

MY SUN DAY NEWS

HFD, HPD clash at
NNO, Pg. 10

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VOLUME 17 - NUMBER 16



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AUGUST 13 - AUGUST 26, 2026

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This is a real tournament sport, and we have built a strong legacy. 12

qu^{ick}take

One of my biggest concerns is that she never seems to have her cellphone nearby. 7



Christine Such | MSDN Photo

G, O, HO, and N. No matter the model-train scale, guests at the Model Railroad Club's Give the Trains a Try event will have big fun operating these miniature trains.

Model Railroad Club invites community to scale their day back with upcoming event

By Christine Such
For My Sun Day News

For decades, model railroading has captured the imagination of creators and dreamers, turning tiny tracks into worlds of wonder.

On Thursday, August 27, the Model Railroad Club at Sun City Huntley is inviting residents to step behind the control panel and bring these miniature wonders to life. Hosting its open house from 6-8 p.m. at the Millgrove Building (13400 Sun City Blvd), the club's "Give the Trains a Try" event delivers a hands-on opportunity to operate the trains. The event marks a major milestone for the Kishwaukee Valley & Eakin Creek Model Railroad Club, which was established within the Del Webb Sun City Huntley community to bring together residents with a common enthusiasm for railroading. From its early days, the club focused on building a welcoming setting where members

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TRAINS | Pg. 8



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lifeinfocus

Longing to be the Lady by the Lake



My summer vacation consisted of traveling for 10 days around Lake Michigan. Now that it's over, all that remains from that trip are the photos I took, some sand in my shoes, and a mountain of laundry.

One afternoon spent at the lakeshore stands out the most in my mind, but I don't have a photo to remember it — and frankly, since I only have my memory to rely on, it's started to take on a life of its own. It was a cloudless day at Sleeping Bear Dunes, and I had set up under a huge shade tree that overlooked the lakeshore from a swell in the dunes. I had my folding chair, a great book, and my wide-brimmed sun hat. It never occurred to me to wear

a bathing suit that day, mostly because it was not an especially hot day, and I didn't plan on going in the water. Once I was settled in my chair, reading my book, a woman arrived and proceeded to set up a short distance away from me. She was older than I am, perhaps in her 70s, and wore a striking turquoise beach cover-up, over a tasteful one-piece suit. She set up her beach chair, then planted the pole of what I thought was a beach umbrella into the sand. Instead, it turned out to be a Shibumi shade, and a stunning swath of turquoise fabric unfurled from the pole. The fabric resembled the sail of a boat, and the way it stayed aloft in the beach breeze behind her made her look like a mythic figurehead carved in alabaster. This tableau set before me really tickled my imagination. Who was this woman, spending a Tuesday afternoon alone on the beach, looking regal and completely content in her skin? I wanted so badly to pull up beside her and ask her about herself, but of course I didn't. It would be a crime to insert myself into her portrait of solitude, me with my shorts and t-shirt, and legs dotted with mosquito bites. Instead, I looked up often from the pages of my book, imagining all the days that led up to her spending this almost perfect afternoon beside the lake. She resembled the actress Gena Rowlands, who I came to know from movies like Hope Floats or The Notebook, as a wise older woman who had already gained great wisdom and perspective from a full life. The Lady by the Lake wore very little makeup, and her hair was gray, but almost appeared platinum. What do I have to do to be this woman when I grow up? I imagine she sits in her elegant dining room, having an evening of laughter and clinking wine glasses with her lifelong friends. She reads books and goes to poetry readings. She drinks her morning coffee from a unique mug she got from a quaint little pottery studio in New England; in the afternoon, she has a cup of tea in a proper China cup. She's seen a lot of heartache, but she soldiers on, chin held high. She knows the exact moment when to send flowers, impeccably arranged, with a personal note attached, written with a fountain pen. She has traveled the world and is greeted with a kiss on each cheek everywhere she goes. She loves good music, good art, and live theatre. I wish I could go back and set my chair beside the Lady by the Lake. I have a feeling I could've asked her about her life and all the things she's seen and done. I'm confident she doesn't even know I exist, but weeks later, I'm still thinking about her effortless beauty, and the way I want to be her when I grow up.

politicalplace

The views in these letters are the writers' own.

I am writing in response to the comment published last week regarding the conflict in Iran. The assertions that the "conflict in Iran is over" and that the current administration has successfully prevented Iran from obtaining a nuclear weapon contradict the facts. U.S. strikes have not eliminated Iran's nuclear program; the material remains largely intact in underground facilities, and the timeline for weapon development is unchanged. Furthermore, this conflict—initiated without congressional approval or broad international cooperation—has escalated into a prolonged unpopular military engagement. The recent ceasefires have unraveled, and active military and infrastruc-

ture strikes continue without a coherent exit strategy. The consequences of this escalation are severe. The Strait of Hormuz, freely open before the conflict, is now closed to most commercial shipping, creating global energy vulnerabilities, fuel shortages, higher fuel prices, inflation and supply chain disruptions. The Secretary of War has admitted to spending \$37.5 billion so far and is now requesting an additional \$67.1 billion for a war that is supposedly over. Congress recently passed a bipartisan concurrent resolution (H.Con.Res.38) directing the administration to end this unauthorized involvement, demonstrating a lack of national support. This conflict has destabilized the region, resulted in 18 U.S. military casualties thus far, cost taxpayers billions in military expenditures, and drained our military stockpiles. Claiming a premature victory risks prolonging this unstable conflict and discourages the genuine, lasting diplomacy needed for a true resolution.

