POSTCARD FROM LAURA

The sweet scent of memories

By Laura C. Johnson
Special to The Register Star

I am a romantic not a realist. How dreamy it must have been to wear a finely woven, ruffled linen blouse and take a stroll on the famous Promenade des Anglais — the beachfront walkway of the English in Nice — just like the well-to-do British, as was the fashion in the 19th century. The whalebone corset which would not have allowed one to breath in the heat of a mid-June summer's day did not enter into my dream.

My vision of life centuries ago is too sweet for reality. A book I recently read on the history of shirts stated that common folk owned only one shirt — hence the phrase gave "the shirt off your back."

In the medieval western world, bathing was an annual event. The phrase "don't throw the baby out with the bath water" meant one tub of water was used with the eldest being the first to bathe in the clean water and the youngest the last in the same tub of water. Because the water would be so filthy, you couldn't see the baby. Originally, marriages were most commonly made in spring for purely hygienic motives since this annual bath took place in springtime. Herbal sachets or nosegays were used during other times of the year to keep one from fainting when the wind blew the wrong way.

Perfumes as we know them were introduced most likely through trade with the Arabs more than 600 hundred years ago, and cultivating flowers in the south of France became an important industry. Various kings and queens started the French fashion trend of sprinkling flower-scented waters on gloves, furniture, and fans. Josephine, wife of Napoleon, loved the heavier musk scent so much so that her boudoir had that musky scent even 60 years after her death.

Of all of our senses, the sense of smell elicits the strongest memories. The medical reason is, "odor information is stored in long-term memory and has strong connections to our emotional memory. So, as I sit with my nose pressed against the window of our motor coach and look at row after row of the glorious well-known lavender fields of Southern France, I start to "talk" to my grandmother, Marie. She passed away several years ago; but because I am a romantic, I had a conversation with her. I could smell the lavender perfume which she adored and so she will always be with me. Maybe now you are also dreaming of a particular scent; perhaps lily of the valley was your grandmother's favorite. And, I ask, "Aren't we all romantics as sweet scents let us dream?"

HITCHED

From Page C10

Having the girls around helps with all of it because they keep us active. There's not nearly as much time spent laying on the couch as there used to be.

But it's more than just the non-stop lifestyle children bring. After Ellie arrived in our world, something clicked for each of us that we need to be around for a long time and set good examples with our health.

I guess we've done a good job so far. Ellie doesn't refer to her shoes as sneakers, she insists they are "running shoes."

So I guess I'll keep lacing up my shoes and lifting those weights with Brian. But he definitely owes me a shoulder rub to help these aching muscles.

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BOOKS

From Page C10

each of her children when they were 5 months old.

Lill leaves it to her 4-year-old son to pick which stories to read based on books that were introduced to him by his preschool's library. For the past two years, The United Way has teamed up with Fairview Preschool to give each child a new book every month to promote reading at home. They introduced him to the "Llama Llama" (by Anna Dewdney) books that way.

"Logan is really into all of Mo Willems' books right now," she added. "They are funny, and he likes to go to bed laughing. (It) seems to help him sleep. We don't really read many classics. He likes the funny, sarcastic stuff."

Scholastic Education offers suggestions for boosting reading skills on its website, scholastic.com. One tip is to have children read aloud. Speaking forces children to slow their reading process, which helps improve focus and encourages comprehension.

"We usually take turns," Lill said. "I read him a book, then it's his turn and he reads to us. He's gotten really good."

Meyers said the key is to make reading fun.

"It doesn't have to be a horrible chore that they have to do," Meyers said. "You can make it part of your routine, and then they start to look forward to that."

SUBURBIA

From Page C10

"Not a Christmas song either," said my daughter.

"Eye-a-rama-lama-ding dong?" I asked hopefully.

"Don't hurt yourself, honey," said my husband.

It's Ay-ya-fi-ah-la-yo-kull," corrected my son. "It means, Island-Mountain-Glacier," he explained.

"I think they forgot a word," I said.

"What?"

"VOLCANO!" I shouted.

I was pretty sure the guide was horrified by my attempts to speak Icelandic. But I was intent on giving it my best shot. Whenever we traveled to a foreign country, we always tried to learn a little bit of the language before we got there. We feel like it's a courtesy to the locals to at least try to speak their language, even if we mangle it so badly it sounds like we are speaking Troll. My kids are really good at picking up languages, but I'm not, and typically the only thing I end up being able to say proficiently is, "where's the bathroom?" The good news is, I can ask for the bathroom in about six languages. Unfortunately, most of our vacations are adventure trips, which makes "where's the bathroom?" a pretty useless phrase when you're in a rainforest or on a glacier. This means I have also learned the answers to my question in about six different languages, and now know six different ways to say, "Behind a rock."

