They play a recording of an alleged IRS agent threatening on the phone someone who the caller accuses of owing the IRS.

"If you do not pay this amount immediately the police will come to you and put you behind the bars," the caller says in a highly accented voice.

Does anyone think an IRS agent sounds like that, like a member of the Jamaican bobsled team? Apparently.

These news reports always include a sad sack who dejectedly admits he or she was terrified and immediately wired $3,000.

The real IRS says there has been a 400 percent increase in phishing and malware incidents this year. Phishing is when scammers via phone or email try to elicit information from us, such as Social Security numbers, bank or credit card numbers.

Malware is where computer scammers get access to your email files or are able to track your computer keystrokes. What we are told to remember is that the IRS gloms onto our money the old-fashioned way - by taxing us.

The IRS:

■ Never demands immediate payment. The IRS will tell you when.
■ Never calls on the phone to say we owe taxes. If you owe Uncle Sam, he always will send you a terrifying business letter.
■ Always offers an opportunity to appeal. Go ahead and appeal. You might get lucky. It could happen.
■ Never requires a specific payment method. But pay you must.
■ Never asks for credit or debit card numbers on the phone.
■ Never threatens arrest. It’s the government. It doesn’t have to threaten. Did there used to be all this tax scamming before computers? I never heard of it.

But computers have made tax time doubly depressing. Not only does the government have its hand in our pocket. The hands of scammers are looking to get in our pocket, too.

And Lou Brock and Maury Wills turned stealing second base into an art form and a more exciting play than the home run.

A black man of that era also had the greatest impact on the business side of baseball. Curt Flood, a very good centerfielder for the St. Louis Cardinals, was traded to the Phillies after the 1969 season. He refused to go and sued baseball over the reserve clause, which tied players to the teams that originally signed them.

Flood sued baseball all the way to the Supreme Court. He lost his case, played in just 13 games for the Washington Senators and was out of baseball.

But his fight spelled the end of the reserve clause and the beginning of the system of free agency players enjoy today.

Baseball always was a great sport. Jackie Robinson opened the door that made it greater than ever.

Consider that when you hear “play ball” this year, and give 42 a thank you.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
Neighbor feuds mostly rooted in stupid stuff

Dispute over treehouse illustrates how quickly we turn on one another

JOHN KASS

The suburban Chicago community of Park Ridge is a peaceful town, and once home to Hillary Clinton when she was a quiet Goldwater Girl, long before she started loudly running for president.

Now, with Hillary gone, there has been much yelling in Park Ridge, and angry yelling, too.

It's all over that big treehouse built by Margaret and Joseph Solomon in their backyard.

Some neighbors hate it. Some neighbors are apparently willing to fight for it. And snarky emails were sent from neighbor to neighbor.

Let's just say the emails weren't nearly as nice as a Bundt cake.

Town officials now want the Solomons to take their treehouse down, arguing that it violates zoning laws. The Solomons have their lawyers, too.

This isn't any little old treehouse. This is a 15-foot-high treehouse with a great big deck, and it's not built in the hidden branches of a big, leafy tree.

In the photos I've seen, it is plopped on top of a long stump and it has an accompanying sturdy walkway.

I'm not taking sides, but it looks less treehousey and more like a fort for archers if you were trying to defend Paris in the Middle Ages and you needed to slaughter a horde of barbarian invaders.

In this, the Park Ridge treehouse resembles the forts I saw on "The Vikings" the other evening, when many good Vikings, brave and true, were sent to Valhalla.

Still, what do I know about architecture, medieval or modern? Nothing.

What I do know is that the Solomons say it cost them $26,300.

Yeah, you read that right, $26K and change. For a treehouse, not exactly some scrap lumber and nails you may have used to build your own treehouse when you were a kid.

"We would like to keep the treehouse," Solomon told the Pioneer Press, adding that he'd contacted a lawyer. "I believe we did everything appropriately."

That may be, or not, but at least he's not throwing punches. Others are.

The reported fight may have been triggered by a sign put up by a neighbor, a sign taking the Solomons' side.

"SAVE THE TREEHOUSE" reads the sign. "A TREE HOUSE = FAMILY FUN. GET A LIFE PEOPLE!"

The pro-treehouse neighbor, Tony Mendoza, put up the sign in his front yard. In February, an anti-treehouse neighbor walked by and, since he already had a life, decided to critique the sign.

"He pointed his middle finger at us," Mendoza said. "I've got a feeling the lawyers will get fat, like summer mosquitoes on your arm."

And this brings me back to that summer evening of long ago, when my brother Nick catapulted Buffy's dog doo on the Zaglifa garage.

My dad and Mr. Zaglifa weren't lawyers. They just gave Nick a bucket of hot water and soapy bleach, a rag and a stepladder.

Nick needed the stepladder. He wasn't even in kindergarten and could barely reach the evidence. I can still see the little guy crying in rage at the unfairness of life, as he approached that wall. But he scrubbed it and scrubbed it well.

If only there were a quick wash for the Park Ridge treehouse war. Instead, you hear the lawyers buzzing.

jskass@tribpub.com
Twitter @John_Kass

Margaret and Joseph Solomon of Park Ridge say they want to keep the play house and deck they built for their children, but the city has ordered them to remove the structures due to zoning violations.
Antiques Garden & Design show back at CBG

BY JENNIFER THOMAS
Pioneer Press

Unique objects beautifully displayed is the earmark of the Antiques Garden & Design Show, April 15-17, at the Chicago Botanic Garden.

"There are less than a handful of antique shows that are in this type of setting — an actual garden," reported Jodi Zombolo, senior director of visitor events and programs, who manages the Antiques Garden & Design Show. "In a time where antique shows are not as popular as they used to be, we have been going strong.

This is the 16th year of the event, which this year will feature more than 80 exhibitors. The show is divided into four areas: The Antiques and Midcentury Section; Design Row (artwork and accessories for the home); Garden Gallery Tent (garden furniture, plants, containers, tools, seeds); and Market Court-yards (gift items).

That's part of the reason Zombolo cited for the continuing popularity of this event — the show goes beyond presenting only antiques. It also features items for the garden and design pieces. Sometimes these elements are combined.

"The center island of one of our tents is completely dedicated to garden antiques," Zombolo revealed. "You will find garden antique exhibitors right next to a display garden." Those indoor gardens have been designed for the show by Craig Bergmann Landscape Design. The gardens follow a blue and white theme with hints of bright colors, including yellow, coral, magenta and purple.

One highlight of the annual show is the Preview Evening on Thursday, April 14. "Not only is it a fundraiser for the garden, it gives you the opportunity to purchase items that you want before we open up to the public the next day," Zombolo said.

It's also a great social event, she added. "It's wonderful food and drink while you shop and talk to the exhibitors.

The event also includes four combined lectures and book signings. "Friday is our design day at the garden because our two speakers are interior designers," Zombolo said.

Los Angeles-based award-winning interior designer Martyn Lawrence Bullard will speak on "Design and Decoration" at 11 a.m. Blackberry Farm's farmstead manager Jeff Ross will talk about how good gardeners cook and good cooks garden in "Eating Between the Rows." Landscape architect Mario Nievera will talk about, "Inspiring Landscapes: How the North Shore Changed My Life!" at 1 p.m.

The Chicago Botanic Garden Antiques Garden & Design Show runs April 15-17.

"Design and Decoration" at 11 a.m. Bullard is the honorary event chair. At 1 p.m., interior designer Timothy Whealon will address, "Classicism Revisited: Mixing Art & Antiques in 21st Century Interiors." Zombolo said they are referring to Saturday's lectures as "the garden day.

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Antiques Garden & Design Show

When: 10 a.m.-5 p.m. April 15-17; preview evening April 14
Where: Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe
Tickets: $18 members; $20 non-members for three day passes purchased on or before April 14; $20 members/$22 nonmembers show weekend; children under 16 free with an adult; preview tickets $250 and up. See website for lecture prices.
Contact: 847-835-5440; 847-835-6958 for Preview Evening reservations; See more at www.chicagobotanic.org/antiques

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A Community Fair
Sunday, April 10 • 10 a.m.-2 p.m.
at Niles North High School

Featuring:
• Reuse and recycling drop-off
  (see www.skokiespringgreening.org for acceptable items)
• Green products and services fair • Recycled and repurposed crafts
• Family-friendly activities and live music

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Why Some People Are Resilient, and Others Are Not
Andrew Shatte / University of Arizona
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The Five Most Powerful People in the World
William Burke-White / University of Pennsylvania
Levin Award for Excellence in Teaching

LUNCH BREAK - 12:05pm - 1:25pm

Five Essential Negotiation Skills For Everyday Life
Linda Ginzel / University of Chicago Booth School of Business
Faculty Excellence Award

Five Films That Changed America
Marc Lapadula / Yale University
Outstanding Teaching Award

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The Park Ridge Chorale is taking a sentimental journey to "The Fabulous '50s" on April 16 at St. Luke’s Lutheran Church. "I think '50s music is a lot of the music that the audience grew up with and a number of the members as well," said Music Director Edward Zelnis, adding, "I'm more of a '60s, '70s kid."

Nevertheless, Zelnis appreciates the songs of that period. "The thing that impressed me was what a tremendous range that decade had in terms of music," he said. "When the decade started, it was the swing era so you had the Sinatra and Rat Pack stuff. By the time the '50s ended, Elvis had happened and it was well into rock and roll. In-between, it turned out to be a very rich period for Broadway. A lot of the most famous Broadway musicals - like 'Guys and Dolls,' 'Music Man' and 'West Side Story' - were written during that decade, too. And the movie music was really strong."

"Last year, we did a concert on the '30s and we saw how much people enjoyed the memories the music brought," said Park Ridge native Rhet O'Neill, president and founding member of the Park Ridge Chorale. She thinks audience members will find a '50s salute equally enjoyable. "This was a time in our country when everything was booming," she explained. "There was a lot of underlying political strife but the booming brought out changes in the music. It was a fabulous time for music in our country."

Because she has to rest her voice, O'Neill will be narrating rather than singing. She has a favorite selection. "We do a beautiful rendition of Elvis Presley's 'Love Me Tender,'" O'Neill reported. Park Ridge resident Kyle Cartwright, another founding member of the 31-year-old organization, praised the '50s concept because, "I think a lot of the music was really fun. We were just coming out of World War II. People were ready to be a little bit more carefree. With the advent of rock and roll and Elvis and the new dance styles, it was a real transition."

Cartwright will evoke her inner puppy to play the part of the canine in a rendition of Patti Page's hit, "(How Much is) That Doggie in the Window?" She is also soloing in the opening number, a parody that she and O'Neill wrote to, "Another Op'nin', Another Show" from "Kiss Me Kate."

Cartwright's husband Gary also sings in the chorus and her son Adam will solo on "Mack the Knife."

Cartwright noted that the Park Ridge Chorale will also sing, "Lollipop," "Autumn Leaves," a medley from "Pajama Game," a tribute to the Everly Brothers and a lot more.

Chorale members will get into the spirit of the period, Zelnis revealed. "We're going to have some bobby socks and some hula hoops," he said. "Lots of fun stuff!"

Park Ridge Chorale presents, 'The Fabulous '50s'

When: 7 p.m. April 16
Where: St. Luke's Lutheran Church, 205 N. Prospect, Park Ridge
Tickets: $16; $14 seniors; free for ages 18 and under
Information: 224-585-3403; www.parkridgechorale.com

Sarah Ma, from left, Colleen Joyce and Laurie Wit pose with Elvis as they rehearse for the Park Ridge Chorale's "Fabulous '50s" concert.

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NILES HERALD-SPECTATOR
EXHIBIT

Adler: ‘What is a planet?’

Planetarium looks at the controversy over Pluto’s title

BY STEVE JOHNSON
Chicago Tribune

When Pluto was officially downgraded from the list of planets almost a decade ago, it didn’t go easily.

Sure, it was a pipsqueak next to the other eight celestial masses officially bestowed with the term. Sure, it was smaller than Eris, the other roundish, bigger chunk of rock orbiting the sun that was discovered a year earlier, for which not many claimed planet status.

The demotion of Pluto, and the age-old question of how we classify those big things rotating in the sky, is at the center of the new Adler Planetarium exhibit, “What is a Planet?”

It’s an especially relevant question now, because not long after the Adler announced this exhibit, scientists in mid-January said they had discovered a more plausible ninth planet, way out beyond Pluto, almost as big as Neptune, and shown to exist not because astronomers had seen it but because they had seen other things in space reacting to it.

Meanwhile, the institution’s next sky show, debuting in May, will utilize footage from the New Horizons voyage to Pluto to explore further the question of what deserves universal cred beyond Neptune.

And that New Horizons imagery, said Adler astronomer Lucianne Walkowicz, has helped reignite debate. Scientists expecting a dead rock have been surprised to find “active geology,” she said.

The Adler show explains what happened to Pluto and why in detail. But it leaves it up to visitors to decide if the right call was made.

