Garden dedication

Yield from Skokie church's garden to be donated to Niles Township Food Pantry. Page 6

St. Timothy's Lutheran Church pastor Daniel Morris dedicated a new community garden May 16 on the church grounds in Skokie with the help of children from Cradles, Cribs and Crayons child care center.
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Joshua Montgomery-Patt, earned MSU scholarship

Niles North High School graduating senior and Skokie resident Joshua Montgomery-Patt will be going to Michigan State University this fall on a full scholarship. Montgomery-Patt will be a member of the Honors College at Michigan State University, according to university officials. He was selected from more than 1,100 of the top high school seniors who applied to Michigan State and took an intensive general knowledge exam in the winter, officials said.

Q: Where did you grow up?
A: I was born in Chicago, but I've lived in Skokie ever since I was 2.

Q: Do you have any pets?
A: I have two cats named Luke and Leia.

Q: What book are you currently reading and what book would you like to read next?
A: I am currently reading "The Price of Civilization," by Jeffrey D. Sachs. I want to get around to reading "The Signal and the Noise" by Nate Silver.

Q: First job?
A: My first job was working as an executive assistant at The Decalogue Society of Lawyers, the Chicago Jewish bar association.

Q: As a kid, what did you want to be when you grew up?
A: When I was a kid, I wanted to become president someday. I have always loved politics and history, and I spent hours reading from my dad's presidential atlas and memorizing the presidents forwards and backwards.

Q: Is there a movie you'd recommend?
A: I'd recommend "Slumdog Millionaire." I am a trivia nerd, and a movie that is centered around trivia is just really interesting to me.

Q: Favorite charity?
A: I personally support Felines & Canines, the pet shelter that my family adopted our cats from.

Q: Any words of wisdom?
A: Always prepare for the best and expect the worst in life. That way, you'll never be surprised when something bad happens and you can always be pleasantly surprised when something good happens.

Q: What song best sums up Skokie for you?
A: Paramore’s “Ain't It Fun” is definitely the song that I associate the most with Skokie. I started getting much more involved in the Skokie community after I transferred from a small private school to Niles North, and “Ain't It Fun,” a song about what it is like to move from a small bubble to the real world, exemplifies that experience.

Q: Favorite local restaurant?
A: I have always loved The Bagel. My family used to go there for family birthday parties, and even now I sometimes stop by there during my lunch period to buy latkes.

Q: What is an interesting factoid about yourself?
A: When I was a kid, I used to write what-if stories about how history would have changed if key events had happened differently.

— Pioneer Press staff
The Gold Standard

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St. Timothy's produce to help relieve area hunger

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

One by one, children took turns May 16 shoveling soil before they helped plant tomatoes in the new garden at St. Timothy's Lutheran Church.

The tomatoes, and other vegetables planted alongside them, will eventually be donated to the Niles Township Food Pantry, which serves those in need, church leaders said.

The dedication of the garden, which includes a 4-feet-by-12 feet bed and two 12-feet-by-8-feet beds, was attended by children from the Cradles, Cribs and Crayons child care facility, which shares the same building as the church.

"We have more than enough to share," St. Timothy's Pastor Daniel Morris told children gathered around him. "There are a lot of people who don't have all these things - who don't have tomatoes, that don't have cucumbers."

The unseasonably hot day was ideal for planting and growing, which leaders said will occur regularly at the garden. Morris said the church would like the garden not only to help feed the hungry but to grow into a gathering spot.

Joanne Haebelin, council president of St. Timothy's Lutheran Church, said the idea of the garden fits with the church's mission.

"Our mission statement is sharing the bread of life," Haebelin said. "That could have multiple meanings. It could mean food, it could mean spiritual health, and the garden is all of that."

Haebelin said once the council decided on a garden, it conducted research including a visit to the Talking Farm urban garden on Howard Street. The group received valuable advice, she said, and put the plan into motion.

During the summer, Cooper said, children will water the garden as new vegetables are added to the beds.

In addition to the Niles Township Food Pantry, which township officials said serves 5,500 people every month, the church has a "sack lunch team," preparing food for those in need.

Vegetables from the garden will also be contributed to this cause, church leaders said.

"About three years ago, we planted a little garden out there to help kids get an understanding of a garden," Ely Cooper said. "So this is a great idea, and it will teach children about helping the poor and understanding how things grow."

"Bless this garden today as we dedicate it," he said. "May it be a place where scarcity turns into abundance, where friendship grows and where the hungry are fed."

"The need is growing exponentially," said Niles Township Food Pantry Manager Tony Araque.

He said the pantry serves more than 10 times as many people as it did when he started working there in 2008.

"The effect that the donations that we get here from the residents of the township is really helpful," Araque said. "We buy food at subsidized prices, but we can only spend so much on food. So we have to rely on donations. With the community helping, it really eases the burden of how much money we need to spend on the more expensive stuff like milk and meat that we can't get donated."

Morris completed the May 16 dedication by leading a prayer.
A nonprofit group, Sacred Learning NFP, is currently building a mosque in Lincolnwood at 3900 W. Devon Ave. Officials say the mosque should be ready for use by the end of the year.

New mosque expected to be built, opened in Lincolnwood

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

A new mosque scheduled to be built and open by the end of the year will be the first one to be located in Lincolnwood, officials say.

The Islamic non-profit Sacred Learning NFP is on schedule to bring the house of worship to 3900 W. Devon Avenue, the former home of the popular long-standing Myron and Phil's steak house.

"We couldn't be happier with the way things are going," Sacred Learning NFP Executive Vice President Sayeed Shariff said. "We've been around for 16 years, but have never had our own home. This is a great opportunity and everyone has been very gracious."

According to project plans approved by the Lincolnwood Village Board in 2015, the building will include a worship space with prayer mats that will double as a classroom as well as office space and a lecture area, the site plan shows.

Shariff said the mosque will occupy about 16,000 square feet when it opens. Officials did not disclose how much the mosque will cost to build or how construction would be financed.

The new mosque and religious education center will host prayer and educational services to accommodate at least 400 followers, according to village documents on the project.

The site now contains a large fenced-in dirt pile with construction equipment nearby. Shariff said Sacred Learning had been hoping the construction schedule would benefit from the relatively mild winter, but it turned cold at the end of the season, slowing progress down a bit.

"We still expect to be completed by the end of the year," he said. "We're hoping to be open before the year ends."

Omar Haiassan said his parents live in Lincolnwood and he looks forward to seeing a mosque opening in the village.

"It will be a great addition to the community and make this (village) more diverse," he said.

Three years ago, Sacred Learning purchased the property after a kitchen fire led to the Myron and Phil's closing down, village officials said.

The property already had most of the proper zoning to house a religious center, but trustees approved some final zoning variations to pave way for the project, they said. The project also got the go-ahead from the Illinois Department of Transportation, since Devon is a state road.

Neighboring villages in Skokie and Morton Grove also have existing mosques. According to its website, Sacred Learning is an Illinois registered nonprofit educational organization "dedicated to the tradition of attaining Islamic knowledge and enhancing spiritual development."

Shariff said that up until this time, the organization has used space at other mosques for programs and activities.

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Probe urged in river search for teen

Jurisdiction at issue as multiple agencies searched Des Plaines River

BY ALEX V. HERNANDEZ
Pioneer Press

Cook County Commissioner Richard Boykin is asking for an independent investigation into how a search for a Villa Park teenager, who jumped into the Des Plaines River, was handled by various law enforcement agencies.

The body of Cameron Sanders, 16, was recovered May 18, five days after he jumped off Rainbow Bridge in Melrose Park into the river. The body was found near the bridge, which is behind the Lincoln College of Technology.

"It should not take this long to find an individual's body, and it was found just 150 yards from the bridge that he jumped off," Boykin said at a May 20 news conference at Austin Town Hall, 5610 W. Lake St., Chicago. "This incident may be a glaring example of having too many different law enforcement agencies responding, with nobody in charge. It's too many Indians and no chief, right?"

Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart announced on May 15 that his agency had taken over the investigation. Dart said May 18 that the total search effort included 200 officers from the Cook County sheriff's office and various employees from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, the Chicago Police Department's dive team, the Cook County Forest Preserve police, Brookfield and Lyons fire departments, and members of the state's Mutual Aid Box Alarm System, which is a group of fire and emergency medical services operation teams.

"I think it's important that those agencies, those officers, act with sensitivity towards the family," said Boykin. He said Sanders' mother talked to him "about a number of people being insensitive, and I was concerned about that. I'm also concerned about the jurisdiction issues that plagued the beginning of the recovery.""During the news conference, Boykin wondered aloud whether forest preserve police were necessary, since the county already has sheriff's police and said Cook County Inspector General Pat Blanchard has agreed to his request for an investigation into how the search was handled. Boykin said he's concerned because he said it didn't seem that there was an initial effort to recover Sanders' body in a timely fashion.

"This is an unincorporated Cook County, and it's my understanding that the forest preserve police department, along with Melrose Park police, were the initial respondents," said U.S. Rep. Danny Davis, from left, Cook County Commissioner Richard Boykin and 20th Ward Committeeman Kevin Bailey attend a news conference May 20 at Austin Town Hall, 5610 W. Lake St.

"This incident may be a glaring example of having too many different law enforcement agencies responding. It's too many Indians and no chief, right?"

--Richard Boykin, Cook County Commissioner

"We're going to ask the (Canadian National Railway) to take a good look at this area and see whether or not they can erect some kind of barrier that would prevent or inhibit kids from using (Rainbow Bridge) as a play area," he said.

Davis said the federal government regulates interstate commerce, and while he could try to use legislation to force the railroad company do something about public safety at the bridge, he'd rather start by asking about it when he meets with representatives from the company sometime next week.

Patrick Waldron, a spokesman for Canadian National, stated in an email May 20 that the incident "is a terrible tragedy...." (Canadian National Railway) has been working with the Cook County sheriff's office and other agencies to discuss issues of trespassing on the bridge," Waldron said in the email. "This incident is a tragic example of the dangers of trespassing on railroad tracks, structures or equipment. We encourage anyone who sees such activity to report it to police."

The Cook County sheriff's office issued a statement via email, saying "the sheriff is very concerned with the apparent delays in launching a comprehensive search for Cameron...."

"The sheriff himself was on a boat up and down the river all day May 16 and 17, and several hundred staff from our office were searching until he was found," the statement read. "It's imperative to take any additional steps to prevent recovery efforts from the delay only causing more anguish to a grieving family."

Attempts to reach the Cook County inspector general's office were unsuccessful.

Alex V. Hernandez is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press. Lee V. Gaines contributed.
Old Orchard homicide probe ongoing and ‘active’

Man, 34, found shot to death in parking garage

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

Authorities said the investigation continues into the shooting death of a 34-year-old man whose body was found May 20 inside a parking garage at the Westfield Old Orchard mall in Skokie.

Eric P. Cybak was found just after 1:30 p.m. on the fifth floor of the parking structure, at the mall at 4967 Old Orchard Center, police said.

Skokie police Chief Tony Scarpelli said May 22 his department would not release more details at this time.

The chief said the investigation is still in the early stages.

Scarpelli said several extra police personnel have been assigned to work with the North Regional Major Crimes Task Force, which is also helping to investigate.

The medical examiner’s office said preliminary autopsy results show the death was the result of several gunshot wounds, but information on how many times the victim was shot or where the wounds were located has not been released.

Skokie police said the killing was not a random act and the shopping center was not specifically targeted for the attack.

Westfield Old Orchard management did not immediately return calls seeking comment.

Police called the investigation “active” and asked for any information or knowledge from the public regarding the shooting.

The Skokie Police Department can be reached at (847) 982-5900. The 24-hour Skokie Crime Tip Hotline is (847) 933-8477. Text A-Tip is also available 24 hours a day by texting “Skokie” and the tip to 847411.

Glenview board approves non-motorized boating

BY ALEXANDRA KUKULKA
Pioneer Press

Boating on Lake Glenview will begin May 27 after the Glenview board of trustees approved an agreement with the Glenview Park District to allow non-motorized boating on the lake.

The board approved the agreement in a 4-2 vote May 16. It had to approve the agreement because the village owns 60 acres of Gallery Park, where Lake Glenview is located, until 2022, said Jeff Brady, the village’s director of planning.

Trustee Scott Britton voted against the agreement, citing safety and environmental concerns. Britton also said he opposed it because the final Park District Board of Commissioners vote on an ordinance to allow non-motorized boating on Lake Glenview last month was not unanimous.

"If it had been unanimous within the park district board, I'd probably go along with it, but since there was one commissioner who didn't seem to think it was a great idea, I don't either," he said.

Trustee Deborah Karton, who voted against the agreement, said she is concerned about the "enforcement mechanisms" for boating rules since park district staff won't be monitoring the lake.

Park District Superintendent of Leisure Services Elsa Fischer, who attended the board meeting, said the park district will post signs around the lake listing the rules and a "means for people to contact the park district if they see people not following the rules."

The park district isn't open 24 hours a day, but people who see someone breaking the rules can call the district and leave a message to report the problem, Fischer said.

Residents must purchase a boating permit before bringing their canoes, rowboats and kayaks to the lake, park district spokeswoman Melissa Brand said.

-- Miguel del Real
POLICE BLOTTER

The following items were taken from the Niles Police Department reports. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt.

UNLAWFUL USE OF A WEAPON
- Narquise Morris-Holyfield, 22, of the 7900 block of South Shore Drive, Chicago, was charged with unlawful use of a weapon on May 10, police said. According to police, Morris-Holyfield, a convicted felon, was illegally in possession of a handgun. Police reportedly made contact with Morris-Holyfield while responding to a dispute involving a car repossession in the 6300 block of Howard Street.

THEFT
- Fernando Heredia-Reyes, 26, of the 500 block of Custer Avenue, Evanston, was charged with retail theft on May 12 after police said he stole alcohol from a store in the 6100 block of Touhy Avenue.

DUI
- Yatzaira Nava, 29, of the 1000 block of North Avers Avenue, Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence on May 6 after police said she was stopped for driving without headlights.
- Debora Chacon, 26, of the 5900 block of West Berenice, Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence and failure to yield to an emergency vehicle on May 11, police said.

PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY
- A Chicago woman was ticketed on the afternoon of May 8 after police said she left her 2-year-old child alone and asleep in a car in the 5600 block of Touhy Avenue.

PUBLIC INTOXICATION
- A 27-year-old Chicago woman was charged with public intoxication on May 10 at a facility in the 809 block of Civic Center.

DISPUTE
- Police responded to a restaurant in the 7000 block of Dempster Street on May 8 after an employee allegedly threatened another worker and the two got involved in a “pushing match.” No charges were filed.

THEFT
- A resident of the 9700 block of Huber Lane reportedly lost $800 in a ruse entry scam May 6. Police said the money was taken from the woman’s purse after a man came to her home to talk about performing work on a fence.
- A 2007 Toyota was reported stolen May 11 from a parking lot in the 6800 block of Milwaukee Avenue. Police said the car was parked unlocked and had the keys inside.

Fire at Advocate Lutheran forces closure of cafeteria

Contained to mechanical room in basement, officials suspect electrical problem

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Kitchen operations at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge were interrupted by a fire inside a basement mechanical room May 15, a hospital spokeswoman said.

Tonya Lucchetti-Hudson, director of public affairs for Advocate Health Care, said fire forced the closure of the hospital cafeteria, resulting in “boxed lunches” for all patients.

The cafeteria will remain closed “until the kitchen is fully functional,” Lucchetti-Hudson said.

“There was an issue with the main power feed coming into the surgery building,” Lucchetti-Hudson said when asked about the cause. “The issue and damage is still being assessed.”

Several Commonwealth Edison trucks could be seen at the hospital following the fire. Some medical procedures were “delayed, rescheduled, or moved to other areas of the hospital” due to the fire, she said.

No patients were evacuated.

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Maine East High School celebrates class of 2017

Featured student speaker one of three to receive perfect U.S. history score

Maine East High School's class of 2017 took the stage in Rosemont on May 21, with 429 students from the Park Ridge school receiving diplomas.

The commencement ceremony, the school district's 115th, was held at the Rosemont Theatre, with senior class President Tamik Usefyan Darbroudi introducing the graduates.

The featured student speaker was Hannah Flood, of Park Ridge, who made news this year when she became one of just three students in the world to receive a perfect score on the advanced placement U.S. history exam.

— Jennifer Johnson, Pioneer Press

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Above: Members of the graduating class of 2017 take the stage during Maine East's commencement ceremony at the Rosemont Theatre.

Left: Tania Gonzalez receives her diploma during Maine East's commencement ceremony.

Far left: Senior class President Tamik Usefyan Darbroudi addresses the crowd at the Rosemont Theatre.
Obama's birthday could be holiday in Illinois

Former President Barack Obama's birthday would become a commemorative holiday in Illinois under a proposal that state lawmakers voted to send to Gov. Bruce Rauner.

The plan would designate Aug. 4 as Barack Obama Day. It makes note of his tenure as a state lawmaker and U.S. senator and says he "dedicated his life to protecting the rights of Americans and building bridges across communities."

"I have a personal belief of giving people their flowers while they're still alive and they can smell them," said state Rep. Marcus Evans, a Chicago Democrat and House sponsor of the bill. "And our president is here. He's vibrant. He's going to remain active in society, so let's honor him."

An 87-0 House vote on May 19 means the plan to honor the Democratic president now heads to Republican Rauner's desk.

Previously, the House had rejected a measure to make Obama's birthday an official state holiday, meaning state facilities and schools would close. Republicans contended that Illinois couldn't afford the expenses incurred from state holidays given its current financial crisis. Rauner's budget office estimated state holidays cost $3.2 million in personnel expenses, with another $16 million in lost productivity.

