

Annual walk to help fight ovarian cancer

BY SUSAN DIBBLE
Daily Herald Staff Writer

After Naperville resident Elaine Jungnickel went to her doctor with abdominal pains and gastro-intestinal and stomach problems, it took nearly three months to diagnose her with ovarian cancer.

By that time, the fast-growing cancer had spread. She had a complete hysterectomy followed by six months of harsh chemotherapy.

Three months after she completed the chemotherapy, the tumor came back.

In chemotherapy once more, Jungnickel is still well enough to participate in the eighth annual "Walk for the Whisper" sponsored by the Illinois Division of the National Ovarian Cancer Coalition.

The 3-mile walk takes place Saturday along Naperville's Riverwalk. Registration begins at 8:15 a.m. near Centennial Beach, 500 W. Jackson Ave., and the walk starts at 9:30 a.m.

Jungnickel took part in the

If you go

What: "Walk for the Whisper" to fight ovarian cancer

When: Registration begins at 8:15 a.m., walk at 9:30 a.m. Saturday

Where: Pavilion at Centennial Beach, 500 W. Jackson Ave., Naperville

Cost: \$30 adults, \$15 children ages 12 and younger, free for children in strollers.

Info: (630) 769-1664 or www.ovarian.org

2003 walk about six months after she was diagnosed, but was too ill to do it last year.

"Our odds aren't very good, but we have hope," she said. "I have a very positive mental attitude. I am very strong. I don't let it get me down."

Jungnickel attributes her

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TIMEout! Neighbor | Center Stage | DEBBIE FRATINI AND HER FANCY RATS



PHOTOS BY TANNI JARUSAN/DAILY HERALD

Debbie Fratini of Naperville, cuddles with her pet rats. Some of the rodents will compete in the Northern Illinois Rat Organization's first Fancy Rat Show Saturday at the DuPage County Fairgrounds in Wheaton.

Lovable little varmints

Fancy Rat Show planned to diminish dirty myths

BY JILL JEDLOWSKI
Daily Herald Staff Writer

Call someone a no-good, dirty rat in Debbie Fratini's house, and you're likely to hear 120 feet scrambling to defend their honor.

Count rodents like Sugar, Magnolia, Betty, Moody and Sir Suave among the stampede of

Fratini's 30 pet rats that would rush to prove you wrong.

Her furry friends are all sweet, personable creatures, she assures. Domestic rats are as smart as dogs and every bit as loyal and friendly, rat lovers say. They know their names, and some can perform tricks.

Rats even laugh, you know — in ultrasound.

Most of Fratini's rat pack will be featured Saturday in the Northern Illinois Rat Organization's first Fancy Rat Show. The event is similar to a dog show, with a segment during which her rodents and others will be judged. The creature contestants will be rated on criteria such as conformation of the body, ears and tails, as well as

temperament. The judges' panel will include "The Rat Lady," Debbie Ducommun. She is a recognized rat expert with a bachelor's degree in animal behavior. The Californian has authored several books and appeared on "The Tonight Show" and "Late Show

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Magnolia, a Russian blue point Siamese standard rat.



Pancakes, a fawn dumbo rat.



Queenie, a variegated down-under standard rat.



Moody, a rex (curly haired) dumbo rat.

NCC theater teacher brings 'Follies' together

Brian Lynch, fine arts outreach director and instructor of theater at Naperville's North Central College, is director and choreographer of "Follies," which opens Friday at Pfeiffer Hall, 310 E. Benton Ave., and runs this weekend and next.

The story focuses on a reunion of two couples and the demise of the theater where they spent their show-biz glory days.

Daily Herald correspondent Joan Broz talked with Lynch about the show.

What is the process of putting a production together?

We announce our season in early June so students know

If you go

What: "Follies"

Where: North Central College's Pfeiffer Hall, 310 E. Benton, Naperville

When: 8 p.m. Friday and Saturday and 3 p.m. Sunday; also 8 p.m. May 12-14

Tickets: \$15 adults; \$10 students and senior citizens

Info: (630) 637-SHOW

FYI: Contains adult language and situations not suitable for children

what they are coming back to next year. My musical director, Jeordano Martinez, and I decided on "Follies" last May.

Auditions were in March and

See **DRILL** on **PAGE 4**



PAUL MICHNA/DAILY HERALD

Students act out scenes from "Fiddler on the Roof," practicing for tonight's opening at Waubonsie Valley High School in Aurora. About 120 students were involved in the preparations.

Students add special touches to 'Fiddler'

BY SARA HOOKER
Daily Herald Staff Writer

It's been a massive undertaking to put the fiddler on the roof, the singers on the stage and the musicians in the orchestra pit for Waubonsie Valley High School's musical, which begins tonight.