There are space scientists, including Alan Stern, principal investigator with NASA’s New Horizons mission, who think the Pluto decision was made on “scientifically indefensible” grounds. The rules for a new, official definition of “planet” seem to have been defined expressly to exclude Pluto.

The three criteria in this definition were that a “planet” had to orbit the sun, be round, and have cleared its neighborhood of other things. It’s hard to argue with the first two, as Pluto fits those categories. The third is up for debate.

A 1630-era telescope demonstrates that science of the time held there to be some 35 planets, because big-known asteroids were then being counted.

So if there’s a takeaway here, it’s that celestial definitions, like language itself, are fluid.

The Adler Planetarium’s new exhibit, “What is a Planet?” contains great vintage depictions of the planets as they were understood in previous centuries.

PHIL VELASQUEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

GO

Earth Day Celebration

Sunday, April 17
Noon – 4 p.m.
A JOURNEY THROUGH TIME
at Emily Oaks Nature Center
4650 Brummel, Skokie
(847) 674-1500, ext. 2500 • www.SkokieParks.org

Travel through time to experience how Emily Oaks has changed over the past 200 years, and discover how people have played a part in shaping the land from prairies to the present! Earth-friendly foods will be available for sale.

See The Talking Farm’s urban gardening demonstration. Bring any old clothing or footwear to recycle, and receive a reward on your next purchase at The North Face!

* Annual Native Plant Sale *
Purchase native wildflowers and grasses ready for planting.
Old tale, modern laughs in 'Once Upon a Mattress'

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Princess Winnifred has her share of problems, including a cruel queen and a pesky pea, in "Once Upon a Mattress," Devonshire Playhouse Young Performers will present the G2K (Getting to Know You) musical based on the Hans Christian Andersen fable, "The Princess and the Pea," 7 p.m. Saturdays and 3 p.m. Sundays, April 9-17, at Devonshire Playhouse, 4400 Greenwood, Skokie.

For details, call 847-674-1500, ext. 2400 or go to skokieparks.org.

Pure gold
A Parents' Choice Gold Award-winner will introduce your children to classical music during a Second Sunday Family Program: "Green Golly and Her Golden Flute," 2-3 p.m. April 10 at Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St., Niles. Pick up free tickets in KidSpace at 1:30 p.m. that day.
For details, call 847-663-1234 or go to nileslibrary.org.

Meet cute
The birthday boy is planning to attend the Happy Birthday Curious George celebration, 2-4 p.m. April 10 at Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St. There will be games, activities and a treat for kids ages 3-8, with an adult, at this celebration of the literary monkey's 75th anniversary.
For details, call 847-673-7774 or go to skokie library.info.
In style with the Park Ridge Community Fund

The Park Ridge Community Fund Fashion Show was held March 18 at the Summit of Uptown. Chico’s supplied the outfits and hair and makeup expert Linda completed the looks.

The Community Fund, established in 1958, helps those in the community in need of critical help via nearly two dozen local service organizations and care providers. Volunteers control all aspects of Fund activities. More information at www.prcommunityfund.org.

— Pioneer Press staff report
Friends explore world of chocolate, candy in sugar-coated business

By Judy Buchenot
Naperville Sun

After meeting while working at the decorating specialty company Wilton Industries, Annette Pardun and Renee Campagna formed a sweet friendship.

"It was a fun hobby for us," says Pardun, as they mastered the art of decorating a cake to look like just about any flower, superhero or princess. It was only a matter of time before they slid down the butter path to candy making. Campagna first started dabbling in the confectionery arts several years ago and soon mastered the perfectly soft and chewy caramel. After showing her partner in powered sugar this new development, they both decided it was time to move beyond the decorating bag and into the world of tempered chocolate and candy thermometers.

Earlier this year, the two friends partnered to create a sugar-coated business plan for Fill My Jar. "We make handcrafted candies that we package in mason jars," explained Pardun. "Our goal is to have corporate based sales, as well as online sales. We might also go to some farmer's markets and trade shows."

They decided to package their candy in jars because it helps keep them fresh longer and is a unique package. "It makes a great favor for weddings or showers or gift for companies to give to clients," said Campagna. The women can customize the jars to include company logos or to announce events.

Coming up with candy creations has been a sweet task. "We have learned by trial and error," Pardun said. "We have spent a lot of time coming up with the right consistency, how fine the nuts should be and all of the other factors that go into making it right."

"Making candy takes a lot of patience and attention," said Campagna. For example, she has found that making caramel can't be done quickly. It takes her about two hours to make a batch of caramel. She explains that there is more to making candy than reaching a certain temperature on the candy thermometer. If the mixture is heated too quickly or too slowly, the end result will not be perfect. "You have to find the right rate to raise the temperature."

The two women note that dipping everything from potato chips to bacon into chocolate has become very popular. "There is an art of melting chocolate, though," said Campagna. "Especially if you try to use the microwave." She notes that every microwave has a different level of power so she suggests microwaving the chocolate at 15 second intervals and stirring after each melting time. When the chocolate just starts to lose its shape, it can usually be stirred and melted the rest of the way. Chocolate will quickly burn if overheated.

Another candy making tip is to have all ingredients at room temperature. "If you are working on cooking something and then add cold butter, it changes the consistency," said Campagna. "It is really important to start with everything at room temperature."

Although some candy treats are difficult to master, there are some that are easier. The two friends came up with two recipes for simple treats that are sure to impress. The first is a method of turning an everyday marshmallow into a tempting pecan and caramel confection that would be a perfect addition to a buffet. The second recipe for a caramel s'more dip uses a cast iron skillet. "We use a cast iron skillet that is heated at the start to make this dessert. The skillet will hold the heat and keep the chocolate and marshmallow soft enough for dipping for quite a while. It is easier to make and easier to eat than a traditional s'more," Pardun said.

The two women currently are making handcrafted caramels, toffee, three different flavors of bark and a caramel sauce for Fill My Jar clients. They hope to have a website in operation soon but have a Facebook page with product information and also can be contacted at 630-640-0428.

Judy Buchenot is a freelance writer.
Earth Day: Turning trash to treasures

BETH ENGELMAN
Mommy on a Shoestring

Tiffany Threadgould is a woman on a mission. As the chief design junkie at TerraCycle, she spends lots of time coming up with innovative ways of giving new life to scrap materials.

"I love the idea of turning a negative into a positive," Threadgould told me recently. "All it takes is slightly shifting your mindset. Before you toss out an old object, think first about different ways you could possibly reuse it. Soon, you'll discover the possibilities for reusing old junk are endless."

Threadgould's book, "ReMake It!" (Sterling Publishing, 2011), is chock full of DIY projects that turn ordinary trash into something extraordinary. In honor of Earth Day, I asked Threadgould to share some favorite upcycling projects.

Soda Bottle Trinket Dish

Give a plastic bottle new life as a trinket bowl to hold jewelry, change, keys and other precious junk.

You need:
- 20 oz. plastic soda bottle, clean and dry
- Ribbon, cut into two 16-inch pieces
- Hole-punch
- Scissors

Directions:
Cut the bottle, so you only retain the bottom 2 1/2 inches, to use as the dish. Use a hole-punch to punch holes about 1/2-inch apart around the top of your container. Weave both pieces of ribbon through the holes and finish off with a bow.

Vinyl Record Clock

I love this project because it gives new meaning to the song, "Rock Around the Clock." Threadgould suggests making this clock as an anniversary gift, which lets you elevate a couple's favorite song into a useful piece of art.

You need:
- Vinyl record — visit thrift stores, used book stores, garage sales, Ebay or Amazon
- Decorative paper — Threadgould suggests old sheet music
- Number stencils
- Pencil
- Scissors
- Glue stick
- Ruler
- Clock mechanism, available at most craft stores and hardware stores
- Battery
- Picture hanging hardware, available at most craft stores and hardware stores

Directions:
- Trace numbers 1-12 onto decorative paper. Carefully cut each number and set aside.
- Use a glue stick to glue numbers to your record. Start with numbers 3, 6, 9, and 12 at quarter points around the clock to make sure the numbers are evenly spaced. Fill in the other numbers using ruler and pencil for accuracy. Now you are ready to add the clock mechanism.
- The average clock mechanism is often a little too large for the hole in the center of the vinyl record; therefore use scissors to widen the hole and allow the mechanism to fit through.
- Insert the clock mechanism through the hole in the vinyl record, screw it into place, add the minute and second hands, and put the battery in. Add picture-hanging hardware if desired.

Mint Tin Wordplay

I love this game, which is the perfect antidote for restless kids. I keep it in my purse so my son and I always have something to do when we're waiting at a restaurant, doctor's office or the airport. It's also a great way to reinforce sentence structure and parts of speech.

You need:
- Old magazines
- Mint tin (Altoids tins work great)
- Flexible magnet — reuse the magnets you get in junk mail or buy magnet tape at your favorite craft store.
- Glue stick
- Scissors

Directions:
- Create a word list by going through magazines and cutting out words that interest you. Include a variety of nouns, verbs, adjectives and adverbs. Place magnet (magnetic side down) on a flat surface.
- Glue words to non-magnetic side of magnet and set aside to dry.
- Use scissors to carefully cut apart the pieces. Place words in tin and use inside cover as your "canvas" for creating sentences and fun phrases.

Learn more about Threadgould, her book, recycling kits, DIY videos and loads of recycling tips at www.tiffanythreadgould.com. She is also featured on the TV series "Human Resources" on the Pivot network.
Animal motherhood, grizzly encounters featured in new books

By Jeremy Mikula
Chicago Tribune

With all due respect to cats and dogs, they don't hold a monopoly on the books-about-animals publishing industry. March offers a great selection of books about some other species of the animal kingdom.

"Amazing Moms: Love and Lessons From the Animal Kingdom" by Rachel Buchholz (National Geographic): The most adorable book you'll come across this month, "Amazing Moms" features stunning National Geographic photographs paired with stories and fun facts about animal motherhood and the steps these moms go to provide for and protect their pups, cubs, joeys, calves, etc. Quotes (from humans) about mothers and parenthood adorn each spread.

"Running With Rhinos: Stories From a Radical Conservationist" by Ed Warner (Greenleaf Book Group): Only about 5,000 black rhinos still live in the wilds of sub-Saharan Africa, according to the World Wide Fund, and the fact that more haven't died off is because of the work of conservationists such as Warner. In "Running With Rhinos," the self-proclaimed "radical conservationist" dishes on his collaborations with the veterinarians and biologists who engage in the dangerous fieldwork that is rhinoceros care.

"The Rarest Bird In the World: The Search for the Nechisar Nightjar" by Vernon R.L. Head (Pegasus Books): It's not every day a new species of bird is discovered, but that's just what happened in 1990 when a group of Cambridge scientists visited Ethiopia to collect specimens of the country's birds. One of the collected specimens was a solitary wing from an unidentified bird, later to be declared a new species called Nechisar Nightjar (Camprimplugus Solala). Head, an avid bird watcher and the chairman of BirdLife South Africa, details the Cambridge finding and engages on an expedition of his own to find this rare bird.

"They All Had Eyes: Confessions of a Vivisectionist" by Michael Slusher (Vegan Publishers): Slusher recounts his experiences conducting tests on animals — from mice to monkeys — in the name of biomedical and pharmaceutical research. Slusher rails against animal testing, arguing such testing is cruel and causes animal suffering, and describes the traumatic memories his work as a vivisectionist has left him.

PET OF THE WEEK

Max is a very sweet and playful, 5-year-old, 14-pound, male purebred Shih Tzu looking for a loving guardian.

This fellow is almost blind and diabetic, so he's looking for a dog-lover with the ability to give him loving care and insulin shots every 12 hours.

Max is housebroken and crate-trained. He's great with people of all ages — including children, dogs and other cats.

He loves walks and enjoys rides in the car. He loves to dance on his hind legs for freeze dried liver treats. Despite his health issues, Max is a very loving and good-natured boy who will repay his adopter with years of love.

For more information, please contact Maria at mltherese@gmail.com. He is being fostered in Lincolnwood.

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

- Our adoptable animals blog featuring photos and descriptions of Chicagoland pets in need of homes.
- Our suburban and city pet events calendar
- Photo galleries, videos, more
This week's column is a Comcast "two-fer" involving billing issues; neither an exorbitant amount of money. But, if, as they say, time is money, both came at a price.

Alice in Glenview posted the below to Xfinity's Facebook page and complained she received no response.

"I'm beginning to have serious doubts about Comcast. I spent seven hours trying to resolve one issue over a service call. Three times I took off work (to wait for a service visit). The first (technician) went to the wrong house; the second, upon arrival, reported he was not allowed in my house. Compounding this, Comcast switched me to an at-home appointment without informing me there was a fee for connecting my TV. I called and requested a reversal of this fee. A supervisor named Bruce waived $20 of the $70 then said he would reduce it another $30, taking money "from his budget." Since $50 carried over to my next bill, I called and spent an hour with a supervisor who repeatedly itemized my charges, trying to relate one to the $50 fee. It was an enormous feat for her to concede that Bruce didn't credit me as promised. However, Comcast is still charging me! How many more hours will I need to spend resolving this issue? By the way, my hourly rate is $120. I believe Comcast owes me $890!"