But on May 19, House Republicans threw their support behind an honorary day, which wouldn't keep people out of work.


Rauner also had opposed an official state holiday, but he said in February that there should be "a day of acknowledgment and celebration" for Obama.

The bill approved May 19 is one of several efforts this session to honor the former president and his influence in Illinois. One proposal would label the stretch of Interstate 55 from the Tri-State Tollway to East St. Louis the "Barack Obama Presidential Expressway." A separate plan would dub the Tri-State the "President Barack Obama Tollway." Those measures haven't been voted on by the full House or Senate.

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Ravinia's plans fuel neighbors' worries

BY KAREN BERKOWITZ
Pioneer Press

Ravinia Festival's plans to expand the dining pavilion and construct the Ravinia Music Box Experience Center are raising the ire of neighbors who see the additions as part of a trend toward more development and less park on the 36-acre concert site.

"Ravinia is a seasonal, outdoor concert park, and for 90 days they have concerts and we all enjoy them," said neighbor Brett Tolpin.

In recent years, Ravinia has been moving toward more indoor spaces as a way to extend the season and allow more events year-round, he observed.

"The impact of longer, bigger, louder, taller is what's freaking us out," Tolpin told the city of Highland Park's Plan and Design Commission May 16.

"You guys are the only buffer, really, between keeping Ravinia as the (park-like venue) we have all come to enjoy and appreciate and that blends with our lifestyles ... and having Rosemont Horizon in our backyards," Tolpin said.

Ravinia Festival is asking Highland Park for a substantial amendment to its 2006 planned development agreement to construct a new music experience center adjacent to the dining pavilion.

The new building, to be built on what is currently an asphalt tent pad, would include a 65-seat indoor theater where audiences would be immersed in a special-effects show illustrating the emotional and inspirational power of music, according to Ravinia's description of the project. The center would include interactive exhibits and gallery space.

Ravinia also is planning to add an open-air veranda to the food services building to meet a demand for al fresco dining, particularly among the younger audiences that Ravinia is trying to attract. The two structures would be connected by a walkway on the second floor.

Welz Kauffman, Ravinia's president and CEO, said concertgoers often arrive three or four hours early for a non-classical concert and are looking for something to do.

"They talk to their friends, they look at the sculptures, they go to the gift shop and they still have three hours," Kauffman said.

The hope is they'll spend some of that time visiting the experience center and leave with a deeper appreciation for music in all of its forms, he noted. The Ravinia Music Box Experience Center also would be available to school groups.

According to Ravinia, the music experience center would be located 190 feet from Ravinia's northern boundary at Lambert Tree Road, where some of the objecting homeowners reside.

"Right now this is looking more like an office park to me, rather than what it used to be with beautiful trees," said Mary Curran, a Dell Lane resident.

Curran and others questioned the plans for colored, lighted signs on the buildings, as well as lighted rings around columns in the outdoor social area of the experience center. The lighted rings would change colors.

"It looks like a disco," Commissioner Elaine Wannamaker said after a Ravinia representative provided a demonstration.

As part of its petition, Ravinia also is asking the city to relax restrictions on the number of off-season donor events and the hours of the day that trucks may arrive with deliveries during the concert season.

Ravinia also is asking the city to eliminate restrictions on the amount of property that may be covered by buildings, structures and all impervious surfaces combined. Currently, buildings and structures may not cover more than 7 percent of the property. All impervious surfaces, including pavement, may not exceed 22 percent.

The festival association is asking the city to delete those limits and instead review Ravinia's improvements using the same stormwater management requirements applied to other developments in the city. The city requires a developer to incorporate additional stormwater detention when the amount of hard or impervious surface is increased above certain thresholds.

For the proposed project, city engineers have found that a stormwater detention pool recently added at Ravinia is sufficient to handle the runoff created by the new buildings.

Neighbor Lawrence Dunlap said the city will be relinquishing any control over Ravinia's future development if it goes along with Ravinia's request to delete the percentage limits.

"A planned development agreement is literally a contract between the city and the property owner and is supposed to provide both with certainty about what will take place in the future," said Debra Rade, who lives adjacent to the festival grounds. "Let's remember we are looking at 36 acres of untaxed prime real estate," she added. "If Ravinia wants an amendment to the agreement, perhaps it is time to conduct a full review on that property of what should be taxed."

The Plan and Design Commission continued the public hearing to June 20.

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Evanston police: Northwestern student robbed, groped in off-campus apartment

BY BRIAN L. COX
Pioneer Press

Evanston police were investigating a report of an attempted sexual assault and robbery May 16 of a Northwestern University student in the elevator of a Ridge Avenue apartment building, authorities announced in a news release.

Police said that around 9:37 p.m., the 24-year-old female student saw a man knocking on the entrance door to the building and since she thought he lived there, she let him into the building. She then got on the elevator and the man followed her, according to the news release.

According to police, once in the elevator, the man began to grope the student and attempted to reach under her clothing.

Police said she screamed for help and at that time the man battered her and threw her to the floor of the elevator.

When the elevator door opened, the man fled on foot with the woman's wallet and cellular phone, according to the release.

The woman sustained scrapes on her legs from the incident, but refused medical treatment, said police.

Northwestern University officials said the woman is a graduate student there.

An alert was posted on the university's website regarding the incident and NU officials said that campus police were also assisting in the investigation.

"The Northwestern University Police Department advises all community members to be alert when traveling on or off campus, especially at night," the university alert reads.

Officials also reminded students about campus shuttle services and other transportation available nightly.

The alleged suspect is described as 25-30-years-old, 6-feet to 6-feet-4-inches tall, weighing 190-230 pounds, wearing a dark long sleeve shirt, dark pants and carrying a backpack.

Anyone with information is asked to contact the Evanston Police Department detective division at 847-866-5040. Information can also be provided anonymously by utilizing Text A Tip by texting CRIMES (274637) and entering EPDTIP in the message line, followed by the information, the release states.

"The Northwestern University Police Department advises all community members to be aware when traveling on or off campus, especially at night," the university alert reads.

A Mount Prospect man has been convicted of breaking into an apartment at an assisted living complex and sexually assaulting and beating a 97-year-old woman.

Frank Mendez, 53, was found guilty May 18 of home invasion and aggravated criminal sexual assault of an elderly person.

Authorities said Mendez used a knife to cut through a window screen and enter a first-floor apartment at Church Creek Senior Living facility in Arlington Heights. He confronted the woman, who had been asleep, and assaulted her, striking her in the face and neck before fleeing when a security officer began knocking on the apartment door, prosecutors said.

Cook County Assistant State's Attorney Ed Maloney told the jury that in Mendez's haste to escape, he left behind his shoes and the knife. Mendez's DNA was found on the victim's neck and arm and a bloody palm print that matched Mendez was found near the window, Maloney said.

"Frank Mendez took away her dignity that she had earned after 97 years," Maloney told the jury. "He took away her safety."

The woman died of natural causes four months after the attack, but not before testifying at a preliminary hearing that the intruder struck her repeatedly while she fought back.

Her statements were introduced as evidence at Mendez's trial.

Mendez's attorney, Assistant Public Defender Joe Gump, acknowledged Mendez broke into the apartment, but maintained he "had no interest in harming her."

According to witness testimony, the woman suffered severe bruises and cuts.

The security guard testified that he entered the woman's room on the night of Aug. 20, 2015, after her medical alert sensor had gone off. He found her unclothed and said she told him she had been raped.

A sketch from an earlier incident led to the arrest of Mendez about a month later, Maloney said.

George Houde is a freelance reporter.
**News**

**Lawler Park’s tennis venue to be removed**

**By Mike Isaacs**

Tennis is out, pickleball and futsal are in at Skokie’s Lawler Park on the northwest end of the village.

Supervisor of Parks Michael Rea said that the lone tennis court at the large park across from Westfield Old Orchard mall was getting minimal use. Staff believed it was time to bring in new activities. They have proved to be popular at other parks.

“These are different activities than what we’ve had, but they’re popular anywhere they’ve been put in,” he said. “We’re excited to have them coming here permanently.”

The Skokie Park Board approved May 16 awarding a project budget, of $156,000 to the Village of Skokie for renovations.

In total, he said, staff found three people using the court the entire time. The park district still has 39 tennis courts with a court at Lawler Park.

The park district did an informal survey in 2015 and monitored the court for a month during when should have been a prime tennis time.

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The Park Ridge Police Department has released its ranking of city intersections by crash rate, and the names at the top of the list are not unfamiliar.

According to police, Dempster Street and Potter Road, followed by Dempster Street and Luther Lane, had the highest number of vehicle crashes reported in 2016. Following in third place was Touhy and Greenwood avenues.

Last year, there were 45 reported crashes at Dempster and Potter, 34 at Dempster and Luther and 31 at Touhy and Greenwood, the department said.

Of those crashes, four resulted in injuries, according to Deputy Police Chief Duane Mellema.

The top 10 crash intersections in 2016, as ranked by the Police Department, are:
- Busse Highway and Oakton Street, 26 crashes.
- Greenwood and Oakton, 25 crashes.
- Dee and Touhy, 25 crashes.
- Oakton and Northwest Highway, 24 crashes.
- Devon and Cumberland avenues, 18 crashes.
- Greenwood and Busse, 18 crashes.

In total, the 10 intersections on the department's list experienced 268 reported vehicle crashes in 2016, 14 resulting in injuries.

"The majority of these crashes are the result of driver error," the Police Department said in a statement released last week. "They are high traffic volume crashes along Dempster."

"This is a major arterial road with a lot of volume daily," he said, explaining that in addition to Interstate 294 access — both on and off ramps exist on Dempster at the Park Ridge-Des Plaines border — the road is a major state route and runs through several suburbs.

"The intersection of Dempster and Luther is at the Advocate Lutheran General Hospital campus, another area teeming with cars and pedestrians daily."

In 2016, there were 4,278 crashes reported throughout the city of Park Ridge, a 0.8 percent increase over the previous year, according to the Police Department's annual report.

Mellema said the crash data collected is used to determine where to deploy officers.

"The No. 1 (intersection), Dempster and Potter, I'd want to see more enforcement activity up there," Mellema said.

The list also serves to make drivers more aware, so they will take precautions and be more alert when traveling through these intersections, he said.

In 2014, the City Council considered having a red-light enforcement camera installed on westbound Dempster at Potter, but later voted down the measure. The camera was recommended by RedSpeed, the company that had analyzed the intersection. RedSpeed did not recommend a camera for Dempster and Luther, with a representative acknowledging it would not make "financial sense."

There is currently a red-light enforcement camera on westbound Oakton Street at Northwest Highway. That intersection ranked seventh for number of crashes reported in 2016.

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Smaller crowd but still grand celebration

Festival goes on despite weather

Staff report

Rain put a damper May 20 on opening day of this year's Festival of Cultures in Skokie, but didn't totally wash out the signature community event that pays tribute to the village's diversity of racial, cultural and ethnic groups, organizers said.

Last year an estimated 27,000 people attended the two-day event, but with the inclement weather May 20, turnout was just about 12,000 for the weekend, said Skokie Park District spokesman Jim Bottorff.

But the rain only lasted a short while, he said, and the rest of the festival went on as scheduled.

The Festival of Cultures celebrates the village's large ethnically diverse population, and took place May 20 and 21 in Oakton Park.

"Skokie is a tremendously diverse community, with more than 90 languages spoken in residents' homes," said festival Chairman Jon Marquardt. "The Skokie Festival of Cultures serves to unite the people of the village for an entire weekend, allowing them to celebrate one another's customs and cultural backgrounds in a fun and colorful setting."

The festival also included an international beer tasting area (for a fee), a children's area featuring hands-on exhibits and the "Passport to the World" official guide packed with a schedule of the many ethnic performances, educational information and a festival map.

The festival is staged each year by the Skokie Park District with support from the village of Skokie and the Skokie Public Library. And over a dozen corporate sponsors contribute as well as the Illinois Arts Council, according to festival organizers.

The festival emerged from a Skokie ethnic diversity project called VOICES (Valuing Our Image Concerning Ethnicity in Skokie), according to festival history.

The project was intended to promote a better understanding between Skokie residents of different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds.

The first festival in 1991 included only 14 cultures — well below half the number of participating cultures today.

Armenia, Assyria, Croatia, Cuba, Iraq, Ireland, Thailand and Tibet were among the ones represented this year.
What Memorial Day means in Maywood

**Bataan Day, like Memorial Day, honors Americans who sacrificed for their country.**

Most Saturdays would find me there, wide-eyed and watching Tony Curtis swordfight his way to his rightful inheritance, or Burt Lancaster gunning bad guys at the O.K. Corral.

In one way, the Lido Theater was unique. Along one wall of the lobby and set off by red velvet-like ropes was an enormous photo of the men of the 192nd Tank Battalion all lined up in rows. Nearly 100 members of the Maywood National Guard were part of the 192nd, which was taken prisoner by the Japanese on Bataan in the Philippines on April 9, 1942.

Pictured in November 2010, a tank and cannon form part of a World War II memorial in Maywood that honors National Guard members stationed in Maywood who were involved in the Bataan Death March.

The Japanese treated their prisoners with extreme brutality as they were marched to prison camps and to slave labor in Japan. Of the 89 men of Company B, only 43 would return.

Japan apologized for the Death March in 2009. But since the day of surrender in 1942, Bataan, and the Maywood-area men who suffered and died there, became a special event for everyone in town — kids, too.

Each Year in September, Bataan Day had been marked in Maywood with a parade, speeches and music. The first Bataan Day in 1942 drew more than 100,000 spectators.

So, while Maywood kids may not have had the usual difficulty remembering Civil War dates and battles, we all knew about Bataan and by extension Memorial Day. Both days honored Americans who sacrificed for their country.

Over the years, Bataan and even World War II have receded into history. Time always takes its toll.

But though Bataan Day is much smaller, it still is marked on the second Sunday in September at the Veterans Memorial in Maywood Park in Maywood.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Great lines from commencement speeches of the past

**Randy Blaser**

Graduation days are upon us, the time when the wise and the accomplished stand before the graduates and hand down to them the special wisdom and advice they have gathered over the years. I remember little of the commencement addresses I've heard, with the exception of one. "Drink life to the lees," the speaker said. I don't remember who it was, but I knew he was quoting the great poet Alfred Tennyson and advising the graduates to go for it, take in all life has to offer, don't let any opportunity pass you by or any fear hold you back.

Good advice.

For the graduates of 2017, I've taken it upon myself to research some of the great commencement speeches ever given, and to gather some of the more meaningful quotes from those speeches and present them here. Take them for what they are worth.

The author Ray Bradbury is the great native son of Waukegan, and in 2000 he gave the commencement address at Caltech. He told the graduates: "You make a list this afternoon, of the people who don't believe in you, and you call them tonight, and tell them to go hell!"

He also advised them to make a list of the people who believe in them and to gather those people around them and "then you move on into the future."

I am not a big fan of the operating systems created by Bill Gates, but I admire that he has given away millions in philanthropic efforts all over the world. In 2007 at Harvard, he told the graduates: "Don't let complexity stop you. Be activists. Take on the big inequities. It will be one of the great experiences of your lives."

President Dwight D. Eisenhower had advice for the future of education in America when he addressed the 1955 class of Penn State. He warned of providing a liberal education for some students and a practical education for others, the idea of intellect vs. industrial arts.

"What we desperately need is an integrated liberal, practical education for the same person — for every American youth who can possibly obtain its blessings," Eisenhower said. "Hand and heart were made to work together. They must work together. They should be educated together."

Did Ike foresee a time when we had too much of one and not enough of the other?

Students at Chicago State University in 1975 signed a petition inviting President Gerald Ford to their graduation. He was so impressed he came. He talked about their hard work and achievement.

"The dignity of the individual is based ultimately on a sense of pride," Ford said. "It does not come from government programs that take over the individual's life and reduce the person to a case file and a claim number. Real aid to the individual is aid that helps the individual to help himself or herself."

As we know, today's students have been told for years that they are special. Every child gets a trophy.

But J.K. Rowling had wise advice for the Harvard graduates of 2008: "It is impossible to live without failure at something, unless you live so cautiously that you might as well not have lived at all — in which case, you fail by default."

The poet Robert Pinsky in 1999 at Stanford said graduation was a ritual that celebrated two obligations of any great people — caring for the young ones and honoring the wisdom of the old ones, including the wisdom of the dead.

"The tribe or community or nation that fails at either of these missions brings woe and destruction on itself," Pinsky said. "Today, the graduates pass symbolically from being the objects of the first concern, young ones who have been nurtured, to bearing the responsibilities of the second, those who are supposed to care for the young and who will preserve and extend the wisdom of the dead."

I'd like to end with the talk Julia Keller, Pulitzer Prize-winning reporter of the Chicago Tribune, gave at Dominican University in 2010. She talked about her favorite novel, Willa Cather's "The Song of the Lark," where a young girl moves to Chicago with dreams of becoming an opera star. "Will she make it?" her teacher is asked. It depends on the ideas she lives with, the teacher responds.

Then Keller says: "Think of it. Not what happens to her, not love affairs or good career breaks, but what she thinks about. It's really an extraordinary notion, and it is so exclusively relevant to all of you here today."

"You are going forth into the world with a diploma, with a host of wonderful memories of your time on this lovely campus — and with ideas. The ones you have chosen to take with you on your journey. Those ideas are your compass. Your GPS navigational system. Your MapQuest instructions."

Good luck, graduates of 2017. You are young and have great promise before you. But remember the wisdom of the old ones.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
What I learned about applying makeup, texting while at a stoplight

The other day, I was at a really long stoplight near my house.

