Stelzenmüller to speak on German relations with other world powers

Former Pakistani official Ahmed to examine American response to ISIS, European violence

Stelzenmüller to speak on German relations with other world powers

STELZENMÜLLER

Constance Stelzenmüller wrote earlier this year that “history is not destiny.” It’s a phrase she believes applies to many aspects of contemporary European foreign and security policy and the future of the European Union.

Stelzenmüller, who will speak at 10:30 a.m. today in the Amphitheater, is a senior fellow in the Center for European Policy and the future of the European Union.

Born and educated in Germany, Stelzenmüller sees Germany’s relations with the U.S. and Russia in a transactional, evolutionary phase.

From her German perspective, recent years’ WikiLeaks revelations have certainly been a distraction for relations with America, but “this must be seen in perspective.”

“From an intelligence perspective, West Germany was the playground for foreign intelligence services for decades after the Second World War,” she said. “The German and U.S. services were extraordinarily close, despite the ‘original sin’ of German services recruiting ex-Nazi intelligence officers.”

On a pragmatic level, she said, the two nations must cooperate, and that will continue, “though there is an embarrassment factor. Politics can be theater in the U.S., so public posturing and polls can be taken with a grain of salt” at times.

“Germany took in a lot of public opinion after Wikileaks, but German views of the U.S. were sliding anyway over the Iraq war, which German parties did not believe was legitimate,” she said. “Germans felt differently about the Afghan war in the context of 9/11.”

On the Prowl

Stelzenmüller to speak on German relations with other world powers
The Briefly column appears on Page 2 and is intended to provide a brief snapshot of the variety of activities available at the institution. If a meeting or activity is featured that day in a story, it should not be repeated in Briefly. Submit information to Lauren Scherf in the Daily’s editorial office. Please provide name of organization, time and place of meeting and one contact person’s name with phone number. Deadline is 4 p.m. five days before publication.

Science Circle presentation
The CLSC Alumni Association Science Circle will host “Can We Live Forever?” by Alan Koslow at 9:15 a.m. today in the Hall of Christ. The presentation in Swedish, French and Spanish at 1:15 p.m. Wednesday. "Henry V" Tech Rehearsal “Sneak Peek" at 4:15 p.m. Thursday, there will be a Tree Talk with arborist Bruce Robinson at the Burgeson Nature Classroom. "Of Mice and Men" reading number are limiting to two books a week. A growing number are limiting their selection to one genre. “Managing a Dual Mission of the Community While Fundraising for the Institution.” Satisfying the community isn’t easy, he said. It includes carrying items that community members have come up with, whether or not they will sell. One of the rationales is that the bookstore is owned by the community to a very large extent,” Rothfus said. “Without the imprimatur of a publisher such as Penguin Random House, he cannot assume that such book is marketable.” He has to be the editor and determine which books pass through the gateway.

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Following yesterday’s first Middle East Update, Geoffrey Kemp will continue the program with Michelle Dunne at 3:30 p.m., today in the Hall of Philosophy. Up for discussion today is Dunne, the senior associate in the Middle East Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, will delve into the broad Middle East trends, in the region, the growth of non-state actors, and human rights violations. She also said the government enforces political repression and many of the people, it’s the arts, especially considering the fuels on the arts. „Everybody is here because we’re interested in some curious about something,” Osgood said. For many of those people, it’s the arts, and for many of those it’s the arts.

The details for next season are still undecided. Osgood said his two priorities include bringing diverse talent and concepts to Chautauqua and raising the profile of opera on the grounds. Effectively, this means different approaches to the art executed in unique venues. „I’m looking for forward to increase the number of times we are out in the community and reaching people where they live, where they relax, where they talk, stroll, hangout.”

Steven Osgood makes note taking to his conductor’s score during a 2013 Peter Grimes dress rehearsal. Osgood will succeed Jay Lesenger as artistic and general director of the Chautauqua Opera Company.
Claire Nahal, a clarinetist with the US Army Band and the Wolf Parade, has been awarded a fellowship for her orchestra.

"I look forward to being a part of these performances," said Nahal. "This is a great opportunity."
The Chautauqua Corporation annual meeting began Monday morning with the admittance of the audience from the floor — something that did not happen previously.

