The best community
Parade, Ferris wheel keep Morton Grove Days rolling. Page 4

From left, Emily Opensky, 7, of Morton Grove, and sibling Chase, 5, and in the next car, from left, Juri Kim, of Morton Grove, her child Lia Kim, 5, and Lia's aunt, Mary Park, of Northbrook, take a Tilt-A-Whirl ride at Morton Grove Days July 6. KABIE ANGELL LUC/PIONEER PRESS

The unusual side of classical
The 31st Chicago Duo Piano Festival will pay tribute to the American composer George Crumb. Page B13

State of change
IHSA announces new schedule for basketball state tournaments. Page 21

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Jack Timperley, Oakton College graduate

Taking on leadership roles during his time at Oakton Community College earned recent graduate Jack Timperley a Gigi Campbell Student Trustee Excellence Award from the Illinois Community College Trustees Association last month, Oakton announced.

Timperley, a resident of Park Ridge and a 2017 Maine South High School graduate, is planning to attend Northeastern Illinois University in the fall to study philosophy and business administration.

Q: What was your reaction to receiving the Gigi Campbell Award?
A: I was honored. I was so incredibly happy that I had the team I had in order to get me to that place. That team would be my student government team at my college and my advisers as well.

Q: What makes an effective student leader?
A: The ability to listen to all of those involved and to have the courage to act.

Q: What initiatives were you involved in at Oakton?
A: I was a student trustee with student government; I was editor-in-chief of our student newspaper; I was the Student Trustee representing the Oakton Community College to the Illinois Community College Trustees Association, and I was one of the directors of Oakton’s Phi Theta Kappa International Honor Society. I was also the former president of DECA, which is a business leadership club.

A: After graduation I hope to pursue a Ph.D. in a philosophy-related discipline and eventually start my own research and technology company. Spinning off of that, I hope to become a public speaker as well, and teach philosophy at a college.

Q: What topics would you like to focus on with your public speaking?
A: How to live a life of happiness and of joy. I was born with a genetic condition and I’ve had an extensive medical history. But despite all that, I continue to thrive and continue to live life to the fullest every day. I know it sounds cheesy, but it’s true. And my public speaking would be related to that. Our lives are so precious. To recognize our own mortality might motivate us to live life and do everything we can today because we may not see tomorrow.

Q: What is your advice to students starting Oakton in the fall?
A: I would say take advantage of every opportunity you see, every opportunity that you have. That goes for life in general too. Oakton offers so many services — all of our community colleges do — and there are so many fantastic people at the college to help. The more you take advantage of those services, the more enriched your college experience will become.

— Jennifer Johnson, Pioneer Press
If you believe your only options are agonizing knee pain or surgery... You are WRONG!

Thousands of Chicagoland Boomers and Seniors are now getting knee pain RELIEF, INSTEAD of knee replacement.

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Not only is it possible, thousands of Chicagoland Boomers and Seniors with knee pain have experienced the amazing relief this new non-surgical treatment option provides.

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So What Is Causing My Knee Pain And How Do I Stop It?

It's pretty simple, really. You see, when you're young, you have a thick, fluid protein inside your knee joints to lubricate them as you move. This fluid also acts as a cushion and shock absorber inside your knee. It's called synovial fluid, and it works much like the oil in a car's engine to keep all the parts moving freely, without friction.

However, as you age, this fluid dries out, leaving your bones to painfully rub and grind against each other with every step. And unfortunately, there's no way for the knee to make more.

After years of working perfectly, your knee starts to feel a subtle ache with certain activities like using stairs, kneeling down, or getting out of the car. With time, it becomes a constant ache. If left untreated, it can keep you awake at night, and hurt with every step.

But Should You Consider Surgery?

Maybe you're thinking about knee replacement surgery. It's a popular option that has been around for a while now. But, do you really want to lay in bed for weeks with the possibility of still being in pain after? We've seen many patients still hurting for years after knee replacement surgery. It's not a 100% guarantee that you'll be pain-free.

The good news is, researchers have discovered all natural, lubricating fluid called Hyaluronic acid that is nearly identical to the fluid we have in our knees. It has been proven in numerous clinical studies to act as a natural lubricant in your joints.

It's FDA approved and is a perfect cushion and shock absorber for your joints. In fact, it's even been compared to letting your sore joints rest on the softest down pillow. It's almost as if your knee sighs with relief and relaxation.

Sounds Nice But My Knees Aren't That Bad...

Sure, you can put up with this ache in your knee, but the cost of doing nothing about it is HUGE.

"Every day was hard. I couldn't enjoy my favorite activities anymore. But thankfully, now I'm back in full form. I am doing yard work for the first time in years!" -- Phil M.

Seriously, you can get the knee pain relief you are looking for without wasting your precious time recovering or even spending a dime!

But, there is a HUGE problem:

This treatment will ONLY work if it is administered precisely into the troubled tissues in the knees. If this treatment is delivered slightly off those areas it will never help you.

This is why a lot of people have received treatments like orthovisc or Synvisc in the past and never had any pain relief. A lot of them went on to have surgery they never needed in the first place.

In fact, a recent study looked at trained doctors who administer those kinds of injections blindly found that a third of them miss those specific areas in the joints. So, those patients walked away not knowing that whatever treatment they received will never have a chance to work because it completely missed the trouble areas.

This is why the doctors at Joint Relief Institute use advanced imaging in addition to a unique double confirmation technique to guarantee that every single injection administered ends up in the right place. Taking the precision further to a double confirmation technique is exactly why patients previously failing with 3 different doctors without advance imaging are now having pain relief for the first time in more than forty years.

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So if you're interested, Call now (708) 963-0070.
Morton Grove Days feature Ferris Wheel, carnival

Parade, fireworks also a part of weekend festivities

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC

During the summer of love in 1968, a young Paul Minx met his future bride Rita on July 5. Their first date included a ride on a Ferris wheel at a Skokie carnival.

Forty-nine years of marriage later, they were excited to take another ride on Morton Grove Days’ Ferris wheel, a new addition to the festival this year. Morton Grove Days ran July 3-6 at Harrer Park and included a parade, fireworks and entertainment in addition to a carnival.

Paul Minx, Morton Grove Days commission board president and president of the Morton Grove Park District board, and Rita Minx, a Morton Grove village trustee, were among many volunteers working on making Morton Grove Days run smoothly.

They were glad the fest secured their favorite ride. “I’ve always loved riding the Ferris wheel,” Paul Minx said. “We’ve been trying to get this Ferris wheel for years and we finally got it.”

Morton Grove Days, as an event foundation, started in 1921, said Paul Minx, a lifelong Morton Grove resident and a 1968 Niles West High School graduate. There was a break in the tradition’s history, with changes from a picnic to carnival status.

He thinks the tradition adds to Morton Grove’s appeal. “In my mind, Morton Grove is the best community in the state of Illinois and, I think, the country,” he declared.

Another Morton Grove resident, Lisa Sullivan, attended with her family on closing day. “It’s a really good time to bring out the family and see friends,” Sullivan said. “It’s been really fun this year.”

Also on July 6, Brian and Amy Opensky of Morton Grove brought their children Emily, 7, and Chase, 5.

Amy Opensky said her family was having “a ton of fun.”

Back at the Ferris wheel, Jennifer Campanella of Morton Grove watched her daughter Leah Campanella, 8, ride with her cousin.

“We’re having a great time here,” said Jennifer Campanella, thanking the volunteers for their hard work.
Evanston mother accused of leaving toddler in car during 90-degree weather

By Jennifer Johnson

An Evanston mother is accused of leaving her 2-year-old son alone in a locked car during 90-degree temperatures while she shopped at a Niles grocery store, police said.

Asel Ukbayeva, 24, of the 1000 block of Emerson Street, was arrested July 2 after police said she left her sleeping son unattended inside a locked car parked outside Fresh Farms, 5740 W. Touhy Ave., on an afternoon where the outside temperature reached 94 degrees, police said.

Based on the temperature inside the car, which police estimated at 110 degrees, it is believed the child had been inside for at least 20 minutes before he was found by an employee of the grocery store, said Niles Police Cmdr. Robert Tornabene.

According to police, the employee, after noticing the boy shortly before 4 p.m., was able to reach inside the car through a partially rolled-down window to unlock the door and take the child out. The employee told police the car was not running and the child was sweating heavily, authorities said.

Police and paramedics arrived and found the boy inside the store, where the employee had given him water, police said. He appeared to be in good condition when he was assessed by paramedics, Tornabene said.

It took police another 20 minutes to find the boy's mother, who had been shopping at Fresh Farms, police said.

"She didn't really have an explanation why she left the child, other than she wanted to get her grocery shopping done quickly," Tornabene said.

Ukbayeva could not be reached for comment.

Tornabene said had the boy not been found when he was, and had he been left in the car for the 40 minutes it is believed his mother had been gone, the situation could have been life-threatening for the child due to the increasing heat inside the car.

"This was a lucky case," he said. "It could have been far worse."

Ukbayeva has been charged with endangering the life or health of a child, a misdemeanor, authorities said.

The child was released to his father, whom police called to pick up his son at the store, and authorities contacted the Department of Children and Family Services, police said.

Ukbayeva was released on bond and is scheduled to appear in Cook County Circuit Court in Skokie on July 22.

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Teen cited after displaying paintball rifle in Niles grocery store parking lot

By Jennifer Johnson

A Morton Grove teen was cited for disorderly conduct last month after police say he took out what appeared to be a rifle in the parking lot of a Niles grocery store.

The incident occurred on the afternoon of Thursday, June 27, outside Tony's Fresh Market, 8900 N. Greenwood Ave., Niles police said.

A witness reported that he called police when he saw the occupant of a car that was parked in the fire lane get out of the vehicle while holding a gun around 4:40 p.m., police said.

