

MY SUN DAY NEWS

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quickshot



SC sees street improvements 9

quickquote

I read books that I normally would not pick up to read. 6



Christine Such | MSDN Photo

Strutters at a rehearsal for their Memories performance.

Strutters dance down memory lane June 7

By Christine Such
For My Sun Day News

The Strutters will be performing on Tuesday, June 6 and Wednesday, June 7, at 7 p.m. at Drendel Ballroom

celebrating their 20th anniversary. Dancing, romancing, and more, the Sun City Strutters will be delving into two decades of memories.

Nancy Kutska, General Manager of the Strutters said, "The

Sun City Strutters started offering tap with Jackie Cesarone in 2003. The group added ballet in 2004 with Mary Wyatt and jazz in 2007 with Valarie Stroud."

Cynthia Church, one of the Strutters instructors said, "I

started taking tap and Mary convinced me to try ballet. With tap, my feet are more grounded, with ballet, it was expected that my feet left the ground."

STRUTTERS | Pg. 4



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lifeinfoocus Somewhere in the ‘In-Between’



Carol Pavlik
Columnist

I never met a notebook I didn’t like. My bookshelf is crammed with journals with creamy white paper. Some of the books have beautiful covers with vibrant colors; others are simply notebooks, the kind with the spiral binding made of metal wire. On the pages, I scrawl goals, recipes, scraps of ideas that I write down quickly, thinking I’ll come back later and recapture some brilliant idea that I didn’t want to let slip away.

I mostly journal when I’m angry, depressed, or anxious. For me, journaling is the act of spilling emotions out onto the page. After siphoning my troubles out through the ink of the pen, I have space in my heart. The tightness in my chest is eased by journaling. That’s where I find clarity. It’s a system that works for me.

Comedian and podcaster Marc Maron remembers about the way he “compulsively” journaled when his marriage was falling apart. Several years later, he revisited those journals and was struck by the words from a former version of himself. There, in black and white, his emotions were laid bare on the page. Their raw immediacy withstood the test of time, and served as a time capsule for that chapter of his life.

Chilean author Isabel Allende, now 80 years old, often talks of the thousands of letters she exchanged with her mother most of her adult life, until her mother passed away in 2018. “She was 20 years older than me,” said Allende, “so I could always see where my life would be in 20 years.”

I wonder what a stranger might make of my life, if they only had my journals to go on. I admittedly don’t journal much when I’m happy, so the writing in the journals is often the silt I dredge up from the bottom of life’s bucket. It’s heavy, gritty, and sticks to the bottom.

I am a writer, so the footprint I leave behind will be in the form of handwritten journals and missives jotted down in a Google doc.

If my journals are a concentrated

portrait of my dark days, the letters I write to my family — mainly my mother and father — are the opposite. I write to them probably once a week, dating back to my first semester at college when I felt homesick. My letters to them have chronicled my marriage, the antics of my four children, people I’ve met, places I’ve gone, and dreams I have. In my letters home, I admit I present a sanitized version of my life: a collage of happy moments, cherry picked and lovingly written on cheerful stationery. I want them to be proud of me, so there is no mention of being short on money, or grappling with difficult decisions. Arguments, temper tantrums, or teens who don’t adhere to curfew don’t appear in those letters. The times I questioned my role as a parent, or wondered if my marriage could weather various bumps and obstacles along the way is not revealed in the curvy script folded into an envelope, affixed with a postage stamp. There are no paragraphs about friendships I’ve lost, or times when I’ve disappointed my friends or family.

In my vanity, I hope that someday, someone wondering about my life might read my letters. I hope they don’t, however, read my journals. But I suppose, to get a fully rounded portrait of my life, one would have to read both. The journals show me at my worst, when hope is dwindling and I am struggling to make sense of the world. The letters are feathery soft butterfly kisses that softly land on beautiful petals of a flower — the petals I choose. They are the image I’m okay with presenting to the outside world. The not-so-pretty parts of me go into the journals.

Even if journals or letters aren’t your thing, we’re all leaving different versions of ourselves behind us like breadcrumbs. The things we put in texts or on Instagram are all snapshots of the life we choose to show. In a world of Snapchat filters and AI, we can easily put out altered or false versions of ourselves. We are all curating our life, our values reflected in all the little choices we make each day. Texts and browsing history, receipts and credit card bills, the type of car we drive and the clothes we wear are all pieces of the mosaic that make up our lives, broken and beautiful.

The person in my journals is not me; neither is the person in my family letters. Or, rather, they’re both me; but they are two halves of the whole truth. The real me lies somewhere in the in-between. Behind me, the trail of breadcrumbs grows: little snippets of stories and conversations that, separately, could portray a filtered or misleading version of myself. But together, they add up to the life I’m writing day by day, crumb by crumb.



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Strutters' Instructors (L to R): V. Stroud, S. Tenggren, T. Plaminek, J. Pollock, C. Stone, N. Kutska, C. Church, M. Wyatt.