Patricia White
Sun City resident

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Steve Peterson | MSDN Photo

Huntley Sons of American Legion Post 673 Squadron Commander George Lewerenz, left and Finance Officer Kevin Goers stand at the Ruth Family Freedom Silo.

Huntley SAL, Ruth silo site salutes vets

By Steve Peterson
For My Sun Day News

In honor of the 250th Anniversary of the United States and 175 years of Huntley History, 425 American flags have been displayed since Memorial Day weekend at the Ruth Family Freedom Silo, located at 11718 Reed Road (corner of Reed Road and IL-47), creating a tribute visible to all who pass by.

“It’s been outstanding,” Huntley American Legion Post 673 Sons of American Legion (SAL) Squadron Commander George Lewerenz said of the response.

About 60 flags have been assigned as of August 1, and organizers plan on having the flag display up through Veterans Day November 11. The site is part of land which has been in the Huntley family for eight generations.

“The property owner, Chuck Roth, got the idea while in Florida,” Huntley SAL Finance Officer Kevin Goers said. “Ruth’s firm, Alliance Contractors, installed them.”

Each flag represents a hero and tells a unique story. Flags may be sponsored in honor or memory of military personnel, veterans, first responders, health-care workers, teachers, community leaders, hometown heroes, family members, friends, or anyone who has made a meaningful impact on your life.

Individuals, families, businesses, and organizations are invited to participate by

sponsoring a flag in honor or memory of a hero. Sponsorship provides a lasting tribute while helping support an important cause. Flag sponsorship is \$50 per flag. With a sponsorship, a tag will be added to a flag with the name of the person you are honoring.

“This inspiring display provides a meaningful opportunity for our community to celebrate patriotism, remember those who have served, and recognize the heroes among us,” a SAL press release said.

All proceeds from Huntley Sons of the American Legion Squadron 673 - Flags for Heroes will benefit Veterans Organizations through the Huntley American Legion Post 673, helping support those who have served our country and continue to strengthen our community.

Sponsorship page link:
<https://www.zeffy.com/en-US/donation-form/huntleys-flags-for-heroes>

About Huntley SAL:

SAL squadrons are made up of sons whose fathers served in the military.

Current officers of the local SAL: Squadron Commander, Lewerenz; 1st Vice Commander, Bill Ferris; 2nd Vice Commander, Joe Mahoney; Adjutant, Tim Lawless; Finance Officer, Goers; Chaplain, Mike Pickell; Sgt-of-Arms, Pete Serpe; Service Officer, Allen Gulland and Historian, Mike Thackwray.

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August 29: Chamber Day

September 5: Dog Day

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October 10: Halloween at the Market

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August 22: Gray Roots Band

August 29: Justine Ewald

September 5: Jay Highland

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September 19: Andrew Huber

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October 3: Jay Highland

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Our books have moved to Venus from Mars



TR Kerth
Columnist

Sixty years ago, my WIU creative writing professor made a comment that proved to be prophetic, both then and now in a flipped-on-its-head kind of way. And although he directed his comment to the female students, it struck home with me.

He said: "If you're a woman author submitting a manuscript for publication, use your initials instead of your first name, because the publishing industry is heavily tilted toward men. If publishers don't know your gender, they can't start judging until they read what you've written."

Hm-m-m, I thought. That sounds like good advice for any writer, man or woman. It worked pretty well for T.S. Eliot, J. R. R. Tolkien, and ee cummings, right?

I've been TR Kerth ever since — not that it has helped me to get my Great American Novel published.

Still, it seemed like a good insight for a writing teacher to share with his budding writer pupils, because he was right. The publishing industry at the time had a heavy testosterone tilt.

After all, consider the modern classics of literature being published at the time: "Catch-22," "Slaughterhouse Five," "Catcher in the Rye."

All written by men.

I could go on. "A Clockwork Orange," "In Cold Blood," "The Godfather." And many, many more — virtually all the top selling money-makers of the time, all written by men. About men.

And, perhaps not surprisingly, all popular among avid readers who were also men.

They were great books. It was a great time for American literature.

Fast-forward sixty years or so and check out the best-seller list today. I did, and here's what I found:

Looking for a light, entertaining, plot-driven novel, I Googled "Best beach reads, 2026." Of the first ten books listed, nine were written by women.