Officers responded to the area and found the car after it was reported to be leaving the parking lot. According to police, officers ordered the three people inside out of the vehicle. Authorities said they found what turned out to be a paintball gun inside.

The 18-year-old reportedly admitted to police that he had taken out the paintball gun in the grocery store parking lot but denied pointing it at anyone.

He was issued a local ordinance citation and released at the scene, police said.

The two passengers inside the car, who were not cited, were identified as a 16-year-old and 18-year-old from Niles, said Niles Police Cmdr. Robert Tornabene.

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Judge rules admins violated labor act

Maine West teacher was threatened with poor performance review

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

A judge has ruled that school district administrators violated a state labor act when they ordered a Maine West High School teacher to apologize for an unsubstantiated claim he made against the superintendent two years ago and suggested that the teacher's employment and performance reviews could be impacted if he refused to do so.

In an April decision recently shared with members of the Maine Teachers Association, Administrative Law Judge Ellen Maureen Strizak found that, in the case of chemistry teacher Stefan Panzilius, Maine Township High School District 207 violated a section of the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Act that protects the speech rights of union members.

According to Strizak's order, the district was required to post a notice for teachers stating it will not interfere with the rights given to District 207 employees under the Educational Labor Relations Act and will not "threaten" them for exercising these rights.

In a statement released last week, District 207 said that while it does not agree with the ruling and disputes some of the findings that are included in the judge's written decision, it will not seek an appeal in order to "avoid additional costs and bring the matter to closure."

District 207 has spent $86,803 fighting the unfair labor practice complaint brought by the teachers' union before the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board, said district spokesman Brett Clark.

The case stems from comments that Panzilius, then-president of the teachers' union, made during a May 1, 2017, board of education meeting regarding Superintendent Ken Wallace. According to a video recording of the meeting, Panzilius said he was happy with the ruling and did not find anything inaccurate in the written decision. He declined to answer whether he believed the statement he made about the superintendent adding information to teacher evaluations was true or false.

The district asked him to apologize and to set the record straight because what he said was "untrue," Clark said this week.

Panzilius did not make a formal apology or correction of his statement, Strizak's ruling states.

Haugan retired from the district in June 2018. During a March 2018 performance evaluation, Panzilius received a "needs improvement" rating, which "prohibits educational employees and their agents from interfering with, restraining, or coercing educational employees in the exercise of their rights."

Panzilius' comments during the May 1, 2017 school board meeting are considered a "protected activity" under the act and the statement made to him by Wallace and Haugan "constituted threats," Strizak ruled.

Clark acknowledged that Panzilius had been asked to apologize following the meeting.

"The district asked him to apologize and to set the record straight because what he said was untrue," Clark said this week.

Panzilius did not make a formal apology or correction of his statement, Strizak's ruling states.

Haugan retired from the district in June 2018.

"The unfair labor practice was not about the teaching evaluations," he said. "It was about the way the district administration responded to the concerns being raised."

Wallace contended that Panzilius acknowledged "multiple times" that his statement had been "in error."
Police: Employee arrested after saying he would ‘shoot up’ Morton Grove company

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

A man was arrested after he allegedly admitted to authorities that he told a coworker he would “shoot up” their workplace in Morton Grove if he were ever fired from the company, police said.

Terry E. Edwards, 59, of the 25300 block of Lincoln Drive, Lake Villa, was charged with disorderly conduct on June 27 for allegedly alarming employees with statements he reportedly made at OnePoint Patient Care, a hospice pharmacy company located at 8130 Lehigh Ave., Morton Grove police said.

According to police, two company officials contacted authorities on June 26 to report the allegations and officers took Edwards into custody at his place of employment the following day.

While being questioned, Edwards admitted to telling a coworker, “I’m gonna shoot up the place,” but said the comment was made in a “joking” manner and that he had no intention of committing violence, police said.

Edwards reportedly went on to tell police that he would often imitate a character from the film “Office Space” who threatens to burn down his workplace.

A rifle was removed from Edwards’ home, police said. Edwards admitted to not having a valid Firearm Owners Identification Card, police reported.

According to police, Edwards’ coworker said Edwards initially made the comments in late April or May, but he only reported them to company officials after a second incident occurred on June 21 when workers were told to keep a door closed and locked for security reasons. The coworker alleged that on this date, Edwards stated that he would not shoot up the business, but would “go to people’s houses to torture them” instead, which alarmed his coworker, police said.

Edwards admitted to making this comment as well, but again said he was joking and that he does not know where employees live, police said.

Messages left for Edwards and a company official were not returned.

Edwards is expected to appear in Cook County Circuit Court in Skokie on Aug. 9. Morton Grove police said he was terminated from his job and was ordered not to return to the business under a no trespass order.

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POLICE REPORT

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

DISPUTE

An employee at Burger King, 7138 W. Dempster St., told police a customer walked behind the counter and began grabbing Whoppers from the food prep area on July 11. When the employee tried to take one of the Whoppers out of the man’s hand, her “hand snapped back and the Whopper struck her on the side of the face, causing a small red mark,” police said. The customer, who reportedly became upset when he was told to pay for the cup of soda he had filled, left with a woman in a black SUV, which hit a car in the parking lot, police said.

BATTERY

Gabriel Ware, 33, and Vanessa Crowe, 31, both of the 5800 block of North Drake Avenue, Chicago, were each charged with domestic battery on June 28 after officers responded to a complaint at Touhy and Lehigh avenues at 10 p.m., police said. Court information was not included.

Joan Lobont, 48, of the 8500 block of Bruce Drive, Niles, was charged with domestic battery on June 30, police said. He was given
POLICE REPORT

Blotter, from Page 7

DUI
- Georgia Politis-Jones, 50, of the 8900 block of David Place, unincorporated Maine Township, was charged with driving under the influence on June 28 following a traffic stop at Milwaukee and Touhy avenues at 10:15 p.m., police said. She was given a July 22 court date.

LEAVNG THE SCENE
- Michael S. Stec, 37, of the 8400 block of North Ozark Avenue, Niles, was charged with failure to give information after an accident on July 1 when police said he hit a parked car on the 8500 block of Ozark Avenue. According to police, a trail of fluid from the accident scene to a silver Mazda parked in Stec’s driveway led police to identify him as the driver. He was given an Aug. 1 court date.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT
- Saravia Paniagua, 29, of the 5000 block of Ridgeway Avenue, Chicago, was charged with excessive speeding on June 28 after she was stopped for driving 68 mph in a 35 mph speed zone on the 6600 block of Caldwell Avenue, police said.

PUBLIC INTOXICATION
- A 21-year-old Niles man was ticketed for public intoxication on June 27 after police said he was found sleeping in the grass on the 8100 block of West Elizabeth Avenue at 9:45 a.m. An empty box of beer was reportedly found next to the man. He was taken to Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, police said.

UNDERAGE DRINKING
- A 20-year-old Wauconda man was ticketed for underage drinking on June 29 after police responded to a call of a man walking in the area of Oakton Street and Octavia Avenue without shoes or a shirt at 6:30 p.m. According to police, the man said he was trying to get back to a friend’s home in the Bartlett area.

THEFT
- An employee of a business on the 9000 block of West Golf Road told police $150 in cash was stolen from the restroom after he left the money behind on June 30.

- An unknown woman allegedly stole $25,000 worth of perfume and cosmetics from Ulta, Golf Mill, on June 30, police said.

- A sewer camera was reported stolen June 28 from a construction site on the 7400 block of North Milwaukee Avenue, police said.

BURGLARY TO VEHICLE
- A man told police someone entered his car, threw some of the contents around, and left a cellphone behind while the car was parked on the 7200 block of John Q. Terrace between June 29 and June 30. Another car parked on the 7800 block of North Oconto Avenue was also burglarized between June 29 and 30, but nothing was stolen, police said.

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Morton Grove close to creating taxing district for development

BY DANIEL I. DORFMAN

The Morton Grove Village Board has taken steps to create a new special taxing district to aid development of a lifestyle retail/residential center to replace a blighted shopping center at the southeast corner of Dempster and Waukegan roads.

The board unanimously passed a series of ordinances that terminated the previous tax increment financing, or TIF, district that encompassed much of the same area and deleted certain properties from the redevelopment area, including the public storage lot that is south of the existing site. That property will now go back on the regular taxing district to aid development of the southeast corner of the Prairie View plaza.

Developers and the village envision replacing the 26-acre Prairie View Shopping Center with an estimated $150 million lifestyle center, highlighted by 10 commercial buildings, 250 residential units with a mix of retail, restaurants, a grocery store and entertainment options to be named Sawmill Station. The only current building that would remain is a Bank of America branch.

The site was sold in September 2018 to a development team IM Kensington MG, which agreed to develop the lifestyle center only if the TIF district is created. Such districts are often used by local governments to spur development of obsolete sites.

The village has agreed to sell up to $26 million in revenue bonds, which will generate money to pay for the TIF-eligible infrastructure improvements, Czerwinski said. The bonds would be paid off through the incremental TIF taxes generated from the expected increase in the site's property values.

The boundaries of the TIF would be the north and south of Dempster, the west by Sayre Avenue, and the east being Birch Avenue.

"The idea being as we move forward is that the TIF would make a difference as it relates to the redevelopment of that property and would have spinoff benefits for some of the properties on Waukegan Road and north of the Prairie View plaza," said Robert Rychlicki, the president of Kane, McKenna and Associates, Inc., a financial firm that is assisting the village.

As part of the TIF, the local school district will receive tuition reimbursement for new students who reside in the development.

"That's an important point," Rychlicki said.

Trustee John Thill explained his support for the TIF.

"I don't want people to think that we are going to write a check and give it to developers," he said. "The developers are going to earn what they get. If they don't produce, they don't get. We are not on the hook for anything."

Also at the meeting, Village President Dan DiMaria spoke about being inaugurated June 19 as the new president of the Northwest Municipal Conference, an association of 43 local municipalities in northern and western Illinois.