Chairman of the Chautauqua Institution Board of Trustees James A. Pardo Jr., held Saturday morning in the Hall of Philosophy. It was followed by the second Trustees Open Forum of the season which Pardo also led. Issues concerning corporation governance, programming and the Amphitheater were brought up during the meeting.

Thursday meetings were brought before the corporate membership bill. Bill Follansbee presented the first motion, which read: “The members of the Chautauqua Corporation request the Board of Trustees of Chautauqua Institution to (A) amend by the law of the state the by-laws of the corporation so as to provide all meetings of the Chautauqua Institution Board of Trustees be open to attendance by members of the corporation; (B) provide that a quorum of portions of meetings of portions of meetings of the Board of Trustees shall be constituted as stated in the New York Open Meetings Law. The board shall permit a meeting of part of a meeting of the Board of Trustees to also consider other and additional business not included in the best practice, to provide for the presence and participation of members in its governance activities.”

The motion was seconded by Follansbee and was approved by unanimous consent.

“Funding for lights in the area has been ordered for the Pier Building as well. Funding has been ordered for the Pier Building as well. Funding has been ordered for the Pier Building as well.” Dilley said.

Pardo said that the Institution’s 1902 charter is clear that only the board of trustees can amend corporation bylaws, referring to the first motion, and that the board would take up the members’ motions for serious consideration.

The second motion, presented by Bill Follansbee, also included the second Trustees Open Forum, which read, “This has been a very long season, yet the Chautauqua Amphitheater was brought up several times on the agenda. Klingensmith began his term in November. Rather than the usual format, presenting a motion by a speaker from the board or institution administration, Pardo decided it would be more valuable for the community to open the floor for a question and answer session.”

Pardo said it is an issue that the Institution takes very seriously; however, he added, “it is also something that parents need to take primary responsibility for.”

“It’s a hard issue, and I don’t have an answer for you,” he said.

Rizzolo suggested evening activities and programs for pre-teens and teenagers might help keep teenagers out of trouble.

Multiple questions were raised about the relationship between programming and community at the Institution and which drives the operation. Pardo said that he believes that every Chautauquan has their own programming preferences, but it is the 1145 a.m. lecture, the arts programming, or the theme of the week, that brings them back each year.

“We are not a community that decided one day to put on programming,” Pardo said, echoing previous statements by President Tom Becker. “Once you realize that we are programmatically based and once you realize the mission statement of our charter, then you understand how the decision-making naturally follows.”

Rizzolo asked about the plans regarding usefulness with historic preservation organization to discuss plans for the AMP. Pardo said a group representing preservation organizations was assembled to provide a report on character and historic preservation, and the final version of that report was not received until recently. The board has not had a chance yet to digest the information and recommendations inside that report. Rizzolo also asked if any steps had been decided.

Chairman of the Trustees Open Forum and who lives in an apartment in the Hall of Philosophy. He also said that for the fourth year in a row the Chautauqua Lake School District has compiled with the provisions of the New York State education law. The board is reviewing the 2015-2016 school budget and for the second year in a row the tax cap member is about two percent. She said that a small decrease in tax rates is anticipated in each of the next three years within the school district.
always heard about the place. My dad was a Navy doctor, and they had met in Key West. I had called conch houses. It was nothing like it is now. Key West to teach. It was not the most desirable place to go. The hous-

Did you go for your master's degree right after college?

We have a lot of the inner harbor cruises in Baltimore and Annapolis. We called Watermark Tours and Cruises. We have a lot

You got a big award recently. Tell me about that.

in California. My dad was a Navy doctor, an orthopedist, and the sale of their home in Annapolis, straight to

How are things going for you as a new grandmother?

The Chautauquan Daily  www.chqdaily.com

JOHN FORD

We have a lot of the inner harbor cruises in Baltimore and Annapolis. We called Watermark Tours and Cruises. We have a lot

You got a big award recently. Tell me about that.

It's great to be down here with the next generation. Aus-

So anyway, I got down there to take up my first teaching

job, and it turned out this recruiter had recruited all women teachers just out of college. Also, we all had blonde hair.

Have you ever had a shortwave radio network and there are announcements every morn-

Do you have a favorite Chautauqua story?

Well, there is softball. At one time, Dave, myself, and the kids played softball for the local community's baseball league. We were the first all-women's team to form, and we played against men's teams on the same field. We played against a team that had never had a woman on their roster before.

