Niles libraries' story time

Programs can help kids prepare for school. Page 4

First row, from left, Louisa Musbach, 4, of Edgebrook; her cousin Rose Moran, 3, also of Edgebrook; Allah Mazed, 4, of Niles, and second row, from left, Alex Evoundi, 6, a kindergartner from Chicago; and Daisy Kowal, 3, of Park Ridge are at the Niles-Maine District Library.

Grandfather and president

Truman's grandson performs in one-man show, “Give 'Em Hell, Harry!” Page B13

Standout senior

Niles North grad Dhruvil Patel races to success for North Central College. Page 22

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SHOUT OUT

Joe Bialko, ‘Living Legend’ in Niles

Joe Bialko, 80 has lived in Niles for greater than 50 years. Now retired, he volunteers for the Niles Police Department Crime Prevention Department entering information into the computer and he drives a hearse for a local funeral home.

He recently was honored with the Bob Wordel Living Legend Award from the Niles Chamber of Commerce, recognizing his volunteer work over many years to the village.

He has been married to his wife, Gigi, for 56 years.

Q: What does the award mean to you?
A: It is very rewarding when you live there. My whole work life, whether it is regular work or volunteering, has been in the village of Niles. I love the village and want it to stay as good as it is or get better.

Q: Why have you volunteered so much for the village?
A: It is very rewarding when you live there. My whole work life, whether it is regular work or volunteering, has been in the village of Niles. I love the village and want it to stay as good as it is or get better.

Q: Do you have a particular favorite memory of your volunteer work?
A: Everything I have done has been a labor of love. It is just a very enjoyable thing to do, and I really enjoy it. The majority of times I am volunteering, I am with my wife. We are a good team.

Q: Do you have a particular favorite place that you like to go in Niles?
A: We go to Nancy’s Pizza. We used to go Riggio’s (which is now closed). We try to support the local businesses in Niles because it is a good thing to do. I try to shop in Niles. It is very important that people who live in the village support the businesses because that is what makes them go.

Daniel I. Dorfman is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Story time can help kids prepare for school

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

Susan Dove Lempke, executive director of the Niles-Maine District Library, also is a story reader for the Wednesday 4- to 5-year-old story time program.

Families came to the library on April 3, which included books read aloud, a video short, a storyboard activity and a dance party session using colorful scarves.

“They’re still preschoolers, but some of them are in kindergarten,” Lempke said. “They just have a much greater capacity to sit and listen, and you can do much longer things with them. Unless they’re having a really crazy day, they’re a little easier to settle down too.”

Lempke added that she enjoys maintaining a story time program reader role while also serving as executive director.

“It is very unusual,” Lempke said with a smile.

Lempke welcomed children by encouraging them to make bright name tags. They could enter the room using a child-sized special door meant for them.

Despite free story time programming for the preschool and kindergarten age range, she said library organizers have noted a trend.

“We are finding that the audience for this particular story hour has gone way down, from what it used to be, like, five or six years ago,” Lempke said, adding that full-day kindergarten is a reason. She said “we’re going to have to adapt.”

On that Wednesday, the bright colors of the Kid Space Program Room popped in part due to the circular design of vibrant carpeting, which also doubled as a dance floor.

“It’s a bit of that magical age, I think, where parents are excited that their little ones are going to go on to school,” said Arianne Carey, the library’s head of youth and teen services.

Youngsters sat on the rug to get a close view of oversized picture books, which were illustrated with bold artwork.

“It’s this ability to practice sitting with a group and listening to an adult and some of them turn and look over their shoulder, and they’re comforted by their grownup who’s here,” Carey said. “But they get to practice that before they go on to school.”

Wednesday’s early afternoon session lasted one hour.

“With this particular group, I tend to use and love the picture book as a form itself,” Lempke said. “It’s got this beginning, middle and end; it’s got artwork that was created especially to work together with the words. It’s an art form all in itself. And I really have a lot of respect for that.”

Nahida Nasrin of Niles brought her daughter, Aliah Mazed, 4, for their first time at this library story time.

“She’s going to be 5 soon, so I hope she’s ready for kindergarten, reading wise,” Nasrin said about Aliah.

Aliah’s mother hoped story time would help her child, “build her vocabulary and learn from the stories. She reads every day, at least four or five books. She loves that.”

Alex Evoundi, 6, a kindergartner from Chicago, attended with family, including friends from Park Ridge.

“Reading is getting a book and looking at the words and reading them,” Alex said. “Reading is fun.”

Karie Angell Luc is a freelance photographer and reporter for Pioneer Press.
The village of Lincolnwood supports our message

Alliance candidates dominate on election night

BY PHIL ROCKROHR
Pioneer Press

The Alliance for Lincolnwood slate swept the race for three trustee seats by 500 or more votes each on April 2 because voters overwhelmingly supported the party’s platform, incumbent Trustee Jesal Patel said.

“I think it’s pretty obvious,” Patel said. “The village of Lincolnwood supports our message and wanted to make sure it was clear.”

Patel and fellow Alliance candidate Craig Klatzco each collected 1,354 votes, while slate mate Atour Toma Sargon led all candidates with 1,435 votes, according to unofficial vote totals from the Cook County Clerk’s Office.

Jennifer Costantino, a candidate on incumbent Trustee Renan Sugarman’s Lifelong for Lincolnwood Party, led her ticket with 854 votes. Sugarman got 852, and fellow Lifelong candidate Joe Spagnoli received 850 votes.

Sugarman, who was appointed in 2017 to fill newly elected Village President Barry Bass’s trustee seat, said April 3 that he and his party members had not yet considered why they lost so handily.

“I don’t know,” he said. “We haven’t vetted it yet. This was a pretty hot (election). Turnout was pretty high for a midterm. There were a ton of issues out there. It’s hard to know.”

Sugarman said an accusation a few weeks before the election that he intimidated fellow Trustee Jean Ikezoe-Halevi in a private conversation did not seem to influence voters.

“Nobody mentioned it to me, and it did not get played up much,” he said. “It kind of died. I can’t tell. I have no idea if it (affected the results) or not. We made our best effort. Unfortunately, we didn’t win. I always tried to do what’s right for the village. That’s my objective.”

Patel said a video of him removing Lifelong’s campaign signs did not affect voters. Patel said after Spagnoli provided the video a few weeks before the election that he had been asked by a teller at U.S. Bank, 6677 N. Lincoln Ave., to remove the signs.

“Everybody pays attention and voted on what matters, on the people there and on their record and none of that kind of nonsense,” Patel said. “Thankfully, my reputation, record and character say a lot more about me. People know who I am and what I’m about.”

Spagnoli, who faced criticism in the weeks prior to the election after acknowledging he pleaded guilty to battery in a 2012 incident involving a former employee of his bar and grill chain, could not be reached for comment.

April 2nd’s vote will allow the Village Board to get “back to business,” said Patel, who was elected to his third term.

“Now we can continue taking steps forward.”

—Incumbent Trustee Jesal Patel

“Now we can continue taking steps forward.”

Craig Klatzco, Jesal Patel and Atour Toma Sargon represent the Alliance for Lincolnwood.

Phil Rockrohr is a freelance reporter for the Pioneer Press.
Big development plans in Morton Grove

Proposal for ‘lifestyle center’ to be called Sawmill Station

BY PHIL ROCKROHR
Pioneer Press

A pair of developers plan to spend $135 million to convert the former Prairie View Shopping Center in Morton Grove into a retail, restaurant, entertainment and residential center.

Kensington Development Partners of Oak Brook and IM Properties of England plan to build a Cooper’s Hawk Winery and Restaurant, Flix Brewhouse theater and brewery, Kohl’s, LA Fitness Signature Club, 250 luxury apartments, grocery store and more on the 26-acre site at Dempster Street and Waukegan Road.

The “vibrant lifestyle center” will be renamed Sawmill Station in tribute to a water-powered sawmill built in 1841 at Dempster and the Chicago River, Village Administrator Ralph Czerwinski said.

Village President Dan DiMaria said the proposal makes him “optimistic and excited for our future.”

“Sawmill Station is exactly what our residents want and, frankly, what they deserve,” DiMaria said in a prepared statement. “The new owners have a proven track record for building premier mixed-use developments and attracting highly desired businesses.”

The developers and their partners have already presented plans to Morton Grove’s Appearance Commission and Traffic Safety Commission. They are scheduled to appear at a public hearing before the Plan Commission at 6:30 p.m. on April 15.

The property, which sat vacant for more than 10 years, became a “run-down eyesore,” Czerwinski said. In September, the site was sold to Kensington and IM.

“(The two developers) recognized that while the property was extremely broken, it had extreme potential,” Czerwinski said.

Jay Eck, principal at Kensington, said, “We looked at it as a phenomenal intersection with great demographics and a great community.”

Eck told the Appearance Commission on April 3: “But it was broken is a nice way to put it.”

Kensington and IM plan to develop a sustainable shopping center, despite the challenges facing brick-and-mortar retail in the Internet age, he said.

“We are working with retailers who have learned to thrive in the Internet world,” Eck said. “They’re winners in the retail apocalypse. Apartment dwellers love having restaurants, retail, a fitness center, theater. That was our vision and where we’re at.”

Morton Grove is negotiating property and sales tax agreements with the developers to help finance the project, Czerwinski said. Any financial assistance will come from taxes generated by the new restaurants and stores, he said.

Nancy Radzевич, community and economic development director for Morton Grove, said the residences will be built on the east side of the property. About 75 percent of Sawmill Station will consist of retail, restaurants, entertainment and other “lifestyle” businesses, Radzевич said.

The apartments will overlook an adjacent forest preserve, Czerwinski said.

Among the other confirmed businesses are Starbucks, Chipotle, Ross and Dollar Tree, he said. All of the existing buildings on the site, except for Bank of America, will be demolished, Czerwinski said.

The developers are negotiating with a grocer and expect to reach a lease agreement later this year, he said.

Phil Rockrohr is a freelance reporter for the Pioneer Press.
Incumbent-led Voice of Niles Party leads village board race

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

The Voice of Niles Party, led by two incumbent trustees, was swept into office April 2, taking all three open seats on the Village Board.

With all 22 precincts reporting, candidates Denise McCreery, Craig Niedermaier and Dean Strzlecki were the winners of the board race over the three-member Neighbors Party, backed by Niles Mayor Andrew Przybylo.

According to unofficial vote totals reported by the Cook County Clerk's Office, the Voice of Niles Party candidates received a combined 6,241 votes. The Neighbors Party candidates — Apostolos "Paul" Drakontakis, Melic R. Bookstein and Israel "Izzy" Pacheco — received a combined 1,668 votes, according to the unofficial count.

Strzlecki credited his party's "hard work and positive campaign" for its landslide win.

"We stuck to the fact that we want to do what's best for Niles," he said. "We want to work together."

"We worked as a team, we pounded on doors, rang doorbells and did everything we could to get the message out," added McCreery.