Stan in Park Ridge wrote Help Squad, "I've been a Comcast customer for a few years and last October they raised my monthly charges without notice. I called a few times and was told they would lower the bill, but they never did. In November when I called to cancel, they sent me an email saying my bill would be $132. So I stayed with them. When the December bill came, it was a lot more. When I called, they agreed I was over-charged and said not to pay the bill; they would send me a new bill. They never did. The next month they not only didn't correct the bill, they charged me a $10 late fee! That's when I called and canceled. But they keep sending me a past due bill!"

Since these two Comcast complaints came in around the same time, I forwarded both to my Comcast go-to, Regional Vice President of Communications Jack Segal. After a quick investigation of Alice's complaint, Segal told me: "We did respond to Alice (on Facebook)." He included a screenshot as evidence. "After we sent her the message asking for info, we did not hear back... We determined (Alice) is correct. She was told she would be given the $50 credit and we've now credited her..."

Then came Stan's issue. Following Comcast's November email detailing his newly lowered monthly charge, Stan's bills varied from $147.96 to $189.36. When I asked him if this might be due to long distance calls or on-demand purchases, he replied: "I never used anything but basic TV, never had a phone connected and did not receive any detailed bill." A few days later, Stan reported that Comcast customer care had called. "I talked to Candice yesterday and she did admit (Comcast) has over-charged me since August. She said they will send me a refund in a few weeks." Segal elaborated: "We are going to take (Stan) at his word and give him a $109 credit, the difference between what we billed him and what he said he quoted him..."

For most who write to Help Squad with a Comcast issue, I first recommend they post their complaint to Xfinity's Facebook page. Response time is typically quick due to the public nature of the forum. Here are three easy steps for posting a complaint to the Xfinity Facebook page:

1. Type grievance where it says "Write something on this page." Complaint will post under "Visitor Posts." Check back for Comcast's response in "Notifications" — the globe icon in the upper right corner.
2. Reply as appropriate.

Need help?
Send questions to HelpSquad@pioneerlocal.com.

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist.
Thursday's Children
By Nicci French, Penguin, 336 pages, $16
With her brooding intelligence and maddening aloofness, Frieda Klein may be the most compelling female character in today's crime fiction. A psychotherapist who clears her mind by taking lonesome strolls through London in the middle of the night, she doesn't mind canceling appointments to pursue a murder investigation — especially when, as in “Thursday's Children,” the fourth installment in a strong series by the husband-wife team of Nicci Gerrard and Sean French, the crime resonates with her own dark history. When 15-year-old Becky, the daughter of an old high school friend, is found hanging from a beam in her bedroom, police are quick to rule it a suicide. But Frieda, who met with the girl before the tragedy, knows better. The resilient Becky told her she had been raped in her own bed by a masked man. Details of the attack leave the therapist believing it was the same man who raped Frieda 23 years ago, when she was 16. She also is certain the man killed Becky to keep her from reporting the crime. Returning home to question former classmates awakens painful, suppressed memories for Frieda. With her irascible, long-estranged mother dying and her just-dumped boyfriend pressuring her for answers — he did, after all, just move back from New York to be with her — she finds herself caught eerily between past and present, a ghost of herself. Leave it to her loyal circle of friends to bring her back down to earth, to deepen the footprints of those midnight walks.

Fool Me Once
By Harlan Coben, Dutton, 390 pages, $28.
When an author sells as many books and has as many nice things written about him as Harlan Coben, a reviewer who has managed to avoid his thrillers has the duty to right that wrong. Right? Coben’s latest, “Fool Me Once,” a standalone, is a good place to start. And for much of the going, it’s a good place to continue, thanks to the spell cast by former Army helicopter pilot Maya Burkett, PTSD-suffering mother of a 2-year-old girl. Pushed out of the service after an airstrike she led near the Iraq-Syria border killed five civilians, she now must contend with the killing of her husband Joe during an outing in Central Park (and the skepticism of a police detective who can’t understand why the muggers who shot her husband didn’t also shoot her). Mysterious circumstances also surround previous deaths in the family, including that of Maya’s sister Claire, who was shot during a supposed home invasion, and Joe’s brother Andrew, who years ago perished in an odd yachting accident. Ultimately, everything points back to the secret dealings of Joe’s powerful, pharmaceutical-manufacturing family. As indicated by the title, devilish twists are in store. Give credit to Coben for the cleverness of his concept and the shivery subtlety of his plotting. But ultimately, the book skims along the psychological surface too much to overcome its contrivances and grab readers the way it should. Do love a high-tech whistleblower hiding out in a strip club, though.

CHICAGOLAND BEST-SELLERS
1. “Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania” by Erik Larson (Crown, $17)
2. “The Little Paris Bookshop: A Novel” by Nina George (Broadway, $16)
3. “The Nest” by Cynthia D’Aprix Sweeney (Ecco, $26.99)
4. “My Brilliant Friend” by Elena Ferrante (Europa Editions, $17)

NEW IN PAPERBACK
So You’ve Been Publicly Shamed
By Jon Ronson, Riverhead, 318 pages, $16
Ronson looks at the phenomenon of using shame as a form of social control, drawing on conversations with people who’ve experienced its damaging effects, ranging from ridicule to job loss. Among them: Justine Sacco, who made an AIDS joke on Twitter, and Lindsey Stone, who posted on Facebook a photo of herself mocking the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

Girl at War: A Novel
By Sara Novic, Random House, 343 pages, $16
Novic’s debut novel explores the life of 20-year-old Ana Juric, a Croatian college student in 2001 Manhattan. Ana returns to her home country to make peace with childhood memories of the Croatian War of Independence, which started in 1991.

Creatures of a Day: And Other Tales of Psychotherapy
By Irvin D. Yalom, Basic, 240 pages, $15.99
“Creatures of a Day: And Other Tales of Psychotherapy” is a collection of 10 stories gathered from patients who attended Yalom’s psychotherapy sessions. His unconventional advice on dealing with thoughts about death turns each story into a lesson on living with meaning and facing the inevitable end with serenity.

— Andreea Ciulac
Water Log: As your pencil flows along

BY GAIL GRABOWSKI  |  EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN

Across
1  Cotton shirt fabric
2  Paid promos
3  Honolulu-born leader
4  Overcharge
5  Take a load off
6  Cracker shape of a sort
7  Low point
8  Puritanical nature
9  Break down slowly
10  Vote out
11  Grp. awarding merit badges
12  Vigilant
13  Thick bankrolls
14  Brief cybermessages
15  Run rings around
16  Aussie bird
17  Homeland, affectionately
18  Land parcel
19  County near London
20  At any time
21  Genesis setting
22  Fringe foray
23  Part of a Dracula costume
24  Low sound
25  Film's orchestral music
26  Amended finance deg.
27  Teeth expert's deg.
28  Nine-character signal
29  Accident-probing agcy.
30  Sound of 113 Across
31  Keycard receiver
32  Ratio phrase
33  Undue speed
34  French impressionist
35  Giving the remote a workout
36  Film with a posse
37  Sioux City citizens
38  Hulk director Lee
39  Erin Brockovich's former employer
40  Grp. awarding merit badges
41  Liverpoolian, for one
42  Microsoft cofounder
43  French article
44  "Ya got me"
45  Evoking the shivers
46  Prof's helpers
47  Dad of Henry Ford II
48  "Beauty is truth" poet
49  Get away from Geeks
50  Lock of hair
51  Appetite arouser
52  Christmas song
53  Christmas song
54  Christmas song
55  Christmas song
56  Christmas song
57  Christmas song
58  Christmas song
59  Christmas song
60  Christmas song
61  Christmas song
62  Christmas song
63  Christmas song
64  Christmas song
65  Christmas song
66  Christmas song
67  Christmas song
68  Christmas song
69  Symbol of Arizona
70  Yellowish brown
71  Cupcake covering
72  Folger's alternative style
73  Iron's output
74  Prudent part of portfolios
75  My Cousin Vinny star
76  Summer clock setting in Md.
77  He preceded JFK
78  Greek column style
79  Trade org.
80  Wave rider's phrase
81  Seminarian's hurdle
82  Unemotional
83  Done
84  School segment
85  Unemotional
86  Chopped down
87  Emulating
88  Series starter
89  Series starter
90  Series starter
91  Series starter
92  Series starter
93  Series starter
94  Series starter
95  Series starter
96  Series starter
97  Series starter
98  Series starter
99  Series starter
100 Oscar winner
101 Filet's lack
102 Alma mater of 44
103 Alpaca
104 Kappa
105 Professor
106 Christmas song
107 No longer valid
108 Christmas song
109 Prior nights
110 Christmas song
111 Colony crawlers
112 Rough guess
113 Virtuoso
114 "Zip-a__-_Doo-Dah"
115 Witherspoon
116 What boys will be

Down
1  Whispered call
2  Kappa predecessor
3  Bread spread
4  Alias abbr.
5  Daisylike flowers
6  Widen, as pupils
7  OR order
8  "What's more ..."
9  Less
10 Solemn assent
11 Pairs of punches
12 Colleen
13 Apart from this
14 Gunk
15 Raison d'
16 Dad of Henry
17 Central spot
18 Fields of expertise
19 Showed fear
20 Clumsy
21 Crackle
22 "What's more ..."
23 "What's more ..."
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99 "What's more ..."
100 Oscar winner
101 Filet's lack
102 Alma mater of 44
103 Alpaca
104 Kappa
105 Professor
106 Christmas song
107 No longer valid
108 Christmas song
109 Prior nights
110 Christmas song
111 Colony crawlers
112 Rough guess
113 Virtuoso
114 "Zip-a__-_Doo-Dah"
115 Witherspoon
116 What boys will be

Last week's answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island
Pen in Hand

BY CHARLES PRESTON

Across
1 Mojity
5 Woodland clearing
10 Makes out
14 Spread
15 OK, in radio communications
16 Of the sword side
17 Bartlett
18 "...to bury Caesar"
19 UN member: abbr.
20 Sprightly musical work
22 Popular beverage
24 Namely: L.
25...party
26 Unspecified location
31 Canary's cousin
35 Fragrance
36...jiffy
37 To boot
38 Slang negative
39 Writes, in a way
41 Letter
42 Counsels
44...much
45 African lake
46 Vilify
47 Honestly
49 Element
51...man: indispensable executive
52 You, for instance
55 Belligerency
59...'s Castle
60 Languished
62 Small combo
63 Marginalia item
64 Have...to pick
65 Preposition
66 Mardi
67 Furnishes temporarily
68 Galley hand

Down
1 Informal dances
2...Waugh
3 Jacob's wife
4 Eternally
5 Bears
6 Crazy: Sp.
7 Gone by
8 Death
9 Not prone
10 Begrimes
11 Near...
12 If not
13 Evening: It.
21 Tear apart
23 Paves, as the way
26 Airs
27 Disgrace
28 Courage
29 Girl's name
30 Desert flora
32 Nouveau
33 Justice, for instance
34 Impoverished
37 Isolates by force
39 Jeopardy
40 Particle
43 Overpowers by brilliance
45 Puzzling
47 Penman
48 Poetic contraction
50 Where Katmandu is
52 Paroxysm
53 Caesar's wife
54 Fraternity letter
55 Proceed
56 River of Italy
57 Mr. Broz
58 Hamus, e.g.
61 Persona...grata
Thin Is In

EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

ACROSS
1. Let the tears out
5. Fast-food pork sandwich
10. Oar
15. Datebook opening
19. Ad, basically
20. "When Lilacs Last in the Dooryard Bloom'd," for one
21. Riveting woman?
22. Break-even transaction
23. Twistable snack
24. Rock guitarist Eddy
25. Bungling
26. Off-the-wall answer?
27. Bud who's been
28. Brings forth
29. Search online about auditory issues?
31. Sources of complaints
32. Porch furniture material
36. Breakfast grain
37. Course accomplishment
40. High-altitude home
41. Maine course
45. 1941 FDR creation
46. GEICO gecko's financial counterpart?
49. Stop on a line
51. "Bambi" role
52. Pull-down beneficiaries
53. Some tech sch. grads
55. Spew out
57. "Happy to help"
59. Trickles
61. Smooth transition
62. "Hedda Gabler" playwright
63. Colorado county or its seat
65. Kept for later
66. Reunion attendees
68. One fastidious about table manners?
71. Medit. country
72. Bing's co-star in "The Bells of St. Mary's"
75. Use as support
76. Oscar winner
79. March MVP
80. "Papa Bear" of football
81. Chicago's "in the Park" time
84. Mazda sports car
85. Rocks in rye
86. Primatologist
88. Easily deceived
89. One-time Capitol Records parent
90. Editor's marks in the margin?
95. "Get it done"
111. Island where Bette Williams
112. A lock may be in
113. Soaks (up)

DOWN
1. Political coalition
2. Intangible quality
3. Little singer
4. Ex-Soviet leader Brezhnev
5. One getting too personal
6. Caddies carry them
7. Back
8. "That's not important"
9. Tournament pass
10. Lanka
11. Dance in a line
12. Apply to
13. Slimming option for short
14. Release
15. Term of affection
16. Make more potent
17. Org. with an Anti-Retaliation webpage
18. Red-bearded god
19. Brings forth
20. Blood work, e.g.
21. Cultural pursuits
22. It may be a sign of stress
23. Caddy contents, perhaps
24. granddaughter
25. Talmudic scholar
26. 1941 FDR creation
27. Maine course
28. High-altitude
29. Breakfast grain
30. Porch furniture material
31. Sources of complaints
32. Twistable snack
33. Rock guitarist Eddy
34. Bungling
35. Off-the-wall answer?
36. Search online about auditory issues?
37. Course accomplishment
38. High-altitude home
39. Maine course
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69. Brings forth
70. Blood work, e.g.
71. Cultural pursuits
72. It may be a sign of stress
73. Caddy contents, perhaps

Jumble
Unscramble the six Jumbles, one letter per square, to form six words. Then arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by this cartoon.