So were all of the next ten.

I didn't look any further than that. Ninety-five percent is enough to convince me that there's a trend going on.

So, OK, the pro-progesterone bias is undeniable when it comes to escapist beach reads, many of which are probably romance novels. But what about more serious fiction?

To find out, next I Googled the New York Times "Best Books of the 21st Century" and that balanced things — but only a bit. Because now only six of the top ten books listed were written by women.

I've read some of the books on that list, like "Tomorrow, and Tomorrow, and Tomorrow" by Gabrielle Zevin, and while they were quite good, were any of them on the same literary level as those classics from 60 years ago?

I guess the jury is still out, isn't it? Ask us in 60 years how we all feel about it. But for me, for now, I'm feeling a resounding "Meh" to most of my recent readings.

I'm not blaming the publishing industry. I suppose it makes sense that women now dominate the top-selling novels list, because women are pretty much the only ones buying novels these days. According to the National Endowment for the Arts, slightly more than 50 percent of American women are readers of novels, but when it comes to men, that number drops to 27 percent, and falling.

What's not clear is which way that chicken-and-egg argument moves. Are published writers today mostly women because men have abandoned reading and writing and moved on to other things? Or have men stopped reading and writing because women have somehow crowded them out of the market and now modern fiction is only told from a female perspective that doesn't speak to them?

For that matter, since you asked (and you know the question was in your mind), what's my point in even writing this? Am I just crying over my lost literary "Write Male Privilege"?

For the record, I am one of those abnormal 27 percent of men who still read novels. A lot of novels. Maybe two books a week — probably close to a hundred a year.

And also, for the record, reading and enjoying a novel penned by a woman has never scared me off. I wrote my master's thesis on Flannery O'Connor, a female Southern novelist. Among the books I read (or re-read) last month were "Jane Eyre" and "Wuthering Heights," both written by and about women. Classics all, and rightly so.

But I must admit that a lot of "best" novels of the past decade or so have left me less than satisfied — and maybe because their perspective was too overtly female-slanted.

"Hamnet" is one example.

So too with "The Frozen River."

If you have read them, I'll bet you're a woman (I wouldn't bet against the 50 vs. 27 percent odds). And I'll bet you loved them because, yeah, they're pretty good books.

But when you read them, did you hear how overtly "female" those novel voices sounded? Not just because the protagonist is a woman. And not in a refreshing "glad to finally be in the club" kind of way, but in a bitter "revenge is sweet" kind of way — as if they were not just written by and about women, but written exclusively FOR women. With every male character drawn in a weak, shallow, or hollow way, no more than incidental cardboard cutouts.

Anyway, they sounded that way to me, and I don't think it's just because my literary "Write Male Privilege" card has been revoked.

So if I were a college writing professor today, I think I'd offer this advice: "Whatever initials you use, make sure all your characters—male and female, old and young, black and white—are so fleshed out and complete that your reader has no clue which way the author is fleshed out."

Imagine how great the literature of the past sixty years would have been if every author had heeded that advice.

• TR Kerth is the author of "The revenge of the sardines." Contact him at trkerth@yahoo.com

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John Barrett
Columnist

Q I'm becoming extremely concerned about my mom, who is 79 and lives alone. She has always been fiercely independent, and honestly, she still does pretty well for herself overall. However, I've noticed a few things recently that are starting to worry me.

For instance, she's moving more slowly than she used to. It takes her longer to get up from the couch. Her balance seems a little off sometimes, and her reaction time isn't what it used to be. The other day, she stumbled slightly in the kitchen and caught herself, but it scared me more than it scared her.

One of my biggest concerns is

that she never seems to have her cell phone nearby. She leaves it in another room or forgets to charge it. I keep thinking, "What if she falls? What if there's an emergency and she can't get help quickly?"

I've tried bringing up some of these concerns gently, but she immediately gets defensive and says I'm trying to take away her independence. What can I do to help her continue living at home safely without making her feel like she's losing control over her life?

A I appreciate your letter and your perspective. Many adult children find themselves in a difficult situation when their aging parents start to show signs of needing help. Your concerns are very understandable, and you're not

alone.

The good news is that there are often many steps families can take before considering a move to a senior living community. The key is approaching the conversation as a partnership rather than a takeover.

First, keep your mother involved in every decision. That may be the most important piece of all. Older adults often fear losing independence more than almost anything else. If conversations start to feel as though decisions are being made for her rather than with her, resistance is natural.

I would next focus on setting her current home up for success. Walk through the house together and look for ways to reduce risks. Remove clutter and loose rugs. Make sure stair railings are secure, and paths are well-

lit. Install grab bars in the bathrooms if needed.

You may consider purchasing a medical alert device for your mom to wear. Many newer systems are lightweight, discreet, and worn as necklaces or watches. If she were to fall or experience an emergency, she could call for help immediately, even if she couldn't reach a phone.