McCreery said she is looking forward to continuing three initiatives she has already been involved in as a trustee: Economic development and renewal in the village; seeing a proposal that will offer incentives to homeowners who remodel their homes come to fruition; and launching the "Niles Design District," focusing on businesses that offer home improvement and design services.

Niedermaier, the only non-incumbent on the slate, said he is hoping for more harmony on the Village Board and "achieving true transparency" when the new terms begin.

"I feel like there have been ideas and motions being brought up without everybody having full knowledge of what's going on," he said.

The Niles Village Board race was marred by allegations of election fraud involving nominating petitions filed for the Neighbors Party candidates.

Resident Jason Trunco alleged that the name of the person who collected his signature was changed to Przybylo's name after he signed a Neighbors Party petition, while resident Ralph Albanito alleged that a Chicago resident, who is named as a circulator of petitions for the three candidates, did not actually collect signatures for the candidates.

Przybylo denied that any fraud took place.

Strzlecki said the allegations have been submitted to Niles Inspector General Christopher Cohen in the form of an ethics complaint. They have also been submitted to the Cook County State's Attorney's Office for review, he said.

In the Niles Park District race, which saw seven candidates running for two seats on the board of commissioners, Joe LoVerde, former executive director of the park district who retired in 2016, and Jim Hynes, a former village trustee, were the winners. According to unofficial totals, LoVerde received 1,344 votes and Hynes received 858.

Both candidates had been running for the two, four-year terms together. LoVerde is currently a Niles village trustee.

In the Niles Library Board race, incumbents Karen Dimond and Carolyn Drblik were re-elected to two, six-year terms. The unofficial vote totals show Drblik received 1,848 votes and Drblik received 1,880.

On the Niles Township High School District 219 Board of Education, Rebeccca Abraham, David Ko, Jill Mannrique and James Specker were the winners of four open seats, according to the unofficial vote count.

Races for the Niles Elementary School District 71, East Maine School District 63 and Golf School District 67 boards were uncontested.

JENNIFER JOHNSON/PIONEER PRESS

The Voice of Niles Party was elected to three open seats on the Niles Village Board on April 2. Pictured at their victory party on election night are Craig Niedermaier, Denise McCreery and Dean Strzlecki.
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**Niles**

**DISORDERLY CONDUCT**
- A 56-year-old Des Plaines man was ticketed for disorderly conduct on April 3 after a fellow bus passenger accused him of urinating into a plastic bottle and spilling the liquid out of a window of the bus near Milwaukee Avenue and Dempster Street, police said. According to police, the man initially denied the allegation, but then later apologized and said he did not think anyone would have noticed.

**DRUGS**
- Alexander Burns, 27 of the 200 block of Cunat Boulevard, Rich-mond, Ill., was charged with possession of more than 100 grams of marijuana and driving with a suspended license on March 31 following a traffic stop on the 9400 block of Golf Road, police said. According to police, a gallon-size zip-lock bag containing a “large amount” of suspected marijuana was found inside a gym bag behind the driver’s seat. Burns was given an April 17 court date.

**THEFT**
- Ki Ma Henry, 30, of the 6600 block of South Honore, Chicago, was charged with retail theft on March 29 after she was accused of stealing $115.66 worth of merchandise from Target, Golf Mill, police said. She was given an April 24 court date.
- A 15-year-old girl and a 17-year-old boy are facing retail theft charges after they allegedly stole merchandise from Target, Golf Mill, on March 30, police said.
- Mia Eberhart-West, 31, of the 400 block of Buckingham Court, Crystal Lake, was charged with retail theft on April 3 after she was accused of stealing a jacket and two containers of lip gloss from Target, Golf Mill, police said. She was given an April 24 court date.

**BATTERY**
- Darrius J. Jackson, 25, of the 4800 block of Winthrop Avenue, Chicago, was charged with domestic battery on April 2, police said. Court information was not included.

**PUBLIC INTOXICATION**
- A 24-year-old Chicago man was ticketed for public intoxication on March 31 after police said he was found asleep inside a vestibule at Woori Village, 8526 W. Golf Road, at 1:30 a.m. A family member paid for a cab to take him home, police said.
- A 59-year-old Niles man was ticketed for public intoxication on March 31 after he was observed to be stumbling on the sidewalk near the Niles Historical Society, 8970 N. Milwaukee Ave., at 4 a.m., police said. He was taken to the hospital for treatment.

**THEFT**
- Three lug nuts were reportedly stolen off the wheel of a car parked on the 7700 block of North Nordica Avenue between March 23 and March 29.
- A man on March 29 told police he sold a gold bracelet online and shipped the bracelet to an address in New Jersey, only to learn that the credit card charge had been reported as fraudulent.
- A resident of Regency Healthcare, 6631 N. Milwaukee Ave., reported $200 missing from a drawer on March 29, police said.
- A woman reported her wallet stolen on March 30 while she was shopping at Jewel, 8730 W. Dempster St., police said.
- A woman on March 30 told police she sold a ring online for $2,595, plus $120 for shipping, and mailed it to an address in Texas, only to discover that a payment was never made to her PayPal account.
- An unknown man stole a bottle of wine from Fresh Farms, 8203 W. Golf Road, on March 31, police said.
- A woman attempted to use a fraudulent Illinois driver’s license to pick up pre-ordered cellphones from Verizon Wireless, 5700 W. Touhy Ave., police said. The woman reportedly left the store before officers arrived.

**BURGLARY**
- A “small amount” of cash and “office items” were reported stolen from Oak Mill Medical Associates, 7900 N. Milwaukee Ave., during a burglary that occurred between March 26 and March 28, police said.

**PROPERTY DAMAGE**
- A man reported that someone put a shopping cart on the roof of his car while it was parked outside Target, 6150 W. Touhy Ave., on the night of March 29.
- A resident of the 8200 block of West Dempster Street reported that the driver’s side of her car was keyed on April 1, police said.

**Morton Grove**

**THEFT**
- Two unknown men stole $980 from a prize redemption terminal for video gaming machines at Moretti’s, 6415 Dempster St., on March 12, police said. The incident was reported to police on March 28. According to police, about two hours prior to the theft, the same men committed a similar theft at an establishment in Villa Park, where they stole $6,300. They are also suspected in the theft of $6,980 from a bowling alley in Buffalo Grove, police said.
Public art murals planned for buildings in Niles

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Following last year's unveiling of colorful bus stop benches, more examples of public art are planned for the village of Niles this summer.

The Niles Arts and Culture Advisory Council is looking to add murals, painted by professional artists, to the exterior walls of up to three buildings around the village, said Katie Schneider, community engagement coordinator and liaison to the advisory council.

The three buildings that have been selected are the Niles Fire Station at Cumberland Avenue and Dempster Street; Christine Pusateri Hair Solutions, at 7665 N. Milwaukee Ave; and, possibly, Michel's Frame Shop & Gallery, next to the village's community rain garden, at 7120 W. Touhy Ave.

The mural on the fire station is proposed for a wall on the Cumberland Avenue side of the building, while the mural at the Milwaukee Avenue hair salon will face a village-owned parking lot, Schneider said. The mural on the frame gallery wall is still pending a decision on the location of the rain garden, she said.

"This is our big initiative for the year," Schneider told the Village Board last month.

The Arts and Culture Advisory Council plans to partner with Arts Alive Chicago — a nonprofit organization that promotes the creation of art in communities — and will seek proposals from artists in the coming weeks, Schneider said.

"We'll make great efforts to connect and engage our local artists," she said.

The artists will choose the design of the murals, and a committee of judges will select only original artwork, Schneider explained.

The budget for the three murals is $15,000, she said.

The Arts and Culture Advisory Council's first public project was last year's 15 bus stop benches, which were painted with scenes of nature, animals, space and other themes by Chicago area artists.

"We're really trying to create not only a hub for artists here in Niles, but different vehicles where they can show their artistic talent," Schneider said.

Morton Grove spring fair brings out vendors, shoppers

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

More than 40 vendors lined a midway at the Prairie View Community Center Gym on April 6 for the fourth annual Spring Arts and Crafts Fair in Morton Grove.

Jeannette Garrity, recreation supervisor for the Morton Grove Park District, said the purpose of the fair was, "to get the whole community to come out."

"We have a lot of vendors doing decorations for the holidays like wreaths, different Easter things," Garrity said. "We also have a lot of handmade and knitted things, such as clothing, hats. We also have some jewelry as well."

The Morton Grove Park District event attracted families and neighbors who shopped for spring seasonal items and more at 6834 Dempster St.

That Saturday, Vince and Becky Lombardo of Morton Grove brought their children Kate, a preschooler, Colleen, a first-grader, and Luke, 3.

"It's a fun, free event for people to showcase their talents," Becky Lombardo said.

Blanca Montero of La Grange Park sold organic and natural skin care items.

"So far, so good. This is my first year doing it," Montero said.

Jane Vaitaitis, a Morton Grove resident for more than 10 years, sold handmade tiaras with crystals, flowers and details that shimmered.

"Everybody has their inner princess," Vaitaitis said with a smile. "It kind of started as ballet tiaras, but then it just branched out."

Vaitaitis, who works in Deerfield in pharmaceutical research, said about her tiara crafting, "right now, it's a hobby, rather than a sustainable business. It is therapeutic when you make them."

Janice Constante, a vendor from Schaumburg, was raised in Skokie and attended Niles West High School.

"I'm a nurse, also, so I do this for fun," Constante said. "Get to go around and meet new people, exchange ideas and network," Constante said. "It's such a great community to be in."

Ramila Khatau is a vendor and certified reflexologist from Downers Grove, who was at the Spring Arts and Crafts Fair in Morton Grove in the Prairie View Community Center gym on April 6.
Niles police investigating pedestrian death

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

A woman who was struck by a car while crossing a busy Niles street on April 6 has died, police said — marking the fourth pedestrian fatality in the village since late December.

The Cook County Medical Examiner's Office identified the woman as Lisa Bauer, 61, of the 8600 block of Golf Road, unincorporated Maine Township. According to Niles police, Bauer died early morning April 8 after sustaining serious injuries in the crash, which occurred just steps from her home around 9:10 p.m. Saturday.

Niles Police Cmdr. Robert Tornabene said Bauer was crossing Greenwood Avenue about 75 feet north of Golf Road and heading east when she entered the left-turn lane for southbound Greenwood traffic and was struck by a Mercedes SUV.

"We're not anticipating a ticket at this point, based on where the accident occurred and the way the accident occurred. We don't have any indication there was any driver fault here."

— Niles Police Cmdr. Robert Tornabene

The driver of the Mercedes, identified as a 44-year-old woman from Niles, reportedly told police that as she entered the turn lane to turn left onto Golf Road, the pedestrian "came out of nowhere." Police said neither distracted nor impaired driving appear to be factors in the fatality, though it remained under investigation this week.

Witnesses reported that other cars were driving on Greenwood, so it is possible that the pedestrian's view was obstructed and she did not see the Mercedes entering the turn lane, he added.