What came next for you?

Since my father retired from the Navy, we moved to

After all the kids had graduated from high school we took

Sailing has been a big part of your life.

As she prepares to leave the board of trustees after serving as a

DeLancey has spent much less time on the grounds than she

 testified about her rather charmed life, Chautauquans. They did the whole thing: Children's School, Boys'

Our kids were, I guess, 5, 7 and 9 years old at the time. Then we moved

So you were in North East for 15 years? Until when?

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The NOW Generation’s Simmons initiates post-lecture discussion sessions for younger Chautauquans

BRUCE WALTON Staff Writer

The NOW Generation structure is designed to bring together young Chautauquans and the leaders of programs. In that spirit, one young Chautauquan has taken the lead in creating a new event this summer.

Kate Simmons, a multi-generational Chautauquan, has been making great efforts with NOW Generation, an organization for young Chautauquans between the ages of 27 to 40.

Kate, Simpson said that the idea of the intergenerational theme that also concerns the important topic of responsibility for political purposes.

Kate’s hope is that the event will continue, and that the younger generation will continue to have a role in the NOW Generation, which aims to bring together people of different ages and encourage dialogue and understanding.

Kate said that the event is a way to foster the idea of a “United America” and to create a sense of unity among different generations.

Kate, Simpson said that she hopes to continue to support the Older Generation and to bring them together with the NOW Generation, which will make new lasting connections.

The NOW Generation is invited to join Simmons for a post-discussion at 3:30 p.m. at the Fisher-Kgalagadi Gallery. Everyone is invited to participate and learn about the NOW Generation, or for further information on how to become involved with the NOW Generation, please visit facebook.com/NOWGenCO or contact Karen Sorenson, staff liaison, at facebook.com/NewGenChQ or contact Meghan Simpson, staff liaison, at facebook.com/NOWGenChQ or contact Karen Sorenson, staff liaison, at facebook.com/NewGenChQ.
Marsh shares euros adoulption

The story of the euro is equal parts Agatha Christie and Shakespeare, managing director of the Of
cial Economic Institutions Forum, David Marsh.

Marsh, managing director of the Of

cial Economic Institutions Forum, said Monday the London-based independent group is a forum that provides insight into both the European and world

sector economies. Marsh, a former financial analyst and current member of the British and German govern-

dment, outlined this week in a post-

lunch lecture on Tuesday at the Fowler-Kellogg Gallery that since the

summer of 1998, the euro has been the official currency for 19 European

union countries.

Marsh followed up with con-

firmation that the upcoming post-

lunch lecture in the Fowler-Kellogg

Gallery will feature a discussion on
equality and the delay in the

crise of the euro, which has been

the subject of much debate in the

years since its inception.

Marsh's talk on Tuesday was
titled "The Fall of the Berlin Wall,"

which focused on the political and economic

implications of the fall of the Berlin Wall

in 1989.

Marsh outlined the rea-

sons for the fall of the Berlin Wall,

including the economic crisis in

Eastern Europe and the failure of

the Soviet Union to maintain

control over its former satellite

countries.

Marsh said the fall of the Berlin

Wall was a turning point in

European history and that it

marked the end of the Cold War.

Marsh noted that the fall of the

Berlin Wall paved the way for

the reunification of Germany and

the creation of the EU.

Marsh said the fall of the Berlin

Wall was also a turning point in

the history of the euro and that it

marked the beginning of a new

era in the European economy.

Marsh noted that the euro was

instituted as a single currency

for the 12 countries of the EU

in 1999.

Marsh said the euro has

proved to be a success and that it

has helped to stabilize the

European economy.

Marsh said the euro has been

used to purchase goods and

services in a number of

European countries.

Marsh said the euro has also

been used to purchase

government bonds and to

finance government

deficit spending.

Marsh said the euro has

been used to finance

infrastructure projects and

to finance the

European Union.

Marsh said the euro has

also been used to finance

private sector investments.

Marsh said the euro has

led to a more

competitive European economy.

Marsh said the euro has

also been used to

finance the

European

Union's

budget.