"I threw my hat in because it is going to benefit Morton Grove," DiMaria said. "That's why I do it. It's an easy decision."

Lincolnwood secures 2-year price freeze with Groot

Lincolnwood's long-time waste hauler has agreed to a two-year price freeze under a contract extended by the village board last month.

Groot Recycling and Waste Services Inc., the village's waste hauler for the last 25 years, will increase prices by 2.5 percent in each of the last three years of the five-year extension, but hold the line during years one and two.

The extension, Lincolnwood's fourth with Groot since 1994, begins Sept. 1 and continues through Aug. 31, 2024.

"We're happy with Groot. They're providing a service level that is what we expect," Trustee Jesal Patel said. "We were able to lock in a flat rate. The increases are limited to 2.5 percent, which we felt were good."

In October, the board directed staff to negotiate an extension with Groot instead of seeking bids due to their history of high-quality service and familiarity with the village," Public Works Director Andrew Letson said.

The new contract also allows residents to request a commercial-style Dumpster from Groot for household waste and to increase the size of their recycling carts from 75 to 95 gallons at no additional cost, Letson said.

"The no-cost switch will be offered on a one-time basis, after which additional changes will require payment of a $25 fee," he said.

For the first two years of the contract, the garbage and recycling collection at no cost to local schools and the Lincolnwood Public Library. That service, along with collection at Lincolnwood's municipal buildings, will cost the village about $795,000 during the first two years of the contract and $856,000 in the final year, Letson said.

Lincolnwood provides the service to schools and the library as a goodwill gesture and with the understanding that ultimately taxpayers will foot the bill, regardless of which local government entity pays for the service, Patel said.

"The logic is that the schools and library are contained within the same jurisdiction and same set of taxpayers," he said.

In fact, the village is likely saving taxpayers money by rolling the schools and the library's collection costs into one big contract, Patel said.

"There are savings from having the schools and library share in our services," he said. "I imagine you get a better price because it's bulk. If we're spending $1,000, they'd probably be spending $2,000."

Under the first two years of the contract, the village will pay Groot $760 a month to collect garbage and recycling for Lincolnwood School District 74. That will increase to $779 in 2021-22, $799 in 2022-23 and $819 in 2023-24.

Lincolnwood will pay Groot $155 a month to provide garbage and recycling services to the library during the first two years of the contract. That rate will grow to $159 in 2021-22, $163 in 2022-23 and $167 in 2023-24.

Missing Glenview man found safe in Park ridge hospital

BY ALEXANDRA KUKULKA

Glenview police say they have found a 20-year-old man who was reported missing last week.

The man had last been seen on July 1 and was found July 7 at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge, police said.

Family reported that they'd last seen him around 3 p.m. leaving his home in the 700 block of Beaver Road, according to a missing persons alert from the Glenview Police Department.

The man reportedly told his mother he was going for a walk. She told authorities her son often walked around the neighborhood and frequented parks and the Blue Star Woods, according to police.

He never returned home and left his wallet and cell phone behind, police said.

On July 7, the man was found at the hospital under a different name, according to police. He was taken there after he was seen walking, disoriented, in a backyard in Morton Grove on July 3, according to police.

A doctor who treated the man on Sunday recognized him, police said.

The man has been reunited with his family and is under a doctor's care, police said.
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Misplaced baggage just one of the (worthwhile) hassles of vacations

PAT LENHOFF

Having recently completed a long vacation across the pond, I was reminded of the mixed bag that is summer travel these days.

While it’s a modern miracle that you can climb on a massive steel bird and disembark 5,000 miles away hours later, it also is not without challenges and frustrations.

For us, after 45 years of traveling together, it was finally our turn to be the ones with missing luggage. There’s not much worse than watching the empty carousel spinning around, after 21 hours of travel, with the same two lonely suitcases that aren’t yours while the metal door to the luggage conveyor slams closed and the French guy at the service desk writes down your information on a scrap of paper.

Days earlier while I was packing, I remembered a story from dear friends who spent their entire Paris vacay without their luggage, hitting the French department stores, instead, for all manner of clothing.

Their luggage never made it.

Our luggage ended up detouring to Montreal, which was not even on our flight itinerary.

While their story inspired me to pack one change of clothing in our carry-on, I never gave serious thought to the ramifications of not having luggage for an entire trip, which, in our case, lasted 15 days.

Washing blouses in the sink and wondering where to find enough tighty-whities two weeks in a land without Target or Walmart was an eye-opening experience. When our suitcases arrived three days later, we practically kissed the concierge who helped us.

And, yet, a recent report revealed that revenue to airlines from baggage charges is a whopping $1.3 billion, and that’s just for the first three months of 2019. It’s mind-boggling that something that once was a given — checking a bag — now is an expensive add-on to the fare.

Luggage circles a baggage claim carousel at an airport in Dallas in this 2017 file photo.

The report, by the Washington Post, warned that we’ve only started seeing the beginning of various fees, so don’t expect all that profit to dissuade carriers from extra charges. One prediction even suggested that sooner or later, most airlines will operate like Spirit, charging a fee for every single thing added to the basic fare.

Despite this, the summer likely will result in record air passengers, especially families taking seasonal vacations.

With each passing year, it takes more intestinal fortitude for parents to deal with all the hassles that air travel entails. Some will take it in stride. And some will, like my kids, opt for a road trip, instead.

And oh, those road trips with young families. If ever there was the basis for a comedy movie, it’s the family road trip, portrayed so humorously and accurately in National Lampoon’s “Vacation” films about the fictitious Griswolds. After hanging up from a recent FaceTime call from the GrandGirlies while on the road, the Boss and I couldn’t stop laughing both because of their antics and because of our memories of similar chaotic times when our kids were young.

Summer vacations are the stuff of family memories — no matter what style of transportation chosen and despite the inherent hassles. Enjoy every moment!

Pat Lenhoff 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 350 words and should include your name, phone number and address.
Illinois is getting more casinos, but the deck is still stacked against us

Randy Blaser

As politicians gleefully celebrate a new state law that will bring a casino to Waukegan, one noted the legislation will end the busloads of gamblers heading from Illinois to Milwaukee.

You would think our representatives would be more concerned about the carloads of Illinois residents who have sold their homes, packed their bags and left Illinois for good. Estimates say about 45,000 Illinois residents waved bye-bye last year, the fifth year in a row the state has seen a steady decline in population. I'll bet they used a different finger on the way out.

You would also think the politicians would also be more worried about the busloads of jobs that have headed north of the border to Wisconsin over the last decade or so.

A few weeks ago, I was driving south on Green Bay Road through Kenosha and Pleasant Prairie, Wis.

I was making the journey back home, back to the land of casinos and broke gamblers. Here's what I saw: a Jockey International headquarters, a gigantic distribution center for Meier's food stores, an even bigger Amazon distribution facility, a Jelly Belly candy factory, and a very large U-Line distribution center.

All of these facilities picked the Wisconsin side of the border over Illinois. But Waukegan is going to get a casino and everything that goes along with that. What might that be? How about the great jobs—jobs like cocktail servers or blackjack dealers. I know that's not as good of a job as planning and implementing international Jockey factories, but it's a job.

And how about the gamblers? You know, people who really can't afford to gamble away their money, but do so because the chance at hitting a jackpot seems easier than saving. That's the Illinois way, isn't it?

We need to acknowledge the people coming to this new casino may fall prey to more sinister forces, like gambling addiction, which is a serious public health issue.

Finally, it is also important to point out that the nature of gambling in Illinois is changing.

The Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability reported in 2018 that total state revenue from riverboat casino gambling was just $272 million in 2018, a decline from $345 million in 2013 and a high of $699 million in 2005, according to the figures.

In other words, fewer people are going to casinos and the state is making less money off of them.

Now some people may think gamblers taking buses to Milwaukee to try their luck is the reason for the decline. But that government report has another reason for the decrease in admissions and receipts at Illinois casinos.

The growth of video gaming is cited as the main culprit causing the decline in the popularity of casinos. In fiscal year 2013, some $24 million in state tax revenue was generated by video gaming. That figure skyrocketed to $347 million in state revenue by 2018, according to the government report.

The state is betting its future on more casino gambling, and coupling that with higher taxes. Any way you look at it, it seems like a losing hand.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist.
Something Spicy is Going On! The award-winning actress from CBS sitcom The Nanny looks back.

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13 CH 012376 1451 HENLEY STREET NOTICE OF SALE

JUDICIAL SALES - REAL ESTATE

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that there is a judicial sale set for 1:00 PM June 27, 2019, on the premises located at 1451 HENLEY STREET, CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60613. A copy of the Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate will be available for inspection at the Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60606-4650. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to quality or quantity of contents. Attend the sale or send sealed bids. Bids shall be accepted from June 19, 2019, at 10:00 AM to June 27, 2019, at 11:00 AM. The highest bidder, subject to approval by the court, will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to quality or quantity of contents. Attend the sale or send sealed bids. Bids shall be accepted from June 19, 2019, at 10:00 AM to June 27, 2019, at 11:00 AM. The highest bidder, subject to approval by the court, will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate.
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY COURT DIVISION, CHANCERY DIVISION BANK OF AMERICA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION Plaintiff vs. LEONARD A. JOHNSON, ANNA M. JOHNSON, M. J. JOHNSON, JR., NADIM JOHNSON ANNA M. JOHNSON, BARRY CREDIT AND EQUITY, LLC, J. M. JOHNSON JR., and BANK OF AMERICA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, STATES OF AMERICA acting by and through the SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Defendants

CH. 060234
121 HATIFINE AVE
LP
20740
20740

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION BANK OF AMERICA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, DEPARTMENT - TRUSTEE TERRA GEERING CORPORATION Plaintiff vs. NAOMI MURIELLE GUILLAUME, BANK OF AMERICA, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, STATES OF AMERICA acting by and through the SECRETARY OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT
Defendant

CH. 160628
121 HATIFINE AVE
LP
20740
20740

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a judicial sale of real estate will be held by the Sheriff of Cook County, Illinois, on the date, time, and place stated below for the purpose of selling the real estate as set forth herein.