Some languages are clearly easier to speak then others. Italian, for example, pretty much rolls off the tongue. Icelandic ... not so much. It might have to do with the fact that many of the Icelandic words are about 20 letters long with back-to-back consonants that don't typically go together in English, such as y-k-j, as in Reykjavik.

"Where is the volcano we're hiking to, anyway?" I asked, trying very hard to come up with a sentence that did not include the name, Eyjafjallajökull in it.

The guide laughed. "It is here," she said, pointing to a spot on a large map of Iceland on the wall. "Between Hekla and Katla."

"What are Hekla and Katla?" I wondered.

"Two other volcanoes."

I blinked. "You have two volcanoes called Hekla and Katla and the one we're visiting is called Eye-a-fi-a-whatchamacallit?"

"That is the one that is most interesting because it is recently erupted," she explained. "It is still hot."

"What do you mean, hot?" I asked.

"We can only stay up there for five minutes and then your hiking boots will start to melt. Plus it is very hard to see through the steam."

I blinked again. "So let me get this straight. We are hiking for eight hours to a place I can't pronounce, to get to a place where we can't stand, to see something that we can't see?"

The guide shook her head yes.

"Sounds awesome," I said. "I just have one more question."

"Yah?"

"Where's the bathroom?"

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Aug 6	Wisconsin State Fair - West Allis, WI	$49pp
Aug 15	Brewsin' to Cruisin' - Milwaukee, WI	$94pp
Aug 19	Chicago Funday - Chicago, IL	$37pp
Aug 28	Southern Crossroads, Rock Island, IL	$97pp
Sep 7	Arlington Race Course, Arlington Heights, IL	$57pp
Sep 10	South Branch Grille, Chicago, IL	$89pp
Sept 27	Warrens Cranberry Festival, Warrens, WI	$56pp
Oct 5	Autumn Color Train, North Freedom, WI	$99pp
Oct 23	Mary Todd Lincoln, LaSalle, IL	$93pp
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SWEENY

From Page C1

Detroit.

Me: I wrote a column saying that if the leaders were serious about solving the pension crisis, they would have done it by now. I said I fear they're just going to raise taxes.

Brady: The problem is so big that if we are going to protect everything they've earned to date, we're going to have to change the way those pensions grow, which means reforming from a 3 percent compounded increase to a more realistic cost-of-living increase, which could include a suspension of the cost-of-living increase until we shore up the overall funding. That does include stronger funding language, which doesn't allow legislators to ignore their responsibility to fund the pensions.

Me: Which of the two plans on the table do you support?

Brady: I voted for (House Speaker Michael) Madigan's plan as a member of the conference committee. I agreed to keep an open mind. Any plan that doesn't have significant savings is a false promise to the people who paid into the pensions and to the taxpayers. So there's an absolute threshold of savings you have to get to if you're going to have meaningful reform.

Me: So far I've interviewed GOP candidates Bruce Rauner, Kirk Dillard and now you. How will you differentiate yourself?

Brady: I come from downstate Illinois. I operate a title company, a real estate company, a property management company, a restoration company, and I have an interest in my brother's home building business. I have to meet a payroll, so I understand from that perspective what people (in business) go through. I have a very concise record of not supporting tax increases. As I understand it, my three opponents are not opposed to continuing the Democrats' temporary tax increase. I oppose that.

Me: So how do you make up for the $7 billion in revenue from the increase?

Brady: You prioritize state spending by managing it better; you focus on revenues associated with job creation. We've lost 290,000 jobs in the last five years. I believe that (growing the economy) would have a bottom-line effect to the budget of over $4 billion.

Me: The next governor will very likely have a Democratic Legislature. How would you be make Illinois better for business given that we are now rated one of the worst states in which to do business. We're number 44 out of 50!

Brady: We've seen Republican governors get things done in spite of a General Assembly controlled by Democrats in one chamber or both. We currently have a chief executive that doesn't seem to have the ability to lead on these important issues. Quinn has failed to exercise the role of his office when it comes to dealing with the Legislature. You have to lead the Legislature with a proactive agenda and get buy-in from lawmakers. It's the same in business; you get buy-in from your employees and customers.

Me: What three things would you do to make Illinois more business-friendly?