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In June 2015, the 230 congregations of the Roman Catholic Church in Germany rang a bell peal of 23,000 tolls each. That was 23,000 peals. The last one was “Fat Tuesday,” the bell tolling bell. In the Cologne Cathedral, it rung only when the archbishop or the Pope dies.

“Remembering the 23,000 people who have drowned since the year 2000 crossing the Mediterranean from Africa to Europe, they are pursuing a better life, and the Mediterranean separates the rich of Europe from the poor of Africa.”

Walters preached at the 9:15 a.m. Tuesday morning worship service in the Amphitheater. His sermon title was “The Cold Coming to Europe” a reference to the first line of T.S. Eliot’s poem, “Journey of the Magi.” The text was Matthew 2:9-15, which grapples with the appearance of the Magi and the Flight of the Holy Family.

“In Europe we have of it.” Walters said. “A hard time we had of it.” Walters said. “A hard time had of it.”

Like the 232 million people across the world who are migrants, the fall of Libya was a shock to the world: Germany, a country of declining population.

The number of people migrating was declining but since the fall of Libya there were 63,000 refugees in Greece and 62,000 in Italy. Walters said. Over 2,000 have died this year alone. The migration of the Magi is not the warm up for the other migration in Matthew, he said.

“The first experiences of Jesus Christ himself was to flee to Egypt,” Walters said. “Not to the House of Lords, but to the House of God.”

“People say that the Church of England in London is an asylum for the rich of Europe,” Walters said. “The great god of heaven becomes a migrant cockroach.”

The Magi were migrants and we only assume that they were white men — not kings,” he said. “We assume that they could easily travel by ship to their destination.”

We don’t know what kind of migrants they were, what obstacles they faced.” Walters said.


The bells were a powerful symbol of our Christian heritage,” he said. “The great God of heaven becomes a migrant cockroach.”

“The bells were a powerful symbol of our Christian heritage,” he said. “The great God of heaven becomes a migrant cockroach.”

Europe had no right to be unwelcoming to those who don’t give the name ‘migrant’ to, but these were wise men — not kings,” he said. “We assume that they could easily travel by ship to their destination.”

We don’t know what kind of migrants they were, what obstacles they faced.” Walters said.

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The heart of the issue
Hanson provides context for Russia-Ukraine conflict

JAKE ZUCKERMAN

A border is not just the line dividing two countries or the singular form of a divided nation. It’s Stephen E. Hanson. In the last week of the historical tension and recent conflict between Ukraine and Russia.

“The starting point for this whole debate is really about borders themselves,” Hanson explained. “It’s a debate, philosophically and politically, about what the borders of Russia, Ukraine, Europe, and Asia are, how borders should be defined, and how they should be defended. That’s the core of this debate, and that’s why it’s so tough to figure out.”

Making sure not to justify Russia’s aggressive and controversial seizures, Hanson said it’s important that the gray be not recognized by the democratic West, regardless of history, because it violates Ukraine as an independent state.

“No Russian nationalism in the Soviet era ever thought that these strange lines on the map defined the Russian federation would ever become the borders of an independent Russia,” Hanson said. “[No one thought] that they would be legitimated borders that should be defended militarily, politically and ideologically.

Continuing the narrative to the present day, Hanson outlined the political ascetic of Vladimir Putin. He said Putin was lucky, because after controlling power to trying during times of Russian expansion, he was credited with Russia’s recent economic success due to rising oil prices — despite the fact he had little time to do with those spikes.

Russia experienced post-Stalinist radical legal borders as a recipe for domestic upheaval, decline and embarrassment. “They experienced Putin as the person who came to power, rather than a formal career politician,” Hanson said. “That’s the only way things will ever change.”

For each paper, Norton guided the group through a corresponding breathing pattern. “Sufism is a religion of the heart, rather than a formal pattern,” he said. “Think about nothing is like being told not to procrastinate — no, it’s good advice! But when Norton told us to imagine waterfalls, rivers, earth’s geomagnetic forces, he was briefer, mostly short of breath. The second meditation, however, struck me as a bit more arduous. It involved twisting around in our seats, chanting different Aymara words and phrases. Something about group chants and synchrony movement, the line of the body like lines of music, sort of — it’s like air, so I decided to give it an exercise in listening.

Everyone has a line in the sand somewhere. Regardless of how actively we participate, the experience was calming nonetheless.