The fatal crash occurred less than one month after a 61-year-old woman, also from unincorporated Maine Township, was struck and killed by a car just around the corner on Golf Road. Police said the pedestrian was walking east in the curb lane of the 8600 block of Golf when she was hit by a car that was also eastbound.

Other pedestrian fatalities occurred Dec. 27, shortly before 6:30 p.m., at Greenwood Avenue and Betty Terrace, and Jan. 25 around 6:20 a.m. at Dempster Street and Western Avenue, police said. Neither driver was charged or cited in connection with the fatalities.

A fifth pedestrian was killed in Morton Grove, near Niles, while crossing Shermer Road one block north of Dempster Street on the evening of Jan. 4, police reported. The car that struck the man fled the scene, and the driver has not been apprehended, police said.

Tornabene said Niles police and community service officers have been trying to educate pedestrians on ways to make themselves safer when crossing major streets in the village. This campaign has included handing out fliers with safety tips to people who are seen crossing at "high-risk intersections" or crossing roads where a crosswalk or traffic signal does not exist, he said.

"Cross at the nearest intersection — that would be the most important thing that people need to remember," Tornabene said. "They really need to cross at an intersection to be safe."

Tornabene said police could begin issuing citations to pedestrians who are caught improperly crossing streets.

At the same time, police have also been concentrating additional traffic enforcement along the Golf Road corridor, looking for speeders and distracted drivers, and issuing tickets, Tornabene said.

Bauer was not crossing Greenwood in a designated crosswalk and the traffic signal for southbound traffic was green at the time, Tornabene said.

"We're not anticipating a ticket at this point, based on where the accident occurred and the way the accident occurred. We don't have any indication there was any driver fault here."

— Niles Police Cmdr. Robert Tornabene

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"We're not anticipating a ticket at this point, based on where the accident occurred and the way the accident occurred. We don't have any indication there was any driver fault here."

— Niles Police Cmdr. Robert Tornabene
‘Game of Thrones’ in a nutshell for last-minute viewers

SALLY SCHWARTZ HIGGINSON

You know what’s fun about helping someone catch up on “Game of Thrones” so that you can watch the final season together? The answer would be nothing.

If you’re like me and have steadfastly committed yourself to watching the medieval fantasy epic unfold in real time, then you understand the magnitude of the task. What began as an hour-long commitment to HBO in April 2011 has turned into an obsession that has extended over seven seasons and 67 episodes.

It’s not like I’m alone in my devotion. By the end of season seven, more than 10 million viewers were hooked on dragons, sword-play and White Walkers.

And yet, I have befriended a few of the outliers. The ones who aren’t in love with Jon Snow because they don’t know who he is. The ones who don’t understand that even though the calendar says spring, everyone knows that winter is coming.

My friends are the ones who didn’t get swept up in the series when it first aired but instead, they have decided to tune in and join the rest of the world as season eight begins April 14. And they’re wondering if, in my spare time, I could help them catch up on the plot?

No problema. I’m gonna boil the entire series down to its essence, so that even

Daenerys Targaryen (Emilia Clarke) in “Game of Thrones”

my mother, who pays for HBO but does not know how to access it, can follow the final season and eke out a little enjoyment from the show that unites the world as we know it to the Seven Kingdoms of Westeros.

**Game of Thrones in a nutshell**

1. Imagine a world where nine noble families are in charge. They’re all huge, rich and sexist. If the patriarchs are wise and fair, they get killed. If the patriarchs are rich and corrupt, they tend to do well. The sibling groups either get along famously, suffer from intense sibling rivalry, or are lovers.

2. Everyone wants to be king. Even the women.

3. Everyone gets naked. Even the men. Most of the time, however, it’s the women.

4. Many of the children are good to their mothers. But some of the children are beasts. Literally.

5. Religion provides solace and moral guidance. Also, it leads to fanaticism.


7. Girls like war.

8. Dreams mean things that would confound Freud.

9. Torture is a pastime.

10. You want to vacation in Westeros. It’s warm, sunny and everyone looks healthy.


12. Instead of detention hall, there’s The Wall.

13. Jon Snow is handsome, but why doesn’t he wear a hat?

14. Zombies are real. They have blue eyes, and they’re called White Walkers.

15. Ravens, real flying birds, deliver messages more reliably than AT&T, Comcast and T-Mobile combined.

16. The Iron Throne is an actual throne and not the title for a chef competing on the Food Network.

17. Daenerys Targaryen should run for president in 2020. She’d win.

Sally Schwartz Higginson is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.

Letters to the editor

Send your letters to the editor to suburbanletters@tribpub.com. Letters should not exceed 250 words and should include your name, phone number and address.
The government wants your money. They could at least get creative about it.

RANDY BLASER

Do you want to pay more taxes? I know, it's a crazy question. No one wants to pay more taxes. Everyone would rather buy a new TV set or take a trip to Vegas.

But your government doesn't view your taxes like you do. You see it as an expense. For them, it is revenue.

And because your government representatives want you to like them and keep voting for them, they spend way more than comes in.

Eventually that creates a problem. So, they have to convince you that they need more money. More of your money.

And that's not easy. As you've seen, a lot of politicians lately are saying they can get all the money they need by taxing millionaires at sky-high rates.

Problem is, there just aren't enough millionaires to go around to get the politicians the money they need.

So they come up with new schemes to get your money.

Here in Illinois, for instance, some folks want to increase the income tax. Others want to increase the gasoline tax. Better yet, is a scheme to create a mileage tax based on how far you drive your car on our precious roads.

Then there is the bag tax. Plastic bags are bad for the environment so the government figures they can kill two birds with one stone — make you pay a bag tax to raise revenue and make people stop using the bags. (However if people stop using bags, they won't pay the tax, but don't worry about that.)

No matter what, it is never enough money.

So I'm wondering if there are any other options. Can we think out of the box and come up with newer, better ideas to raise taxes?

In a way, President Donald Trump was on to something when he said he would build a wall and make Mexico pay for it.

Despite dismal results, this method could be a model for getting other stuff with what savvy investors call other people's money. (But isn't all the money government uses other people's money? Don't worry about that.)

Our military is all over the world. Why should we pay for it? Let's make them pay for it. You use it, you pay for it. Let's make Germany and South Korea pay for our bases there, at exorbitant prices, of course. If they want military protection, they could get France.

Organized crime made a lot of money off gambling. Government has gotten a taste of that with the lottery and casinos. But is government taking full advantage of the opportunity? I don't think so.

When I go to the doctor, I spend a lot of time waiting around. Same thing when I go to the grocery store at peak times. I'm waiting in line to pay. Instead of playing a waiting game, I could be playing video poker. But does government take advantage of our down time by providing me a mobile video poker machine? I don't think so.

On April 15, a lot of people are going to write checks to Uncle Sam. Some might not have the money. Uncle Sam should just loan it to them and let them pay it back next week. Better yet, they can just pay the interest of 18.5 percent next week and every week until they have the money to pay the debt.

Those are just some fresh ideas for the government to make more money. Of course, I still offer up my old standard of selling naming rights to government buildings. (Peter Francis Geraci Bankruptcy Info Tapes State of Illinois Building has a nice ring to it.)

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist.
At women’s networking group, ‘giving is what comes naturally’

In 2009, Wendy Baum asked five women she knew through business to meet for breakfast. Her hope was to network and build her clientele.

“Professional women are hard to find and meet because they’re either working or with their families,” said Baum, a former corporate accountant who at the time was new to the financial planning industry. “I was looking to build relationships, not just sell services. I went to a few networking meetings but wasn’t impressed.”

What Baum never predicted was that the tiny group she put together would turn into what it is today: The Exclusive Professional Women’s Networking Group, (known as EPWNG) a 280-member all-women’s networking group with an unprecedented culture: its members’ authentic desire to help each other.

“Women aren’t comfortable asking for help. We’re bad at it,” said 51-year-old Baum, a mom of two and AXA advisor. “Our natural inclination is to be a caregiver and to provide the help. Giving is what comes naturally.”

That’s why at every EPWNG meeting, each member stands up and tells the group her “need for the month.”

“This provides an opportunity for the rest of the members to give, which is what we enjoy doing” Baum said.

With branches on Chicago’s North Shore, the city, the western suburbs, the northwest suburbs, and Phoenix, Ariz., EPWNG, which is a nonprofit organization, offers monthly meetings, social events, educational events, leadership opportunities, and committee participation.

“We really wanted to make it exclusive, meaning we wanted people who were established in their professions,” said Sheri Warsh, an attorney for the law firm Levenfeld Perlstein and one of EPWNG’s founding board members. “But we also wanted to make it easy, meaning affordable, easy to get to, and not a big time commitment.”

Judy Elowe was also one of the first board members of EPWNG, and said what initially attracted her to the idea of the group was that there were “no rules.”

“Remember that this was during the recession and the economy wasn’t good. Wendy’s philosophy made a lot of sense. You didn’t have to provide a certain number of leads or referrals to other members,” said Elowe, who is the vice president of Creative Promotional Products, a North Shore-based promotional marketing and branding company. “There was no pressure and no extra stress.”

Elowe said EPWNG’s culture has caused the group to move beyond just the professional business relationship, to a much deeper level, which she never expected.

“I can call you and you can call me, and we will do anything for each other,” said Elowe. “We just have this wonderful group of women who are willing to give and help, and what comes back to them are incredible business opportunities. It is that giving that has sustained and grown EPWNG.”

“There’s a common thread among these women and when you find commonality with someone, you want to engage more deeply and that’s how trust is formed,” said Baum. “Members inspire each other, we challenge each other, we connect you with other people, we refer business, we offer advice in our field and we care about you. It’s authentic, and it’s beautiful.”

Perhaps the most special gift EPWNG has given its members: friendships outside of work.

“Not only doing business together came out of this, but so much more,” said Warsh. “Personal relationships, friendships, and people wanting to help with family members, children, or husbands are all part of EPWNG. Anything someone needs help with, they feel comfortable asking someone in the group.”

EPWNG grows its membership through members inviting other women to attend a meeting. If after the meeting the person decides they want to join, they are required to submit an application, which is reviewed and then either approved or denied by a 14-member board.

This month, EPWNG is celebrating its 10-year anniversary by throwing a big bash for all its members and former members at a trendy downtown hot spot. I have to say, I cannot wait!

I joined EPWNG about 8 years ago, and the membership has been extremely beneficial to my career. But even more significant, I’ve embraced the group’s giving culture; the desire to help someone achieve something she really wants, to guide her in the right direction, to celebrate a big accomplishment or maybe a milestone birthday, to be there if she’s sick, to connect her to opportunities, or just to listen when she needs a friend. I feel fortunate and honored to be part of this kind of positive energy.