The real estate is improved with a single family residence.

The property is located at 15 EAST HINTZ ROAD, EVANSTON, IL 60201. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and is offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and as is in condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by Court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to possession of the real estate.

The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale, other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and special taxes levied against said real estate and is further subject to confirmation by Court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to possession of the real estate.

The judgment amount was $71,633. Sale terms: 25% of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, including the judicial sale fee for the abandoned residential property, is $7,163.30. The balance is due within twenty-four (24) hours. No fee shall be paid by the mortgagee acquiring the real estate pursuant to the confirmation of the sale. Any mortgagee, judgment creditor, or other lienor acquiring the residential real estate at the sale will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the mortgagee, judgment creditor, or lienor to possession of the real estate.

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IT'S LEGAL:
Court is now in session

BY GAIL GRABOWSKI | EDITED BY STANLEY NEWMAN

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

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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. Jason's co-
conspirator  4 96 35 124 144
B. Roman road: 2 wds.  48 1358 86 119 101 151 5 14 72
C. Feel remorse  87 34 22 58 43 132
D. Capital of Nepal  67 105 81 13 148 26 90 140
E. Round painting  40 54 70 91 110
F. Made sharp  82 95 79 29 56 126 37
G. Runner or swimmer  59 45 123 71 103 16 92
H. Flowing in  98 38 85 23 77 52 109 131
I. Bonehead  93 26 122 41 80 149

J. Avian epidermal growth  112 129 1 152 136 74 55
K. Obvious: hyph.  139 50 68 135 83 108 117 155 57 9 44
L. Spoke angrily  127 6 160 94 147 142
M. Sea goddess  100 17 63 111 28 125
N. The present: 3 wds.  46 20 157 137 76 120 2 15 86 104
O. Showing  154 21 143 36 73 89 10 107 113 130
P. Day of worship  106 3 88 115 24 161 11
Q. Collage-like construction  30 19 78 134 97 8 51 86 121 146
R. USSR premier, 1958-64  102 133 114 12 64 33 75 153 47 145
S. Omission punctuation  150 141 32 116 128 84 18 65
T. Resisted  69 49 61 39 27 156 118
U. Perfect  53 31 42 138 82 159 99 7

Out of the Ordinarily

BY CHARLES PRESTON

ACROSS
1 Capacitance unit
6 Smidgen
9 1978 Nobelist
14 Convex moldings
15 History-book chapter
16 Magazine title
17 Loudness measures
18 Man of Oz
19 Winter maladies
20 Without help
23 Williams, of The Secret Life of an American Wife
24 Hockey great
25 Literary marquis
26 Council
28 Iliad elder
32 Chambers
35 Tweed foe
37 Fuss
38 Ambiguities
42 Ripen
43 Woodworking tool
44 Jots
45 Swarms
48 Crest
50 PC operator
52 Suffix for cloth or cash
53 Draw a bead on
56 Historic league
60 Racoon kin
61 Wallach or Whitney
62 Ladies of La Scala
63 Telethon bigwig
64 Turkish topper
65 Minneapolis suburb
66 British city
67 Visit
68 Seamen
52 Coastal flyer
22 Inferno poet
26 Bro or sis
27 Tony, of Going Ape!
29 Bakery purchase
30 Concert halls
31 Author MacDonald
32 First-family member
33 Forum garb
34 Is sorry about
36 Disinfect
39 Art supporter
40 Chemical compounds
41 Bambi's mom
46 Befitted
47 Catches sight of
49 Grig
51 Lagoon enclosures
53 Incus
54 Give You Anything But Love, Baby
55 Buttes
56 Heavy reading
57 Track event
58 Out of the wind
59 Radames' love
60 Animator's sheet

DOWN
1 Cabaret director
2 Steer clear of
3 Nancy's man
4 Shake — hurry
5 Not true-blue
6 Ousted a queen
7 Melody
8 Marriage proclamation
9 Break with
10 Domiciles
11 Ken or Barbie
12 Charles Correll role
13 Cobb and Hardin
14 Last week's answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island

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Deliberate Lying

By GARRY MORSE
EDITED BY RICH NORRIS AND JOYCE NICHOLS LEWIS

ACROSS
1 Einstein's "m"
5 Game with knights
10 Missouri city nickname
15 Cell accumulation
19 Some choristers
20 Auto pioneer Henry
21 Woman on the original "Star Trek" bridge
22 Fish or book lead-in
23 Enjoy prettifying
25 Fast-spreading
26 Spanish muralist
27 "Piece of cake"
28 Wrinkled Sunday dinner?
30 Home of Odysseus
31 What pros know, with "the"
32 The Big Ten's Boilermakers
33 Makes red-faced
34 Brew in big containers
35 Skinny, loose-jointed club golfer?
36 "The Enemy Within" org.
41 Actress Rowlands
43 "The Enemy"
44 Deg. for crown fittings
45 "Tiny Alice" dramatist
46 Golden State school whose city is also its county
47 Doesn't abandon, as one's promise
51 Strategize
52 Helena winter hrs.
53 Yale of Yale fame
55 "The Easter Parade" author Richard
58 "Nobody wins!"
60 How checks are written
62 Nine-piece combo
64 "Fooled you!"
65 Dishes like a 28-Across?
68 Nine-piece combo
70 Morse "T"
71 Sugar coating
73 Kindle download
74 Bishop's district
76 "Phoeby" cousins
78 Denise overgrowth
80 Bad picnic omen
81 Marseille mates
82 Sandburg's metaphorical fog carrier

84 Barbarian
86 Preserved, in a way
87 Span. title
90 Leaving approx.
91 Just taps on the door?
94 Rooftop landing spot
97 Like candid photos
98 Transfer to a larger computer, say
99 Barbecue leftovers
102 Rough partner?
107 Texas Hold 'em in Texas?
109 Causes of road trip delays
112 1977 ELO hit
113 Selection from a pool
114 Bird that returns fire when hunted?
115 Yet
116 Square dance quorum
117 "Live PD" airler
118 Throb
119 Wine list heading
120 "Flashdance" star
121 Top officers
122 Tarot reader

89 Eased
92 Blood line
93 Tea prep aids
94 Jordan or Curry, e.g.
95 Letter after Sierra
96 Lessened
97 Like candid photos
98 Transfer to a larger computer, say
99 Word shouted with a raised glass
100 Word shouted with a raised glass
101 Antelope groups
102 Rough partner?
103 King with a magic wand
104 Wayne of Wayne Manor
105 Cafe lightener
106 Glacial ridge
107 Texas Hold 'em in Texas?
108 Dark purple
109 Word repeated in an iconic FDR quote
110 Word repeated in an iconic FDR quote
111 Word repeated in an iconic FDR quote
112 1977 ELO hit
113 Selection from a pool
114 Bird that returns fire when hunted?
115 Yet
116 Square dance quorum
117 "Live PD" airler
118 Throb
119 Wine list heading
120 "Flashdance" star
121 Top officers
122 Tarot reader

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.

Last 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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DID YOU MISS IT?

The Village of Westchester is accepting bids for a surplus vehicle sale.

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The Work of this project is subject to the prevailing wage rates for laborers, mechanics and other workmen employed in any public works construction work in the City of Evanston, Illinois, as required by the Illinois Prevailing Wage Act (820 ILCS 130/1 et seq.). The determination of prevailing wage rates shall be made by the Illinois Department of Labor and shall be paid for wages as certified by the Illinois Department of Labor. The determination is effective as of May 1, 2019 and thereafter. All laborers, mechanics and other workmen in the locality of said school districts engaged in performing construction work for said school districts exclusive of maintenance work.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the Board of Education of Evanston Township High School District No. 202 and the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District No. 65 and other public schools, that the Board of Education of Evanston Township High School District No. 202 and the Board of Education of Community Consolidated School District No. 65 investigate and ascertain the prevailing rate of wages as defined in said Act for laborers, mechanics and other workmen in the locality of said school districts employed in performing construction work for said school districts and report the findings.

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WHAT TO DO

Festival to celebrate George Crumb

Duo piano concerts to explore unusual compositions

BY MYRNA PETLICKI

The beauty of duo piano performance is explored each year through coaching, master classes and concerts at the Music Institute of Chicago's Chicago Duo Piano Festival. The 31st annual festival on July 14-21 will feature concerts at 3 p.m. July 14 and 7:30 p.m. July 19 at Nichols Concert Hall in Evanston.

This year's festival will honor American composer George Crumb on his 90th birthday.

"A lot of pianists really like to play George Crumb's music but it's kind of a specialty," said Ralph Neiweem, co-founder and codirector of the festival with his wife Claire Aebersold. "It's kind of a niche for people who love to play contemporary and even avant-garde music. Still the music speaks to the average concertgoer in a way that a lot of the more modern avant-garde music doesn't.

"I would describe George Crumb as a populist avant-garde composer," Neiweem continued, "in the sense that his music has enormous appeal because of the beautiful sound that he creates."

On July 14, Fiona Queen and Louise Chan will perform Crumb's complete "Makrokosmos III: Music for a Summer Evening" for two amplified pianos and percussion, accompanied by percussionists Joshua Graham and John Corkill.

"Last year my group did Bartok's 'Sonata for Two Pianos and Percussion,'" Queen said. "Crumb's 'Music for a Summer Evening,' is roughly based on the same instrumentation. To get the same group together to pay tribute to a composer like George Crumb on his milestone birthday year is such a privilege."

Queen praised the selection she will perform saying, "It's got such an incredible sonic spectrum. It's ethereal and very spiritual. The sounds that he uses techniques to produce involve slide whistles and African thumb pianos, submerged gongs that produce wavelength pitches, and a whole host of plucked strings on the piano."