To Smith, the group setting adds a great atmosphere to the class, especially for the newer members. While the movement was too much for me, he said that newcomers tend to find comfort in number.

“The benefits of a smaller setting like this is that, when other people are meditating together, you get a stronger energy. Grave the more you usually get,” Smith said. “If you’re new to meditation, you pick up the atmosphere a bit.”

In addition to leading the meditation sessions every morning this week, Norton and Smith host two seminars at 12:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday in the Hall of Missions. Norton will host a special event on Thursday titled, “Nina,” a dance depicting European Sufi and World War II. It becomes Nov. 15 at Khan. The event will take place at 12:30 p.m. Thursday in the Hall of Christ.

More about the programs you are enjoying today?

As a not-for-profit organization, Chautauqua is dependent upon philanthropy to offset its revenues associated with its morning lecture platform, evening entertainment, fine and performing arts schools, children’s programming, etc.

All the artistic and intellectual stimulation that you enjoy on a daily basis is an expression of the generosity of hundreds of Chautauquans who have made a gift above and beyond their gate ticket. Please consider making a gift to Chautauqua’s annual fund.

You may learn more by calling 716-357-6407, perusing www.chqdaily.com, or visiting the Chautauqua Foundation office in the Colonnade on Bostor Plaza.

Norton Smith Lead From Sufi Tradition in Week Seven Mystic Heart Meditation sessions

Editors’ Note: Jake Zuckerman is the 2015 Interfaith Lecture series reporter for this issue. Part of his beat includes researching and writing about each 2 p.m. lecture, in the Mystic Heart Community Meditation Program. Zuckerman writes the Mystic Heart meditation every Monday and shares his experiences in the Daily.

JAKE ZUCKERMAN

While Sufi meditation may not trace back to any specific religion, its lineage can follow the way back to Adam, circa Genesis.

Leaving the class Monday, Shania Felicia Norton and Munnadhi Charles Smith introduced the participants to Sufi practice — which will continue every weekday at 7:35 a.m. at the Main Gate Welcome Center conference room — via a conversational bridge and guided meditations. The second meditation was the Heart Community Meditation Program’s Week Seven events. While Sufi has ties to the mystical essence from all over the world, the Heart Community Meditation Program’s Week Seven event was held Thursday in the Hall of Philosophy.

Munnadhi Charles Smith and Shania Felicia Norton lead the first Mystic Heart Community Meditation Program session of the week Monday in the Main Gate Welcome Center.

This year’s theme is “On the grounds of the world’s traditions,” nor- mally something like this: When I was younger and only interested in spirituality, my first thought was “Can I just change that through force?”

However, they created republican pride among the different states, a trend exacerbated after Joseph Stalin’s rule. Eventually, a degree of independence began in the republics in that they were allowed to define their own autonomies, governance and education.

This is a critical point in understanding Russia’s recent actions, which include its annexation of the Crimean Peninsula in 2014. He said democracies are not apologizing for Russia’s actions. It’s simply a move toward negotiating a conflict resolution.

“At Chautauqua, we encourage people to explore ideas and continue to learn. I think that the community at Chautauqua is quite unique in trying to bring people together,” Smith said. “There’s a lot of people here from a lot of different places.”
High-volume, horizontal hydrofracturing (Fracking)

Editor’s note: This is the first in a two-part series on natural gas extraction, including high-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing in western New York state.

MIRANDA WILLLSON | Staff Writer

The Chautauquan Daily
Wednesday, August 12, 2015
www.chqdaily.com

ENVIRONMENT

NATURAL GAS

A symbol of Chautauqua County or an overvalued fuel?

“I asked him what was wrong, and he said the cows woke him up early in the morning. They were belching.” She said. “He went up to see what the problem was, and their water source had 10 to 12 inches of white, gelatinous gunk: with a crusty, dark top.”

Dowling’s father owned 52 acres of land in Bemus Point, across Chautauqua Lake from Chautauqua County. At the top of the hill, on his neighbor’s property, he saw the same material spilling over the walls of a containment well and into his creek. He confronted the neighbors, who were drilling for natural gas.

“She said it was something to the effect of, ‘We know we’re wrong, old man, and we’re working to fix it’,” she said. “They did it stop, but not until a bunch of stuff had gone down that creek.”