You can also help make it easier to carry her cell phone. Many older adults don't want to carry a phone in their hand or pocket all day. Small crossbody bags have become very popular and can help keep a phone nearby without feeling cumbersome.

I highly suggest you create an emergency plan together. Go over what she would do in the event of a fall, severe weather, or fire. Make sure smoke detectors are working properly, and

consider keeping a fire blanket in the kitchen somewhere that is accessible.

Finally, it may also be time to explore in-home support. Home care services can help with daily tasks, mobility support, meal preparation, transportation, and companionship. Sometimes having another person regularly checking in provides reassurance not only for the family, but for the older adult as well.

At the end of the day, the goal is not to take away your mother's independence. It's to help preserve it safely for as long as possible.

• Have a question for our angel correspondent? Send our angel an email at jbbarrett@visitingangels.com, or write in at Ask An Angel, 65 Woodbury St., South Elgin, IL 60177.

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SHELDON CLARK'S CREATIVE CORNER

What can you do with MSDN after reading it?

Summer may be approaching its end, but there is still plenty of time for a good camping trip. Use sheets of old newsprint to line the underside of your sleeping bag. It will keep you dry and warm.

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• TRAINS

could build, operate, and share their layouts while protecting the history, engineering, and craftsmanship of the hobby.

Over time, that small group of enthusiasts grew into something exceptional. Today, Sun City Huntley is home to one of the few railroad clubs operating layouts in all four major model train scales simultaneously.

“From our large outdoor G scale layout to our detailed indoor O, HO, and N scale displays, there is always something running and always something being built here,” says club president Dale Svoboda. “Our members explore different eras and styles of railroading. Many of our layouts beautifully reflect mid-20th-century operations, back when steam and diesel locomotives ran side by side.”

As the club expanded, so did the breathtaking level of detail in their designs. The layouts incorporate custom-built structures, realistic scenery, and community-inspired features that mimic real-world landscapes. At the open house, the main emphasis of the night will be their fully operational, award-winning HO Scale layout. Attendees will not just stand on the sidelines;

they will receive personalized, hands-on instructions on how to run the elaborate system themselves. Guided tours of the various indoor model railroad setups will also run throughout the evening.

Beyond the tracks, the club has become part of the fabric of the local community. It regularly hosts public open houses and vibrant seasonal displays, bringing visitors from across the region. It also serves an educational role, collaborating alongside local organizations and students on layout improvements and advanced model design projects.

“The club welcomes men and women of all experience levels who share an interest in model railroading and hands-on, social hobbies,” explains vice president Maury Fisher. “Whether you happen to be a seasoned hobbyist or completely new to the realm of model trains, you are invited to join and become part of our community. We are constantly evolving, maintaining our layouts, and fostering a common appreciation for history.”

• *If you have any questions about the event or are interested in joining the club, kindly contact president Dale Svoboda at dsvoboda63@att.net or vice president Maury Fisher at maury@pcmedicinc.com.*

“Our members explore different eras and styles of railroading”



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Preparing Your Heirs to Protect and Preserve Your Legacy

Presented by Cheryl Red, CFP™

For many families in our community, legacy planning is about more than transferring assets—it is about passing along values, preserving family harmony, and helping the next generation feel prepared for the responsibilities that come with inherited wealth. As clients think about their long-term goals, I often find that some of the most meaningful conversations begin when families discuss not only what they want to leave behind, but also how they want their legacy to be understood and carried forward.

Passing down the wealth you've built over a lifetime can be a tremendous gift to your family. However, it's important to ensure heirs are adequately prepared to embrace the advantages and responsibilities of inheriting a family legacy.

Here are three questions to inform your planning and help ensure your legacy will live on.

How will your bequest impact your heirs?

A sudden influx of money can change a person's life, sometimes in ways they might not welcome. What's more, the decisions you make about the distribution of wealth among beneficiaries can potentially cause tensions that could threaten your legacy.

Initiating candid conversations with your heirs can help you get ahead of such issues. Taking the time to discuss their concerns may help everyone feel more confident in your vision and more committed to ensuring its longevity.

Are your heirs equipped to manage the inheritance?

Another benefit of opening a dialogue with heirs is the opportunity to learn about their individual financial capabilities. Ensuring they are set up to be good stewards of the inheritance may be as simple as introducing them to your financial advisors and explaining your existing strategies. Other times, a more thorough financial education effort will be appropriate, perhaps in combination with one or more trusts to help relieve your heirs of some or most of the financial management responsibilities.

Do your heirs understand (and share) your intentions?

Discussing your goals and values for your legacy—and inviting your heirs to share theirs—can strengthen family bonds and help everyone move forward with a shared purpose. This alignment becomes even more important if you intend to pass down enduring assets, such as a family business, a charitable trust, or a valuable family home. Developing mutually held values can improve the chances of successfully sustaining the legacy you envision.