Excerpts from Crumb's "Makrokosmos IV, Celestial Mechanics," for amplified piano, four hands, will be performed by Louise Chan and Susan Tang on July 19.

The festival will also honor Viennese composer Franz von Suppe, in celebration of the 200th anniversary of his birth, with a performance on July 19 of his "Poet and Peasant Overture," by Neiweem, Music Institute President and CEO Mark George, Gregory Shifrin and Alexander Djordjevic.

Sung Hoon Mo and Inah Chiu will perform "Mozart's Sonata in D Major for Two Pianos" on July 19. "It's been one of my favorite two piano pieces. I've always wanted to play it someday," Mo said. "It's very sparkling, very beautiful melodies, full of life."

Mo admitted that he hadn't performed much duo piano music before he was asked to participate in the Chicago Duo Piano Festival. "It's been really wonderful to explore all these pieces that I never played," he said.

Mo praised the festival's benefits for young pianists. "It's an introduction to ensemble playing," he explained. "They have to learn to listen to other people playing besides themselves. They have to be sensitive to their partner."

Other selections in the July 14 concert include Weber's "Invitation to the Dance" (Katherine Peterson, Katherine Lee, Soo Young Lee, and Camille Witos); and Borodin's "Polovetsian Dances" from "Prince Igor" (Xiaoman Liang and Jue He).

The July 19 concert will also include Schubert's "Andantino Varié" (Matthew Hagle and Mo Isoda); Brahms' "Variations on a Theme by Haydn" (Elaine Felder and Milana Pavchinskaya); and selections from Rachmaninoff's "Suites for Two Pianos" (Alexander Djordjevic and Gregory Shifrin).

Myrna Petlicki is a freelancer.

Chicago Duo Piano Festival

When: July 14-21; concerts July 14 and July 19.

Where: Nichols Concert Hall, 1490 Chicago Ave., Evanston

Tickets: $30 adults; $20 seniors; $10 students

Information: 800-838-3006; chicagoduopianofestival.org
WHAT TO DO COMMUNITY CALENDAR

**Thursday, July 11**

**Milestones in American Indian History:** Your textbooks didn’t tell the whole story about Native American history. Learn the truth, as you rethink U.S. history when you see this presentation. Overviewing history from an Indigenous perspective. You may be surprised by how much you never knew. CPDU credits are available. 6 p.m. Thursday, Mitchell Museum of the American Indian, 3001 Central St., Evanston, $5, 847-475-1030.

**Caravans of Gold at Northwestern Block Museum:** The Block Museum of Art at Northwestern University’s “Caravans of Gold, Fragments in Time: Art, Culture and Exchange Across Medieval Saharan Africa” is the first major exhibition to highlight West Africa’s global reach in the medieval period of the 8th to 16th centuries. This exhibit debuts Jan. 26 and runs through July 21, 2019. 10 a.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. Saturday through Wednesday, Northwestern University - Block Museum of Art, 40 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, free, 847-491-4000.

**Lego Club Grades 3-6:** Calling all building partners to join us for our monthly free building. We provide the Lego; you bring the ideas. Register online, call 847-729-7500 ext. 7900 or visit Youth Services. 3:30 p.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

**Peace, Man: Intermediate Book Folding:** Ages 18+. In homage to Woodstock’s 50th Anniversary, turn old books into peace signs. Learn the intermediate level cut and fold method to make your own book. Limit 15. Please register online, call 847-729-7500 x7700 or visit Reference Services. 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

**StoryWalk: Off We Go by Wil Hillbrand:** Look out! It is a bumpy ride without training wheels, but with encouragement from his dear friend Bear, Mole keeps going until he reaches his destination. Presented in conjunction with Bike Glenview. Just drop in. 9 a.m. Thursday through Wednesday, Little Bear Garden at Gallery Park, 2001 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

**GetFitGlenview Event: Fiesta - Aqua Zumba:** Party! Aqua Zumba brings the dance party to water. Join in for fun events throughout the park district. No purchase or fitness experience is necessary. For full event schedule and more information, visit the website or call 7 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m. Wednesday, Roosevelt Aquatic Center, 2239 Fir St., Glenview, see the website, 847-657-3249.

**Glenview Park District Museum Quest:** Museum Quest is a free program that continues in June, July and August to encourage children and families to visit Glenview museums. Children earn stamps for their Museum Quest Map while visiting Various Gallery Farms, The Grove, Fuller Air Station Prairie, Kohl Children’s Museum and Naval Air Station Glenview Museum, and taking part in summer drop-in activities and special events. Maps are available at each museum. See the website for differing museum days and times. 11 a.m. Thursday through Wednesday, Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie/Tyner Center, 2400 Compass Road, Glenview, free, 847-724-5670.

**The Modern Sounds Of Swing:** Brian Patti Orchestra performs a weekly show with tributes to Benny Goodman, Glenn Miller, and other greats, like Frank Sinatra. Includes ballroom dancing music. Visit the website. 7 p.m. Thursday, The Veterans Club located in the White Eagle, 6839 N. Milwaukee Ave. #100, Niles, free, 630-832-9222.

**The Conservative Soul and the Liberal Soul:** Andrew Sullivan, the noted conservative columnist who has emerged as one of the sharpest critics of the modern right, has written a powerful account of his own conservatism, The Conservative Soul: How We Lost It and How To Get It Back. What is the “conservative soul” at its very best? And what’s the liberal equivalent? 10 a.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Rd., Northfield, $39 member, $54 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

**Chicago Dogs vs Gary SouthShore Railcats:** Join the Chicago Dogs as they take on the Gary SouthShore Railcats at Impact Field in Rosemont. During this “Thirsty Thursday” home game, fans can enjoy $2 domestic drafts along with the Village of Rosemont’s fireworks display after the game. 6 p.m. Thursday, Impact Field, 9850 Balmoral Ave., Rosemont, Single ticket prices range from $9-$100. Ticket packages and discounted tickets for groups of 20 or more are also available, 847-636-5450.

**Jon Greenberg-Chicago Cubs-Dugout, Locker Room, Press Box:** Author Jon Greenberg discusses and signs copies of his new book, “If These Walls Could Talk: Chicago Cubs: Stories from the Chicago Cubs Dugout, Locker Room, and Press Box.” Buy your copy of the book from The Book Stall if you enter the book-signing queue. 6:30 p.m. Thursday, The Book Stall at Chicago Court, 811 Elm St., Winnetka, free, 847-446-8880.

**Friday, July 12**

**Friday Nights Live:** Every Summer starting in June, Friday evenings in Des Plaines feature a special line-up of performances at Metropolitan Square. The entertainment goes from 6-9 p.m., weather permitting. "Friday Nights Live" offers family-friendly entertainment, games for the kids, and an opportunity for friends and family to come together. 6 p.m. Friday, Metropolitan Square, 647 Metropolitan Way, Des Plaines, free, 847-299-7403.

**Metropolitan Jazz Octet with Dee Alexander:** On the 60th anniversary of Billie Holiday’s death, the Metropolitan Jazz Octet has teamed up with jazz vocalist Dee Alexander to perform music from their upcoming album Dee Sings Billie, a re-imagining of classic Billie Holiday songs. This concert is recorded live for Chicago Jazz Live on WDCB. Expect cash bar, light snacks and free street parking. For more information, email Steve Rashid at steve@studio2dance.ca or visit the website. 7 p.m. Friday, Studio 2, 1934 Dempster St., Evanston, $20 general seating, $25 cabaret seating, 847-328-6683.

**Don Morman Family Band: A Lunchbox and Performance Arts Tour:** The Don Morman Family Band specializes in the toe-tapping tunes...the folk, the old-time country and rock ‘n’ roll traditions. The “family,” Don, his wife Marcia, daughter Mary, and friend Fred, play acoustic guitar, autoharp, mandolin and stand up bass. A luncheon is served before the show. 11:30 a.m. Friday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $20 member, $25 nonmember, 847-962-5912.

**Sunrise Beach Yoga with CorePower Yoga Winnetka:** CorePower Yoga Winnetka hosts a free sunrise beach yoga series offered weekly from June 14 through August 16. The free classes start promptly at 6:30 a.m. on the sand at Tower Road Beach. Yogis should wear sunglasses and sunscreen. Participants of all levels and all ages are welcome, but preregistration is required at the website link given. 6:30 a.m. Friday, Tower Road Beach in Winnetka, 899 Sheridan Road, Glencoe, free, 303-682-3005.

**Understanding the Mixed Emotions of Caregiving:** Heather Resnick, MA and Ben Ellenson, MSW, North Shore Senior Center Caregiver Specialists, help attendees recognize, express, and cope with both the positive and negative emotions experienced during their role as caregivers. Share feelings and strategies with other caregivers. Please register online, call 847-729-7500 x7600 or visit Reader Services. 1 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

**Don Morman Family Band: A Lunchbox and Performance Arts Tour:** The Don Morman Family Band specializes in the toe-tapping tunes...the folk, the old-time country and rock ‘n’ roll traditions. The “family,” Don, his wife Marcia, daughter Mary, and friend Fred, play acoustic guitar, autoharp, mandolin and stand up bass. A luncheon is served before the show. 11:30 a.m. Friday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $20 member, $25 nonmember, 847-962-5912.

**Saturday, July 13**

**Mainstreet Senior Expo and Education - Des Plaines:** No matter your generation, this event connects you with the education and resources you need to age well and to help your loved ones do the same—focused specifically on the needs and concerns of those aged 50 and older and their families. Attendees may go to educational seminars and visit with exhibitors during the Resource Fair. Expect multiple opportunities to win door prizes throughout the event. 9 a.m. Saturday, Frisbie Senior Center, 52 E. NW Highway, Des Plaines, free, 630-324-8465.