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Quote-Acrostic

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

Clues      | Words
---        | ---
A. Recognize | 34 109 79 145 120 128 16 60 72 89 156
B. Hidden: 2 wds. | 102 115 5 33 47 19 85 130 92 69
C. Monetary compensation | 66 1 87 46 27 124 38
D. Come forth | 14 73 140 64 49 99
E. Fairly good: 3 wds. | 37 50 15 150 88 118 43 131 86 2
F. Arrive in abundance: 2 wds. | 6 96 119 151 21 134
G. Direct relevance | 84 136 85 158 100 146 112 22 4
H. Joining material | 61 44 56 132 80 122
I. Work continuously: 2 wds. | 82 110 53 40 133 157 26 147 8 76
J. Pavarotti's range | 81 28 71 97 52
K. Rodgers and Hammerstein musical | 62 98 142 15 162 42 125 78
L. Morally harmful | 63 138 121 123 104 15 54 29 9 83
M. Achilles' mother | 103 20 32 106 160 45
N. Something neglected | 127 13 10 91 57 24 101 111
O. Thwarted | 105 58 137 159 48 114
P. Fine length of material | 35 44 93 106 74 126
Q. Secluded place | 107 152 139 90 70 116 30 143
R. Appraised | 36 11 153 86 25 17 77 54 141
S. Metal lantern | 95 31 41 115 161 7 55
T. Inflexible | 144 146 12 59 3 129 154
U. Drooping | 67 51 135 117 75 149

North America

BY CHARLES PRESTON

Across
1 Husband: Fr. 5 Concluding musical passage
9 Inviting letters 13 Jewish month
14 Exodus author 15 Needle wielder
16 Western CO town 18 Flat: prefix
19 Honest president 20 Misfortunes
21 Pulverizes 22 Household
24 Divan 25 Ontario town
30 Almost perpendicular 33 Capacious
34 Fabrication 35 Grist, for gardeners
36 Daddies 37 Too
38 HS subject 39 Passover feast
40 Demolishes, in Dover 41 Stream near Fergus Falls, MN
44 Poetic muse 45 Builds

49 No more or less 51 David Copperfield's child-wife
52 Altered 54 Make amends
55 Southern MN town 57 Speed
58 Zest 59 Knife
60 Fraternal order 61 1492 vessel
62 Circus overhead

Down
1 Sir's mate 2 Building block
3 Northern VA community 4 Anger
5 Shore bird 6 City on the Oka
7 Loses vitality 8 Inquire
9 Survivor 10 Alberta, Canada area
11 Sell 12 Those in favor
15 Dapper 17 Panatela
21 Clanging instruments 23 Prefatory sound
24 Muscle-relaxant substance 26 City of northwest Czechoslovakia
27 Mockers 28 French river
29 Modernists 30 Rebuff
31 Watson's target 32 Town near Roanoke, VA
33 Like some bogs 37 Swiss river
39 Climbed 40 Played the tape again
42 Dunne and Papas 43 Home of Shakespeare's Two Gentlemen
46 Mountain of southern OR
47 Subway necessity 48 Saccharine
49 Moon's dark area 50 And others: abbr.
51 Supermarket sec. 52 Algerian city
53 Layer 56 WWII craft

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

By Ery Kaczmarek. Edited by Linda and Charles Preston. © 2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.
Just Desserts

BY PAUL COULTER
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

Across
1 "Beat it!" (Abbr.)
2 Rubberneck
9 Preserve, in a way
13 Grammar topic
17 East of Eden (director)
19 Only part of Egypt in Asia
20 Brio
21 Bedouin, e.g.
22 Sure sign that Spot got into today's dessert?
23 Doubtful story
24 They're heard in
26 Cause of a stir?
27 Nutritious beans
28 Metaphorical fate of a hatchet?
29 HuffPost owner
30 Prefix with phobia
31 Damage
32 APO mail recipients
33 Absurd classification
34 Krispy Kreme rep's
35 Hindustani
36 Language of
37 English assignment
39 Env. enclosure
40 Query in Matthew
41 Food at a bar
42 Head lock
43 "Help!"
44 Biblical language
45 Beams
46 Boris Godunov, for one
47 "Buddenbrooks" author
48 Kopf, across the border
49 NFL six-pointers
50 Record holder
51 Agitate
52 Ice cream order toppings?
53 "As I Lay Dying" author
54 "The West Wing" actress
55 "O patria mia" singer
56 Corrupt
57 Ostentatious
58 "The West Wing" actor
59 Young boys
60 Cold party
61 Coiled yarn
62 "The West Wing" (village)
63 "As I Lay Dying" author
64 Focus of an heir war?
65 "Day": 1993 rap hit
67 "Yumi!"
68 Small Champagne bottle
69 Zipper part
70 Big name in
71 Buckwheat porridge
72 "Dune" novel
73 Iron and zinc
74 Bullies
75 "Dune" novel
76 "The West Wing" (village)
77 Young boys
78 Like plastic pink flamingos
79 Like plastic pink flamingos
80 Typist's left hand home keys
81 "Hamburger Kid!"
82 Like plastic pink flamingos
83 Like plastic pink flamingos
84 Like plastic pink flamingos
85 "Dune" novel
86 "Dune" novel
87 "Dune" novel
88 "Dune" novel
89 Like plastic pink flamingos
90 Like plastic pink flamingos
91 "Dune" novel
92 "Dune" novel
93 "Dune" novel
94 "Dune" novel
95 "Dune" novel
96 One of two in seven: Abbr.
97 "The West Wing"
98 "Nice apple tart, Christopher?"
99 Bygone Ford
100 "The West Wing" actor
101 Tropical lizard
102 Roll out
103 Like plastic pink flamingos
104 "Dune" novel
105 "Dune" novel
106 "Dune" novel
107 Italian almond biscuits
108 
109 "Dune" novel
110 Like plastic pink flamingos
111 "Dune" novel
112 "Dune" novel
113 "Dune" novel
114 "Dune" novel
115 "Dune" novel
116 "Dune" novel
117 "Dune" novel
118 "Dune" novel
119 "Dune" novel
120 "Dune" novel
121 "Dune" novel
122 "Dune" novel

Down
1 Half of quatorze
2 "Whodunit" game
3 "O patria mia" singer
4 "Dune" novel
5 Paid male escort
6 "Dune" novel
7 "Dune" novel
8 "Dune" novel
9 "Dune" novel
10 "Dune" novel
11 "Dune" novel
12 "Dune" novel
13 "Dune" novel
14 Enjoy a view from on high
15 Both: Pref.
16 Big party
17 "Dune" novel
18 "Dune" novel
19 "Dune" novel
20 "Dune" novel
21 "Dune" novel
22 "Dune" novel
23 "Dune" novel
24 "Dune" novel
25 "Dune" novel
26 "Dune" novel
27 "Dune" novel
28 "Dune" novel
29 "Dune" novel
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111 "Dune" novel
112 "Dune" novel
113 "Dune" novel
114 "Dune" novel

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

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

PRINT YOUR ANSWER IN THE CIRCLES BELOW

This week's answers appear on the next page
By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2019 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved.
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A cheeky ad for Sean Penn’s novel, “Bob Honey Who Just Do Stuff,” attributed John Warner’s words to the Chicago Tribune. It’s true that the blurb appeared in the Tribune, but but Warner wonders whether readers are served well by this industry convention.

**BIBLORACLE**

**Book blurbs need transparency**

**BY JOHN WARNER**

*Chicago Tribune*

I don’t mean to brag, but sometimes your humble Biblioracle apparently speaks for the entire Chicago Tribune, a newspaper that has been in continuous operation since 1847 when I was minus 123 years old.

Perhaps the most striking example of this was last year when Atria Books, the publisher of Sean Penn’s “novel,” “Bob Honey Who Just Do Stuff” took out a full-page ad touting what critics had to say about the book in a cheeky attempt to lean into what critics had to say about the book. When Stephen King publishes a review in The New York Times, you can bet the pull-quote is attached to him, not the paper. Except there are exceptions. When Siskel and Ebert gave “two thumbs up,” those opposable digits were not credited to the Chicago Tribune and Chicago Sun-Times.

There are a small handful of book reviewers who have earned the cache to stand alone from (or more likely alongside) their publication. Michiko Kakutani was perhaps tops among them all prior to her recent retirement from The New York Times. Ron Charles at The Washington Post and Laura Miller at Slate deserve the same distinction in my book. Parul Sehgal, another Times critic, will be there eventually if she isn’t already. But why not me? Why not Claire Fallon, who is the author of the quote credited to Huffpost above?

How can I be said to speak for the Chicago Tribune? Framing an individual judgment as belonging to the larger, more august entity isn’t unique to books. For movies, theatrical productions, restaurants, video games, blenders, the authority reflexively falls to the publication in which the review appeared.

Except there are exceptions. When Siskel and Ebert gave “two thumbs up,” those opposable digits were not credited to the Chicago Tribune and Chicago Sun-Times. When Stephen King publishes a review in The New York Times, you can bet the pull-quote is attached to him, not the paper.

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But why not me? Why not Claire Fallon, who is the author of the quote credited to Huffpost above?

Honestly, I wasn’t inclined to question the practice until Kathleen Rooney took issue with it on Twitter, and I began to think how right she is. Rooney is both a fellow Tribune freelance colleague and the author of “Lillian Boxfish Takes a Walk.”

It’s not just about ego, but manners as well, acknowledging credit where it is due. At the same time, I believe that it’s in the best interest of publishers to attach the names of all reviewers along with the publication in their ads, the pages at internet retailers, or the blurbs on the paperback versions where these things often appear. “The Biblioracle” does not engender recognition nationwide, but in Chicago? Yeah, a little bit. Imagine a reader browsing the new bookshelves table and seeing a quote from The Biblioracle and remembering, Oh yeah, that guy who recommends books in the Trib. Humility aside, this is a more persuasive connection than only the name of the paper.

You just sold a book.

No one will ever challenge Oprah when it comes to a stamp of approval’s ability to move units, but couldn’t “A Biblioracle Pick” potentially move at least a few?

Only three words — five if you include my name with it.

At least think about it, publishers.

John Warner is the author of “Why They Can’t Write: Killing the Five-Paragraph Essay and Other Necessities.”

Twitter @biblioracle

**Book recommendations from the Biblioracle**

John Warner tells you what to read based on the last five books you've read.

1. “A God in Ruins” by Kate Atkinson
2. “Anything Is Possible” by Elizabeth Strout
3. “The Secret Life of Bees” by Sue Monk Kidd
5. “Less” by Andrew Sean Greer

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**Get a reading from the Biblioracle**

Send a list of the last five books you’ve read to books@chicagotribune.com.
Truman’s grandson stars in one-man play

Former president comes to life in ‘Give ‘Em Hell, Harry!’

By Myrna Petlicki
Pioneer Press

Clifton Truman Daniel was five years old when he learned the truth. His first-grade teacher announced to the class that he was the grandson of President Harry S. Truman. The surprised youngster ran home and asked his mother, “Mom, did you know that Grandpa Truman was president?” Her response was, “Any little boy's grandpa can be president. Don’t let it go to your head.”

You’ll learn a lot about Daniel’s famous relative in the one-person show, “Give ‘Em Hell, Harry!” on April 13 at the North Shore Center for the Performing Arts in Skokie.