Brady: First, put our fiscal house in order. That means pension reform, a balanced budget and letting the temporary income tax increase go away. Second, you've got to get rid of the wasteful cost associated with business; the regulatory burden, the workers compensation system, the unemployment insurance system. Third, you have to go out and sell the value of having a business in Illinois. Talk about the fact that we're geographically located in the center of the economic universe. You've got to talk about the vast road and rail and river infrastructure, the universities, the manufacturers we have. You have to sell those values to businesses that are already here and to those who could benefit from a presence in Illinois. But until you solve one and two, it's hard to do number three.

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BILL

From Page C1

them when they do.

Courier said the newly signed Gang Crime Witness Protection Act will be another useful tool for her office to prosecute gangs.

"It serves a legitimate purpose to protect individuals," she said. "In the right case I'd be willing to use it."

The Gang Witness Protection Act was one of two bills aimed at curbing gang violence and signed by Quinn this month.

The governor also put his signature on House Bill 2768, which requires school principals and assistant principals to report any illegal weapons use or possession, or any illegal gang activity, to law enforcement officials. The bill, sponsored by Welch and Sen. Tom Cullerton, D-Villa Park, also requires courts and law enforcement officials to notify school principals when one of their students is detained for illegal gang activity. The law takes effect Jan. 1.

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FRACKING

Start of operations still months away

By Doug Finke
GateHouse Media Illinois

SPRINGFIELD — The lure of potentially thousands of jobs for an economically distressed part of the state has some people anxiously waiting for the start of horizontal hydraulic fracturing in Illinois.

So much so that some people are already expressing frustration with the pace of implementing the regulations that were signed into law by Gov. Pat Quinn last month.

"In a conference call we had a week ago, the people on the conference call were not happy with the speed at which the regulations are being passed," said Rep. Mike Bost, R-Murphysboro. "So they're putting pressure on them to speed the process up."

Bost said the conference call included lawmakers, industry representatives and others with a stake in the fracking regulations. He said the frustration is coming from both lawmakers and industry representatives.

"DNR (Department of Natural Resources) is trying desperately to get things online, ready to go," Bost said. "As always, the industry naturally wants to get going and start putting people to work. We're encouraging them to speed up as fast as they can."

Mark Denzler, vice president of the Illinois Manufacturer's Association, said he knows companies are chomping at the bit to get fracking, which uses high-pressure mixtures of water, chemicals and sand to crack rock formations deep underground to release oil and gas.

"There's a number of companies that are ready to go and get their permits," said Denzler, who helped negotiate the fracking bill. "They're anxious to get going."

'Holding pattern'

Illinois lawmakers spent months negotiating fracking regulations before finally approving a bill in the closing days of the spring session. Supporters of the regulations touted them as the toughest in the nation. In the end, both industry and environmental groups supported the bill.

The bill itself laid out regulations in detail.

"With the depth and precision and thoroughness of the actual statute that we created, that should mitigate the need for a lot of regulations to fill in gaps because we attempted to do as much of that through statute as possible," said Rep. John Bradley, D-Marion, who led negotiations on the regulations.

Bradley said he's been in touch with DNR, and "they're moving forward with implementing the legislation, from what I'm told, as quickly and as prudently as possible."

Still, the agency must come up with additional rules to implement the regulations, which means going through the sometimes cumbersome process set up to do that.

"Things are in a holding pattern from our perspective until the (rules) are ready and sent out and folks have a chance to look at it and comment on it," said DNR spokesman Tim Schweizer.

He said it would probably be fall before rules are first available for public review.

"We're working on it as quickly as we can, but we want to do it right," Schweizer said.

It will be longer than that before fracking actually begins to happen. In an interview with the Illinois Channel in June, DNR Director Marc Miller said a "realistic expectation" for fracking to begin in Illinois is next spring.

"We'll try to do it sooner, but we want to make sure we do it right, we do it thoroughly," Miller said. "Spring is a reasonable expectation."

Job creation

DNR isn't faced only with drafting the rules needed for fracking. The agency is also in the process of hiring 50 to 55 new people it will need to administer the fracking regulations, from well inspectors to hearing officers.

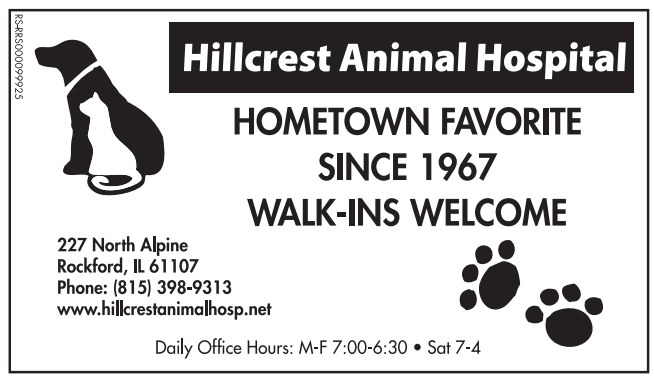
Fracking proponents have said the practice could create thousands of new jobs. Miller said 700 to 800 wells a year could be started. The industry is looking at the New Albany Shale formation that extends through southern and southeastern Illinois, areas that have seen their economic fortunes wane in recent years.