**Downtown Evanston Farmers Market:** Sixty vendors sell fruits, vegetables, meat, flowers, cheese, eggs and bakery items. 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Oak Avenue and University Place, 1090 University Place, Evanston, free.

**July Weekend Crafts:** Explore the Native American cultures of our area with July woodlands crafts at the Mitchell Museum. Inspired by the beliefs of woodlands tribes, our July crafts are appropriate for all ages. 11 a.m. Saturday,
Music and fun activities vary from week to week. 7:30 a.m. Saturday, Winnetka Village Hall, 510 Green Bay Road, Winnetka, free, 947-446-4451.

Sunday, July 14

Blue and Gray, Alike and Different: Curator and reenactor, Mitch Ransdell will discuss the similarities and differences between Union and Confederate Armies during the Civil War, 2 p.m. Sunday, Glenview History Center, 1121 Waukegan Road, Glenview, $5 donation recommended, 847-724-2235.

Summer Bird Walk: Join local birding expert Mark Vaughan to search for local and migrating birds on the trails of Ken Fuller Air Station Prairie. Bring binoculars and dress for the weather. All levels are welcome. Meet at the Interpretive Center. Walk may be cancelled due to inclement weather. 7:30 a.m. Sunday, Kent Fuller Air Station Prairie/Tyner Center, 2400 Compass Road, Glenview, free, 847-901-6828.

Pet Blessing: Bring your pet to the church for a Pet Blessing outside on the west lawn. All friendly pets are invited on a leash or in a carrier, or you can bring a picture of your pet to be blessed. Pets that have passed away may also be remembered. In case of rain, the service takes place inside. All pets and owners are welcome. 10:45 a.m. Sunday, St. Luke’s Lutheran Church, 206 N. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-825-6659.

10th Annual Brush with Nature Art Festival: Watch over 50 Chicago area paint, create sketches and photograph elements of nature during Emily Oak Nature Center’s outdoor Pancake Breakfast in the Woods. 9 a.m. Sunday, Emily Oak Nature Center, 4650 Brummel St., Skokie, free, 847-677-7001.

Consular Series — Rescue in the Caribbean: Jewish Refuge: In the summer of 1938, delegates from 32 countries met to discuss a plan of action in response to the Jewish refugee crisis in Europe. Find out more about the experiences of these refugees as they arrived in the Dominican Republic, and how the town of Soula became a Jewish agricultural settlement. 2 p.m. Sunday, Illinois Holocaust Museum and Education Center, 9603 Woods Drive, Skokie, free, 847-967-4800.

Monday, July 15

Library Individual Appointments: Meet with trained Library staff for a 45 minute, one-on-one session and learn how to download eBooks, audiobooks, magazines, movies, TV shows or music to your mobile device. Visit or call the Reader Services Desk for questions, to register, and for appointment locations. Glenview Library card required. 10 a.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Ticketed: Glow in the Dark Storytime for all ages: Can we have Storytime in the dark? Find out what happens when we turn off the lights and take out our flashlight and glow sticks. Tickets are given out 20 minutes prior to each session, and preference is given to Glenview Public Library cardholders. 6:30 p.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Monday Movers Storytime for all ages: Wear your dancing shoes and join the Youth Services Librarians as they twirl into the week at our new summer storytime. Just drop in. 10:30 a.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

JCC Chicago Open Game Room: JCC Chicago offers free game rooms at the Bernard Weinger JCC in Northbrook. You bring the games, and we’ll provide a room, tables and chairs. Monday, 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, 12:30 p.m. Sunday, 7 p.m. Tuesday, Harrer Park and Recreation Center, 6659. Free powerhouse Fitness Classes: Rosemont’s Parkway Bank Park is teaming up with powerhouse Fitness Studio for free outdoor classes in the park every Wednesday night from 6:30-7:30 p.m. now through August 7. The fitness classes offer a full body strength-focused class with bluffs of cardio to get your body sweating and build muscle. The classes are done in circuits. All ages are invited to participate. Parking is free with validation. 6:30 p.m. Monday, Parkway Bank Park, 5501 Park Place, Rosemont, free, 847-349-5554.

Zumba in the Park: Rosemont’s Parkway Bank Park is teaming up with powerhouse Fitness Studio for free Zumba in the Park every Monday from 6-7 p.m. now through August 5. Advance online registration is recommended. Parking is free with validation. 6 p.m. Monday, Parkway Bank Park, 5501 Park Pl, Rosemont, free, 847-349-5554.

Tuesday, July 16

Digital Demos in the Lobby: Ask the experts! Learn about the Library’s many digital collections and how to download items to your mobile device. Just drop in. 2 p.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Ticketed: Twisty Tuesday Yoga for ages 3-6: Learn fun Yoga poses with stories and music; no yoga experience required. Tickets are given out 20 minutes prior to each session and preference is given to Glenview Public Library cardholders. 10:30 a.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Concert in the Park – Classical Blast: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Harper Park and Pool, 6250 W. Dempster St., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-1200.


Art Workshop: Easily connect to your creativity and imagination! Share ideas with fellow students (beginning through advanced) as you develop your natural talent. Everyone chooses and brings the media they prefer, be it paint, pencil, pastel, crayon, mixed media and so on. Each participant is offered guidance by Carl Kock. Or, you are free to work independently. 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, 925 member, $265 nonmember. 847-784-6030.

Renée Taylor’s My Life on a Diet: The Academy Award-nominated and Emmy Award-winning actress, Renée Taylor looks back on a life full of memorable roles in Hollywood and on Broadway and just as many bad diets. A self-described “diet junkie,” Taylor dishes out juicy anecdotes about—and weight loss tips from—Hollywood legends such as Joan Crawford, Marilyn Monroe, Barbra Streisand, Marlon Brando and Cary Grant. 7:30 p.m. Tuesday and Wednesday, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, $45-$92, 847-673-6300.
Stall at Chestnut Court, 811 Elm St., Winnetka. 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, The Book Stall register your book group with The Book Calendar, from Page 15

What to Do Community Calendar

Beans of Cape Cod. Karen, Sally, and Book Stall staffers also offer some suggestions for your next book group read.

Register your book group with The Book Stall and all your members can receive one year’s free membership in their 10% Discount Club. Contact The Book Stall at 847-446-8880 or events@thebook-stall.com. 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, The Book Stall at Chestnut Court, 811 Elm St., Winnetka, free, 847-446-8880.

Wednesday, July 17

bearfoot in the Park Concerts - Bopology: This Wednesday evening features Bopology. Bring your dinner, folding chairs and lawn blankets, and enjoy these shows guaranteed to please people of all ages. For a complete list of performers through July 31, visit glenviewparks.org. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jackman Park Gazebo, 1868 Prairie St., Glenview.

Video Chat 101: Want to connect long-distance with family and friends but not sure where to start? Join us for an overview of several popular video chat services. Limit 25. Register at glenviewwp.org, 847-729-7500 x7700 or visit Reference Services. 2 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Knit It for Grades 5-8: Learn the basics and complete a fantastic project at this two-part program. Attendance is required for both sessions; registering for the first reserves your seat for both. Space is limited, so please register online, call 847-729-7500 ext. 7900 or visit Youth Services. 3:30 p.m. Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

JCC Chicago Community Wednesdays: Every Wednesday, join for a few hours of mind, body and spirit enrichment. They host two, one-hour lectures/classes throughout the day, along with their fitness class offerings at the Marvin Lustbader Center. So, choose how you want to spend your day at the J. 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, Bernard Weinger JCC, 300 Revere Drive, Northbrook. Free for Lustbader members; $10 nonmembers, 224-406-9257.

Northbrook Farmers Market Opening Day Bash is June 19: The Northbrook Farmers Market opens Wed., June 19, and the non-profit crew invites everyone to the traditional Watermelon-Cutting Ceremony at 10 a.m. at Meadow Plaza, corner of Cherry and Meadow. Giveaways: Watermelon slices from Sunset Foods; Dilly Bars provided by Northbrook Dairy Queen; Balloon creations from RC Juggles; live music from Steve Zane; handouts provided by Northbrook Police, Fire and bash sponsor NorthShore University Health System, plus games for the kids. Booths of new and returning vendors are open 7-11 p.m. for farm-fresh produce and artisan foods. The non-profit market is open Wednesdays through Oct. 9, rain or shine. Join their conversations on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. 7:30 a.m. Wednesday, Northbrook Farmers Market, Cherry Lane & Meadow Road, Northbrook, free.

Playreading with Vivian Mitchel: Perhaps you have dreamed of being an actor. Fulfill your passion by joining the North Shore Senior Center playreading group. Learn about the playwright and discuss the play. Read a new play with the group each week. The real fun begins when characters are assigned and the play is read aloud by participants who can "ham it up" in the company of other would-be thespians. 12:30 p.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield; $39 member; $59 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

Rebbe’s Yartzeit Film: “The Time In Between”: Special screening of this inspirational documentary film in honor of the Lubavitcher Rebbe’s 25th Yartzeit. In the 1970s, Eliot Lasky was a high flying rock ’n’ roll promoter, traveling the country with famous bands like The Rolling Stones. A question that cut to the core of his identity led him to a sidewalk in Brooklyn, where he waited for the Lubavitcher Rebbe to get out of his car and give him an answer that would change his life. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Park Ridge Public Library, 20 S. Prospect Ave., Park Ridge, free, 224-392-4442.


“Paris to Pittsburgh”, film screening: From coastal cities to America's heartland, this film celebrates how Americans are demanding and developing real solutions in the face of climate change. Presented by Go Green Wilmette and The Wilmette Public Library. Note, the program is repeated on July 18 at 7 p.m. 1 p.m. Wednesday, Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-256-5025.

Have an event to submit? Go to www.ChicagoTribune.com/Calendars.
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Red Cross asks for platelet donations amid shortage

Platelets are harder for hospitals to keep in stock than whole blood

**By Kate Thayer**

Maria Mascarinas could feel blood gush from her just after delivering her third son. Before losing consciousness, she overheard her blood count from the medical team. Her platelets—clotting cells within the blood—were dwindling.