Sudoku
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit 1 to 9.

Last week's answers appear on the next page
This week's answers appear on the next page

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Crossword

By Jacqueline E. Mathews. © 2018 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.

ACROSS
1 Garbage
6 "Sesame"; Ali
10 Family member
14 Small weight
15 Sheet of floating ice
16 Middle-
17 Prefix for violet or sound
18 Truck scale divisions
19 Use a Kindle
20 Shy
22 Hypnotic state
24 Strong ox
25 Sowed
26 Bat, cat or rat
29 San_, CA
30 Highlighted it
31 Local small-town resident
33 Prolonged attack
37 Argument
39 Small brooks
41 Tyne or Tim
42 "John B"
44 High-powered surgical beam
46 Look at
47 Very tall
49 Took a nap
51 Envious

Solutions

54 May's follower
55 Flynn & others
56 Impetus; force that is growing
60 Winter lakes
61 Exhibit
63 Silly as a
64 Magazine title
65 Actor James
66 Miscalculated
67 Burn slightly
68 Coloring agents
69 Makes smooth

DOWN
1 Sightseeing trip
2 Regulation
3 Household pests
4 Shriek
5 Rumor
6 Frequently
7 Trudge
8 Very long time
9 Move around
10 Suspicous of everyone
12 Harmony
13 __ in; inserted
21 Bravery
23 Dust cloths
25 Asprins or Viconids
26 Performing __- dancing, etc.
27 __-biter; very close race
28 Lowdown; facts
29 Procrastinate
32 Scott's skirts
34 Vane direction
35 Joy
36 Observed
38 Disciple; imitator
40 Antitoxin
42 "Hypnotic state"
43 Swimming spot
45 Goes back on a promise
48 Kept gripping
50 Lady of the casa, often
51 Jokes around
52 Bert's buddy
53 Fragrance
54 Bulldog's cheeks
56 Oliver's request
57 Shredded
58 __ up; spent
59 Prescriptions, for short
62 Stable supper

"C Battery"

Last week's crosswords

"Wise Women"

"Famous Figures"

Last week's Quote-Acrostic

JONATHAN LAST: TV FOR TOTS: Men on kids TV tend to be aged, and hence harmless, or young and vaguely effete. Why can't more resemble youthful working fathers butch enough to enjoy baseball and change their sensible family sedan's oil?

Last week's Sudoku

This week's Jumble

AROUND BOTANY PLACID EMBODY ITALIC USEFUL

The home improvement show became so popular because it was able to —

BUILD AN AUDIENCE

chicago tribune.com/games

Interactive puzzles and games
Do cultural differences affect a couple lasting?

I can't wait to see "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2," the sequel to the 2002 hit, "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," a movie that had me laughing so hard I still remember my cheeks hurting when I walked out of the theater.

Toula and Ian ended up falling madly in love and getting married, despite their vast cultural differences and backgrounds, as well as the resistance they initially got from her ultratraditional Greek family.

The sequel, in which 14 years later, Toula and Ian are still together, got me thinking about couples who come from different faiths, cultures or ethnic backgrounds. Do these relationships have less of a chance of working long-term? Does coming from similar cultures give a marriage better odds of lasting forever?

For answers to these questions, I talked with Chicago-based relationship therapist Anita Chlipala, who said she's counseled with similar cultural backgrounds, as well as those who come from very similar backgrounds. The root of her clients' issues: not the actual cultural differences, but rather their attitudes.

"The biggest challenge I see in couples is their inability to accept, honor and respect what is important to their spouse," said Chlipala, who said she has been in practice for more than 10 years. "They fail to reach a compromise where both partners feel like they are getting what's most important to them."

Chlipala said that an attitude of "We have to do things my way and my family's way" leads to negativity that will chip away at the health of the relationship.

"When years go by like this, resentment builds up and it ends up not being the religious differences that caused the problems, but rather the inflexibility to bend for their partner," she said.

Another big mistake couples from different cultures make is that they don't discuss their wishes upfront — before they are married.

"People date and they think, 'We'll figure it out,'" Chlipala said. "They are so blinded by love that they think it is enough to solve their differences. So, they don't talk about the big things."

According to Chlipala, some of "the big things" include:
- What kind of religious symbols are going to be in our house?
- What cultural traditions and rituals are important to each person that they would like to continue?
- How will the extended family play a role in the relationship?

Speaking of extended family, I can't help but think of the Portokalos family in "My Big Fat Greek Wedding." Not sure if you saw the movie or the trailer for the sequel, but the couple who is having "My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2" happens to be Toula's parents, who find out they were never legally married. Apparently, the priest forgot to sign their marriage license 50-some years ago.

This brings to light the issue of whether or not being legally married really matters. From the trailer, it appears Toula's mom doesn't care, but her dad is devastated.

So, what are the advantages of being legally married?

"Research shows that people who consider themselves married or are legally married have higher levels of relationship satisfaction," Chlipala said. "Some people say 'It's just a piece of paper,' but I totally disagree. When you are legally married, it is a different level of commitment than just saying, 'We're in a relationship.' Even if you are exclusive."

"No one goes into a marriage thinking, 'I can get a divorce if it doesn't work out.' So, I have to believe that when people tie the knot, they are committed to making the relationship work."

"The bottom line is if you ask anyone — married or divorced, they will tell you marriage isn't easy. I believe that applies to people in relationships who have similar cultural backgrounds, as well as those who don't. There is a part of me who thinks similar cultures do make things a little bit easier, but regardless of race, religion or ethnicity — whether they are the same or vastly different — the key to being happy is as simple as this: you have to like your spouse."

Despite being divorced, I am and will always be a huge fan of marriage, but only if both people are finding happiness in it. If problems arise, both partners have to want to fix them, by making changes such as better communication or couples therapy. Or, like they do in "My Big Fat Greek Wedding," you can always try a little Windex!

Jackie Pilossof is a freelance columnist.
Simple actions can prevent deep-vein thrombosis

DEAR DOCTOR K: A friend of mine recently developed a blood clot in his leg after a long flight. I travel a lot for work, so this has me worried. Is there any way to prevent this type of thing?

DEAR READER: A blood clot that forms deep inside a leg vein, known as deep-vein thrombosis, can cause pain, swelling, and redness in the affected limb. But the real threat happens if the clot breaks off and travels to the lungs. Known as a pulmonary embolism, this can lead to sudden death. (I've put an illustration of this process on my website, AskDoctorK.com.)

Clots tend to form in blood when the blood is not moving much. They form in still ponds, but not in babbling brooks. Ordinarily, as you walk around, your leg muscles squeeze your veins and keep blood in the leg veins flowing back to the heart. If you are inactive for many hours, blood flow in the veins of your legs may slow so much that clots form.

If you have to sit for several hours at a time on a plane or train, the following tips may help prevent DVT:

- Get up and walk around every hour. I do this religiously every time I fly or travel by train. I always get an aisle seat so that I don't disturb my seatmates.
- While sitting, flex and extend your ankles and knees every once in a while.
- Stretching and walking around while on a long flight may help prevent deep-vein thrombosis.
- Avoid crossing your legs. That pinches off even more of the flow of blood in your leg veins.
- Change positions often while seated.
- Stay well hydrated by drinking plenty of water.
- Learn to recognize the signs of DVT. The affected area may be tender or painful, swollen, red and warm to the touch. If these symptoms linger for more than a few hours, call your doctor for advice. It's unusual for a person to develop DVT in both legs at the same time. If the signs of DVT are particularly important to bring to your doctor's attention when they're just in one leg.
- Treating a DVT typically includes injections of an anti-clotting drug such as heparin, followed by additional anti-clotting drugs taken by mouth. People with less serious cases may need only anti-clotting pills. More serious cases may require powerful clot-dissolving medications given intravenously in a hospital.
- If you have ever had a blood clot before, you may well be at increased risk for getting another one. So all of the advice I've given above goes double for you.
- Very early in my medical training, I saw several patients die from blood clots in the legs that traveled to the lungs. One of them had been on a long airplane ride the day before. I don't know if he had taken any precautions - he couldn't tell me.
- It made me decide that if there were any simple things I could do to protect myself from a similar fate, I would do them. I have, and you should too.

Dr. Komaroff is a physician and professor at Harvard Medical School. To send questions, go to AskDoctorK.com, or write: Ask Doctor K, 10 Shattuck St., Second Floor, Boston, MA 02115.

PEOPLE'S PHARMACY PRESCRIPTIONS AND HOME REMEDIES

Dandelion root promotes helpful gut bacteria growth

By Joe Graedon and Teresa Graedon
King Features Syndicate

Q: Dandelion root tea has helped me a lot with my acid reflux. I have used a proton-pump inhibitor for just 14 days with a combination of apple-cider vinegar diluted in warm water for immediate relief. Decreasing my alcohol consumption and eliminating coffee made a difference, as these are huge triggers for me. But dandelion root tea seems to rid me of any heartburn issues, so I've stopped all other remedies.

A: The recent news about serious side effects from long-term use of proton-pump inhibitors such as esomeprazole (Nexium) and lansoprazole (Prevacid) makes nondrug alternatives appealing. Dandelion root has a reputation as benefiting digestive problems, though there is not much clinical research. The root of Taraxacum officinale (dandelion) does contain effective antimicrobial compounds (Phytotherapy Research, April 2015).

Dandelion root has probiotic properties that encourage the growth of beneficial gut bacteria (Fitoterapia, December 2004).

We are unsure whether these activities explain the good results you experience, however.

Q: I read your recent column about the aroma of Melissa in soap being the secret cure for leg cramps. It dawned on me that I haven't been experiencing leg cramps or foot cramps at night for the past six weeks. This coincides with my recent purchase of an aromatherapy mist that I use at night in the bedroom with essential oils, e.g., lavender, tea leaf, lemon grass, eucalyptus and sweet orange. I used to get cramps almost every night, so painful that they woke me with severe, excruciating pain.

A: Thanks for sharing this with other people with nighttime leg cramps who might want to try it.

We offer many other recommendations, from pre-bedtime stretches to mineral supplements, in our Guide to Leg Pain. Anyone who would like a copy, please send $3 in check or money order with a long (No. 10), stamped (71 cents), self-addressed envelope to: Graedons' People's Pharmacy, No. RLS-5, P.O. Box 52027, Durham, NC 27717-2027. It also can be downloaded for $2 from our website: www.peoplespharmacy.com.

Responses to cramp remedies seem to be highly individual, so a person who is regularly awakened with painful leg cramps may need to try a few to find the best one.
This spectacular condominium offers an exceptional opportunity to live on the shores of Lake Michigan with nearly 3700 square feet of luxury living with east/west exposure. The main level consists of a beautiful foyer complete with wet bar; large living room opening into a glassed-in balcony; dining room with comfortable seating for 24; a large paneled library; powder room and generous guest closets. All principal rooms have coved moldings and marble floors. Lovely kitchen with attached breakfast room overlooks Lake Michigan. A half level up features the master bedroom suite with "His" and "Her" full marble bathrooms and dressing rooms with built-in drawers and closets. A wonderful large second bedroom and full bath complete the second level. Just 1/2 a level down, the lower level contains a bedroom with built-in beds and a full bath. The laundry room has side by side washer and dryer. Wonderful storage closets for everything. The apartment has its own three-zoned heating and air conditioning separate from the building system. Also included are two indoor, heated, garage spaces and two storage lockers on the building's Terrace Level. The building is secured with 24 hour doorman, on-site engineers and management office, wonderful workout center, lovely party room and outdoor swimming pool all situated on a beautiful park like setting.

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Map it out
What to talk about before leaving town with a friend or partner

By Alison Bowen
Tribune Newspapers

Two times, Dena Roche realized boyfriends were going to become breakups while traveling.

The first time, her plus-one got jealous when someone pulled her onto the dance floor in Belize, revealing an insecure side “I hadn’t seen before,” she said.

Next, during a Hawaii vacation, a man took advantage of an all-you-can-eat situation to a repulsive degree.

