Business leaders hear congressman’s plea for bipartisan problem solving

By Tim Hadac

The increasingly shrill partisan politics in Washington, D.C., could be described as “chaos” that is damaging the nation, U.S. Rep. Dan Lipinski (D-3rd) told several dozen business leaders last week.

“Politics today is chaos; and it’s not a good situation, to say the least,” the congressman told members of the United Business Association of Midway, who invited him to speak to them at a hotel conference room near 65th and Cicero.

In the 15 years or so since he began serving as congressman, Lipinski said he has seen the partisan divide widen.

“It used to be that every two years in Washington, after every Congressional election, everyone would look around and say, ‘OK, who has the majority in the House? Who has the majority in the Senate? Which party has the president in the White House? OK, what can we all work on in the next, say, year and a half, before the next [political] campaign really kicks off? At least we have that time to work together. What can we agree upon, what can we find compromise on to make the country better?’”

But now, the congressman continued, “after every election, everyone looks around to see who has what, who’s in the majority where and says, ‘What can we do in the next two years so that our party controls everything and we can get everything we want—force our agenda down the throat of the other party?’ That’s the big change I’ve seen happen... and that’s just devastating for the country...which was set up for elected officials to represent their constituents first, not their political party.”

A former political science teacher, Lipinski said that it “took compromise to get our country founded. It took compromise to get the Constitution written. The Founders recognized that compromise is important; and if we’re not compromising now, we’re getting nothing done.”

Sometimes, he added, “it seems like the only time we can come to an agreement is on getting together and being irresponsible,” he added, as he talked about deficit spending, while several business leaders chuckled.

“This has to stop.” Lipinski is a key member of the House Problem Solvers Caucus, a bipartisan group of legislators that focuses on setting aside political differences, finding common ground on issues and getting bills written and passed.

Across the nation today, the congressman observed, “you see people get elected and re-elected—not based on getting anything done, but instead saying, ‘I’m going to do this—and if it doesn’t happen, if I don’t get exactly what I want, we’ll come to an agreement to get the majority.’”

At least we have that time,” Lipinski said. “We have that time across the nation today, the congressman observed, “you see people get elected and re-elected—not based on getting anything done, but instead saying, ‘I’m going to do this—and if it doesn’t happen, if I don’t get exactly what I want, we’ll come to an agreement to get the majority.’”

Across the nation today, the congressman observed, “you see people get elected and re-elected—not based on getting anything done, but instead saying, ‘I’m going to do this—and if it doesn’t happen, if I don’t get exactly what I want, we’ll come to an agreement to get the majority.’”

Lipinski is a member of the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus in the House. — Supplied photo

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Fiddlers to perform at park

Some of the best string musicians in the city will perform at noon Sunday, Sept. 15 at the northwest corner of McKinley Park, 37th and Western. The sounds of the Chicago chapter of the Fiddle Club of the World will fill the air near the President McKinley monument. The live entertainment is part of the weekly McKinley Park Farmers Market, which will be open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Sunday, offering fresh, in-season fruit, vegetables, honey and other products from farms across the Midwest. — Supplied photo

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Derby’s success is no fish story

Popular contest is returning to revitalized lagoon at McKinley Park

By Joan Hadac

Two years after the McKinley Park lagoon saw its first fishing derby in about 40 years, the popular event is set to return later this month—its third year in a row.

State Sen. Antonio “Tony” Muñoz (D-1st) and McKinley Park resident and attorney Steve Demitro are sponsoring a catch-and-release fishing derby from 9 a.m. to noon Saturday, Sept. 28.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources will stock the lagoon with more than a thousand fish—largemouth bass, sunfish and channel catfish—a day or so before the derby. Invited to participate are children ages 7-13. There is no admission charge, but parents are asked to register.

See DERBY, Page 15

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INSIDE THIS WEEK’S NEWS-HERALD

Ordinary school, extraordinary results

Page 5

THE AUTO FEST Sales Event

New 2018 Fiat 500X Trekking AWD

$6,000 Total Cash†
Brookfield. Funeral was held September 8 at Hitzeman Funeral Home, Ltd., 9445 W. 31st Street, Donald (Nancy) Holland; uncle and great uncle of many.

GEOFFREY A. KARASEK

Visitation was held September 4 at Zarzycki Manor Chapels, Ltd., 8999 S. Archer Ave, Willow Springs. Funeral was held September 4 from the funeral home to the Church of St. Mary of Czestochowa for Mass. Interment Poland. 708-839-8999 or www.ZarzyckiManorChapels.com.

GEORGE JOHN KODIDKE

Visitation was held September 6 at Damar-Kaminski Funeral Home & Crematorium, 7861 S. 88th Avenue, Justice. Visitation was held September 6 at Zarzycki Manor Chapels, Ltd., 8999 S. Archer Ave, Willow Springs. Funer- nal was held September 4 from the funeral home to the Church of St. Mary of Czestochowa for Mass. Interment Poland. 708-839-8999 or www.ZarzyckiManorChapels.com.