Cheryl Red, CFP™ is a Financial Consultant at Charles Schwab with over 25 years of experience helping clients achieve their financial goals. As a Certified Financial Planner™, she helps clients navigate major financial transitions, including retirement, and wealth transition. Her work and experience give her a practical perspective on the key financial steps surviving spouses and the next generation often face. Some content provided here has been compiled from previously published articles authored by various parties at Schwab.

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By Joan Davis, RN
For My Sun Day News

Last month the Health Report reviewed the role of microbes and bacteria as part of the human microbiome which scientists are discovering performs complex and vitally important functions that keep us alive.

This is especially true in the human gastrointestinal tract where a vast community of trillions of bacteria and fungi inhabit every nook and cranny. These microbes mostly live in your lower intestine (the colon) and outnumber all the other cells in your body put together. They manage to live in partnership with us, surviving a hostile environment of darkness, high acidity and low oxygen while an ever-changing of liquid chemicals flow through them. These microbes mostly live in your lower intestine (the colon) and outnumber all the cells in your body put together

What does our microbiome do?

The microbes in your gut can help you to get thinner, be happier and live longer with less risk of disease. The gut microbiome controls the storage of fat and assists in activating the genes in human cells involved with absorbing nutrients, helping us avoid diabetes. Gut bacteria break down toxins and create blood vessels, replenish the linings of the gut and skin, replace damaged and dying cells with new ones and create blood vessels. They help us have strong immune systems by competing with invading bacteria.

The gut microbiome controls the storage of fat and assists in activating the genes in human cells involved with absorbing nutrients, breaking down toxins and creating blood vessels. These helpful microorganisms replenish the linings of the gut and skin, replacing damaged and dying cells with new ones. Our native microbes compete with invading ones, helping our immune system by resisting diseases.

Can the microbiome even affect my mood

The gut microbiome can affect our mood through what is known as the gut/brain axis. In an article published by Prevention magazine “Why Your Gut Could Be the Key to Preventing Anxiety, Alzheimer’s, and More” explains that millions of tiny organisms live in your gut and they are affected by what you eat and how you live. They communicate with your brain and your brain responds in what Harvard professor Laura Cox calls a “two-way street” between the gut and brain. For example, specific gut bacteria can detect and increase the production of serotonin, which is associated with feelings of contentment. Another kind of bacteria commonly found in the human gut contains a neurotransmitter that can help calm anxiety.

How can we help our microbiome continue helping us?

1. Eat as many types of fruit

and vegetables as possible and try to eat seasonally. Because research has shown the richer and more diverse your community of gut microbes is, the more effective.

2. Increase your fiber intake aiming for more than 40g per day, which is about double the current American averages.

3. Minimize use of antibiotics unless totally necessary.

Those micro-preserving steps are fairly well known, but here are three that may surprise you:

4. Eat plenty of fermented foods containing live microbes. Good choices are unsweetened yoghurt; sauerkraut; kimchi, a Korean dish made from garlic, cabbage and chili; and soy-bean-based products such as soy sauce, tempeh and natto.

5. Spend more time in the countryside People living in rural areas have better microbes than city-dwellers. Gardening and other outdoor activities are good for your microbiome.

6. Pet animals. Studies have shown that people living with dogs have more microbial diversity.

To learn more about helping your microbiome, check out this article published by the BBC The Science Focus. This resource outlines 15 strategies to boost your gut microbiome:

The future of food: what we’ll eat in 2028 BBC The Science Focus (Published by the BBC Science Focus)

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Steve Peterson | MSDN Photo

Huntley Fire Department and Huntley Police Department softball teams pose before the annual First Responders National Night Out game at Sun City's Veterans Memorial Field.

FIRST RESPONDERS SHOW SOFTBALL SKILLS AT NNO

By Steve Peterson

For My Sun Day News

The Huntley Fire Department (HFD) and Huntley Police Department (HPD) softball teams came into the National Night Out Sun City softball First Responders clash having split the first 10 of the annual games.

The HFD outlasted the HPD, 3-1, for its third straight win in the First Responders series and took a 6-5 lead in games won overall at Veterans Memorial Field Aug. 4. The event is organized by the Sun City Neighborhood Watch/Neighbors Helping Neighbors group.

Players wore vintage uniforms with the logos of the Village of Huntley's 175th and the USA's 250th anniversaries, and it was noted that Rookies restaurant of Huntley donated the cost. The Sun City Marine Corps Color Guard posted the colors and Fred Joob of Sun City sang the National Anthem and God Bless America.

"I've been singing since I was 12 and I'm 74 now," Joob said, "There're both great songs. The challenge of the National Anthem is the range of high notes

and low notes."

Joob is part of several musical groups, including Prairie Singers. "We have 70 singers, with all types of voices. We begin our rehearsals for our December show Aug. 25."

Huntley Mayor Tim Hoeft recalled growing up in the village when it had a population of about 1,300.

