

THE Beacon-News

\$2.00

MONDAY, MARCH 27, 2023

AURORABEACONNEWS.COM

Is Illinois ready to deal with Candida auris?

Deadly fungus' spread across US has public uneasy

By **Adriana Perez**
Chicago Tribune

The popularity of HBO's video game adaptation "The Last of Us," set in a post-apocalyptic United States ravaged by a pandemic caused by a parasitic fungus, has evoked fears for some of a similar mass infection on the heels of

COVID-19.

Now the spread of a deadly fungus known as *Candida auris* across the United States has only intensified the public's uneasiness. But health experts and doctors say that the multidrug-resistant yeast — a type of fungus — does not normally affect healthy people.

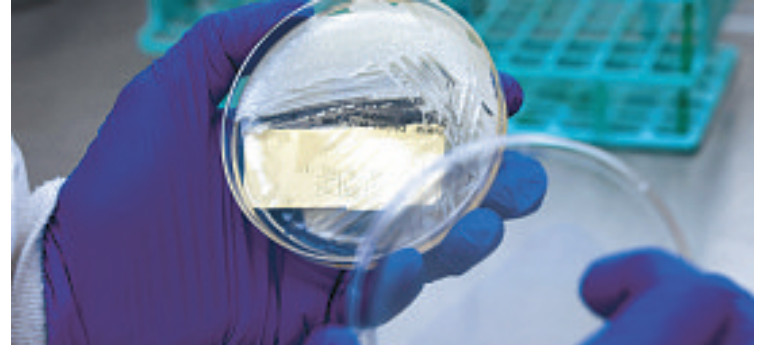
"We do need to be vigilant and, because we still are at a point of where things aren't totally out of hand, then maybe we can curb this before it gets too crazy," said Sharon Welbel, director of hospital epidemiology and infection control for

Cook County Health Department. "But the bottom line is, people don't need to panic."

The fungus can be serious in people who are immunocompromised, on ventilators or really ill in hospitals, Dr. Allison Arwady, commissioner of the Chicago Department of Public Health, said in an unrelated Facebook Q&A on Tuesday.

Given that it can live on surfaces for several weeks, *C. auris* is spread primarily in health care settings

Turn to Fungus, Page 2



Medical technologist II Mitan Shah looks over a cultural plate as he performs a testing process in the microbiology/virology lab for *Candida auris* on Friday at Stroger Hospital in Chicago. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Despite the chilly weather, plenty of young people took part in the Easter Egg Hunt at Rosary High School in Aurora on Saturday. **LINDA GIRARDI/BEACON-NEWS PHOTOS**

Hopping into the holiday

Easter Egg Hunt at Rosary High School in Aurora 'gets kids in the spirit'

By **Linda Girardi**
For Beacon-News

Easter this year is on April 9, but the scramble for Easter eggs has already begun in earnest in Aurora.

Hundreds of youngsters raced to collect more than 4,000 eggs during the second annual Easter Egg Hunt Saturday at Rosary High School in Aurora.

The event, held mainly in the main corridors and courtyard of the school, also featured a basket blessing and a visit with the Easter Bunny.

Members of Rosary's National Honor Society organized the event, National Honor Society Advisor Sarah Hoying said.

"This is a way for us to share the joy of the Easter season with the community," Hoying said.

Rosary High School in Aurora is a Catholic college-prep high school for girls sponsored by the Dominican Sisters of Springfield.

At the event Saturday, pastel blue, pink and yellow plastic eggs were filled with a variety of chocolate candies and trinkets for the

Turn to Easter, Page 2



Arianna Montalvo, 3, meets with the Easter Bunny during the second annual Easter Egg Hunt on Saturday.

3RD WARD ELECTION

Mesiacos, De Hoyos face off in contest

Challenger taking on longtime Aurora incumbent in race

By **Megan Jones**
Beacon-News

Editor's note: This is one in a series of stories looking at contested races in the Aurora area in the April 4 general election.

The race for the seat in the 3rd Ward on the Aurora City Council in the April 4 election is between incumbent Ted Mesiacos and challenger Olynda De Hoyos.

Mesiacos, 53, has served as a City Council member since 2013 and has worked as an architect for the past three decades, collaborating with school districts and cities of various sizes, he said.

"My education and career skill set revolves around architecture and urban planning, coupled with experiences of running a small business in Aurora, so that is what I bring to the table," Mesiacos said. "I also grew up in Aurora in a household with immigrant parents from Greece pursuing the American dream."

De Hoyos, 35, has lived in Aurora for many years and works as a branch manager for a financial services company. The East Aurora High School and Aurora University graduate said her family came to Aurora from Mexico when she was 11 years old.

"They didn't know any English, so it was definitely those experiences that helped shape me into who I am today," De Hoyos said.

She said she was inspired to campaign for City Council after helping take care of her grandfather who is battling Alzheimer's disease. She said after seeing her family struggle to get resources, she wants to help connect families in Aurora to the services they need.

"I also wanted to see more women on the City Council and more minorities," De Hoyos said. "By no means am I a career politician, but we just need to make people our priority and know that

Turn to Election, Page 2

Artists sought to take part in variety of Aurora events



Aurora resident Eric Garcia puts his own design on the wall of a parking lot in the city's downtown during last year's Bom' the Lot event hosted by the city of Aurora's Public Art division. **DAVID SHAROS/BEACON-NEWS**

By **Steve Lord**
Beacon-News

Aurora's Public Art division has issued a call for artists for many opportunities this year in the city, according to Jenn Byrne, Public Art director.

The city is participating in Color Me Warhol, a traveling exhibit honoring artist Andy Warhol being hosted by the College of DuPage June through August.

It will give artists a chance to participate in the traveling exhibit in several ways, including a gallery exhibit, at bit.ly/popexhibit; live

street art at bit.ly/btl3popart; asphalt art museum, at bit.ly/pavement23; and volunteers at bit.ly/apacontact.

Byrne said there will be more artist opportunities for Color Me Warhol installations and events coming.

POP! will be a community group gallery exhibit of original artwork inspired by Andy Warhol and the pop art movement. Artists of all ages are encouraged to apply, and preference will be given to Aurora residents, organizers said.

Members of the Aurora Public Art Commission will select artwork for prizes including first

place, \$300; second place, \$200; and third place, \$100.

Submission deadline for the event, which will be in the Third Floor Gallery at the Pierce Art and History Center, 20 E. Downer Place in Aurora, is April 30.

The opening reception will be from 6 to 9 p.m. on Friday, June 2, with a closing exhibit from 2 to 4 p.m. on Saturday, July 15.

For more details, go to bit.ly/popexhibit.

Bom' the Lot has become an annual event in Aurora, with this year being the third time Aurora

Turn to Artists, Page 2

TODAY'S WEATHER



High 43 Low 32

Complete Chicagoland forecast on back page

Vol. 176 No. 46