ANDREW J. RODRIGUEZ

Beloved husband of Amelia (nee Garcia); loving father of Suzette (Dan) Sabanov, Robert Rodriguez, and Lynda Rodriguez; cherished brother of Gregory, Julian, Brandon, Miranda, Alex, Gianna, and the late Eric; cherished brother of Vivian (late Joe) Orsonco, Jennie (late Charlie) Parks, and the late Rudy Rodriguez Sr., late Joseph Rodriguez, and late Cecelia Orthuela; dear uncle of Rudy Jr. and many other nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held September 10 at Foran Funeral Home 7300 W. Archer Ave (55th street just west of Harlem). Visitation was held September 11 at the funeral home from until time of prayers. A Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on September 11 at St. Blase Church. Interment Resurrection Cemetery.

HELEN SEBASTIAN

Wife of the late William Robert Sebastian, mother of Dr. Geoffrey (Celeste) Sebastian, Nadine (Vytasha) Faulkstys and Yvonne (Lawrence) Taylor. Helen’s legacy of her thirst for knowledge and sharing it with others will live on in the lives of her 7 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

Visitation was held September 7 at Zarzycki Manor Chapels, Ltd., 8999 South Archer Avenue, Willow Springs. Pomen Service followed. Funeral Services were held September 6 at the funeral home. Interment Lithuanian National Cemetery. 708-839-8999 or www.ZarzyckiManorChapels.com.

ALLEN E. “SUDS” SZUDARSKI

Beloved husband of Maryann (nee Pechos); loving father of Allison (Dan) Matuszak and Ashley (Doug) Dalton; dear grandfather of Hannah, Kaitlyn, and Cassidy; cherished son of the late Edward and Sophie Szudarski (nee Rutkowski); also sur- vived by his sister, nieces, nephew, relatives, and friends.

Visitation was held September 4 at Damar-Kaminski Funeral Home & Crematorium, 7861 S. 88th Avenue, Justice. Funeral was held September 5, prayers and procession from the funeral home to Saint Rene Goupil Church, 6340 S. New England Avenue, Chicago for Mass. Interment Resurrection Cemetery, Justice. For more information, 708-496-0200 or www.kaminskifamilyfuneralhomes.com.

YOU DON'T WANT THEM RESPONDING TO YOUR TEXT.
Scottsdale mourns loss of Scott Biszewski

Remembered as a political advisor, community leader, mentor and irrepressible friend
By Joan Hadac

In just about every Dem-ocractic ward organization in the city, there is a person everyone knows but who never makes headlines: the go-to guy who works hard and gets things done, but never seeks accolades.

In the 18th Ward, that go-to guy was Scott Biszewski.

Walter “Scott” Biszewski died Sept. 6 from complications associated with a heart attack he suffered while on vacation in Flori-da. He was 57 years old.

In earlier this year, his political advisor to 18th Ward Ald. Derrick Curtis, who described him as a “twin grow-ing up in the 18th Ward or- ganization under the lead-ership of [former Alderman and Democratic Commit-teeman] Thomas Murphy.”…”I find myself in inde-scribable pain,” the alder-man told the Greater South-west News-Herald. “I am a brother that I worked side by side with for over 20 years, and the community lost a legend that grew up, slept and breathed the best Highpark Stadium community. He never wavered as he stood up and fought for the better of the 16th Ward.

“When the odds were against us, he would say, ‘Go for it. We can do it.’”

The alderman recalled, “I will continue to fight for community, as always.”

His entire life was family, work, then back to the 18th Ward. He will be missed.

In addition to his political work, Mr. Biszewski played a linchpin role in the reju-venation of civic and crime-fight ing groups in the Scottsdale neigh-borhood.

“Scott’s legacy will reach far into the fu-ture after his passing,” said Scottsdale Neighborhood Watch and Homeowners Association President Ja-son Huff. “His love for Scottsdale was more than anyone will ever know. He cared about the people and did his best to solve any issues that the community had. He mentored myself, Lissette and others so we can take the lead and move Scottsdale forward as a com-munity.

“As a friend he is irre- placeable,” Huff continued. “He and I talked every day after I got off work-and before he started work-just to make sure life was right, night and for me to wish him the best of the day. Often he would send jokes that only he and I would laugh at. He would be the voice of reason and was there any time I needed just an ear to vent to, and vice versa. He was a family, and I will promise to keep what he showed me along the way as a friend and leader.”

Mr. Biszewski also had “a personality that put others at ease.”

“Scott was always quick with a smile, and a way of working a room, talking with everyone-“It will come,” Maher post-ed on social media several weeks back. “I live on very little a month: Social Secu-rity with no job and no oth-er income.”

The Oct. 6 fundraiser, billionaire Dan Devine and Dan Big Guy, will feature a “watch” party for the Chi-cago Bears-Oak-land Raiders game, broad-cast live from Totten-ham Hotspur Stadi-um in Lon-don, Eng-land.

Admission is $30 per person and includes all-you-can-eat buffet, as well as beer and wine.