• **STRUTTERS**

Stroud said, "Our theme for our 2023 spring show is 'Memories.' We are revisiting our 20 years of dancing. We will be going through the years featuring dancing routines from various shows."

The group couldn't even begin to pick a favorite memory.

"They are all special. We put a lot of work into each of our performances with a lot of investment of time and energy," Stroud said.

Church said, "The Cabaret theme was a favorite. It had a nightclub theme with a cash bar, and it was a fun performance."

Teenah Plaminek, an assistant instructor said, "They are all excellent shows and it is so much fun! Dance helps strengthen muscles and increase flexibility that helps prevent poor posture."

The group expanded throughout the years; they now offer classes in tap, ballet, and jazz at all levels. Besides showcasing the talent here in Sun City, the Strutters showed off some of their moves

to residents in nursing homes, assisted living senior centers, and other venues.

Stroud said, "We encourage everyone to try our classes. You don't have to have any previous experience. We have entry-level classes and if you have some experience, we have a level of classes that will meet your needs."

Church said, "We keep our classes simple. I try to introduce just a couple steps each class. And we encourage all to ask if you don't get it."

Kutska said, "And you don't have to be in our shows if you don't want to participate. Just come and dance with us with no commitment to be in our shows."

The routines are modified for residents with bad knees, hips, or any issues that someone might have performing the steps. Tenggren said, "Our goal is to make everyone look good."

Kutska said, "We are very much a family, we love to perform and we are proud of our group."

Ticket sales for "Memories" start on May 1, at \$10 each, and can be purchased through Member Services.



**You are cordially
invited to attend the Sun City
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Hovering on the edge of tears



TR Kerth
Columnist

I have been hovering on the edge of tears for the past several months, for reasons I won't go into here but which should be obvious to anyone who has followed my column recently. But my son sent me over the edge recently when he texted me out of the blue: "I don't know if I've told you this recently, but I love you, Dad."

For the record, he tells me that often.

Also for the record, he is the one who taught me that it is a manly thing for a man to say "I love you."

I was raised by a loving father who never learned to say "I love you" from his strict, German immigrant father. There was never any question about how much my father loved me. He just never said it — until he was dying of cancer. And when he said it, I said it back, although I found it awkward to say because Kerth men just never talked that way to each other.

But because my son was still young while that drama was playing out, he learned to say the words to me in everyday situations, and he taught me how to say what my heart felt but never knew how to express in words.

So now, every time we talk on the phone, we end by saying "I love you." I thank him for teaching me to do that.

The day he recently texted me that loving message out of the blue happened to be the day I was watching CNN and heard the 911 call that the mother placed in fear that her son might perform a horrific act of violence at the Old National Bank in Nashville, Kentucky, on April 10.

She called 911 to say that she had heard from her son's roommate, telling her that her son had left a disturbing note that hinted that he might shoot up the bank where he worked. To her credit, she immediately called 911 to tell authorities of the threat.

Unfortunately, her call came too late to prevent the act that would cost the lives of five innocent people, as well as the life of her son. Others, including police officers, were inflicted with lifelong injuries and traumas.

But in her 911 voice, ragged with fear, you could hear the love she had for her son. She was certain that he didn't own any guns (at least as far as she knew, because later facts would reveal that he had only recently purchased the weapon he would use in his attack) and she wanted police to know that the boy she knew as peaceful and non-violent had left a note that hinted at mayhem.

I wept as I heard that 911 call on TV, because I slid down her terrified voice into the shoes of a parent who loved unconditionally a child who seemed to have gone off the track to unimaginable vio-

lence. Her voice seemed as convinced as any of us are that our child is incapable of any action as unthinkable as this.

She did the right thing when she learned of the threat. She made the most unthinkable call a parent can make.

But for the rest of her life she will wonder with guilt — deservedly or not — where she might have gone wrong. Because in our hearts, our children are the products of our creation. And if they go wrong or if they go right, we own their actions — deservedly or not — as products of our creation.

And if I have learned anything from grief — and I can attest that I have had plenty of experience in that arena — it is that the surprising star of the grief show is guilt, whether it is deserved guilt or not.

There is the guilt over words said or not said.

The guilt of not having the power to ward off the inevitable.

The guilt of simply being a survivor while loved ones were taken away.

This mother in Nashville recognized that there were lives other than her own son's that deserved protection. If it meant that her own son might be detained or imprisoned — or even killed — in order to save strangers' lives, she weighed in on the right side of the equation.

Not every parent in that situation makes that decision.

When Brian Laundrie murdered his girlfriend Gabbie Petito in August of 2021, Laundrie's parents kept his whereabouts secret and are alleged to have made arrangements for him to leave the country.

In the wake of the 2013 Boston Marathon bombing, the parents of the convicted Tsarnaev brothers insisted that their sons were innocent, and that the bombing was a "U.S. government conspiracy...fabricated by the US special services" to test the American public's reaction to a terrorist threat and the imposition of martial law in a US city.