The game was a close softball clash on a sunny Tuesday afternoon. The HFD took a 3-0 lead but the HPD made it close with a run. Brandon Rothbauer was the winning HFD pitcher.

"It's just a fun softball game - no matter the outcome," Huntley Fire Chief Dan Wagner said.

"I think Rich Madsen was the MVP of the game for his plays at second base," Rothbauer said.

Madsen was happy the game was a close one.

"I would much rather win a close contest," Madsen, a long-time softball player, said.

There were still plenty of NNO fun activities at the village's Shops on Main, and the final Tuesday evening concert featuring Hillbilly Rockstars at the Huntley Town Square.

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HUNTLEY AMERICAN LEGION POST 673 AWARDS OVER \$29,000 TO STUDENTS AND YOUTH

The Huntley American Legion Post 673 held its annual Scholarship and Award Ceremony last week, celebrating the accomplishments of local students and presenting more than \$29,000 in educational scholarships and awards.

The annual event highlights the Legion’s ongoing commitment to supporting youth, education, and patriotic values throughout the local community. Awards were presented to students demonstrating academic excellence, strong character, and a dedication to community involvement.

Many of the Post’s active members are residents of Sun City and the broader Huntley area, making the night a true community effort.

“Investing in our youth is one of the most important things we do as an organization,” said Dan Stewart, Huntley American Legion Adjutant. “We are honored to support these hard-working students as they pursue their educational goals and future careers.”

The Huntley American Legion extends its sincere congratulations to all of this year’s recipients and thanks the community, local families, and Legion members whose support makes these awards possible.



Tony Pratt | MSDN Photo

The Stars and Stripes team (top) gathers for a photo before the Sun City Softball Club’s All-Star game. They won over the Patriots (directly above) squad, 6-3, July 24 at Veterans Memorial Field.

SC SOFTBALL STARS SHINE AT ALL-STAR GAME

By Steve Peterson
For My Sun Day News

It may seem hard to believe but another Sun City Softball Club season is gearing up for a big finish.

About three weeks of regular season games remained when a good-size crowd gathered at Veterans Memorial Field July 24 for the all-star game. Lumbarjacks manager Joe Gattone’s Patriots team took on Mustangs manager Pat Klatt’s Stars and Stripes team. A couple of hours of softball fun ended with Stars and Stripes winning 6-3.

The post-season playoffs are fast approaching, scheduled for an Aug. 17 start.

“It was a pleasure to coach them,” Klatt said. “They did all the work. I just let them loose,” Klatt said afterward. “What a great night, a beautiful summer night and we get to play like we’re 11, 12, and 13-years old again.”

Gattone agreed with Klatt’s assessment.

“These guys are awesome. It’s an honor,” Gattone said.

The Patriots took the early 2-0 lead but the Stars and Stripes had two three-run innings. Jeff Holst of the Capitals gained the pitching win.

There was an international feature as Neil Bolding, a native of London, England, played for the winners.

“I’ve been here for four years and it’s wonderful,” Bolding said.

The roster of the winning Stars and Stripes team and their squad: Don Grex, Adjusters; Jeff Williams, Mustangs; Paul Thompson, Travelers; Ed Levkulich, Adjusters; Dave Rodiek, Coyotes; Donn Smith, Bucketlisters; Tom Moore, Coyotes; Rich Pearl, Monarchs; John Roccasanto, Hurricanes; Jim Leahy, Hurricanes; Drew Catania, Lumbarjacks and Gary Grash, Monarchs.

Patriots’ 14-member team: George Goodue, Mustangs; Jeff Spiller, Lumbarjacks; Mike Grantham, Ad-

justers; Mike Kazmarek, Mustangs; Ron derby, Travelers; Pete Kiobassa, Lumbarjacks; Jeff Burton, Coyotes; Greg Allen, Monarchs; Rich Grochowski, Travelers; Ttom Keaty, Capitals; Lon Purdy, Hurricanes; Scott Phillips, Sluggers; George Ser-got, Money Bags and Bob Olesen, Capitals.

Ken Smith and Andy Derus were the umpires.

The fun night included hot dogs and chips, a 50-50 raffle and fund-raisers for local charities.

Sun City Softball Leagues standings after July 18 games:

The 16-inch evening league: Mustangs, 11-1; Lumbarjacks, 10-1; Travelers, 7-3; Adjusters, 7-5; Cap-itals, 3-8; Monarchs, 2-8; Coyotes, 2-8 and Hurricanes, 2-10.

The Wednesday 12-inch evening league: Mobilizers, 4-0; Molars, 3-2 and Centurions, 0-5.

The Thursday 16-inch morning league: Bucket Listers, 6-0; Slug-gers, 1-3 and Money Bags, 0-4.

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Christine Such | MSDN Photo

Sun City Angler Charter Club members pause for a photo while fishing with Huntley High School Bass Fishing Club members.