The best that ticket-price, when you consider what you’re getting,” Maher added. “This year was this week: “I’m not looking to get rich on this, be happy. The event will include a number of sports-related raffle prizes, such as four tickets (with a parking pass) to the Nov. 16 Notre Dame vs. Navy game at South Bend.

Additionally, Maher is hosting a betting pool relatin-g to the game’s scores at the end of each quarter. He is selling 100—each-with-cash pay- outs ranging from $1,000 to $5,000.

To purchase admission tickets and pool squares, visit paypal.com/pay-palme2/catholicfootball. Tickets are also available at several noteworthy water-holes in the area, includ-ing Lawlor’s two Chicago locations: 6854 W. Archer 3636 W. 111th St; and The Hideout, 4755 W. 137th St, Crestwood, and McGaffer’s, 7377 W. Roosevelt Road, Forest Park.

Purchasing presale tick-ets now matters, Maher said, because his family needs to give a preliminary count to 115 Bourbon Street by Sunday, Sept. 15.

Those unable to attend the October event may still use the PayPal link to make a donation.

Those with additional questions about the event are welcome to contact Mah-er at tim@chicago16inches.com.

“I want to thank every-one who helps me out,” Ma-her said. “We get knocked down, but we always get back up, but it’s just a bit harder for me this time. I’m on the goal line, fighting best I can.”

Background

Maher is a South Side native who grew up at 5417 S. Racine, across the street from Sherrnan Park, where as a boy he wore the foot-ball uniform of the Visi-tation Ramblers—butting heads with grid powers across the South and South-west Sides.

His father, John, was a 1944 St. Rita graduate and football player who joined the Marines and earned a Purple Heart fighting on Okinawa.

At St. Rita, Tim Ma-her saw football highs and lows. In his sophomore year, the Mustangs went an abysmal 0-9 in 1968; but then turned around to 9-2-1 in 1970—sweep- ing to three November victories at Soldier Field over tough CCL oppo-nents (Fenwick, Loyola and Leo) to a December Prep Bowl triumph over Lane Tech be-fore a Soldier Field crowd of 65,740.

The feat was unheard of in Chicago’s prep sports history, Maher said. He chronicled the champ-ion-ship season in a book he authored, “3 Yards and a Cloud of Dust,” a 200-plus-page book available in pa-perback for $14.95 at chi-cagoatholicleaguefootball.com.

Popular sports figure battling health challenges, medical bills
By Tim Hadac

The Big Guy is looking for a little help from his friends.

Tim Maher, one of the best known and well-liked Southwest Side sports fig-ures of the last 50 years, is the subject of a public ben-eft set for 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Saturday, Nov. 16, 3359 W. 115th St, Merriam Parkette. Maher, 66, is a onetime pro football star and in later years a radio and TV sportscaster known as "The Big Guy." He has been a tireless promoter of 16-inch softball and Chi-ca-go Catholic League sports, and he has gone public with his struggles with his health.

"I lost my left leg below the knee five years ago, and last summer, I lost my big toe on right leg—wit the right side of my foot now so off it will come," Maher post-ed on social media several years ago in a December Prep Bowl triumph over Lane Tech be-fore a Soldier Field crowd of 65,740.


"I find myself in inde-nity with no job and no oth-er income."

"You can't beat that tick-et price, when you consider what you're getting," Maher added. "This year was this week: 'I'm not looking to get rich on this, be happy.'" The event will include a number of sports-related raffle prizes, such as four tickets (with a parking pass) to the Nov. 16 Notre Dame vs. Navy game at South Bend.

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Cops warn businesses of burglaries

The burglaries of two Metro PCS stores in the Deering (9th) District within two days of each other has prompted Chicago Police Department to issue a community alert. Crime scenes include:
- 2000 block of West 47th Street at 5:41 a.m. Monday, Sept. 2.
- 3800 block of South Archer at 5:47 a.m. Thursday, Sept. 5.

Those with useful information to share are encouraged to call CPD Area Central detectives at (312) 747-8382 and refer to crime pattern P19-1-291.

Police seek clues after finding dead body in alley

Police continue to investigate a death discovered at 6:58 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 8 in an alley in the 5400 block of South Lawndale. Authorities found the body of a man about 40-50 years old, shot at least once in the neck. Earlier this week, police had not yet released the man’s identity or any other details.

Woman shot in the knee

A 19-year-old woman was shot in the knee as she stood on a sidewalk in the 7100 block of South Washtenaw at 6:43 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 4. Police said a vehicle pulled alongside and a gunman inside fired at the victim before speeding away. The victim was taken to Advocate Christ Medical Center, where she was listed in good condition. There was no description of the shooter or vehicle.

Arrest two who allegedly hit others

A 43-year-old South Shore man was charged with domestic battery after he was arrested in the 6500 block of South Kolin, allegedly was found to be in, “a CPD area central detectives,” (312) 747-8382.