Who can say how we might behave when our child does the unthinkable? Our love for them, of course, is unconditional.

But do we have enough love left over for the rest of mankind to stop our beloved children from destroying the lives of other parents' loved ones?

I wept with grief over that question as I heard that mother's 911 call about her son.

And then I wept with joy later that day when my son, out of the blue, texted me that he loved me.

So if you're looking for a feel-good weepy moment, reach out and love your kid today, out of the blue, even though it won't change the weepy news you'll be hearing about kids gone wrong on CNN tomorrow.

Or, well, maybe it will.

• **TR Kerth is the author of the book "Revenge of the Sardines." Contact him at trkerth@yahoo.com.**



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Christine Such | MSDN Photo

N26 Book Club members meeting to discuss their 150th book.

Sun City book club reaches milestone

By Christine Such
For My Huntley News

The only thing better than reading a book is talking about them with others. Book clubs provide motivation to read stories you perhaps may not have read otherwise. They also provide you with an avenue of community, and an opportunity to meet and connect with people.

The Neighborhood 26 Book Club reached a milestone this April.

The club members met on April 10 to discuss its 150th book, *Pretty Girls* by Karin Slaughter. The club meets once a month.

When did the book club start?

Kay Nelson said, “It started fifteen-and-a-half years ago.

When I first moved here, I was looking for a group to join. There were two available, fiction and nonfiction through Lifestyle. I went to the first meeting at Meadow View Lodge. There were around 50 people there. It turned out to be more in a classroom format rather than a discussion group I was totally discouraged. I was looking for a group to share ideas and discuss. As I was leaving, I spotted a neighbor, Linda Dungey. We both felt the same.”

Dungey said, “We decided to start our own group in our neighborhood. In April 2009 we chose our first book, *The Shack* by William Paul Young. We had around 12 to 15 women originally. Out of that group we have five remaining of

the originals.”

Has the group format changed over the years?

Nelson said, “We began meeting in the evening, but the afternoon works better. We went from meeting every six weeks, which began difficult to keep track so we meet once a month.”

Dungey said, “We do something different in December. We gather for a potluck lunch and it is Christmas-themed. We include in that gathering a charitable project.”

Angie Cianciarulo said, “We sometimes have a little fun with the theme of the book. When we read the nonfiction book, *The Magic Room*, which tells the story of a small-town Michigan bridal shop, we all brought in our wedding albums. When we read a Russian book, we had some Russian food.”

How do they choose the next books?

Nelson said, “We choose in December and we have a rule that you must have read the book to recommend it.”

Dungey adds, “We have all genres and the hostess leads that discussion.”

The group usually gets their books on loan.

Rosemary McKinney said, “We go to the Huntley library and they are able to order the books from neighboring libraries. We also have some members that get the Kindle or audio copy.”

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Sun City board spends 225k

By David Goode
For My Sun Day News

SUN CITY The Sun City Board authorized the spending of nearly \$225,000 on upgrades to parts of the Prairie lodge at the April 26th Board meeting. The Reading Room is being remodeled to the tune of \$46,380. The details of the remodeling include the painting of the existing shelving and counter surfaces along with fresh paint in the rest of the room. Nick Topf showed an example of the enamel paint being used for the shelves and said that "it won't scratch" as he used his car keys to demonstrate the strength of the paint. Board member Harrison pointed out that, "the board approved 2023 budget for the Reading Room renovation was only \$22,000." She was against the deficit spending that would be required to remodel the room. She was the only board member to vote against the expenditure. The cost to replace the carpet in the public areas of Prairie Lodge will cost in

excess of \$177,800. The brand of the replacement carpet is the same as the carpet currently in place in the halls of the lodge. This brand was chosen due to the performance of the existing carpets. Topf indicated that the work would begin in the near future "in the west end of the lodge and that sufficient carpet will be ordered to cover the bar area in the Fountain View lobby if the bar is remodeled or removed." FIRST QUARTER FINANCIALS REPORTED Jim Sanecki, board treasurer, reported the financial results of the first quarter. He said, "the actual revenue for the quarter was \$2,077,000 against a budget of \$2,064,000 which resulted in a \$13,000 favorable variance. He continued, "In addition, actual expenses exceeded the budget by \$68,000. A net negative surplus of \$55,000 was the result." Sanecki also reported that "the 58 homes sold this year were 17 more than in the first quarter of 2022."

ALDERMAN JAMES BALCER TO SPEAK AT SYMPOSIUM CLUB Alderman Balcer served four consecutive elected terms representing the 11th Ward and its 50,000 residents. As one of the most visible districts of a major city, it had a fair share of problems. James involved himself in all of them, either spearheading or supporting a variety of laws, ordinances and policies, and serving on critical committees to help build a safe, thriving and equitable community. These efforts had a considerable and direct impact on his constituents, ranging from government purchases, loans and financial decisions to environmental protection and community/business development. Most significant, however, is the work he did in veteran and military affairs, building consensus, partnerships and coalitions to address issues of housing, employment, public accommodation and credit, including legal actions to overcome severe discrimination toward veterans. James was a public face for these causes, not only hosting meetings, speeches and speaking events but also generating substantial media coverage to bring awareness to such critical issues. Balcer will speak at the May 17 meeting.