After that day, Dowling’s father had to get his water trucked in from outside sources and was never compensated for the harm done to his creek. Today, Dowling said the creek has turned frackblack and lacks the organisms it once did.

Natural gas extraction for commercial purposes began in Chautauqua County in Fredonia, when William Harr drilled the first successful gas well in 1821. As of March 19, 2016, the state of a Chautauqua County Legislature Meeting on natural gas drilling, there were more than 3,500 active natural gas wells throughout the county.

High-volume, horizontal hydraulic fracturing, commonly known as "unconventional" drilling or "fracking," is a new method of natural gas extraction. Conventional reservoirs tend to be more porous, which allows gas and oil to flow easily. Unconventional reservoirs, which have become accessible over the last 10 years due to newer technologies, are "fracked" because they have a lower permeability and therefore more water and energy is needed to obtain the gas.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo banned HVHF in New York state in December 2014, but Dowling believes conventional natural gas drilling, which she said polluted her father’s creek, poses problems, too.

Dowling is not alone.

Starting in the early 1960s, the county’s legally drilled natural gas-related complaints, said Bill Boria, a water-quality specialist for the county, at the 2014 legislature meeting mentioned above.

“Of all of those that we have investigated, 23 we could say were linked to oil and gas well activity. Eleven, we’re not too sure about,” Boria said. “We needed more information to make that determination. But, for the most part, if you look at how many wells are in the county, it’s a pretty good track record.”

Dowling, however, is skeptical that this is an accurate representation of the issue. Her family never complained to the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation about the problem, believing they could solve the issue themselves, and she said the DEC can be slow to respond to complaints.

“I have a feeling that, if you bother to complain, you probably had a problem,” she said. “I don’t think you’d randomly complain just because.”

Tim Hull, the vice president of the Appalachian Decision of Empire Energy, opposes natural gas wells in Chautauqua, Cattaraugus, Erie, Seneca, Wyoming and Allegany counties. He said there have been no problems with conventional drilling in his experiences and that the state has over-regulated the natural gas industry, calling the ban on HVHF a “tongue conclusion.”

“HVHF has been done safely in other states,” he said. “The state proposed regulations that would have addressed the concerns people had about it. In our opinion, there was never a honest look at unconventional fracking. There were studies done, but the studies the politicians didn’t like, they ignored, and they took on other studies that were largely done by environmental groups or people who were opposed to hydrocarbon production.”

He said HVHF and conventional drilling are very similar processes.

“There’s nothing different with the fracking, they banned to what has been done thousands of times in Chautauqua County with the exception of the size of it,” he said.

Glenn Wahl, a part-time geology professor at Jamestown Community College, said the risks associated with the two practices vary significantly. HVHF wells have a higher well casing failure rate, which could release methane gas, arsenic and other chemicals into groundwater, he said.

“In Pennsylvania, there have been hundreds of cases of contamination from these wells,” he said. “This new kind of fracking has a higher failure rate, along with other issues, that is why people trying to keep it stopped.”

Wahl and other organizations in the area have attempted to establish local bans on HVHF because they believe Cuomo’s statewide ban is “about as tenuous as it could be.”

Even though surveys indicate most New Yorkers support the ban, Wahl believes the pressure to lift it is great. There is also room for loopholes. In Tioga County, a group of landowners have applied for a permit to perform HVHF using pumped propylene gel, rather than pumped water.

“Technically, that would be legal. It would circumvent the state ban language,” Wahl said. “Pumped frack- ing has most of the same problems that regular fracking has.”

Additionally, he believes the long-term, local economic benefits of HVHF have been exaggerated.

“In order to get money from investors, you have to produce a lot, and when you produce with these kind of wells, produc- tion declines very rapidly,” Wahl said. “Whereas [conventional] wells could keep producing after 20, 30, 40 years, the new kind only produces for a few years.”

For many years, Wahl supported HVHF.

“My geology background kind of comes with the territory that you’re sup- portive of fuel extraction,” he said. “It wasn’t until I read hundreds of govern- ment agency reports that I realized track- ing is not what the industry really says it is. There’s been a big development of propaganda that is misleading the pub- lic about what it is and what it does, that says it never contaminates water and is
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Boys' and Girls' Club campers came together Thursday to participate in Water Olympics games on the lakefront. Contests consisted of kayaking, volleyball, a greased watermelon pull and more.