Both also were charged with identification restoration, after they allegedly gave fake names to police. According to public records, Nava was charged with unlawful use of a weapon by a convicted felon when he was arrested by CPD last December.

COPS UPCOMING BEAT MEETINGS

Crime prevention is the focus of two Chicago Police Department CAPS meetings coming up in the week ahead. Police will offer the latest crime data, and residents and local business owners will have the opportunity to meet beat officers, air concerns and join forces to implement constructive solutions to crime-related problems. CAPS meetings are held for specific police beats. To find the beat where your home or business is located, call your district police station.

Beat 811 will meet at 7 p.m. Tuesday, Sept. 17 at Good Shepard Presbyterian Church, 5550 S. Merrimac.

Beats 823/825 will meet at 7 p.m. Wednesday, Sept. 18 at the 8th District Community Room 3420 W 63rd St.

For more information about CAPS meetings in your district, call (312) 747-8730. In the Ninth District, call (312) 747-8227.
Mother McAuley celebrates its ‘incredible’ history

By Kelly White

Mother McAuley officials are excited about the Heritage Wall, as one of Chicago’s leading Catholic all-girl high schools, providing quality education and recognizing the strength in sisterhood.

Founded by the Sisters of Mercy, Mother McAuley Liberal Arts Academy, 3737 W. 99th St., Chicago and St. Xavier College opened in the fall of 1956 to provide secondary instruction for female students. Thanks to the vision of the Sisters of Mercy, McAuley’s girls have not been forgotten.

In Garfield Ridge, civic leader Hank Puleo has continued its seasonal spraying with insecticide. Cotter, a civil engineer, is president of Cotter Consulting, a construction consulting firm located in Chicago and Milwaukee. That’s important for the Yards, the area and its history renders with current students as well, including琅琅Klingsenberger.

“The Heritage Wall shows that even if you already graduated from McAuley, you are still a strong part of the community and school,” Cotter said.

For their continued devotion, Mother McAuley is honoring the Sisters of Mercy and Mother McAuley’s history and alums with a Heritage Wall displayed within the high school’s entrance at 3737 W. 99th St., Chicago.

“Ordinary school, extraordinary results

By Tim Hadac

The West Nile virus has continued its seasonal spread across the Southwest Side, with tens of thousands of people living in neighborhoods where the potential danger has been detected.

According to the Chicago Department of Public Health, infected mosquitoes have been found in its trap traps in Skokie, Wilmette, Cicero, Evanston, and Chicago. CDC’s explanation is that they only spray when infected mosquitoes have been found in a community for two consecutive weeks. CDC maintains mosquito traps in most city neighborhoods, and monitors them weekly.

Despite the findings, the most recent CDC West Nile surveillance report describes the risk to public as “moderate” for now.

While most people bitten by a WN-infected mosquito have only a mild illness or no symptoms at all, the disease was an occasional hot topic of discussion at Southwest Side community meetings and in local Facebook groups in recent years.

The concern is due in part to several severe cases, including that of Jeff Walls, a union carpenter from Garfield Ridge who was laid low by the disease in 2016 and is still struggling to recover—paralyzed and unable to eat or even breathe without assistance.

His story was told on the front page of the March 17, 2017 Greater Southwest News-Herald. It is unknown whether Walls is still active in the infected mosquito in Garfield Ridge or elsewhere in the city or suburbs.

In Garfield Ridge, civic league president Hank Palaka has called upon Mayor Lori Lightfoot to order CDC to spray insecticide in his community, to better protect the public health.

To date, there has been no response.

Health officials remind everyone to take simple steps to avoid contact with the Northern House Mosquito, the type most commonly associated with spread of the virus.

- Use insect repellent that contains DEET, Picaridin, IR3535, or Oil of Lemon on Eucalyptus.
- Eliminate standing water. This includes emptying water from flowerpots, gutters, pools, covers, pet water dishes and bird baths regularly.
- Keep grass and weeds short to eliminate hiding places for adult mosquitoes.
- When outside between dusk and dawn, wear loose-fitting, light-colored clothing including long pants, long sleeve shirts, socks and shoes.
- Check that all screens, windows and doors are tight-fitting and free of holes and tears.
Ray Hanania is an award-winning syndicated columnist who covered Chicago City Hall for nearly two decades “from Daley to Daley.” Read more of his columns and download his podcasts by visiting Hanania.com. Email him at rghanania@gmail.com.

Don’t blame the ‘burbs, Mayor Lightfoot

Mayor Lori Lightfoot has done a good job in focusing herself on the other parts of her lifestyle, so-called progressive re-form politics, and a claim that she is different from the Machine politics she campaigned against.

But the truth is Lightfoot might as well start smoking cigars and holding meetings behind closed doors, because she clearly is acting like a clout-heavy politician, rather than so-called progressive who wants to address Chicagoland’s problems.

Let’s face it. The suburbs are tied to the fate of Chicago. If Lightfoot fails to confront street gang violence, it isn’t just Chicagoans who suffer. It’s the suburbs that suffer, too; not just in terms of spillover from the street gang gun violence, but also in being forced to always bail out Chicago financially.