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CHANGE IN HOURS

Mon, Thurs, Fri, - 8am to 6pm | Tues & Wed - 8am to 7pm | Sat - 8am to 1pm

askanangel



Arlene Petersen
Columnist

Q I am writing to seek your advice on the conversations that I should have with my adult children. As a senior, I know that I need to make some important decisions about my future and my family's future, and I want to ensure that my children are well-prepared for any eventualities.

However, I am not sure how to approach these conversations, as they can be difficult and emotional. I do not want to burden my children with my concerns, nor do I want to worry them unnecessarily. But I also do not want to leave them unprepared for any situation that may arise.

What conversations do you think are important for seniors to have with their adult children? How can I approach these conversations in a way that is respectful and sensitive to everyone's feelings?

A Thank you for reaching out about this important topic. It's wonderful that you are thinking about having conversations with your adult children to ensure that everyone is on the same page about important topics.

One approach you could take is to frame the conversation in terms of planning for the future. You can let your children know that you want to make sure that you are prepared for any eventualities and that you value their input and support in this process.

It may also be helpful to approach each topic separately, rather than overwhelming your children with too much information at once. For example, you could start by discussing your healthcare wishes and any advance directives you may have in

place. Then, you could move on to financial planning, and finally, your plans for the future.

Another important piece is to communicate whom you are naming as your power of attorney for health and finances. This can be the same person, or you can choose to name separate individuals for each role.

Although these conversation topics aren't always easy, it's important, to be honest, and transparent with your children about your concerns and wishes. At the same time, approach the conversation with respect, concerning their feelings and perspectives. Encourage open and honest communication, and listen to their input and concerns as well.

Some parents find it easier to make a binder filled with their end-of-life decisions and instructions. I always recommend that parents communicate pertinent information to their children firsthand, and use the binder as a secondary communication tool. Include copies of advanced directives, bank account information, wills or trusts, and preplanned funeral arrangements.

Finally, consider involving a neutral third party, such as a financial planner or elder law attorney, in these conversations. They can provide expert guidance and advice, and help ensure that everyone's concerns are addressed fairly and equitably.

I hope this advice is helpful, and I wish you all the best as you have these important conversations with your children.

• *Have a question for our angel correspondent? You can send our angel an email to apetersen@visitingangels.com, or send your question via mail to Ask An Angel, 65 Woodbury St., South Elgin, IL 60177.*

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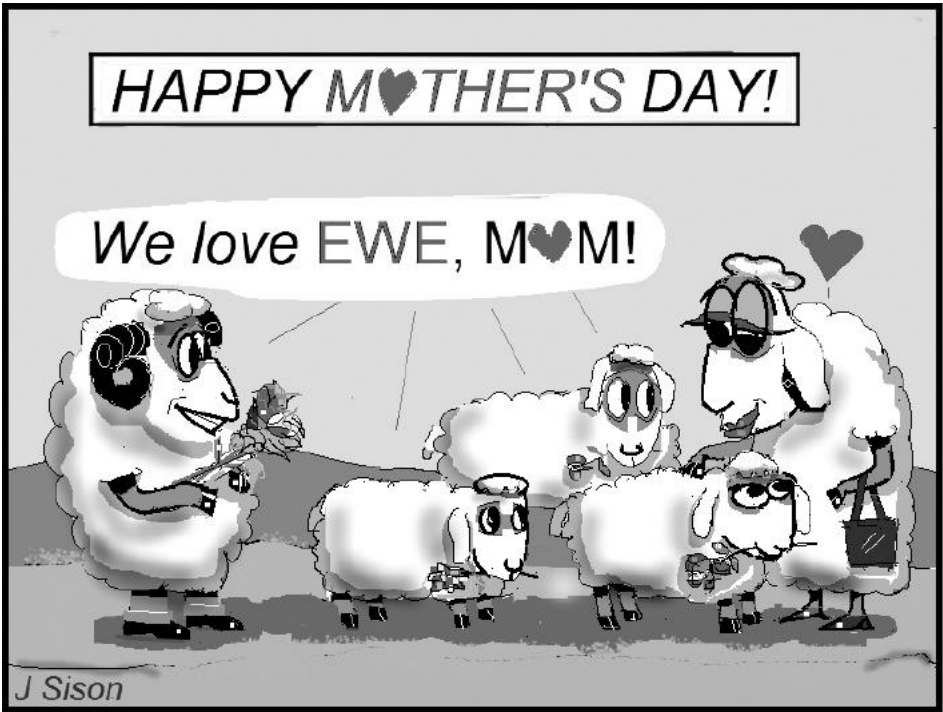


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By Joe Sison
Cartoonist



Insight into SC roadwork



Tony Pratt | MSDN Photo

Roadwork in Sun City, which began April 17, is part of a larger Village infrastructure plan, according to Mayor Hoeft. The project cost is just north of 3.7 million and was awarded to Arrow Construction.