“I actually faked being sick on this trip to avoid him touching me,” said Roche, who lives in Phoenix and writes The Travel Diet.

Whether it’s a best friend or a romantic getaway, travel for two can bring obstacles more unique than solo or groups.

We talked to experts to find out potential plane, train or automobile pitfalls — and what to tackle before you go.

Money

Talk about cash. And not just an overall budget.

Do you prefer a $2 lunch of street food, or an expensive three-course dinner with a skyline view? The answer matters, because money is where you decide how you want to spend the trip.

When traveling with her partner, “Approach Guides” co-author Jennifer Raezer makes sure to discuss meals, excursions and transportation.

“These are critical items to get out of the way before taking off, so you don’t spend your vacation discussing money issues or missing an experience because you’re worried about cash,” she said.

Sure, at home, you may decide easily enough whether to order Thai or pizza. But those decisions amplify when it’s the one night you’ll spend in a locale, or debating different price points.

For example, said Stacie Krasich, author of “The Itty Bitty Guide to Business Travel,” “Do you want to alternate paying for meals as we go rather than split the check at every meal?”

Having different budgets isn’t a deal-breaker. Consider getting groceries at a local store so you can splurge on meals when you want to, suggests Jetta Bates, who runs Jetsetting.com on Bravo’s “Tour Group” show following travelers.

Without chatting before, “the person that is in a place to really spend on vacation will feel stifled and perhaps a bit obligated to pick up the check,” she said.

Style of travel

Make sure to compare organization and research styles. Do you want to sleep in, or get up early and attack the day?

Liz Dahl, a former travel agent who founded Boomer Travel Patrol, advises people to compare sleeping and eating expectations. Three meals a day or snacks? Chat about whether you want to sit on the beach or visit museums.

“All of these activities are great, but know this before you go so you can compromise and make sure each person has a good time,” she said.

Whether planning with a romantic partner or friend, talking about it before embarking on your fifth museum is key, said Colin Matthes, who runs Stamped Travel with his girlfriend, Jenoa Esplin.

“Some people are very good at improvising and making plans as they go,” he said, “Other people love having an entire day planned out.”

One option is for each person to pick a No. 1 thing they want to do during the trip. Prioritize those.

And think through stressful triggers that will put you in a tense spot — waiting for baggage, standing in lines.

For example, John and Luisa Rasjen, who have been married for more than 25 years and help couples travel together, suggest that one person get the luggage, letting the other relax with an airport cappuccino.

Thought process

What are you both expecting from the trip? For example, said Mark Jackson, travel editor for Brad’s Deals, if one person’s plotting a romantic getaway, it never hurts to compare notes.

“I have heard many a tale of potential lovers not being on the same page before departing,” he said.

Traveling together can boost, or crumble, a relationship. Either way, you’ll probably see each other at your worst.

Krista Canfield, at travel website Gogobot, and her fiancé took a trip three months into dating. They planned to hike in Kauai, Hawaii, and summit Mount Fuji in Japan.

“We knew an epic excursion together would either break or cement our relationship,” Canfield said.

Sitting next to each other on long-haul flights helped them bond, she said.

Finally, embrace the unexpected.

Beth Santos, founder of Wanderful, was in Istanbul with her husband for just 24 hours — and her husband decided to use precious moments for a haircut.

“At first I was fuming,” she recalled. “But then it turned out to be one of the best experiences ever to watch him get his hair cut by a tiny barber in the streets of Istanbul.”

Plan and discuss ahead of time to get on the same mental page to ensure a great trip and head off headaches.

As Roche learned, “It’s really hard to ask someone to find their way to an airport three hours away!”

abowen@tribpub.com
Twitter @byalisonbowen
French-inspired Hinsdale home: $1.75 million

ADDRESS: 708 S. Lincoln St. in Hinsdale
ASKING PRICE: $1,750,000
Listed on March 1, 2016
Five-bedroom, 5.1-bath French-provincial home in walking distance to town location. Kitchen has walnut floors, center island, two dishwashers, wolf range and butler's pantry. Family room with fireplace and tongue and groove ceiling. Four bedrooms and three bathrooms on the second level, with an additional bed and full bath on the third level. The lower level features a stainless steel bar, exercise room and 6th bedroom. Exterior amenities include a three-season porch and back deck.
Agent: Anne Brandt of Brush Hill Realtors, 630-920-0666

At press time, this home was still for sale.

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<td>03-03-16</td>
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<td>Anil Bhushan</td>
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<td>Francis Kim &amp; Minhwa Kim</td>
<td>Tom Wolowicz</td>
<td>02-29-16</td>
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<td>1104 Castle Ln, #305, Glenview</td>
<td>Edward Kozody &amp; Yuliya Rukavetsa</td>
<td>Kevin Farahmandpour</td>
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<td>1017 Dearlove Rd, #3, Glenview</td>
<td>Ashuril Hal &amp; Wazibe Maitai</td>
<td>Alex Shvedchenko</td>
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<td>1060 Church St, Glenview</td>
<td>Juanita Oh</td>
<td>Eric J Christophersen</td>
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<td>7050 Wilton Ln, Glenview</td>
<td>Albert A Halawal &amp; Virginia Halawal</td>
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<td>Andrew Zwenner &amp; Michelle Zwenner</td>
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<td>Carl Koneman &amp; Megan Koneman</td>
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<td>2748 N Kyle Rd, Hawthorn Woods</td>
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<td>2151 N Pine Lake Ct, Kildeer</td>
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<td>7015 Lake Ave, Buffalo Grove</td>
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<td>Michael Gregory</td>
<td>James D Christensen</td>
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<td>674 Carter St, Libertyville</td>
<td>Patricia Lutz &amp; Diane Peter</td>
<td>William E Libs</td>
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<td>909 Crestfield Ave, Libertyville</td>
<td>Jamie L Yon &amp; Colin E Yon</td>
<td>Michael Maz</td>
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<td>5500 Lincoln Ave, #145, Morton Grove</td>
<td>Ellen O Quach</td>
<td>Alexander Denerberg</td>
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<td>773 Dempster St, #108, Morton Grove</td>
<td>Himizha Kappabogovic &amp; Melinda Kappabogovic</td>
<td>Danish Syed Ishal</td>
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<td>7532 Churchill St, Morton Grove</td>
<td>Richard L Moohan &amp; Manon G Morsh</td>
<td>Joseph C Pickett</td>
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<td>9010 Aven Ln, Morton Grove</td>
<td>Ronald Wolf Mathews</td>
<td>Syed M Ali</td>
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<td>6818 Prairie St, Morton Grove</td>
<td>James W Yoo &amp; Deborah Yoo</td>
<td>Jonathan Y Yu</td>
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<td>6135 W Golf Rd, #4F, Niles</td>
<td>Joanne Ishak Zaya</td>
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<td>7060 N Franks Ave, Niles</td>
<td>Ioan Tiron &amp; Violeta Tiron</td>
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<td>836 N Ozama Ave, Niles</td>
<td>Teodor E Otena &amp; Ewini O Otena</td>
<td>Nahrin Kifawi</td>
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<td>Alvin Yonan &amp; Elisa Yonan</td>
<td>Ayman halawal</td>
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<td>Haima Abdallah</td>
<td>Edward Youkhana</td>
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<td>240 W Saltonstall Rd, Park Ridge</td>
<td>Nicholas J Tonda</td>
<td>Mark Leybovitz &amp; Irlas Kossova</td>
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<td>1623 S Crescent Ave, Park Ridge</td>
<td>John J Papanos</td>
<td>Rajendra S Patel</td>
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<td>913 Wesley Dr, Park Ridge</td>
<td>Vladimir Celec &amp; Vladimir Skala</td>
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<td>1004 Paele Ave, Park Ridge</td>
<td>Tomasz Ratafka &amp; Andrew Rafalko</td>
<td>Catherine G Roy</td>
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<tr>
<td>1016 Rene CL Park Ridge</td>
<td>Alexey Abramov</td>
<td>Cecile M Horsky</td>
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<td>1219 Elliott St Park Ridge</td>
<td>Darliz Roman &amp; Matthew Roman</td>
<td>Scott S Magnussen</td>
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<td>1525 S Des Park, Park Ridge</td>
<td>Matthew Staczek &amp; Agnes Sledz</td>
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<td>2165 S Vernon Ave, Park Ridge</td>
<td>Neil Timothy Hunt &amp; Mary Parkhill Hunt</td>
<td>Joseph J Tandoi &amp; Joseph Tandoi</td>
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<tr>
<td>1111 Garden St Park Ridge</td>
<td>Brian M Crawford &amp; Lynnda M Crawford</td>
<td>David P Birmont</td>
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<td>728 Overhill Ave, Park Ridge</td>
<td>Ziemowit Smolukowski &amp; Malgorzata Bremmer</td>
<td>Lucido Development LLC</td>
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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. Phone: 630-559-1000 | public-record.com
**BEAUTIFUL “DEVONSHIRE” RANCH!**

Skokie...Just Listed! The Best of “Devonshire!” Sparkling Clean & Absolute “Move In Condition!” New décor/painting + newly refinished oak floors throughout. Huge living/dining room with custom Plantation shutters. 3 brs & 2 full updated baths on main floor. Large eat-in contemporary white kitchen with 2 ovens & ceramic tile backsplash. Exceptionally large lower level family room (35x13 + 18x11). Huge laundry room + storage area. Large rear yard (60' x 132' lot). Super convenient to Devonshire Park/Pool and the Award Winning Devonshire School!..............$329,000

---

**“BARTLETT ESTATES” BEAUTY!**

Morton Grove...Charming Turret Style solid brick English Cape Cod in sought after “Bartlett Estates” subdivision on 75' x 250' lot. Rounded turret entry foyer. Formal Living rm w/FP. Custom kitchen with 42” cabinets is adjacent to spectacular 3 season Sun Rm w/wraparound windows, FP & sliding glass doors to 20’ x 20’ Paver brick patio. 1 bath with whirlpool tub & 2 baths with shower stalls. Huge Master br with 2 skylights. 2nd floor bonus loft/sitting area. Finished bsmt Family Rm + wine cellar/pantry + workshop, laundry room & bath...............$439,000

---

**SIMPLY SPECTACULAR!**

Morton Grove... Beautifully maintained 7 room Bi-level in great location! Living room with newer bay window. Crown moldings & hardwood floors under carpet. Eat-in kitchen with green house window + Corian counters. Fabulous lower level family room with wood laminate floors with custom built-ins & wall of closets. 3 bedrooms & 1 ½ updated baths. Side drive to 2 ½ car heated garage. Fenced yard with large wood deck & landscaped yard. Walk to pool, park, shopping, transportation & more!..............$269,900

---

**FABULOUS “DOWNTOWN” LOCATION!**

Mount Prospect...Price Reduced! Contemporary 2 br - 2 bath Condo with Superb In-Town location near Train, Shopping & Restaurants. Spacious room sizes & closets, separate dining room, deluxe kitchen with eating area. Master br with walk-in closet. Custom window treatments & floors. 13' Balcony. In-unit laundry room & Heated Garage with large storage rm behind parking space. Great location near Village Hall, Library & Downtown Mount Prospect!...$249,500
REAL ESTATE HOMES IN YOUR AREA

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

Home has three bedrooms, 2.5 bathrooms, a family room with a fireplace, an eat-in kitchen, and a living room/dining room area. Partially finished basement. Two-car garage and a large backyard. Home sold in "as is" condition.

Address: 2142 N. Cherry Hill Drive
Price: $349,900
Schools: Wheeling High School
Taxes: $7,163
Agent: Bob Glueckert/CENTURY 21 Kreuser & Sciler

WINNETKA

Three-bedroom, 2.5-bath Colonial home with first-floor family room with vaulted ceiling. Wood-burning fireplace inside. Yard has garden area. Powder room and den/office on first floor. Near schools and Metra.

Address: 589 Sunset Road
Price: $634,500
Schools: New Trier Township High School
Taxes: $15,277
Agent: Yvonne Sito/@properties

SKOKIE

Home has three bedrooms and two full, updated baths. Two-oven kitchen has ceramic tile backsplash. Living, dining and laundry rooms, carpeted family room. Newly painted. Near parks and schools.

Address: 9157 Keeler Ave.
Price: $329,000
Schools: Niles North High School
Taxes: $6,647
Agent: Amy Marino/Century 21 Marino Inc.

Listings from Homefinder.com

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

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

MORTGAGE GUIDE

Rate

Product

Points

Fees

3.684%

5/1 ARM

15 yr Fixed

30 yr FHA

5.125

3.875

5.000

2.500

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Sample Repayment Terms - ea 34,1) nxrnhly paymabls

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Questions?

Share your suburban events on Metromix.com

1) Start at chicagotribune.com/calendar.
You will be directed to Metromix's online calendar.

2) Create an account or sign in and share your event.
Signing up with Metromix is free and you can share unlimited events.