This light is always so long, I swear; I can see the dandelions grow and turn to fluff. So, instead of just staring at the light like usual, I decided to think of ways to use my time more wisely.

Maybe, I could put the car in park, grab a bottle of fabulous nail polish from my purse and polish my nails, I thought. I bet I could actually get a whole hand polished, put the car back into drive and still have at least a minute to spare. Definitely time well spent!

Once at my destination, as I was actually polishing my nails, I was telling a friend about my fun, stop-light spa idea and I must say, she was a bit horrified.

"Is that even legal?" she asked.

"Oh, my gosh!" I thought. Did a major rule follower like me almost break the law in my own dream?

On the outside, I was like, "Oh, I'm sure it's fine." But on the inside, I was seriously panicking and could barely swallow. I think a little trickle of sweat even appeared on my forehead.

Later, I was the passenger in a car with a few friends, and the driver proceeded to answer a text while stopped at a busy intersection.

"I think it's illegal to do that," I said.

"But I'm not driving while texting," the friend said. "I would never ever text and drive."
Fun in the sun

Your guide to the 2017 summer festival season

BY DEBORAH HOPPE
Pioneer Press

It's that time of year again - time to enjoy some sun, fine art, music or maybe even a cool antique car with the arrival of summer festival season.

Main Street Craft Beer Festival, 1-9 p.m. May 28, on Main Street from Prospect Avenue to Fairview. Hosted by Beer on the Wall and Harp and Fiddle, the festival will feature beer from 30 breweries, food vendors, live music and a kids zone. Admission is free. Cost is $10 per three, 4-ounce beer samples. Breweries include Alarmist, Empirical, Finch, Forbidden Root Botanic Beers, Goose Island Beer Co., Half Acre, Lagunitas, Lake Effect, Marz Community, Metropolitan, Perennial, Pipeworks, Revolution, Right Bee Cider, Sketchbook, Solenn Oath, Surlly, Temperance, Three Floyds, Une Annee and Virtue Cider. Visit www.wehavegreatbeer.com/events.


6 Corners BBQ Fest, noon-10 p.m. June 10-11, 4000-4080 N. Milwaukee Ave., Chicago. The festival features live music, BBQ-style food from a variety of restaurants, artists, live music, merchants and a kids area. Free admission. Visit www.sixcorners.com/events.

Sizzle into Summer, 5-10 p.m. June 17, Harrer Park, 6250 Dempster St., Morton Grove. Enjoy live music, inflatables, food and a beer tent, a climbing wall and strolling entertainment. Visit www.mortongroveparks.com.

Custer Fair, 10 a.m.-9 p.m. June 17-18, at 600 Main St., Evanston. A neighborhood tradition celebrating its 45th anniversary, this two-day event showcases more than 300 local and regional artists. There will be more than 30 food vendors and three entertainment stages. Visit www.Custerfair.com.

Chicago Botanic Garden Art Festival, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. July 1-2 at the Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 East Grant St., Glencoe. Turn to Festivals, Page 23

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Mel's kitchen: Pimento cheese, candied bacon make this a Memorial Day-worthy burger

A fun meal with a purpose

For families with autistic kids, Autism Eats is a chance to dine out without stress and stares
Having triplets taught this home cook early food survival skills

By Judy Buchenot
Naperville Sun

When Naperville resident Deanna Burke had the first ultrasound for her first baby, it was a life-changing day for the mom-to-be. The technician told her, “Surprise! You have an instant family,” Burke recalled. “I thought that meant I was having twins. But then I found out I was having triplets. I was going from zero to three.”

When Sean, Luke and Charlotte arrived, “it was overwhelming,” she said. “But you play the hand you are dealt.” She quickly learned that if one baby woke up hungry, another would soon be waking. “So when one woke up, I fed him — and then woke the others and fed them. They all got fed at the same time.”

Without family nearby, Burke relied on friends for additional help. She connected with another mom with older triplets who was willing to come and give Burke a break several times a week. Although she happily took suggestions from others, she had to come up with her own mothering skills to get by. When the babies were old enough to sit in high chairs, she lined them up to feed them. “At first, I thought I should have three bowls and three spoons — one for each. But then I realized that was too much work. I started to use one bowl, one spoon and it was there’s a bite, here’s a bite, here’s a bite.”

Burke kept the babies on a regular schedule that she also followed. “I had my pajamas on and went to bed at 8 when they did. Otherwise, I would have not gotten any sleep.”

The triplets are now 10 and have a 7-year-old brother, Ryan. Although they were born together, Burke said the triplets do not share the same personalities. “Charlotte is playful. Sean is serious, and Luke is very sweet and loves to make people happy.”

Not only do they have different personalities, they have different interests and tastes.

“I make a schedule for each week,” Burke said, pointing to a sheet of paper hanging in her kitchen. The detailed schedule has baseball games, swim practices and other activities outlined by day. “I try to put down what we are having for dinner, too.”

Burke is able to squeeze in a part-time job now that the children are older. “I work for Rodan+Fields, a skin care company. I am able to do most everything online, which if perfect,” she said.

Burke enjoys cooking but is often pressed for time. She relies on slow-cooker meals and recipes that can be fixed ahead of time. She has found several items like macaroni and cheese that can be prepared in the morning, held in the refrigerator all day and quickly popped into the oven for dinner. Another family favorite is stromboli sandwiches.

And meatballs. The children like to get involved in shaping the meatballs, which can be frozen for later meals. Burke bakes the meatballs instead of pan-frying them. For each pound of ground beef or turkey, she adds an egg and 1/3 cup of seasoned bread crumbs. A quick mix in the bowl and the meatballs are ready to shape. She lines them up about 2 inches apart in a glass dish coated with olive oil and bakes them at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. She then turns them and lets them cook another five minutes. “They can be served with any sauce, rice or pasta,” she said. “You can also use extra seasoning or different flavors of seasoned bread crumbs.”

Stromboli Sandwiches

1. Brown ground beef and drain. Add barbecue sauce, ketchup, onion, Parmesan cheese, garlic powder and oregano. Simmer for 20 minutes. Split French rolls in half. Spread cut sides with butter. Sprinkle lightly with paprika. Divide meat evenly between six rolls, spreading mixture on bottom half of each roll. Top meat with one slice of mozzarella on each roll. Put on roll top and wrap each sandwich in foil. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Can be made ahead and frozen for a quick meal.

Baked Macaroni and Cheese

1. Cook macaroni according to package directions and drain. Set aside. In a medium saucepan over low heat, melt butter. Stir in flour and mix to form a paste. Gradually add milk, whisking to keep mixture smooth.

2. Turn up heat to medium. Cook while stirring until mixture thickens. Add salt and pepper. Add onion and and 1 3/4 cup of the cheese. Cook and stir until cheese is melted. Mix cheese mixture into cooked pasta. Grease a 2 quart casserole. Pour mixture into casserole. Top with breadcrumbs and remaining cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Can be assembled ahead except for final topping of cheese and bread crumbs. Refrigerate until ready to bake. Add breadcrumbs and reserved cheese right before baking.

For each pound of ground beef or turkey:

- 1/2 cup spaghetti sauce
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 1/2 cup onion, diced
- 1/2 cup Parmesan cheese, grated
- 1/4 cup Italian dressing
- 1/8 cup oregano
- 1/4 teaspoon black pepper
- 1/2 cup bread crumbs
- 6 slices mozzarella cheese
- Paprika

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Sandwiches

2 French rolls
8 slices mozzarella cheese
1/2 cup French dressing
1/2 cup tomato sauce
1/2 cup french dressing
Paprika

Baked Macaroni and Cheese

3 cups elbow macaroni
2 tablespoons butter
3 tablespoons flour
2 1/2 cups milk
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/8 teaspoon pepper
4 cups shredded cheddar cheese, divided
1/2 cup bread crumbs

1. Cook macaroni according to package directions and drain. Set aside. In a medium saucepan over low heat, melt butter. Stir in flour and mix to form a paste. Gradually add milk, whisking to keep mixture smooth.

2. Turn up heat to medium. Cook while stirring until mixture thickens. Add salt and pepper. Add onion and and 1 3/4 cup of the cheese. Cook and stir until cheese is melted. Mix cheese mixture into cooked pasta. Grease a 2 quart casserole. Pour mixture into casserole. Top with breadcrumbs and remaining cheese. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 minutes. Can be assembled ahead except for final topping of cheese and bread crumbs. Refrigerate until ready to bake. Add breadcrumbs and reserved cheese right before baking.

For each pound of ground beef or turkey:

- 1 pound ground beef
- 1/2 cup barbecue sauce
- 1/2 cup ketchup
- 1 tablespoon chopped onion
- 1 tablespoon grated Parmesan cheese
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1/8 teaspoon oregano
- 1/4 cup soft butter
- Paprika
- 6 slices mozzarella cheese

1. Brown ground beef and drain. Add barbecue sauce, ketchup, onion, Parmesan cheese, garlic powder and oregano. Simmer for 20 minutes. Split French rolls in half. Spread cut sides with butter. Sprinkle lightly with paprika. Divide meat evenly between six rolls, spreading mixture on bottom half of each roll. Top meat with one slice of mozzarella on each roll. Put on roll top and wrap each sandwich in foil. Bake at 350 degrees for 15 minutes. Can be made ahead and frozen for a quick meal.

Making dinner is a family affair in the Burke home. Ryan, clockwise from left, Sean, Deanna, Charlotte and Luke roll meatballs.
Time to fire up the grill

Pimento cheese, candied bacon make this a Memorial Day-worthy burger

Last weekend, I pulled together a bevy of simple, no-cook snacks for a few friends. I assembled a shrimp cocktail, whipped up a few deviled eggs, poached and chilled some asparagus, and laid out a trio of simple dips including a homemade pimento cheese.

It was a lovely day outside, so I organized my easy breezy appetizers on the deck.

And then it happened.

My neighbors fired up their grill and moments later my yard smelled insanely delicious.

My neighbors frequently host festive (and yummy) family cookouts, but this particular puff of smoke danced over the fence and brought with it the first savory scent of grilling meat and spices of the season; suddenly my chilly shrimp and asparagus seemed more than a little lackluster.

The very next day I opted to fire up my own grill in hopes of quelling my now undeniable craving for some true summer flavor.

I had a bunch of pimento cheese left, and I decided the spicy cheese spread would serve as a fantastic topping for a glorious and indulgent cheeseburger. Crafting a good burger is an exercise in balancing fatty meat, a starchy bun and notes of salty and sweet flavors in the garnishes. Sure this can be accomplished with the classic combo of ketchup, mustard, onion and pickle, but I like to shake things up in the burger world.

Thanks to that pimento cheese, I had the salty (and ooey-gooey) aspect of my burger covered, and opted to add a strip of candied bacon and a couple of bread and butter pickle slices as additional topping to bring some sweet flavors to my cheeseburger.

Believe me, the smell of these bad-boy burgers sizzling on a hot grill is bound to make your neighbors long for a dinner invitation; thankfully this recipe made enough to feed a few extra folks. Savoring this pimento cheese burger on a sunny evening in my backyard was worth every cookout calorie.

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Grilled Pimento Cheese Burgers with Candied Bacon

2 pounds ground chuck
Kosher salt and coarse black pepper
1 heaping cup of homemade pimento cheese (recipe follows)
1/2 cup BBQ sauce (I use Sweet Baby Ray’s)
6 strips candied bacon (recipe follows)
Bread and butter pickle slices
Baby spinach or lettuce leaves
6 seeded hamburger buns

1. Prepare a charcoal grill and allow the coals to cook down until they are ashy, but there is still a fiery glow among the coals (about 30 minutes from the time of lighting the grill, but let your eyes guide you more than the clock). While the fire cooks down, divide the ground chuck into six equal portions. Working quickly, shape the meat into six 3/4-inch-thick burgers; the more you handle the meat the tougher your burger will be. Season the burgers on both sides with kosher salt and coarse black pepper. Grill the burgers for 3 minutes on the first side. Flip the burgers and cook for an additional 3 minutes. Move the burgers to a cooler area of the grill and top each burger with 1/6 of the pimento cheese. Cover the grill and leave there until the cheese is melty and gooey — about 2-3 minutes.

2. Place a burger on a bun and garnish with BBQ sauce, 1 strip of candied bacon (broken in half), two slices of bread and butter pickles and a few spinach leaves. Serve at once.

PIMENTO CHEESE

1 pound (about 4 cups) sharp cheddar cheese, freshly grated
1 large red pepper, roasted, peeled and diced or 1 4-ounce jar of pimentos, drained
3 scallions, sliced
1 garlic clove, minced
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
1/4 teaspoon smoked paprika
1/4 teaspoon kosher salt
1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
Coarse black pepper to taste

1. Place all the ingredients into the bowl of a stand mixer fitted with the paddle attachment or use an electric hand mixer. Beat the ingredients until well combined and the mixture resembles a proper spread adding up to 2 additional tablespoons of mayonnaise as desired. Refrigerate pimento cheese in an airtight container for up to two weeks. Use pimento cheese as a spread for crackers, in a grilled cheese sandwich, or as a topping for grilled burgers.

CANDIED BACON

6 strips of best-quality, extra-thick bacon
2 tablespoons maple syrup
2 teaspoons brown sugar
1/8 teaspoon coarse black pepper

1. Line a small rimmed baking sheet with foil and place a rack on top of the foil. Arrange the bacon strips on the rack and place the pan in a cold oven. Turn the oven on to 350 degrees. Once the oven is heated to temperature, flip the bacon and allow it to cook for 10-15 minutes. Meanwhile, mix the syrup, brown sugar and pepper in a small bowl. Brush the bacon on the top side with 1/8 of the syrup mixture and return to the oven for 10 minutes. Remove the bacon from the oven, flip it over and brush with the remaining syrup mixture. Return the bacon to the oven and continue to bake until sugars are caramelized and bacon is crisp — about 10 more minutes. Set bacon aside until ready to assemble burgers.
How cat got feline leukemia baffles one family

By Cathy M. Rosenthal
Tribune Content Agency

Q: My husband and I went to a no-kill shelter to adopt a cat after I became disabled and had to retire early. I adopted a beautiful Lynx point Siamese who had been brought to the shelter 14 months prior as an orphan. He immediately jumped on my lap, rubbed his face all over mine and didn’t mind my mobility scooter one bit. His vet records showed he was up to date on vaccines and tested negative for feline leukemia. I took him to my vet, and he again tested negative for the disease. He was the only cat in the house.

Seven months later, he didn’t feel well, so we took him to the vet. To our shock, he was diagnosed with feline leukemia. He was my therapy fur kid. Two and a half years later, he passed away.

Can a mother cat pass the disease to her offspring? I struggle daily as to how this happened.

— Rebecca Boston, Madera, Calif.

A: I am so sorry for your loss; it’s difficult to lose a feline companion at such a young age.

An infected mother cat can pass this disease onto her kittens through her milk, but your cat may have been exposed to the disease at the shelter.

As to why your cat tested negative, though, I had to dig a little deeper. According to Cornell University College of Veterinary Medicine, there is something called regressive infection, which occurs in about 10 percent of feline leukemia cases where a cat can mount “an immune response sufficient to eliminate the virus from the bloodstream, but not robust enough to completely eliminate FeLV DNA from the body.” Apparently, the virus can “be reactivated sometime in the future.” That may be why it didn’t show up in those initial tests.

Ask your veterinarian if he or she thinks this is what happened with your cat, since it stayed inside and had no other exposure to felines after coming home with you.

Q: I would appreciate it if you continue to write about rabbits, as I use to have outdoor and indoor (litter-box trained) rabbits. Also, I would like to read about birds, etc., besides just dogs and cats.

— Joanna, Smithtown, N.Y.

A: This column is generated by letters, so if people write to me with stories, questions or tips about other animals, I am happy to fulfill your request. Let me know if you have any rabbit stuff to share. In the meantime, here is a letter about ... squirrels.

Q: I have recently put out a bird feeder for a family of cardinals that visit. I first put the feeder in a tree until I caught a squirrel batting the feeder to knock out the seed. I then moved the feeder to a free-standing post in the yard thinking that feeder would be out of the squirrel’s reach. Imagine my surprise when I discovered that the squirrel climbed the pole. Please advise if there is anything I can do to prevent the squirrel from attacking the feeder.

— Ed Berman, Oceanside, N.Y.

A: Squirrels are quite acrobatic and can jump about 8 to 10 feet horizontally and can hook their back toes around poles as they maneuver around bird feeders. So the first bit of advice is to keep the bird feeder at least 10 feet away from tree limbs, trees, electrical wires, rooftops, etc.

As for the pole, there are squirrel-proof bird feeders with mesh caging around the seed/suet areas and pyramid-shape domes (baffles) above and below the seed cage to keep squirrels from reaching the seed should they climb up or slide down the pole. If you don’t want a new feeder, you might be able to fashion a baffle for your current feeder by looking at pictures of squirrel-proof feeders online.

But a Kentucky woman may have found an innovative and humane solution. Last year, Jan Siems Catron became an internet sensation when she put a slinky over the top of a bird feeder pole and produced a video to show what happened next. When the squirrel climbed the pole, he had to grab the slinky to continue, which expanded and returned him to the ground each time. After a day’s worth of attempts, he stopped trying to climb the pole.

If you want to feed your squirrels, place the food at an elevated level, like the top of a fence post. Most wild animals don’t feel safe eating while exposed on open ground.

Cathy M. Rosenthal is a longtime animal advocate, author, columnist and pet expert who has more than 25 years in the animal welfare field. Send your pet questions, stories and tips to cathy@petpundit.com. Please include your name, city, and state. You can follow her @cathymrosethal.
Lawyer fees run amok during divorce proceedings

I received an email containing a consumer issue of a slightly different ilk — that of divorce lawyer fees. Kathleen from Glenview contacted me to share her struggle settling a bill with her divorce lawyer. In the letter, which ultimately was submitted to the Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission, Kathleen addressed several invoicing issues she felt were excessive and possibly unlawful.