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SHELDON CLARK'S CREATIVE CORNER

What can you do with MSDN after reading it?

With the warm weather comes great nights for fires with family and friends. It's been said before but worth another mention. Newsprint makes great fire starter. Get your marshmallows ready!

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Please consult your doctor or regular healthcare professional before following suggestions found in any MHN/MSDN health columns/stories.



By Joanie Koplos
For My Sun Day News

These days, most of us are suffering from an enormous amount of stress. Let's, therefore, take a look at one enormous relief treatment for this uncontrolled anxiety.

Mayo Clinic, in its Healthy Lifestyle/Stress Management article, states the following mostly unknown information about the benefits of laughter. While a good sense of humor can't cure all health issues, the positive effects of laughter appear to be increasing in number!

The short-term benefits:

1. Stimulates many organs. Laughter increases the intake of oxygen-rich air which, in turn, stimulates the heart, lungs, and muscles. The activity increases the endorphins (small proteins known as peptides that are types of neurotransmitters) released

by your brain.
2. Activates and releases your stress response. Laughter both begins and cools down your stress response. This, in turn, can increase and then decrease your blood pressure and heart rate resulting in a relaxed feeling.
3. Soothes tension. Laughter can help reduce some of stress' physical symptoms by stimulating circulation and muscle relaxation.

The long-term effects:

1. Improves your immune system. Positive thoughts can combat the negative thoughts accompanying stress that flood your body's systems. These negative thoughts, thereby, decrease your immunity. Instead, positive thoughts can release neuropeptides (chemical messengers made up of small chains of amino acids which are used to help gut, muscles, and heart health) that can help fight stress and more severe illnesses.
2. Relieves pain. Not definitely known, but laughter may help to ease pain by helping to promote the body's own natural painkillers.
3. Increases personal satisfaction. While helping us to become more sociable, it also helps us to cope with life's more difficult social situations.
4. Improves your mood. Sometimes, due to chronic ill-

nesses, many people experience depression. According to Mayo Clinic, "Laughter can help lessen your stress, depression and anxiety and may make you feel happier. It can also improve your self-esteem."

Improving your sense of humor:

- 1. Put humor on your horizon. This can be done in a multitude of ways. Even regularly watching a light-hearted television show will promote chuckles coming from you.
- 2. Laugh and the world laughs with you. Practice laughing and watch your body's stress levels decrease. At first laughter might seem forced, but with time, it can turn into spontaneous laughter.
- 3. Share a laugh. Spend time with friends and family who make it a habit to share jokes with you. Then return this same favor to your family and friends.
- 4. Knock, knock. Go to your local library or bookstore searching for joke books to add to your joke repertoire.
- 5. Know what isn't funny. Mayo reminds us "Use your best judgement to discern a good joke from a bad or hurtful one."

**Enter the world of natural laughter by turning a smile into a laugh. You will never regret it!*

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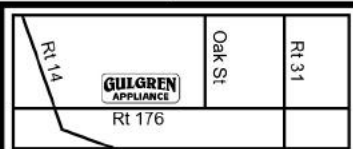
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•BOOK CLUB

What book had the most discussion?

Sharon Little said, “Jodi Picoult’s Small Great Things. It was so interesting to hear everyone’s point of view. It was especially interesting to hear it from a nurse’s point of view.”

McKinney said, “It’s usually a short discussion if it’s a terrible book.”

Mary Paul said, “We look for good character development and quality of imagery. “

Hannon said, “Bobbie (Dieden) makes us all smarter.

She helps us get through the books and

we have a better understanding of the book’s characters, plot, and theme.”

Even during Covid, the group managed a way to talk books.

Pat Bosi said, “We all had our list at home and when it was possible, we met, sitting far apart with masks, and then when the weather got warmer, we held the discussions outside.”

What do they like best about the club?

Virginia Nowak said, “I read books that I normally would not pick up to read.”

Dorceen Boyle said, “I enjoy the variety of opinions. The discussions help us to un-

derstand situations from other positions, to consider other beliefs, experiences, and viewpoints”

The ultimate question: what makes a book good?

Bobby Dieden said, “I give a book a 10 rating if it keeps my interest, has good character development, the reader can identify with the story and there are good descriptions.”

All the members agreed with Bosi, who said, “The book club is a great way to know the ladies. This was a great way for me to relate to everyone when I first moved into the neighborhood.”