When Mascarinas woke, she was on a ventilator. She had undergone a hysterectomy, as well as a blood transfusion, including additional platelets. It saved her life.

"I never would have thought I'd be in that position," said Mascarinas, who has worked with blood donors as a supervisor with Vitalant, a network of blood donation centers across the country. "You just don't know when your day will come."

More than two years later, Mascarinas, 38, of Elmwood Park, said she's grateful to have made a full recovery, so she can watch her three sons grow.

Because of her experience, and her work at blood donation centers, Mascarinas said that when she hears of periodic blood shortages, like the current need for platelets in the Chicago area, she encourages people to donate.

"When I hear of a shortage, it really hits home. I do tear up," she said. "I imagine kids or moms in my position."

The American Red Cross and blood banks across the area are encouraging people who are eligible to consider platelet donation in the coming days and weeks to build up the supply. It's not uncommon for platelet shortages to occur during summer when people aren't as likely to donate, and there are more accidents that require a greater need for blood, said Dr. Chancy Christenson, associate director of the University of Chicago Medicine Blood Donor Center.

After noticing an earlier than usual dip in supply, the university's blood center began a blood drive June 23, asking employees to donate platelets to boost the supply ahead of the Fourth of July holiday, when summer shortages typically begin, Christenson said.

Adding to the challenge is the short shelf life of platelets, he said. Platelets are harder for hospitals to keep in stock than whole blood or other components of blood because they cannot be refrigerated and can only be stored for five days, he said.

"Five days is nothing," he said. "That's two days of testing and three days of use."

While platelets can be separated out and used from a typical whole blood donation, that's not ideal, Christenson said. Using that method, the platelets from one donor must be combined with others to be used.

Instead, donors can give just their platelets, but it's a longer process, he said. "It's a bigger ask."

"The process is like donating blood, but donors are hooked up to a machine that draws out the blood, separates out the platelets and then puts other components, like red blood cells, back into the donor. It takes about 90 minutes but leaves donors feeling less woozy than typical blood donation because they don't lose oxygen-rich red blood cells, Christenson said. Those interested in donating can find more information at uchicagomedicine.org/give/give-blood."

"It really does help," he said.

"They only last five days, so you know when you donate platelets it's going to have an immediate effect," Christenson added. "You will definitely save a life. And probably in the next few days."

Besides those who have lost a lot of blood through surgery or an injury, cancer patients undergoing chemotherapy also need platelets, as well as premature infants who have a low supply, among other patients, Christenson said.

According to the American Red Cross, someone in the U.S. needs platelets every 30 seconds, and the recent dip in supply may have delayed some platelet treatments to some "non-urgent" patients in the Chicago area.

"At this time, the Red Cross is doing everything it can to help prevent summer shortages but encourage all eligible individuals to schedule an appointment to give blood or platelets," a spokeswoman said in a statement.

The shortage seems more severe than previous ones and illustrates why it's important to keep a constant flow of platelet donors, said Eva Quinley, regional director of Vitalant, formerly called LifeSource. Often people hear about donating their platelets when they regularly come to donate whole blood, she said. Baby boomers are a big blood donation population, and there's a need to spread the word to younger eligible donors, Quinley said. The organization uses personal stories and social media to encourage and inform prospective donors, she said.

Facebook recently launched a tool in select cities, including Chicago, where users can locate their nearest blood center.

Richard Packman, 75, of Chicago, regularly visits Vitalant to donate blood and recently made his 500th platelet donation. When he first started donating blood years ago, Packman saw someone donating platelets and asked about it. He decided to try it and hasn't stopped.

"It takes a little longer, but it's the pinnacle of blood donation," he said. "Of all the charity groups and volunteer groups I've worked at, this is the one thing where I know I'm saving a life."

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Park Ridge cancer survivor to host third birthday blood drive

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON

Jimmy Rancich is getting ready to celebrate his 23rd birthday — and that means it's time for another community blood drive.

Rancich will host this third annual birthday blood drive in partnership with Vitalant, formerly LifeSource, on Sunday, July 14 between 12 and 5 p.m. outside his home at 930 S. Broadway Ave., Park Ridge.

"I feel like a veteran now," Rancich said with a laugh, when asked what he thought about hosting another blood drive. "It's all I've been looking forward to all summer and it's really exciting to have it coming up."

A Vitalant bloodmobile will be staffed on Sunday afternoon and interested donors can register online at vitalant.org by using group code 835B.

With just one mobile blood donation station this year, Rancich said he hopes to draw at least 30 donors on July 14. But donations can also be made at any Vitalant location using the code 835B, he said.

"It's not about setting a specific goal. It's about getting people to donate," Rancich said.

Last year, with two vehicles available, 54 people turned out to donate blood, a spokesman with LifeSource said following the drive.

Six years ago, while a junior at Maine South High School in Park Ridge, Rancich was diagnosed with an advanced stage of a rare form of non-Hodgkin's lymphoma. Over the next few years he would fight cancer twice, relying on blood transfusions due to red and white blood cell depletion, he said.

"There were times when it brought my energy up more than an energy drink, more than Starbucks could," Rancich said of receiving blood.

Since that time, Rancich and his family have made it a mission to encourage blood donations, and the birthday blood drive is an outgrowth.

"It's important to me, especially during the summer months when [blood] donations are low," Rancich said.

The blood drive will take place from 12 to 5 p.m. Coupons for a free pint of Culver's frozen custard will be provided to donors, Rancich said.

"Even if you don't give or are scared to give, it's a celebration of life, not just for me, but for everyone who is receiving a donation," Rancich said of the event. "It's a total birthday block party. So come, play games, eat good, have some drinks. I'm always happy to see anyone in Park Ridge because I wouldn't be here without them."

For more information about being a donor or to register, call 877-258-4825 or email helen.rancich@gmail.com.

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Death Notices

Adams, Lois J.
Lois Adams (nee Berger), age 94, passed away on June 15, 2019 after a short illness. She was surrounded by her children (Mitchell, Jeanne & Joanne), and her beloved dog, Gracie.

She was the middle child of Wallace and Grace Berger, and was known as "Honey" to her older brother, Ralph (deceased), and her younger sister, Betty. The family spent many wonderful summers at Chipmunk Hollow on the Chain o'Lakes.

Lois graduated from the University of Illinois, where she met and married Robert K. Adams, who preceded her in death in 1975.

She was a long time Park Ridge resident, moving here with her family in 1960. Lois spent many years working in the Water Billing Department at Park Ridge City Hall, and had many good friends there.

Lois was also known as "Coach Adams" to many Park Ridge youngsters as for 15 years she coached the "8 and under" swimmers of the Park Ridge Swim Team.

Grandma Adams will be greatly missed by Kristin, Jennifer, Tara and Jeffrey, her beloved grandchildren, as well as her two great-grandchildren (who called her "GG"), Ainsley and Easton.

Known as Aunt Honey to her nieces and nephews, Bonnie, Brian, Barbara, Cathy, Kurt, Tom and Joe, she will be greatly missed at this year's family reunion at Chipmunk Hollow - which will not be the same without her.

A private family memorial will be conducted at the Reunion...

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Niles North hopes to build around Jalen Butler

BY BOB NARANG

Jalen Butler is an easy player to spot on the basketball court. At 6-foot-5 and a muscular 210 pounds, Butler is an imposing presence for Niles North.

Butler, who will be a junior in the fall, relies on his size, strength and athleticism to be a dominating inside force for the Vikings.

But Butler is a work in progress this summer. He's making the switch to shooting guard.

Butler admitted the position shift comes with some challenges. Instead of battling for position inside, he is covering shifty guards with speed and shooting ability this summer.

"I'm now guarding smaller players," he said. "That's different. I have to be quicker on my feet. I'm also shooting more 3-pointers. My outside game has gotten way better."

"I didn't shoot many 3s last year, but I'm happy to be moved and to get ready for the next level."

With the change, Butler is an enticing prospect for colleges looking for a strong, physical guard with an inside-outside game.

Butler, who focuses on basketball year-round, said he had not received any scholarship offers before the Hoop Mountain Summer Shootout in mid-June.

"This is a big season for me," Butler said. "I have to keep playing hard and the offers will come. My goals are to win every game for the team and to play hard. The offense will come. I'm just trying to stay positive."

Incoming junior point guard Elijah Bull is another player making a big shift this summer for the Vikings. After transferring from Evanston, Bull immediately became a starter last season to help take some pressure off high-scoring guard Aquan Smart.

"Jalen and Elijah are two gym rats that love the game and came up with us as sophomores last year," Olson said. "They went through some of the growing pains in a league that's really good but ended up with great seasons."

"In the spring, they were both in the weight room and open gyms. They are really tireless workers and becoming leaders for us as juniors. Both are also outstanding students."

"The 5-10 Bull doesn't have Butler's size or flashy style, but his speed and floor presence steady the fast-paced Vikings."

"I'm going to have a bigger role this year," Bull said. "I'm going to have to lead the team more. My mid-range game is better. We can have a really good season."

"Last year, I wasn't as aggressive. This year, I'm going to step up and be more aggressive and help my team and not be shy and play as hard as I can."

Olson said the Vikings are better suited for a fast start this winter after enduring a growth period following heavy graduation losses from the 2017-18 team.

"We're way ahead of last summer," he said. "That doesn't mean a finished product. The summer before, we graduated 90 percent of the team. The key is last year's team ended up winning 20 games and finishing in third place in one of the toughest conferences in the state. They got the job done. A lot of those guys are coming back, so the expectations are going to be higher.

"This group likes to compete. Minus a few tough situations, the summer has been really good. We're trying to scale up the guys and get back our defensive intensity of playing tough, hard-nosed defense. They are used to winning. Winning is the expectation."