With 120 cast, crew and orchestra members, director David Calvert said coordination is of utmost importance in recreating the scene of early 1900s Russia for "Fiddler on the Roof." Students began work months

If you go

What: "Fiddler on the Roof"

Where: Waubonsie Valley High School auditorium, 2590 Ogden Ave., Aurora

When: 7:30 p.m. today, Friday and Saturday

Cost: \$8 adults, \$6 students

Info: (630) 375-3310

ago to incorporate the "Waubonsie touch" throughout the musical, such as creating 16

beards to make the gentlemen appear more authentic, said Calvert as he aged his cast with wrinkles and gray streaks in their only full dress rehearsal Tuesday.

"That (attention to detail) is a reflection of the entire show," Calvert said.

The play is set in a small Jewish village in Russia around the premise of a dairyman, Tevye, his wife and their daughters and the traditions they must follow under Tsarist rule.

Students built a house for the family and hunted down period

items such as a potbellied stove, wheelbarrows and an old sewing machine that dates to the late 1800s.

"To build all of the set pieces to accommodate the cast is huge," said Larry Knudtson, tech director who has worked on musicals at the school for 11 years.

Then they had to fit them backstage.

On the stage, Vicky Stycor, 15, a freshman, walked around with notebook sketches, checking

See **FIDDLER** on **PAGE 2**

Hot tickets

Heritage

• Xilin Asian Community Center celebrates National Asian Pacific American Heritage Month with performances by 11 Asian ethnic groups from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Saturday at Naperville North High School, 899 N. Mill St. Tickets are \$10 and \$20 and available at the community center, 1163 E. Ogden Ave., Suite 300A, in the Iroquois Shopping Center. Info: (630) 355-4322 or www.xilin.org

Dance

• The Barefoot Hawaiians, an

authentic Polynesian dance troupe that performs native dances of Samoa, New Zealand, Tahiti and Hawaii, performs at 7 p.m. today in meeting rooms A & B at Naperville's 95th Street Library, 3015 Cedar Glade Road. Free with current library card. Info: (630) 961-4100, ext. 2231.

Runs

• The Relay for Life to celebrate cancer survivors and remember victims runs 6 p.m. Saturday to 6 a.m. Sunday at North Central College, 455 S. Brainard St., Naperville. Info: (630) 932-141 or www.cancer.org.

Swims

• The Great Duck Race, Pet Parade and Carnival runs 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Rotary Hill along Naperville's Riverwalk. The ducks will be dumped into the DuPage River for their race at 1 p.m. Info: (630) 848-5000 or www.napervilleparks.org.

Drives

• The Lisle Area Chamber of Commerce sponsors its Expo and Classic Car Show from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday at Benedictine University's Rice Center, Maple Avenue and College Road. Info: (630) 964-0052.

Coming Friday in Time out!

The Chicago area's most complete entertainment guide!

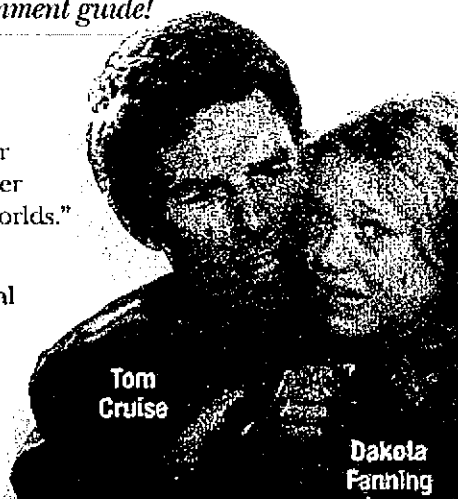
Don't worry, it's finally summer blockbuster season

Will Hollywood wow us with a load of summer blockbusters? Dann Gire previews the summer films, including Tom Cruise in "War of the Worlds."

Plus

New from Chicago: The up-and-coming local band, Fall Out Boy, debuts on a major label. Mark Guarino has their story.

He loves standup: Brad Garrett of "Everybody Loves Raymond" is back where he started, doing standup comedy.



Tom Cruise

Dakota Fanning

D3

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Kids can get up-close look at frogs, turtles

BY MARIE LAZZARA

Daily Herald Correspondent

Frogs and turtles may be all wet to some, but for others, especially children, the animals are just fine.

The Naperville Park District and Morton Arboretum in Lisle have partnered to create two education classes highlighting the water-loving critters this spring and summer in Naperville.

The first, scheduled for 10 a.m. Friday, allows participants to learn about frogs and then go in search of them.

Jeanne Maher, program manager of adult general education and environmental classes for the park district, said the class is geared to 4- and 5-year-old children and their parents.

Participants will learn about frogs, their life cycles and the species that are native to DuPage County. They also will work on crafts during the program at Knoch Knolls Park, 336 Knoch Knolls Road.