3) Confirmation: Metromix will notify you via email when your event is posted.
Celebrate Earth Day at the Des Plaines History Center: Children are invited to participate in a recycling project at the After School Adventures program, Recycle, Reuse, Renew. Youngsters are asked to bring an empty water bottle and will learn how to transform it into a piece of art. 3 p.m. Thursday, Des Plaines History Center, 781 Pearson St., Des Plaines, $3 per child, 847-391-5399.

Project Space: Curatorial Vision Series: The Art Center invites three curatorial practice students from the School of the Art Institute to present an exhibition and public programming that engages audiences in meaningful ways while fostering the Art Center's relationship to its community. Young curators are selected during the spring/summer of 2015. 10 a.m. Thursday-Wednesday, Evanston Art Center, 1717 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $8-38, 847-492-8860.

Nature preschool open house: Early childhood staff at the Chicago Botanic Garden host an open house introducing the Nature Preschool, a nature- and play-based preschool. 10 a.m. Thursday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glencoe, free, 847-835-5565.

Retail Therapy Sip N Shop on Central Street in Evanston: The annual Retail Therapy Night offers special discounts, raffles, refreshments and giveaways from participating businesses along the 1800-2100 blocks of Central St., just East and West of Green Bay Road. 6 p.m. Thursday, Central Street shopping district, 1800-2700 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-5300.


Adult literacy classes: spring season: For native and non-native English speakers to improve their reading and writing skills. A small, friendly group led by a teacher and volunteer tutors meets twice weekly. Classes are conducted by Oakton Community College in the library’s Community Room West. Call 877-635-1425 for details. 9:30 a.m. Thursday and Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Special Exhibition Three Years, Eight Months, and Twenty Days: The Cambodian Atrocities and the Search for Justice: Learn about the Cambodian genocide and the current trials to bring the perpetrators to justice, 40 years later, 10 a.m. Thursday-Wednesday, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, free, 847-967-4835.

Friday, April 8

“Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat”: St. Stephen Church Gaslight Players perform “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” for two weekends in April. 7:30 p.m. Friday, 3 p.m. Sunday, St. Stephen Church, Hanley Hall, 1280 Prospect Ave, Des Plaines, $15 adults, $10 seniors; $8 children, 732-824-7754.

Cuban Doo Wop Dreams: Live brings their hit show Cuban Doo Wop Dreams to the historic Leela Arts Center in Des Plaines for a limited run, 7:30 p.m. Friday, Leela Arts Center, 620 Lee St., Des Plaines, Tickets are $15 to $25. 800-838-3006.

Joe Kotke: 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $30-$65, 847-492-8860.

Nia: Holistic dance fitness: With Nia develop flexibility, agility, mobility, strength and stability in your body. 11 a.m. Friday, Monday and Wednesday, Raydiant Day, 1400 Greenleaf St., Evanston, $11 drop-in, $80 unlimited class pass, 847-869-6477.

The Latest Developments in Alzheimer’s Research: Dean Hartley, Ph.D., director of Science Initiatives, Alzheimer’s Association, discusses the latest research and what the future might hold. Register, call or visit website. 1 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Video Game Night Ages 13-18: Play with the library’s game systems and collections on big screens. Pizza is generously donated by Pappi’s Pizza. Please register by calling or to the website. 5 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

IPad and iPhone tips: Learn about basic settings, how to access the Internet and how to find, download and organize apps on an iPad or iPhone with iOS 9, the latest operating system. 2 p.m. Friday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-929-5090.

Gentle Yoga: Due to high demand, two yoga sessions are now offered. Space in each session is limited to the first 50 people. Yoga instructor Olga Rudik leads a series of yoga sessions for improved physical strength, relaxation and mental clarity. Exercises are done in a chair or standing on the floor. 9:30 a.m. Friday, 11 a.m. Friday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224.

CD Release Concert: Internationally-acclaimed violin and piano duo David Ybarra and Susan Manger present highlights of their newest prize winning CD, “Four Centuries.” 7:30 p.m. Friday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224.

Lantern Light Campfire for Ages 7-1/2 to 10: Use tools to create a one-of-a-kind tin-punched lantern, then try it while on a night hike through the woodland. Roast marshmallows over a campfire to celebrate your hard work. 6:30 p.m. Friday, Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, $10 Skokie resident, $13 nonresident, 847-677-7001.

Saturday, April 9

Animal Arts and Seasonal Stories: Animal Arts & Seasonal Stories are recommended for children ages 5 and up, but there is no minimum age requirement. Activities are offered at varying levels of difficulty and interest to engage the entire family. An adult must accompany participants. 10:30 a.m. Saturday and Sunday, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, $3 kids, $5 adults, 847-475-1030.
Oscar-winning film for Best Actor, Best Director and Best Cinematography is inspired by true events. Independent film-maker Reid Schultz discusses this epic story of survival and transformation on the American frontier after two screenings. 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Monthly meeting of Essential Tremor Group of Northbrook: Individual people who have been diagnosed with Essential Tremor meet monthly to discuss issues connected to Essential Tremor. 10 a.m. Saturday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-564-1777

JUF Dinner and Dessert with Author David Lips: Temple Beth Israel presents JUF Dinner and Dessert Reception with author David Lips, on behalf of the 2016 Jewish United Fund Annual Campaign. Register online: www.juf.org/congregants/TempleBethIsrael. 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Temple Beth Israel, 3601 W. Dempster St., Skokie, Dinner and Dessert: $20 for TBI members, $25 nonmembers. Dessert only: $10 for TBI members, $15 nonmembers, 847-675-0981

Spring Cleaning Detox Yoga Workshop: Lighten up, make new space and renew your body, mind and spirit as you transition into Spring. Clean out the old, blocked energies with a natural yoga detox and a mindful, invigorating practice. 3 p.m. Saturday, North Branch Yoga, 8056 N. Lincoln Ave, Skokie, 847-906-3847

Preserving Survivor Stories: Ask Holocaust Survivor Pinchas Gutter any question you would like and “natural language” technology software will respond as if Pinchas were in the room. 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, free, 847-967-4800

The Second City’s Improv All-Stars: The Second City’s Improv All-Stars astound audiences with their talent and skill without the aid of scripts or sets. Reserved seating for parties of 4 and 10 guests are available. 7 p.m. Saturday, Winnetka Community House, 620 Lincoln Ave, Winnetka, $75, 847-446-0537

Sunday, April 10

Free Handbell Concert: The First Congregational UCC of Des Plaines, presents a hand bell concert featuring their Wholly Ringers, the First United Methodist Church of Arlington Heights

Hiromi: The Trio Project: Featuring Anthony Jackson and Simon Phillips. 6 p.m. Sunday, Sunday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St, Evanston, free, 847-864-3679

StoryWalk “Pete the Cat and His Magic Sunglasses”: Welcome back to the Storybook Trail in Little Bear Garden at Gallery Park! Bounce, hop or better yet, bike along the path to read about Pete the Cat and his friends. Learn how awesome a positive outlook can be. The StoryWalk Project was created by Anne Ferguson of Montpelier, VT and was developed in collaboration with the Vermont Bicycle & Pedestrian Coalition and the Kellogg-Hubbard Library. 9 a.m. Sunday-Wednesday, Gallery Park, 2001 Patriot Blvd, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

3rd Annual Beeeping Egg Hunt, for visually impaired kids: In partnership with the Glenview Lions Club, The Chicago Lighthouse North invites families with children to participate in an exciting search for colorful sound-producing eggs! These special eggs create a beeping sound, giving the visually impaired kids a fun way to move around and utilize multiple senses. 1 p.m. Sunday, Johns Park, 2101 Central Rd, Glenview, free, 847-510-2055

JUF’s TOV presents: Good Deeds Day: Good Deeds Day is an international day of service. This community-wide event will engage hundreds of people in 20+ volunteer projects at organizations in Chicago, Lake Bluff, Evanston, Riverwoods, Lincolnwood, Deerfield, Gneva, Oak Park, Flossmoor, Olympia Fields and Woodridge. There will also be a special volunteer open house at the Weinger JCC in Northbrook where participants of all ages can work on a variety of hands-on volunteer projects. 7 a.m. Sunday, Bernard Weinger JCC, 300 Revere Dr, Northbrook, free, 312-357-4762

“Three Stories of Love” The Wilmette Premiere: Asian Pop-Up Cinema presents a sincere, award-winning drama about three different people struggling to love and to be loved. Directed by Ryosuke Hashiguchi from Japan. The film will be screened in Japanese with English subtitles. 2 p.m. Sunday, Wilmette Theatre, 1122 Central Ave, Wilmette, $10; $7.50 (students/seniors); $70 (Group of10), 312-315-6393

Lecture: Jens Jensen, Visionary: Historian and author, Julia S. Bachrach presents an illustrated talk on landscape designer Jens Jensen, illuminating Jensen’s belief that all human beings need to commune with nature and highlighting many of his most significant Prairie-style landscapes in Chicago and on the North Shore. 2 p.m. Sunday, Wilmette Historical Museum, 609 Ridge Rd, Wilmette, Free (members); $5 (non-members), 847-853-7666

Monday, April 11

Teddy Thompson and Kelly Jones: 7:30 p.m. Monday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $15-$26, 847-492-8860

Turn to Calendar, Next Page
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CALENDAR

Calendar, from Previous Page

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, 847-448-8600

The Mudflapps live every Monday: The Mudflapps sing and play their hearts out every Monday in the pub from 8 p.m. until 12 a.m. Food and drink served late. 8 p.m. Monday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679

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

noopla, MyMediaMail and Zinio Individual Appointments: Meet with trained Library staff for a 45-minute one-on-one session and learn how to download ebooks, audiobooks, magazines, movies, TV shows or music to your portable device. Visit or call the Reader Services Desk at extension 7600 for questions, to register and for appointment locations. A Glenview Library card is required. 10 a.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Book Discussion: "A Man Called Ove" (Offsite): This adult book discussion is offsite at the Lincolnwood Community Center and features "A Man Called Ove" by Fredrik Backman. 11 a.m. Monday, Lincolnwood Community Center, 6900 N. Lincoln Ave, Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Knitting Roundtable for Adults: Ronnie Rund, an expert knitter, shows attendees how to knit or how to solve knitting challenges. Bring one's current project(s) and needles. 2 p.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-695-4220

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

Battle of the books 2016: Cheer on the teams of teen readers as they compete in head-to-head trivia contests answering questions about young adult books, all leading up to the championship contest in May. 4 p.m. Monday and Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-929-5090

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

Minecraft Monday: Students in grades 3-5 are welcome to register to try their hand at this monthly MineCraft Monday challenge! The group meets in the new computer training lab on the lower level. 4:30 p.m. Monday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Monday Movers: Enjoy a morning at the Library's Story Corner with your little one. For walkers up to 24 months of age, 10:30 a.m. Monday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Munch a Bunch of Books: Listen to new books, munch on a snack, and have fun with activities and crafts for grades K-3. 4 p.m. Monday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Ballroom Dancing Classes: Not only is Ballroom again one of the most popular forms of dance, it has been proven to promote keeping the mind active and healthy. Most importantly, knowing how to dance provides confidence and a sense of social enjoyment on the dance floor. These classes are $10 per person per class. 6:45 p.m. Monday, Bernard Weinger JCC, 300 Revere Dr., Northbrook, $10, 224-406-9257

Meet Author Peter Brown: Meet author and illustrator Peter Brown ("Mr. Tiger Goes Wild," "My Teacher is a Monster") as he discusses his first illustrated novel for middle grade readers, "The Wild Robot." 6:30 p.m. Monday, Skokie Public Library, 5215 Oakton St., Skokie, free, 847-446-8880

Loyola Academy - Courageous Conversations: Heroic Leadership with Chris Lowrey: Loyola Academy's Courageous Conversations book and speaker series features renowned authors and experts on the issues most influencing adolescents and their families today. For more information, visit www.garambols.org/courageousconversation. 7 p.m. Monday, Loyola Academy, 1100 Laramie Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-256-1100

Tuesday, April 12

Heather Nova: With Chris Riffe; 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $17-$32, 847-492-8860

Rotary Club of Evanston Livehouse: This community leadership group boasts 80 members and meets every Tuesday. 7:15 a.m. Tuesday, Hilton Garden Inn Chicago North Shore/Evanston, 1918 Maple Ave., Evanston, free

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

Tuesday Morning Music: Garden visitors can enjoy free hour-long meditative musical performances on Tuesday mornings in the McGlinchey Pavilion at North Shore. Music varies from string quartets to Native American flutes and are focused towards an older crowd. After the concert, visitors can board a 25-minute narrated tour on the Bright Encounters Tour, a close-up view of the gardens on the main island, or the Grand Tram Tour, an overview of the garden's history and highlights. These tickets may be purchased in the Heritage Garden or any ticket location, 10 a.m. Tuesday, Chicago Botanic Gardens, 1000 Lake Cook Rd., Glenview, free, 847-835-5440

Smile and Rhyme Storytime for Ages 2 and Up with Adult: Drop by to hear Miss Fran share stories, rhymes and songs in the Cafe. Stay for a snack and to chat after the program. 10:30 a.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Lego Club Grades 1-2: Calling all Master Builders...join in this monthly freebuild. The Lego pieces are provided and you supply the ideas. A Glenview Library card is required, so please register by calling or to the website. 4 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