You won’t hear that anecdote, though, because the biographical play was written by playwright Samuel Gallu. It became a 1975 film which earned star James Whitmore an Academy Award and a Golden Globe nomination for Best Actor. It traces Truman’s life from his childhood through his two terms as President of the United States.

Daniel had taken early retirement from his career as director of public relations for Truman College when he was trying to figure out “what I was going to do with the rest of my life,” he recalled. A friend suggested he come to Boca Raton, Fla., and give a few speeches about Truman.

“That began a whole speaking career,” said Daniel, who noted, “People were telling me I looked like my grandfather.” Remembering having seen the Gallu film while on a flight, Daniel decided to perform the show.

He first performed an eight-show run in October of 2017 in Wilmington, N.C. “It was successful and that led to an agent and beginning to be booked around the country,” Daniel said.

Daniel stressed that the show is “accurate in spirit but the playwright didn’t have access to the materials we do today, so there are inaccuracies.” The bottom line is that it’s a play. After each performance, Daniel answers questions from the audience for 15 or 20 minutes to clarify those inaccuracies.

When we chatted by phone, Daniel shared his earliest memory of his grandfather. His grandparents were visiting New York, where Daniel grew up. Four-year-old Daniel and his 2-year-old brother Will awoke early one morning and walked past their grandfather who was reading a newspaper.

“He didn’t see us at first because he was behind the newspaper,” Daniel related. “We went to walk into the den to watch cartoons. He caught us and said, ‘Give ‘Em Hell, Harry!’ We said, ‘To watch Bugs Bunny.’ He said, ‘You don’t want to do that.’ He went into the den and took a book off the top shelf. He said, ‘Sit down, we’re going to read.’”

And that’s what the former President was doing with his grandsons, each sitting quietly on one arm of his chair, when Daniel’s mother came downstairs and saw this unique sight. She asked what Truman was reading to her boys. It was “The History of the Peloponnesian War.” “I tried reading it 20 years ago. I got a few pages into it and closed the book,” Daniel admitted. “It’s difficult reading.”

Daniel, who was 15 when his grandfather died, has written two books about Truman, “Growing Up With My Grandfather: Memories of Harry S. Truman,” and “Dear Harry, Love Bess: Bess Truman’s Letters to Harry Truman, 1919-1943.” The veteran actor also portrayed his grandfather in the independent film “Second Samuel.”

Asked to describe his grandfather in one sentence, Daniel replied, “He took this quote to Washington with him. I think it’s from Mark Twain: ‘Always do right. You’ll gratify a few people and astound everybody else.’”

Myrna Petlicki is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
WHAT TO DO COMMUNITY CALENDAR

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

Thursday, April 11

Family Literacy Night: For preschoolers through fifth graders and their parents. This Dr. Seuss-themed event gives children and their families a chance to play a variety of games and participate in hands-on activities that promote a love of learning. 6 p.m. Thursday, St. Philip the Apostle School, 1233 W. Holtz Ave., Addison, free, 630-543-4130.

Park Ridge Garden Club Meeting: The Park Ridge Garden Club hosts perennial expert Liz Paine and her topic, “Gorgeous and Resilient Perennials: Perennials That Wake Up With the Bulbs.” She focuses on early blooming perennials and spring bulbs that enhance your landscape and provide color, texture and food for early pollinators. All are welcome. 7 p.m. Thursday, Centennial Activity Center - Park Ridge Park District, 100 S. Western Ave., Park Ridge, free, 773-852-1063.

Home Care vs. Resident Housing for Older Adults: Learn the basics about retirement communities, home care, and the myths and facts that should guide your evaluation. Presented by Andrea Donovan, Senior Living Advisors. 7 p.m. Thursday, Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-256-6935.

Friday, April 12

Planet Filippo Quartet and Jazz for the Generations: The trio performs plenty of Filippo originals plus arrangements of both contemporary classics from the ’60s to the present — Bowie, Hendrix, Lennon/McCartney, Dylan, Joni Mitchell, Stevie Wonder, Winwood, Radio Head, plus a nice collection of jazz standards, all with a Filippo twist. 4 p.m. Friday, Mariano’s Des Plaines, 10 E. Golf Road, Des Plaines, free.

Brian Gephart Sextet: Acclaimed Chicago jazz saxophonist Brian Gephart performs with his sextet featuring trumpet, guitar, piano, bass and drums. 8 p.m. Friday, Studio65, 1934 Dempster St., Evanston, $20-$25, 847-328-6683.

Iota Centauri Finds Out - Socialist Realism in Drag: Performance piece/installation inspired by Soviet space utopias. Immigrant artists Dania Cae and Galina Shevchenko salvage forgotten Soviet propaganda songs about space exploration through drag, punk and video art. The performance piece explores possibilities hidden in discarded human experience. Standing room only. Two cycles, one hour apart at 7:15 p.m. and 8:15 p.m. on the 50th anniversary of the first human space flight. 7:15 p.m. Friday, Ice House Gallery and Art Space, 609 South Blvd., Evanston, free, 847-232-7092.

Skyline Piano Artist Series: The fourth annual Skyline Piano Artist Series showcases an array of virtuosity against the backdrop of the Chicago skyline. Appearing are: Alexander Toradze, 7:30 p.m. April 12; Marc-André Hamelin, 7:30 p.m. May 3; and James Giles, 7:30 p.m. May 30. 7:30 p.m. Friday, Mary Galvin Recital Hall at Northwestern University, 70 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, $10-$30, 847-491-7575.

Alexander Toradze at Skyline Piano Artist Series: Alexander Toradze’s unorthodox interpretations and poetic lyricism have earned him international recognition as a masterful virtuoso. 7:30 p.m. Friday, Mary Galvin Recital Hall at Northwestern University, 70 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, $10-$30, 847-497-4000.

Baby Signs for Birth-agers: Pre-readers and their families learn American Sign Language together through new activities each month. Tickets given out 20 minutes prior to program and preference is given to Glenview Public Library cardholders. 10:30 a.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Saturday, April 13

Work Smart Salary Negotiation Workshop: The AAUW Northwest Suburban Branch and the Des Plaines Public Library will host “Work Smart.” In this interactive workshop, participants will learn skills and strategies to help them negotiate a raise, promotion or salary and benefits for a new job. A current resume is helpful but not required. 1:30 p.m. Saturday, Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Elinwood St., Des Plaines, free, 847-827-5551.

Squirrel Nut Zippers: 9:30 p.m. Saturday, Evanston Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, TBD, 487-492-8860.

Catch Up: What’s Been Going on in Israel? With new policy in the Middle East, Gaza kite wars, corruption cases at the highest levels, and internal social conflicts are all part of the new reality in Israel. These issues and a lot more will be explored, along with a catchup on Israeli cinema and high tech. 1 p.m. Friday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $10 member, $15 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

Explore Chinatown: Chitainon is one of the most unique ethnic neighborhoods in Chicago. Enjoy a day of fun as you explore its beautiful architecture and experience the aura of this very special area. A guide from the Chinese Cultural Center will take you on a tour that will include the Chinatown Gate, Nine Dragon Wall, Ping Tom Memorial Park and more. Enjoy lunch at Ming Hin. Includes tour, lunch and transportation. 9 a.m. Friday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $79 member, $95 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

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Dynamic Duos with Chicago a cappella: From classical to classic rock and pop, musical theater and opera, Chicago a cappella shines a spotlight on your favorite songwriting and performing duos from, well, the past few hundred years or so. Where else could you find Mozart and Da Ponte, Stan Getz and Astrud Gilberto, Elton John and Bernie Taupin, Gilbert and Sullivan, Simon and Garfunkel, George and Ira Gershwin, and the Captain and Tennille all in the same room? 8 p.m. Saturday, Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $35 general admission.
Turning Point - An Evening with Spoken Word: Come laugh and reflect when you join in for an early-spring evening of spoken word hosted by Lee Melchoir. Since April is poetry month, the group features pieces from poets and storytellers with true, personal stories. Also time available for an open mic. 6:30 p.m. Saturday, Ice House Gallery and Art Space, 609 South Blvd., Evanston, free, 847-232-7092.

G. F. Handel’s The Triumph of Time and Disenchantment: Third Coast Baroque concludes its 2018-19 season with George Frideric Handel’s first oratorio — “The Triumph of Time and Disenchantment,” HWV 46a, conducted by artistic director Rubén Dubrovsky. Third Coast Baroque performs the 1707 version of this oratorio in Italian. English supertitles are projected over the stage, as is imagery that illustrates the story. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Mary Galvin Recital Hall at Northwestern University, 70 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, $10-$50 advance; $10-$60 at door.

The Bridges of Madison County: A handsome photographer pulls into Francesca Johnson’s driveway seeking directions. What happens in the four days while her family is away may very well alter the course of Francesca’s life. Show only: Thursdays and Sundays $39-$49; Fridays and Saturdays $44-$54. Including dinner: Thursdays and Sundays $64; Fridays and Saturdays $69. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre - Evanston, 721 Howard St., Evanston, $39-$69, 773-347-1109.

Sing to Live NorthShore University HealthSystem Benefits: The Sing to Live Community Chorus is a chorus that celebrates hope and survival for singers whose lives have been touched by breast cancer. Sing to Live presents its 14th season with two performances of hits from the British Invasion on April 13 at 7:30 p.m., at Glenview Community Church in Glenview; and April 14 at 4 p.m. at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Oak Park. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Glenview Community Church, 1000 Elm St., Glenview, $22-$27, 847-724-2210.

Finding the Answers: World War II Online: Most WWII military records are not available online, but you can still find clues to your soldier's story. Jennifer Holik answers some common questions. Registration required. 1 p.m. Saturday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Creventive Puppet Company: The Three Little Pigs: Huff and puff and join us for this puppet-tastic presentation of the classic fairy tale. Registration required. 10:30 a.m. Saturday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Storywalk: Children and animals watch the world transform from the dark of winter to the brightness of spring in “When Spring Comes” by Kevin Henkes. Just drop in. 9 a.m. Saturday, Little Bear Garden at Gallery Park, 2001 Patriot Blvd, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Hide and Peep: Who's egg-cited for this egg hunt? Join in for Easter fun, a DJ, selfie station, and more. 1 p.m. Saturday, Lincolnwood Town Center, 3333 W. Touhy Ave, Lincolnwood, free.

Cut the Cable: Discover new options available to replace your cable or satellite service. Registration required. 2 p.m. Saturday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277.

Saturday Storytime with the Quilted Classroom: The Quilted Classroom provides social stories, sensory stimuli, and fun for children with special needs. Deaf/hard of hearing friendly with ASL interpretation. Siblings and friends are welcome. Minimum age 3 with caregiver; drop-in event. 10 a.m. Saturday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277.

Quattro Voci Classical Quartet: The One Tree Many Branches concert series presents Quattro Voci, comprising four of the most distinguished voices on the Chicago and international music scenes: Jasmine Lin (violin), Anthony D'Vore (viola), Marina Hoover (cello) and Kuang-Hao Huang (piano). Their repertoire for the evening includes works by Brahms, Mahler and artistic director and composer Mischa Zupko. 4:30 p.m. Saturday, Lutheran Church of the Ascension, 460 Sunset Ridge Road, Northfield, free, 847-446-8335.