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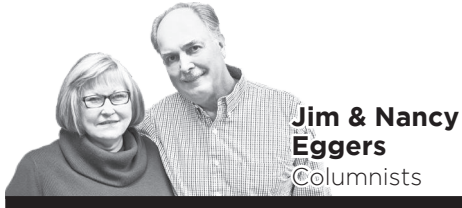
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thediningduo

A hint of springtime



Jim and Nancy do not disclose the fact that they will review a restaurant before they attend, ensuring their reviews are unbiased and uninfluenced by their position with the Sun Day.

Mother Nature has been teasing us with hints of sunshine and warm weather to come. Because of that, our thoughts immediately went to outdoor grilling. However, we waited too long and a couple of hours later we were back to winter. Don't you just love the Chicago weather??? Undaunted by this unfortunate turn of events, we headed off for some indoor barbecue at the Weber Grill Restaurant in Schaumburg.

We knew we were in the right place when our nostrils were treated to the aroma of real smoky charcoal grilling. Our mouths started salivating and once again, thoughts of Springtime danced in our heads.

The inside décor is like an old school downtown Chicago restaurant. Lots of warm wood accents and a huge fireplace in the dining room. It felt so warm and cozy on a cool spring day.

Our waitress brought over to our table a basket of pretzel rolls. These were served with whipped butter and a cheddar butter blend that went perfectly with the pretzel rolls. They were delicious and a nice change from the usual bread basket.

For an appetizer, we decided on one of the most iconic (?) barbecue appetizer offerings. We chose the Hill Country Egg Rolls (\$14). These were two egg rolls filled with smoked brisket, corn, cheddar, black beans, jalapenos, and served with barbecue mayo for dipping. Honestly, these were really disappointing. They were greasy and the smoked brisket and cheddar cheese were practically non-existent. They seemed to contain mostly black beans and corn. The only savior to this appetizer was the barbecue mayo. We had high hopes, but that was not to be the case.

Nancy had a craving for good Barbecue Baby Back Ribs, so she went with their half slab for \$23. This was slow smoked pork ribs served with bourbon baked beans, and house slaw. The ribs were everything she was hoping for, meaty, cooked just the way she likes them, and finger-lickin' good. They put a tad too much barbecue sauce on the ribs for her liking. Also, the bourbon baked beans had too much vinegar in them for her taste.

Jim who fancies himself as a "Grill Master" had to try the Grill Master Combo (\$27). The combo contained pulled pork, honey bourbon wings, Charlie's

Pimento cheese hot link, all served with bourbon baked beans and house slaw. The pulled pork was just average. The hot link turned out to be smoky kielbasa with a hot kick at the end, and it was delicious. The honey bourbon chicken wings were delicious on the outside until he ate closer to the bone and noticed red raw chicken. He called our waitress over and showed her the problem, and she summoned her manager. The response from the manager was, due to the smoking process, the meat turns a pink color. He agreed with her, but indicated the meat was white until he got to the bone where it was raw. She offered to bring over two new wings and he accepted.

We were finishing up our meal when the manager again returned and offered us a free dessert. We chose the seasonal special Strawberry Shortcake Sundae (\$10). This was an awesome dessert. It had lots and lots of strawberries with vanilla ice cream, a short cake base, and whipping cream on top sprinkled with strawberry cookie crumbs. My compassionate wife said, "this dessert almost made your possible food poisoning worthwhile." Feel the love...

All in all, the food was delicious. You can't beat a real charcoal barbecue dinner. People make mistakes, but they stood good for it.

FYI: This restaurant is handicap accessible.


The cost for our Springtime barbecue \$79.52. No food poisoning, priceless...

He Said / She Said

JIM'S TAKE: I wish I could buy that hot link sausage. It was an unusual treat.

NANCY'S TAKE: Best barbecue ribs I have had at a restaurant, and I'm very picky.

• Have comments or restaurant suggestions for the Dining Duo? Send them an email at: thediningduo@gmail.com



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gardenersforum

An interview with the Huntley Park District



Kathleen Carr
Columnist

For almost 60 years, the Huntley Park District has been a true community treasure. The 28 acres donated by Mr. Edwin Deicke in the 1960's has grown to 175 acres that currently make up 15 parks. Tens of thousands of people of all ages have enjoyed spending time in the parks as well as facilities such as the Cosman Cultural Center and Stingray Bay. Wesley Peete, the Director of Parks and Facilities, has graciously agreed to share some of his knowledge about the parks with our readers.

Welcome to Huntley and the Park District! Can you please tell us a bit about your professional background and what lead you to accept the position of Director of Parks and Facilities?

Throughout my childhood and my professional life, the park and rec field has always been a passion of mine. I grew up playing park district and travel baseball. I remember getting to my little league games 3 hours before the game start so I could take batting practice and the park district

maintenance staff were still prepping the field and I thought was the coolest thing.