Following payment of a $7,500 retainer, Kathleen's attorney fees ballooned to over $87,000 for an investigation into whether she should continue to receive alimony from her ex-husband. The ex-husband's claim was ultimately denied, but only after a yearlong investigation. As the bills accumulated, Kathleen told her attorney the fees were reaching a point where she could no longer pay and requested mediation or a decision by the court. She was advised that she should remove money from her retirement account to pay the firm's fees. This would be temporary, she was told, because the attorney was confident the fees would be recovered from Kathleen's ex-husband in the final decision.

Kathleen's letter also stated the attorney told her she was adding cushion to her bills to protect against reduced or negotiated final fees, and the difference would not be invoiced to Kathleen. When the judge denied the ex-husband's claim and ruled he must pay two-thirds of Kathleen's legal fees, she was satisfied the payments to her attorney were covered — until she received a $15,000 bill. Kathleen said her attorney submitted an incomplete bill to the court, received the judge's ruling, had Kathleen sign a financial release, then added $15,000 to the final invoice.

For guidance on Kathleen's situation, I reached out to Lorraine Murphy, executive director of The Lilac Tree, a nonprofit organization in Evanston dedicated to educating and supporting women through the divorce process. Murphy put me in touch with Jay Frank, a Lilac Tree board member and chairman of the family law practice at Aronberg Goldgehn in Chicago.

After reading Kathleen's letter, Frank agreed that submitting a letter of complaint to the ARDC was a step worth taking. He also said that if there was evidence of a $15,000 fee having been added to her bill following court submission, she would have grounds to file a malpractice suit — which she did.

Frank also had proactive advice for anyone hiring a divorce (or other) lawyer:
- Always start by interviewing more than one attorney.
- Select an attorney who specializes in your case and check his/her credentials via the following websites: LeadingLawyers.com, SuperLawyers.com, AAML.org (American Academy of Matrimonial Lawyers).
- You have the right to have your contract reviewed. If anything in the attorney agreement makes you uncomfortable, take it to another lawyer for review.
- Once you've settled on an attorney, do they return your calls, send you documents, provide candid insights and advise you of next steps? If not, don't feel funny about terminating your relationship and finding new counsel. All documents will transition to the new lawyer and any remaining retainer will be returned.
- Stay out of court if you can. According to Frank, good lawyers charge $400-$500 per hour, and divorce lawyers charge more for court time than office time. Two seasoned lawyers can typically hash out a settlement without the time and cost associated with a trial.
- No one knows the case like you. To save on hourly charges, you can gather documents and highlight important information for your attorney.
- Thoroughly review each invoice. If something looks out of the ordinary be sure to question it.

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

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Why I’ve kept my baby’s sex a secret

As world pushes pink or blue, we embrace neutrality

By Lauren Chval
Chicago Tribune

Keeping my baby’s gender to myself throughout the entire pregnancy first occurred to me in Pottery Barn Kids. It was, as Pottery Barn tends to be, well-manicured in ways the world outside could never hope to be.

The store was split down the middle, half for girls, half for boys. On the left were gauzy princess canopies, sweet miniature kitchen sets and play makeup vanities.

On the right were “Star Wars” bedding sets, wooden tool benches and tiny toy firetrucks. I didn’t know the sex of my baby yet, but the store was nudging me to choose a side.

As a kid, I was always bad at picking a side. My mom, a girl with five brothers, always dressed me in blue. Too into dresses to be considered girly, I surely baffled those determined to put me into a gender box.

So it had occurred to me long ago that I’d refrain from putting any sort of gendered expectation on my son or daughter. After all, inclinations toward athletics or academics or the arts have nothing to do with being male or female.

But it began to occur to me that perhaps I hadn’t considered just how difficult it would be to combat pressure from outside sources.

I didn’t waver in my determination that my pregnancy would not be about gendering my baby. I didn’t want a baby shower in shades of blue or pink. I didn’t want to open up floral headbands or little sailor outfits. We’ve painted our nursery green and registered for a lot of white and gray items, and that’s been that.

Except not quite. Not a day goes by that I don’t almost slip up with someone.

You may be thinking, “Why not just be surprised when the baby is born?” It’s a good question, and one that I fielded from family and friends once we revealed that we would be keeping the baby’s gender to ourselves until birth. If gender neutrality is so important to me, why did I find out at all?

The answer, quite simply, is that I’m a planner. As tightly wound as I may seem about this gender thing, I’m not so stubborn that I can’t admit there are differences in raising girls and boys. My mom says boys are harder to potty train because they don’t mind sitting in their own waste, for one.

But I’ve also found myself thinking far into the future. Which conversations will my husband and I have to have with our baby? If he’s a boy, we’ll need to have frank talks about affirmative consent, both for his protection and the protection of the woman he interacts with. If she’s a girl, we’ll have to teach her how to keep herself in safe situations without instilling the idea that potential sexual violence could ever be her fault.

In perhaps my most hormonal moment of this pregnancy, I was waiting on the examination table in the doctor’s office. My husband was with me, and we didn’t know the sex yet. I admitted, getting a little teary, that I felt afraid of having a girl.

I was scared of the inevitable day when she would call me to tell me someone called her “the C-word” on the internet for voicing her opinion (an experience that I still remember quite clearly). Or looking at her, smart and ambitious, and knowing that some day a less qualified man might beat her out for an opportunity. Being the mother of a girl would mean having to acknowledge that some day, when I wasn’t with her, a stranger on the street would call her out about her body, and she’d feel unsafe. And there’s nothing I can do to stop it.

My husband, patient saint that he is, gave me a hug and told me that if we had a daughter, we would raise her to be strong enough to not only handle these things, but also to effect change in this world. And if we have a son, we would raise him to be strong enough to do the same, albeit through different conversations.

And for me, that was the point of finding out the gender. Not so that we could daydream about Little League or ballet classes, but so that we could begin to have open conversations about the kind of person we wanted to raise, a goal that inevitably would be affected by his or her sex.

In the meantime, since we’re shopping at Pottery Barn, I hope my sons will enjoy playing chef in the kitchen and my daughters will take to hammering away at their tool bench. It’s a big, complicated world out here; the more they know, the better.

laurencnhval@tribune.com
Twitter @Ichval
RURALITY:
Getting back to the land

By Mark McClain | Edited by Stanley Newman
(stanxwords.com)

Across
1 Scandinavian capital
2 Replay speed, for sport
3 Treats, as acidic soil
4 Bet first
5 Recycling candidate
6 First-year Cooperstown inductee
7 Different
8 Get on peacefully
9 One-million link — fides
10 — fides (credentials)

26 Serenade
27 Improve by editing
28 Half of dodeca-
29 You love: Lat.
30 Marks, as some boxes
31 Recipes, as
32 Roping event
33 Familiar sound
34 Willing to try
35 United Steelworkers’ affiliation
37 Mild oath
38 Contented sound
39 In braids
40 Lasting mark
41 Wonton kin
42 Winter hat extension
43 Different
44 “Rule, Britannia!” composer
45 Galley gear
46 Casts aside
47 Lei giver’s greeting
48 Closer to 81 Down
49 Previously stated
50 Dough or bread
51 Widespread
52 Trans-Canada Hwy. measures

Down
1 Earth tone
2 Country singer Evans
3 Orrin cousins
4 Quarterback’s setback
5 Eddie Bauer competitor
6 New hire, often
7 “Nifty!”
8 Drapery, essentially
9 Janet Yellen’s deg.
10 Recipe amt.
11 Three-legged stand
12 Provide gear for Moray, for instance
13 Beetle Bailey dog
14 One-million link — fides
15 Gilde downhill
16 Classified ad listing
17 Kriowa or Comanche
18 Any of the Simpsons
19 Glide downhill
20 Gables novel
21 Barnyard beasts
22 Roping event
23 Prefix for body
24 Treated, as acidic soil
25 Unscented
26 Unscented
27 Hard feelings
28 Minimal-power computer mode
29 Willing to try
30 Possibly pedigreed pet
31 Prefix for body
32 Contented sound
33 In braids
34 Minimal-power computer mode
35 Willing to try
36 Possibly pedigreed pet
37 Prefix for body
38 Contented sound
39 In braids
40 Lasting mark
41 Wonton kin
42 Winter hat extension
43 Different
44 “Rule, Britannia!” composer
45 Galley gear
46 Casts aside
47 Lei giver’s greeting
48 Closer to 81 Down
49 Previously stated
50 Dough or bread
51 Widespread
52 Trans-Canada Hwy. measures

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Quote-Acrostic

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

Clues

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A. He threw to Winslow and Joiner</th>
<th>B. Burt Lancaster's 'Crimson Pirate' co-star</th>
<th>C. Frivolous</th>
<th>D. Myanmar's main stream</th>
<th>E. Screer for newborns</th>
<th>F. The Derby site: 2 wds.</th>
<th>G. Original Beatles drummer</th>
<th>H. Figure skating legend</th>
<th>I. Yelta felix: 2 wds.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>130 110 87 64 159 34 44 25</td>
<td>161 59 151 111 38 89</td>
<td>67 115 147 31 94 138 54 41 165</td>
<td>12 108 73 42 139 86 153 132 2</td>
<td>75 30 13 152 48</td>
<td>140 92 166 128 1 68 39 103 55 84</td>
<td>149 131 88 18 74 66 93 49</td>
<td>11 91 101 156 34</td>
<td>28 148 76 78 171 51</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Words

| 10 95 126 60 16 |

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Illustrious Italians

BY CHARLES PRESTON

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Across</th>
<th>Down</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1 Type of tax</td>
<td>1 Elegant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 Chastises</td>
<td>2 Earthen jar</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10 Salad</td>
<td>3 Illustrious Italian</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14 Bread spread</td>
<td>4 Record</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15 Heaven</td>
<td>5 Early English king</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 Insect stage</td>
<td>6 Habitation</td>
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<tr>
<td>17 Hit hard</td>
<td>7 Alaskan locale</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18 Footloose fellow</td>
<td>8 Stowe's Little _</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19 Maple tree genus</td>
<td>9 Painstaking</td>
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<tr>
<td>20 Chinese river</td>
<td>10 Bring forth</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 Uncultured</td>
<td>11 Illustrious Italian</td>
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<td>22 Ascending</td>
<td>12 Copycat</td>
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<td>24 Quartz variety</td>
<td>13 City section</td>
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<td>26 Soothing</td>
<td>14 Be worthy of</td>
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<td>27 Martial art</td>
<td>15 Reduce</td>
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<td>29 Wasteland tract</td>
<td>16 Dames</td>
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<td>30 Hardwood</td>
<td>17 Not genuine</td>
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<td>33 Confuse</td>
<td>18 Islam shrine</td>
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<td>34 Style</td>
<td>19 Confess</td>
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<td>35 Great general</td>
<td>20 Righteous</td>
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<td>36 Hebrew prophet</td>
<td>21 Evil glanced</td>
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<td>37 Infective agent</td>
<td>22 Gettysburg general</td>
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<td>38 Champion jumper</td>
<td>23 Essential</td>
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<td>39 Invitation</td>
<td>24 Open galleries</td>
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<td>40 Greek letters</td>
<td>25 Young farm animal</td>
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<td>41 Things stored</td>
<td>26 Author Grey</td>
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<td>42 _ standstill</td>
<td>27 Difficulty</td>
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<td>43 Soviet sea</td>
<td>28 Vegetable</td>
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<td>44 Crude</td>
<td>29 Acid salt</td>
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<td>45 Corrupt</td>
<td>30 Enclosed</td>
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<td>47 Orchestra instrument</td>
<td>31 GI offense</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>48 Came up</td>
<td>32 Frog genus</td>
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<td>49 Frog genus</td>
<td>33 Thickens</td>
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<tr>
<td>50 _ ranches</td>
<td>34 Weapon</td>
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<tr>
<td>51 Hand or sand</td>
<td>35 _</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>52 In a competent way</td>
<td>36 _</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>53 Way</td>
<td>37 _</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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Holy Moly!

BY AGNES DAVIDSON AND C.C. BURNIKEL
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

ACROSS
1 Library attention-getter
5 Secretly kept in the message loop, for short
10 Prior president who swore in two subsequent presidents
14 Spicy
18 Trick
19 NutraSweet developer
20 Donor drive target
21 Penne_vodka
22 Check for loneliness?
24 Drama written in code?
26 Tylenol result, ideally
27 Juice-and-fish-broth product
29 Weather Channel concern
30 Brown on a shelf
31 USC, for one
33 Like most cheeseburgers
35 Teeny tiny
36 President's daily delivery?
40 Poppycock
41 IMF division?: Abbr.
43 Vintage vehicle
44 It helps you focus
45 Bronco's bailiwick
48 "The Simpsons" disco devotee
49 Chew the fat
50 Wish were here
53 Universe of Energy locale
56 Having a kick
58 Preventative power
59 Foam finger number
60 "That hurts!"
62 The end of its name is also its natl. airline
63 Scout rider
64 Yoga position
66 Iditarod trainee?
69 Mayflower notable
70 Waits for an agent, maybe
71 The _ Store
72 Minor tiff
73 It's only make-believe
74 "That's clear"

75 Plants of immortality, to ancient Egyptians
77 God in the Vatican
78 SeaWorld performer
81 Ace accountant
83 Lab gel
85 Graffon's "_ for Burglar"
86 Usually single-stranded molecule
88 Twists, e.g.
89 Scheme
90 Had the most points
91 Short cut
92 Sun. speech
93 Cat's tail, maybe?
94 Treated very roughly
95 Cuba libre
96 Sharp criticism
99 Rulers in a line
100 "I did it!"
102 Tolkien monster
103 Taste enhanced by shrimp paste
105 Make more than
106 Arco de Loop in a cattle
107 Joined forces
108 "That's a shame"
109 "Hairspray" (2007)
110 Spy with a sweet tooth?
111 Tight-lipped
112 Burrower servicing borrowers?
113 Mythical bird
114 Mythical bird
115 Sea once home to shrimp paste
116 Dell operator
117 Chews the scenery
118 Milan moolah
119 Bear's advice
120 Pharmacy pickups
121 Big Pharma dept.
122 "Simpsons" disco devotee

DOWN
1 Shrubbery doc format
2 Court figure
3 "C'mon, let's go!"
4 Like revealing memoirs
5 Hearty comfort food
6 Short filmmaker?
7 Exhibit with a baby
8 Its logo contains Hebrew letters
9 Separates
10 Wrapped Mexican fare
11 Many
12 Public outcry
13 Corp symbols
14 Mesmerized
15 Give the green light
16 Limerick neighbor
17 "I did it!"
19 Pronoun for a skiff
23 Salon treatment
25 Accompitant?
28 Common town ctr.
32 John of "Star Trek" (2009)
39 Assure
41 IMF division?
43 Vintage vehicle
45 Shrewd
46 Change, as a will
47 Foamy eye-opener
49 First name in virology
50 Mop tamers
51 Acknowledge the general
52 Tom or Jerry
54 Denounces "off" is often printed on one
55 Preventative power
56 Having a kick
57 You can't live without it
58 IMF division?: Abbr.
59 Foam finger number
60 "That hurts!"
61 LaserJet printers
62 The end of its name is also its natl. airline
63 Scout rider
64 Yoga position
66 Iditarod trainee?
69 Mayflower notable
70 Waits for an agent, maybe
71 The _ Store
72 Minor tiff
73 It's only make-believe
74 "That's clear"

Last week's answers appear on the next page

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2017 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.
7 tips for welcoming your millennial back to the nest

College graduation is a huge milestone, not just for students but for parents, too. Think about it. For the past four years your child has worked very hard for his or her degree but could not have done it without your love, your support and of course, your money.

But what happens after the graduation party is over, when the cake is eaten, the cap and gown go into storage and all of a sudden you are no longer an empty-nester, since your kid just moved back home? If I just described your situation, you are not alone. According to the Pew Research Center, living with a parent is the most common young adult living arrangement for the first time on record. In 2014, just over 32 percent of millennials were living in their parents’ homes.

So what are some steps you can take to get your child off of the basement couch and into the workforce? For advice, I reached out to North Shore-based Mara Heichman, whose life-coaching practice, Discover Your Potential, specializes in high school and college students, recent college grads and young adults.

Heichman said there are a few reasons why many students end up without a job and unsure of what to do next after graduation. These include choosing a major early in their college years and then realizing they aren’t interested in working in that field, or feeling afraid to interview for jobs they’re not sure they will like.

“Some kids feel like, ‘Once I decide on this job, I’m stuck,’ but what they don’t realize is that most people have many, many jobs and careers in their lifetime,” said Heichman, who has been a certified professional coach for a year and a half and has spent the past 22 years coaching burn survivors as a volunteer for the Illinois Fire Safety Alliance.

According to Heichman, moving back home after college can be a stressful time not just for parents, but for the kid, too, as they are hearing “a lot of noise.”

“They have noise from parents, noise from society and noise from their friends, all asking, ‘What’s next?’ and offering advice,” said Heichman. “They need to tune out all that noise and listen to their inner voice, really focusing on what they love to do, what would make them happy, what they would enjoy and things they think they would be successful doing.”

Here are Heichman’s seven tips for parents trying to help their college grads land on their feet and out the door:

1. Avoid nagging. The nagging we are doing as parents is the same thing the kid’s inner voice is saying. So, all that does is make things worse, leaving them with self-doubt and more anxiety.