Back in the 1990s, Mike Royko wrote his liberal agenda and principles to join in the grotesque demand that money needed to bail out the failed Chicago Transit Authority be taken from the back pockets of suburban taxpayers.

Any time Chicago is in trouble, the focus veers away from the needs of the suburbs and the rest of the state; and new tax monies are channelled in to save the city’s corrupt payoffs.

Lightfoot asserted that Chicago faces “extraordinary financial challenges.” That’s just a liberal way of saying Chicago wants to raise taxes to offset its budget shortfalls. She is parroting many of Chicago’s Machine mayors. Instead of following through by cracking down on corruption and government waste, Lightfoot is saying she wants to increase taxes and revenues to continue the old ways.

Every Machine mayor has started out asserting that they are hundreds of millions in debt. It’s a cop-out. Then they claim to have answers; but instead start to blame others, never themselves.

A smart mayor would look at the problem and say that while there are some problems with the police, the majority are dedicated heroes who put their lives on the line every day to protect everyone, including the people who condemn everything they do. She blames the police but fails to blame the people who live in the neighborhoods.

The good families in the crime-ridden neighborhoods believe the false promises, hoping that something can be done while many who know the hoodlums and street gang members but say nothing are the first to hire lawyers to collect on the “false promises”, hoping that something can be done while many who know the hoodlums and street gang members but say nothing are the first to hire lawyers to collect on the “false promises.”

When a child of one of those families is killed, they are the first to hire lawyers to collect on the “tragedy lottery.” They file suit against the City and walk away with millions.

Mayor Lightfoot refuses to acknowledge that problem and wants you to believe that the violence is fueled by guns sold outside Chicago – she says 60 percent comes from there but that means 40 percent comes from inside Chicago. She won’t acknowledge that a large percentage of the violence could be stopped in the people in these communities take responsibility for the street gang members who are their children, relatives and friends.

Until she does that, there will not be a solution.

Mayor Lightfoot also claims she is a different kind of mayor but all she has done is shifted the power balance from the traditional Demo-crats, the white community and the conservatives, and has empowered her own, African American, liberal women and the LGBT community. She hides behind these labels like Teflon, protecting her from criticism of her failure thus far.

I’ve asked to interview her; but then I am white, live in the suburbs, defend the police and see her platform as questionable at best.

She lacks the courage to sit with me. Fine. But worse, she lacks the courage to take on the real problem fueling the endless killings that make the suburbs look like the weekend costume slasher movie.

Keep her politics out of the suburbs, and keep her hands out of our suburban pocketbooks.
Kmart to close last south suburban store in Bridgeview

Kmart, the struggling company which once had a bigger presence in the south suburbs than retail juggernaut Walmart, announced last week that it would close the company’s last south suburban store at 79th and Harlem Avenue in Bridgeview.

Kmart announced it will be closing by the end of the year its last south suburban store in Bridgeview. - Greater Southwest News-Herald photo by Bob Bong

Kmart sales are expected to begin in mid-September at the store, which was the last of dozens that once reigned supreme in the south suburbs from Lansing to Joliet and from Tinley Park to Countryside. The store is expected to close in December.

In the city on the Southwest Side, Kmart used to be found in West Lawn at 71st and Pulaski, in Gage Park near 51st and Kedzie, and in South Holland.

Some of the former locations have been brought back to life, such as the former Countryside store, which is now a Home Depot store.

Outlets have remained empty, sometimes for years. That has been the fate of the former Tinley Park store at 36th Street and Harlem. That store has been closed for more than three years. It looks busy as a local car dealer parks hundreds of vehicles in the former store parking lot.

When the Bridgeview store closes, the last remaining Kmart in Illinois will be in northwest suburban Des Plaines.

Its corporate cousin, Sears, is not faring much better.

The former Sears store in the south suburb is at Chicago Ridge Mall in Tinley Park near 8752 W. 159th St. on Sept. 7 at 11 a.m. on Sept. 7.

Owner and trainer Russell Scalsie said the store opened introducing Fit Body to the community. “We’ll have events and activities for the whole family,” he said. “Let the community see what we have to offer.”

Classes will start on Sept. 16. Scalsie said he was always into sports and decided to open Fit Body after leaving a career as a stock broker.

“I always played every sport imaginable,” he said, so sports and fitness were always an interest of his.

The Bridgeport native chose Orland Park because he has always liked the area.

Scalsie said Fit Body offers “high intensity, 30-minute group training sessions. Participants rotate among eight workout stations that can accommodate up to five people at a time during the training session.”

“You work at your own pace and we can take all fitness levels.”

Scalsie is not just the owner, he will also be a hands-on trainer.

Fit Body will be open from 5:30 a.m. to 7 p.m. Monday to Thursday from 5:30 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday and 5:30 a.m. to 10 a.m. on Saturday. The center is closed on Sunday.

Fit Body got its start in Southern California in 2008 and began franchising in 2012. The Orland location will be the seventh in the Chicago area and the first in the south suburbs.