My professional career lead me to the Fox Valley Park District (FVPD) in Aurora. The FVPD served over 250,000 residents, which provided me the opportunity to see all the facets in running a large park district. Since I was new to the park and rec profession, I felt it was important to expand my knowledge base and skills, therefore, I became a Certified Park and Recreation Professional, Certified Pool Operator and Certified Playground Safety Inspector during my first three years of employment. The importance of education was instilled in me at a young age due to both my parents being educators, I earned a Master's in Public Administration from Aurora University in 2021.

The desire to work closer to home and to put my newly learned knowledge and skills into practice, I was excited at the opportunity to apply for the Parks & Facilities Director at HPD.

I believe March 2023 marks the one-year anniversary of your becoming the Director. What have you enjoyed most about your position?

I've enjoyed working with the residents of Huntley. The park district has an amazing staff and a very dedicated park board of commissioners. It has also been a pleasure to meet and work along-

side all units of local government agencies as we continue our partnership such as the Huntley Chamber of Commerce, Fall Fest committee, and so many local businesses.

Watching the youth enjoy the outdoors and sports is something that I've always been passionate about.

As we continue to grow as a community and park district and connect the community to better the park and recreation in the Huntley.

Walking has been proven to ease joint pain, boost your immune system and reduces the risk of breast cancer. For a resident that wants to develop a walking regiment, which park do you recommend?

Deicke Park would be my choice for a walking. Deicke Park offers a mature tree setting and a nature. The trail system at Deicke offers a few changes in elevation but is primarily on flat ground.

During the winter months, what facilities are available to those who may want to exercise indoors?

During the winter months the Rec Center is open for indoor activities, programs, and fitness classes.

Is there a fee to use those facilities?

Yes, the fees associated with activities, programs, and fitness can be found on our website, or

residents can stop by the front desk at the Rec Center for a program booklet.

When I first moved to Huntley, Betsey Warrington was my neighbor. Spending time in the park named after her is especially poignant for me. Can you please tell our readers about her park?

In 1979, Betsey Warrington became the first full time recreation director. She kept adding new programs such as pre-school, extended time care, before and after school, teen programs and parties, aerobics, fitness, Senior Citizens programs, tours, swimming lessons, T-ball, soccer, ice skating, etc. Warrington Park has two baseball fields, rectangular soccer fields, 18-hole disc golf course, shelter and a sled hill.

Fishing is available at one of your parks. Which one is that? Are there any rules or regulations regarding fishing at the park?

Deicke Park offers a stocked fishing pond. Our pond is stocked every April prior to our annual Fishing Derby in May with primarily bass and blue gill. This is a catch and release fishing pond.

If a resident wanted to reserve a shelter at one of the parks, what would be the first step?

To reserve a shelter a resident or a non-resident would call our park district registration office at 847-669-3180.

May residents bring their dogs to the parks?

All patrons are welcome bring their dog to our parks. We ask for the dogs to be leashed at all times and for the owner to pick up after their dog. Coming this summer, we'll have dog waste stations at every park that will provide dog owners unlimited bags and a waste can that will be emptied by park staff and bags replenished.

Pinecrest Golf Club has been a fantastic asset to the park district for 20 years with 18 holes located on 130 acres. What would you like golfers to know about this course?

Pinecrest is well maintained opened to the public and has five lakes. Its nature tree setting allows for golfers to be challenged. Those mature trees provide ample shade on hot summer days. Pinecrest also has indoor golf simulators that are available during the winter months.

When not working, is there a particular park that you enjoy spending time in?

As a resident of Huntley, I enjoy taking family vacations, spending time with my family especially taking my daughter to Tomaso Park to watch the all the sporting events, use the playground and walking trail.

• Kathleen Carr is the owner of The Growing Scene, Inc., a landscaping company. She can be reached by calling 815-923-7322 or emailing her at Kathleen@thegrowingscene.com.

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Will Moore
Columnist

In the wild transition that is Chicago-land weather, we have gone through many a season over the last couple weeks. The calendar says it is April, but the barometer has been early autumn, late winter and, briefly, June. Despite tempestuous climate changes, the multiplex has been on a relative flatline. All the major releases worth seeing don't come out until May. In an attempt to spare you (as well as myself) the review of Beau Is Afraid, the vote went to streaming. After having to push my plans for two interconnected series to a later article, my quest continued. Unforeseen circumstances arose however, concerning losing the internet connection. Well, as I was dusting my shelves, a thought came upon me. Why not a couple classics my from Blu-ray collection, that are available through services? So, for those who do have their WiFi working, HBO Max has these and more.

Blood Simple was a small indie picture that came out in the early months of 1985.

Dashed plan

Made on a micro-budget of \$1.5 million, it showcased the amazing talent of the directing/writing duo known now as the Coen Brothers. With future filmmaker Barry Sonnenfeld helming the camera, they gave us a Neo-noir masterpiece. Like the title, the story is very straightforward. Bar owner Dan Hedaya figures out his wife is seeing another man. After employing a shady detective to tail her, he finds that she is having an affair with one of his bartenders. In a chain of events, he pays to have his wife and lover bumped off by the investigator. But like all best laid plans, things go awry.