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**The Olympic Games is in -**

**Staff Writer**

**Colin Hanner**

**Rivalry on the Lakefront**

**Wednesday, August 12, 2015**

The five-ringed symbol of the Olympic Games is intended to represent the colors of all nations in the quadrennial sporting event. On a much smaller and chaotic scale at the Boys' and Girls' Club annual Water Olympics last Thursday, only two colors are needed: red and blue.

"Rivalry since the last generation" clubbers duked it out for their respective color. Flanagan said the tradition has since curtailed, others have sprung up.

Children covered in paint, surrounded by water out of the lake. The most common designs were hand-painted six-pack abs, stripes and dots. Designs were hand-painted and worn on shoulders and backs.

"We would keep a scoreboard on the front of the equipment room outside of the Boys' Club and they would see the ongoing score." Though that tradition has since curtailed, others have sprung up.

The greased watermelon pull, a Club favorite, is a near-tying between the two teams to retrieve the Greased-Covered fruit and bring it back to their respective side. As red and blue campers tussled for the reign of the watermelon, it resembled more of a ruddy match than a fight for fruit.

"There was butter on it," said clubber Kayla Thielkan after participating in the event. "It was really hard to grab." Anna Turcotte, a water-front counselor at Club, was responsible for greasing the watermelon throughout the afternoon and officiating the game. Her hands and wrists glistened in the shallow water from excessive use of the greasing product. The red team kept a consistent margin over the blue team, leading by as many as 25 points in the early afternoon. The blue team was able to whittle the margin down to five points near the end of the competition, which gave the blue team momentum down the stretch.

"We totally lost, but that doesn't mean you have to lose," said one clubber to his red team counterpart after they lost a hula-hoop relay. The blue team fell short in successfully completing a cross-country victory and lost by a final score of 215-210. Campers screamed for the umpteenth time as the final results came in, but Flanagan said enthusiasm is all part of the event. "When you take a glance at it, it looks pretty chaotic but there's a reason for the madness," she said.

Competitions ranged from sand volleyball, a hula-hoop relay, an inner tube pull, a water-bound free throw competition, kayak races, a sponge relay, 25- and 50-yard freestyle swims, water polo and a clash for a but-tered watermelon.

"We're trying to bring the basketball sheet and the kayaks, but I just want red to win because that's my team," said Aiden Magley of Group 6 Boys.

On the competitive front, clubbers duked it out for their respective team, which has a tradition of "fuelling" or stealing the bacon — the flag or steal the bacon — the flag or steal the bacon — the flag or steal the bacon — the flag or steal the bacon — the flag or steal the bacon — the flag or steal the bacon — the flag or steal the bacon — the flag or steal the bacon — the flag or steal the bacon — the flag or steal the bacon — the flag or steal the bacon — the flag or steal the bacon — the flag or steal the bacon — the flag or steal the bacon — the flag or steal the bacon. Often referred to as "organized chaos," thanks in large part to Waterfront Director Chuck Bauer, Water Olympics is a series of mostly lake-bound activities that are in session all afternoon, where the campers encourage their enthusiasm for ei- ther the red or blue team — a competition in and of itself.

"It is a fun tradition that every group knows which event they rotate to next, and it just kind of moves along," said Jennifer Flanagan, program director at Club. "It brings everyone together in that one little area. It's an exciting circus, with eight or so events going on at once."

"Any time a game was played during the summer — whether it be capture the flag or shell the bacon — the kids would be designated red or blue and they would get points for that," Flanagan said. "We would keep a scoreboard on the front of the equipment room outside of the Boys' Club and they would see the ongoing score."

Booths were set up in front of the water for clubbers to wait for their next activity but were effectively turned on to watch the face-off. "It brings everyone together in that one little area. It's an exciting circus, with eight or so events going on at once," said Flanagan.

"We totally lost, but that doesn't mean you have to lose," said one clubber to his red team counterpart after they lost a hula-hoop relay. The blue team fell short in successfully completing a cross-country victory and lost by a final score of 215-210. Campers screamed for the umpteenth time as the final results came in, but Flanagan said enthusiasm is all part of the event. "When you take a glance at it, it looks pretty chaotic but there's a reason for the madness," she said.

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