Maher says the new program — simply titled Frogs — received such a hopping response that it's already filled.

"Certainly, it's a subject

If you go

What: Naperville Park District program on turtles

When: 10 a.m. July 14

Where: Knoch Knolls Park, 336 Knoch Knolls Road

Cost: \$14 for residents (child and parent), \$20 for others

Info: (630) 848-5000

This week: The park district's program on frogs already is full

matter that's very intriguing," she said.

Though the frog class is closed, a similar one featuring turtles is planned for summer.

The turtle program is slated for 10 a.m. July 14 at Knoch Knolls Park along the DuPage River. The class will cost \$14 for residents and \$20 for others and covers both the child and a parent.

The woman who will explain the watery and murky world of both frogs this week and turtles in July is Elizabeth Fedofsky, coordinator of youth programs for the Morton Arboretum.

Leaping into some frog facts,

Fedofsky is quick to point out how males sing to mark their territories and how they lure females.

Species in this area include spring peeper, cricket frog and the American toad, she said.

A lot of people get frogs and toads confused, Fedofsky said, but you generally can tell them apart by their appearance.

Fedofsky said frogs have smooth, moist skin; longer hind legs and webbed hind feet; and lay larger eggs. Toads have drier skins; broader, flatter bodies; shorter hind legs for walking; and produce long, stringy eggs.

"Frogs, in general, are pretty amazing because they are bio indicators. They can tell us a lot about the environment," she said.

"(For example, if there's water pollution, they will be very much affected by that. Also, because their skin is so thin, they're very sensitive to ultraviolet rays."

Turtles, on the other hand, are similar to frogs in one important way: they hibernate in the mud at the bottom of ponds.

Native species include the snapping turtle, spiny softshell and painted turtle.

"Turtles are known for living



A Naperville Park District program on frogs is booked for this week, but there's another one on turtles coming up in July.

very long lives," she said.

"Some turtles can live to 100 years." And here's something you probably didn't know: there are actually 60 bones in a turtle shell.

"Of course, you would never find turtles without their shells ... their backbone is in their shell," Fedofsky said. "They live on every continent except for Antarctica."

Whatever the animal, Fedof-

sky said children almost always like seeing them up close and personal.

"Animals are always fascinating to children because they're so animated, palpable, they can do amazing things," she said. "Frogs and turtles are small enough so we can show them to children."

For turtle class registration and information, call the park district at (630) 848-5000.

Live music

Brookdale Music, 1550 N. Route 59, Naperville: Anatoly Torchinsky gives a classical piano recital at 7 p.m. Saturday, \$12. (630) 983-5100 or Jmogan@aol.com.

Carzz Seafood Grillaria, 216 S. Washington St., Naperville: DJ, 9:30 p.m. to close, today; DJ, 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. Friday; salsa at 7 p.m. to close Sunday. (630) 778-1944.

Club Mamalu (in Features Bar & Grill), 10 W. Chicago Ave., Naperville: DJ spins '70s and '80s hits at 9 p.m. Friday and Saturday. No cover. (630) 416-3310.

Fat Bean Coffeehouse, 2969 Artesian Road, (Route 59 and 87th St.), Naperville: Poetry open mike at 7 p.m. tonight; open mike at 7 p.m. Friday, \$4 drink ticket required at the door. (630) 922-9821 or www.fat-bean.com.

Frankie's Blue Room, 16 W. Chicago Ave., Naperville: Salsa Under the Stars at 8 p.m. today with DJ music and salsa dance lessons; The Neverly Brothers with classic pop of the 1950s and '60s at 9:30 p.m. Friday; Mississippi Heat play the blues music at 9 p.m. Saturday, cover charges vary. Swing dance lessons at 8 p.m. Wednesday, followed by live music from The Rhythm Rockets at 9 p.m., \$7. (630) 416-4898.

Miss Kitty's Saloon, 634 E. Ogden Ave., Naperville: Karaoke tonight; live music some Saturdays; open mike at 9 p.m. Wednesdays. (630) 357-2420.

Quigley's Irish Pub, 43 E. Jefferson Ave., Naperville: Live music at 8 p.m. every Thursday of the month; Live music at 9 p.m. Fridays and Saturday; Karaoke with Clint from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m. Wednesday. (630) 428-4774. quigleyspub.tripod.com/index.htm.

Sullivan's Steakhouse, 244 Main St., Naperville: Live jazz nightly. (630) 305-0230.

• To submit a listing of a live music appearance in the Naperville area, e-mail information to sdibble@dailyherald.com.

Fiddler: Musical has been a team effort

Continued from Page 1

that props were in the right location to trim time between scene changes.

In the orchestra pit, members played and replayed pieces of the musical to perfect their timing. Songs include "Sunrise, Sunset," "Tradition" and "Matchmaker."

