The campaign trail
Communication, safety discussed at District 219 election forum. Page 5

Rebecca Abraham, from left, Robert General, David Ko, Jill Manrique, Nashra Mohammed and James Specker are at a Niles Township High School District 219 election forum.

Music that resonates ‘with the human soul’

Key contributor
Rolling Meadows’ Jared Murphy steps up as St. Norbert makes a run for its eighth conference championship in basketball. Page 22

Chicago’s own Chris Jones, covering theater news and reviews from Chicago to Broadway: chicagotribune.com/theaterloop

From one of the most influential theater critics in America.
Mario Rizzotti, ‘Iron Chef America’ judge

Fresh off his latest stint as a judge on the Lincolnwood Iron Chiefs Cook-Off, Mario Rizzotti talks about Lincolnwood, Iron Chef America Judge’s “All About Italian Food” dinner tour and what he misses most about Italy.

Q: What is the best part of living in Lincolnwood?
A: I could not just pick one thing to call the best, about Lincolnwood. I love everything about living here. It has a great school system for my children, our neighbors are wonderful and friendly. I only 15 minutes away from downtown, and I have everything I need right here.

Q: Since you moved here from Italy, what do you miss most about living there?
A: In Italy, life is different. Italians love their lives, they enjoy each minute. They put their heart into everything they do, day-to-day life, relationships, business, and especially food. Real Italian cuisine is so different from American Italian cuisine. Both are good, but nothing compares to authentic cuisine from home.

Q: Is there any food you haven’t yet had but would really lice to try?
A: A food that I haven’t tried would be a food that I have never had, but would really like to try? A: I enjoy all holidays, being with family and friends who have become family. All

Q: Why should people come to the Iron Chef America Judge’s “All About Italian Food” dinner tour?
A: Because there is so much to learn. I am the Italian culinary expert; I have so much knowledge to share. I want people to get quality out of their meals. I want people to learn the difference in authentic and everyday. Some fake products don’t give the quality to dishes that they should, and in turn they change the entire taste profile of a dish. Why eat something, if you aren’t truly enjoying it? People also do not understand the difference in authentic and to me, it is all about taste. Everyone likes something different, and there is such a wide variety of choices out there and something to please everyone’s palate. I can tell you some of my favorites are Pizza Metro, Spacca Napoli, Panino’s, Saporito Napoletani, or Forno Rosso. Those are the most comparable to the authentic pizza that I enjoy from my past. Once you try those, then we can talk about the difference in good and bad pizza.

Q: Since holidays can be associated with food, is there one that you enjoy most because of the food?
A: I enjoy all holidays, being with family and friends who have become family.

—Staff report

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Dr. Jill Howe, DC, CNPS

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Maine Township's student diversity on display

Maine East HS sets scene for annual International Celebration

By Jennifer Johnson
Pioneer Press

Maine East High School in Park Ridge again set the scene for an annual showcase of student diversity and cultural pride.

International Celebration, open to students from all three Maine Township District 207 high schools, took place Feb. 23 at Maine East. Students representing a number of ethnic clubs staffed booths selling foods or sharing information, and performed dances or musical acts on stage during the afternoon program.

Student performers included Maine East's Filipino, South Asian, Latino, Serbian, Adipoli South and International Clubs; the Maine East Rhythm Project; the Hellenic Club of Maine East and Maine South High Schools; and the Hispanic Club of Maine West High School.

While the majority of performances involved dance, members of the International Club played a few ukulele tunes, while the Maine East Rhythm Project demonstrated their African drumming skills.

jjohnson@chicagotribune.com
Twitter: @Jen_Tribune

Members of Maine East High School's South Asian Club perform a dance during International Celebration on Feb. 23.

Students perform a traditional Serbian dance during Maine Township High School District 207's International Celebration at Maine East.

Maine East High School's Filipino Club performs at the International Celebration on Feb. 23.
Communication, safety among issues at D219 election forum

BY PHIL ROCKROHR
Pioneer Press

Candidates for the Niles Township High School District 219 board say the district needs to better communicate with feeder districts, improve safety and hire teachers that better reflect the diversity of its student body.

Those were among the key issues cited for improvement by most of the six candidates running for four vacancies on the Board of Education in the April 2 election during a debate at Niles West High School on Feb. 19.