Angling for a reel connection between generations

By Christine Such
For My Sun Day News

The Sun City Anglers Charter Club teams up with the Huntley High School Bass Fishing Team for joint educational and recreational events. Sun City Anglers Club President Frank Rowinski and High School Bass Fishing Coach Erik Lachel are leading the effort. Rowinski said, “This initiative intends to unite generations through a common passion for angling.”

The partnership began with a rod-building seminar in Coach Lachel’s classroom, where the rods could dry safely.

Lachel explained, “The hands-on workshop featured a structured four-night progression designed by Kelly MacDonald. Participants spent the first day learning to spine and assemble rod handles, then tying the

eyes on the second day, finishing the guides and applying the first layer of epoxy on the third day, and wrapping up with a quick second epoxy session and final rod pickup on the fourth day.”

Anglers and high school students worked together for a productive workshop.

“I have coached the Bass Fishing Team for 16 years, starting with just 48 students. My main goal has always been to get kids active and involved,” said Lachel. “This is a real tournament sport, and we have built a strong legacy. Our new partnership with Sun City is a great way to encourage our students and help them enjoy the sport even more.”

Lachel’s program has always been committed to making fishing accessible to everyone in the community. The team often works with the Huntley Park District to mentor

younger children at the annual Deicke Park Youth Fishing Derby, teaching them how to cast and handle fish properly.

“We are invested in the community through various initiatives, including hosting our annual GG&Me Fishing Derby,” said Rowinski. “It gives grandkids a wonderful opportunity to experience fishing. All they need to do is bring a rod, and we gladly supply the worms and assist with baiting hooks. It is a catch-and-release event, so we also help them handle the fish. Beyond that, our members are proud to assist with the ongoing lake management of Wildflower Lake.”

By working together, the Sun City Anglers and the Huntley High School team hope to build stronger community connections and teach important outdoor skills to the next generation of local fishermen.



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the dining duo

Move over Chicago



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 My Sun Day News.

There is a very famous high-end restaurant in Chicago called Girl and the Goat. You may have seen the chef/owner Stephanie Izard on numerous shows on the Food Network. Well, move over Stephanie, Chicago's got nothing on us northwest suburbanites. Behold, The Chick and the Pig in Algonquin.

Years ago, we reviewed a restaurant less than a mile away from The Chick and the Pig called Bold American Fare. We were surprised to find out they share the same owner. Since we enjoyed the Bold American Fare, we were excited to try out their new endeavor.

The restaurant is housed in a large, beautiful, standalone building. First impression walking in was disappointing, however. There was a young man at a counter with a computer evidently taking online orders. This will become clearer as the article goes on. We spotted the dining area and seated ourselves.

Now the confusion begins. There were instructions on the table on how to order. There are three ways to do this. One, scan the QR Code. Two, order at the front counter that we just passed coming in. Three, if you order a drink, you can place your order at the bar. Since Nancy's computer skills consist of clicking things rapidly until the whole system crashes, I pulled out my cell phone and aimed at the QR Code. After watching two senior citizens try to navigate technology that their grandchildren can do, and since it was a slow afternoon, the bartender took pity on us and brought over two actual printed menus.

The menu also turned out to be very confusing. Their sandwiches are just that, a sandwich. You can make it a "meal" for a \$5 upcharge which entitles you to a choice of side and a drink. On top of that, you can "deluxe" your order for a \$3 upcharge which includes four-ounces each of baked beans, coleslaw, and two-ounces of pickles.

While we were trying to navigate the menu, we ordered an appetizer of Tater Barrels (\$9). These were jumbo tater tots

stuffed with bacon, cheese, chives, and served with ranch dressing. These were no big deal, just a giant tater tot with very little bacon and cheese.

Are you confused yet? We are. Thank goodness the waitress took pity on us and took our order. Nancy ordered the Brisket Philly Sandwich (\$13). This was hickory smoked brisket, grilled onions, red peppers, white American cheese on a French roll. I ordered the 50/50 Burger (\$13) which was two four-ounce smash burger patties, pulled pork, BBQ sauce, cheddar cheese, topped with coleslaw on a brioche bun. Since we both wanted to try everything, we "deluxed" our entrée and also made it a "meal." Jim and I both chose the Cajun fries for our side and Cokes for our drink. Abracadabra, \$13 sandwiches are now \$21 given to you on Styrofoam plates with plastic utensils.

Both of our sandwiches were at best, average. The Surgeon General must have gotten to our meals since they had no smokey flavor to them. We got more smokey flavor from our cigars when we enjoyed them on our patio later that day.

With their pool table and dart board along with the huge bar, this place can be fun, but it is just a confusing mediocre restaurant.

The price for our smokeless lunch was \$55.20. figuring out how to order, price-less...

He Said / She Said

JIM'S TAKE: My sandwich needed more barbeque sauce, but I'm not paying an additional dollar for two ounces.

NANCY'S TAKE: You have nothing to worry about Stephanie Izard. The Cajun fries were the tastiest thing on my plate.