Fracking critics question both the job-creation estimates and how many of the jobs will go to Illinois residents. However, the Illinois Department of Employment Security is taking steps to link Illinoisans with fracking jobs.

The department is in the process of creating industry-specific sites on its illinois-joblink.com website. One of those will be for fracking. Companies will be able to list fracking job openings that are available, and people will be able to post resumes on the site that employers can review.

"One of the motivating things for creating the site for fracking is to increase the opportunities for Illinois residents," said IDES spokesman Greg Rivara.

The agency is still in the process of developing the site. Rivara did not know when it would be completed.



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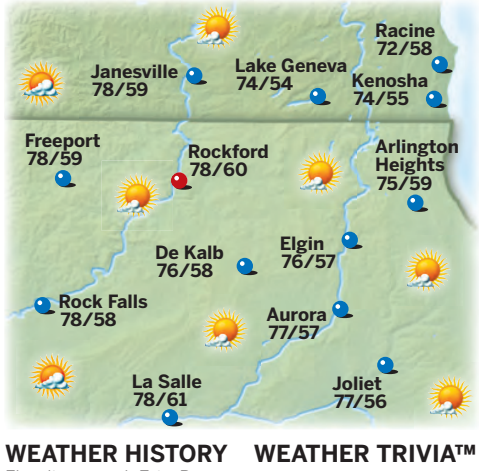
WEATHER REPORT

LOCAL FIVE-DAY FORECAST

TODAY	MON	TUE	WED	THU
Nice with lots of sun	A couple of t-storms	Thunderstorms possible	A t-storm possible	Not as warm
78°/60°	76°/65°	84°/71°	84°/63°	78°/60°

REGIONAL WEATHER



ALMANAC

As of 5 pm yesterday

Temperatures

High	82°
Low	60°
Normal high	83°
Normal low	62°
Record high	99° (1947)
Record low	46° (1912)

Precipitation

As of 5 pm yesterday	Trace
Month to date	Trace
Normal	0.44"
Year to date	29.08"
Normal	21.51"

SUN AND MOON

New	First	Full	Last
8/6	8/14	8/20	8/28

Sunrise today	5:52 am
Sunset tonight	8:12 pm
Moonrise today	3:53 am
Moonset today	6:35 pm

Forecasts and graphics provided by **AccuWeather, Inc.** ©2013
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REGIONAL CITIES

	Today	Mon
Aurora	77/57	74/63
Burlington	79/64	81/70
Chicago	77/59	74/66
Davenport	79/61	76/66
Decatur	78/59	78/68
DeKalb	76/58	73/64
Des Plaines	75/59	74/66
Dubuque	76/60	74/65
Galena	76/59	73/64
Hammond	77/58	78/66
Kalamazoo	75/51	76/60
Kankakee	79/56	76/65
Milwaukee	73/60	76/63
Morris	77/57	74/63
Munster	75/57	75/65
Oak Lawn	76/59	76/66
Saugatuck	74/52	75/63
South Haven	72/51	74/62
Tinley Park	76/58	75/65
Waukegan	72/57	75/64

NATIONAL CITIES

	Today	Mon
Anchorage	66/56	66/56
Atlanta	89/69	89/72
Boston	78/58	75/60
Cleveland	73/55	75/59
Dallas	103/80	102/80
Denver	91/63	93/64
Honolulu	88/74	88/75
Las Vegas	103/83	101/83
Los Angeles	75/62	77/61
Miami	90/78	90/78
Minneapolis	78/63	81/70
New Orleans	92/77	92/77
New York	80/60	78/62
Orlando	93/75	92/76
Philadelphia	83/61	79/62
Phoenix	106/87	104/86
San Francisco	65/53	64/55
Seattle	83/58	83/58
Wash., DC	83/62	81/65

WEATHER HISTORY

Flooding struck Erie, Pa., on Aug. 4, 1915, killing 75 people, destroying bridges and inundating many streets. Such sudden local floods are major hazards in the summer.

WEATHER TRIVIA™

Q: How does August rank in terms of Atlantic hurricane production?