"Lady Almina and The Real Downton Abbey": Hear about the real historical characters who lived the legacy of Highclere Castle. Based on the book by Almina Herbert, current Countess of Carnarvon and performed by book dramatist, Lynn Rynearson. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Word 2010 Basics: This is an overall introduction to this popular word processing software. Mouse and keyboarding skills are required and a Glenview Library card is required when registering by phone or on the website. 2 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Career Counseling Appointments: Six 30-minute appointments available. Consult with a career expert for resume help and job search strategies for any stage of your career. Call the library at extension 7700 to register. 9 a.m. Tuesday, Lunar Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

MGPL Kids: Listen Up: Drop-in story time and play time for preschoolers with a parent or caregiver. Call 847-929-5102 or visit www.mgpl.org/kids for more information. 4:45 p.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-929-5090

Film: "Home Run": Troubled baseball all-star Cory Brand is suspended from his team following a high-profile DUI, and struggles to turn his life around while attending a 12-step program and coaching a youth baseball team in his small hometown. 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-929-5090

Mozart's "Requiem": Niles Metro Chorus performs Mozart's "Requiem" this spring. New singers are welcome, and for more information, please call. Rehearsals are weekly, every Tuesday, 7 p.m. Tuesday, St. John Brebeuf Parish Church, 6307 North Harlem Ave., Niles, free, 702-806-8421

Preschool Storytime (Ages 3-5): Enjoy a half-hour storytime with your little one on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at the Library's Youth Services Activity Room. 10:30 a.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Jazz Forum Rare Performance on Film: The library's exclusive program of vintage jazz performances on film features the Modern Jazz Quartet, the Curtis Amy-Paul Bryant Quintet, and a rare performance of Count Basie with Billie Holiday from 1950. 1 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

The Secret to Landing Your Dream Job in a Digits: Discover techniques to help you soar ahead of the competition in an interactive presentation by Sari Klein, expert recruiter, and Megan Walls, career transition coach. Registration is required; visit the library's website to sign up. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Great Books Discussion Group: Meets on the second Tuesday of each Turn to Calendar, Next Page
NEW HOURS AND PROGRAMS: The museum is doubling the hours it is open to the public, including Thursday evenings and first and third Saturdays. New programming for students and collectors, access to research library and collection, a Blog and special exhibits are in the making. See website for hours. 10 a.m. Wednesday, American Toby Jug Museum, 910 Chicago Ave., Evanston, free, 877-862-9687

THE MUSIC ROOM: Looking back on the year's best, join AV Librarian Michael White to hear some of 2015's most critically acclaimed releases, both on and off the radar. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

EXCEL 2010 BASICS: Learn the layout of the Excel spreadsheet, how to input data, and the basics for writing formulas. A Glenview Library card is required when registering by phone or on their website. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

A CELEBRATION TO HONOR IRENE OVERMAN KREE: A special reception to honor Irene Kree for her decades of dedicated service to the Glenview Public Library, the Friends of the Glenview Library, and the Glenview community. 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Rd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

ESL CONVERSATION GROUP: Practice speaking English in an informal and friendly group setting. 3 p.m. Wednesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-929-5090

THE CREATIVE IMPULSE: GATHERING THE SPARKS: A poetry-based writing workshop for writers of all levels and genres led by writer, teacher and editor Arlyn Miller of Poetic License, Inc. 1 p.m. Wednesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

CHESS CLUB: Whether you're a skilled player looking for a challenge or a beginner interested in learning new skills, all are welcome at this new, weekly Chess Club! Chess sets and clocks provided. No registration is required. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

FREE FILM "CAROUSEL:" This Rogers and Hammerstein production stars Gordon MacRae as Billy Bigelow, and a millworker (Shirley Jones). With a score that includes "If I Loved You" and "You'll Never Walk Alone," it is presented in CinemaScope-55 and 4K DCP. 1 p.m. Wednesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

LITTLOUNGE: This book discussion of the Morton Grove Public Library is held at The Curragh. Registration is not required and new members are welcome. This book discussion is about a saga that explores the age-old question of whether or not you can ever truly come home again (from NovelList Plus). 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, The Curragh Irish Pub, 8266 Lincoln Ave., Skokie, free, 847-929-5090

SENIOR HIGH YOUTH GROUP: For all youth grades 9 to 12 to enjoy fun and friendship while engaging in meaningful discussions and service learning opportunities. The evening starts with a tasty dinner sometimes chicken, sometimes pasta or pizza. 6:45 p.m. Wednesday, First Congregational Church of Wilmette, 1725 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-251-6660

HAVE AN EVENT TO SUBMIT? Go to chicagotribune.com/calendar
Now playing

"Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" ★½
PG-13, 2:33, action
A near-total drag, "Batman v Superman: Dawn of Justice" is a 2½-hour-long lesson in jaw-jutting and awkwardly framed hand-held camerawork. Having killed thousands of innocent bystanders at the end of "Man of Steel," high-flying alien Superman (Henry Cavill) is now considered a pariah by many. Batman (Ben Affleck) has hardened into a boozy sociopath who wants to murder the alien invader with the "S." Crucially, there's a new headliner in town: Gal Gadot's Wonder Woman. Long before she actually suits up, though, you're good and sick of waiting for Gadot to hijack all the rage-y, steroidal, bone-crushing smackdowns setting the tone in Snyder's literal blockbuster. — Michael Phillips

"Zootopia" ★★★
PG, 1:48, animated
Somehow, Disney has managed to pull off a hard-boiled police procedural thriller about political corruption starring an adorable, large-eyed bunny. As strange as this combination might seem, it works. Judy Hopps (Ginnifer Goodwin) is a plucky bunny who sets her sights on life in the big city of Zootopia, making the world a better place as a police officer. In Zootopia, the predators and prey are civilized, clothes-wearing city dwellers. Judy throws herself headlong into an investigation of missing mammals, specifically one Emmet Otterton, with the aid of wise-cracking fox Nick (Jason Bateman). One of the strongest messages is about discrimination. — Katie Walsh

"My Big Fat Greek Wedding 2" ★★
PG-13, 1:34, comedy
Back in 2002, "My Big Fat Greek Wedding" became a bona fide cultural phenomenon, a romantic comedy that mined the cultural specificities of the Greek heritage of unknown writer and star Nia Vardalos. Fourteen years later, Vardalos and gang are back again for another wedding, but this time, it's to drastically diminished returns. The screenplay feels as if it was written the year after the first film's success, just with a few jokes about Facetime inserted for 2016 topicality. The rest of the jokes either don't land or feel about as fresh as a two-day old spanakopita. — K.W.

"Miracles From Heaven" ★★½
PG, 1:49, drama
"Miracles From Heaven" is based on an amazing — and weird — true story. Jennifer Garner is Christy Beem, mother to Anna (Kylie Rogers), who suffers from a debilitating, incurable intestinal disorder. One day Anna is climbing a tree and falls, headfirst, 30 feet inside the dead tree trunk. When firefighters pull her out, not only is she unharmed, but she's miraculously cured. Garner is compelling as the dedicated mom questioning everything she believes while fighting for her daughter's life, and young Rogers gives an impressive performance as Anna. — K.W.

"The Divergent Series: Allegiant" ★½
PG-13, 2:00, action
You know how it is. A franchise must eat and make hay while the sun shines and the customers still give a rip. So here we are with the third installment in "The Divergent Series," from the thin-begin-with-Veronica Roth trilogy set in post-apocalyptic dystopian rathole Chicago. It's a pretty dull picture. Tris is once again portrayed by Shailene Woodley. Theo James has perfected his sullen glower as Four, who is so much more than a number to Tris. Woodley's starting to look a mite bored with this assignment and comes off peevishly. — M.P.
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A showdown of V-8 muscle

BY PATRICK OLSEN
Cars.com

Americans always have loved muscle cars, and they love muscle cars with big V-8 engines. With gas prices down, there might not be a better time to buy one.

We tested American-made muscle cars with V-8 monsters on a racetrack outside Phoenix, as well as on a 130-mile real-world course. The Chevrolet Camaro 2SS was judged best, followed by the Dodge Challenger R/T Scat Pack, with the Ford Mustang in third.

Dodge Challenger R/T Scat Pack

PROS
- True muscle: “The Challenger R/T Scat Pack is fun in the most immature way imaginable, with obnoxiously loud exhaust, a huge Shaker hood scoop and bright purple paint that lets everyone at the party know you’ve arrived,” said Joe Bruzek, senior road test editor for Cars.com. Judges mentioned the roomy, sedanlike interior. “The Challenger is still a muscle car, while the Camaro and Mustang are sports cars,” said in-market shopper Jason Kadah.
- Hemi V-8: “It has the most immediate response of any of the engines here, with gobs of low-end torque available right now, but it still calmly motors around town without any quirks,” said Aaron Bragman, Detroit bureau chief for Cars.com.

CONS
- Clutch: “It’s the StairMaster of the group,” said Joe Wiesenfelder, executive editor of Cars.com, “too firm for daily driving.”
- The clutch pedal and gear shifter effort are as old school as the styling, with serious punch and pull required when shifting gears,” said Brian Robinson, PBS producer of “MotorWeek.”
- True muscle: “While it feels great in a straight line, and the sport suspension improves its track performance, it’s still just too massive to be fun on twisty mountain roads or tight racetracks,” Bragman said.

Ford Mustang GT

PROS
- Ride and handling: “The GT feels right at home on the road course, with superb balance and a playful, tail-happy attitude, even if it doesn’t have the outright grip and speed of the Camaro SS,” Bruzek said.
- Clutch: “The 5-liter V-8 makes big noise and big thrust,” Bragman said. “This thing feels crazy fast, especially on the track.”
- Engine: “It may not be the most capable on the track,” countered Robinson. “But it is quite possibly the most fun.”
- Transmission: “The best of all the manuals,” Robinson said, and Bragman added, “It feels very precise, with short, direct throws.”
- Brakes: “The clutch pedal is crazy light,” Kadah said, “like I’m just pushing air.”
- Overall: “It provides the best visibility of the three contestants in all directions, which lends confidence on the track as well as in daily traffic,” Wiesenfelder said.

CONS
- Recaro seats: Nearly all the judges hated them, but Bruzek best summed it up. “(Recaro seats) don’t have power adjustability, a heated or ventilated function, cost $1,595, are uncomfortable and don’t grip any better than the sport seats in the Challenger or Camaro, which have power, heated and ventilated front seats,” Bruzek complained.
- Underpowered: “Acceleration is a bit soft off the line, though the GT came into its own on the track, where the revs are higher and first gear is but a memory,” Wiesenfelder said.
- Design: “The exterior fit and finish are a problem,” Robinson said. “The body gaps are not consistent, and panels are misaligned.”
- Poor build quality is apparent from nose to tail,” Bruzek said.

Chevrolet Camaro 2SS

PROS
- Performance: “The 6.2-liter engine is the sweet spot between the more modest Ford 5-liter and the Dodge’s brute-force 6.4-liter V-8, with great power off the line and all the way up,” Wiesenfelder said. It should be noted that the SS swept all three performance tests and still won the top prize for fuel economy to boot.
- Handling: “The excellent steering, balance and road-holding raises the Camaro above the level of muscle car and into the realm of sports cars,” Wiesenfelder said.
- Bruzek added that it felt more like a Corvette than the other muscle cars.
- Sound: “With its active exhaust, the SS sounds great when you want it to, without being overly rumblly when you don’t,” Wiesenfelder said.
- Cramped: “I almost want to turn down the radio and just listen to the exhaust,” Kadah said.

CONS
- Recaro seats: “They feel much too soft for a car like this, with no confidence-inspiring initial bite at all,” Bragman said. Wiesenfelder agreed, calling the brakes mushy.
- Cramped: “The back seat and cargo room make compromises you shouldn’t have to in a four-seater that isn’t a dedicated weekend-duty sports car,” Bruzek said.
- Wiesenfelder called the driver’s area “incredibly cramped.”
- Forward visibility: “Several judges noted that the visibility is a problem on the road and track. ‘The super-high belt line combines with the low roof to make visibility the worst of all the cars here,’ Bragman said.”
- Interior: “The SS interior comes up short on material quality against the Mustang and Challenger, even with a few nicer touches on the inside compared with the Camaro I LT,” Bruzek said.

For the complete rankings, including specs and real-world fuel economy numbers, visit tinyurl.com/sxjt2c6.
Improved Volt is impressive

BY ROBERT DUFFER
Tribune Newspapers

You like trees. You like cars. With the Chevrolet Volt, those preferences don’t have to be at odds.

The second generation of General Motors’ plug-in hybrid improves on range, efficiency, tech and styling.

Efficiency improves by about 30 percent, for a 53-mile all-electric range, up 15 miles from the previous model and a 420-mile total range, up from 380.

The 2016 Nissan Leaf (all electric) has a 107-mile range.