Sunday, April 14

Local Color Art Expo: Second annual fine art fair featuring 14 local artists. Work includes oil, pastel, watercolor, pen and ink, collage, digital, acrylic and more. 1 p.m. Sunday, Friendship Park Conservatory, 395 W. Algonquin Road, Des Plaines, free, 847-609-2852.


Doug DeWitt: A Change in the Weather and Olea Nova: Air: Two upcoming exhibitions, Doug DeWitt: A Change in the Weather and Olea Nova: Air, are shown from April 13 to May 24, with an opening reception for both exhibitions from 1-4 p.m., which is free and open to the public. 1 p.m. Sunday, Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-5300.

Studio5 Sunday Film Festival: Love and Death: Grab some popcorn, order a drink and enjoy a screening of Love and Death (from 1975), a classic Woody Allen comedy about a neurotic soldier in zarist Russia who teams up with his cousin to assassinate Napoleon. Featuring pre-show commentary by screen-writer Dana Olsen. For information, email Steve Rashid at steve@studio5.dance. 4 p.m. Sunday, Studio5, 1934 Dempster St., Evanston, $10 at door, 847-328-6683.

"The Old Man and the Gun" (93 mins/PG-13/2018): Based on the true story of Forrest Tucker and his audacious escape from San Quentin at the age of 70, leading to an unprecedented string of heists that confounded authorities and enthralled the public. Just drop in. 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Storywalk: Children and animals watch the world transform from the dark of winter to the brightness of spring in “When Spring Comes” by Kevin Henkes. Just drop in. 9 a.m. Sunday, Little Bear Garden at Gallery Park, 2001 Patriot Blvd, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Maria Hrycelak presents the program: "KALO Foundation of Park Ridge." 11:30 a.m. Saturday, Park Ridge Country Club, 636 N. Prospect Ave, Park Ridge, $23, 847-328-6946.

Moral Suffering and the Gift of Self: This is a lecture/discussion by Fr. Marek Duran, associate professor of moral theology at Mundelein Seminary. This is the final session in a series on Redemptive Suffering. What is “moral suffering” Is suffering inevitable in the total gift of self to another? Can we be just and merciful at the same time? The audience considers these questions and more. Noon Sunday, St. Catherine Laboure Parish Rec Room, 3535 Thornwood Ave., Glenview, free, 847-826-4704.

Blood Drive at St. Paul of the Cross Church: Takes place from 8 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the Morello Parish Life Center, 320 S. Washington in Park Ridge (behind the church). Appointments are recommended, but walk-ins accepted. Contact Christine Perille at 847-823-8755 with questions or to schedule your appointment. 8 a.m. Sunday, St. Paul of the Cross Catholic Church, 320 S. Washington St., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-7605.

Easter Kinderfest at Hofbräuhaus Chicago: Hofbräuhaus Chicago's guests can kick off Easter early with the restaurant's Easter Kinderfest, offering fun for the whole family including a magician, pinwheel decorating, face painting and meet-and-greets with the Easter Bunny. 1 p.m. Sunday, Hofbräuhaus Chicago, 5800 Park Place, Rosemont, free, 847-671-2799.

The Junior Klezmer Orchestra: The young musicians of the Junior Klezmer Orchestra gather every other Sunday in Wilmette with members of the Maxwell Street Klezmer Band to master the art of klezmer music, which is the celebration music of Jews of Eastern Europe. Ticket link: bit.ly/KJOz4v1419. 2 p.m. Sunday, Skokie Theatre, 7924 N. Lincoln Ave, Skokie, tickets: $15 general admit, $10 for kids age 12 and under, 847-677-7761.

Monday, April 15

My Lincolnwood Story Information Session: Lincolnwood Library plans to collect, preserve, and share stories from community members young and old. Learn how you can get involved. Registration required. 7 p.m. Monday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277.

Saffron and Cardamom: Iran's Rich Culture Through Food: Persian cuisine, with its display of beautiful colors and aromas, is gaining popularity in the West. Jacqueline Saper will use Iranian (Persian) cuisine to provide attendees with insight into the nation’s culture, economy, environment, and history. She will explain which foods are used for holiday celebrations, religious ceremonies, and civic events. 1 p.m. Monday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $12 member; $17 nonmember, 847-784-6030.
Wednesday, April 17

**Animal Secrets:** Using imaginative role-play and hands-on activities, children will discover nature from an animal's point of view in naturalistic environments, including a meadow, woodland, cave and naturalists' tent. 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Kohl Children's Museum, 2100 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, $11-$12, 847-832-6600.

**Chicago: The First Hollywood:** Before the film industry moved West, it was firmly rooted in Chicago. Some of its key players included Charlie Chaplin, Gloria Swanson, "Broncho Billy" Anderson, and many more. Join film historian Annette Bochenek for a presentation about the film industry's early days in Chicago. Registration required. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277.

**Spring Bake Sale:** Sponsored by the St. Haralambos Ladies Philoptochos Society. This features Easter Tsoureki bread and Koulourakia; Easter baskets, Lambathes, and red eggs; Baklava, Diples, Galakto-boureko, Kafiatei, Kourambiethes, and Melomakarouna. A lenten lunch is served both days. Call ahead to place your pastry order for pickup. 9 a.m. Wednesday, Holy Taxiarhai-St. Haralambos Greek Orthodox Church, 7373 N. Caldwell Ave., Niles, free, 847-647-8880.

**“Georgy Girl”**

**“Georgy Girl”**: Georgy Parkin is an overweight and somewhat depressed young woman who partially disapproves of her parents' working as servants in the palatial London home of James Leamington and his ailing, forever-complaining wife. Resigned to her fate as one of life's misfits, Georgy shares a flat with a beautiful but cold and amoral violinist named Meredith. One day, to her astonishment, Georgy is informed by Mr. Leamington that he would like her to become his mistress and that he has taken the trouble to have legal papers drawn up on their "agreement." Directed by Silvio Narizzano, 1966, 100 min. 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, Northfield Public Library, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $12 member; $17 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

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<td>Michael Naselli</td>
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<td>David Carl Sturm</td>
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<td>David Balagh</td>
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<td>Danil Duhanca</td>
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<td>Marian Jedras</td>
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<td>Jinwoo Oak</td>
<td>Kenny V Zandt</td>
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<td>Santello Trust</td>
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<td>Susan Clarke</td>
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<td>Tomas Servin</td>
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<td>Tomasz Jakubek &amp; Danuta Jakubek</td>
<td>Brittany Yates</td>
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<td>205 Stafford Dr, Wheeling</td>
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<td>Marina Smolina</td>
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<td>Edin Arslanagic</td>
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This list is not intended to be a complete record of all real estate transactions.
Maine South takes a trip ‘Into the Woods’

Fairy tale musical runs for two weekends this month

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Characters of beloved fairy tales meet, mingle and discover life is not always a happily-ever-after in Maine South High School’s upcoming production of Stephen Sondheim’s “Into the Woods.”

The musical opens Friday, April 12, at 7:30 p.m. at the Park Ridge school, 1111 S. Dee Road. Additional performances are scheduled for April 13, 26 and 27 at 7:30 p.m. and April 14 at 2 p.m.

“Even though it’s the story of a fairy tale, all of the characters are so real and relatable,” said Sara Nelson, one of the musical’s two student directors. “Like, Cinderella gets cheated on by Prince Charming; the Baker’s Wife dies. You see all these characters go through tremendous loss and suffering throughout the play, and you get to see them cope and deal with that.”

Under the hanging moss that creates the feel of a mystical forest, audiences will see a host of familiar characters from childhood lore, like the aforementioned Cinderella; Jack, from “Jack and the Beanstalk”; Rapunzel; Little Red Riding Hood; and Hansel and Gretel.

“It’s one of those shows that makes you think about life and the things we want and wish for,” said director and Maine South drama teacher Carrie Saurer. “Sometimes, what we wish for is not what we want or need.”

Student director Anna Hyslop also noted the “serious themes” of the musical, despite its fantasy backdrop.

“My favorite thing about it is that it really resonates with any audience,” she said. “If you’re a human being, this show will hit home for you.”

The student directors and Saurer also noted the challenges of the show’s music, from the “vocal leaps” that are required throughout the show to the almost non-stop playing of the pit orchestra. But Maine South’s actors haven’t lost sight of the characters they are playing, Hyslop said.

“This is such a hard show musically, and I feel a lot of the acting aspect is often lost in high school productions,” she said. “But our actors have worked so hard figuring out the depth behind these fairy tale characters. They do such a good job of doing justice to the human part of these characters.”

Fog, mist and some “interesting lighting” have also helped to give the production a magical feel, Saurer said.


Tickets are $10 and can be purchased through Maine South High School’s webpage, south.maine207.org.

johnson@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @jen_tribune

Maine South High School sophomore Grace Trifunovich paints a set prop on April 8 as the tech crew prepares for the opening of the school’s production of “Into the Woods.”

Samantha Mayer plays the part of the Witch during a rehearsal of “Into the Woods” at Maine South High School in Park Ridge.
Police: Man wearing White Sox cap, fake beard robbed Niles bank branch

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

A man wearing a costume beard and a White Sox cap robbed a Niles bank branch of an undisclosed amount of money Saturday afternoon, authorities said.

The robbery occurred around 2:10 p.m. at Chase Bank, located inside the Ron Center strip mall at 7007 W. Dempster St., police said.

According to Niles police, the robber approached a bank teller and handed her a note, which demanded money. He then displayed a handgun, which was tucked into the waistband of his pants, police said.

The teller removed money from her drawer and gave it to the man, who walked out of the bank and got into an unknown vehicle, police said.

Niles police did not say how much money was taken, describing it only as “several thousand dollars.”

According to the Chicago office of the FBI, which is investigating the robbery, the suspect is believed to be a man in his 30s, between 5 feet, 2 inches tall and 5 feet, 3 inches tall. In addition to his baseball hat and fake, brown beard, he was wearing mirrored sunglasses, a black vest with a black hoodie underneath, black jeans and black shoes, the FBI said.

Anyone with information about the robbery is asked to contact the FBI’s Chicago Field Office at 312-421-6700 or submit a tip at tips.fbi.gov.

As religious holidays approach, police to keep watch with extra patrols

BY DANIEL I. DORFMAN
Pioneer Press

Local law enforcement agencies are preparing for upcoming religious holidays with extra patrols along similar lines to precautions they took following last month’s attack at New Zealand mosques.

Fifty people were killed and dozens were wounded in the attack. Lincolnwood Police Chief Jay Parrott said there would be an extra police presence around the local synagogues starting the first night of Passover on Friday, April 19.

“We want to make sure people feel safe and know the police are there to assist them in any way, shape or form,” Parrott said.