2. Be a cheerleader.

Recent college grads without jobs need encouragement. They need their parents to be coaches, helping them set and stick to goals, such as the number of jobs applied for that week, the number of interviews and the number of contacts made in the job search.

3. Remember that every kid is different.

Find out what motivates and drives him or her. Some kids are much harder on themselves than others and need their parents to tell them not to put so much pressure on themselves. Others need to be pushed and need more structure.

4. Try not to judge.

Take the word “why” out of your vocabulary. In other words, don’t ask, “Why would you want to take that job?” That is forming a judgment. Instead, ask, “What about that job do you think would make you happy?”

5. Offer validation.

If your kid says, “I’m so nervous for my interview,” don’t respond by saying, “Why would you be nervous?” You know you are going to do great.” Instead, respond by saying: “I understand. That can be stressful.” Stop there. Don’t add, “BUT you’ll be fine. All that does is invalidate your validation. If your child says “I didn’t get the job,” respond with: “I understand how disappointed you must feel.” Remember, they are feeling bad about themselves, so as upset as you are, your kid feels worse.

6. Regroup after setbacks.

Ask what you can do to support them in finding a job. Maybe suggest a job coach or an interviewing skills class.

7. Give them unconditional love and support.

Try to remember that eventually your college grad will find employment, move out and become more independent. So, enjoy the time you have with them at home. Take them into your routine a little bit, work out together, cook together, watch movies together. I’m not there yet, but I would look at this time as an opportunity to bond before they move out again, leaving you with that same, sad, empty-nester feeling.

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist. She is also the creator of the divorce support website, divorcedgirlsmiling.com.
**HEALTH**

**ASK THE DOCTORS**

**Kava’s risks outweigh any potential benefits**

By Dr. Robert Ashley
Ask the Doctors

Dear Doctor: What are the benefits and risks of taking kava?

Dear Reader: The kava shrub originates from the South Pacific, where Pacific Islanders used it to promote psychological and physical relaxation for medicinal and ceremonial purposes.

Within traditional cultures, the root of the plant is crushed, ground and then combined with a mixture of water and coconut milk to make it drinkable.

In the naturopathic boom of the 1990s, kava was touted as a safe alternative to other medications used for anxiety.

Today, kava is a popular supplement for anxiety, and various brands can be found in any health food store.

The root of the kava plant contains 18 different phytochemicals, or plant-based compounds, known as kavalactones. These compounds alter the conduction of nerve signals, decrease excitatory neurotransmitters, increase the ability of the amino acid GABA to bind its receptors, inhibit the enzyme monoamine oxidase, and reduce the uptake of the neurotransmitters noradrenaline and dopamine.

All of this is a technical way of saying: Kava can help reduce anxiety.

A 2003 review of 11 randomized controlled trials with a total of 645 patients assessed kava supplements’ ability to treat anxiety.

The studies used varying levels of kava lactones, from 60 to 280 milligrams. These doses are significantly higher than what Pacific Islanders traditionally used. The studies varied from one to 25 weeks.

Ten of the 11 studies showed a decrease in anxiety compared with placebo. These benefits appeared to be comparable to the effect of tranquilizers such as benzodiazepines and the anxiety drug buspirone.

Side effects included nausea, stomach aches, drowsiness and headaches. No liver toxicity was reported, but then, no liver tests were performed.

Note that kava has been banned in the United Kingdom and within Europe because of liver toxicity. More than 100 cases of liver toxicity related to the use of kava have been identified, some leading to liver transplant and others leading to death.

There are many reasons for liver damage. For one, kava depletes glutathione, a chief antioxidant, within the liver. It also inhibits enzymes involved in the metabolism of many drugs. Many of the cases of liver toxicity were seen in people who had prior liver disease or used alcohol in addition to kava.

You may think kava is safe if you don’t have liver disease or are not taking medications metabolized by the liver, but that might not be the case.

A study of 31 people in Hawaii who were regular kava drinkers showed a significantly greater elevation of two liver enzymes compared with people who were not kava drinkers.

There is some evidence that kava that is prepared with water is less harmful to the liver than suspensions prepared in acetone or ethanol.

Studies have shown that consumption of kava supplements leads to a slower reaction time and an impairment of motor skills. However, there has been no proof of any decline in cognitive function.

Also, because it inhibits multiple enzymes and has psychoactive properties, kava likely should not be taken with anti-depressants.

In summary, kava may help relieve anxiety in the short term. However, because of the severe side effects at its current dosages, I would be hesitant to use it for the short term and recommend not using it in the long term. Cognitive behavioral therapy has greater long-lasting benefits.

Dr. Robert Ashley is an internist and assistant professor of medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Send your questions to askthedrs@mednet.ucla.edu, or write Ask the Doctors, c/o Media Relations, UCLA Health, 924 Westwood Blvd., Suite 350, Los Angeles, CA, 90095. Owing to the volume of mail, personal replies cannot be provided.

**PEOPLE’S PHARMACY PRESCRIPTIONS AND HOME REMEDIES**

**Home is the best place to check blood pressure**

By Joe Graedon and Teresa Graedon
King Features Syndicate

Q: When I was 18, I went to join the Army Reserve. I was in great physical condition, but when they took my blood pressure, it was 200/70. I was told to go straight to my doctor. The blood-pressure pill I was prescribed made me feel like a zombie.

I bought a home blood-pressure monitor; my pressure was 130/70 when I took it. I recently purchased a digital blood-pressure unit, and I log my pressure regularly.

Thirty-five years later, I still have white-coat hypertension. Last week my blood pressure was 200/90 in the doctor’s office and 125/80 at home.

A: Yours is a classic case of white-coat hypertension. Most experts believe that home blood-pressure readings (especially 24-hour monitoring) are better at determining the actual risk from elevated blood pressure (Current Opinion in Cardiology, online March 16, 2017).

We discuss white-coat hypertension, proper blood-pressure measurement and ways to get high blood pressure under control with and without drugs in our “Guide to Blood Pressure Treatment.” Anyone who would like a copy, please send $3 in check or money order with a long (No. 10), stamped (70 cents), self-addressed envelope to: Graedons’ People’s Pharmacy, No. B-67, P.O. Box 52027, Durham, NC 27717-2027. It also can be downloaded for $2 from our website: people’s pharmacy.com.

Q: I was prescribed pregabalin (Lyrica) for fibromyalgia. It did not relieve my pain. Worse, it made me narcoleptic. I was walking down the hallway carrying a basket of folded laundry to a bedroom and bam! I was asleep and dreaming while in motion.

A: Lyrica can cause narcolepsy, a sudden sleep attack while in motion. Experts think home blood-pressure readings are better at determining the risk from elevated blood pressure.

Q: My cardiologist prescribed Repatha. This drug lowered my LDL cholesterol significantly, but I cannot keep taking it because of its cost.

A: Evolocumab (Repatha) is a new way to lower bad LDL cholesterol dramatically. A study in the New England Journal of Medicine (online, March 17) demonstrated that this injected medication reduced the risk of a heart attack or stroke when added to a statin.

The Food and Drug Administration has approved Repatha for use only in conjunction with other cholesterol-lowering drugs. We suspect, however, that many physicians are prescribing it for people like you, who cannot tolerate statins.

Repatha has a list price of around $14,000 per year. The manufacturer, Amgen, offers financial assistance to patients who find the copay on their insurance unaffordable. If you go to www.repatha.com, you could sign up for the program. It would require you to pay the first $5 on your monthly copay, and the program would pay up to $5,500 a year.

In their column, Joe and Teresa Graedon answer letters from readers. Send questions to them via www.peoplespharmacy.com.
This exclusive event is ticketed. To purchase tickets and for more information on other headlining authors and performers, please visit:

PRINTERSROWLITFEST.ORG
A fun meal with a purpose

For families with autistic kids, Autism Eats is a chance to dine out without stress and stares

By Nara Schoenberg
Chicago Tribune

The scene at Fireside restaurant on Chicago's North Side is pleasant and peaceful, with children playing, conversation humming and the smell of bacon rising from the buffet table. But make no mistake, this is no ordinary weekend brunch. A 12-year-old boy communicates his desire for more bacon with grunts. A 5-year-old tries to eat a green crayon and squeals indignantly when he is thwarted.

A tall, well-dressed teen-ager walks up behind his grandmother while she is talking and very gently presses his nose against the back of her right arm.

He breathes in deeply several times, strokes her arm tenderly and then wordlessly moves on to her other arm, where he does the same thing again.

"Grandma love," his grandmother says, beam- ing.

At Chicago's second Autism Eats event, many of the young guests have what is called autism spectrum disorder, a developmental disability that affects communication, social interaction and behavior. Eating out can be a hassle, with kids flapping their arms, chanting nonsense words, throwing tantrums when they have to wait for their food or just getting up to wander around immediately after eating. People stare; the kids get frustrated; parents and siblings blush.

Autism Eats, created by Boston parents Delphine and Lenard Zohn in 2015, provides a creative solution: Parents rent out private rooms in supportive restaurants and eat buffet-style meals, which cut down on waiting and the attendant frustration. Autism Eats has since spread to 11 states; Chicago's first event was in March.

"It's relaxed. You can sit anywhere. No one judges," said Chicago participant Vania Marrero, who enjoyed the most recent event with her daughter, Makayla, 4, who has mild autism and a fascination with dinosaurs; her son Jaylen Rivera, 12, who is autistic and nonverbal; and her son Edgar Rivera, 17, who does not have autism.

"We're in a comfortable place here. I tell my husband, 'I feel like we're all one family. '" Marrero said.

More than 70 people attended the first Chicago event; the second was smaller by design, with about 30 people. Chicago organizer Shannon Dunworth said she hopes that 120 people will show up for the third event in June.

Dunworth's husband, David, learned about Autism Eats on social media. He told Shannon, and they were immediately drawn to the concept. His 14-year-old son, Aidan, who is autistic and nonverbal, doesn't like waiting when he goes out to eat, and sometimes, in order to relax, he makes loud chattering sounds.

That isn't such a big issue now. "You get to the point when you have an older kid with autism, where you don't really care what people think anymore," Shannon says. David takes Aidan everywhere, and if there's an issue, he handles it. But Shannon thought Autism Eats would be a great help to newer parents, who are often still adjusting to public reactions.

At Fireside, a smiling mother quickly becomes emotional when the conversation turns to "all the explaining." When your kid doesn't respond to a new friend who wants to play in the sandbox or withdraws from another young child's embrace or doesn't accept the "gift" of a dandelion, you have to explain, parents say. When your kid makes unusual sounds or gestures, you explain. When your kid is scared of the slide, you explain.

At the end of the day, you're wiped out by all the explaining, the mother says, her eyes filling with tears: "It gets exhausting." While parents bond, children and teens roam the wooden walkways at the perimeter of the room, an enclosed patio with high ceilings and red brick walls. There is some grunting and squealing, but no one is really loud, and no one runs particularly fast. The overall impression is not of chaos but of movement. These kids like to move.

"Me and Jaylen, we share a bedroom, so we're together 24/7," Edgar says, smiling. At this point, he says, he understands his brother's communication pretty effortlessly.

Jalen Allen, 14, of Maywood, sits quietly as his mother, Candace Bell, chats with me. Then, quite suddenly, his face lights up behind his heavy glasses.

"You gonna put me on the front page?" Not on the front page, maybe, but certainly in the newspaper, I tell him. Jalen introduces himself: He's an artist, an actor, an entrepreneur and a skydiver.

"And his mom chuckle when I ask, "Really? A skydiver?" It turns out he has been to one of those indoor skydiving centers that offer simulated experiences. Articulate and quick-witted, Jalen launches into a series of questions, some patterned on the questions I asked his mom ("How old are you?), others more creative: "If you had a million dollars — no, a billion dollars — what would you do with it?"

His mom says they're still adjusting to a recent diagnosis of Asperger's syndrome, a milder form of autism associated with intense interests and social challenges.

Some of the most active participants at the event are the Dunwards: Aidan isn't much of a brunch person and isn't attending, but Shannon acts as hostess, and David dresses up in a Batman costume, a big hit with the younger kids, who stop, stare and hesitate, then generally respond to David's request for a high-five.

Aidan's 11-year-old brother, Shane, who does not have autism, is here, too, helping out, chatting and just observing the spectacle.

"It's a really good experience seeing so many families like mine interacting in a restaurant without being scared and being told to quiet down," he says as the event is winding down.

"I thought it would be a great time, and it was."
Take stock of your tomato plants

Devise strategy to deal with sweltering heat

By Barbara Damrosch
The Washington Post

Tomatoes are the divas of the vegetable patch: luscious, celebrated and notoriously hard to please. If it’s too chilly, they’ll sulk. If it’s too hot, they’ll throw a tantrum, scattering their blossoms and refusing to perform.

Gardeners everywhere know that planting tomatoes prematurely in spring is a mistake. They will just sit there until the soil warms up. New transplants put in later will soon catch up and even overtake them.

The tomato, as you’d expect from its tropical origin, is a warm-weather creature. Although leaf crops such as lettuce, spinach and kale are most productive when it’s cool, tomatoes need plenty of warmth and sun to ripen those juicy red orbs.

But when temperatures rise into the 90s and above, and stay there for a stretch of time, several bad things happen. The plants become stressed, desperately trying to pump water and nutrients through their systems as moisture evaporates from their leaves. Days of hot sun can cause sunscald, a disorder that produces whitish patches on the fruits and invites disease. The pollen in the plants’ small yellow flowers is ruined as well. Unable to make fruit, they fall to the ground.

Because I grow vegetables in a cool maritime climate, I’ve had this problem only once, when my tomatoes were in a greenhouse, and someone unplugged the automatic venting system to plug in a radio. The temperature rose to 110, and as a result the plants struggled, even after they were able to grow new flowers.

Without such mishaps, tomato growers do use greenhouses successfully, even in hot regions. Thanks to roof vents, shade cloth and evaporative cooling systems, a well-equipped greenhouse can offer shelter from the heat of high summer.

For a home gardener with no greenhouse, there are still ways to cope with summer heat. Siting the garden in a spot that gets dappled afternoon shade from nearby trees will help a lot. Even a row of tall sunflowers might do the trick. Or you might erect a simple frame from wooden poles or metal pipe, to support sheets of black shade cloth with a 50 percent light transmission. The stakes, cages, fences or trellis you use to support the vines could have shade cloth draped over them until the heat wave passes. Just roll it up and keep it handy until needed.

Watering deeply and evenly will reduce heat stress. This would be true for any summer crop, but it will also help prevent cracking of the fruits and blossom end rot. Both can result from inconsistent irrigation.

A mulch will shade the soil, keep moisture in and keep pathogens in the soil from splashing onto the leaves. Drip irrigation is best, but if you use sprinklers, water at the beginning of the day so that moisture on the foliage evaporates promptly, another protection against disease.

How you prune tomatoes matters too. Training them vertically, with a single stem, is often done to expose the fruits to sunlight for good ripening. (It also makes the vines more manageable.) With this method, any suckers that form in the forks where fruiting branches join the stem are pinched out. If you expect extra-hot weather, though, you’d want to pinch higher up on the sucker to leave one pair of leaves to help shade the fruits.

Sometimes it gets so hot that the tomatoes never fully ripen. In that case, pick them when they’re not quite full colored and finish the ripening indoors.

There are heat-resistant varieties you can try. Grow a few and see whether you like them enough to replace your favorites. But you can also choose to grow determinates, a broad category that includes any variety that ripens a bountiful crop and then stops, unlike the indeterminate varieties that put out long, continuously producing vines.

Determinates can be either supported or left to sprawl on the ground. In both cases, they’re easier to cover with shade cloth (or shade with sunflowers).

Simplest of all, there’s the two-crop solution: an early crop before it gets too hot and a later crop after the serious heat has passed.

Make the second crop a determinate variety, maybe one of the paste types that are so good for canning, freezing or drying. Plan for it to bear when the heat is scheduled to back off. Abundant fruits will appear just as it’s getting time to put them up for winter eating, along with cabbage, collards and other delights of the cold season.

Barbara Damrosch is a freelance writer.
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The Chicago Tribune will feature Chicago’s Top Workplaces in a special edition in November 2017. No matter your position, you can nominate your organization for a Top Workplaces Award — it’s completely free. Registration closes soon, so don’t wait!

Nominate Your Company for a 2017 Top Workplaces Award Today
Visit chicagotribune.com/nominate
Festivals, from Page 21

Lake Cook Road, Glencoe. (Members preview: 4 p.m.-8 p.m. June 30). Botanically themed and botanically made artworks by almost 100 juried artists are displayed against the breathtaking backgrounds of magnificent gardens. Free admission; regular parking fees apply. Visit www.ChicagoBotanicGarden.org/artfestival.

Morton Grove Days, July 1-4, American Legion Memorial Civic Center, 6140 Dempster St., Morton Grove. Hours are 4-11 p.m. July 1, 2-11 p.m. July 2, 2-11 p.m. July 3 and 2:30-11 p.m. July 4. The event includes carnival rides and games, food, a beer garden, live entertainment, children's activities, 4th of July Parade and a 4th of July Fireworks Show. See www.mortongrove-days.org/events.

Island in the City Festival, July 6-9, Norridge Community Park, 4631 N. Overhill. Hours are 5-10 p.m. Thursday, 5-11 p.m. Friday, 1-11 p.m. Saturday and 1-10 p.m. Sunday. Admission is free. The event features live entertainment, food vendors and carnival rides. Music acts include Avenge 7X, 7th Heaven, Stacy Mitchhart, Infinity, Hinge, The Sugar Country, Who's Next, Eliminator, Whiskey's Gone Band, Hannah Anders, Augusta Ray and Matsu Brothers. Visit www.islandinthecity.org.

Hungarian Gulyas Festival, July 8-9, Norridge United Hungarian Church of Christ, 8260 W. Foster Ave., Norridge. Featured at the festival is a large sampling of the Hungarian kitchen which includes the bottomless goulash pot, mélitéi, crepes, kurtoskalacs (rolled sweet dough) and langos (elephant ears), as well as traditional Hungarian music and contemporary tunes, folkloric dances, arts and crafts, Hungarian crafts, and a children's activity center. Join the competition in the Gulyas Cook-Off. Tickets are $20 a day, $30 for two days, and $5 for children 6-12, available at the door. Visit www.gulyasfestival.com.

North Shore Art Market, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. July 8-9 at Westfield Old Orchard Mall, 4999 Old Orchard Center, Skokie. Features works by more than 100 juried artists in a variety of mediums, Art Bingo for kids, live music and local food. Free admission and parking. Visit www.amdurproductions.com.

Taste of Park Ridge, July 13-15, along Summit Avenue between Prospect and Touhy avenues. Hours are Turn to Festivals, Page 24.
Love your job?

Show it off with Top Workplaces

The Chicago Tribune will feature Chicago's Top Workplaces in a special edition in November 2017. No matter your position, you can nominate your organization for a Top Workplaces Award — it's completely free. Registration closes soon, so don't wait!

NOMINATE YOUR COMPANY FOR A 2017 TOP WORKPLACES AWARD TODAY
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Families can learn about night time nature during the Backyard Campout at Wildwood Nature Center in Park Ridge June 9-10.

**FAMILY FRIENDLY**

Enjoy a night with nature at Park Ridge campout

**BY MYRNA PETLICKI**

Pioneer Press

Gather your kids and your camping gear and head to Wildwood Nature Center, 529 Forestview Ave., Park Ridge, for a Backyard Campout, 5 p.m. June 9-10 a.m. June 10.

The Backyard Campout is a family event that we run twice a year,” said Nature Center Supervisor Jennifer Clauson. “Families come to the Nature Center and pitch their tents and then we help them cook dinner. We have fishing poles out for the kids. At night, we play a movie and eat dessert. Then they sleep in their tents under the stars. The next morning, they cook breakfast. After breakfast, they pack up their tents and head home.”

Clauson said this is a great way to introduce children to camping. “It gives an experience of camping with a support system because I’m with them to help them if they have any questions and I bring all the food,” Clauson said.

Residents pay $10 per person; nonresidents $16. Registration is required.

For details, call 847-692-5127 or see www.prparks.org.

**Join the parade**

Children ages eight and under are invited to ride a bicycle, tricycle, wagon or scooter in the Lincolnwood Memorial Day Parade, kicking off at 10:20 a.m. May 29 from Cicero and Pratt Aves. They must wear a helmet and be accompanied by an adult. The parade will continue to Madeleine’s Garden in Proesel Park for an 11 a.m. ceremony.

For details, call 847-677-9740 or see www.lincolnwoodil.org.

**Sylver shines**

Singer, storyteller and ventriloquist Sandi Sylver will entertain kids and parents, 10:30-11:15 a.m. June 10 at the Book Market at Hangar One, 2651 Navy Blvd., The Glen, Glenview. Sylve’s interactive presentations encourage the love of reading, imagination and being a good person. Registration begins May 26.

For details, see www.theglentowncenter.com.

**Fancy feline footwork**

A popular kitty learns some new steps in “Pete the Cat and the Cool Cat Boo-gie.” Kids will hear that book by James and Kimberly Dean and do related activities during a special storytime, 11 a.m. May 27 at Barnes and Noble, 55 Old Orchard Center, Skokie.

For details, call 847-676-2230 or see www.barnesandnoble.com.

**Special non-delivery**

A baby girl is raised by the title birds in “Storks.” after her address tag is destroyed and they can't deliver her to her family. The PG-rated movie will be shown at Niles Public Library, 6960 Oakton St., 2-4 p.m. May 27. A snack will be served.

For details, call 847-663-1234 or see www.nileslibrary.org.
Cultural Arts Council works to enrich Park Ridge life

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

The arts are flourishing in Park Ridge thanks in part to the Park Ridge Cultural Arts Council. Since 1997, the organization has provided over $100,000 in grants and scholarships to Park Ridge arts organizations and artists.

"The fundraising all the time, which is the most important part of the job," said Council President Diddy Blyth. Blyth noted that acquiring funds is the group's biggest accomplishment.

"We don't have a product," she said. "Our product is the enrichment of our youth and our town."

They did, however, have what could be considered a product a few years ago when Blyth, who is a photographer, conceived the idea of creating a desktop calendar to give as a premium for donations.

"On the top of each calendar page was a picture of either a building or an accomplishment of a historic Park Ridge artist because we used to be an art colony," Blyth said.

She wrote a blurb about each of the images.

Since calendars are only usable for one year, they recycled those blurbs and images to create Artists in Park Ridge History notecards. Donate $20 to the organization and you receive a package of eight notecards.

Another important function of the six-person council is deciding what organizations and individuals will receive the funds they collect. Their website has forms for applying for each of the council's four grant programs.

"We consider not only what they want to do and the worth to the town but how much we have in the budget," Blyth said.

The Youth Arts Summer Camp Scholarship awards either $500 or 25 percent of the camp's tuition. This year's recipients, who received their awards at a May 13 event, were Eva Nicholson, Kendall Rink, Dani Rink, Emily Hansen, Taylor Truckenbrod and Courtney Miller. Nathan Munoz, who also received a grant, was unable to attend.

This was the third grant for Dani Rink, a 16-year-old Maine South senior, who received $256 toward participating in the Spectacular Company Nationals Dance Competition. Dani was selected for the Spectacular Company Nationals through a competition.

"We all come together for a week in Ohio and learn a bunch of dances, and then get costumed and get our makeup done," she said. "Then we put on a big Dance Spectacular show." Winning the Park Ridge Cultural Arts Council scholarships "means a lot," Dani said. "It assures me that I'm doing the right thing."

President Blyth is particularly proud of an initiative that she recently created, Art for the Homebound. In association with the Center of Concern, the council brings professional artists activities to the homebound as lessons in painting with watercolors, writing memoirs, learning dance steps or having music therapy.

District 64 art teacher Sonja Dziedic and her husband Norm are both board members. She serves as secretary, is heavily involved with the grants and scholarships programs, and manages the website.

Dziedic is proud of how the organization has expanded its reach.

"We've added quite a bit of breadth to the kinds of organizations and agencies that we're trying to reach out to," she said.


UNICEF celebrates 10 years of Hope Gala

LLEE L LITAS

Social Studies

The Event: The 10th annual United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) Hope Gala drew more than 500 supporters to the Geraghty in Chicago on April 29.

Since 1946, UNICEF has helped to save more children's lives around the world by providing clean water, vaccinations, nutrition, fighting child trafficking and promoting children's safety and education. Ninety cents of every dollar UNICEF receives goes to its children's aid programs.

Cause Célèbre: "We are thrilled to see how this event has grown," said Rob Brown of Park Ridge. UNICEF Chicago board chairman and the first Hope Gala chairman, along with his wife and UNICEF committee member and co-chairman of UNICEF USA's Youth activists, Amy Brown.

"Right now there are several major crises going on in the world," explained Brown citing the famine in sub-Saharan Africa currently affecting South Sudan, Nigeria, Somalia and Yemen. Additionally, "The war-torn regions of the Middle East have created a refugee crisis that has rippled throughout the world so much of our focus right now is in those two areas," explained Brown.

As a trained pediatric psychologist, event chairman and Midwest board member, John Luce of River Forest was drawn to UNICEF because of its focus, "not just on education and poverty but also on child protection and emergency relief—all the things that I believe we should be focused on in terms of helping children get from very vulnerable

areas," explained Brown.

John Luce of River Forest, event chairman and Midwest board member, and Caryl Stern of New York, president and CEO of UNICEF USA

kids to self-sustaining and self-sufficient adults."

"Every child has the right to a childhood and in our global communities, your child born in Somalia might someday be your next-door neighbor so we need to love everyone," said Amy Brown.

Bottom Line: The event raised more than $1 million for UNICEF. For more, go to www.unicef.org.

Share your event

We want to publish your photos. Contact Sara Burrows at sburrows@pioneerlocal.com.
COMMUNITY REAL ESTATE HOMES IN YOUR AREA

HIGHLAND PARK

Located in Downtown Ravinia across from park and tennis courts. Home was remodeled in the last two years with updates including new kitchen with granite counters and stainless appliances. Living room has hardwood floor and wood-burning fireplace. Updated half bath. Second floor has three bedrooms. Full basement and one-car attached garage. AC, Furnace, hot water heater, windows and doors are all new. Tenant occupied—please give notice.

Address: 522 Burton Ave.
Price: $425,000
Schools: Highland Park High School
Taxes: $8,492
Agent: Karen Poteshman Skurie/Baird & Warner Highland Park

BUFFALO GROVE

Home in Highland Grove subdivision is recently remodeled and move-in ready. Four bedrooms, 3.5 baths. Hardwood floors throughout. Kitchen with stainless appliances. Backyard has two-tier deck with entrances on both levels of the home. Master suite has walk-in closet. Finished basement has full bath, sauna and bar. Short walk from Tripp Elementary and four playgrounds.

Address: 5 W. Fox Hill Drive
Price: $479,900
Schools: Stevenson High School
Taxes: $12,139
Agent: Val Napadow/RE/MAX Villager

SKOKIE


Address: 5020 Wright Terrace
Price: $429,000
Schools: Niles West High School
Taxes: $10,289
Agent: Michael Click/Berkshire Hathaway HomeServices KoenigRubloff Realty Group

LIBERTYVILLE

Ranch-style home positioned on treelined cul-de-sac. Large windows, living and dining room combo opens to kitchen and family room. Three bedrooms share two bathrooms, with additional bedroom/office and full bathroom on lower level. Hardwood floors throughout the bedrooms. Two-car attached garage, screened gazebo, gardens surrounding home.

Address: 808 Liberty Bell Court
Price: $389,000
Schools: Libertyville High School
Taxes: $7,164
Agent: Debra Dunn/@Properties

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This list is not intended to be a complete record of all real estate transactions.

Data compiled by Record Information Services ▪ 630-557-1000 ▪ public-record.com
COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Thursday, May 25

An Evening of Comedy and Music with Debbie Sue Goodman: Skokie resident Debbie Sue performs "An Evening of Comedy and Music." Debbie Sue is a comedian and an author of the books "My Husband the Stranger," "Still Single" and "Still Dating." 7:30 p.m. Thursday, The Rock House, 1742 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-272-6224

Power Edge Employment Workshop: Registration required. Employment coaches from Illinois WorkNet will discuss resumes and cover letters, online job applications, and interviewing to help you in your job search. For more information about Illinois WorkNet call 847-448-8647 or go to www.illinoisworknet.com. 9 a.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave, Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Wonder Ground Open Lab: Look, touch, tinker, and play with an intriguing array of science-oriented curiosities in this new space designed especially for kids. A drop-in visit is meant to last about 15 minutes. Activities are repeated each week from Tuesday to Thursday. The Wonder Ground is a STEAM playground for kids. 4 p.m. Thursday and 4 p.m. Tuesday, Niles Public Library, 6960 W. Oakton St., Niles, free, 847-663-1234

Podcasting Meetup: If you are interested in podcasting, whether you're an expert or an amateur, come join this podcasting discussion group. Meets the last Thursday of every month to share ideas and advice. 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

CinemaSpeak Film Discussion: Watch at home. Talk at the Library. Join this film discussion group as they talk about the film "Everything is Illuminated." 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

"Relativity": 7:30 p.m. Thursdays, 8 p.m. Fridays, 2:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Saturdays, 2:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Sundays, 7:30 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Wednesday, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, $30-$81, 847-673-6300

Introduction to Jewish Genealogy: Discover what is unique about Jewish genealogy, what information to look for and how to get started. This is presented by Mike Karsen, a member of the Association of Professional Genealogists, the Genealogical Speakers Guild and the author of the JewishGen website "Guide to Jewish Genealogy in Chicagoland." 7 p.m. Thursday, Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-256-8935

Friday, May 26

"High School Musical": When hoops star Troy and brainy Gabriella decide to audition for the Spring Musical, they turn their world—and their high school—upside down! Facing resistance from all sides, they learn to follow their dreams by being true to themselves. An overnight sensation that rejuvenated the high school musical genre, this show features fun tunes, incredible dance moves and a message about friendship and not being afraid to challenge the status quo. 7 p.m. Friday, 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. Saturday, and 3 p.m. Sunday, Prairie Lakes Theatre, 515 E. Thacker St., Des Plaines, $11-$16, 847-516-2298

The World Premiere of Quest: An original circus-theater production loosely based on Leo Tolstoy's short story "The Three Questions." The protagonist asks three simple (but huge) questions, setting in motion a whirlwind journey to find the answers: 7:30 p.m. Fridays, 7:30 p.m. Saturdays and 7:30 p.m. Sunday, Actors Gymnasium, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, $27 for kids, $5 adults, 847-475-1030

PSAT or SAT Practice Test - Grades 9-12: C2 Education facilitates practice tests for either the PSAT or SAT. Gain experience with these tests, now a standard for Illinois college testing. Students may choose which test to take. Bring pencils and a calculator. Please register at glenviewpl.org/register or by calling. 10 a.m. Saturday, Evanston Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Evanston, free, 847-729-7500

Roosevelt Pool Preseason Hours: Hours are: 11 a.m.-6:30 p.m. Saturday through Monday, May 27-29. Flick Pool and Roosevelt Pool will be open daily beginning June 1. For more information, call 11 a.m. Saturday-Monday, Roosevelt Aquatic Center, 2239 Fir St., Glenview, various, 847-724-5670

Saturday, May 27

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. Saturdays and 10:30 a.m. Sundays, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 301 Central St., Evanston. $3 kids, $5 adults, 847-475-1030

Wagner Farm Sweets and Treats Preseason Hours: Step back in time and cool off with sweet treats all summer long. There are hand-dipped cones, sundaes, floats and shakes made with Homer's Ice Cream. For more information, call 11 a.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. Sunday, Wagner Farm, 1510 Wagner Road, Glenview, various, 847-724-5670

Northfield Farmers' Market: You will find fresh-picked fruits and vegetables, beautiful blooming plants, shrubs, cut flowers, cheeses, a variety of delicious baked goods, wonderful specialty foods and unique items. 7:30 a.m. Saturdays, Northfield Farmers' Market, 6 Happ Road, Winnetka, free, 847-446-4451

Sunday, May 28

Live Jazz with Chad Willets Trio: On Sundays Peckish Pig has its full brunch menu with live jazz and the Chad Willets Trio from 11:30 a.m.-2 p.m. 11:30 a.m. Sundays, Peckish Pig, 623 Howard St., Evanston, free, 847-491-6778

John Williams' Sunday music session: 3 p.m. Sundays, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-4079
and beverage tents on the park's great lawn and a musical fireworks display after every show. MB Financial Park celebrates the Fourth of July with an added concert July 4, 7 p.m. Sunday and 7 p.m. June 1, MB Financial Park at Rosemont, 5501 Park Place, Rosemont, free, 847-349-5008

Nature Warriors: This is for ages 2-4 with a parent to learn about animals and the outdoors through music, movement and motion. Craft a musical instrument and go on a nature walk to look for evidence of animals and find a beat. Classes are primarily outdoors, weather permitting. Classes run weekly. 10 a.m. Sundays, Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, $74 Skokie resident, $124 non-resident, 847-677-7001

Guided Bird Walks at Gillson Park every Sunday in May: Join us to look for colorful warblers and other migrating birds that use the lakeshore to rest and eat on their way north. Guided bird walks begin at the corner of Lake and Michigan Avenues. 8 a.m. Sunday, Gillson Park, Lake Avenue & Michigan Avenue, Wilmette, free, 847-256-9656

Down Dog & Denim: Join us every Sunday for a free hourlong Vinyasa Flow Yoga Class. Register at https://www.eventbrite.com/e/down-dog-denim-tickets-31076517701. 10:30 a.m. Sundays, Down Dog & Denim, 908 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, free

Monday, May 30

Lincolnwood Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony: The parade starts at the corner of Cicero and Pratt Avenues at approximately 10:20 a.m. and then travels east on Pratt Avenue ending in Proctor Park at Madeleine's Garden. Following the parade, a ceremony takes place in Madeleine's Garden at approximately 11 a.m. New to the parade this year, children ages 8 and under are invited to decorate their bikes and ride in the parade. 10:20 a.m. Monday, Start of Lincolnwood Memorial Day Parade, 6755 N Cicero Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-9740

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, 6440 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Powerful Tools for Caregivers: This is a six-week educational series designed to provide you — the caregiver — with the tools you need to take care of yourself while caring for a loved one.

1:30 p.m. Monday, North Shore Senior Center, 700 N Milwaukee Ave #2, Niles, free, 847-784-6041

Hadley Teen Board Dog Wash: The Teen Board of Hadley Institute for the Blind and Visually Impaired is hosting a dog wash and bake sale fundraising event. Get your pup washed and then show him/her off at the Memorial Day Parade. Enjoy a treat from the bake sale while you wait. 9:30 a.m. Monday, Hadley Institute for the Blind and Visually Impaired, 700 Elm St., Winnetka, $10 small dogs; $12 medium dogs; $15 large dogs

Tuesday, May 30

Tuesday Morning Music: Garden visitors can enjoy free hour-long meditative musical performances on Tuesday mornings in the McGinley Pavilion overlooking Evening Island. Music varies from string quartets to Native American flutes, and are focused toward 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. Tram tickets may be purchased in the Heritage Garden or any ticket location. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, free, 847-835-5440

Excel 2010 Basics: This is for beginners to discover the Excel spreadsheet layout, data input, and basics for writing formulas. This is limited to 12 participants. 7 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Glenview Children's Theatre Spring Play: Both on the same day, but at 11:55 a.m., Broadway Juniors and 7:15 p.m., Broadway Stars at Park Center Lakeview Room. The Glenview Children's Theatre and Skyline Studios presents its Spring musical performance of "Music Man Jr." featuring Broadway Juniors and Stars students. Tickets are $6 for each show and are available at the door 30 minutes prior to show time. 11:55 a.m. and 7:15 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Park Center, 2400 Chestnut Ave, Glenview, $6, 847-724-5670

Movies, Munchies and More — "The Great Gilly Hopkins": This PG rated film is about 12 year old, wisecracking Gilly Hopkins, who finds herself shuffled from foster home to foster home. She ultimately meets a kindhearted woman whose endless loving care is all that Gilly needs. Cast includes Sophie Nelisse, Kathy Bates, Glenn Close. 1:30 a.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Pajama Stories for Families: Put on your coziest pajamas and join in for a half hour of stories and fun! 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Sisters of the Holy Family Make Me Up: This is for girls/ DYers who want to create something unique and fun. Join in on the last Tuesday of every month to craft a new hat, as well as a chick hat. Every month they'll do a different craft. 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Tuesdays in the Park: Bring your supplies or project in progress and work on one or more new projects. 5:30 p.m. Tuesdays, MB Financial Park, 455 Grinter Road, Northbrook, free, 847-677-7001

Wednesday, May 31

Found's Salon Series Featuring Nicholas Barron: Found Kitchen and Social House are featuring a new collective of interactive events dubbed the "Salon Series." As a part of this series, Evanston's own Nicholas Barron is set to perform every Wednesday night. 8 p.m. Wednesday, Found Kitchen & Social House, 1631 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $10, 847-869-8945

Knitting Club: This is for knitters of all ages and abilities. Share tips, skills, and show off your work and converse with fellow needle artists. Bring your own knitting supplies. 11 a.m. Wednesday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-777-5277

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 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

Community Wednesdays: We will host three one-hour lectures/classes throughout the day, along with our fitness class offerings at the Marvin Lustbader Center. 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Bernard Weinger JCC, 300 Revere Drive, Northbrook, $10 per day for nonmember, 224-406-9257

Scouting Around for Homeschoolers: Explore the natural world, learn new skills, and have fun with friends this spring. Activities change weekly and include science topics and outdoor skills. A major portion of each class takes place outside. Classes run weekly. 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, Emily Oaks Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, $99 Skokie resident, $124 non-resident, 847-677-7001

Park Ridge Fly Tying Club Meetings: Chicago Fly Fishers Club meet at 7 p.m. Wednesdays through May. An experienced demonstrator does demonstrations of fly tying, with members tying the same pattern using tools and materials provided by the club. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Park Ridge Community Church, 100 S Courtland Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-823-3164

Thursday, June 1

BookBites: Reading Social: Just drop in to discuss "The Little Paris Bookshop" by Nina George. The story is about Jean Perdu, the owner of the Literary Apothecary, a floating bookshop. This event is co-sponsored by the Niles Public Library. Visit face-book.com/nilescommunitybookbites for details. 7 p.m. June 1, Hackney's Glenview, 1514 E. Lake Ave., Glenview, free, 847-724-7171

Sign Up for Glenview Chamber's Summer Fest 2017: Vendors or organizations throughout the region are welcome to sign up now. Spaces are

Turn to Calendar, Next Page
limited engagement. 1 p.m. June 1, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $12 member; $15 non-member, 847-784-6030

Pinterest, Instagram and Snapchat: Everyone loves sharing photos and videos, so it makes sense that Pinterest, Instagram, and Snapchat have become three of the most popular social networks. Find out what these social media sites are about and how to get started using them. 10 a.m. June 1, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $19 member; $25 non-member, 847-784-6030

Shabbat with a Twist: Shabbat with a Twist takes place June 2 and 16 for families with children up to Pre-K. Join with the clergy for challah-making, stories, songs and other fun projects. The children twist their own challah with the dough provided and take it home to bake. Open to the community — free of charge. Call 847-498-5352 with questions. 11 a.m. June 2, Congregation Beth Shalom, 3433 Walters Ave., Northbrook, free, 847-498-4100

Google Drive and Microsoft OneDrive: Registration is required for this hands-on workshop. Learn about this free online cloud storage and how to access free versions of Word, Excel and PowerPoint. Registration limited to six. The prerequisite: Must be experienced and comfortable with computer, keyboard and mouse. 7 p.m. June 1, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Jazz Blues Salon Concert to feature Gerry Hundt: Gerry Hundt is a wunderkind of a blues and old-timey music. Sprouting stringed instruments, rack attachments and foot devices while bursting into a set of hot ragtime blues Hundt is not to be missed. 7 p.m. June 1, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

From the Gilded Age to the Progressive: The Gilded Age was marked by extraordinary technological advances. It led to the emergence of the titans, men like Carnegie, Rockefeller and Morgan. The darker side — the immense power of robber barons, the struggles of the working class and capital-labor violence — led in time to growing support for economic, social and political reform. The Progressive Era was born. 10 a.m. June 1, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $45 member; $55 non-member, 847-784-6030

"American in Paris" and "Bridges of Madison County": "American in Paris" was one of the most popular musicals of all time. This story was hailed by Broadway critics as a brilliant production. "The Bridges of Madison County" had a short life on Broadway despite very positive reviews. This special show is coming to Chicago for a
**CALENDAR**

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**Wright-Way Rescue Kitten Shower:** Join Wright-Way Rescue as they have many kittens and adult cats looking for forever homes. Help support their efforts to rescue and adopt out hundreds of cats and kittens in 2017. They have nearly 50 kittens in the nursery ready to meet guests. Visit their Amazon Wish List: [http://amzn.to/IEW7B3w](http://amzn.to/IEW7B3w). Donation requests: paper towels, unscented clumping cat litter, Royal Canin Baby Food, wet canned food, kitten milk replacement, and dry kitten and cat foods. 11 a.m. June 3, Wright-Way Rescue, 5915 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-728-5434

**Louisa Harrison: A Speaking Event:** Registration is required and is open until Friday, June 2. Morton Grove residents have priority registration. Register by calling the Info Desk at 847-929-5101. In this interview-style event, Ms. Harrison, author of "My Kid Brother's Band," (a.k.a. the Beatles), goes through her brother's, her mother's, and her own personal experience of the Beatles' rise to fame. 2 p.m. June 3, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4224

**Sunday, June 4**

**Enrique Inglesias & Pitbull:** 7:30 p.m. June 3, Allstate Arena, 6920 Mannheim Road, Rosemont, $112+, 847-635-6601

**“Loving”:** The film “Loving,” rated PG-13, celebrates the real-life courage and commitment of an interracial couple, who married and then spent the next nine years fighting for the right to live as a family in their hometown. Just drop in. 1:30 p.m. June 4, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Story Walk: “Rosie Revere, Engineer”:** Welcome back to the Storybook Trail at the Little Bear Garden Park, 2001 Patriot Blvd. Stroll, bounce, hop, or better yet, bike along the path to read Andrea Beaty's "Rosie Revere, Engineer." This story is a celebration of imagination, creative thinkers, and the people who support them. 9 a.m. June 4, Little Bear Garden Park, Patriot Blvd & Chestnut Ave., Glenview, free

**New York Philharmonic: Show Boat in Concert:** This performance, Lincoln Center Screening: New York Philharmonic: Show Boat in Concert, was recorded live and originally broadcast on Oct. 16, 2015 with Vanessa Williams, Julian Ovenden, Norm Lewis, Jones Alexander, Fred Willard and Lauren Worsham. 2 p.m. June 4, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

**Susan Merdinger: Solo Recital:** Susan Merdinger performs Mozart's "Concerto No. 21" with a 19th century transcription of the orchestral part for string quintet by Ignaz Lachner, with members of the Highland Park Strings. 2 p.m. June 4, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

**Have an event to submit? Go to [chicagotribune.com/calendar](http://chicagotribune.com/calendar)**

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MOVIES

“Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2” ★★ ½
PG-13, 2:18, action/adventure
A summer surprise back in 2014, “Guardians of the Galaxy” had, as they said in the old days, plenty of pep and, for once, a lot of jokes. For the sequel, James Gunn has returned as director and writer. Let’s be honest: This one’s a step down from the original. The testy banter between Peter Quill (Chris Pratt) and Gamora (Zoe Saldana) comes with a here-we-go-again quality. Also, that ending! The universe is about to be destroyed, again. Two guys are beating the spit out of each other for minutes on end, again. I double-dare Gunn to get the third “Galaxy” picture down to the two-hour mark or less. — Michael Phillips

“Snatched” ★★
R, 1:37, comedy
“Snatched” is Amy Schumer’s second big movie and co-stars Goldie Hawn in her first major screen role since “The Banger Sisters” 15 years ago. Mother. Daughter. Kidnapped by Ecuadorian ransom-seekers while on vacation. They get stuffed in a car trunk; they harpoon a bad guy; they dance; they learn to take it easy on each other. The film, more about victimhood than women running their own show, is funny here and there, but in ways that make the bulk of the formulaic material all the more frustrating. — M.P.

“King Arthur: Legend of the Sword” ★½
PG-13, 2:06, action/adventure
Director Guy Ritchie’s soccer hooligan edition of King Arthur stars Charlie Hunnam as the rightful heir to the throne stolen by Jude Law’s ruthless Vortigern. Arthur yanks Excalibur out of the stone, but he’s not ready for the murderous yet righteous force of it. He must grow into his destiny and the killing machine he hath pluck’d from its craggy resting place. Elsewhere in “King Arthur,” there are enormous snakes, ridiculously oversized elephants and a general “Lord of the Rings” / “Game of Thrones” air of anything’s possible. The movie is a grim and stupid thing, from one of the world’s most successful mediocre filmmakers. — M.P.

“The Fate of the Furious” ★★
PG-13, 2:16, action/adventure
“The Fate of the Furious” illustrates the limits and hazards of multigenre blockbuster engineering. For an hour, director F. Gary Gray’s pileup of gravity-free drag racing, supercool cyberterrorism, vehicular Ice Capades and World War III prevention program stays on the side of the good (or good enough) stupid. But the second hour gets to be a real drag — and not the racing kind. Dom (Vin Diesel) runs afoul of Cipher (Charlize Theron), the blackmailing witch who forces Dom to turn against his gang. The climax feels approximately 50 years long, and it makes the audience long for a simple scene back in a garage somewhere. — M.P.

“The Boss Baby” ★★ ½
PG, 1:37, animated
“The Boss Baby” derives its premise from the notion that when new babies arrive in the household, they render parents into slavishly devoted employees with their demands and fits. Babies are like bosses, but more satirically, bosses are like babies, right? That metaphor is explored in Maria Frazee’s children’s book, with a boss baby outfitted in a suit, and now that’s been transported to the screen with Alec Baldwin voicing the titular boss. In theory, the idea seems about as interesting as “Baby Geniuses,” but in execution the film is surprisingly fun and clever. Written by Michael McCullers, it’s almost too clever for its own good; only adults are going to appreciate the nuances of the jokes and wordplay about corporate middle-management culture. — Katie Walsh, Tribune News Service
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EV power for the people

Bolt could get mainstream to try electric

BY ROBERT DUFFER
Chicago Tribune

People called it cool, cute, quick. The most talked-about feature was the 10.2-inch touch screen, the most divisive the plastic black-on-white dashboard design.

But the comments that best summed up reactions to the evolutionary Chevy Bolt EV came from different sources: an 11-year-old boy and a 75-year-old retiree.

“Global warming won’t be such an issue if people drive these,” the boy said.

“This is the car of the future right now,” his grandfather said, separately. Then he floored it.

In this everyone agreed: The Bolt is fun to drive. It is also the most significant car on the market.

There are no gear shifts to interrupt its linear acceleration, enabling it to hit 60 mph in 6.5 smooth seconds, fast enough for a modest stomach drop.

The Bolt EV is not a sports car; the 17-inch wheels are too thin, and the suspension and steering too soft. It’s not a Tesla, either, because it costs nearly a third less. With the $7,500 federal tax credit for the people, the highway charging system is also a brake pedal, of course, to be used while playing your Journey cassette tape or, more seriously, in emergency situations.

There is also a brake paddle on the underside of the steering wheel, same as in the Chevy Volt and Cadillac ELR, GM’s plug-in hybrids. The paddle brake returns energy in the same manner as “L” mode, though the effect is less pronounced in speeds over 20 mph. For any hard braking, we used the foot brake. But coasting into most stops, even slowing down for a turn in “D” mode, we used the paddle.

The only time we didn’t use the paddle brake was at highway speeds, though it’s ideal in stop-and-go traffic. Chevy estimates that using the regen system, either in “L” mode or with the paddle brake, recaptures 5 to 7 percent of the energy used in stop-and-go commuting.

It took us about two minutes to understand how to use it, and a few drives to get the timing right without coming up short at a stoplight in “L” mode.

The next best feature in the Bolt EV is the clean display and spartan dash. The cabin also has great headroom and visibility, unlike the cramped feeling in most subcompact crossovers.

The centerpiece of the center stack is the 10.2-inch touch screen. The layout is logical, clear and easy to use. The highlighted energy flow button is a nice touch.

The Chevy Bolt EV has a 238-mile range, yet costs less than the average car and employs the most advanced technology.

2017 Chevy Bolt EV

Vehicle type: Electric sub-compact crossover
Base price: $37,495 (including $875 destination, excluding $7,500 federal tax credit)
As tested: $39,295
Range: 238 miles
Battery pack: 60 kWh lithium ion
Horsepower: 200 hp
Torque: 266 pound-feet
Parting shot: Just try it.

Below the screen are large audio knobs and climate control buttons.

The battery design, which consists of five modules placed in the floor laterally between the front and rear seats, keeps the cabin open. The fourth and fifth modules are stacked on top of one another under the rear seats, so when the rear seats are folded flat, there is a 6-inch elevation in the middle of the cargo floor. We fit the usual weekend family stuff without a problem, however.

During my week with the Bolt, it grew on me. My opinions usually go in the opposite direction with cars. Even without the ecological statement it makes, the Bolt is a good car. It’s fun to drive, versatile and user-friendly. It must be experienced, however, to understand how well it balances all of its advanced technology in such seamless operation.

With all automakers expanding their electrified portfolios, and the market overcoming range anxiety, the Bolt EV may be the deal of this century.
As expected, New Trier's Leutz qualifies for state

BY BRETT CHRISTIE
Pioneer Press

Playing on a perennial boys tennis powerhouse often means waiting your turn. New Trier junior Peter Leutz embodies that concept.

Leutz was new to the varsity this season. He spent a good portion of the season playing doubles, but settled in as the team's No. 2 singles player behind junior Jeffrey Chen later in the season. Despite his relative inexperience, Leutz entered the Class AA Niles North Sectional determined to help continue the program's run of postseason success.

"We're expected to qualify," said Leutz, a Wilmette resident.

Leutz, playing as a 3/4 seed, advanced to the semifinals where he fell 6-4, 6-1 to Notre Dame's Nick Hebda, the top overall seed, on Saturday at North Shore Racquet Club in Northbrook. By reaching the semifinals, he qualified for state.

"It's pretty surreal," Leutz said. "You know, watching those guys (past New Trier teams) for the past couple years and seeing how successful they've been and now being able to take that role on the team, it's exciting!"

New Trier coach Ted Eckert said Leutz's best quality as a player is his competitiveness, which reveals itself in long rallies. That was on display against Hebda.

"He's very determined and consistent," Eckert said. "He really makes his opponent hit him and unfortunately that's what happened (Saturday), but he doesn't ever beat himself and that's a really great trait to have."

Notre Dame

Notre Dame junior Nick Hebda entered the Class AA Niles North boys tennis sectional tournament undefeated, which led to him earning the top seed. Thus, securing a bid to state by finishing in the top four of the tournament felt like a foregone conclusion. However, it didn't make it any less sweet for Hebda when he did.

Despite his undeniable talent, Hebda had failed to qualify for state his first two years at Notre Dame.

"It's a really good feeling," said Hebda, a resident of Chicago's Jefferson Park community area. "Every year I've been doing all the practice, to be able to see that your hard work is finally paying off is great."

Hebda, who won the East Suburban Catholic title a week prior, rode his powerful serve to easy 6-0, 6-0 victories in the first two rounds before defeating New Trier's Peter Leutz 6-4, 6-1 in the semifinals.

In qualifying for state he became the first Notre Dame player to do so under coach Steven Jankowski, who has been at the helm since 2001. Jankowski, a Notre Dame alumnus, said Hebda is already the best player in program history.

"Last year he had all the tools, but he didn't put them together," Jankowski said. "He wasn't as aggressive and this year it's the complete opposite. If an opponent makes a mistake, he makes them pay for it and he's been punishing people this year."

Niles North

When asked to define the strength of Niles North boys tennis junior Faraaz Hooda, coach Andy Klamm didn't hesitate.

"His effort, it is just maximum," Klamm said. "He's unbelievable in the way he competes."

Hooda's right cheek was visual evidence of that as he played through the Class AA Niles North Sectional on Saturday at North Shore Racquet Club, where he fell just short of qualifying for state, losing to Niles West senior Shawn Sabaricos 6-2, 6-2.

"It was a good season," said Hooda, a Skokie resident who finished the season 15-18. "I mean, the ending might not have been what I want, but I improved a lot."

Hooda, who fell in the same round last year, said he hopes to break through next season, but knows he needs to improve upon his forehand to do so. One quality, however, that can't be taught, he already possesses.

"My biggest strength is my persistence," Hooda said. "I never quit on any balls and I go for everything I can."

Brett Christie is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Sabaricicos reaches state in second season of high school tennis

BY BRETT CHRISTIE
Pioneer Press

As a 3/4 seed at the Class AA Niles North boys tennis sectional, Niles West senior Shawn Sabaricos was expected to reach the semifinals and qualify for state.

However, once Sabaricos did just that, the feat still seemed surprising given it's just his second season of high school tennis. Sabaricos transferred to Niles West last year from Northtown Academy, a charter school in Chicago, which didn't have a tennis program.

Thus, Sabaricos spent his freshman and sophomore years playing non-competitive tennis with friends and family on what he described as a somewhat infrequent basis.

"I was just hitting a bit here and there," said Sabaricos, a Skokie resident. "There wasn't really any competitive play because my membership kind of expired with the (United States Tennis Association)."

Niles West coach Andrew Suarez said when Sabaricos arrived his junior season his game was lacking in approach.

"He was going for all those hard shots and he would hit a couple, but that didn't get you anywhere," Suarez said. "You get these kids that are a little more consistent and you can only hit those 90-percent shots one or two times. You can't win that way.

This season Sabaricos developed a more consistent forehand and backhand this season, which certainly played a role in his improvement. What also likely helped was having to face the No. 1 singles players from Central Suburban South foes Maine South, Glenbrook South and New Trier.

"He's playing against the top kids," Suarez said. "Those are his main losses, but they make you better."

Though he was coming off a loss to Chen, Sabaricos was all smiles on Saturday. He was cognizant of where he was two years ago and how he'll be playing in the state tournament, which starts Thursday and is hosted by Hersey.

"It's been an awesome experience and a fun ride," Sabaricos said. "I've really enjoyed this."

Kevin Tanaka is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
BOYS TRACK AND FIELD SECTIONAL NOTES

Focusing on form helps Erjavac reach state

BY DAN SHALIN AND RICH MAYOR
Pioneer Press

Niles West senior Chris Erjavac said one of the keys to qualifying for the Class 3A boys track and field state meet in both hurdles events was his improved technique.

"When I go over a hurdle, I try to have perfect form, flawless form, to make me go as fast as I can over the hurdle," said Erjavac, who lives in Morton Grove and finished second in the 110-meter hurdles (15.07 seconds) and third in the 300 hurdles (qualifying-time of 39.66), and also reached state in the 4x400 relay (3:26.78).

Erjavac said he has been able to perfect his hurdling technique thanks to Wolves hurdles coach Jorge Perez. A 2004 Niles West graduate, Perez still holds the program record in both hurdles events and said he holds his hurdlers to a high standard.

"Any guy who goes all four years with me has some patience, because I'm picky in the hurdles," Perez said. "You have to be flawless, but Erjavac is one who sticks with it and does everything right. Every day, he goes all out. He's one of my hardest workers in nine years (as a Niles West coach)."

In the 110 hurdles at the sectional, Erjavac finished four spots ahead of teammate Shawn Campbell, a junior. Erjavac said he has spent the year trying to help Campbell improve, so the latter will be ready for a breakout senior season next spring.

Erjavac said his early development was aided by the presence of Michael Malina, a 2015 graduate.

"(In practice and races) I try to always be ahead (of Campbell), so he has some footsteps to follow and a goal to reach," Erjavac said. "Two years ago, I had (Malina). He was a great runner and I looked up to him."

Niles North

Niles North sophomore Kian Rizarri said the heavy wind that swept in late on May 18 may have prevented the Vikings' 4x400 relay from breaking the school's sophomore record at the Class 3A Niles West Sectional.

An all-sophomore group featuring Rizarri, Amir Oaing, Khush Patel and Jay B. Patel ran a 3:40.57 (10th). The record is 3:37. However, Rizarri said he is excited about the future of the relay.

"Next year, we are going to come back strong. I'm confident with my team and I'm pretty sure we're going to (be in the mix) to qualify for state," said Rizarri, who lives in Skokie.

Though the Vikings didn't have any state qualifiers, first-year coach Mark Egofske said there is plenty of young talent in the program. He singled out Rizarri, who also was part of the 4x800 relay team that finished fourth (8:14.18) at the sectional. The group also featured senior Jay T. Patel, junior Sirak Teclel and senior Jordan Francis.

"What a year (Rizarri) has had," Egofske said. "He's the type of kid who, if he's behind two or three kids, by the end of the race, he'll be ahead. He's been like that all year. He's only (5-foot-4), but when he runs against kids who are 6-foot, it doesn't matter, he's going to run them down. He's a competitor and he doesn't like to lose."

Maine East

Competing in the freshman/sophomore division at the Central Suburban North meet, Maine East sophomore Svet Milchev won the high jump, long jump and triple jump and set personal records in all three.

Less than a week later, Milchev faced a much more daunting challenge, the Class 3A Niles West Sectional. Milchev finished 25th in the long jump (17-10 3/4) and 18th in the triple jump (37-10) on May 18.

"He had a bit of an off day, but he didn't really lose at conference," Maine East coach Chris Peters said. "I didn't know if he'd be able to match that; and he wasn't quite able to. But he had a nice day, nothing spectacular."

Milchev was not the only Blue Demons underclassmen to have a strong sectional meet.

Freshman Josue Parra finished eighth in the 400 meters (52.20 seconds) and sophomore Hector Lopez finished 25th in the 1,600 (4:54.06).

Both were personal records.

"I talked to (my team beforehand) about being competitors," Peters said. "You're going to be in a position in a meet like this, when you're in a heat with other guys who are at your level. Get in there and compete. If they do that — and this is for our best guys, too — if they work hard and compete, everything is going to work out."

Senior Jacob Danyal qualified for state in the pole vault by clearing 13-7, which was good for fourth place. He is scheduled to be joined at state by fellow Maine East senior Mustafa Becoja, who advanced in the high jump by clearing 6-3. He took fifth.

Notre Dame

Notre Dame senior Braulio Alvarez finished in eighth place in the 800 meters at the Class 3A Niles West Sectional on May 18, notching a personal-record time of 2 minutes, 24.9 seconds in the event. His dedication and drive to finish his high school career on a personal high was not lost on the team, according to Dons coach Mike Jankowski.

"These young kids wouldn't have done as well as they did without a kid like him leading the group. No way," Jankowski said. "He's done an amazing job. He's fantastic with the kids. And being one of two seniors, to just take ownership of that and become a tremendous leader, that's been a really great thing for our team."

"He's invaluable. Couldn't be prouder of him, couldn't be happier he was on our team. Just an amazing kid."

While no Dons qualified for state, several Notre Dame athletes had strong showings.

Sophomore CJ Henley (11.29, 100), junior Jake Martin (11.92, 100), freshman Julian Schurr (24.42, 200), junior Jeremy Ermilio (4:52.52, 1,600) and freshman Joe Salemme (18.01, 110 hurdles) all set personal-best marks at Niles West.

"The kids are very excited about the future, too. They see potential on the horizon," Jankowski said. "They're competing. Placing sixth (as Henley did in the 100), for example, that wasn't good enough. They want to do well, and know they can."

Ridgewood

Rebels senior Alex Rice was the lone Ridgewood athlete to advance to the Class 2A boys track and field state meet. He qualified in two events, the long jump and triple jump, at the Lisle Sectional on Friday.

He advanced by placing second in the long jump (22-1/4) and in the triple jump his distance of 42-11 3/4 met the state standard.

Dan Shalin and Rich Mayor are freelance reporters for Pioneer Press.

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Girls track and field state notes

Ridgewood’s Ignacik places third at state track meet

By Jakub Rudnik and Jon J. Kerr
Pioneer Press

In her third trip to the Class 2A girls track and field state meet, Ridgewood junior Vicky Ignacik proved once again that she’s one of the top hurdlers in the state.

Ignacik, a Norridge resident, finished in third place in the 100-meter hurdles with a time of 14.71 seconds on Saturday at Eastern Illinois. As a sophomore she finished sixth in the state, and freshman year she qualified, but didn’t race due to illness. Ignacik credited assistant coach Beth Hanses for helping her make adjustments prior to the finals.

“The day before finals me and my coach went over some things that I could improve on, last-second things, like snapping my lead leg” Ignacik said. “So I did that during (finals), so I got a better time.”

In the prelims, Ignacik finished second in her heat in 14.87.

Though Ignacik has qualified for the state meet three times in the 100 hurdles, this was her first time running the 300 hurdles in Charleston. She took part in the event for the first time this season at Hanses’ urging. She finished eighth (46.73) in the finals after running a 45.78 in prelims. She said she learned from running the event against the state’s best, and plans to work on conditioning this offseason to improve.

“Since I did 100 hurdles sophomore year during state, I knew how the race was going to go,” she said. “But I didn’t know how the 300 race was going to go. But I’m still really proud of myself for getting into finals and the place that I got, when I just started doing the event this year.”

New Trier

Since entering Wilmette Junior High as seventh graders in 2011, Kate Holly, Grace Fagan and Caroline Fix have run together on the same track team.

They competed on the same team for the final time at the Class 3A girls track and field state meet on Saturday at Eastern Illinois in Charleston.

Holly, along with freshman Bridget Forbes, junior Savannah Noethlich and sophomore Marne Sullivan, ran on the New Trier 4x400-meter relay team, which placed ninth in 4 minutes, 189 seconds. And Fagan, along with Noethlich, sophomore Caroline Trubenbrod and Sullivan, was part of the 4x800 relay. The Trevians took seventh (9:21.92).

Fix placed ninth in the 1,600 with a time of 5:06.39.

“It was the last hurrah for the seniors and to go out with them on such a high note is really special,” said Fagan, who resides in Wilmette.

The two relays and Fix earned all-state honors and accounted for all five of New Trier’s team points. The Trevians finished in a tie for 52nd place.

“If you ask any athlete who finished ninth, they’d have preferred eighth. To have seven kids be all-state, we’re thrilled about that,” Trevians coach Bob Spagnolli said.

Due to injuries, the Trevians made lineup changes in the 4x800, 4x400 and 4x200 relays. Noethlich replaced senior Molly Schmidt in the 4x800, freshman Forbes replaced Schmidt in the 4x400 and freshman McKenna Fox subbed for junior Grace McManus in the 4x200.

Fagan plans to run next year at Tufts (Mass) while Holly intends to compete at Middlebury (Vt) College. Both Division III schools are part of the New England Small College Athletic Conference.

“We hope to see each other (in college),” Fagan said.

Loyola

Believing the competition would get out fast in the 800-meter finals at the Class 3A girls track and field state meet on Saturday, Loyola senior Margot Dooley had a plan for the final lap.

“I wanted to break away and for the final 200 or 150 (meters) go as fast as I could,” said Dooley, who resides in Evanston.

Dooley admits she didn’t get out as quickly as she wanted. That left her with too much ground to make up to ultimately win the race. She still placed third with a time of 2 minutes, 16.03 seconds.

Dooley, who plans to run at the Alabama next year, leaves Loyola with an all-state medal and three appearances at the state meet (2015, 2016, 2017) in a total of three events (800, 4x400 and 4x800 relays).

“I thought it was so much fun. It was a great atmosphere and a great crowd,” Dooley said.

Niles West

Nicole Cho needed to clear 11-0 to advance to the pole vault finals at the Class 3A girls track and field state meet.

She fell short in her first two tries on Friday. But on the third, she cleared the height.

“Nicole gathered herself kept her composure, and got (11-0),” Niles West coach Mark Medland said.

Cho cleared 11-3 to place seventh and earn all-state honors the following day.

“She’s one of those athletes I wish I had 30 more of her,” Medland said.

Another Niles West senior pole vaulter, Karina Marin, did not advance out of prelims.

Competing in the wheelchair division, sophomore Danielle DiMaria placed second in the 100 meters (25.09 seconds) and third in the 200 (1:00.66) and 400 (1:49.93).

Notes

Neither Maine East sophomore Kayla Gregorio (400 meters) nor Niles North sophomore Rosalie Xavier (100) advanced to the Class 3A finals.

Jakub Rudnik and Jon J. Kerr are freelance reporters for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @Pioneer_Press

New Trier’s Savannah Noethlich runs in the 4x800-meter relay finals at the Class 3A state meet on Saturday in Charleston.
Steveson graduate named conference player of the year

By Sam Brief
Pioneer Press

Stevenson graduate Lindsay Schwartz, a sophomore on the Whitman College women's lacrosse team, was named Northwest Conference player of the year. This season she set new program records for goals, points, ground balls, draw controls and caused turnovers. Schwartz also tallied five game-winning goals and scored in every single game during the season. In addition, Schwartz was named to the Division III West Region first team by the Intercollegiate Women's Lacrosse Coaches Association.

Burnside, Grant shine on the diamond

Libertyville graduate Ian Grant, a pitcher on the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology baseball team, led his team in innings pitched and strikeouts as a junior. Grant also had the lowest ERA (4.07) among the team's starting pitchers. Teammate David Burnside, a Glenbrook North graduate, was named to the all-Heartland Collegiate Athletic Conference first team. Burnside, a sophomore outfielder, led the team in home runs, RBIs, batting average, on-base percentage and slugging percentage.

Langlie named scholar athlete

Three local pitchers are getting a taste of postseason baseball with the Wisconsin-Whitewater baseball team, which won the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Athletic Conference tournament on May 13. Mundelein graduate Matt Langlie, a senior on the team, received the conference's scholar athlete award on May 17.

Evanston grad caps lacrosse career

Evanston graduate Maggie Krause, a senior attacker on the Illinois Wesleyan women's lacrosse team, was named to the all-Great Lakes Region second team. Krause led the Titans with 70 points and will graduate as the program's leader in points, goals and assists.

Braheny tabbed to lead Niles West girls basketball team

By Jakub Rudnik
Pioneer Press

Perhaps nobody is more qualified to judge Kyle Braheny's readiness to be the new Niles West girls basketball coach than Bob Williams.

Williams was the Niles West boys basketball coach the past eight years, and Braheny was on his staff for seven of them, serving as a varsity assistant for two of those years, and the sophomore coach for five. Williams also was Braheny's coach at Schaumburg. And Williams said he saw Braheny playing basketball as early as third grade at camps and other events.

"I'm really excited for Niles West High School because Kyle's a really promising young talent as a coach," said Williams, who retired after the 2016-17 season. "His strength is in developing relationships with people. He's just a very positive person. He's got a tremendous work ethic. He's got great basketball knowledge and experience. He really, deep down in his character, he wants to help people do better, and that really shows in his daily interactions with students."

Braheny, who was approved at the Niles Township High School District 219 board meeting on May 9, takes over for Tony Konezwick, who had been the head coach for the past 10 seasons. Konsewicz resigned after the 2016-17 season, alleging unfair treatment from then-District 219 board president Mark Sproat.

After graduating from Schaumburg in 2005, Braheny attended Iowa, where he served as the men's basketball manager. For the first two years, he worked under coach Steve Alford, now the coach at UCLA. After Alford left for New Mexico, Braheny learned from coach Todd Lickliter, who's now a scout with the Boston Celtics. It was during this time that Braheny realized he wanted to go into education and coach basketball for his career.

"I'm really happy for Kyle to get this head coaching position at Niles West," Alford said in a statement. "He worked very hard for our program while at Iowa as a student manager, and I'm sure he'll do an outstanding job."

Braheny said he took aspects of Alford, Lickliter and Williams' coaching styles, and is a hybrid of the three.

"I'm a coach that's passionate, I'm a coach that cares about the players, cares about them on and off the court," Braheny said. "I want to see them succeed on the court and off. If they get anything from me, I want them to learn those life lessons, like working hard, putting the work in and really seeing those results. I want to be remembered as that. But I'm also, I want to be a coach that's always learning, I'm never satisfied with myself."

Braheny reached out to Konsewicz when the job was listed, and Konsewicz was one of the first to contact Braheny when his hiring was announced.

"I really wanted him to understand I'm not bitter, that I stepped down, I'm not bitter that he's taking over," Konsewicz said. "It's nice that there's some familiarity, and I know who's taking over. And just knowing his character, I felt really comfortable."

After spending years together in the Niles West basketball programs, Konsewicz said he expects Braheny to be the right fit for the team.

"You could see the enthusiasm he has, really loves the game of basketball," Konsewicz said. "You can see he works really well with the kids. Just the opportunity of your first head coaching gig, and having knowledge and learning from Bob Williams, is definitely a plus for him."

Braheny, a 30-year-old Arlington Heights resident, takes over a team that is much like himself — young and energetic. And though that team has gone through a tumultuous offseason, the players are excited about their new coach.

"When coach K resigned, a lot of us were extremely stressed out and thinking, 'Oh, what's going to happen. How are we going to do this? We don't have any guidance, any leadership,'" sophomore starting point guard Samantha Galanopoulos said. "But when we found out Braheny got the job, the five of us that were in the room (sitting in during interviews) were thrilled that he got it because we wanted him so bad."

One of the first things Braheny did after being announced as coach was organize a meeting to formally introduce himself to the Niles West players and parents.

"I'm excited for this opportunity, I'm excited to see where these girls can go. I'm just excited to be on the court with them," Braheny said.

Jakub Rudnik is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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SOARING HIGH
Area athletes shine at girls track and field state meet. Inside

Niles West's Nicole Cho attempts a vault during the Class 3A girls track and field state meet on Saturday.

SEAN KING/DAILY SOUTHtown
Keeping your teen safe is your top priority. When they get their license, talk to them about ways they can minimize distractions while they are driving like:

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