Leslie Smith, 16, a sophomore, plays Tevye's daughter Chava and sings "Matchmaker" in one of the opening scenes.

"I'm the most rebellious (daughter)," said Smith, whose passion is singing.

She gave other members of the crew props for their work.

"I really like all the set pieces, and it really helps set the scene

Rats: Pets are clean and kind, owner says

Continued from Page 1

with David Letterman."

"I'm not looking forward to having to pick," Ducommun said this week. "I think the competition will be tough."

Fratini is not only the secretary of the regional rat fan club, which received its nonprofit status last week — she's also a founding member.

Just look at all their cuddly, cartoon-like characteristics: Twitchy little whiskers, exaggerated ears and comical squeals. What's not to love?

But direct your attention toward the rear, and a rat's cute quotient plummets. Those tails — long, fleshy and worm-like — can be a major turn-off. One flick of the appendage causes some people to recoil in horror.

Musophobia — the fear of rats and mice — is baseless and unreasonable when it comes to domestics, Fratini said. She blames horror movies and ignorance for the bad rap.

They're not dirty and vicious. Quite the contrary: They're clean, kind and fun-loving. They groom themselves like cats.

These guys are far from the untamed, ferocious villains they're often made out to be. Part of the fear is that people look at pet rats and automatically associate them with sewers or the plague.

"Domestic and wild rats are as different as dogs and wolves," Ducommun said. "People see them and think they're filthy, eat garbage and bite babies. And that's just not true."

It's that kind of stereotyping that Fratini and her organization aim to quash. The group's purpose is two-fold: social and educational.

"We want to introduce rats to the public and dispel those myths and the bad press rats have gotten," she said.

Saturday's show, which is open to the public, will feature contests and educational exhibits. Ducommun also will make a presentation.

Claudia Nix of Aurora became enamored with rats long ago. She founded the Rat Association of America and is president of the Northern Illinois Rat Organization.



Debbie Fratini of Naperville, spends some quality time with a couple of her pet rats.

She's hoping Saturday provides a venue to help people warm up to the idea of pet rats.

"They are just an amazing pet, and they're so social," Nix said.

The event also will make for a great networking experience for people who already have them in their homes.

There will be information on pet rat care and ethical breeding practices.

"We want to reach out to people on all levels," Nix said. "Even people who are scared should come out and see them not in the flesh, but in the fur."

Naperville's Fratini first was introduced to rats seven years ago, when her then-11-year-old daughter asked for one for her birthday.

Today, rats are her full-time hobby. She's a breeder, as well.

There is at least one drawback to having rats as companions, though. They only live about two years.

Fratini keeps her collection in 11 cages throughout her home. They all get turns out of the cage for daily exercise. And they lap up the attention.

Walk into one of the rat's rooms and they jump up and press against the side of the wire cage to let you know they're in the mood to play.

"My husband says it's like

San Quentin in here because they're all holding onto the bars," Fratini said.

At snack time, they're partial to popcorn, noodles, chicken, fruits and veggies.

Favorite toy? Toilet paper rolls.

Best place to nap? Miniature hammocks in their cages.

And their favorite perch? Human shoulders.

"I carry them all around and kiss on them and love them," Fratini said. "How could you say, 'Oh, yuck?'"

If you go

What: Fancy Rat Show, sponsored by the Northern Illinois Rat Organization

When: 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Saturday

Where: DuPage County Fairgrounds, 2015 Manchester Road, Wheaton

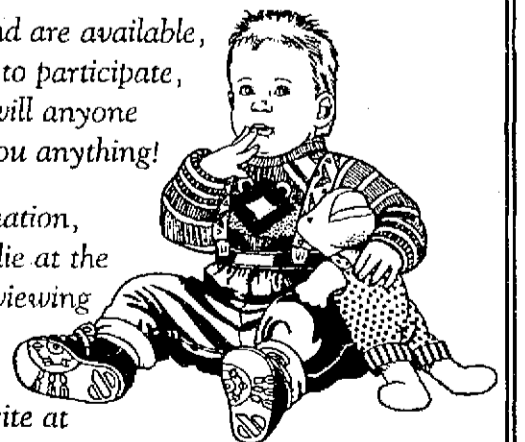
Cost: \$3; free for seniors and kids younger than 13

MOMS
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0-5 YEARS?

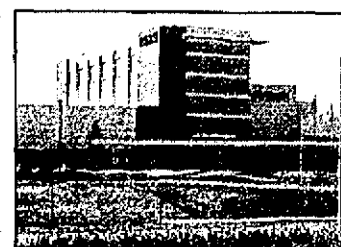
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Ryan Patino rehearses for tonight's opening of "Fiddler on the Roof" at Waubonsie Valley High School in Aurora.