A panel of District 219 students moderated the question-and-answer forum, which attracted more than 100 people to the Niles West south lobby for 90 minutes. The candidates are Skokie residents Rebecca Abraham, Robert General, David Ko, Jill Manrique and James Specker, and Lincolnwood resident Nashra Mohammed.

Abraham, who is running on the Community 219 slate, said she loves the district's racial, religious and economic diversity. Abraham called its residents a "firm middle class" that provides a "flush financial structure" for its operating costs.

"The cons are communications with parents and the community," she said. "Sometimes, what the high school district is doing is not funneled down to the elementary schools."

The district needs to address safety and to hire a staff that "matches" the diverse demographics of the student body, Abraham said.

General, who is running as an independent, said the district should continue programs better serving students who do not plan to go to college.

"Among challenges, safety is number one," General said. "We want to keep our kids safe and secure. That includes protecting them from physical threats and threats on social media."

District 219 also needs to explore opportunities to work more with the community and its feeder schools, he said.

Ko, the incumbent board president who is running on the Community 219 slate, said the district has begun addressing many of the concerns raised, but can always improve on the programs in place.

"With safety and security, we have established a safety protocol," Ko said. "We're changing the protocol, but I can't discuss some of those things for security reasons."

"The district needs to continue to address achievement gaps and career readiness through programs such as its dual credit program with Oakton Community College, he said.

Manrique, who is running on the Community 219 slate, said one of the biggest challenges facing the district is continued communication with feeder schools.

"If we have the kids for four years, there is plenty of time before that where they could have made great gains," Manrique said. "We need conversations between teachers in critical subjects."

Manrique commended students for addressing racial gaps in Advanced Placement and honors classes and said their leadership can help create equity in district programs.

Mohammed, who is running as an independent, praised District 219 for its diversity and for providing counselors, vocational training, test preparation and clubs for all students.

"Because of the wide range of clubs, there are tons of scholarship opportunities," Mohammed said. "These schools are already doing great in these areas."

Two of the issues on which the district can improve are professional development for teachers and hiring teachers that "mirror" student demographics, she said.

Specker, who is running on the Community 219 Slate, said the biggest challenges are improving security, facilities, student achievement and equity without sacrificing the needs of the diverse community nor compromising existing programs.

"On the other hand, opportunity is just that," Specker said. "We need to take advantage of diversity, be more transparent and communicate as a board on how to move these issues forward."

Phil Rockrohr is a freelance reporter.
Yoga sessions in Morton Grove raise funds for dog adoptions

BY KARIE ANGELL LUC
Pioneer Press

Can you doga? Dog lovers, and fans of yoga, blended their passions via Doga-Yoga with Rescue Dogs in Morton Grove on Feb. 23 at Wright-Way Rescue.

The two Doga classes, a paid entry session since last August, is a monthly fundraiser ($20 per person) to assist the nonprofit organization, which seeks to shelter and place homeless pets with screened forever homes.

“Puppy love - the two best words in the English language. You can't get any better than that,” said Cindy Ritter, Wright-Way Rescue operations manager. “This is an amazing event. It's been tremendously successful.”

Carol Macejak, a 46-year Morton Grove resident and Wright-Way Rescue's volunteer coordinator, struck the Doga idea and sees, “happiness from people participating in the class,” along with the benefit of “the attention that the dogs get when they go in there.”

“It’s been great; it’s been very great,” said Macejak. “Tonight, both classes are sold out,” she said, adding that the multipurpose venue space, called the Courtyard, can accommodate up to 22 people with yoga mats.

Ginalyn Mendillo, a yoga instructor from Rogers Park, approached the organization to donate her time, Macejak said.

“I love it,” Mendillo said about Wright-Way Rescue.

On Mendillo's tank top that Saturday evening was an image of her rescue pup Basil, a female beagle/mixed breed she adopted in November of 2016 from Wright-Way Rescue.

“We're going to try not to, but it's not impossible,” said participant Parth Panchal of South Barrington, who couldn't guarantee he and his girlfriend Julia Mistrata of Glen Ellyn could refrain from adopting a third pup that night to join their other two adopted dogs.