For information, call 708-966-0536 or visit orlandparkfitbody.com.

If you see a new business in town or wonder what happened to an old favorite, drop me a line at bobbongonbusiness@hotmail.com. You can track business openings and closings at http://bobbongonbusiness.com/
YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR ANNUAL
First Responders
COOKOUT
SATURDAY
SEPT 14th
12PM – 4PM

Ridge Funeral Home
6620 W. Archer Ave., Chicago, IL (773) 586-7900

Ed Tylka and the staff at Ridge Funeral Home would like to invite all active and retired first responders and their families to our Appreciation Cookout. Join us for food & refreshments, a bounce house, petting zoo, face painter & balloon artist for the kids. Music by the band Legacy.

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SOUTHWEST SPORTS

Cougars pounce early on Blue Devils
SXU scores on opening play of season and first five drives in road rout

By Jason Maholy
Sports Editor

Saint Xavier got its 2019 campaign off to a strong start last weekend, rolling to a 45-13 victory on the road against Lawrence Tech (Mich.).

Sophomore running back Vance McShane scored two first-quarter touchdowns and senior quarterback Alex Martinez tossed four touchdown passes, and the Cougars defense recorded three turnovers, including two interceptions by junior cornerback Kevin Block.

McShane started the game and season in grand fashion, running 60 yards to paydirt on the first play from scrimmage. He found the end zone again on Saint Xavier’s next drive as the visitors sprung out to a 14-0 advantage. McShane finished with five carries for 82 yards rushing.

Martinez was 20-for-27 for 264 yards and threw scoring passes to Harold Davis, Chris Simmons and Justin Pringle, the latter of who grabbed touchdowns of 22 and 35 yards.

Simmons, a Nazareth alumnus, had four catches for a team-high 88 yards receiving.

The Cougars (1-0) scored on their first five drives and opened up a 38-3 halftime lead. Block would do his part to keep the SXU offense on the field, snatching picks on consecutive Lawrence Tech possessions bridging the first and second quarters.

Sophomore kicker Mike Iturbe (Shepard) split the uprights from 27 yards out to give the Cougars a 31-0 lead with 3:45 left to play in the second quarter.

Lawrence Tech finally got on the board with a field goal with 1:48 left in the first half, but Saint Xavier went right back to work, with Martinez connecting for a second time with Pringle for a 35-yard touchdown pass.

Martinez threw his fourth TD of the day, a 48-yard score to Simmons, 1:45 into the third quarter on the first drive after halftime to extend the lead to 45-3.

Block had five tackles to go with his two interceptions, and linebacker Danny Saracco posted a team-high nine tackles. Joe Dodaro, an Oak Lawn resident, forced fumbles and Jarvis Carter forced one fumble and had an interception.

The Cougars will open their 2019 home slate at 1 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 21 against NCAA Division III powerhouse Wisconsin-Whitewater – the first of three consecutive games at Bruce R. Deaton Memorial.

Cougars pounce early on Blue Devils
SXU scores on opening play of season and first five drives in road rout

By Jason Maholy
Sports Editor

Saint Xavier got its 2019 campaign off to a strong start last weekend, rolling to a 45-13 victory on the road against Lawrence Tech (Mich.).

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Saint Xavier running back Vance McShane ran for a 60-yard touchdown on the first snap of the 2019 season and finished with 82 yards rushing and two scores in a 45-3 win over Lawrence Tech on Sept. 7.

- Photo courtesy of Saint Xavier Athletics

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Dogs outlast Mustangs

Leshon Williams runs for 139 yards and two touchdowns in physical Week 2 battle

By Jason Maholy
Sports Editor

For the better part of one half and into the next, Richards punished a St. Rita team that looked overmatched and, to make matters worse, couldn’t get out of its own way.

For the better part of one half, the Mustangs punished a Bulldogs squad that may not have anticipated the fury with which its wounded opponent would fight.

All things being equal midway through the fourth quarter, Richards made the big plays at the end and held off an impressive comeback for a 35-28 win on a pleasantly cool autumn night in Oak Lawn.

Senior running back Leshon Williams put the Bulldogs on his back and followed a determined offensive line to score the game-winning touchdown in a 35-28 victory over St. Rita on Sept. 6 in Oak Lawn.

Richards senior running back Leshon Williams ran for 139 yards and scored the game-winning touchdown in a 35-28 victory over St. Rita on Sept. 6 in Oak Lawn.
- Greater Southwest News-Herald photos by Jason Maholy

Richards senior wide receiver Sebastian Lasak looks to hold off a St. Rita defender after making a catch.

Richards wide receivers Trishawn Lott (1) and Antwon Jones celebrate the former’s 30-yard touchdown catch against St. Rita.

The Bulldogs will face Hillcrest at 7 p.m. Friday in Country Club Hills. The Hawks (1-1) lost a tight game to Brother Rice, 26-20, on opening night and topped Sandburg, 22-14, in Week 2. Shehan expects to have his hands full with Hillcrest and junior running back Mar’kiese Irving.