The Volt has a new 1.5-liter four-cylinder engine that charges the battery when the plug-in juice runs dry, so you don’t have to worry about running out of power. Volt owners could keep filling up the 8.9-gallon tank and get an impressive 42 mpg, but why bother when it can be plugged in at home, yielding the equivalent of 106 mpg?

When the battery runs out, the generator kicks in, making a groan that rises and falls with the throttle. It’s the sound of the past, reminding the driver how silly it is to be powered by liquid dinosaur juice.

The overlooked truth of plug-in cars is the punchiness behind the wheel.

The two-motor drive unit of the Volt, powered by a lithium-ion battery pack, generates 294 pound-feet of torque that is instantaneous and ever-present.

I love the new Volt from the front seats forward. The cabin feels upscale in the Buick way. The wheel has simpler, redundant buttons instead of a blend of roller dial and buttons.

The 2016 Chevrolet Volt increases about 30 percent, to 53 miles, while the total range jumps more than 10 percent, to 420 miles from 380.

Synthetic oil: What’s it worth?

BOB WEBER
Motormouth

Q: My wife took our 2009 Camry to the local tire dealer to get the tires rotated and decided to get the oil changed, too. She was told that she had to get synthetic oil if we wanted the change interval to be 5,000 miles. If she wanted regular oil, it would have to be changed every 3,000 miles. We checked with the Toyota dealer where we normally get the oil changed and they confirmed regular oil and 5,000. Have we been scammed with a $64 oil change?

T.M., Bethlehem, Pa.

A: Let’s just say you have been super-sized. Once again, trust your owner’s manual for the proper service intervals. You did read the manual, didn’t you? By the way, would you like fries with that?

Q: I have a 2014 Prius and a button for controlling air that automatically switches between recirculation and outside air. This seems simple enough, but often when I am driving with the recirculation button on it simply turns itself off and begins to take in air from the outside. When I had the car in for servicing I asked my technician about this. He said this is what it is supposed to do. Can you explain?

Q: I have a 1997 Dodge Ram with 110,000 miles. When I get the oil changed, is it worth the extra money to get high-mileage oil or am I just wasting money?

Q: I have a 2012 Camry XLE and am planning to put a new battery in the car. Will I lose all the data stored in my car’s GPS and Bluetooth when the dealer disconnects the current battery to put in a new one?

Q: My 2009 Camry SE can use regular oil and be serviced every 5,000 miles; no need for synthetic oil. If in doubt, check your owner’s manual for proper service intervals.

A: It is absolutely normal. According to your owner’s manual: “In Eco drive mode, the air conditioning system is controlled as follows to prioritize fuel efficiency: Heating/cooling capacity is restricted. Outside/recirculated air mode may automatically switch depending on the temperature setting or the inside temperature.” If you lost yours, you can find a replacement manual online: www.toyota.com/owners/manual.
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**THE POLLS ARE OPEN!**

Support your favorite local athletes and vote for April Athlete of the Month! The polls open at 9 a.m. Thursday and close at noon on April 14. You may vote once every 12 hours at chicagotribune.com/athletes.

**Anthony D'Avanzo**
Notre Dame senior
Best game: D'Avanzo scored 18 points on 7-of-8 shooting from the field, grabbed eight rebounds and blocked three shots in the Dons' 65-62 loss to Curie in the Class 4A basketball supersectional at Northwestern on March 15.

**Martin Barr**
Niles North senior
Best result: Barr won the 3,200-meter run at the Illinois Top Times Indoor track and field invitational in 9 minutes, 22.22 seconds. He beat Young sophomore Clayton Mendez by 1.31 seconds. Barr's sophomore teammate Conor Perreault took eighth (9:32.79).

**Olivia Niziolek**
Maine South sophomore
Best result: Niziolek finished 13th in the 1,600-meter run at the Illinois Top Times indoor track and field invitational. She finished in 5 minutes, 20.29 seconds. She had a seed time of 5:10.59.

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CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM/ATHLETES
Berlin turns Cubs affiliate into model franchise

BY ERIC VAN DRIL
Pioneer Press

Andrew Berlin purchased the South Bend Silver Hawks at a point when the franchise was in real trouble.

South Bend, which is a Low-A minor league baseball team, had only drawn 112,795 fans in 2011, according to www.milb.com. The team was close to bankruptcy when Berlin purchased it, he said recently, but the Glencoe resident transformed the franchise into the top team in minor league baseball in four years.

"Andrew ended up turning around a franchise that was on the cusp of actually leaving South Bend," Ballpark Digest publisher Kevin Reichard said, "and instead made it into a community institution."

Berlin did so slowly and steadily.

First, he hired quality employees --- including Joe Hart, who is now in his fifth season as the team president --- and implemented an attention to detail, customer service and quality control that helped the valuation of his company, Berlin Packaging, reach $1.8 billion in 2015.

South Bend's attendance climbed to 189,575 in 2012. It reached 237,448 in 2013. The Silver Hawks, who were affiliated with the Arizona Diamondbacks at the time, drew 258,836 in 2014.

Then, in September of 2014, Berlin brought an iconic brand to South Bend when he landed an affiliation with the Chicago Cubs. The major league team switched its Low-A affiliation from Kane County to South Bend.

"We knew we needed to make improvements to give us competitive advantage over some of our competition," Berlin said. "We changed the field from artificial turf to natural grass. We hired ... Roger Bossard of the White Sox, (whose)

nickname is 'The Sodfather.' We installed a state-of-the-art irrigation and drainage system, and field, for about $750,000. Beyond that, we built this performance center, which is the gold standard in minor league baseball, fashioned after the (Under Armour) Performance Center that the Cubs have in Mesa, Arizona."

Berlin continued: "Once we had that stuff on the planning board, we were able to present those ideas to whoever we could attract. We started with the Cubs. Thankfully, the Cubs said yes."

As the performance center was being built in right field at Four Winds Field, the South Bend team elected to change its nickname, colors and logo. It rebranded itself as the South Bend Cubs.

The decision to do so was an obvious one, according to Berlin.

"There are a lot of minor league teams that do not take the brand of their major league affiliate for fear that one day they may lose the affiliation, and then they have to rebrand once again," said Berlin, a minor-

ty investor in the Chicago Cubs. "But, again, our goal is to attract the Cubs to the point where they'll never want to leave."

South Bend reached new heights in 2015.

The South Bend Cubs set a franchise-record in total attendance (347,678) and per-game attendance (5,039) last season. The team's merchandise sales increased 700 percent thanks to the rebranding, Berlin said.

The South Bend Cubs also won the John H. Johnson President's Award in 2015, which is the highest honor a franchise can receive in Minor League Baseball. Ballpark Digest named the South Bend Cubs its Team of the Year in 2015.

Berlin hopes to see continued improvement this year, he added. His goal for total attendance is 400,000 or more. A new party deck has been built on the performance center in right field. Berlin is also about to break ground on new apartments in left field and center field. He said he hopes they will be completed by the end of the 2017 season.

Another goal Berlin has for this season is to continue to refine the experience for the South Bend fans. In order to look for ways to improve his franchise, Berlin will sometimes disguise himself at the ballpark by wearing a hat and sunglasses and try to blend in.

"When I go to a game, in South Bend especially, I'll often stand in the concession lines to see how they're moving along," Berlin said. "I'll do a little mystery shopping there, just to see how the service is. If I'm walking through the concourse or through the bathrooms and I see something on the floor, I'm cleaning up. I'm methodical (in) paying attention to the details."

Eric Van Dril is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @VanDrilSports
Thai develops into still rings state finalist

BY TODD MARVER
Pioneer Press

Niles West senior gymnast David Thai never competed in the sport before high school, but he has placed at state the last two years on the still rings.

Niles West coach Adrian Batista explained that a combination of physical abilities, hard work and intellect enabled Thai to quickly pick up on the sport. He also has been aided by talented teammates throughout his career.

“Thai knew a couple of the juniors on the team just from before high school and they got him in the gym (before his freshman season),” said Batista, adding, “He just seemed to pick it up. He picked it up pretty quick and he was smart. He learned, he paid attention and he’s definitely a student of the sport... He figured it out and asked the right questions.”

Batista noted that Thai worked even harder to improve after his freshman season.

“He would be in the gym whenever he was allowed to go in when the girls season was going on,” Batista said. “The last four years, on his personal time in the off-season, he went to different clubs to learn what he could do. He’s been in the gym every day as much as he can, and when he’s not in the gym he’s working out.”

Thai felt he had an edge over other gymnasts his age, and that drove him to work harder.

“I could control my weight pretty well compared to other people entering high school,” Thai said. “So I thought I’d have a better advantage over other people so that made me want to do it even more.”

Thai learned from seniors on the 2014 squad, including Harris Khan, Paul Dugo, Timmy La, Ryan Tang, David Nipas and Andy Tran, that placed fifth at state.

“When David was sophomore, we had a very, very strong senior group of guys,” Batista said. “Working with such a good group of kids on that varsity team two years ago, he was able to learn how to get past the JV mentality and freshman mentality and jump right to the varsity mentality. Those seniors when he was a sophomore they just kind of took him under their wing and they taught him the little things and he got it.”

Thai took eighth in the still rings at state in 2014 (8.6). Both Thai and the Wolves took a step forward in 2015. He placed fifth on the still rings (8.85) and Niles West finished in third place.

Thai also has had the opportunity to compete alongside fellow Niles West senior gymnast Dalai Jamiyankhuu throughout high school. Jamjuyankhuu won the all-around at the 2015 state meet.

“(Thai) has worked with Dalai a lot and just learned some technique,” Batista said.

This season, Thai said he is more concerned about his team’s performance in the state series than his individual performance. Thai is looking to pay it forward.

“So what I’m more focused on for my senior year is mostly about passing my legacy on to my younger teammates,” Thai said. “That way for the years to come, they can keep qualifying to state.”

Todd Marver is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Niles West’s David Thai competes on the still rings during the state finals on May 16, 2015.
Sports Performance helps Boduch develop into college prospect

BY DAN SHALIN
Pioneer Press

At the completion of his club volleyball season in late winter, Maine East junior Michael Boduch had some kind words for his Sports Performance Volleyball Club coach Mark Jones.

"I walked up to him and basically said, 'Thank you for coaching me,'" Boduch said. "At the beginning of the (club) season, he told me he could see the potential in me, but that (playing club) is a big commitment and I was going to have to put a lot of work into volleyball."

The 6-foot-8, 215-pound Boduch did just that during a grueling October-through-February schedule, which included nearly 40 matches against top competition and several practices per week.

Maine East coach Jon Kulesza also is thanking Jones and Sports Performance for helping to unlock Boduch's potential. After losing all-conference players Lerin Mathew and Joe Swoboda to graduation, the Blue Demons needed players to step up — and Boduch has done just that.

Maine East began the season 6-1, including going 4-1 and finishing second in its own invite on March 26. Boduch, a middle hitter, made the all-tournament team after collecting 35 kills. Through seven matches Boduch had a team-high 21 point blocks, nearly twice as many as any other Blue Demons player.

Kulesza said Boduch's success was not unexpected after he saw Boduch's evolution during winter open gym sessions.

"Every time I saw him in open gyms, he was just getting better and looking smoother, more polished," Kulesza said. "Mike has a legit chance to play at a good Division II school and I know (some Division I) schools are looking at him and talking to him."

Patrick Malkowski, Boduch's high school and club teammate, said the person he affectionately refers to as a "Walking Tree" has become "scary" in a good way, this season. Boduch hardly resembles the raw sophomore who played right side on Maine East's Central Suburban North title-winning team last spring.

"Club taught me to look at the court and recognize everything much better. I now look at the court and know who (the opponent's) primary hitter is and who their best blocker is."

—Maine East junior
Michael Boduch

"I used to play football, and I was thinking about whether I should do football or club volleyball in the fall (of 2015)?" Boduch said. "I talked to coach Kulesza and he said I should play year round and not wait until open gyms (in the winter)."

"(Malkowski) talked to me about Sports Performance and said I could get so much better. After talking to coach and Patrick, I convinced my parents to let me do club."

At Sports Performance, Jones has helped Boduch improve his skills and understanding of the game. Jones also has contacted college coaches on Boduch's behalf, though Boduch said the recruiting process is in its preliminary stages.

At the club, Boduch worked extensively on his arm swing.

After being kept from serving during much of his sophomore year, Boduch has added a jump serve that, according to Kulesza, has become a weapon. The coach said Boduch's three aces during the Maine East Invite are just a sample of what's to come.

Boduch said club volleyball helped him understand the importance of being vocal on the court and communicating with his teammates. He also said he's become adept at reading the game.

"Club taught me to look at the court and recognize everything much better," he said. "I now look at the court and know who (the opponent's) primary hitter is and who their best blocker is, and I really see the court in a different way."

Dan Shalin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Maine East's Michael Boduch, right, attempts to block a shot by New Trier's Henry Lindstrom during their match on May 29, 2015, in Glenview.
Cubs' affiliate in South Bend named top minor league team in the country.

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