Bob Narang is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @Pioneer_Press
Local basketball coaches discuss tournament changes

BY STEVE SADIN

The IHSA boys and girls basketball state tournaments will look a bit different next year.

On June 10, the IHSA board of directors voted to hold all four classes of the state finals on the same weekend, beginning in the 2020-21 school year. The Class 1A, 2A, 3A and 4A girls will play one weekend in early March, and the boys will follow the same format the next weekend.

IHSA assistant executive director Matt Troha said in a press release that the girls basketball state finals will take place from Thursday-Saturday, March 4-6, 2021. That means the boys tournament would wrap up Thursday-Saturday, March 11-13, 2021.

Under the current system, the Class 1A and 2A girls play for their state championships one weekend, followed by the 3A and 4A girls. The next two weekends, that process repeats for the 1A and 2A boys, followed by the 3A and 4A boys. The result is four consecutive weekends of basketball state tournaments.

But starting in March 2021, the schedule will be condensed to two weekends, though many of the finer details are still up in the air. For example, shifting the state tournaments will also require shifting dates for regional, sectional and supersectional games. Plus, there's the added dilemma of when to hold semifinals and third-place games for four classes on the same weekend.

But even with some questions still to be answered, Lake Forest boys basketball coach Phil LaScala said he likes the idea of having more teams competing at state on the same weekend. “I love it,” LaScala said. “It’s good for the coaches and good for the kids. They all love basketball and get a chance to meet more kids from all over the state.”

Troha noted that truncating the high school basketball season also keeps the 3A and 4A boys basketball finals from overlapping with the NCAA Tournament. “One piece of feedback we consistently received was the NCAA tourney conflict on the 3A/4A boys weekend kept some common fans away,” Troha said.

Lyons boys basketball coach Tom Sloan said he’s fine with the changes, but he thought the changes had more to do with attendance and less to do with watching college basketball instead. “It could be an attendance issue with casual fans,” Sloan said. “It’s less of a wrinkle for high school students and fans with NCAA games going on concurrently.”

Oak Park-River Forest girls basketball coach J.P. Coughlin said attendance at the girls basketball state tournament has declined since the IHSA went from a two-class system to a four-class system in 2008. Under the two-class system, eight teams qualified for state in 1A and eight more in 2A. Now, four teams qualify in each of the four classes.

Coughlin said the new format might help reverse the attendance trend. The new format will not change how many teams qualify for state; there will still be four teams in each of the four classes for boys and girls basketball. The IHSA will have to schedule two semifinals, a third-place game and a championship game for each of the four classes — a total of 16 games during a three-day weekend.

Troha said the IHSA is looking primarily at two options. One option would have six games Thursday, six games Friday and the four title games on Saturday. The 1A and 2A semifinals would take place on Thursday, with the third-place games taking place later that night. The 3A and 4A semifinals and third-place games would take place on Friday.

Evanston boys basketball coach Mike Ellis said no format should require athletes to compete for third place the same day they lost a semifinal. “Every team comes with the expectation of winning a state championship,” said Ellis, who has guided the Wildkits to back-to-back trips to the 4A state tournament. “Getting up for a third-place game after losing a semifinal is not fair to the kids. It’s emotionally difficult. I’d rather they not play the game and just give them their medals.”

Another option would be to have four games Thursday, six games Friday and six games Saturday. Under this format, no team would have to play twice on the same day. The 1A and 2A semifinals would take place Thursday, with the third-place games Friday and the championship games Saturday. The 3A and 4A semifinals would take place Friday, with the third-place games preceding all four championship games on Saturday.

The IHSA’s new plan will keep the boys and girls tournaments on separate weekends, and Buffalo Grove girls basketball coach Steve Kolodziej would like it to stay that way. Kolodziej said he fears a situation that he has seen played out at varsity doubleheaders, in which most of the attention is on the boys game and the girls are an afterthought. “If the boys play first, the girls can get a good crowd for the first half and 75 percent leave at halftime,” Kolodziej said.

The boys basketball tournament has been a fixture in Peoria, and the girls have played in Normal for years. However, the IHSA is accepting other bids to host the tournaments from 2021-23, the first three years under the new format.

Coughlin said there has always been debate about the benefits of playing the tournaments in the Chicago area or keeping them further to the south. “The Chicago area has lots of quality arenas,” Coughlin said. “People from (downstate) might like to come to Chicago for the weekend.”

Steve Sadin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press. Twitter @Pioneer_Press
Alex Vlasic began his hockey journey in Wilmette, and it could take him to the United Center

BY JIMMY GREENFIELD

Alex Vlasic was a pick.

His dad had warned him not to go into one corner of their backyard rink in Wilmette because the ice was a little too soft. John Vlasic had even put up a wooden board as a reminder to Alex and his siblings, Eric and Emma, to stay away.

But Alex, then 8 years old, accidentally shot his only puck into the forbidden area. There was only one solution he could think of.

And it was the wrong one.

“J was going to go get it and I went right through (the ice),” he said. “I started screaming for (my dad) and he came running, picked me up and took me inside.”

That particular day playing hockey ended prematurely for Vlasic, but there have been hundreds more since — and, the Blackhawks hope, hundreds more in the future for the local kid whom they drafted in the second round (No. 43 overall) last week in Vancouver.

Despite growing up during a time when the Hawks won three Stanley Cups, Vlasic was hardly a hardcore fan of his hometown team. His cousin Marc-Edouard Vlasic had been a standout defenseman for the Sharks since 2006, and that connection got in the way of unfettered love for the Hawks.

In fact, the Sharks beat out the Hawks for Vlasic’s affections when he was a kid.

“A little bit, yeah,” he admitted sheepishly.

Now, not so much.

“Going into (the draft), a bunch of people asked me who I wanted to get drafted by and I always said the Hawks,” Vlasic said. “The hometown team is something you can’t really beat. In the future it would be so special to see my friends and family up in the stands rooting for me in my hometown. Playing for the Hawks would be crazy.”

Vlasic, 18, won’t make his debut in a Hawks uniform anytime soon. He’s starting summer classes at Boston University this week and intends to play for the Terriers for at least a couple of years before turning pro.

It wasn’t a surprise that the Hawks used their second-round pick on Vlasic, a 6-foot-6, 198-pound defenseman who spent the last two years with the star-studded USA Hockey National Team Development Program. Vlasic’s team had 17 players drafted last weekend, including top pick Jack Hughes and another Chicago-area kid, Alex Turcotte, who went No. 5.

Despite it being a foregone conclusion that Vlasic would get picked fairly high, when the moment arrived, it came as a shock to his mom, Tara, who was watching at Rogers Arena in Vancouver with friends and family.

“I wasn’t really paying attention,” Tara said. “And then I heard, ‘From the US National Program,’ and my ears slightly perked up. I’m like, ‘Ooh, who’s that going to be?’ Because I did not think that was going to be Alex.”

After a pause, she added like any good mother would: “Not that I didn’t think he was worthy of being picked.”

Tara and John Vlasic grew up in Canada before moving to Chicago in their 20s and settling in Wilmette when they began their family.

John played hockey as a kid and passed on his love of the sport to Eric and then Emma before Alex came along.

Eric is a standout goalie for the Blackhawks Special Hockey team, while Emma, a forward, played four years at Yale and is mulling over offers to play in the NWHL next season.

They are close-knit siblings and have shared a love of hockey since they played in their basement, pretending to be on NHL teams and then NHL teams as they moved up the ladder and played out their pretend season. When somebody lit the lamp, music blared.

“I think we did play ‘Chelsea Dagger,’ ” Emma said. “And some Motley Crue.”

When Alex was 3 years old, his parents put him on skates for the first time — and it went about as well as the time he fell through the ice.

“I was taking a skating class where you push those chairs where you try to get support to stand up,” Alex said. “And I remember I came off crying and my babysitter was calling my parents like: ‘You can’t make him do this. You can’t make him do this.’

“My parents just said: ‘Put him back out there. He’ll like it.’ And eventually I just started to like it.”

Alex began playing for his local team, the Wilmette Terriers, with his dad coaching him at the Mite, Squirt and Pee Wee levels. The Mite AA team was particularly good, winning the prestigious Silver Stick championship in 2010.

Wilmette natives Alex Vlasic, left, and goaltender Cameron Rowe played for the USA Hockey National Team Development Program.

Vlasic’s talent led him to try out for the NTDP. John Vlasic had watched with amazement years earlier when his nephew Marc-Edouard became an NHL-caliber player, and this was starting to feel familiar.

“All of a sudden similar things are going on in this household when you think, ‘Wow, maybe it can happen twice,’” John said.

Tryouts were held in Plymouth, Mich., the home of USA Hockey, where the players would live and attend school if they were accepted into the program.

“Forty-five people tried out for that team, and you’re not sure how your kid fits in,” John said. “We knew all the players; still, you don’t know. Then they have the tryout and he looks as good or better than the players out there. That’s where I kind of realized that he had something going for him.”

Vlasic graduated from high school with his NTDP teammates a little over a month ago, then they began to go their separate ways.

“That was probably the hardest goodbye I’ve had to say,” Vlasic said. “I’ve got some friends on that team that I’ll be friends with for the rest of my life. Some of us were crying saying goodbye to each other.

“I spent two years straight every single day with these guys. I was as close with them as I am with my family. I can tell those guys anything. Hopefully we’ll be able to play against each other someday.”

The trophy case at Wilmette’s Centennial Ice Rink, where Vlasic played much of his youth hockey, contains the Silver Stick hardware his Mite team won nine years ago. Whenever he stops by, he’ll peek into the case just to know it’s still there.

The facility teems with youth hockey players and adults who can’t get enough of the game. On the walls are life-size posters of current Hawks, including Duncan Keith, Patrick Kane and Jonathan Toews.

There’s always room for another. Perhaps even one of a hometown boy.
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