“We had the first set of puppies exit the room with handlers, a different adoptable dog was introduced to the room until the third set of puppies exited the room with handlers, a different adoptable dog was introduced to the room until the third and last canine encounter, which featured Demi, a blue heeler mix. “She's one of our unwed mothers,” Macejak said.

Demi, 3, a blue heeler mixed canine, is shown at Doga-Yoga with Rescue Dogs on Feb. 23 in Morton Grove at Wright-Way Rescue North Shore Humane Center.
Morton Grove Park District adds virtual fitness options

Participants can follow along with recorded workouts

BY MEGANN HORSTEAD
Pioneer Press

The Morton Grove Park District now is offering virtual fitness classes, which officials said will allow participants to view pre-recorded instruction that includes more than 350 options.

The Morton Grove Park District is working with the on-demand fitness provider, Wellbeats. Sue Braubach, who coordinates the fitness center for the Morton Grove Park District, said the virtual fitness classes can help meet the needs of members.

“We wanted to provide more fitness classes to our members,” she said. “This was a very good, cost-effective way to do that.”

She stated that the recordings typically include examples of an instructor with two students. One student follows the instructor, and another might show a modified version, she said.

The virtual fitness classes launched last week with programs scheduled seven days per week in the Cycle Center. In that room, there is a large TV for program viewing.

“I'm still trying to get the word out,” Braubach said. “I've had positive comments from members that have tried a class so far.”

The virtual fitness classes typically range from 1 to 50 minutes in length. Currently, pre-scheduled classes last 20 minutes. Braubach said the classes cover a wide range of exercises, from pilates and yoga to kickboxing and strength training.

“There is something for every age, interest, and fitness level,” she said.

Braubach said when a class is placed on the schedule, it will automatically play at the time it is set for. The class schedule is outside the Cycle Center door and will also soon be on the Morton Grove Park District website, officials said.

Members can make virtual fitness class selections and try them out when the Cycle Center is open for use.

Braubach said there are designated times in which the room is left open. Those are:
- Monday through Friday, from 1 to 4 p.m.
- Saturday and Sunday, from 1 to 6 p.m.

Through March 17, the Morton Grove Park District is giving members who try out the virtual fitness classes a chance to win prizes. Those who attend one class can get a bag, hat or ear buds. For five classes, they can get a T-shirt. For 10 classes, they receive a cooling towel, and those with 15 classes can have a one-month membership extension.

After members take a virtual fitness class, they are asked to head over to fitness desk to complete the participation log in sheet, officials said. For information, visit https://morton-groveparks.com.

Megann Horstead is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

POLICE REPORT

The following items were taken from the Niles Police Department blotter. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt.

ASSAULT

■ Kenny Lee, 28, of the 3200 block of Greenbriar Drive, Glenview, was charged with aggravated assault, unlawful use of a weapon and possession of a concealed firearm while intoxicated on the morning of Feb. 17, police said. According to police, a man reported that Lee took out a gun and pointed it at him while the two were inside Agit Bar and Grill, 9098 W. Golf Road, around 3 a.m. Police said Lee reportedly said he was “joking,” but the other man felt threatened by the action. The two men knew each other, police said, but it was not clear what prompted the alleged incident. Lee was given a March 26 court date.

DISORDERLY CONDUCT

■ Two Des Plaines boys, ages 12 and 13, were issued local ordinance citations for disorderly conduct on Feb. 14 after police identified them as individuals who logged into a Gemini Junior High School student's email account and allegedly sent "alarming and disturbing" emails to two school employees and four Gemini students. According to police, both boys used a school-issued computer and admitted to sending the emails.

BURGLARY

■ Joseph H. Chesney, 35, of the 1700 block of Victoria Drive, Mount Prospect, was charged with burglary, possession of burglary tools and possession of drug paraphernalia on Feb. 17, police said. According to police, Chesney was identified as the man who entered a man's apartment on the 8600 block of North Milwaukee Avenue shortly before 1 a.m. Pry marks were found on a door and the door frame, police said. Chesney was taken into custody near

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Turn to Blotter, Page 9
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POLICE REPORT

Blotter, from Page 7

the apartment and was given a March 8 court date.
■ A 16-year-old Niles boy was taken into custody Feb. 18 after he was identified as a suspect in a car burglary in which a drill, drill bits, screws, bolts, a charger and extra battery were allegedly stolen, police said.

BATTERY
■ Danielle A. