LIVING

'Srace Against Hate'
Annual event held in honor of slain Northwestern basketball coach. Page 6

Participants in the youth half-mile start their run during the 18th annual Race Against Hate on June 18 in Evanston.

MARK KODIAK UKENA/PIONEER PRESS

'Sizzlin' celebration
Nothing feels more perfectly patriotic than a festive picnic featuring classic chili-cheese dogs, writes Melissa Elsmo. The slow-cooker chili at right can be assembled ahead of time to help you and your kitchen keep cool during the day's festivities. Inside

SPORTS

Hats off to area stars
Pioneer Press salutes the best baseball and softball players across the region. Inside

OPINION

Has U.S. turned into a country of rage?
Recent shootings are not isolated, writes Randy Blaser. "The levels of rage and violence have reached such heights in this country of ours that people can be targeted for any reason and for no reason." Page 17
Michael Byrne, baseball player

Michael Byrne, 20, a Niles West High School class of 2015 alum, made the Dean's List and was a member of the baseball team at school, which is now a community event. It was established to benefit our community by our own members, working tirelessly for ultimate success. Since the inception of the Taste, in 1994, sponsorship has served as the linchpin of this joyous celebration. Sponsorship symbolizes the symbiotic relationship of all of the Taste components—cooperation is required on all fronts for the fest to flourish, as it does each year.

The Taste's 2017 Main Stage Sponsor once again, is the Bredemann Family of Dealerships, which has established a remarkable reputation for service and quality, celebrating over 100 years of exceeding expectations in the automotive industry.

The Taste Committee is proud to welcome back our incredible VIP sponsors this year. Formula Fitness Clubs have enjoyed spectacular success in its fabulous new facility on Touhy Avenue in Park Ridge. Next, is Groot Industries, the world class Waste Collection Services for Park Ridge, which did an amazing job at last year’s Taste. The third is the Evan and Martha Olson Family from California. Evan grew up in Park Ridge, and is passionate about his beloved hometown. This is the second consecutive year that Evan and Martha have helped to sponsor an event that they love, and know is enjoyed by many area residents and business people. The committee also warmly welcomes back local State Farm Agent Neal Salah, who relocated his family to Park Ridge several years ago, due to his appreciation for Park Ridge.

Additional valued V.I.P. Sponsors include The Park Ridge Herald/Advocate Newspaper, whose parent company, the Chicago Tribune Media Group, produces the annual Taste brochure, and the Advocate Lutheran General and Lutheran General Children’s Hospital. The committee is also grateful to BMO Harris Bank, Century $1 Elm Realtors, Christopher B. Burke Engineering, the City of Park Ridge, Classic Party Rental, Cook County Commissioner Peter Silvestri, Journal & Topics Newspapers, Loyola Medicine, Maine Township, North Suburban Vision Consultants, the Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce, the Park Ridge Park District, Parkway Bank, Physicians Immediate Care/Presence Health, Rainbow Hospice, State Representative Michael McAuliffe, and Xfinity.

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Evanston bears brunt of weather damage

Cleanup following microburst storm took days: officials

BY GENEVIEVE BOOKWALTER
Pioneer Press

A rainstorm microburst erupted near Evanston on June 14, toppling dozens of trees in the area and knocking out power in more than 24 locations, said Evanston City Manager Wally Bobkiewicz.

But as of June 19 the debris had been cleared from blocking roads and alleyways, the city manager said.

Bobkiewicz had reported that the city received as many as 180 reports of tree damage. Even with suspected double-reporting of some incidents, the city manager said officials still expected to address about 150 reports.

"The worst damage seems to be in the area from Central to Colfax (streets) between Prairie and Ewing (avenues). But we have many reports all over including Sheridan Square, the 2000 block of Main, the 500 block of Florence, the 600 block of Clinton, and the 3100 block of Hartzell — literally all four corners of the city," Bobkiewicz said.

He said tree debris fell on several cars, and there were homes that sustained damage as a result of impacted timber. Fallen trees and branches also blocked roadways and alleys.

"I expect cleanup efforts will continue into the middle of next week," Bobkiewicz said last week.

ComEd reported more than 200 customers were without power as a result of the storm, but most had their power restored by mid-afternoon the following day.

Many streets flooded, including the busy thoroughfares of Emerson Street and Ridge Avenue, the city manager said.

Paul D'Angostino, Evanston bureau chief of environmental services, said he expected four city crews to be out cleaning up on 12-hour shifts last Thursday and Friday, and from 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday.

Streets were cleared by the end of the day Thursday, and crews started on alleys on Friday, D'Angostino said.

Cleaning up Evanston's alleys can be a challenge, D'Angostino said, as they are narrow and often require power lines be turned off before crews can do their work. He estimated about 12 whole trees down, 60 to 70 "huge limbs," and "three or four trees that were literally uprooted."

"(The year) 2000 was the last time I saw it this bad," D'Angostino said. "It took us about a week to get everything cleaned up."

The damage followed a microburst and storm that brought 1.3 inches of rain to Evanston within 20 minutes as of 5:20 p.m. Wednesday, Bobkiewicz said.

The microburst, "a localized column of sinking air (or downdraft) within a thunderstorm and is usually less than or equal to 2.5 miles in diameter," according to the National Weather Service website, actually took place in Wilmette.

Most of the storm's damage, however, was on Evanston's north side — at the border with Wilmette — according to Bobkiewicz.

Microbursts are known to cause serious damage and can be life-threatening, according to the NWS.

At NorthShore Evanston Hospital, a small part of the parking garage roof blew off in the storm, officials there said in a written statement. No one was hurt and everyone was safe. The hospital also experienced "minor flooding" but all operations were continuing as normal.

"We are adequately staffed to handle this situation and people are able to enter and exit the hospital safely," according to the statement.

Officials in villages west of Evanston, including the border town Skokie, reported little-to-no damage.

The village of Lincolnwood reported no damage, while Skokie police said there was one reported incident.

A branch hit a roofline in the 4600 block of Birchwood, causing some damage, police said.

But that was about the extent of the damage and incidents there, police said, as no other incidents of any significance was reported Wednesday night or as of Thursday afternoon.

A little farther west of Evanston, no major damage was reported by officials in Morton Grove and Niles.

Pioneer Press reporter Mike Isaacs contributed to this report.
Officials: Mosquitoes in Niles recently tested positive for West Nile

Residents advised to take precautions over coming weeks

By Genevieve Bookwalter

Niles has become one of the latest towns where officials have announced that batches of mosquitoes tested positive for West Nile virus.

Last week, the insects in Evanston, Morton Grove and Skokie also tested positive for the virus, according to the North Shore Mosquito Abatement District.

NSMAD is a government agency that works to keep residents safe from illnesses born from mosquitoes.

“We expect (West Nile virus) activity to increase over the next several weeks, so residents should be advised to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites,” NSMAD officials said in a report June 14.

So far, three Evanston batches of mosquitoes have tested positive for West Nile virus in abatement district tests, according to the report. Skokie has had two batches test positive, with one in Morton Grove, according to the report.

The first Niles positive tests came after mosquitoes collected June 12 were tested, according to the abatement district.

“While the risk of being infected with West Nile virus is low at this time of year, the NSMAD recommends that residents take personal protection measures to minimize mosquito bites, including using insect repellent, wearing loose fitting clothing and avoiding peak mosquito feeding times during the hours around dawn and dusk,” according to a NSMAD news release about the Niles test results.

“Residents are urged to examine their property and eliminate any items that can hold water, particularly smaller items that may be easily overlooked,” according to the release.

No human cases of West Nile have been reported so far this year, according to the report.

According to NSMAD, the virus in humans could cause such conditions as high fever, disorientation, convulsions and even death.

One of the worst human outbreaks of the virus, which is only transmitted to humans from mosquitoes, was in 2012. The summer of that year, there were 290 human cases of West Nile virus infections reported statewide, with 173 in Cook County and 19 in the NSMAD area, according to the NSMAD website.

The June 14 weekly report indicates that heavy rains this spring might result in higher mosquito levels in certain areas.

“Minimal rainfall amounts over the past week should result in a decrease in nuisance mosquitoes,” the report reads.

Morton Grove police: Driver in fatal motorcycle accident was a Chicago man

Staff Report

Morton Grove police have identified the motorcycle driver killed in a collision June 15 with a pickup truck as 31-year-old Delano Powell of Chicago, police said in a news release.

The accident occurred in the 6100 block of Oakton Street, according to the release.

Police said they responded to the scene at about 7:40 p.m. June 15 and found the motorcycle and the pickup truck on the north side of Oakton Street with the driver of the motorcycle—now identified as Powell—unresponsive. He was transported to Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge where he was pronounced dead, according to police.

The pickup truck driver has been cooperating with the investigation that police said June 19 was still ongoing.

“As for charges, we are still waiting for blood work, toxicology, measurements, speed determination, etc.,” said Morton Grove police Sgt. Paul Yaras. “Once we get that info, then we can go forward on charges, if warranted.”

Police said in the release, issued June 16, that there was no apparent evidence of intoxication involved in the incident.

The Cook County Medical Examiner’s office ruled Delano’s death an accident, indicating that he died from “multiple injuries,” according to an autopsy report issued June 16.
Area 5K/10K offers ‘Race Against Hate’

Participants walk in honor of local man killed in hate crime

By Bria L. Cox
Pioneer Press

Karen Singer, head of the YWCA Evanston/North Shore, said that with the number of hate crimes rising, reports of terrorism splashed across headlines and continuing vitriol in politics, there is now a need more than ever for events like the Ricky Byrdsong Memorial Race Against Hate held in Evanston June 18.

"I think it's especially challenging this year," said Singer. "We have daily news reports of incidents where people are being denied their civil rights and their human rights. In a broader environment of hate mongering and fear we have to work even harder to keep protecting the rights of all of the people."

The 18th annual Ricky Byrdsong Memorial Race Against Hate, held at Floyd Long Field near Lincoln Street and Sheridan Road in Evanston, attracted about 4,700 participants and 300 volunteers, Singer said.

Participants hailed from all over the Chicagoland area, including the north suburbs.

The race is held every Father's Day in memory of Northwestern University basketball coach Ricky Byrdsong, who was fatally shot July 2, 1999, while jogging near his Chicago home with his son and daughter, then ages 10 and 8.

Byrdsong was killed by a white supremacist who went on a shooting spree before he was killed by police.

Singer said last year's race raised about $300,000 for the YWCA Evanston/North Shore's racial justice and violence prevention programs. She said money raised this year will be used for the same purposes.

“People come out to do something more than to run and walk,” she added. “They come out to make a commitment to end racism and hate.”

Ricky Byrdsong's widow, Sherilyn, and their children were at the June 18 race. Sherilyn Byrdsong took the stage to ask everyone to think about why they were there and what they could do to get involved in working for racial equity.

People write on a board what they'll be racing for June 18 ahead of the event.

The event is a family one, with competitions for youth and adults, and includes a 5K, 10K walk, run and youth mile, organizers said.

"It is a thrill to see so many young kids come out for this," Singer said. "This is a tradition for so many families on Father's Day. These kids are growing up with the message that as a community we won't tolerate hatred and racism. It's really at the heart of who we are."

She said the YWCA took over organizing the race from the Byrdsong family 11 years ago.

"It was a huge honor for us," Singer said. "We have carried on the legacy of what I believe the Byrdsong family started, which is really all about bringing our community together to stand against racism and intolerance and violence of any kind."

Brian L. Cox is a freelancer.
Oakton educators embark on humanitarian trip to Haiti

The Haiti Youth Project started year before earthquake

Staff Report

Two Oakton Community College educators are part of an eight-member team that was scheduled to leave June 17 on a weeklong humanitarian mission to Haiti to work with youth in a northern city of the impoverished Caribbean nation, college officials announced in a news release.

The Haiti Youth Project, which was started and is overseen by Oakton training specialist Cynthia Townsend, of Chicago, was created to expand the arts to students at the Eden School in the Haitian city of Gonaives, located two hours north of Port-au-Prince, the country's capital, according to the release.

Oakton sociology lecturer Cheryl Thayer, of Western Springs, is also part of the team, officials said.

"Our mission trip in 2016 was extremely successful, and during this upcoming visit, we want to continue to expand the offerings at the school as well as provide professional development to the staff there," Townsend said in the release. "I'm looking forward to seeing the progress the school has made from last year and taking it to the next level."

Townsend said she established the Haiti Youth Project in 2009 — a year before an earthquake would ravage the poor nation — to try to connect youth and young adults in humanitarian service for annual mission trips to the second most populous nation in the Caribbean.

Every year, she said, she travels to the school with a team that includes students with the goal of expanding educational opportunities in the arts there.

Last year, during the organization's weeklong trip, Townsend and her fellow travelers established visual arts and music programs at the school attended by about 50 orphans, the release states.

"There's no price tag you can put on opening possibilities for students."

— Cynthia Townsend, Oakton training specialist

Townsend said in the release. "My dream is to solve problems around the world and assist impoverished communities within various countries in improving educational opportunities. As an educator, I've been given gifts through my knowledge and experience and want to give back."

The trip this year — scheduled to run from June 17 to June 23 — will be Thayer's first to Haiti, she said in the news release.

"I'm really excited about visiting a different culture and helping to make a difference for the students in Haiti," she said.

Thayer said she stresses the importance of service to her students at Oakton, and this trip will set an example. She said she plans to incorporate in her classes this fall what she learns during her time in Haiti, according to the release.

"There's no price tag you can put on opening possibilities for students."

OAKTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Oakton Community College volunteers with the Haiti Youth Project during its 2016 mission trip preparing orphans from the Eden School for instruction about programs in the arts. The 2017 mission trip runs June 17 to June 23.
D64 mulls move to more organic lawn maintenance plan

BY LEE V. GAINES
Pioneer Press

Park Ridge-Niles School District 64 officials are considering moving toward more natural landscaping practices and away from chemical herbicides, but the switch probably will cost the district tens of thousands of dollars.

The board is scheduled to vote at a meeting June 26 on several landscaping proposals initially presented to officials in March. The proposals include options to move entirely to organic lawn treatment products and the addition of aeration - a process that allows for more water, nutrients and air to penetrate grass roots - and over-seeding in an effort to build more healthy turf.

Board member Tom Sotos said during a meeting last month that "if you have good, thick grass you can naturally choke out weeds, so we can use less chemicals."

Officials said switching to a more organic treatment plan for the 44 acres the district is responsible for maintaining would constitute a cost increase from $10,000 to potentially $50,000 per year on lawn maintenance.

Consideration of these proposals is coming after District 64 parents launched an online petition earlier this year to urge the district to "use only natural lawn care practices whenever possible, and refrain from using synthetic pesticides (insecticides, herbicides, etc.) and fertilizers on school grounds, playing fields and other areas where our children play."

The petition asks the district to discontinue use of lawn care products that carry the label "warning" or "danger," and to issue a request for qualification before renewing or negotiating a contract with the district's current lawn care treatment company, TruGreen. The petition on change.org had garnered 230 signatures as of June 13.

The district's lawn care processes and procedures are audited by the state's Environmental Protection Agency and Illinois Department of Public Health, according to district officials.

Administrators also surveyed similar districts to find out how they manage lawn care. With the exception of Mount Prospect School District 57, which uses all organic lawn care products, District 64's practices "are pretty much in conformance with what everybody else is doing," said the district's director of facility management, Ron DeGeorge, during a March 13 board meeting.

Last year, district lawns were treated three times per year and included reduced use of broadcast herbicide, selective spot spraying for weeds and one organic treatment, according to a district presentation.

District 64 Superintendent Laurie Heinz said during the March 13 meeting that while the chemicals used on district lawns are dangerous in concentrated quantities, the extent to which they're diluted for lawn treatment purposes significantly mitigates the hazard.

"TruGreen and companies like TruGreen follow EPA (regulations), and we're following the (Illinois Department of Public Health) and all their compliance requirements," she said. "Are we trying to take steps to be even more friendly to the environment? Yes. We just have to decide at what level and what cost."

At their June 26 meeting, board officials are also expected to vote on recommendations to buy several pieces of equipment, including a $61,000 John Deere tractor and aerator. According to a memo from DeGeorge and Chief School Business Official Luann Kolstad, the district received a quote for $28,000 annually to aerate and seed the district's lawns.

The administrators said owning the John Deere tractor would save the district money because staff could do the aerating in-house and the tractor could be used for other purposes as well.

Officials will also consider purchasing a $56,000 Toro Groundsmaster lawn mower, which DeGeorge said will cut down on the time spent mowing lawns and thereby save the district money on overtime and outside contractors. Additionally, the board is expected to consider whether to buy a $63,000 Bobcat all-wheel steer loader.

According to the memo, the district currently uses a Ford tractor from the 1970s to load salt onto trucks, which "is dangerous" and "unreliable" because of the tractor's age.

The June 26 meeting is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. at Jefferson School, 8200 Greendale Ave., Niles.

Lee V. Gaines is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
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**WILDWOOD/EDGE BROOK LOCATION!**

Larger Kabul House opens in Evanston
Relocates after 7 years at Skokie site

BY MIKE ISAACS
Pioneer Press

A larger and more elegant Kabul House restaurant recently opened on the west end of Evanston, moving from its previous location in downtown Skokie that closed only days earlier.

The Kabul House, now at 2424 Dempster St. in Evanston, held its grand opening June 14 although the restaurant has already been open for about three weeks, said owner Akmal Qazi.

A family-owned restaurant featuring what the owner considers authentic Afghan cuisine, the Kabul House was one of Skokie's highest-rated restaurants based on social media and other reviews.

Skokie officials said they tried to find a new home for the Kabul House, but were unable to come up with the right fit.

"It is unfortunate that our collective efforts did not result in the restaurant remaining in Skokie," the village said in a statement released after the move was announced.

Over the years, Skokie officials said, the village had provided the Qazi family with interior grant assistance and design funds as well as promotional and marketing assistance for the restaurant.

The move to the current location took longer than expected, Qazi said. The restaurant was originally supposed to close in Skokie and open days later in Evanston toward the end of last summer, he said.

"The delay was frustrating, but moving through the building, we found some problems that we couldn't have thought of that arose," Qazi said. "But we're here..."
Restaurant, from Page 10

now, we're open and we're ready to rock 'n' roll."

In late March, the Evanston City Council signed off on authorizing the city to negotiate a forgivable loan of up to $50,000 to help the Kabul House owner complete construction at the Dempster Street location.

Evanston officials said the Kabul House has a $540,000 mortgage, and the owner is investing $500,000 in the build-out and $200,000 in equipment.

Under terms of the loan, $10,000 per year for five years will be forgiven should Kabul House maintain its business in Evanston and meet a resident hiring goal.

The restaurant was closed to the public the afternoon of June 14 for the private grand opening, although a pounding rainstorm kept the number of attendees down, restaurant employees said.

The new restaurant includes a party room, catering services and events, a tea lounge and an expanded menu.

The Kabul House restaurant includes authentic decor from Afghanistan.

The Skokie restaurant had 21 employees, the Evanston restaurant about 50, said manager Gerber Guerrero.

"Now we're playing in the big leagues," Guerrero said.

Qazi's father, Abdul, said Kabul House sprung from an Italian restaurant he initially opened in Evanston years ago.

His sons spent a lot of time eating Italian food at the restaurant but soon grew tired of it, he said. So Abdul Qazi started making his kids Afghan food, and his customers grew to like that fare more than the Italian food, he said.

Kabul House first opened near Dempster Street and McCormick Boulevard, not far from where the new restaurant is located. Six years later, though, it closed, and two years after that, re-opened in downtown Skokie with Akmal replacing his father as the owner, Akmal Qazi said.

The Qazi family is still co-owner of the Boiler Shrimp and Crawfish restaurant in Skokie. Akmal Qazi said he is also still working with Skokie officials to find a new tenant for the downtown Skokie space.

Over the years, Skokie officials said, the village provided the Qazi family with interior grant assistance and design funds as well as promotional and marketing assistance to open at 4949 Oakton St.

Canine Ace was bought from Grayslake-based Tops Kennel. He and his handler Officer Chris Koch completed eight weeks of training in order for Ace to become a fully certified police canine, officials said in the release.

Niles police announced in June one of its latest hires: Canine Ace, a German shepherd.

June 12 was scheduled as Canine Ace's first official day on the force.

Canine Ace newest member of Niles Police Department

The Niles Police Department recently welcomed a new addition to its patrol division with the start of Canine Ace, according to a news release.

The German shepherd, purchased from drug funds, is a full-service dog able to aid in arrests, tracking, searching and with narcotics-related cases, the release states.

Canine Ace was bought from Grayslake-based Tops Kennel. He and his handler Officer Chris Koch completed eight weeks of training in order for Ace to become a fully certified police canine, officials said in the release.

Jared Rehnquist, 16
Loyola Cancer Patient

BODY + SOUL

Being a teenager can be hard enough, without adding cancer to the mix. At 15, Jared was diagnosed with Ewing's Sarcoma, the second most common pediatric bone cancer. To save his life, he needed best-in-class treatment and compassionate care. Loyola Medicine's team of dedicated, skilled specialists, led by a renowned pediatric oncologist who designed his custom treatment plan, answered every question he had. Jared successfully completed his chemo and is back to doing what he loves most — making movies.

We also treat the human spirit.
Cook County won't prosecute some traffic cases

Spokesman: New policy due to fewer resources

BY MEGAN CREPEAU
Chicago Tribune

Citing a lack of personnel, the Cook County state's attorney's office plans to stop prosecuting certain traffic offenses, a top county official said.

Under a policy expected to take effect later this year, the state's attorney's office will not prosecute people accused of driving on licenses that have been suspended or revoked for financial reasons—such as failure to pay child support, tolls or parking tickets.

Instead, individual cities will have the option to prosecute those violations.

"We are in a triage mode, and we can't continue to do what we were doing 10 years ago with 30 percent less resources," Eric Sussman, the first assistant state's attorney, told the Tribune on June 14.

The move comes as State's Attorney Kim Foxx, elected in November, has pushed in other ways to change how her office handles low-level, nonviolent cases. In December, she dramatically raised the bar for felony charges related to shoplifting. And this week, she said that prosecutors could recommend that judges release nonviolent defendants charged with low-level crimes without any cash bail, pending the resolution of their cases.

In the new policy on traffic cases, Cook County prosecutors will continue to handle cases in which a driver's license was invalidated because of more serious crimes, such as DUI, fleeing a police officer and reckless homicide.

In addition, the new traffic policy raises the bar for felony charges against people who cause serious car crashes while their licenses were revoked for financial reasons.

Under current law, a driver's license-related misdemeanor charge can be upgraded to a felony if the driver causes a serious car crash and has one prior conviction for driving on an invalidated license.

Under the new policy, the state's attorney's office would upgrade those charges only if the defendant has five or more convictions for driving on a revoked or suspended license, if the license was taken away for money-related reasons.

The shift represents a reshuffling of increasingly scarce resources, Sussman said, noting that the number of assistant state's attorneys in the county has plunged in the past 10 years.

That means each prosecutor's caseload far exceeds what experts suggest, he said, citing a recommendation that assistant state's attorneys handling misdemeanors should have about 400 cases apiece.

In Cook County, that number is closer to 5,700, Sussman said.

Even prosecutors handling more serious crimes are stretched thin, Sussman said. Cook County assistant state's attorneys prosecuting homicides have about 25 cases at a time, he said—outstripping their peers in Manhattan, who handle about five apiece, and San Francisco, where each prosecutor has about 13 homicide cases.

"We're overwhelmed, and so what we have tried to do is look to areas where we can essentially reallocate our resources," Sussman said.

There are two courtrooms at the Daley Center devoted entirely to hearing the types of driver's license cases that state's attorneys will soon decline to prosecute, Sussman said. The new policy is expected to free up those prosecutors.

Representatives of the state's attorney are meeting with municipalities and law enforcement agencies to explain the change.

"Some may decide to do it, some may decide it's not worth their time or effort," he said.

Sussman said. "I think that a lot of this came as news to a lot of law enforcement agencies that we are as resource-constrained."

Individual cities will have the power to prosecute the traffic offenses that the state's attorney's office is no longer handling, Sussman said.

"Some may decide to do it, some may decide it's not worth their time or effort," he said.

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Webcam views of peregrine falcon nest canceled

Birds have abandoned Evanston library

BY GENEVIEVE BOOKWALTER
Pioneer Press

The Evanston Public Library will “soon” end its live web camera viewing of a family of peregrine falcons with a nest atop the roof of the main branch after the fate of three chicks took an unexpected turn, officials announced.

In a news release June 15, library officials reported that of the three eggs that were in the rooftop nest, one didn’t hatch, another hatching died and the third baby bird is believed to have been taken away by its parents — with the whereabouts unknown.

As a result, the Falcon Cam, as the webcam was called, is expected to be taken down. The live viewing had been available on the library’s website.

“We are sorry to announce that the peregrine nest at Evanston Public Library has failed and the chick banding has been canceled. The falcons have abandoned the nest, flying off with the last remaining living chick. It is unknown whether the chick remains alive,” EPL officials stated in the release.

The chicks hatched earlier this month, Evanston library Director Karen Danczak-Lyons previously told the Evanston Review. She said that, at one point, though, one of chicks hadn’t been spotted on camera for a few days.

Peregrine falcons have nested atop the downtown Evanston library since 2004, said Mary Hennen, director of the Chicago Peregrine Program at The Field Museum in Chicago. Scientists from the museum tag the birds — a process called banding — once they hatch.

The news release June 15 announced that banding for the new birds was no longer scheduled to take place.

The adult male falcon, called Squawker, has returned to the library for 12 years. He fledged in 2003 in Prairie Path, Wis. Researchers equipped him with a metal leg band as a chick, which is how scientists now can identify him, officials said.

The mother falcon, named Fay, is new to the library and is 1 year old. She is not banded, said Hennen. So researchers do not know where she is from.

“Webcams are wonderful in that they allow the public access to watch the peregrines up close yet maintain a safe distance,” said Hennen.

She was scheduled to band the chicks at the library later this month, she said, and the public was invited to the June 29 event.

A book signing planned as part of that day’s event is still expected to take place, according to the release.

Hennen and Peggy MacNamara, illustrator, are scheduled to sign their new book, “The Peregrine Returns: The Art and Architecture of an Urban Raptor Recovery,” according to the release.

Peregrine falcon populations previously dwindled in the United States, but the bird was removed from the federal endangered species list in 1999, according to information on The Field Museum website.
Eleven-year-old Ryan Peters of Troop 55 salutes during a flag retirement ceremony, held inside the Glenview Park District Park Center on June 14.

**Worn and damaged U.S. flags honored in Flag Day ceremony**

Flag retirement annual event is a sign of respect

**BY ALEXANDRA KUKULKA**

Pioneer Press

Two Eagle Scouts solemnly held a worn American flag June 14 as another used scissors to cut out its blue square, in a ceremonial process known as separating the flag's colors.

When they finished, the dozens of people in attendance saluted and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

The Scouts participated in a flag retirement ceremony, held by several local groups: the Knights of Columbus Father John J. Dussman Council 3731, Joseph M. Sesterhenn American Legion Post 166, Our Lady of Perpetual Help Troop 156, and Glenview Community Church Troop 57.

The annual ceremony is a reminder that the flag should be respected, said Larry Theriault, a Knights of Columbus member who organized the ceremony.

"We have to have patriotism for the flag. That's why we have this event," he said. "We have to re dedicate ourselves to what the flag stands for."

The ceremony was held this year inside the Glenview Park District Park Center instead of the Jackman Park gazebo because of heavy rain. The ceremony is normally held outside and the flag is burned, Theriault said.

The flag that was symbolically retired during the June 14 ceremony will eventually be burned with other worn and damaged flags that have been collected throughout the year, Theriault said.

The flag that was symbolically retired during the June 14 ceremony will eventually be burned with other worn and damaged flags that have been collected throughout the year, Theriault said.

The flag represents the Constitution, peace, security, freedom and duty, and that Congress should create a Constitutional amendment banning flag burning as part of protests.

"The American Legion takes it personally when the flag of the United States is disrespected," Wowk said.

Speaker U.S. Army Reserve Col. Robert Vorisek said the flag represents home and "a sense of safety" for the service men and women who protect the country overseas. Vorisek said it is important for the Boy and Cub Scouts to participate in the ceremony because they are "the adults of tomorrow" who will have to carry on the tradition of respecting the flag.

Lina Azzo, whose son, Paul, belongs to Troop 175, said she hopes the ceremony taught the Scouts to "appreciate this country."

Barbara Murnane, a den leader for Troop 175, said Scouts are taught to be patriotic and good citizens, so the ceremony was an important experience for them.

"Hopefully, this is a reminder that they are a part of this community and have to continue the traditions," Murnane said.

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Says lawmakers have been in continuous session

BY ALEXANDRA KUKULKA
Pioneer Press

During a June 16 town hall meeting in Glenview, state Rep. Laura Fine, D-Glenview, criticized Gov. Bruce Rauner's decision to call the state legislature into a special session to discuss the state budget. Fine said that since the end of regular session, the legislature has been working in continuous session, which means "we're not done yet" and representatives work from their districts. Different legislative groups have been trying to find a compromise on the state budget before the July 1 deadline, she said.

But Fine said that while the special session "sounds great on paper," it will cost taxpayers $70,000 a day because the state is required to pay legislators a per diem. "By staying in continuous session and just getting the work done here and then going back for a vote, it would have saved the state a whole heck of a lot of money," Fine said.

About 60 people attended the town hall meeting, held by Fine and state Rep. Robyn Gabel, D-Evanston, at the Glenview Park District Park Center.

Fine said that for the past two years, the state has been overspending without having a budget, causing "devastation" around the state.

State universities have been "crumbling" without an operating state budget because student Monetary Award Program Grants, which support low-income students, are not being paid to the universities, Fine said. The lack of MAP grant funds hurts students because most universities won't allow them to graduate if they have an unpaid debt, Fine said, adding that she is concerned students will go to out-of-state schools to receive better funding and then not return to Illinois.

Fine said many state-funded programs—like after school, youth and non-violence programs—have been shut down because the state doesn't have the funds to support them.

"It's going to take a while, even if we pass a budget tomorrow, to try to repair the damage that's already been made," Fine said.

Both representatives said they are confident that the legislature will reach an agreement on the state budget before July 1.

Gabel said legislators have not suggested taking money away from local municipalities during budget discussions, and have in fact slightly increased or main-

cained those funding levels.

A resident asked if the legislature has a plan to fund Illinois Department of Transportation projects beyond July 1 if the state doesn't pass a budget. Gabel said there is no plan, which means projects would stop beyond July 1.

Another asked if the state can balance a budget without increasing revenue. Fine said that it can't because the state's required bill payments, like Medicaid and pensions, "are so high right now, and we just do not have the money coming in."
Lake Michigan swells to near 20-year high

Spring deluge brings shrinking beaches and bigger waves

BY TONY BRISCOE AND JAMES STEINBAUER
Chicago Tribune

Boosted by above-average rainfall this spring, Lake Michigan is on pace to swell to its highest water level in two decades.

The rising water, which could climb more than 1 1/2 feet above its long-term average this month, has swallowed up mounds of beach along Illinois' shoreline and created an opportunity for taller, stronger waves that could accelerate erosion.

With forecasts suggesting Lake Michigan could remain high through the next six months, according to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, communities will likely be on guard for powerful autumn storms that could pulverize lakefront property.

The surge was brought on, in part, by an unexpected deluge this spring, when Chicago saw 43 percent more precipitation than usual, including an April with nearly double the normal rainfall, according to data from the National Weather Service.

"We always think of the Great Lakes as responding very slowly to these events, but they can actually be moving rather quickly," said Illinois state climatologist Jim Angel.

During 15 years of persistently low levels, Lake Michigan dipped to a record low in January 2013. In a dramatic reversal, two years later it rebounded nearly 4 feet, largely because of increased ice cover from back-to-back polar vortex winters that limited evaporation. Lake levels have continued to be elevated, though they are still 2 feet below the record high set in 1986.

Forecasters suggest Lake Michigan could remain elevated for the next six months.

Periods of high and low lake levels have drawbacks, said Keith Kompoltowicz, chief of watershed hydrology for the Army Corps of Engineers' Detroit District.

"For a decade and a half, we had impacts from low lake levels, and those issues are mainly access-related," Kompoltowicz said. "You can't get your boat into the harbor. A commercial vessel carries less cargo because of insufficient depth. There's much more shoreline exposed, which may increase the amount of unsightly vegetation that grows."

"Flip the switch to high levels, and the issues shift to more of a property angle," he said. Bigger waves increase erosion and flooding, and they carry the potential for structures to be damaged.

Water levels on all five Great Lakes - the world's largest system of freshwater lakes - currently exceed their historical average. Lakes Michigan, Huron, Superior and Erie are expected to reach their highest average monthly levels since the late 1990s, while Lake Ontario rose in May to its highest average mark since agencies began keeping records in 1918, the Army Corps announced last week.

As the water levels have risen, the shrinking beaches and bigger waves haven't escaped the notice of local residents.

Ihor Hulovatyy, who moved to Chicago from Ukraine in 2012, said he goes for a swim every morning before work. Even in the winter, he takes a quick dip in the bracing water, or if the lake is iced over, simply stands in the snow. Hulovatyy, who lives in the Near North neighborhood, said because there was less ice this winter, he was able to spend more mornings in the water.

"The water isn't as cold as before," he said recently, moments after getting out of the lake at Oak Street Beach. "But I feel that the waves are much stronger this year."

Ron Guinazzo, who was walking up and down the beach with his metal detector looking for coins in the sand, agreed. The waves are getting shorter, washed away by waves and sucking into the lake, he said.

The Great Lakes water levels generally peak in the summer after they are nourished by runoff from melting snow and rain in spring. So, forecasts initially predicted a slight decline in lake levels this summer compared with last year, because of mild winter temperatures and relatively little snowfall and ice cover.

However, experts found themselves surprised when "the faucet turned on" over the Great Lakes region in April and May, Kompoltowicz said.

Chicago saw 13.7 inches of precipitation during the spring, more than 4 inches above normal, according to the National Weather Service. The downpours appear to be continuing with half an inch of rain recorded at O'Hare International Airport and 1 inch at Midway Airport on June 14.

Angel, the climatologist, said the sizable bump in Great Lakes water levels is connected to an increase in heavy rainfall documented across the area. Springtime in Illinois has become about 15 percent wetter over the past century, a trend he attributes to climate change.

"The concept is that as you warm up the atmosphere, it is able to hold more water and the next thunderstorm can then take that moisture," Angel said. "So there is a direct link between these heavy rainfalls and climate change."

Experts also suspect lake evaporation was stunted over the winter. Usually, ice cover dictates how much evaporation can occur, but heavy cloud cover and warmer air temperatures likely contributed to less evaporation. Peak evaporation usually happens in late fall, when arctic air meets the relatively warm surface water. But last winter was not that cold, Kompoltowicz said.

"It's often a battle between how much water is coming in versus how much is leaving," he said.

Forecasters by the Army Corps of Engineers indicate Lake Michigan levels will stay above their historic average heading into the fall, a season in which powerful storms have historically punished the Illinois shoreline.

During the 2014 Halloween storm, when lake levels were about a foot lower, winds whipped up 20-foot waves, which flooded Lake Shore Drive and tore away large slabs of asphalt along the Lakefront Trail on the Near North Side.

Pointing to the water lapping at the side of a concrete berm, Guinazzo said he recalls seeing 20-foot waves which flooded Lake Shore Drive and tore away large slabs of asphalt along the Lakefront Trail on the Near North Side.

"If we get those storms now, the people on the other side of the road will be in trouble."

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Has U.S. turned into a country of rage?

RANDY BLASER

As I sat down to write my column last week, I was greeted by news of the shooting in Virginia at Republican members of the House of Representatives at a baseball practice.

The media has done its job in the initial hours of the attack, reporting on the facts of the matter. How many were injured, who was injured, where did the shooting occur and how did it occur.

Within hours the suspected gunman was named. In the days ahead we will learn more about the gunman and his motives for the attack. The initial reports make it pretty clear that he wanted to kill members of Congress. Early reports indicated that he targeted Republican members of Congress.

But the truth lies somewhere else. This time the target was GOP members of Congress. Maybe next time it will be Democrats. The fact is no one is really safe in America. The levels of rage and violence have reached such heights in this country of ours that people can be targeted for any reason and for no reason.

Maybe today’s shooter was politically motivated. Tomorrow’s shooter might not be.

Yesterday, while going over the day’s news, I read about a man who randomly shot a Buffalo Grove woman last year on the interstate as she was heading home from a trip to the Wisconsin Dells.

What could possibly be the reason for that?

Every day in Chicago people get shot. People sitting on their porch get shot for no reason. Maybe there’s a drug deal that goes bad. Maybe one gang member insulted another on social media. Maybe they fought over a piece of food.

Who knows what the reason is for all the violence these days? And does a reason really matter in a country that is so filled with rage?

Because when you come right down to it, that’s what’s really happening across the United States these days — rage.

I see it in the posts from friends on social media. Someone comments on the news or a political personality or the position of a politician and the posts are filled with rage and name-calling and public shaming.

Donald Trump won the presidency by tapping into the rage that exists across the country. Partisan politics these days have stoked the flames of rage. Rage gets expressed in social media, expressed in the halls of Congress, expressed on the campaign trail, expressed on talk radio and TV and even expressed in art.

Art also offers a solution to our problems, and more often than not every solution to every problem is violence. Think of the dramas and TV shows that are so popular these days. The main characters in top drama television solve their problems with violence.

No TV show would feature long, drawn-out debate and compromise as a way to resolve conflicts.

I’ve always thought that the pop television says something about our culture. Over the last few years, I’ve often wondered about the recent appeal of zombies and why people enjoy the TV shows featuring zombie attacks and rampaging zombies.

I think it is the rage that’s out there. It is the nameless, faceless rage that really doesn’t make any sense. It’s just rage without reason or without any meaning.

Rage is out there. It’s palpable.

But like the zombie apocalypse, you never know when rage will strike out or at whom or where it will come from. And when you ask why, there is no explanation.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist.

Is it OK for men to be banned from ‘Wonder Woman’ screenings?

PAUL SASSONE

It’s a mystery, most likely not to be solved in our lifetime.

What’s your opinion? Is it all right to limit ‘Wonder Woman’ to women only?

You probably heard that a theater in Texas forbade men from attending one showing of the film.

This act of exclusion caused a ruckus.

Supporters of the women-only screening (mostly women) said it was refreshing to watch a movie minus the sexist and vulgar shout-outs from male audience members.

And women have been excluded from men-only clubs and activities since, well, since forever. So now men know a little bit how women feel at being shut out. Doesn’t feel good, does it?

Others said it was just nice to have a night out with other women.

Opponents of the screening appealed to history. The arc of American history, at least since the Civil War, has bent toward a more inclusive society. No one should be excluded because of race, religion, ethnicity, gender.

And the answer to human differences is not separate but equal. America had separate schools, accommodations, etc., but they never were equal. And there is an advantage to society and individuals in the association of people of different backgrounds.

Movie theaters are public places. It is immoral, if not illegal, to ban patrons on the basis of race, opponents of the women-only screening say. What if that same movie theater barred patrons who were black, or Jewish or Muslim? Would that be OK?

Hey, it is just a movie, supporters say. And just one showing of the movie. Men have plenty of chances to see “Wonder Woman.”

Probably, this episode has more to do with commerce than prejudice.

It’s a publicity stunt — a movie about a strong, female superhero shown only to women. It’s a natural, guaranteed to attract publicity and increased business.

But I hope it’s not a precedent-setter.

There seemed to be a kind of jaunty good humor about the event.

But the idea of excluding people, no matter how well-meaned, is treacherous on unstable ground.

American have fought long and hard — are fighting still — for full equality and citizenship. Even in fun, we should think long and hard about doing anything that deflects the arc of American progress.

Paul Sassone is a freelance columnist.

This Image, released by Warner Bros. Entertainment, shows Gal Gadot in a scene from “Wonder Woman.” The film grossed $103.1 million in North America over its debut weekend, a figure that easily surpassed industry expectations, set a new record for a film directed by a woman.
Some advice to keep you going back to the gym

A few months back, I joined a local fitness center that offered a three-month special at a really great rate. My plan was to start doing yoga, weight training and other fitness classes so that when I turned 49 in early June, I would be on track to being more fit for my 50th the next year.

I couldn't wait to begin, so I grabbed a bag of cookies, excitedly circled interesting classes on the schedule and posted it on my fridge. I knew I'd definitely be one of those people who would go to the health club all the time.

The next day, I eagerly got ready for the health club and decided to start with an awesome sounding, 60-minute cycle class. I sat front and center to get as much out of the class as possible. I waved "hello" to the other six guests, and felt the need to tell everyone that I was new and really excited to be there.

Surprisingly, the other people in the class did not share my enthusiasm. As class began, the instructor gave me some pointers and put on motivational music. I started cycling, everything was going fabulously, but with about three minutes in, I seriously was bored and my posterior already was sore.

There was no way I could last an entire hour. So, with 57 more torturous minutes left, I decided to call it day, burning enough calories for a tootsie pop. And that marked the last time I went to the health club during my three-month, really-great-rate trial period.

So, what went wrong when I was so excited for my new fitness regime? Was I really that busy I could not find any time? Was intimidation keeping me away?

I decided I needed an expert who could help encourage me to give the fitness center another try, especially since 49 and 50 are still on the horizon. So, I grabbed a bag of Trader Joe's Candy Coated Chocolate Drops, plopped on my couch and called up Arlington Heights resident Michelle Coyle, who has been a fitness instructor since the early 1990s.

"As I munched on my snack, Coyle told me how my intentions of being a regular at the fitness center could become a reality. "When you join a fitness club, go in with the objective of getting fit and staying fit," Coyle said.

"Take advantage of the tours, even if it feels silly, to get a sense of the layout and what they are offering. If you're interested in weights, and you've never used them before, I recommend splurging on one or more personal trainer sessions," she said. "They can help figure out a routine that's best for you, show you proper form, how to safely use the equipment and how much you should lift for each muscle you're working."

"With studio classrooms, my recommendation is to read the fitness program descriptions, look at the time slots to see what works for you and take as many different types of classes in the formats that interest you. This also helps you see what instructors you like."

"People go in and think they will do the classes perfectly, but that's not how it happens. You have to go until you get the routines down, especially for cardio-based classes. It's the stuff you have to strive for over time where the sense of accomplishment comes from. It's the long-term achievements where all the effort comes to fruition. That's ultimately how you achieve fitness, endurance, coordination and strength," Coyle said.

Coyle also recommended having a sense of humor, especially when doing yoga or dance classes, to achieve fitness goals. She also said a person has to be mentally prepared to persevere when at the fitness center.

"Don't go overboard if you are new," Coyle said. "Push yourself one day and let your body have time to recover the next day. Since you are new, the next day, that's OK. If you can't move the next day, you overdid it and (should) back off next time. It's your body's way of saying, 'Hey, wait a second!'

"Coyle also said stretching, coordination exercises and working the brain are just as important as weightlifting and cardio as a person ages."

"In Zumba or other cardio classes, for example, you need to remember the routines, which works your brain. Coordination of the body is being able to function with fluidity and smoothness," she said. "If we stay fit, we're not going to lose that edge. Stretching used to be a side activity but now, we know better. Yoga is the best for that and works on coordination, balance, strength and endurance. People should do yoga at least once or twice a week."

What great advice! Now, I'm on my way to my first ever yoga class.

Some advice to keep you going back to the gym

Susan Dubin
Gabbin' in the Grove

With First Amendment, media outlets need to put their money where their mouth is

Former Fox News personality Bill O'Reilly in New York

The first wave is the initial reports of public outrage, which leads to the second and much bigger tidal wave — corporate sponsors pulling their TV ads and financial support.

We know money talks and often speaks the loudest in these situations, but something doesn't sit well when decision-makers wait to act until the one with the deepest pockets pipes up.

The only exception I can think of is comedian Kathy Griffin's poor choice of being photographed recently holding a blood-haired and bloody object that resembled Trump's head.

And, as of this writing, new NBC News program host Megyn Kelly is being criticized heavily for conducting an upcoming TV interview with a controversial, verbally explosive media extremist who claims, among many of his bizarre theories, the horrific Sandy Hook school shooting in Connecticut was a hoax pulled off by actors.

It made my stomach turn to write that last sentence.

The fallout from these similar stories, such as former Fox News channel host Bill O'Reilly being fired for workplace sexual harassment, seems to come in two waves.

Follow the money.

The famous line from actor Hal Holbrook in the movie "All The President's Men" still bears heavy political meaning as we mark the 45th anniversary of the Watergate break-in this month.

Applying that line to more recent events where politics and media overlap, the money trail lies between corporate sponsors of media programs and their ability to affect decision-making by yanking their funds when they don't like what's happening with the show or a presenter of a show.

The last few days, we've seen an uproar over a free New York City-based production of Shakespeare in the Park, where the role of Julius Caesar is portrayed by an actor dressed as President Donald Trump.

And, as of this writing, the network quickly down on the decision to go until you get the routine down, especially for cooker decision that has to be made — often a bad one.

Fortunately, we enjoy the right to choose our media sources and decide on the content that we want to consume. On the flip side, the places you choose to get your information have every right to decide what they want to serve up.

But it's a public disservice for those same organizations, which all operate under the freedoms of speech and the press, to offer up controversial content and then cover under financial pressure.

For NBC News and other media and entertainment outlets that want to risk their reputations by either lending credibility to interview guests, who have none, or by promoting events that are going to generate public backlash, have at it.

But don't come out projecting your First Amendment rights and then do an abrupt about face when sponsors start pulling their money back.

Eric Scott is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
Ripe for the picking
It's open season for you-pick berries at area farms

BY ANNIE ALLEMAN
Pioneer Press

Berries, berries everywhere. The strawberries are ready, followed by the blueberries in July, and later in the summer the blackberries and raspberries.

If you like to support local farmers and get your own fruit local, you're in luck — there are many farms in the Midwest that allow people to pick their own berries. Don't forget to wear old shoes and plenty of bug spray and sunscreen. And bring cash or checks — many farms don't take credit cards. And always call ahead or check the farms' Facebook changes for crop conditions and schedule changes.

Illinois

Cody's Farm: 19502 River Road, Marengo; 815-568-7976; www.Codysfarm.com. Hours: 8 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. Cost is $2.25 a pound for you-pick strawberries. Credit cards, cash and check accepted.

Heider's Berry Farm: 1106 N. Queen Anne Road, Woodstock; 815-338-0301; www.heidersberryfarm.com. Hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, but check the Facebook page for updates. Strawberries are typically mid-June to July and will run for three or four weeks. They accept cash, checks, all major credit and debit cards. There are restrooms and a picnic area.

Knutson's Country Harvest: 13550 Townhouse Road, Newark; 815-695-5905 or 815-557-4630; email info@knutsonharvest.com or see www.knutsonharvest.com. Days and hours vary by availability, check the Facebook page for updates. Strawberries available for you-pick in mid-June, with blueberries and black raspberries starting in early July and blackberries in August. Cash, check, credit cards accepted.

McCann Berry Farm: 18110 Kishwaukee Valley Road, Woodstock; 815-568-8810; email upick@mccannberryfarm.com or see www.mccannberryfarm.com. Hours: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily to July 4; then 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday early July to the second week of August. Strawberries available June and early July; blueberries available mid-July to mid-August. Cash and check only accepted.

Olive Berry Acres: 2575 W. Mine Road, Mazon; 815-474-6511; email oliveberryacres@aol.com or see www.oliveberryacres.com. Check the Facebook page for schedule updates. Checks and cash only. Pre-picked strawberries are $11 per quart, $4 for pre-picked berries.

Stade's Farm and Market: 3709 W. Miller Road, McHenry; 815-675-6396; www.stadesfarmandmarket.com. The farm is open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. daily. Cash and Visa/MasterCard are accepted.

Susie's Garden Patch: 10258 U.S. 20, Garden Prairie; www.susiesgardenpatch.com. You-pick strawberries are $1.75 a pound. Open 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. Tuesday to Saturday, noon-5 p.m. Sunday. Closed Mondays.

Tom's Farm Market: 10214 W. Algonquin Road, Huntley; 847-669-3421; www.tomfarmmarket.com. Hours are 8:30 a.m.-2 p.m. Monday-Friday; 8:30 a.m.-3 p.m. Saturdays and Sundays. More than 4 acres of you-pick strawberries with four different varieties. Pre-picked are also available. Cash and credit cards accepted.

Indiana

Blueberries of Indiana: 2388 W. 1000 North, LaPorte, Ind.; www.blueberriesofindiana.com. Hours for blueberry picking will be from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. Wednesday through Monday; closed Tuesday. Opening day is usually 4th of July.

Eenigenburg's Blueberries: 6721 W. State Road 10, DeMotte, Ind.; www.demotteblueberries.com. Hours are 8 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. Monday-Saturday and 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Sunday. Pre-picked blueberries are available. Credit cards accepted.

Turn to Berries, Page 20

At Heider's Berry Farm in Woodstock, visitors can pick strawberries and raspberries.
Strawberry picking season is underway with blueberries, raspberries and blackberries to follow in July and August.

Berries, from Page 19

mottblueberries.com. Hours for blueberry picking will be from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday; closed Sunday. Blueberries typically are ready in early July.

Fritt's Berry Farm: 10301 N. State Route 10, DeMotte, Ind.; www.frittsberryfarm.com. Hours for blueberry picking will be from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday; 7 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday; closed Sunday. Projected opening day is July 6.

Garwood Orchard and Farm Market: 5911 W. 50 South, LaPorte, Ind.; www.applepick.com. Hours for strawberry picking are from 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Monday to Saturday; 10 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Sundays. Strawberries and blueberries later in the season.


Luedtke Blueberry Farm: 725 E. 1400 North, Wheatfield, Ind.; www.luedtkeblueberryfarm.com. Hours for blueberry picking will be from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily. Check website in early July for opening date.


Vankley's Blueberry Farm: 2666 W. State Route 10, Wheatfield, Ind.; www.vankleysblueberries.com. Hours for blueberry picking will be from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Monday through Saturday; closed Sunday. Check the website for opening date, likely the end of June.

Michigan


Starbucks Blueberry Farm: 9245 Gast Road, Bridgman, Mich.; www.starbucksblueberryfarm.com. You pick blueberries Wednesday through Sunday, starting in July. Open 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday to Friday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday.

Wisconsin

Apple Barn Orchard and Winery: W6384 Sugar Creek Road, Elkhorn, Wis.; 262-728-3266 or www.applebarnorchardandwinery.com. Blueberry picking starts from 7 a.m. to 6 p.m. Also features a bakery, winery and orchard.

Basse's Taste of Country: 3100 County Line Q, Colgate, Wis.; www.bassesfarmers.com. Strawberry season is underway with raspberries and blackberries later in the season. Hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, 8 a.m.-7 p.m. on Wednesdays. Call 262-628-3866 for updates.


Thompson Strawberry Farm: 14000 75th St., Bristol, Wis.; www.thompsonstrawberryfarm.com. Open for you-pick strawberries now. Hours are 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. Cost is $9 per 1-gallon basket.

FESTIVAL

Hungarian Gulyas Festival about food, fun, tradition

By Myrna Petlicki
Pioneer Press

Goulash lovers unite!
That's what's going to happen at the Hungarian Gulyas Festival, the 10th annual celebration of Hungarian traditions, July 8-9, at Norridge United Church of Christ.

The highlight of the festival is the annual Gulyas (Hungarian spelling) Cook-off July 8. Judges select a winner and visitors to the event also vote for their favorite version of the Hungarian take on chili.

Pam Csekme, a member of the church's board of directors who assists English-speaking people at the event, said the gulyas is cooked in "the authentic Hungarian way. It's all made from scratch. You can't do anything ahead of time except slice the vegetables."

The gulyas is cooked in a cauldron hanging on a tripod over an open fire.

"They have to make a minimum of five gallons so that the public and the judges can taste it," Csekme said.

The entire process takes three-to-four hours. Visitors won't go hungry while the cooks are at work, though. There's a "bottomless" gulyas cauldron both days.

"It's about four feet across and two feet deep," Csekme said. "It holds possibly 75 or more gallons."

Kate Smith, another church board member, said the contestants work in teams.

"There are usually 10-15 teams competing," she said.

The teams are generally composed of two or three people. One person couldn't possibly handle the entire process because they are cooking over an open fire.

People must complete an application form in order to participate in the contest. Most of them come back year after year.

"We never have a problem finding contestants," Smith said.

Surprisingly, none of the church members compete in the cook-off. Smith said that's because they are too busy running the event.

Once the contestants teams finish cooking, visitors can sample a 2-3-ounce tasting portion of each gulyas before they vote.

Other traditional Hungarian foods will be available, including crepes, Kurkoskalacs (rolled sweet dough) and langos (elephant ears). Csekme said that while Americans tend to put powdered sugar on their elephant ears, the Hungarian way of eating them is with sour cream, cheese and garlic.

"Since I'm American, I convinced them to also put out powdered sugar," Csekme said.

Entertainment will be provided by Hungarian bands and folk dancers. "This year we have a group of 10 dancers that will dance along with the band throughout the day," Smith said.

There will be face painters, games and activities for children.

Csekme and her husband will sell T-shirts to raise additional funds for the church. There will also be vendors selling Hungarian items and the folk dancers will sell handmade jewelry and purses.

"We try to keep everybody busy and happy," Csekme said.

Hungarian Gulyas Festival
When: noon-9 p.m. July 8 and 9
Where: Norridge United Church of Christ, 8260 W. Foster Ave., Norridge
Tickets: $20; $30 for both days; $5 for ages 6-12
Information: 708-656-3398; www.gulyasfestival.com

Hungarian Gulyas Festival
When: noon-9 p.m. July 8 and 9
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Tickets: $20; $30 for both days; $5 for ages 6-12
Information: 708-656-3398; www.gulyasfestival.com
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FAMILY FRIENDLY

Parents, kids can get crafty at Brickton Art Center

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

Spend quality, creative time with your kids during a Family Workshop at Brickton Art Center, 306 Busse Highway, Park Ridge. Executive Director Theresa Blackburn reported that parents have requested opportunities to work with their children on art projects. "Those workshops allow that to happen," she said.

Clay Day, for all ages, is 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m. June 24. Blackburn said that the project is "labor intensive. It usually has a couple of pieces." Past projects have included a butterfly, ladybug and a plate with bacon and eggs.

July 15, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., kids ages 6-10 with an adult, will go Coasting Through Summer. "You create your own coaster — a cork coaster or a paper coaster," Blackburn said.

Whimsical Windchimes is the workshop theme on Aug. 5, 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m., for ages 6-10 with an adult. "They will be using recyclable materials," Blackburn said.

Family workshops are for three or four participants and cost from $25-$40 per family; $21-$35 for members. Registration is required.

For details, call 847-823-6611 or see www.bricktonartcenter.org.

Fun crew comes to you

Drop in at Flowers Park, 4520 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood for a Community Park Play Date, 1-2 p.m. June 29. The Lincolnwood Parks & Recreation Department's Fun Crew will lead active games, crafts and more during this all ages event at a different park each Thursday through Aug. 10.

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

High on the HIP

Watch the animated family film “The Secret Life of Pets” on the roof of the Harlem Irving Plaza, 4104 N. Harlem Ave., Norridge, 7:30 p.m. June 29. There will also be giveaways and a DJ at this free event. Donate $5 to HIP’s Giving Tree Program and you will get a lawn chair to keep.

For details, call 773-625-3036 or see www.shopthehip.com/events.
Tasting sweet success at 12

Candy entrepreneur and sixth-grader Alina Morse starts career with natural lollipops
Cook shares techniques for food preservation

Upcoming event teaches proper storage methods

By Judy Buchenot
The Beacon-News

Even though it is hot and humid, John Johnson-Dunlop is freezing. The St. Charles resident is an avid cook who enjoys freezing as well as dehydrating his ingredients and finished dishes. After many years of experience, he now shares his expertise with others through classes like one being held at 1:30 p.m. Sunday at the Town and Country Public Library District in Elburn.

He explained that dehydrating and freezing foods has "saved time and money and allows me to know what is in the food that I eat." Johnson-Dunlop got involved with preserving food many years ago while preparing for a canoe trip with his Boy Scout troop. "When I looked at what the outfitters were charging for dehydrated meals, I thought, 'I can do this.'"

He bought a home dehydrator and started experimenting. By the time the trip rolled around, he had prepared six breakfasts, seven lunches and six dinners for the eight people on the trip. The dehydrated meals included beef stew with dumplings, jambalaya and spaghetti.

After experiencing success with the food for the Scout trip, Johnson-Dunlop started looking into more food preservation techniques.

"When I started doing research, I found out about FAT TOM," he said. The acronym describes the six favorable conditions required for the growth of food-borne pathogens — food, acidity, time, temperature, oxygen and moisture. He explored freezing his food but noted, "freezing doesn't kill bacteria, but it slows growth."

So in addition to freezing his food, Johnson-Dunlop also vacuum-sealed the items, which removed the oxygen, another one of the conditions needed for bacteria growth.

In addition that vacuum packing can give him about five times the hold time. So if I vacuum seal and freeze something, I am getting a maximum hold time," he said. "It is the best way to avoid freezer burn."

Johnson-Dunlop knows cannning is another option but feels his methods of dehydration, vacuum-sealing and freezing are easier.

He currently has 16 Roma tomato plants that should give him a generous supply of tomatoes for spaghetti sauce, one of his favorite items to freeze. During the winter, he thaws a bag and adds meat or other ingredients for a quick and easy meal. Green beans also freeze well, but he always blanches them first to retain their bright green color. Most vegetables benefit from being plunged into boiling water and then into cold water before freezing.

Because he enjoys cooking, Johnson-Dunlop said he sometimes makes more than can be eaten. In these instances, he freezes the leftovers. The vacuum-sealed, frozen leftovers keep far longer than they would have in the refrigerator, he said. Vacuum-sealing and freezing is a great way to keep from wasting food, he said, and the frozen meals can be real time-savers in the months to come.

His food dehydrator is a helpful tool, but he said foods can be dehydrated in the oven as well.

Unlike some upright freezers that have little in them, Johnson-Dunlop's freezer is like a smorgasbord. He has that leftover shrimp etouffee, red beans and rice, ground beef, steaks, home-smoked pulled pork and a mix of oven-roasted tomatoes and vegetables ready for a number of different sauces.

"I have found his free presentations. He can even show the group how to make a dehydrator out of a cardboard box."

Johnson-Dunlop shares two of his favorite recipes for others to try when the summer's bountiful crops start ripening.

Judy Buchenot is a freelance writer for The Beacon-News.
**Fourth of July Chili-Cheese Char Dogs**

**SLOW COOKER CHILI FOR HOT DOGS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Ground chuck</td>
<td>2 pounds</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bratwurst, casings removed</td>
<td>3 links</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large onion, diced small</td>
<td>1 large</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yellow pepper, diced small</td>
<td>1 yellow</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Garlic, minced</td>
<td>2 cloves</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>American lager</td>
<td>(12-ounce)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Can of tomato sauce</td>
<td>(1/4-ounce)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tablespoons chili powder</td>
<td>1 1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tablespoon brown sugar</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tablespoon Worcestershire</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tablespoon cumin</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaspoon smoked paprika</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaspoon dried mustard</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaspoon cinnamon</td>
<td>1/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teaspoon allspice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**CHEDDAR CHEESE SAUCE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Ingredient</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Shredded sharp cheddar</td>
<td>2 cups</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tablespoon cornstarch</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Evaporated milk</td>
<td>(12-ounce)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tablespoon Worcestershire</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tablespoon brown sugar</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tablespoon chili powder</td>
<td>1/2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tablespoon allspice</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**FOR ASSEMBLY**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Item</th>
<th>Quantity</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>High-quality all-beef hot dogs</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Char dog</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country-style cornbread</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diced dill pickles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diced yellow pepper</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diced lime pickles</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diced jalapenos</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Diced peppercorns</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Salt and pepper to taste</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. **For the chili:** Season the ground chuck and bratwurst with salt and pepper and cook them with three-quarters of the diced onion (reserve the rest for garnish) and all of the diced yellow pepper. Stir the meat frequently and break it up with the back of the spoon. You want the finest texture possible; big chunks of meat don't sit on top of a hot dog well. Add the minced garlic and half the beer to the pan. Bring to a boil and cook, stirring frequently, until most of the beer has evaporated. Transfer the cooked meat mixture to a slow cooker. Add the reserved half beer and all the remaining chili ingredients to the cooker. Mix well, cover and cook on low setting for 4 hours or high setting for 2 hours.

2. **For the cheese sauce:** Toss the shredded cheese with the cornstarch in a small bowl and set aside. Bring the evaporated milk to a bare boil in a medium sauce pan. Add the coated cheese in batches to the hot milk. Take care to whisk the mixture after each addition. When the sauce is smooth reduce the heat to low and keep warm. Even if this sauce comes to room temperature; it can be reheated and whisked to perfect cheese sauce consistency.

3. **To assemble:** Place a char dog in a bun. Top the char dog with the hot chili and drizzle with the cheese sauce. Sprinkle with diced onions, dill pickles and/or pickled jalapenos as desired.
You can change a dog's diet if you transition slowly

By Cathy M. Rosenthal
Tribune Content Agency

Q: When my mother passed away, I inherited her cocker spaniel. He ate dog food as a puppy, but as an adult, she fed him table scraps. He eats green beans, baked chicken and turkey jerky, among his favorites. He is 8 years old, and I was wondering if it is too late to try to get him back on dog food? I have tried all the different products, but he just turns his nose away. I even leave it out all day thinking he'll get hungry enough. Is there anything I can do? — Denise Boranian, Fresno, Calif.

A: I am sorry for your loss. It’s great you could step in to care for your mother’s dog. While your mom likely had the best of intentions with her dog’s diet, I am glad you want to change it. Table scraps don’t meet a dogs’ nutritional needs and can even be bad for their health.

While he won’t switch to dry food overnight, he may be receptive to wet food. Mix two tablespoons of wet food with the table scraps to start. You can try chicken, or other proteins like duck and bison, etc., that might appeal to him. Look for grain-free duck and bison, etc., that might be chicken, or other proteins like scraps to start. You can try spoons of wet food with the table food overnight, he may be receptive to wet food. Mix two table-foods that are high in protein. Gradually, and over the next month, increase the wet food and decrease the table scraps. Start with 20 percent wet food and 80 percent table scraps. By mid-month, it should be 50 percent wet food and 50 percent table scraps. By the end of the month, it should be 80 percent wet food and 20 percent table scraps. If he balks along the way, adjust the percentages and go slower.

After you have been at 80/20 for a week, give him the wet food without the table scraps one day and see how he responds. He should be ready to eat his canned food without the need for a green bean topping. If you want to switch him to dry food, which may be much tougher, follow the same process as described above with the wet and dry food. But you should at least be able to switch him over to wet food.

Q: I got a Manx female kitten from my daughter’s barn when she was 6 weeks old. Her name is Lil Bit. I watched her use the litter box in the barn. The first night bringing her home, we stayed in a motel, and I took her litter box out of the carrying crate and let her roam around, and she went up to the baseboard of the room and peed. But she also periodically used the litter box, using the same litter she used in the barn.

I brought her home to a small Yorkie dog and a male cat who was also from the same barn three years before. They got along fine, but she peed against the baseboard of the master bedroom. I never saw her do it. She also used a litter box. As time went on, I had to pick up all the throw rugs because she peed on them. She pees on the bottom carpet of one of the cat trees. If a dishcloth is laying on the counter, she will pee on that. I just don’t know why or how to stop her. We have carpet in the three bedrooms, but she only uses the master. We have tile everywhere else. She is so sweet and affectionate, otherwise. — Bev Van Horn, Tucson, Ariz.

A: Her improper eliminations may have been the result of stress initially, but it sounds like Lil Bit also has elimination texture preferences, which means she likes the carpets more than the litter box. Keep towels off floors and counters so she can’t pee on them. Hide laundry baskets in closets so she can’t reach the clothes. And, remove all small carpets temporarily until she is trained on the litter box again.

Cats can be territorial, so add a second litter box (or even a third) to your home. The correct number of litter boxes is usually based on the number of cats in the home, plus one. Use the same litter and clean the boxes every day.

While the process will take some time, It is possible to transition dogs that have been eating table scraps back to regular dog food.

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 @cathymrosenthal.
Health insurance changes you may not know about

I recently heard from a middle-income family with three minor children who, for the first time ever, opted to go without health insurance due to cost. I also heard from a self-employed, single woman who has, for the past several years, purchased coverage through the Illinois health insurance marketplace and whose insurer, Harken Health, will close its four Chicago-area clinics in August and will not be a part of the exchange next year.

As a result of these contacts, I reached out to Michele Thornton, a regular contributor of health insurance expertise to this column.

Thornton began by telling me that, unfortunately, things are presently in “wait and see” mode. Concern regarding the identification of pre-existing conditions and cuts to Medicaid are entirely justified. However, individuals likely to experience the most disruption will be those purchasing insurance through state exchanges.

Per finalization of a Medicaid and Medicare Services rule, the 2018 open enrollment period has been dramatically reduced from three months (Nov. 1 through Jan. 31) to 45 days (Nov. 1 through Dec. 15). According to Thornton, this is likely to be troublesome on several fronts:

- As insurance pricing information is not released until Nov. 1, the condensed time frame will allow little time for agents/brokers to familiarize themselves with the nuances of each.
- As a result of the shortened time frame, there will be enrollees whom agents and brokers like Thornton won’t physically have time to assist.
- Healthy young people have been the worst procrastinators to date, so they are most likely to miss the enrollment deadline. (All signs currently point to there being no extension to the 45-day ACA enrollment period as has occurred each year previously). If this happens, the insured pool is likely to consist of older, sicker enrollees, driving up costs and potentially driving additional insurers from the exchanges.
- The ACA allows special enrollment periods for certain qualifying life events, such as marriage, having a child or losing employer coverage. Previously, people could take advantage of special enrollment whether or not they carried insurance prior to the qualifying event. Now, as a result of rule changes by the Department of Health and Human Services, special enrollment is allowed outside open enrollment only if the prospective insured carried insurance prior to January of that year.
- Included in the American Health Care Act, passed by the House in May and now in the Senate, is a proposed 30 percent premium surcharge for anyone who signs up for insurance and had a lapse in coverage of two months or more.
- Be alert when an insurer communicates it is eliminating a plan or pulling out of an exchange entirely. When advanced warning is given, policy holders should contact an agent or broker so they can assist with a new policy when enrollment opens.

Thornton completely understands why it may be tempting to forgo health insurance if individuals or families are paying high monthly premiums or deductibles. She warns, however, that if surgery or hospitalization is ever required, an outrageous premium/deductible amount can be dwarfed by the costs of a hospital stay. Should someone find him or herself with large amounts of medical debt, the only options available at that point are to negotiate the charges, work out a payment plan, and, if the burden is still too great, declare bankruptcy.

In this time of great health insurance uncertainty, Thornton’s best advice is this: “Stay on top of the decision-making process. With the shortened enrollment window, everyone is going to have to hit the ground running come Nov. 1.”

Need help?
Send your questions, complaints, injustices and column ideas to HelpSquad@pioneerlocal.com.

Cathy Cunningham is a freelance columnist.
Tasting sweet success at 12

Candy creator starts career with natural lollipops

By Darcel Rockett
Chicago Tribune

Have you ever wondered what the prequel to "Willy Wonka and the Chocolate Factory" would look like? It may resemble the career trajectory of Alina Morse — the 12-year-old founder/inventor of Zollipops (aka the "clean teeth lollipops").

Zollipops are natural lollipops that contain erythritol, xylitol and stevia (sugar alternatives), which neutralize acid in the mouth and reduce the risk of tooth decay.

The sixth-grader had the idea for healthier suckers when she was still in the single digits, according to her father and manager, Tom Morse. A simple visit to the bank and a teller offering her a lollipop with sugar led her to ask her father: "Why can't we have sugar-free candy?"

"You can't do that," he basically said. "Dad, it has to be this way because I want my friends to have it, so it came out of a real need," Alina is allergic to artificial dyes and colors, so that factored in as well.

And when it came to the name of the lollipops, younger sister Lola helped.

"She offered her younger sister Lola a pop and asked, 'Do you want to try a xylitol lollipop?'" said her father. "Her sister had a little challenge saying the name, so she said Zollipop." The rest is herstory.

Alina Morse invested her savings into Zollipops a few years ago, and now her sugar-free, gluten-free, non-GMO, vegan, dairy-free, natural colored, fruit-flavored lollipops are sold internationally and across the U.S. by retailers like Amazon, Toys R Us, Whole Foods, Kroger, Meijer and, as of last year, Dylan's Candy Bar. Ten percent of all Zollipops profits go to support oral health education in schools, and her product has garnered attention from the likes of Michelle Obama and her Let's Move initiative.

Zollipops was on site at the 2015 and 2016 White House Easter Egg Rolls.

"Honestly, I just wanted to do something that kids would like," Morse said. "I just thought it would be a good market because there's not really healthy candies out there, and there's not a lot of things parents feel comfortable giving their kids that the kids actually want to eat. So I just figured that I would make something that would be a win-win for everyone."

Morse, a resident of Wolverine Lake, Mich., was at the Sweets and Snacks Expo last week at McCormick Place to show off Zollipops and her latest natural candy addition, Zaffi Taffy.

"It's kind of amazing how much we've accomplished in such a short amount of time. I would have never dreamed that we would have gotten into Dylan's Candy Bar, like that's insanity. It's literally owned by Ralph Lauren's daughter, and they're like trillionaires, and that's just crazy," Morse said in an interview at Dylan's Candy Bar on Michigan Avenue. "I want to keep doing this (business) for as long as possible and keep helping kids. I really think it's making an impact."

Morse started asking questions after she and her father read the book "Rich Dad Poor Dad," by Robert Kiyosaki. "Kids ask great questions, and it's easy as a parent to say OK ... but just listen to the questions they ask and help them reach their dreams, reach their potential," Morse said.

"I've always wanted to be a singer, but I already got a little thing going here, so ..."

Q: Are you a celebrity in your hometown?
A: Not necessarily. I just like to be treated like a normal girl at school because I don't want overattention. I think it's unnecessary. I think if Beyonce walks into our school, that's something everyone can scream about. I'm just trying to make a difference. I'm not trying to be a star or anything.

Q: What's your favorite flavor?
A: I like orange. I'm kind of a sucker for citrus in general.

Q: Are there any summer movies you're excited to see?
A: "Everything, Everything" — I'm excited about that one. I was always into those types of things: "Me Before You," "The Fault in Our Stars," all that stuff.

Q: How do you make time for the fun things?
A: After school, I balance my time into thirds: I do one-third for homework, one third for business and one-third for dance, playing with my sister or sleeping.

Q: What's your personal dream?
A: I've always wanted to be a singer, but I already got a little thing going here, so ...

Q: Is world domination on your to-do list?
A: Our overall mission is for every kid in America to have a healthy smile and a Zollipop in their hands. That's kind of been our thing from the start, but world domination? I can see that happening.

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drockett@chicagotribune.com
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FOR FATHER'S DAY:
Featuring phrases in one family

By Gail Grabowski | Edited by Stanley Newman

Across
1 Barton of the Red Cross
6 Party thrower
10 Ducks and bulls
15 Microwave setting
19 Valentine bouquet
20 Disney chief
21 Thrifty, in brand names
22 Sprinkler attachment
23 Oust
24 Courtroom statement
25 Upscale Honda
26 Stir up
27 High point in excellence
30 Gem from Australia
31 Hence
32 Lightning attractor
33 Winter bug
34 Provide permanent funding for
36 Justice Sotomayor
38 Without much clarity
40 Dives like an eagle
44 Research survey
49 Brazilian dance
53 Physics particle
54 Pretends to be
55 Brownish photo tint
56 Tangible honor
57 Heeds
60 Touchdown stat
61 Still to be decided
62 Troublesome entanglement
64 Prop up

Down
1 Crinkly fabric
2 Aficionados
3 Hard Italian cheese
4 Surmise, colloquially
5 Regarding
6 Hulking herbivore
7 Stared at
8 Clairvoyant
9 Vehicles on the road
10 Antony's apology
11 S&L customer
12 Donald Duck nephew
13 Erstwhile energy
tillers

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Celebrating your late father on Father’s Day

For as long as I can remember, in the days preceding Father’s Day, I’d find myself in a department store shopping either for a shirt or a bottle of cologne or some other gift for my dad. The funny part was, I think my father found more joy in unwrapping the gift than he did in the gift itself. I can still vividly remember how amused and even eager he seemed while tearing off the wrapping paper.

But this Father’s Day was different for me. No Macy’s, no Bloomingdale’s, no Nordstrom. There are no more gifts I can buy for my dad since he passed away this year.

For me, the thought of Father’s Day only made me feel sad and lonely, intensifying this achingly painful emptiness that doesn’t seem to be going away.

But then I started thinking, perhaps there was a gift I could give to my dad on June 18. Not a material item, but rather a gift I could give to my dad on Father’s Day only made me feel sad and lonely, intensifying this achingly painful emptiness that doesn’t seem to be going away.

For those who are mourning your father, either recently or not so recently, I know you find comfort in my letter.

though Father’s Day has passed, maybe you want to write your own letter to your late father. Writing mine made me realize that without you, we wouldn’t be here, and we wouldn’t be the people we are. What I’m trying to say is, if you were ever wondering, you made a difference. A difference that is so much greater than you will ever know.

This Father’s Day, I hope that you are resting in peace, and that you are looking down at your family, knowing that you are still very much with us. Dad, you are living in our hearts, which is both the saddest and most joyous thought I can think of. We love you Zack Pilossoph. When it comes to dads, we won the lottery.

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But then I started thinking, perhaps there was a gift I could give to my dad on June 18. Not a material item, but rather something that honors his memory.

This letter was my gift to my dad this Father’s Day:

Dear Dad,

It has been more than three months and I still feel like I’m forgetting something every morning. It happens around 9:30 a.m. almost every day. I realize I haven’t picked up the phone yet to call you. It makes me smile and feel sad at the same time.

Hearing your voice every day made my day complete. Forget the unbelievably gift of your inspiring words, which motivated me to be my best self every single day. There was also something about talking to you that never failed to comfort me. You made me feel safe, you made me feel like whatever problems I had, things were going to turn out fine, and you made me feel like you were always there to protect me— even in your final days.

Throughout my day, if I have a decision to make or a problem to solve, I find myself asking, “What would Dad say?” “What would he tell me to do?” What’s really unexpected is that the answer comes to me very quickly and clearly. So, one of two things is going on: Either you are answering me from heaven or you gave me such smart advice on such a consistent basis, over and over again, that you instilled your wisdom in me. Maybe both things are happening. In any event, you cannot imagine how grateful I am to you.

Someone recently offered her condolences to me and asked how I was doing.

My answer was that I still feel you here with me, in my heart all the time. Every time I see a white Lexus I think of you. When I see a cherry danish in a bakery case in think of you. Watching “Seinfeld” reruns makes me think of you. But mostly, every time I look at my children, I realize that without you, we wouldn’t be here, and we wouldn’t be the people we are. What I’m trying to say is, if you were ever wondering, you made a difference. A difference that is so much greater than you will ever know.

This Father’s Day, I hope that you are resting in peace, and that you are looking down at your family, knowing that you are still very much with us. Dad, you are living in our hearts, which is both the saddest and most joyous thought I can think of. We love you Zack Pilossoph. When it comes to dads, we won the lottery.

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist for Chicago Tribune Media Group. She is also the creator of her divorce support website, Divorced Girl Smiling. Pilossoph lives in Chicago with her two children.
ASK THE DOCTORS

Surgery not always necessary to treat hyperparathyroidism

By Dr. Robert Ashley
Ask The Doctors

Dear Doctor: When does a person require parathyroid surgery? I've heard it discussed, but don't know much about it.

Dear Reader: As their name implies, the parathyroid glands are located next to the thyroid gland. You have four of them, two on each side, behind the thyroid gland in the neck. The parathyroid glands help regulate calcium and potassium levels in the bloodstream. They do this through the production of parathyroid hormone, which is produced in varying quantities depending upon the levels of calcium, phosphorus and vitamin D. As the calcium levels increase, the levels of parathyroid hormone decrease and vice versa.

Sometimes, however, the parathyroid glands overproduce parathyroid hormone, causing levels of calcium to increase. Primary hyperparathyroidism is the overproduction of parathyroid hormone due to a defect with the gland. This occurs in three of 1,000 people and is more prevalent between the ages of 50 and 65; women are three times more likely than men to have the condition.

In 80 to 85 percent of cases, primary hyperparathyroidism is due to a benign tumor on one of the parathyroid glands. About 6 percent of the time, primary hyperparathyroidism is related to enlargement of two or more parathyroid glands. Only rarely, in 1 to 2 percent of cases, parathyroid cancer is the cause of this hormone elevation.

Most hyperparathyroidism symptoms aren't obvious. The condition is generally found incidentally after a blood test shows a high calcium level. In such cases, patients often complained of fatigue, weakness, decreased appetite and difficulties with mental tasks. The classical symptoms of primary hyperparathyroidism are a depressed mood, nausea, poor appetite, increased thirst, increased urination, kidney stones and, very rarely, bone pain and psychosis. Of note, people with this condition have a two- to threefold increased risk of bone fractures. Further, when primary hyperparathyroidism is severe, the high calcium levels can lead to confusion and even coma.

In such severe cases, surgery is obviously warranted. It is also indicated if calcium blood levels are greater than 11 mg/dl above the upper limit of normal; if a person has osteoporosis, kidney stones or kidney dysfunction; or if the person is younger than 50.

Parathyroid glands are next to the thyroid.

But, if calcium levels are only mildly elevated, it isn't clear that surgery is necessary. That said, people who have had surgery due to mild calcium elevations have noted increases in bone density, decreased incidence of kidney stones and slight improvement of mood.

For a less invasive surgery, it is important to determine which of the glands is overproducing parathyroid hormone. This is normally done with a SPECT scan and an ultrasound. In the hands of an experienced surgeon, this assessment will lead to a smaller incision, less operating time and less damage to surrounding tissues.

However, when high levels are caused by multiple glands overproducing parathyroid hormone, which occurs 15 percent of the time, or if a thyroid abnormality is also found, then a more extensive surgical exploration is needed. A significant drop in blood calcium levels can happen after surgery, so the levels need to be monitored afterward.

Not everyone is a candidate for surgery. If this is the case, medications like Cinacalcet can lower calcium levels, and bisphosphonates, like Fosamax, can improve bone density.

As with every condition, each person's needs are different.

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

Send your questions to askthedoct ors@mednet.ucla.edu or write: Ask the Doctors, 30 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

Drops relieve dry eyes, but cost is out of sight

By Joe Graedon and Teresa Graedon
King Features Syndicate

Q: I read recently about LipiFlow treatment to provide temporary relief for dry eyes. However, my ophthalmologist quoted the treatment cost at $1,000 per eye.

I am now taking a new prescription medication for dry eyes. Since it is new, the prescription cost is outrageous: $500 for a 30-day supply. It's called Xiidra. Patients are given a trial supply before purchasing. I've found that it works immediately. In comparison, Restasis takes months to make any difference.

A: The Food and Drug Administration approved lifitegrast (Xiidra) last year as the first in a new class of drugs for dry eyes. It works by affecting the immune system to reduce inflammation.

More than 2,000 adults have participated in randomized controlled trials of these eyedrops. Reviewers for The Medical Letter on Drugs and Therapeutics concluded that it is safe and modestly effective (JAMA, April 11). Side effects of Xiidra include blurred vision, eye irritation, pain, itching and a peculiar taste in the mouth.

The biggest drawback for this new approach is the cost. If insurance companies won't approve or pay for these eyedrops, most people will find it hard to afford them.

Q: I am a 77-year-old man who has been taking zolpidem (Ambien) for 15 years so I can get the sleep I need. Now, however, I have a new primary care physician who will not renew my prescription because “it is not within the guidelines for those 65 and older.”

I have explained to the doctor that I need this medicine to fall asleep. Moreover, in the 15 years I have taken it, I have never, ever had a side effect. Until just three months ago, I worked a job that required me to wake at 5:40 in the morning, and I still had zero side effects.

My doctor is adamant and has prescribed trazodone, which apparently is within the guidelines. However, I read the warnings that come with the prescription and found that those with kidney disease should not take trazodone. I have stage 3 kidney disease.

Can you suggest another sleep aid that is not hazardous to my remaining kidney?

A: Zolpidem is on the Beers list of drugs that are inadvisable for older people. We're not sure that trazodone is safer, however. It is an antidepressant that has never been FDA-approved for insomnia. It can cause next-day drowsiness, dizziness, confusion, dry mouth, blunted vision, unsteadiness and headache.

Phasing off zolpidem to avoid rebound insomnia may take several weeks of gradual dose reduction. Nondrug options include dietary supplements such as melatonin, 5-HTP or tryptophan. There is evidence that tart cherry juice can help people fall asleep more quickly and sleep longer.

Q: If Pepto-Bismol causes black stools, what does it mean? Should I take something else for upset stomach?

A: Pepto-Bismol (bismuth subsalicylate) is a popular medicine for upset stomach and diarrhea. It frequently makes the stool black, but that is expected.

If you had black stool without taking Pepto-Bismol or any other medication with bismuth, you should see your doctor promptly. Black, tarry stools can result from intestinal bleeding.

Usually it is fine to take Pepto-Bismol for a few days, but it should not be taken long term. Too much bismuth can lead to problems.

If your digestive difficulties continue for a longer time, they deserve medical attention.

In their column, Joe and Teresa Graedon answer letters from readers. Send questions to them via www.peoplespharmacy.com.
Wilmette Georgian
near beach: $1.5M

ADDRESS: 624 Elmwood Ave. in Wilmette
ASKING PRICE: $1,499,000
Listed on June 5, 2017
Premier location near Gillson Park, Sheridan Shores Marina, Plaza del Lago, downtown Wilmette, restaurants, shops, schools and train. Situated on a 75-foot lot, this light-filled home has high ceilings and gracious room sizes. Chef's eat-in kitchen with granite countertops, custom cabinetry, crown molding and Thermador appliances. Spacious formal living room and formal dining room. Main floor includes family room, powder room, mudroom and sliding door access to rear yard, deck and patio. Fenced-in yard with deck, patio, outdoor fireplace, grill and two-car attached garage.
Agent: Frank Capitanini of Coldwell Banker Residential, 847-652-2312

*Some VHT Studios photos are "virtually staged," meaning they have been digitally altered to represent different furnishing or decorating options.

At press time, this home was still for sale.

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7 day status report of lending sales 
60563 (6301 453-6960 For bidding instructions, visit w.fal-iIlinois 
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pay the assessments and legal fees required by subsections Jl1) and 
dero are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. 
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Property Index NO. 10-23-126-020-0000; 10-23-126-069-0000. 
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cost-effective way to sell your home, car 
or valuables! Call 866-399-0537 or visit plac3oned. 
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today to learn more about home delivery in your area! 
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### Section I: Summary Statement of Operations 2016:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Fund Name</th>
<th>Net Position Beginning</th>
<th>Revenues</th>
<th>Expenditures</th>
<th>Net Position Ending</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GENERAL CORPORATE FUND</td>
<td>$25,238,872</td>
<td>$67,518,108</td>
<td>$60,171,940</td>
<td>$25,595,046</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**SPECIAL REVENUE GROUP:**

- **Motor Fuel Tax Fund:** $1,193,401
- **Tax Allocation Fund:** $3,541,030
- **Foreign Fire Insurance Fund:** $231,000
- **Police Special Account Fund:** $33,011
- **Waukegan Golf Tif Fund:** $737,124

**DEBT SERVICE FUND GROUP:**

- **Corporate Purpose Bonds Fund:** $319,317
- **Village Permanent Fund:** $27,869,210
- **Glen Capital Projects Fund:** $5,679,349

**ENTERPRISE FUND GROUP:**

- **Glenview Water Fund:** $35,974,002
- **Wholesale Water Fund:** $1,714,746
- **Sanitary Sewer Fund:** $19,322,502
- **Commuter Parking Fund:** $3,390,356
- **Facilities Replacement Fund:** $1,903,943

**PENSION TRUST FUND GROUP:**

- **Police Pension Fund:** $68,716,523
- **Friends of the Library Gift Fund:** $118,458
- **Public Library Capital Contributions Fund:** $50,814
- **Library Special Reserve Fund:** $503,119

**LIBRARY CAPITAL DEBT SERVICE FUND:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Total</th>
<th>$289,605,894</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Net</td>
<td>$103,243,100</td>
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<tr>
<td>Year Ended</td>
<td>$136,600,100</td>
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<td>Net Other</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Ending</td>
<td>$273,213,822</td>
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### Section II: Salaries for Fiscal Year 2016

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NOTICE OF SALE

In pursuance of an Order of the Zoning Ordinance of the

Illinois, that commencing at

12-1/2 in HULL, CLARK'S SUB-

TRUSTEE'S SUBDIVISION OF ALCOTT

SOUTHEAST 1/4 AS LIE WESTERLY FROM THE

CHICAGO RIVER OF SECTION 32, TOW-

RANGE 14, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL MERIDIAN, IN

COUNTY OF COOK, ILLINOIS, I,


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COUNTY OF COOK, ILLINOIS, I,
Event: Park Ridge Wine Walk  
Hosted by: Park Ridge Chamber of Commerce  
Location: Businesses of downtown Park Ridge  
On the walk: Guests sampled a 1-ounce pour of wine at each establishment, and received light snacks, coupons and other freebies.  
Date: June 4  
Attended: 400  
Website: www.parkridgechamber.org

Guests enjoyed a stop at WineStyles of Park Ridge, greeted by Emily Wilderman, during the Wine Walk.

TeaLula Tea Boutique & Tasting Bar owner Sheila Duda was one of many business owners who greeted guests during the Wine Walk.

Share your event

We want to publish your photos. To submit, email sburrows@pioneerlocal.com.
COMMUNITY REAL ESTATE HOMES IN YOUR AREA

WILMETTE
Cul-de-sac location near Mallinckrodt Park. Cape Cod architecture. Three bedrooms, 2 baths. Hardwood floors in living room, dining room and family room. Second floor den and bedrooms. Attached single-car garage with room for two more in driveway. Full unfinished basement. Sold as is with home warranty.

Address: 918 Yale St
Price: $439,000
Schools: New Trier Township High School
Taxes: $10,288
Agent: Katie Hauser/Baird & Warner

LIBERTYVILLE
Custom home with open concept floor plan. Four beds, 3.5 baths with master suites on both levels. Large kitchen with built in double oven, cooktop with canopy hood, beverage fridge, granite and designer cabinets. Kitchen and master bath have heated floors. Second floor master suite has office/workout space, balcony and luxury bath. High efficiency furnace and air conditioning.

Address: 620 S. Butterfield Road
Price: $635,000
Schools: Libertyville High School
Taxes: $18,327
Agent: Robin Johnson/Right Residential

ARLINGTON HEIGHTS

Address: 1511 E. Sunset Terrace
Price: $595,000
Schools: Prospect High School
Taxes: $10,919
Agent: Chris Jacobs/Century 21 Affiliated

VERNON HILLS
Four beds, 2.5 baths in Deerpath subdivision. Oak hardwood floors, new lights and fresh paint job. Granite countertops in kitchen with subway tile backsplash and recently re-finished cabinets. Updated bathroom. Granite top vanity and tile shower in master bath. Sliding door leads to fenced backyard with deck.

Address: 73 Monterey Drive
Price: $350,000
Schools: Vernon Hills High School
Taxes: $6,952
Agent: Benjamin Hickman/RE/MAX Center

Listings from Homefinder.com

Dear Chicago, Will you send us your proposal video? We're asking on one knee.

theWedding.com
POWERED BY: Chicago Tribune

Enter for a chance to share your special moment.
Lot of options to rid house of ant invasion

By Tom Moor

There are several DIY alternatives to get rid of ants. If you can't eliminate them on your own, a pro can finish the job.

DIY methods for ant removal: If ant explorers have morphed into a full-on colony, then you need a plan. Start with soap and water. This will not only kill chemical trails, but also any ants it touches. Add citrus to the water to increase effectiveness. You can also purchase pest sprays and baits from local grocery and hardware stores. These use a mixture of sugars and ant poison, such as boric acid, to attract, trap and kill ants. These traps won't work on protein-feeders like carpenter ants, since the sweetness won't interest them.

With a mixture of Windex, vinegar and water, you can spray around the exterior of the home where the house meets the pavement or ground to prevent more ants from infiltrating. Spray cracks around the baseboards and the base of the toilet if the infestation is in the bathroom.

Hire a pest control professional: Large-scale infestations require a pro, who can locate the colony itself. Typically, this starts by laying bait traps, which contain poisoned food taken back to the nest. Once found, exterminators can use a variety of techniques, including chemical sprays.

In the case of carpenter ants, early detection is critical. Left unchecked, they can cause significant damage to your home. A pest control pro may need to drill small holes in your wall to make sure the entire colony has been eliminated, and will often book a follow-up.

Costs of ant removal: The cost to remove ants yourself can be quite low. The price of a liquid ant killer or an ant trap runs between $5 and $10. DIY treatments may divert ants that haven't established a colony, or deal with the scouts sent out to gather food. However, they aren't as effective at long-term removal or in addressing large-scale infestations.

Professional exterminators can charge between $400 and $1,000 to completely eliminate ants. In addition, a reliable, professional exterminator can make sure ants don't find their way back inside.

Distributed by Tribune Content Agency
COMMUNITY REAL ESTATE TRANSFERS

Go ahead, make waves

Water motifs make a splash in home decor

BY KIM COOK
Associated Press

Summer for many of us means reconnecting with water; lakeside hikes, paddles in the sea, luxurious floats in some relaxing pool. And that connection isn’t confined just to the outdoors either. Watery hues and motifs are all over home decor.

“Water imagery adds a beautiful dimension to a room,” says designer Ohara Gaetano-Davies, of Laguna Beach, Calif.

Her projects include beachfront homes in Southern California and Cape Cod in Massachusetts. In a seaside home in Laguna Beach’s Emerald Bay area, she painted the interior of some open cabinetry a serene pale blue, evoking beach glass. A collection of white coral sits on the shelves. A large, contemporary painting of a woman diving fills one crisply painted white wall.

For a small powder room, Gaetano-Davies went with Phillip Jeffries’ Ode to Eau collection of white coral and crystalline droplets (www.ophillipjeffries.com).“Ode to Eau” and Deb Haugen’s “Pool” print (www.crateandbarrel.com). Gray Malin’s aerial shots of reef-dotted azure waters and beaches filled with sun loungers are available on acrylic trays (www.zazil,le.com). Can’t quite dive right into the water? For Deny Designs, Las Vegas artist Lisa Argyropoulos’ vivid photographs of sun-sparked oceans, bubbly wave curls and crystalline droplets make dynamic throw pillows (www.deny designs.com).

Sometimes, a stylized pattern successfully brings the theme home in a subtle way. Momenti’s simple geometric repeat of a wave motif works beautifully on an indoor/outdoor rug at Target (www.target.com).

And then there are less subtle renditions of the water theme. For Denny Designs, Las Vegas artist Lisa Argyropoulos’ vivid photographs of sun-sparked oceans, bubbly wave curls and crystalline droplets make dynamic throw pillows (www.deny designs.com).


This room features ceramic wall tile from Cle Tile’s “Tides” collection. The collection was inspired by Luca Osburn’s favorite Northern California surfing spots. Ventura’s “Pool”, Lauren Adams’ “Deep Water Ripple” and Deb Haugen’s “Tide Pools” (www.crateandbarrel.com).

Gray Malin’s aerial shots of reef-dotted azure waters and beaches filled with sun loungers are available on acrylic trays (www.zazil,le.com). Can’t quite dive right into the water? For Deny Designs, Las Vegas artist Lisa Argyropoulos’ vivid photographs of sun-sparked oceans, bubbly wave curls and crystalline droplets make dynamic throw pillows (www.deny designs.com).

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And then there are less subtle renditions of the water theme. For Denny Designs, Las Vegas artist Lisa Argyropoulos’ vivid photographs of sun-sparked oceans, bubbly wave curls and crystalline droplets make dynamic throw pillows (www.deny designs.com).
Thursday, June 22

The Dustbowl Revival: 8 p.m. Thursday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $15-$27, 847-492-8860

Marcus Pfister at the Evanston Public Library: Join us for this rare U.S. appearance by author and illustrator Marcus Pfister, celebrating the 25th anniversary of the classic picture book, The Rainbow Fish. Also, the Rainbow Fish himself will be on hand for fun photo-ops, along with Pfister’s book signings and on the spot drawings. 3 p.m. Thursday, Evanston Public Library, 1703 Orrington Ave., Evanston, free, 847-444-8880

Story Walk: "Rosie Revere, Engineer": Welcome back to the Storybook Trail in Little Bear Garden at Gallery 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. Thursday, Little Bear Garden Park, Patriot Boulevard and Chestnut Avenue, Glenview, free

Morning Matinee Film - "Florenc Foster Jenkins": "Florenc Foster Jenkins" is a PG-13 rated film that is the true story of Florence Foster Jenkins, a legendary New York heiress and socialite. Florence dreamed of becoming an opera singer, despite having a terrible singing voice. 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free

Senior Resource Specialist: A representative from CJE SeniorLife is available for drop-in help with government benefits, health care, and Social Security. Stop by and find out information regarding the selection of appropriate retirement benefits, picking the right health insurance and Medicare programs, determining housing needs, identifying supportive resources and much more. Hosted by Kathy Gaeding from CJE SeniorLife 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Between the Lines: "The Souls at Night": This book discussion is held at two different times. No registration is required and new members are warmly welcome! 10 a.m. Thursday and 7 p.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Introduction to Podcasting: Registration is required for teens ages 13-18 to come learn how podcasts are quickly becoming the next best way to express your opinions and create a following for yourself and your opinions. Learn how to create your own podcast and make it available for others to download and listen to. 3 p.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

Poetry in the Park: Celebrate the literary arts as you enjoy spoken word poetry in the beautiful Village Green Park. Featured performers Rachel Slothnick and Abigail Zimmer are joined by aspiring poets from the area. 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Village Green Park, Northbrook, Shermer Road and Meadow Road, Northbrook, free

From the Gilded Age to the Progressive Era in America: 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 to a growing support for economic, social, and political reform. The Progressive Era was born. 10 a.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $15 member, $45 non-member, 847-784-6030

Enhance Your Memory with Memory Training: Learn practical techniques and useful information that can help improve brain functioning, increase verbal fluency, and enhance one's memory. This course combines presentations with group discussions, memory checks and skills-building exercises for an innovative educational experience. This is developed by Linda Ercoli, Ph.D. and Gary Small, M.D., of UCLA's Longevity Center. 9:30 a.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $49 member, $55 non-member, 847-784-6030

First Ladies: Mary Todd Lincoln to Edith Wilson: From one of our most controversial First Ladies (Mary Todd Lincoln) to one of our most beloved (Frances Cleveland) to one with the most unique challenge (Edith Wilson), you’ll hear one fascinating story after another! 1 p.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $12 member, $15 nonmember, 847-784-6030

Rockin' in the Park 2017: MB Financial Park at Rosemont celebrates the summer season with the return of the "Rockin' in the Park" free weekly summer concert series. The event features the music of classic cover bands, food and beverage tents on the park's green lawn and a musical fireworks display after every show. 7 p.m. Thursday, MB Financial Park at Rosemont, 5501 Park Place, Rosemont, free, 847-349-5008

Isreali Dancing at Skokie Synagogue: This is an evening of dance and fun. The dancing is led by Rena Rosen, dance specialist and teacher at Solomon Schechter Day School of Metropolitan Chicago. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Ezra Habonim, The Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, free, 847-675-4141

Book Launch for Suspense Thriller "Pink Slips": Celebrate the launch of the hot new summer suspense thriller novel "Pink Slips" by local award-winning, bestselling author, Beth Aldrich. Must email for an invite to: Bethwrites@gmail.com. 7 p.m. Thursday, Share, 1222 Washington Ct, Wilmette, free, 312-613-5992

Free Walking Clinic: Learn to get the most benefit out of walking or exercise in Gillson Park. A certified personal trainer teaches the classes, which include a warm-up, stretching, inclines, steps, balance and coordination. All fitness levels welcome. 5:30 p.m. Thursday, Gillson Park, Lake Avenue and Michigan Avenue, Wilmette, free, 847-251-6834

Friday, June 23

ChildServ's Big Hearts Mini Golf Outing: This is a night of fun for all ages — the Big Hearts Mini Golf Outing benefits the children and families in ChildServ’s early childhood learning programs. More information or to become a sponsor, contact Zulma by calling or emailing to: zcolon@childserv.org. 5 p.m. Friday, Mountain View Adventure Center, 180 E. Algonquin Road, Des Plaines, $25, 773-867-7361

The New Standards: 8 p.m. Friday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $15-$25, 847-492-8860

Shabbat at the Park: This is a special outdoor worship experience. Temple Beth Israel holds this Shabbat under the shelter, where attendees should bring their own dinners and a dessert to share, along with school supplies to donate to CPS. 5:45 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. Friday, Lovelace Park, 2740 Gross Point Road, Evanston, free, 847-675-0951

Girls 4 Science 6th Annual Garden Party Fundraiser: Girls 4 Science is a non-profit organization. They host their sixth annual Garden Party Fundraiser from 5-8 p.m. at a private residence in Evanston. The event features delicious hors d'oeuvres, refreshing cocktails, raffles and poster displays of research conducted by the Girls 4 Science students. 5 p.m. Friday, Garden Party Fundraiser at a residence, 410 Wesley Ave., Evanston, $75 advance, $85 at door, 773-401-6685

The World Premiere of Quest: Quest is 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. Friday-Sunday, Actors Gymnasium, 927 Noyes St., Evanston, $20 for adults, $15 for kids, students and seniors, 847-328-2795

Miss Meleesa's Summer Stories Ages 2 and up with Adult: Don't miss one of our all-time favorite storytellers. Miss Meleesa is making a few special visits this summer and bringing stories, songs and loads of fun. Just drop in, 10:30 a.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

Electric Bike Expo - Chicagoland: This free expo features an outdoor course for test riding over 100 different electric bicycles as well as an educational pavilion. New models are here to be tested by expo attendees for the very first time. Also enter to win a $4,000 electric bike. 3 p.m. Friday, 9 a.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday, Lincolnwood Town Center, 3333 W. Touhy, Lincolnwood, free

Friday Film - "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them": "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them" is a PG-13 rated film about the adventures of writer Newt Scamander in New York's secret community of witches and wizards, 70 years before Harry Potter reads his book in school. 1 p.m. Friday, Evanston, $15-$25, 847-492-8860

Gentle Yoga: Space in each session is limited to the first 50 people. Yoga instructor Olga Radiak leads a series of yoga sessions for improved physical strength, relaxation and mental clarity. Exercises are done in a chair or standing not on the floor. 9:30 a.m. and 11 a.m. Friday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201
CALEDAR

Calendar, from Page 27

Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

*The Golden Age of Radio: A Beginners Guide:* Revisit the big shows and stars from the "Golden Age" of radio. What began as a device for mass communication grew into the dominant electronic medium for home entertainment in the 1930s and 1940s. Radio, with its wide range of live music, comedy, variety shows and programming, served as an escape. 1 p.m. Friday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $10 member; $13 non-member, 847-784-6030

Winnetka Music Festival: This free concert will showcase a dozen indie bands across a wide range of music genres on two stages. There will also be street musicians, craft beer and wine, food trucks, and a Family Stage featuring kid-friendly bands and activities. 10 a.m. Friday and 10 a.m. Saturday. At the Intersection of Elm Street and Lincoln Avenue, Winnetka, free. 312-307-7930

Saturday, June 24

Civil War Reenactment Weekend: Step back in time 150 years during one of the most significant events in our history and see what life was like as a civilian and the trials and tribulations of those fighting in the war. 10 a.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday, Fischer Farm, 16W880 Old Grand Ave, Bensenville, $3-$5, 630-766-7015

Split Single: With Midnight Runers and Paul Kail. 8 p.m. Saturday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $20-$35, 847-492-8860

Songwriters In Concert: Twelve young artists perform songs they've worked on during an intense week-long training with master teachers Stephen Bray, Craig Carnelia and Lari White. Musical styles on display range from musical theater, country and jazz to rock and contemporary pop. 8 p.m. Saturday, Ethel M. Barber Theater at Northwestern University, 30 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, $10-$30 single tickets; $6 NW students advanced, 847-491-7282

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 up to 6 players. 10:30 a.m., Saturday and 10:30 a.m. Sunday, "Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, $3 kids, $5 adults, 847-475-1030

Evanston Chamber Artisan SummerFest: In its 38th year, Evanston's Fountain Square Art Festival gets a new name and focus. In addition to more than 150 juried fine artists, it features eco-friendly artists who create unique works from found and recycled products. The weekend also features craft beer/wine tastings, street musicians, kids' activities, food and more. The $5 gate donation benefits Evanston Chamber of Commerce. 11 a.m. Saturday and 11 a.m. Sunday, Downtown Evanston, 800 Church St., Evanston, $5 gate donation, 773-868-3010

Pioneer Day: Discover how pioneers worked and played through hands-on activities like candle dipping, basket weaving and blacksmithing. Costumed interpreters take guests and their family on a journey to the past. No advance registration is necessary. For more information, call 10 a.m. Saturday, The Grove, 3421 Milwaukee Ave., Glenview, free, 847-724-5670

Glennview Farmers Market: 8 a.m. Saturday, Wagner Farm, 1510 Wagner Road, Glennview, free, 847-724-5670

Pantry Palooza and Rock 2 Stock Streetfest: The Northfield Township Food Pantry Auxiliary Board presents an outdoor evening of great food, live music, dancing and fun. Pantry Palooza Rock 2 Stock Streetfest is held from 6 to 10 p.m. at the downtown Glennview Metra parking lot, following Glennview's Summerfest. Live music is performed by 97 Nine, Van Houten and the Evanston School of Rock House Band. See event website for details. 6 p.m. Saturday, Glennview Metra parking lot north of Jackman Park, 1930 Prairie St., Glennview, free, 847-724-8300

9 and Wine: This is for ladies and gents, 21 and older, to come for a relaxing nine-hole round of golf. Participants finish up their game with a glass of wine in the clubhouse or on the patio and take in the view. For more information or to register, please call 5 p.m. Saturday, Glennview Prairie Club, 2800 West Lake Ave., Glenview, $45 advance required, 847-657-1637

Family Night Golf: These family golf nights begin at 5 p.m. on Saturdays and Sundays through Aug. 27. Group of up to six players can play for the flat fee of just $30, cart not included. Some restrictions apply. For more information, visit the website or call 5 p.m. Saturday and 5 p.m. Sunday, Glenview Prairie Club, 2800 West Lake Ave., Glenview, $30 a group up to 6 players, 847-657-1637

Morton Grove Farmers' Market: 8 a.m. Saturday, Morton Grove Farmers' Market, 6210 Dempster St., Morton Grove, free, 847-750-6436

Youth Film - "The Lego Batman Movie": Batman (voice of Will Arnett) must save Gotham from the Joker's hostile takeover. Rated PG, 104 minutes, presented in DCES 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

Tefilla Yoga: This is a prayerful yoga in which you are guided through an exquisite inner prayer service, matching yoga postures and sequences with themes and key words of traditional Jewish prayers. Open to the community at no charge — bring your own mat and dress appropriately for yoga. 11 a.m. Saturday, Congregation Beth Shalom, 3433 Walters Ave., Northbrook, free, 847-498-4100

Park Ridge Farmers Market: 7 a.m. Saturday, Saturday, Park Ridge Farmers Market, 15 S. Prairie Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-212-9994

First UMC Old-Fashioned Ice Cream Social: This afternoon of cool summer treats, entertainment, and games for the kids takes place from 1 to 3 p.m. The highlight is a performance by The New Tradition Men's Chorus, a capella singers in a program of barber shop, pop classics, show tunes, and more. 1 p.m. Saturday, First United Methodist Church of Park Ridge, 418 W. Touhy Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-3414

B96 Pepsi Summer Bash: 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Allstate Arena, 6020 Mannheim Road, Rosemont, $55, 847-635-6601

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

Trolley Tour of Celebrity Homes: This is a guided tour of Wilmette with stops outside the houses where Wilmette's many celebrities once lived, including Ann-Margaret, Bill Murray and Jens Jensen. Enjoy stories about the local lives of some of these illustrious folk as you travel on an old-fashioned trolley car. Tours are at 10 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Purchase your tickets in advance, as seating is limited. 10 a.m. Saturday, Wilmette Historical Museum, 600 Ridge Road, Wilmette, $10 members; $20 non-members, 847-853-7666

Northfield Farmers' Market: Saturday, Northfield Farmers' Market, 6 Happy Road, Winnetka, free, 847-446-4451

North Shore Art League's Art In The Village Exhibition: This free outdoor arts festival features the work of 70 local and nationally renowned artists. This two-day juried exhibition features painting, drawing, print making, sculpture, mixed media, photography, digital art and handmade and artist-designed jewelry. 10 a.m. Saturday and 10 a.m. Sunday, North Shore Art League's Art in the Village Exhibition, Hubbard Woods Park, 939 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, free, 847-446-2870

Sunday, June 25

The Secret Sisters: With Cheyenne Medders. 7:30 p.m. Sunday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $17-$30, 847-492-8860

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

John Williams' Sunday music session: 3 p.m. Sunday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679

Family Day for Veterans: Hundreds of veterans and their families are guests at the Garden for a day. This opportunity is open to all active duty, National Guard, reserve and retired military personnel and their dependents. This Family Day offers tram rides, visits to the model Railroad Garden and Butterflies and Blooms, activities at the Regenstein Learning Campus, and more. 9 a.m. Sunday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, free, 847-835-6829

The Tom Wagner Family - Their Legacy to Glenview: Come and learn about the history of the Wagner Farm and family. The farm is the last remaining and operating farm in Glenview. Tour the Glenview History Center's Victorian farmhouse afterward. 2 p.m. Sunday, Glenview History Center, 1121 Waukegan Road, Glenview, $5 donation, 847-724-2235

The Schobermesse: To celebrate Luxembourg National Day in Morton Grove, come enjoy food, games, raffle prizes and live music. Cornhole and bingo tournaments are held as well as other fun games for the whole family. 1 p.m. Sunday, Morton Grove American Legion Civic Center, 6140 Dempster St.,
**CALENDAR**

**Calendar, from Page 28**

Morton Grove, $10 adults; Kids 17 and under free, 847-524-1734

**Critics’ Choice Cinema: “The Dinner”:** This film, which is not rated, in Italian with English subtitles is about an ordinary meal among a family. It turns into a tense morality play as the limits of polite society are tested and two brothers discover just how little they know about each other. 2 p.m. Sunday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6410 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

**Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois:** The Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois will hold a "Kvell and Tell" session. Selected members will take turns sharing family history discoveries and research tips starting at 2 p.m. at Temple Beth-El. 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Temple Beth-El, 3610 Dundee Road, Northbrook, free, 312-666-0100

**Park Ridge Garden Club Garden Walk:** This 23rd annual Garden Walk is open from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., with seven beautiful gardens featured. Advance tickets are available at Devon Avenue Meats, Tea Lula, Lauren Roberts Salon, Chico’s, 21st Century Elm and Uptown Girlz. Tickets on the day of the walk are available at a garden located at 431 S. Western Ave. For more information visit https://parkridgegardenclub.org. 2 p.m. Sunday, Starting Garden, 431 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, $15 advance; $20-$35, 847-492-8860

**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. Sunday, Down Dog & Denim, 908 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, free

**Monday, June 26**

**Joseph Arthur:** 7:30 p.m. Monday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $20-$35, 847-492-8660

**Live at Studio 5:** Howard Alden and Andy Brown Quartet: Howard and Andy recently played an extended engagement at a club in Germany with their quartet, featuring bassist Joe Ponti and drummer Bob Rummage. The same swinging group performs here. This show is to be recorded for broadcast on Chicago Jazz Live on WDCB. 7:30 p.m. Monday, Studio 5, 1938 Dempster St., Evanston, $20-$25, 847-328-6683

**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, 6410 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

**Monday Movers:** This is for walkers up to 24 months to join in for a half hour of moving, singing, reading and fun. 10:30 a.m. Monday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

**The Changing Role of the Vice President:** Examine the changing role the Vice President has had on the President and on policy. Julie highlights those Vice Presidents who brought change to the functioning of the White House and explore the benefits and drawbacks of those changes. This inside look into the White House will be both informative and intriguing. 1 p.m. Monday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $10 member; $13 non-member, 847-784-6030

**Tchaikovsky: Western Ideas, Russian Heart:** Tchaikovsky was one of the first Russian composers to leave his homeland in search of a broader musical language than that found in Russia. Greg explores the unique combination of west and east, and sheds light on the composer's tragic life and death. 10 a.m. Monday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $10 member; $13 non-member, 847-784-6030

**Developing a Sixth Census: Finding More in the Census:** This is presented by genealogist Dan Hubbard, for attendees to learn how to squeeze as much as possible from census data. Look at the information found in the Federal population schedules in specific census years, including critical years for finding all important data. Also explore some census "miracles" and stumbling blocks. 7 p.m. Monday, Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-256-6935

**Free Walking Clinic:** Learn to get the most benefit out of walking as exercise. A certified, personal trainer teaches the class, which includes a warm-up, stretching, inclines, steps, balance and coordination. All fitness levels welcome. 5:30 p.m. Monday, Gillson Park, Lake Avenue and Michigan Avenue, Wilmette, free, 847-251-6834

**Tuesday, June 27**

**The Marcus King Band:** 8 p.m. Tuesday, SPACE, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $20, 847-492-8860

**"Captain Fantastic":** Best Actor nomination, 2016. Rated R. 6:30 p.m.

**Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500**

**CJE SeniorLife Counseling for adults 60 and over:** Counseling includes: selecting appropriate retirement benefits, picking the right health insurance and Medicare programs, determining housing needs, and identifying supportive resources. For more information and an appointment, call Kathy Gaeding at CJE SeniorLife, 773-508-1054. 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500

**Summer Pool Party—Luau:** Join in the first pool party of the summer season, where the whole family can make a splash. This luau-themed event includes: food specials at the concession stand, games for all ages and music provided by a DJ. Regular admission rates apply. Visit glenviewparks.org/pools or call. 5 p.m. Tuesday, Flick Park, 3600 Glenview Road, Glenview, varies, 847-724-3337

**Movies, Munchies and More—Film:** "Twister": This film, rated PG-13, is about two advanced storm chasers. They are on the brink of divorce and must join together to create an advanced weather alert system which puts them in the cross-hairs of extremely violent tornadoes. Cast includes Bill Paxton, Helen Hunt, Cary Elwes. 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220

**2017 Free Summer Concert Series—Second Time Around:** This concert features Second Time Around, a classic rock band. 7 a.m. Tuesday, Harter Park and Pool, 6250 W Dempster St., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-1200

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

**Garden Fun:** Join the library for a special gardening-themed art or science project after storytime on Tuesdays. 11 a.m. Tuesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

**Summer Stories for All Ages:** Come to the library to enjoy fun summer stories. 10:30 a.m. Tuesday and 10:30 a.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

**A Soviet Union immigrant’s Journey:** "Then and Now": Soviet immigrant and blogger Bena Shklyanoy, of Apple-DoesNotFall.com, talks about the culture shock her family faced when coming to the U.S. during the 1970s, and documenting her family’s history. 1 p.m. Tuesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

**Games Outside the Box for All Ages:** Calling all gamers, techies, engineers, builders, strategists, creators, geeks and out-of-the-box thinkers—it’s time to play. Each week a different game, program, hardware or toy is featured. Stop by to see what you can do. 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

**Maker Meetup:** Are you a maker/DIYer wanting to share your project, skills, or just get some advice? Join us on the last Tuesday of every month to share your latest low- and hi-tech projects. 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

**String Theory Meetup for All Ages:** Knitters, weavers, crocheters, and fiber artists, stop by the new weekly meetup. You can share what you know, learn something new, or work on your own project. All ages and skill levels are welcome, but please bring your own materials. 2:30 p.m. Tuesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

**A Cultural History of India:** Over the past 5,000 years, the cultures and peoples of the Indian subcontinent have developed in fascinating and complex ways. Today, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh comprise over 20 percent of the world’s population and form one of humanity’s most dynamic and significant core groups. 1 p.m. Tuesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $45 member; $55 non-member, 847-784-6030

**Grief Share Support Group:** For anyone who can use help and encouragement after the death of a spouse, child, family member or friend. It is nondenominational and features Biblical concepts for healing from grief. These sessions include a weekly DVD, small group discussion and workbook. 7 p.m. Tuesday, St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church, 320 South Washington St., Park Ridge. $25, 847-692-6767

**Candace Fleming and Eric Rohmann at The Book Stall:** Author Candace Fleming and illustrator Eric Rohmann, the creators of “Bulldozer’s Big Day,” appear for a special storytime featuring their new book, “Bulldozer Helps Out.” 4 p.m. Tuesday, The Book Stall at Chestnut, Glencoe, free

**Turn to Calendar, Page 30**
Lunch on the Lake concert series: This concert series offers the opportunity to enjoy live music, dancing and a picnic. The concerts span a wide range of musical genres from Afro-Cuban jazz to funk and swing. Concerts take place June 28 and July 12, 19 and 26. Noon Wednesday, Norris University Center, East Lawn, Norris University Center, Evanston, free

Concerts in the Park — Jackman Park Concerts: Bring your dinner, folding chairs and lawn blankets to Jackman Park Gazebo and enjoy these shows for young and old alike. June 28: The New Invaders. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jackman Park, 1930 Prairie St., Glenview, free, 847-724-5670

Knitting Club: If you want to learn to knit, or you are working on a knitting or crochet project, drop in to share tips, show off your work and converse with fellow needle arts enthusiasts. Bring your own knitting supplies. 11 a.m. Wednesday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 West Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277

Film: “Whatever Happened to Baby Jane”: Two Hollywood icons, Bette Davis and Joan Crawford, take their famous feud onscreen in Robert Aldrich’s thriller. 134 minutes, 35 mm. 1 p.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-6224

The Holocaust in Film: “God on Trial”: What if you could put God on trial, and what if you could question God in a court of law about your suffering? A group of concentration camp prisoners did just that in Auschwitz. Based on a book by Elie Wiesel, who claimed to have been there when it really happened, watch as men with no future discuss the most existential of questions about life, suffering, death and whether God has broken His covenant with the Jewish people. 1 p.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $10 member; $13 non-member, 847-784-6030

Knitting Studio and Workshop: Each Wednesday afternoon, Certified Knitting Instructor Mary Staackmann provides personalized instruction, answers any questions about knitting, and perhaps gets you started on a new project. Bring your supplies or project in progress. Brush up on your skills, learn new techniques, or just spend an afternoon knitting with others. 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, free, 847-784-6060

Playing with Paint: A Learn to Paint Workshop: Instructor Adrienne Aaronson takes participants from the beginning, exploring light and dark, black and white, and color painting. Each class meeting builds upon the previous class, and in the final class, all the elements come together, and attendees create their own work of art. All supplies are provided in class, but bring an apron or smock to cover your clothes. 1:30 p.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $89 member; $109 non-member, 847-784-6030

Rooms, Spaces, Boards: How Cisco Spark Works: This event is only for IT professionals, business executives and business owners. Attendees are asked to present a business card upon arrival. This valuable seminar makes the case for Cisco Spark as a complete replacement of your collaboration strategy. 11 a.m. Wednesday, Cisco, 9501 Technology Blvd, Rosemont, free

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

“Wonder Woman” ★★★½
PG-13, 2:21, action
Gal Gadot takes center stage in “Wonder Woman,” director Patty Jenkins’ formidable and almost entirely successful bid to make the DC Comics movies a little less lame. One day, a plane goes down near Diana’s island home carrying American spy Steve Trevor (Chris Pine). Diana and Steve travel to Europe, where World War I is grinding toward a conclusion. There they confront Doctor Poison (Elena Anaya), working for the Germans on a deadly nerve gas, and her commander (Danny Huston), who becomes Hulk-like in his strength when he whiffs a special evil inhalant. The movie is no reinvention of a formula; it’s simply much better than usual iteration. — Michael Phillips, Chicago Tribune

“The Mummy” ★
PG-13, 1:47, action
Director Alex Kurtzman’s movie starring Tom Cruise is terrible, more calamitous and grating than any of the 1999-2008 “Mummy” outings by a wide margin. Cruise plays Nick, a U.S. soldier with a sideline of ripping off precious artifacts for resale. In northern Iraq, Cruise, sidekick Chris (Jake Johnson) and archaeologist Jenny (Annabelle Wallis) stumble upon the entombed Ahmanet (Sofia Boutella), who back in the day went on a revenge killing spree after she was passed over to rule Egypt. The mayhem in “The Mummy” feels desperate, mistimed and grueling in the wrong way. And in the climactic scenes of London half-destroyed by supernatural terrorists, it’s also a sad victim of bad timing. — M.P.

“Captain Underpants: The First Epic Movie” ★★½
PG, 1:24, animated
George and Harold (voiced by Kevin Hart and Thomas Middleditch) are school buddies who are the masterminds behind a series of comics featuring Captain Underpants, a hero who fights evil dressed in only his tighty whities. All of their high jinks have attracted the wrath of the school’s principal, Mr. Krupp (Ed Helms). George and Harold hypnotize Mr. Krupp into believing he is Captain Underpants. This proves helpful when the school gets a mad scientist, Professor Poopypants (Nick Kroll), as the new science teacher. The film starts with a bang and ends with a boom. Any film that can be this much fun and act as a trigger for reading is a double winner. — Rick Bentley, Tribune News Service

“Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales” ★
PG-13, 1:58, action/adventure
A weary, battered fifth chapter lumbers into theaters high on CGI tricks but with a hopelessly muddled plot and recurring characters basically running on fumes. This edition is all about a hunt for the Trident of Poseidon, which can break curses. Johnny Depp is back as Jack Sparrow, as is Geoffrey Rush as a Barbossa. The bad guy this time is Javier Bardem as a ghost ship captain. After this fifth episode, you’ll wish Disney would just declare the franchise dead and tell no more tales. — Mark Kennedy, Associated Press

“Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2” ★★½
PG-13, 2:18, action/adventure
A brash 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, subtitled “Vol. 2”, 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. I double-dare Gunn to get the third "Galaxy" picture down to the two-hour mark, or less. Who’d complain? — M.P.
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Big-time compacts

Best sedans in class balance advanced tech, sharp style on a budget

If you think the compact sedan class is full of stale, humdrum economy sedans, it’s time to bring you up to speed. Many model-year 2017 compacts offer style and technology for less than you think. While these sedans may not be the current hot ticket like small SUVs, there’s still a lot to like in this class, such as the latest crash avoidance technology, smartphone integration and even all-wheel drive. Each sedan we tested had to cost less than $23,000 with destination fee, have an EPA combined rating of 31 mpg or better with an automatic transmission and offer more than 91 cubic feet of interior volume. Here they are, ranked from cellar to stellar:

8. 2017 Chevrolet Cruze ($22,465)

Pros:
- Acceleration: Punchy acceleration doesn’t come at the cost of fuel economy in the Cruze. “The Cruze’s turbocharged four-cylinder combines satisfying off-the-line grunt with highway efficiency, returning a best-in-group 38.4 mpg over our mileage loop,” said Kelsey Mays, senior editor.
- Driving experience: Driving the Cruze failed to move the needle for many judges, and overall driving scores were lukewarm. Uncomfortable seating and poor interior quality also hurt the Cruze. It lost valuable points for not having crash avoidance technologies that competitors included at similar prices.

Cons:
- Small cabin: “Good interior quality and sporty dynamics can’t make up for the fact that the Mazdas3’s cabin is considerably smaller than the competition’s,” said Mike Hanley, senior editor.
- Interior noise: “The price of excellent handling shouldn’t be a tiring ride and noisy interior,” Meier said. The Mazdas3 had the worst-rated road noise.

5. 2017 Toyota Corolla ($22,865)

Pros:
- Features for the money: “Despite having the group’s lowest as-tested price, our Corolla packed big-ticket comforts like dual-zone climate control, keyless access, heated seats and a moonroof,” Mays said, who was impressed with the multimedia system as well.
- Driving experience: Driving the Corolla to include crash avoidance features standard. “The Corolla is a leader,” Meier said. “It should shame rivals who force you to pay more or get a higher trim.”
- Seat roominess and comfort also impressed judges.
- Free maintenance: “Hyundai and Kia have their warranties, but the Corolla and Cruze have two years’ free maintenance. In a value-conscious class, that’s a differentiator,” Mays said.

Cons:
- Auto stop-start: “The air conditioning dropped off uncomfortably at long lights on a hot Texas day thanks to stop-start you can’t turn off,” said Fred Meier, Washington bureau chief.
- Value: “Despite its as-tested price landing right around the group average, our Cruze lacked the creature comforts and crash avoidance features many competitors had,” Mays said.

7. 2017 Mazda3 ($22,670)

Pros:
- Driving experience: The Mazda3’s spirited road manners surprised no one. “Feedback is excellent, and you can slide the tail around a little in corners – a feat that’s nearly impossible for much of this group,” Mays said.
- Cons: Small cabin: “Good interior quality and sporty dynamics can’t make up for the fact that the Mazdas3’s cabin is considerably smaller than the competition’s,” said Mike Hanley, senior editor.
- Interior noise: “The price of excellent handling shouldn’t be a tiring ride and noisy interior,” Meier said. The Mazdas3 had the worst-rated road noise.
- The multimedia system and unimpressive fuel economy also were cited negatively.

3. 2017 Subaru Impreza ($22,519)

Pros:
- Standard safety features: “Subaru’s Impreza was the only car to include crash avoidance features standard. “The Impreza is a leader,” Meier said. “It should shame rivals who force you to pay more or get a higher trim.”
- Seat roominess and comfort also impressed judges.
- Free maintenance: “Toyota and Kia have their warranties, but the Corolla and Cruze have two years’ free maintenance. In a value-conscious class, that’s a differentiator,” Mays said.

Cons:
- Overactive safety feature: “You can feel the lane-keeping system working against your hands — even when you’re well between lane markings,” Hanley said.

2. 2017 Kia Forte ($21,540)

Pros:
- Safety features: “Our Forte aced the safety category with its bevy of optional active safety assists, including a rare lane-centering steering system,” Mays said.
- Luxury touches: “The Forte pairs its suite of advanced safety features with unexpected features for the class, including power-folding side mirrors.
- Roominess: “Tall drivers will love the Forte’s spacious interior, its low console allows you to spread out,” Mays said.

Cons:
- Ride quality: The as-tested Forte S trim level comes with a ride-destroying sport suspension. “This model’s sport-tuned suspension delivers a busy, bumpy ride without giving you real payoff in handling prowess,” Meier said.
- Overactive safety feature: “You can feel the lane-keeping system working against your hands — even when you’re well between lane markings,” Hanley said.

1. 2017 Honda Civic ($22,975)

Pros:
- Fun to drive: “The Civic feels planted in corners, urging you to go faster where other compact cars beg you to back off,” Hanley said. The safety features were overactive, however.
- Storage: “The judges appreciated the minivan-like storage between the front seats.
- Interior quality: “The Civic looks and feels almost a size class above the field,” Meier said. “Impressive attention to details and quality makes it feel more expensive too.”

Cons:
- Media controls: The Civic’s multimedia system got slammed in higher trims for using touch-sensitive panels instead of knobs.

For full results, visit www.cars.com/news.
Notre Dame coach helps three different programs reach state tournament

Paskvan was pitching coach on team that won '04 Class AA title

BY HEATHER RULE
Pioneer Press

The Notre Dame baseball team was six outs away from losing in the Class AA state semifinals back in 2004. Mike Paskvan, the pitching coach at the time, sat in the dugout thinking ahead to the pitching rotation for the third-place game. Then, coach Bob Kostuch walked by and said: "Get ready for the greatest comeback ever!"

"And from that moment, I think that stands out for the kids as well," Paskvan said. "I learned each year by talking to the other coaches in our conference. I learned from the kids as well!"

He tried to instill in his bowlers and pitchers a similar mental approach. From pitch to pitch, or from frame to frame in bowling, you've got to keep your emotions in check, he said.

Paskvan has fished his whole life and was interested in helping out, he said, adding that he picks the minds of students to learn their fishing knowledge. The bass fishing team has advanced to state four times, finishing third four years ago.

Paskvan's path to coaching evolved after his pitching career was cut short.

Paskvan was part of a Division III national championship team at Joliet Junior College as a freshman, the Wolves finished second the next season. Then he transferred with a scholarship to Northeastern Illinois for two years, playing for a team that advanced to the regionals of the 1996 NCAA Division I Tournament.

He even played some competitive tennis for the first time with his fifth year of eligibility.

He played 1 1/2 years of independent league baseball for the Will County Cheetahs, who are now known as the Windy City ThunderBolts. But he tore his labrum in his shoulder, but it's an injury that Paskvan said he started to think about the next steps with his criminology and business law education, perhaps following in the footsteps of his father and uncle to become a police officer.

"I started to think, 'You know what? Is it really a thing for me because of what my family members did, or do I want to be involved in something I was passionate about?'' Paskvan said. "And that was baseball."

He got his education degree after his independent league baseball days were over.

Paskvan met Kostuch at Northeastern Illinois and when Kostuch became Notre Dame's baseball coach in 2003, he asked Paskvan to join his staff as the pitching coach. Paskvan took the opportunity and "absolutely loved it," Paskvan said.

"Being able to pass down the knowledge ... onto high school kids and see them succeed on the playing field or in the classroom, it's very fulfilling as a teacher and a coach."

"Win with class, you lose with class," he recalled a former player telling him about how he passed this on to his college teammates, too. "If there's a bad loss and things didn't go well, you can just move on to the next day because there's another game in a long season of baseball, according to Paskvan.

All his state tournament success isn't a fluke, Kostuch said.

"His ability to read his players and then to relate to them, I think that's unmatched of any other pitching coach that I've worked with," Kostuch said.

"I think that's where he develops a real sense of trust, and the boys then have confidence in what he's trying to teach them," Hennessey said. "That's where the good things end up flowing from, when you've established that kind of relationship with the kids."

One of the biggest bits Paskvan likes to pass along is: "Win with class, you lose with class." He recalled a former player telling him how he passed this on to his college teammates, too.

"I think that's where he develops a real sense of trust, and the boys then have confidence in what he's trying to teach them," Hennessey said. "That's where the good things end up flowing from, when you've established that kind of relationship with the kids."
ALL-AREA
FIRST TEAM

By Bob Narang
Pioneer Press

Chardonnay Harris
P, Oak Park-River Forest, Sr.
Key stats: 19-0, 0.29 ERA, 118.2 IP, 233 K, 15 BB, 34 hits allowed; .524 BA, 55 H, 7 HR, 51 RBIs
College: Auburn
Harris wrapped up a remarkable career by guiding the Huskies to a second consecutive Class 4A state title. Before the 2017 state tournament, Harris was named the Illinois Gatorade Player of the Year. In her two state appearances this spring, Harris put on a stunning display of power and accuracy. She tossed two complete games, allowing three hits, striking out 26 and walking only one. She pitched a one-hitter with 16 strikeouts against Lincoln-Way East in the championship game. After mostly contributing in the pitcher’s circle during her junior season, Harris became a two-way player capable of taking over a game with her bat. She only gave up five earned runs all season. OPRF coach Mel Kolbusz called Harris “the best pitcher in OPRF history.”

Amanda Guercio
C, Lake Zurich, Sr.
Key stats: .614 BA, 10 2B, 1 3B, 18 HR, 48 RBIs, 43 R, struck out only five times
College: Indiana State
A four-year varsity player, Guercio led by example with her work ethic, durability and productive play. Despite an injury late in the season, she hit 18 home runs and tallied a .692 on-base percentage. “Amanda Guercio has been a key part of Lake Zurich’s success during her four years,” Lake Zurich coach Amanda Rodriguez said. “She was a captain and a role model for the entire program. She was the player that other teams didn’t like to see come up to the plate.”

Alyssa Malicki
1B/P, Ridgewood, Jr.
Key stats: .532 BA, 5 3B, 12 HR, 45 RBIs; 13-7, 2.35 ERA, 138 K
College: Undecided
Voted MVP for the Metro Suburban East, Malicki had a stellar season as a pitcher and a hitter for the Rebels. She won all five of her games pitching in conference play, and she’s a player to whom coach Mike Glaub referred as “the real thing.” Though her strength is hitting, Malicki flirted with numerous no-hitters this season. The Rebels reached the Class 3A Ridgewood Regional final before falling to Antioch.

Fiona Girardot
2B, Oak Park-River Forest, So.
Key stats: .603 BA, 70 H, 22 2B, 4 3B, 6 HR, 59 RBIs, 56 R
College: Wisconsin
After playing a key role in OPRF’s run to the Class 4A state title last season, Girardot became one of the central figures as the Huskies amassed a 37-1 record and another state championship. She played solid defense and led the Huskies in batting average, hits and doubles. She made a stellar defensive play in the seventh inning of the title game against Lincoln-Way East. Girardot broke the program record with a 50-game hitting streak dating back to last year and reached safely in every game this season until the state final. “Fiona is a super soph,” Huskies coach Mel Kolbusz said.

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**Softball, from Previous Page**

“She’s fun to coach and an excellent player.”

**Maeve Nelson**

SS, Oak Park-River Forest, Jr.

Key stats: .514 BA, 55 H, 9 2B, 2 3B, 1 HR, 61 RBIs, 60 R

College: Northwestern

Even though teams pitched around her all season and she didn’t see quality pitches, Nelson put up big numbers for the Huskies. Her stellar fielding and potent bat were a dangerous combination for opposing teams. She went 1-for-3 against Evanston. "Maeve is such a great athlete," OPRF coach Mel Kolbusz said. “She’s a great leader, great kid and very driven.”

**CJ Mardiroian**

3B, Nazareth, Sr.

Key stats: .451 BA, 56 H, 14 2B, 4 3B, 5 HR, 33 RBIs, 46 R

College: Dominican

After playing catcher and committing to Dominican to play that position, Mardiroian had the difficult task of learning to play third base this season. In addition, Mardiroian was a leader for a team with state aspirations after back-to-back losses in the supersectional. She played a key role in leading the Roadrunners to the program’s first state berth and had one of Nazareth’s five hits in two Class 3A state tournament games. Nazareth finished fourth. “CJ is such a leader and sacrificed to play third base because we needed help, and she still was one of our best hitters,” Nazareth coach Emily Matthews said.

**Rachel Krzysko**

OF, Barrington, Sr.

Key stats: .462 BA, 67 H, 15 2B, 2 3B, 7 HR, 46 RBIs

College: Loyola of Chicago

Named to the Class 4A Illinois Coaches Association Softball All-State team, Krzysko batted .462 in Barrington’s thrilling 7-6 comeback win against Marist in the Class 4A third-place game. Her steadiness behind the plate helped a young Fillies squad to its second state trip in the last three years. She threw out 52 percent of runners trying to steal, with 14 pick-off plays at first or second base. She did not allow a passed ball in 890 plate appearances.

**Sydney Babbington**

OF, Oak Park-River Forest, Sr.

Key stats: .496 BA, 56 H, 6 2B, 1 3B, 7 HR, 20 RBIs, 57 R

College: Undeckled

Although she had never played in the outfield, Babbington, a former catcher, adjusted to her new role rather quickly. She became the table-setter for OPRF’s potent offense at the leadoff spot. Her ability to get on base and hit for power was essential for the Huskies, who won the Class 4A state title. She hit a solo home run in the state semifinal win against Barrington. “Sydney is a great athlete,” Huskies coach Mel Kolbusz said. “She can play anywhere on the field.”

**Jessica Puccinelli**

OF, Lake Zurich, Sr.

Key stats: .439 BA, 19 2B, 7 HR, 42 RBIs, 43 R

College: Dubuque

A staple in the outfield for the last three seasons, Puccinelli rarely allowed a ball to hit the ground in center field this year. She batted in the No. 2 spot for most of the season, sparking the offense by getting on base (.536 on-base percentage) and hitting for power. “Jessica was the mental strength of our team,” Lake Zurich coach Amanda Rodriguez said. Puccinelli helped the Bears finish at .500 this season after winning only 10 games a year ago.

**Abbey Jacobsen**

C/DP, Barrington, Jr.

Key stats: .462 BA, 67 H, 15 2B, 2 3B, 7 HR, 46 RBIs

College: Western Illinois

Named to the Class 4A All-State team, Jacobsen batted .462 in Barrington’s thrilling 7-6 comeback win against Marist in the Class 4A third-place game. Her steadiness behind the plate helped a young Fillies squad to its second state trip in the last three years. She threw out 52 percent of runners trying to steal, with 14 pick-off plays at first or second base. She did not allow a passed ball in 3,960 plate appearances.

Bob Narang is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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**THE REST OF THE ROSTER**

Check out the Pioneer Press softball All-Area Honorable Mentions online at chicagotribune.com/suburbs.
Chardonnay Harris
SOFTBALL PLAYER OF THE YEAR

On the surface, Oak Park-River Forest senior pitcher Chardonnay Harris’ silver necklace is merely a simple gesture of love from a family member.

Two years ago, her aunt, Leah Leark, wanted to give Harris a personal and lasting memory of her mother, Lauren McDonald, for her 16th birthday.

McDonald died of skin cancer when Harris, her only child, was 5 years old. Harris has been raised by Leark and her husband, Bill Leark, for the last 13 years.

Leah Leark discovered an old letter written by her sister that contained the word “Chardonnay,” so she brought the letter into a store to have the handwritten word inscribed as a necklace.

“She’s been wearing it all the time lately after not wearing it for awhile,” Leah Leark said.

For Harris, the necklace is an ideal way to keep the memory of her mother fresh in her mind – and, indirectly, a way to have her mother with her through every step of her life.

McDonald died when she was 29 years old, in January 2005, four months after being diagnosed with skin cancer for the second time. She first had chemotherapy and surgery for the cancer when Harris was 1.

“I’m not going to say I don’t think about her all the time, but I have a life to live and I take pride in everything I do,” Harris said of her mother. “Without her passing, I would not be the player I am today. I take each day as it comes and am grateful, because that’s what she would want.”

Harris, an Auburn recruit, breezed through this season with a dominance rarely seen at the high school level. She combined excellence in the pitcher’s circle with a powerful bat to spearhead the Huskies’ run to a second straight Class 4A state championship. OPRF also finished third at state her sophomore year.

Harris put up historic numbers in the circle, finishing with a 10-0 record while striking out 233 batters, allowing 34 hits and walking only 15 in 118 2/3 innings for a 0.29 ERA. She batted .524 with 51 RBIs and closed out her prolific prep career by tossing two complete games at state, including a Class 4A state final record 16 strikeouts in a one-hitter as the Huskies won the title.

The Huskies (37-1) finished the season ranked No. 3 in the nation in the final USA Today high school softball rankings. Harris also was the Illinois Gatorade Player of the Year and was a First-Team All-USA pick by USA Today.

For her efforts, Harris was named the Pioneer Press All-Area Softball Player of the Year for the second year in a row.

“It was amazing to win (state) again,” Harris said. “I’ve been working so hard since my freshman year, so to be here three years in a row (at state) was amazing. I remembered last year’s game and wanted to break the (strikeout) record. I knew that was a big accomplishment.”

Despite keeping a focused and stoic expression while mowing down hitters in the two state games, Harris’ success on the field came only after a challenging upbringing. Harris’ biological father was present at her birth, Leah Leark said, but has not been a part of her life. According to the Leark family, he is now in federal prison.

Harris admitted she did not fully understand the enormity of her mother’s death at such a young age. She still carries pictures of them together, sometimes posting them on special days on social media.

She considers Leah and Bill Leark – biologically, her aunt and uncle – to be her parents.

Harris said Leah Leark was a constant presence from her earliest memories, so moving in with the Learks wasn’t an especially huge adjustment after her mother’s death.

“My mother was really caring and loving,” Harris said. “I was young when she died. My aunt and her husband were around a lot, so I wasn’t a stranger to either of them. It felt familiar. It felt right.”

Leah and Bill Leark, though, had to adjust to raising a young child after getting married just five weeks before McDonald’s death. Leah Leark said Bill’s quick acceptance of “Chardy” made a tough time much easier, though Harris did have a new family dynamic.

“The day I met my husband, Chardy was with me,” Leah Leark recalled. “He thought she was mine that day. She spent so much time with me during her childhood. My sister worked two jobs, was a single mom. Chardy was always with us.

“I was the fun aunt; she was the fun uncle. Transitioning to parents was difficult. It was no fun and games. It was rules and restrictions and schools and stuff. That was difficult and different.”

Harris, a fun-loving and caring teammate, credited Bill Leark for starting her journey in softball. Bill Leark said his love of sports helped steer Harris toward softball and baseball. He coached her for nearly a decade. The Learks also have two young boys.

“It was a no-brainer for me to indulge my time playing sports with all my kids,” he said. “I wasn’t really versed in tea parties or Barbie dolls. I went with what I knew.

“We were never really prepared for her. It’s amazing to see how far she’s come. She’s always been so fun to watch.”

Bob Narang is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @Pioneer_Press

According to the family, the last picture Lauren McDonald (far left) took with her daughter Chardonnay Harris (bottom right) came at the wedding of Leah and Bill Leark (center). The Learks raised Harris from the age of 5.

Chardonnay Harris was undefeated as a senior and even tossed a four-inning perfect game in which she struck out every batter she faced.

Chardonnay Harris received a special gift for her 16th birthday: A necklace of her name written in her mother’s handwriting. Harris’ mother, Lauren McDonald, died of skin cancer in 2005.

Chardonnay Harris had a busy work schedule and was not a fan of sports.

As Harris transitions from OPRF to Auburn, Leah Leark said she remains surrounded by Harris’ success.

“She’s goofy, and (has a) silly sense of humor that she gets from Lauren. We were never really prepared for her. It’s amazing to see how far she’s come. She’s always been so fun to watch.”
For the second year in a row, Mundelein's Brendan Murphy has been named the Pioneer Press All-Area Baseball Player of the Year. Murphy, a 6-foot-4 senior left-handed pitcher, went 10-1 this season with a 1.99 ERA and 91 strikeouts for the Mustangs, who made it to a Class 4A supersectional. Murphy, an Arizona State recruit, was drafted in the fourth round of the MLB draft by the Milwaukee Brewers. He was the first high school player selected from the state of Illinois.

Pioneer Press freelance reporter Brett Christie caught up with some of Mundelein's North Suburban Conference foes to gain insights into what it's like facing Murphy and what makes him so good.

Murphy's only loss this season came to Libertyville on May 2. Libertyville scored six runs, four earned, in 5 2/3 innings against Murphy in a 6-4 win. Murphy and Mundelein got revenge in the sectional semifinals with a 4-3 win.

Matt Thompson
Libertyville coach

"He is a great pitcher, and our team embraced the opportunity to face him this year. Obviously his fastball is tough for most hitters to catch up to. I felt like we prepared for his fastball well this year. But what separates him from others that throw hard is that he can throw his other pitches so well. His changeup gets so many people out front and swinging through it. He has a huge advantage when he pitches later in a game because he just gains more confidence and gets more comfortable with all of his pitches. All pitchers will make mistakes, but what makes him great is when he makes mistakes, he makes his next pitch and limits damage. He is also comfortable in uncomfortable situations. When runners are in scoring position, he is not fazed."

Ray Del Fava
Libertyville center fielder

"Playing against Brendan Murphy is exhilarating. (With two of his three losses being from Libertyville in his junior and senior year always got us hyped. Facing him since my first at-bat junior year was like facing a semi-pro. Everyone knew he was the lefty ace of Illinois, and he always brought his pitching to a new level. His variety of pitches and athleticism hitting as well, made him a dual threat every time we faced Mundelein."

Brad Czerniejewski
Lake Forest center fielder

"He's got a little bit of it all. He's a lefty, and it's obviously hard to find a hard-throwing lefty. But he's got great control of his offspeed. I think that's what really sets him apart."

Brett Christie
Pioneer Press freelance reporter

Brendan Murphy celebrates after helping Mundelein beat Libertyville 4-3 in the Class 4A sectional semifinals on June 1.

"Brendan Murphy is a very rare talent and a kid that just knew how to control all aspects of the game. He obviously had amazing command of his fastball and offspeed pitches, could hold runners close, but his toughness and competitiveness on the mound is what made him so much fun to face. It was pleasure preparing to play him, because we always relished at the opportunity to play the best. Murphy will always be remembered as one of the best pitchers to come out of our conference."
ALL-AREA FIRST TEAM

Brendan Murphy
R, Mundelein, Sr.
Key stats: 10-1, 1.99 ERA, 0.90 WHIP, 91 K, .471 BA, .555 OBP, .723 SLG, 4 HR, 14 2B, 39 RBIs
College: Arizona State
Murphy was last year's Pioneer Press All-Area Baseball Player of the Year, and the left-handed pitcher posted similar numbers this season. He helped Mundelein reach the Class 4A supersectionals by throwing a complete game and striking out 10 in the Mustangs' victory over Libertyville in the sectional semifinals. In one of his best all-around efforts, Murphy pitched six innings, allowed no runs off two hits and went 3-for-4 at the plate with an inside-the-park grand slam in a North Suburban Conference game against Warren on April 24. Murphy, who was the top-rated prospect in the state by Baseball America, was selected in the fourth round by the Milwaukee Brewers in the MLB draft. "Obviously, he's been a major contributor for us, and it'd be hard to find anybody else in the state that's been more of a factor for a high school team than what Brendan's been for us," Mundelein coach Todd Parola said.

Tyler Snep
C, Lake Zurich, Sr.
Key stats: .398 BA, .434 OBP, .786 SLG, 13 2B, 9 HR, 40 RBIs, 25 R, 7 SB
College: Iowa
Snep split time between playing the outfield and catching. Lake Zurich coach Rick Erickson lauded Snep's ability to stay focused on the team while being recruited by numerous Division I programs during the season. Snep's athleticism was conducive to his success behind the plate and in the outfield. "Tyler had a great season as a player, as a leader and as a teammate," Erickson said via email. "The way he conducts himself on and off the field is truly remarkable. It seemed like every game he caught he got better. His small, daily improvements at catcher really added up to big improvements by the end of the season, and that is a credit to his work ethic."

Kevin Donahue
INF, New Trier, Sr.
Key stats: .408 BA, .621 SLG, 15 2B, 1 HR, 21 RBIs, 41 R, 21 SB
College: Indiana (student)
"Kevin was a true leader," New Trier coach Mike Napoleon said via email. "He communicated to the team every time I needed a message sent out. He had a great understanding of a team-first attitude and displayed that every day in practice."

Declan Griffin
INF, Maine South, Jr.
Key stats: .413 BA, .452 OBP, .541 SLG, 10 2B, 2 HR, 18 RBIs, 24 R
College: Undecided
"Drew was the catalyst of our offense," Carmel coach Bill Taylor said via email. "He has unbelievable range and athleticism, and he makes plays on ground balls that very good high school infielders never even get to, look very easy."

Drew Wiegman
INF, Carmel, Sr.
Key stats: .471 BA, .504 OBP, .694 SLG, 9 2B, 4 HR, 39 R, 40 RBIs, 29 SB
College: Louisville
Wiegman, who plays shortstop, spearheaded a strong Carmel offense and helped lead the Corsairs to the Class 3A sectional finals, where they lost to eventual state champion St. Viator. In a pair of regular-season games against St. Viator, Wiegman went 5-for-9 with a home run, triple, double and eight RBIs to propel Carmel to a sweep. "He was the catalyst of our offense," Carmel coach Bill Taylor said via email. "He had an amazing year at the plate, combining power and speed. He is a five-tool player who is going to be fun to watch over the next two years."

Ryan Lin-Peistrup
INF, Loyola, Sr.
Key stats: .417 BA, .504 OBP, .694 SLG, 9 2B, 3 HR, 20 RBIs, 38 R
College: Illinois-Chicago
"He was a key part of what Loyola coach Nick Bridich said he believed was one of the best defensive infielders in the state," Caremel coach Bill Taylor said via email. "Lin-Peistrup had a knack for driving in runs and has the ability to hit for average and power. "Ryan makes the
Henry Marchese

OF, Stevenson, Sr.
Key stats: .485 BA, .556 OBP, .738 SLG, 5 HR, 28 RBIs, 43 R, 30 SB
College: Iowa (football)
Marchese put together a terrific senior season, stealing 30 bases in 31 games while also hitting for considerable power and average. Marchese displayed his elite athleticism in center field for the Patriots, coach Pat Block said. “His exceptional speed and power and consistency made him one of the best players in the area,” Block said via email. Marchese, who is signed to play wide receiver for Iowa next fall, was selected in the 34th round of the MLB draft by the San Diego Padres.

Andrew Zapka

OF, Hinsdale Central, Sr.
Key stats: .478 BA, 1.368 OPS, 12 2B, 8 HR, 43 RBIs, 22 R, 4-3, 2.80 ERA, 1.28 WHIP, 46 K, 45 IP
College: Heartland Community College
Zapka was unanimously named the West Suburban Silver Player of the Year by conference head coaches. He led the Red Devils in every offensive category while also supplying quality innings on the mound. “Andrew had one of the best offensive years in the history of Hinsdale Central baseball,” Red Devils coach Jason Ziemer said via email. “Some of the offensive numbers he put up will not be equaled for some time. He was the vocal leader throughout the year for the team, and he played the game with great enthusiasm.”

John Carpinefilli

DH, Buffalo Grove, Sr.
Key stats: .396 BA, .594 OBP, .840 SLG, 7 2B, 4 HR, 27 RBIs, 45 R, 14 SB; 6-0, 3.57 ERA, 24 K
College: Indianapolis
Carpinefilli had a huge season for Buffalo Grove, helping the Bison earn the top seed in the Class 4A Glenbrook South Sectional. Carpinefilli was exceptionally versatile for Buffalo Grove, coach Tim Miller said. In addition to his gaudy offensive stats, he also played top-notch defense at shortstop and pitched well. “John was the vocal leader of the Bison and a fierce competitor,” Miller said via email. “I am very proud of the player and teammate he has become. He is one of the best all-around baseball players in the state.”

THE REST OF THE ROSTER

Check out the Pioneer Press baseball All-Area Honorable Mentions online at chicagotribune.com/suburbs.

ALL-AREA SECOND TEAM

Ryan Loutos
INF, New Trier, Jr.
College: Northwestern

Anthony Calarco
INF, North Shore Country Day, Sr.
College: Middletown (Vt.)

Andrew Potter
INF, Niles North, Jr.
College: Undecided

Jackson Kaplowitz
INF, Notre Dame, Jr.
College: Undecided

Steven Sanchez
INF, Mundelein, Jr.
College: Arkansas

Dan Marks
OF, Loyola Academy, Sr.
College: Rockhurst (Mo.)

Casey O’Laughlin
OF, Fenwick, Sr.
College: Northwestern

Ryan Turgeon
OF, Nazareth, Jr.
College: Undecided

Brett Christie is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
DIAMOND DOMINANCE

Pioneer Press presents the baseball, softball All-Area teams. Inside

Oak Park-River Forest's Chardonnay Harris is the Pioneer Press softball All-Area Player of the Year.

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