Parrott said there had been no incidents of hate crimes in Lincolnwood, but he added local patrols were stepped up after the mass shooting at Pittsburgh’s Tree of Life synagogue last October. Parrott added there was an extra presence around the Sacred Learning Center on Devon Avenue that is still under construction as local Muslims expressed concern following last month’s New Zealand mosque attack.

“We would extend to any religious organization or group that feels may be targeted or at risk for harm,” Parrott said.

In Morton Grove, Police Chief Michael Simo mentioned a similar approach was in place as that community also has both significant Jewish and Muslim populations and community centers.

“We don’t gear it toward any holiday. We just always have a significant presence where people gather.”

Daniel I. Dorfman is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Waxberg's Walk Shoppe celebrating 100 years

Business owned by three generations of same family

By Myrna Petlicki
Pioneer Press

History is being made at an immaculate, bustling store on Dempster Street in Niles. Waxberg's Walk Shoppe, which has been owned by three generations of the same family, is celebrating 100 years in business.

Ron Waxberg took the business over from his father Dave, who carried on the tradition started by his father, Isaac.

"My grandfather who came over from Germany was a shoemaker," Waxberg related. "He repaired shoes. Back in the day, he was doing all the shoe repairs for Chernin's when they first started. He eventually started selling orthopedic shoes."

After the war, Isaac's son Dave joined the business; Ron Waxberg came onboard in 1979.

"When I was a little kid, we were at 17 North Wabash," Waxberg said. "It was an old building with elevators operated by old elevator operators. It was a scary building."

Waxberg has a particularly happy memory of that time, though.

"When I was 7 or 8 years old, my grandfather made me a pair of custom cowboy boots," he recalled.

Waxberg didn't initially plan to follow the family career path.

"I wanted to be an accountant or a trader at the Mercantile Exchange," he said. "It wasn't until I was done with college that I realized accounting wasn't my thing. I came in with my father when I was about 21, and he taught me the business. He retired in '86."

When Waxberg entered the business, it had relocated to 5 North Wabash - the fact that they had moved out of the "scary building." Waxberg noted. "We've quintupled in size since we moved."

"As the suburbs started to grow and shopping centers started to get built, things downtown slowed down," Waxberg said. In 2001, he opened the store at 7013 W. Dempster St. in Niles. He chose that location for an amusing reason.

"I had driven around for a long, long time. One day I realized the shopping center was called the Ron Center," he reported, adding, "I liked the area."

It turned out to be a great move. "It was about 2,800 square feet and within three years, we were doing so much business we took over the space next door," Waxberg noted. "We've expanded in size since we moved."

Originally, the focus of the business was creating orthotics. Now they have expanded their line of shoes. The walls are filled with displays of the 50-some brands of shoes that are available.

"We've turned into a retailer with a backbone of orthotics," Waxberg said.

The store employs 13 to 15 salespeople, and Waxberg estimates that 50 to 100 customers visit the shop each day.

"They're finding us," said Ed Grousnick, a certified pedorthist (someone trained to modify footwear and create supportive devices to address foot conditions). Although he's not a relative, Grousnick has been designated to take over the business when Waxberg retires.

Once or twice each year, Waxberg goes to Las Vegas with buyer Irwin Berkowitz to select shoes for the store's inventory. Berkowitz, who has worked at the store for 17 years, is also a salesman and self-declared "world's only Shoe Psychologist."

"I try to make my sales as therapeutic as possible," he explained.

Berkowitz shared the store's customer philosophy.

"We are a true sit and fit," he explained, noting that in addition to measuring the customers' feet, they question them about foot issues. "You'd be amazed at how many people come in because their feet hurt, and they've simply been wearing the wrong size shoes."

When the reason for shoe pain is unrelated to wearing the wrong size shoes, or if customers have a prescription from their doctor, Grousnick steps in.

"I'm the one doing all the modifications," Grousnick explained. "It's moving when people are so grateful that you've helped them."

The pedorthist worked at Waxman's for a few years in the mid-1990s. He left in 2000 but returned about five years ago. Grousnick has been doing shoe modifications for 35 years.

He isn't planning any changes when he takes over what appears to be a smooth-running operation.

"We've turned into a retailer with a backbone of orthotics," Waxberg said.

"I love helping improve people's lives," he said. "A lot of people can't walk because their feet are in so much pain. We're able to create formulas for them that are life-changing."

Myrna Petlicki is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Cadillac prizes its new engine

Built-by-hand Blackwing going in Platinum CT6 sedans, never the Corvette

BY JAMIE L. LARKEY
Detroit Free Press

Cadillac's most exclusive and expensive engine, the Blackwing, is such a prized piece of engineering that Cadillac refuses to share it with other General Motors brands, despite speculation that it could go in the Chevrolet Corvette.

"Over my dead body," Cadillac President Steve Carlisle told reporters recently when asked if the luxury brand would share the Blackwing engine with Buick, GMC or Chevrolet.

Cadillac put the 4.2-liter twin-turbo V-8 in the CT6-V in 2016. The 10-speed automatic transmission engine generates 550 horsepower and 627 pound-feet of torque. The 275 Cadillac cars that had the famed engine sold out in less than two hours in January.

"That means more will be available for purchase, but Cadillac has not decided how many or when they will go on sale," Carlisle said.

The engine will also be in the top-trim Platinum CT6 sedans. The CT6 Platinum with the Blackwing will cost $88,000 more than the CT6-V version, bringing it to $96,790, GM confirmed.

GM builds the Blackwing engine at its facility in Bowling Green, Ky.

Each engine is built by hand and signed by its architect, much as an artist signs his or her artworks. Car enthusiast publications report Cadillac is expected to offer the Blackwing in the 2021 model. But there will be no Blackwing badging on the exterior of the vehicles it powers.

Cadillac introduced the Blackwing engine at the 2018 New York Auto Show. But Cadillac didn't have a name for it until September. That's when it dubbed it the Blackwing, a Cadillac spokeswoman said.

The name comes from "the original crest of the merlette, the so-called black duck," said Carlisle. "That's the coat of arms of the original founder of Detroit, Antoine De La Mothe Cadillac."

In July 1701, 43-year-old French explorer Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac was a second son in his family, he had no land to inherit, so the legless bird held special meaning.

Also, in some later versions of the Cadillac crest, the birds have a wing formation. The Blackwing engine has a "hot V" configuration resembling a bird in flight, and the original merlettes are black, hence, "blackwing," Carlisle said.

"Cadillac has a long, rich history, and there have been many important symbols throughout that history, and at times, we reach back and repurpose those symbols," Carlisle said.

Committed to sedans

Cadillac is committed to sedans despite the growing consumer preference for SUVs and pickups. To prove it, the General Motors luxury brand is bringing two new sedans to market and recently revealed one, the CT5, through a social media campaign.

The other, a smaller sport sedan called the CT4, will be revealed this year and land in Cadillac showrooms in 2020.

"We're committed to sedans. If you look at who buys a sedan today, they're SUV and crossover rejecters," Cadillac President Steve Carlisle said at a recent media lunch.

The demand for sedans is growing at "a considerable rate" among customers in China, which is the world's largest market and a strong driver of Cadillac's global sales, Carlisle said.

"So we have to look at that too," he said. "We grew market share last year in four out of six sedan models."

Cadillac will show the CT5 at the New York International Auto Show, April 19-28. The CT5 in effect replaces the CTS sedan, which is reported to end production at Lansing Grand River Assembly in June. GM has invested $211 million at the Lansing plant to build the CT5 there.

A Cadillac top designer called the CT5 sedan "a car lover's dream" with all-wheel drive, 10-speed automatic transmission and a standard 2.0-liter turbocharged engine. It is also available in a 3.0-liter Twin-Turbo engine.

Cadillac is not yet releasing pricing or a date for when the car will go on sale. The 2019 CTS started at $46,995.

Last year, Cadillac sold 382,184 cars globally, a record figure not seen since 1978, Carlisle said.
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Noah Leib paces Evanston's new-look baseball team

BY BOB NARANG
Pioneer Press

The Evanston baseball team is taking on a different approach this season. The Wildkits' returning pitchers combined for only six innings of experience last season. That means Evanston will lean on a batch of infielders and outfielders to carry the load until the rotation gains some traction.

"This team is extremely inexperienced compared to last year's team," junior infielder and pitcher Noah Leib said. "We graduated so many players, but we're improving our skills and our chemistry is good. I'm really excited.

"We're going to have fun and all try and help the team win. It will be interesting to see where we will go."

Evanston coach Frank Consiglio said he anticipates some growing pains due to losing numerous key players from last season's 24-win team. The Wildkits, under Consiglio, have won 22 or more games for six consecutive seasons.

Evanston lost to Lake Forest 6-3 on Saturday to drop to 5-7 on the season.

"I'm feeling more encouraged than I thought I would at this point," Consiglio said. "It's been a challenge, but I feel a little better because of our offense and defense and the character of the kids and their work ethic.

"It's been an interesting year so far. They have played well against some good competition. We're making big strides."

Leib said the Wildkits' spring break trip to Vero Beach, Fla., helped build bonds that should translate onto the field in tough moments against talented competition. The Wildkits finished with a 3-3 record in their 12th year traveling for spring break.

William Stegen photo

Noah Leib has been a top hitter and pitcher for the Evanston baseball team this season.

"We're much improved since Florida," Leib said. "We learned over the course of a week to get to know people better on the team and trust guys on the field. It's hard to put a finger on it, but something is different now than before the trip."

Leib, who batted .362 last season, is one of several players taking on a larger role. Catcher Chris Wolfe, along with infielders Sawyer Brown and Tommy Barbato and outfielder Ben Baker-Katz, are among the key returnees. Leib and senior Cam Mulvihill, both left-handers, headline Evanston's rotation.

"Tommy has done a nice job anchoring the infield and at leadoff," Consiglio said. "Noah was our top hitter as a sophomore. He's the best against elite-level pitching. Sawyer is a big team leader, very strong mentally and can hit big time. Chris is very versatile and can play any position on the field. Ben gets really quality at-bats, and Cam has really plus stuff and throws for strikes with good velocity."

Leib said the Wildkits are focused on winning the Central Suburban South to go with a regional and sectional title, which are the program's goals on an annual basis. Leib added that he's motivated for the challenge of handling a bigger role this year.

"I'm slowly getting into the swing of things on the mound," he said. "I'm looking for longevity and pitching high innings to help us win. At the plate, I want to hit better than last year and improve on those numbers.

"I want to keep hitting and pitching as long as I can. But hitting is where my natural talent is at."

Bob Narang is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Wauconda's Matt Mooney took a winding path to Texas Tech and the Final Four

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS
Associated Press

Hometown standout Jarrett Culver was the first recruit Chris Beard reached out to when he got to Lubbock as Texas Tech's coach three years ago.

When the Red Raiders were coming off their first Elite Eight appearance last season and had to replace a senior All-Big 12 point guard, they targeted Wauconda native Matt Mooney, a graduate transfer from South Dakota who began his college career at Air Force after accepting his only Division I offer coming out of Niles Notre Dame.