Even from the get-go the Coens' deadpan humor and sense of the uncanny shines through even with such a shoe-string production. There a wonderful dolly shot that goes across the bar at the midpoint where, in lesser hands, would come off as a gimmick but makes me laugh every time. The treat is to watch these two hone their skills while simultaneously showing off. And the cast is more than able to rise to the occasion. Seeing a young Frances McDormand play the wife, her demeanor shifts from scared waif to confident avenger within minutes.

Having seen this film in college, I nev-

er understood why audiences and critics were shocked at their Oscar-winning No Country for Old Men. The beats are all there: money, double crosses, blasts of violence. Our resident psychotic in the private detective is more jokingly sadistic, especially when M. Emmett Walsh plays him. Whereas Country was sun-drenched, Blood Simple is bathed in 80s neon a la Michael Mann's Thief. Perfect for a night among friends or alone with a good beer.

Towards a more sophisticated crime tale one of my favorites is Elevator to the Gallows. Coming from France, this 1950s film was the debut of Louis Malle. Again, we have an uncomplicated set-up. Maurice Ronet plays an office worker having an affair with the bosses wife. One day, he executes a scheme to kill him and make it look like suicide. Upon trying to leave the office, the power is shut off for the night leaving him stuck inside the titler vehicle. Outside two teenagers steal his car, while his mistress played by Jeanne Moreau sees only the car. What follows is a night of mistaken motivations and Murphy's Law.

Filmed in pristine black and white by renowned French New Wave cinematographer Henri Decaë, even walking in the



rain looks elegant. Watching Moreau walk the street to the strains of Miles Davis is truly breathtaking. To spoil the many twists and turns that happen here would be the ultimate crime. So, I implore you all the seek both these out for your nightly viewing. Unlike the decisions of the protagonists, you won't regret it.

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ONGOING WALKERS AND BICYCLISTS FOR A SAFER COMMUNITY
is a Sun City Huntley Special Interest Group dedicated to promoting safe streets for Sun City walkers and bicyclists. Safety Tip: "Its Right to be Bright!" Put on an outer layer of bright, reflective colors and use lights to make yourself visible. Motorists, please be ALERT for pedestri-ans in our crosswalks and cyclists on our streets.
If you would like join our Special Interest Group, view our presentation or for more information, email WBSC at: wbscsig@gmail.com.

ONGOING THE PRAIRIE SINGERS SPRING CONCERT
2 p.m. Saturday, June 3
at Willow Creek Church of Huntley 38 Huntley Rd
Ticket Sales: May 9, 16, 23,

SEEKING, cont.

HUNTLEY C.A.R.E.S.
Do you value our natural resources? Want to work together with a group of individuals to protect them and promote sustainability? Huntley C.A.R.E.S. is a new community group that has formed. For more information go to www.huntleycars.com or call 815-790-1247.

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CHOOSE TO LOSE
An independent weight loss support group meets on Tuesday at 9:30 a.m. Heartland Bank, lower level. All are welcome to join us on our journey to health.

30, 1-4 p.m. at Prairie Lodge (across from the Member Services desk)
5-6 p.m. outside the Birch Rm Adults—\$15; Children—\$5 (ages 3-12)
- OR -
You can purchase tickets from any Prairie Singers member. Tickets will also be sold at the door on June 3

ONGOING CALLING ALL ENTHUSIASTIC SPORTS FANATICS - WOMEN AND MEN
Come join the proposed SPORTS TRIVIA CLUB of Sun City. Friendly team competition once or twice a month. If interested, or if you have any questions, contact Bill McMahon at rambler701@comcast.net. 224-276-0130

MAY 3, 10, 17, 24, 31 STINGRAY SWIM CLUB PRESENTS FREE LEARN TO SWIM CLINIC
Sun City's Stingray Swim Club is hosting FREE Swim Lessons this
May. We welcome residents! Sessions on all Wednesdays from 5-6 PM. Come to the Prairie Lodge Pool. Meet our Volunteer Instructors. Check out the Stingray Club Sessions tailored to your skill level. So, if you have never tried swimming before, would like to overcome fears in the wa-



ter through proper breathing technique, or simply perfect one or all of your swimming strokes: NOW IS THE TIME TO GIVE IT A TRY!!! Any questions, please call Joanie Koplos at 847-344-4191.

MAY 16 CULVER'S SCOOPIE SHARE NIGHT & VALOR QUILTS FUNDRAISER
Come and join the Huntley Gazebo Quilters Valor Quilt ladies on Tuesday, May 16, for a fundraiser night from 4-8 p.m. Meet your family and friends to enjoy a delicious meal or the famous frozen custard at the Huntley's Culver's.
The Huntley Gazebo Guild Valor Quilts organization, honors our local Veterans with red, white and blue homemade quilts. We need your support to continue our work.
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