“Him and (Leshon) Williams are probably the two best backs in the state, and it’s going to be a show, hopefully,” Shehan said. “We’ll be up, we’ll be ready.”
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Family picnics are heaven on earth

Peggy Zabicki

West lawn respondent

3633 W. 60th Place
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I went to the last family picnic of the season a couple of weeks ago. I must say, picnics make me so happy that I imagine heaven being filled with picnic groves. I suppose everyone must have their vision of heaven—seeing their pets running, with loved ones, feeling no pains and no wages. I think we can get a taste of heaven while on earth.

At our picnics we play a Swedish game called Kaub, in which you throw wooden sticks at wooden cubes. My husband made our game cubes beautifully, and when I was a baby he used to have baby. So it held them both as much as I could get away with. What’s better than holding a sleepy baby at a picnic?

My six-year-old grandson, Roman, and I watched his four-year-old brother, Ian, playing Kaub along with his team members and the rest of the family. He would rather paint pictures than anything else. We talked about the difference between drawing the ears of a cat and the ears of a dog. How’s that for a big honor?

St. Mary Star of the Sea, 6435 S. Kilbourn, is holding a blood drive on Sunday, Sept. 15 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. to give this precious gift. schedule an appointment at bhheartland.org.

St. Mary Star of the Sea is planning another trip to Four Winds Casino on Wednesday, Sept. 25 for the be nefit of their parish. The cost is $35 per person and includes motor coach transportation, $15 slot credit, $10 food voucher, and $25 per person. Make your reservation before Sept. 18. Call Greg at (704) 614-6759.

The West Lawn branch library, 4020 W. 63rd St., is showing the movie, Pokemon Detective Pikachu 2019 on Saturday, Sept. 14 at 2 p.m.

The library will present Preschool Story Time on Tues. days, 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. This will be a one-hour time frame of stories, songs, rhymes, art and play for 3 to 5 year olds. The program will be presented in Spanish and English. Call for more information at (327) 747-7381.

The library’s next Yoga for Adults class will take place on Saturday, Sept. 14 at 11 a.m. Stretch, meditate and relax.

The Chicago Lawn (8th) District Police Station, 3420 W. 63rd St., will be the site of an informational meeting about the Chicago Landlords and Tenants Bill of Rights. The meeting will take place in their Community Room on Saturday, Sept. 14 from 10 to 11 a.m. For more infor mation, call (312) 747-8724.

The Chicago Tenants Bill of Rights was put together more than 30 years ago by a group of Chicagoans who were appointed by an organization called the East Anders onville Residents Council. They formed a committee. (Disclosure: I was one of the people on this committee.) The Andersonville neighborhood has many apartment buildings; and so, many renters. At that time, no one really knew what their rights were. With many meetings and much research, the Chicago Tenants Bill of Rights was put together and presented to City Hall. Later on, landlords’ rights were included.

The next CAPS beat 823 meeting will take place at the Eighth District Police Station on Wednesday, Sept. 18 at 6:30 p.m.

Thank you to Linda D. for your nice letter about Chi cago libraries, in reference to my column a few weeks ago about libraries near me. Linda is a former branch head. Thank you for all the information about the Clear ing Branch Library. I am planning on visiting soon.

Finally, a special thank you to West Lawn resident and faithful Greater Southwest News-Herald reader Nora M. I appreciate your call on Aug. regarding my column about people who don’t clean up after their dogs. Nora shared some helpful information about this annoying problem. She told me that you can sprinkle moth ball crystals or flakes of moth balls on the area. Dogs don’t like the smell and will avoid the area. The moth crystals don’t harm your lawn, either. You will probably see the blue canisters of this product at grocery stores. I think dollar stores have them, too. Thanks, Nora, for the information and the fun conversa tion.

I hope everyone enjoys the changing of the seasons.

Plenty to do this month in the neighborhood

Mary Stank is taking a break this week, so I’m filling in for her. As usual, there’s plenty do in Archer Heights and West Elsdon.

At the Archer Heights Branch Library, 5055 S. Archer, there will be a screening of Johnny English from 2 to 3:45 p.m. Saturday, Sept. 14. This 2003 movie features Rowan Atkinson, the actor behind the character of Bean, as a bumbling British secret agent-in-training who tries to stop a devious French billionnaire from taking over the English throne. The film is one hour and 28 minutes long. For more information, call (773) 284-7029.

The Chicago Teen Club at Archer Heights, 4901 S. Kilbourn, meets from 4 to 6 p.m. each Monday and Wednesday through Wednesday, Dec. 4. The club is for those 12 to 15 years old. There is no charge for this coed club. Teens can come relax, meet new friends or play games. For more information, call (773) 284-7029.

Low-impact aquatic exercise is being offered free from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Saturdays through Dec. 7 at Curie Park, 4949 S. Archer. This class is for those 60 and older. Participants move at a slow pace in this low to moderate intensity activity, while doing less intense exercises in chest-deep water. The aquatic envi ronment is easy on joints and offers more energy while burning calories. General activities include a warm up, cardio workout, strengthening work and cool down. No swimming experience is necessary. For more information, call (773) 284-7124.