The two guards who got to the Big 12 school in the plains of West Texas in distinctly different ways helped lead Texas Tech (31-7) to the Final Four.

"Hard work pays off," Mooney said before the Red Raiders beat Michigan State, then lost to Virginia.

"For believers, you reap what you sow. They didn't pick us to win the Big 12 or to be here right now, but we keep believing in each other and we're going to keep doing it."

Plenty of schools were interested in Mooney — including Northwestern — when the 6-3 guard decided to leave South Dakota after two seasons. He started all 68 of his games with the Coyotes, averaging 18.7 points and making 36 percent of his 3-pointers.

With All-Big 12 guard Keenan Evans among five seniors gone after last season along with high-soaring freshman forward Zhaire Smith, who entered the NBA draft, the Red Raiders got older again with two grad transfers who became full-time starters: Mooney and 6-10 post Tariq Owens from St. John's.

It didn't take long for the older newcomers to blend in with their new team.

"For me, it's just proving yourself all over again to a new group of guys, your teammates and your coaches," said Mooney, who had averaged 11 points heading into the Final Four. He made 38 percent of his 3s while starting every game.

In the national semifinal, Mooney paced Texas Tech with 22 points to knock off Michigan State. He added 10 points in the overtime loss to Virginia on Monday night in the title game.

Mooney also earned a new nickname for his approach to the game and his competitiveness.

"He overthinks things. He's a perfectionist," Beard said. "The great thing about him is he is detail-oriented and he's got a little bit of stubbornness to him. He thinks he's the best player in the country, but all the great ones do."

"On the flip side, it can get annoying from time to time. So (guard Davide Moretti) gave him the nickname 'Professor.' All right, 'Professor.' You're right on everything.' Those guys have a special relationship."

And a special season.
Major league friendship and a minor league quest

A Cubs fan and a Sox fan — each 86 — hope to visit their 100th ballpark in the minors

It all began in August 1994, when Major League Baseball players went on strike over a salary cap proposal. Team owners canceled the rest of the season. For the first time in baseball's history, there would be no World Series.

The strike ended in March 1995, and players returned to the field in April. Fans (mostly, sometimes reluctantly) returned to the parks. But something had changed, especially for longtime pals and avid baseball enthusiasts Steve Mullins (a Cubs fan) and Ed Chainski (a White Sox fan).

"We just sort of said to ourselves, 'Why should we keep paying this big money when there are minor league teams out there?' Mullins said.

"We wanted to see baseball," Chainski said. "Where they really like baseball. Where they really hustle. Where they wanted to get to the big leagues.

In summer 1996, they took a road trip to Fort Wayne, Ind., to see the minor league Wizards. (They became the Fort Wayne TinCaps after the 2008 season.) From Fort Wayne, the pair drove to Grand Rapids, Mich., to see the West Michigan Whitecaps, to Lansing, Mich., to see the Lugnuts, and to South Bend, Ind., to see the Silverhawks (who are now the South Bend Cubs).

Every year since, they've taken a similar trip: four different minor league parks over a stretch of a week. They've thrown in a handful of nearby single-stands along the way — Kane County Cougars, for example. They estimate they've driven around 20,000 miles and shared 35 flights, traveling as far as Wappinger Falls, NY. (to see the Hudson Valley Renegades and Great Falls, Mont. (to cheer on the Voyager).

"You hear theumps call, 'Ball one! Strike one!" Mullins said. "'You sit anywhere in the park and see. I remember once seeing a guy coming down the third-base line — slide, a lot of dust, 'You're out! '

This year, the 86-year-old friends, both of whom live in Evanston, are scheduled to visit their 100th minor league baseball park. Mullins was diagnosed with spinal cancer a few months ago. The radiation has numbed his legs and weakened his larynx. They're still planning the trip. Which, if all goes as planned, will be rather epic.

"First, let's back up. It all really began in 1955, when Mullins and Chainski met at Oktoberfest in Munich. Both were stationed in Germany and came to the festival at the urging of a mutual friend. They hit it off. Had a couple of beers, which Chainski ended up sleeping off in Mullins' parked car.

After their military service ended in 1956, Chainski enrolled in law school at Northwestern University. Mullins went to the University of Michigan to earn an MBA.

Both had grown up in and around Chicago — Mullins on the North Shore, Chainski in Chicago until fourth grade and then in Lake Forest. Back in the Midwest as adults, they rekindled the friendship that began at Oktoberfest. They stood up in each other's weddings — Chainski's in 1961, Mullins' in 1963.

They went to a lot of Cubs and White Sox games. "Baseball is a thinking man's game," Mullins said. "It's so different than any of the other sports. It is, I think, the hardest thing to do in sports, to hit a baseball with a bat."

"I agree very much," Chainski said.

"It's a cerebral game," Mullins said. "You have a lot of time between pitches and innings. You can debate what the next pitch is going to be. What the next hit needs to be. It's just a wonderful game.

Both men loved the game as kids.

"The first game I ever saw was the first All-Star Game, and that was the summer of 1933," Chainski said. "I had a very nice seat in my mother's lap. I wasn't even 1 year old yet."

Chainski was born in December 1932. The first All-Star game was the following July at Chicago's Comiskey Park. (The American League won.)

That could easily explain Chainski's loyalty to the White Sox, but he credits the doorman and the elevator operator in the North Side high-rise of his youth for turning him on to the South Siders.

"When the boss wasn't there, they'd play catch with me," Chainski said. "We were pretty close to Wrigley Field. Seats in the bleachers were 55 cents apiece."

No matter. He was a White Sox guy, thanks to those games of catch. The summer after seventh grade, when his family moved to Lake Forest, Chainski's favorite Sundays were the ones when he could get up early, walk to Mass, hop on a train to Chicago, switch to another train to the South Side, watch a doubleheader, train back to Lake Forest and walk about 2 miles home.

"I left the house at 8:30 in the morning and got home maybe 9:30 or 10," he said.

The last couple of decades, these minor league adventures have renewed some of the beauty and magic of baseball that Chainski and Mullins felt slipping away.

Mullins and Chainski like to play major league scouts from their seats, predicting which players are destined for the big leagues. Mullins said they spied — and predicted big things for — a 19-year-old outfielder named Carlos Beltran during their 1996 trip to see the Lansing Lugnuts. Beltran, of course, became a nine-time All-Star before retiring in 2017 from the Houston Astros.

What could be better? "What I remember is Ed calling me and saying, 'You can hear the crack of the bat!'" Mary Jane Chainski, Ed's wife, said.

"Steve spends hours after hour after hour researching who's going to play on which day that will match their schedule," Carol Mullins, Steve's wife, said. "He knows every statistic that ever was.

"Carol and I were never invited," Mary Jane Chainski said.

"Which is good," Carol Mullins added. "After about three innings, I'm ready to leave."

The trip this summer, the one that will culminate with the 100th park, will be a family affair.

Mullins and Chainski plan to fly into Salt Lake City and drive to two games in Utah — the Ogden Raptors and the Ogden Owlz. From there, they'll hit a Grand Junction Rockies game in Colorado before heading to their final — and 100th — destination: a Reno Aces game in Reno, Nev.

The Mullins' son, who lives just outside Reno, will join them. So will their godson. Mary Jane Chainski's son from her previous marriage will join them.

"We're going to alert the stadium we're doing this," Mullins said.

"We're going to alert the stadium we're doing this," Mullins said.

"Women have all this stuff they get together to do. Men don't have that sort of thing. For us, baseball is it."

"The trips give us a chance to talk about things we don't normally talk about," Chainski said. "History, Presidents.

Along the way, they've stopped at 39 presidential libraries, museums and birthplaces: Woodrow Wilson's family home in Columbia, S.C., the Benjamin Harrison Presidential Site in Indianapolis, the Franklin D. Roosevelt Presidential Library and Museum in Hyde Park, N.Y.

They've hit 31 state capitals.

They've had front-row seats (or seventh-row seats, or 14th-row seats) to a game they grew up studying and playing and loving, and they've been by each other's side through it all.

How do you top the beauty and magic in that?"
Dhruvil Patel keeps up the pace as North Central distance runner

BY BOB NARANG
Pioneer Press

Niles North graduate Dhruvil Patel never envisioned success in cross country or track and field.

His freshman season at Niles North provided little evidence of a future filled with individual titles and championships.

Patel said he didn't make Niles North's varsity cross country or track teams until his junior season.

"I started running cross country in my freshman year of high school and was very bad," Patel said. "I wasn't very good when I started, but I had a drive to get better and was disciplined and determined to show up to practice every single day and be successful."

Patel is now a standout athlete as a senior at North Central College in Naperville. He cemented his place as one of the best distance runners in program history by placing first in the 5,000-meter run (14:24.86) at the NCAA Division III Indoor Championships on March 9.

Patel added another sterling performance in the 10,000 meters on March 30 at the Stanford Invitational, 10,000 meters on March 30, where he finished first in the 5,000-meter run.

"I'm aiming to better my times from last year and win a couple more national titles," Patel said of his remaining goals. "I've already started the season with a huge personal record in the 10k ... As a team, it would be great to win another national title."

Patel said he's excited and motivated to end his career at North Central on a memorable note. Thus far, Patel, an accounting major, has played a key part in five national championships — three in cross country and two in track — and has earned numerous All-American honors and other awards.

"My four years at North Central College have flown by," Patel said. "There are times where I'll look back at my accomplishments spanning from my freshman year to now and say to myself, 'Man, did I really do all of these things?' It's very surreal."

"To be part of such a storied and legendary program as North Central College, which has produced phenomenal runners and to be one of the most decorated and distinguished athletes that this program has produced really just leaves me speechless."

**Dwyer shines in Evanston:** Loyola graduate Brennan Dwyer, a sophomore midfielder at Northwestern, has been one of the breakout players in women's lacrosse this spring.

Dwyer has helped fill the void from the graduation of Shelby Fredericks, who was Northwestern's all-time leader in draw controls with 296. Dwyer scored her first two goals against Louisville on Feb. 8 after playing in 16 games as a freshman.

At Loyola, Dwyer scored 395 goals to go with 1,434 ground balls and 202 turnovers forced.

Dwyer ranks sixth nationally with 773 draw controls per game.

**Cashaw's career ends in NIT:** Creighton senior guard Connor Cashaw scored two points to go with two rebounds, two assists and three steals in a 71-58 loss to TCU in the NIT quarterfinals on March 26.

Cashaw, a Stevenson graduate, spent his first three collegiate seasons at Rice before transferring to Creighton last summer. The 6-foot-5 Cashaw played in 33 games and averaged 2.1 points and 1.9 rebounds per game.

Have a suggestion for College Notes? Email Bob Narang at bobnarang@yahoo.com.

Bob Narang is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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WE HAVE OUR WINNERS!

Check back next week to see who our panel of suburban sports editors chose as your winners for our Athlete of the Year challenge! The winners will be announced on our Twitter page, so make sure you follow us at @ChiTribAOTM or you can go to chicagotribune.com/suburbs/athletes for more results.
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