A: Second; September is 1st; October is 3rd

OBAMA'S ELUSIVE EXPORTS

Obama likely to miss goal of doubling exports

By Tom Raum
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Back in January 2010, President Barack Obama set a lofty goal of doubling U.S. exports in five years.

With just 18 months to go to 2015, that target seems to be slipping beyond reach and has vanished from White House talking points.

Blame tepid U.S. manufacturing growth, the lingering weak global economy, and a stronger U.S. dollar, which makes it harder to sell American goods and services overseas.

Monthly export numbers have been mostly stagnant this year. And only a scant 6,000 manufacturing jobs were added last month, according to Labor Department jobs statistics released Friday.

"The goal of doubling exports keeps getting harder to achieve, not easier," said Alan Tonelson, research fellow at the U.S. Business and Industry Council, which represents about 2,000 mostly family owned manufacturing companies. "We're actually backsliding, not making progress."

Obama and administration officials counter by asserting that 7.2 million jobs — 500,000 of them in manufacturing — have been added since job losses bottomed in March 2010, two months after Obama set his doubling-exports goal.

"Over the past four years, for the first time since the 1990s, the number of manufacturing jobs hasn't gone down. It's gone up. Now we have to build on that progress," Obama said this week in Chattanooga, Tenn.

LOTTERY, AUG. 3

ILLINOIS
Pick 3 midday: 5-7-7
Pick 3 evening: 2-1-8
Pick 4 midday: 0-0-0-8
Pick 4 evening: -2-9-4
My3 midday: 1-8-4
My3 evening: 0-6-6
Lucky Day Lotto
Midday: 7-9-22-35-37
Evening: 11-26-28-34-38
Jackpot: $150,000
Lotto: 2-3-11-26-27-46
Extra Shot: 22
Jackpot: $4.45 million

WISCONSIN
Pick 3: 1-5-1
Pick 4: 0-6-8-4
Badger 5: 5-8-18-20-29
SuperCash:
19-20-22-29-31-33
Megabucks:
7-13-19-26-33-40
Jackpot: $1 million
Powerball:
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Powerball: 15
Jackpot: $300 million

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U.S. EMBASSY SECURITY

Terror threat prompts weekend closings

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The threat of a terrorist attack led to the weekend closure of 21 U.S. embassies and consulates in the Muslim world and a global travel warning to Americans, the first such alert since an announcement before the 10th anniversary of the Sept. 11 strikes.

"There is a significant threat stream and we're reacting to it," Gen. Martin Dempsey, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, told ABC News, according to interview excerpts released Friday. He said the threat was "more specific" than previous ones and the "intent is to attack Western, not just U.S. interests."

The warning comes less than a year since last year's deadly Sept. 11 attack on a U.S. diplomatic post in Benghazi, Libya, and with the Obama administration and Congress determined to prevent any similar breach of an American embassy or consulate.

The State Department's warning urged U.S. travelers to take extra precautions overseas. It cited potential dangers involved with public transportation systems and other prime sites for tourists, and noted that previous attacks have centered on subway and rail networks as well as airplanes and boats.

Travelers were advised to sign up for State Department alerts and register with U.S. consulates in the countries they visit.

The Harry S. Truman Building, headquarters for the State Department, is seen in Washington on March 9, 2009. The United States issued an extraordinary global travel warning to Americans on Friday about the threat of an al-Qaida attack and closed down 21 embassies and consulates across the Muslim world for the weekend. ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE PHOTO

The statement said that al-Qaida or its allies might target either U.S. government or private American interests. The alert expires on Aug. 31.

The State Department said the potential for terrorism was particularly acute in the Middle East and North Africa, with a possible attack occurring on or coming from the Arabian Peninsula. The diplomatic facilities affected stretch from Mauritania in northwest Africa to Afghanistan.

U.S. officials pointed specifically to Yemen, the home of al-Qaida's most dangerous affiliate and the network blamed for several notable plots against the United States, from the foiled Christmas Day 2009 effort to bomb an airliner over Detroit to the explosives-laden parcels intercepted the following year aboard cargo flights.

"Current information suggests that al-Qaida and affiliated organizations continue to plan terrorist attacks both in the region and beyond, and that they may focus efforts to conduct attacks in the period between now and the end of August," a department statement said.

Yemen's president, Abdo Rabby Mansour Hadi, met with U.S. President Barack Obama at the White House on Thursday, where both leaders cited strong counterterrorism cooperation. This past week, Yemen's military reported a U.S. drone strike killed six alleged al-Qaida militants in the group's southern strongholds.

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