Congratulations to the students and parents of the IB program at Curie High School, 4949 S. Archer. This is the sixth year in a row that the IB program at Curie High School beat the world diploma “pass” rate. It looks like that hard work paid off. Great job.

St. Bruno School, 4839 S. Harding, is hosting its annual Blocktober Fest and you’re invited. The fest runs from noon to midnight Saturday, Sept. 21 and from noon noon to 9 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 22. The event features kids’ activities, music, food vendors, a beer and wine garden, games, bouncy houses and raffle and more. For more information on vendor and sponsor opportunities, email marketing@ stbruno.com. For more information on the fest, call (773) 847-0697.

St. Richard Church, 5030 S. Kostner, will be celebrating its first Spanish Mass at 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Sept. 15. The cele brant will be St. Richard’s new associate pastor, the Rev. Felipe Valtigniet. Everyone is invited. For more information, call (773) 585-1221.

Well, since I’m in Archer Heights and West Elsdon. I think I’ll head over to the World’s Finest Chocolate outlet store at 4319 S. Pulaski. I absolutely love their chocolate treats. My favorites are the chocolate bars with almonds and the chocolate bars with caramel. I have a history with World’s Finest Chocolate. I remember selling their chocolate when I was a little girl in the early 1960s, and on Wednesday nights, correctly, my daughters sold them some time in grade school. You remember selling their Finest Chocolate when you were younger?

Have a wonderful week.
Autumn can be a whirlwind

My excitement for fall approachng always seems to dwindle when the reality of the daily hustle and bustle of having the kids back in school and sports take over our schedule. I’ve already picked one kid up late, dropped another off at the wrong park and al-most missed a showing. In another week or so I hope to be accustomed to the new routine and hopefully have a better grip of things! The Scottsdale neighborhood is mourning the loss of the long time resident and business owner, Mike Weiszweek, who passed away on Sept. 6. Although I did not get the opportunity to personally know him in a close way, I do remember his jolly personality from attending the Scottsdale Neighborhood Watch meetings. My condolences to his family.

If you are looking to get some exercise in Rainier Park, is offering peloton classes on Tuesdays and a circuit training class on Thursdays. Both classes are run from 6 to 7 p.m. There is a nominal fee for taking the classes.

The Wrightwood-Asbourn Library will be having a genealogy workshop on Monday, Sept. 16 from 1 to 3 p.m. Come out and learn how to trace your family tree to five generations! Bring your library card, laptop, tablet or mobile device and begin your research train for your ancestors! This event is hosted by the FWA Family History Society.

Do you like tacos? If your answer is yes, then you’ll want to save the date! St. Bede is having an all-you-can-eat taco dinner on Saturday, Sept. 28 from 4 to 8 p.m. and will take place at Hayes Park Gymnasium, 9236 W. 55th St. There will be breakfast, lunch, live entertainment, food, prizes, giveaways, dancing and more. This event is for the 18th Ward se-niors only. You must reserve your spot by calling (773) 284-5037 and will be asked to provide proof of residence.

Happy birthday to my paternal grand-mother, who will be celebrating 91 years of life on the 14th! I am blessed to have her, and my kids are super blessed to have a great grandmother still around!
Today is National Peanut Day. The weather can’t make up its mind: one day hot, one day cold. I like it cooler, but I don’t want to rush to winter. I received a letter this day from Susan Bodnar, a former Gage Park resident who now lives in Collinsville, Ill. She still gets the Greater Southwest News-Herald sent to her. She wanted to thank me for mentioning the Hot Dog Lady. Her son, Donnie, was buried in Mount Hope Cemetery on Aug. 31. He passed away from cancer. His last days were spent with her at his brother’s house. Her sons thought the world of the Hot Dog Lady.

Karen Sala
Gage Park correspondent
5351 S. Rockwell St.
Chicago, IL 60632
(773) 471-1429

Inal pain, trouble with bladder and bowels. Remind them to see their gynecologists. St. Simon the Apostle Parish would like everyone to know the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Moving Wall and traveling museum will be at Queen of Heaven Cemetery from Sept. 26-30. It is a replica and half the size as the one in Washington, D.C. It’s open to veterans 24 hours a day. If you are a veteran and would like to participate in any of the ceremonies, please contact Dianne Sheehan by calling (330) 730-3298. Ceremony times are Sept. 26 at 5 p.m., the 27th at noon, Sept. 28 at 2 p.m., Sunday, Sept. 29 at 1 p.m. and Sept. 30 at noon.

Please send your Gage Park information to karen.sala@hotmail.com. Don’t wait until the last minute. My column has to be sent in a whole week before it comes out in the paper. Please send your information as soon as possible. There are a lot of things that are just too late to put in. Thanks again for all your support.

The weather this season sure is fickle.
**6165 S. Archer**

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