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



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let'sgetreel



Will Moore
Columnist

Fond farewells

We are in the final stretch of the summer, the dog days if you will. Although the weather hasn't been as balmy of late, this is usually the time where we long for Pumpkin Spice Lattes and fall foliage. The stores certainly have been manufacturing that feeling with Summerween, another horrible marketing term meant to encourage rampant consumption instead of genuine interest. Why do we want the years to fly by without any sense of enjoyment? Before we know it, the moment will pass and we will miss out as we all race to the next thing. As I watched Charli XCX's set (Lollapalooza was fun, BTW); her final sentiment, a gift to the crowd was "No One Lasts Forever." That all we have in the here and now. I don't believe she intends us to wallow in existential angst, but to cherish these fleeting memories as we are living them. I, for one,

will keep Autumn squarely in September and share what little of the summer is left before it runs out. Because it, too, will come to end.

High school is a nexus point for many of us as we head into adulthood. Where we have been gives way to the rest of our future. But the love we have will continue past then. This ends up being the thesis for Netflix's *Heartstopper Forever*. Over three seasons of this show, creator and writer of the same graphic novel Alice Oseman has explored this close-knit group of British teens as they navigated coming of age. We have watched Charlie Spring and Nick Nelson fall in love as well as deal with everything from sex to eating disorders. How family affects our general outlook has been a major topic of the series and this final movie doesn't disappoint in that regard.

Nick is about to head to university and is unsure about what he wants to do with his life, the age-old issues of growing up. He has always been there for Charlie but what is he without him? Here he grapples with how his distant father creates complexes where he always needed to be strong and never show weakness. Oseman makes the gradual transition of Nick from seemingly put together to using alcohol as a way to hide those inconvenient emotions in his head. This is done without things being caricatured. Charlie spirals as a result of this and has to pull them both together. Very little melodrama is used despite the subject matter which is welcome.

This focus on the main pair does mean

the rest of the cast gets short shrift for any cathartic moments. Teo, played admirably by William Gao, provides the line of everlasting love between those in the friend group and couples. However, this is at the expense of seeing the growing apart of him and his high school sweetheart Elle. Still a fitting ending to a great series, I recommend it to fans of the show.

Over on HULU and sandwiched in-between seasons four and five of *The Bear*, *Gary* is an odd duck of an episode. Here creator Christopher Storer enlists his cast Ebon Moss-Bachrach and Jon Bernthal to make not a prologue or an epilogue but an excuse to be in this world a little while longer. We know that Michael is going to die even before it starts. And if you finished the series, we see how far Richie has gone up to the finale.

So this is more a mood piece than a storytelling exercise. These two travel to the title Indiana border town on a job by Uncle Jimmy, presumably delivering something shady and illicit. The resolution of this did give me a chuckle but nothing more. This was just to see the dynamic between these two before the start of the series. If so, it must have been fun for them to film. Because the audience's patience is greatly tested by the twenty-minute mark, as the duo drives aimlessly past boarded up buildings and seedy dive bars. But the episode ends as we first meet Richie in season one. Is this the memory that he is thinking about at the beginning? If so, it's all a little late for this great series.



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AUGUST 15 & 18 SUN CITY CONCERT BAND
It is time to keep rockin' this summer with your Sun City Concert Band's annual "Rock the Ages" concert. A wide variety of rock-n-roll music will bring back great memories of music we all enjoy. The concert dates are Saturday August 15 at 1 p.m. and Tuesday August 18 at 7 p.m. Tickets will go on sale in July 23, July 30, August 6 and August 7 in Prairie Lodge in front of the library from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. If you are interested in buying tickets and cannot make the dates mentioned here, please contact Rich Ankenbrandt, President, 847-502-5485.

ONGOING FIRST CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH OF HUNTLEY
First Congregational Church of Huntley, United Church of Christ, Sunday worship 9 a.m. Rev. Doctor Michael Smith leads a biblically based, inclusive church; whoever you are and wherever you are on life's journey you are welcomed and valued here. Bible Study Tuesdays at 12 p.m.
The church is located on the Huntley square, 11628 East Main St., Huntley IL, 60142. Church office 847-669-3691. Visit us on Facebook or website fcchuntley.org. Mark your calendar now for the annual Pork Chop and Chicken dinner on Saturday, August 22 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. Tickets are on sale. Half of the proceeds from this event are shared with local veteran groups and local fire protection districts. Tickets are \$18. Come celebrate this annual event with us and support our veterans and fire fighters. Contact Aryn at 847-343-5189 for advance tickets.

ONGOING MONTHLY POKER
There are many poker groups in Del Webb. We are looking for a few individuals that would like to play in a monthly group with one-to-three-dollar stakes? If anyone is interested, please call Buz Criscione (630) 476-0934 or email at btrcriscione@gmail.com.



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Current data available in the Multiple List Service (MRED), LLC as of 3-1-06 to 7-6-26.

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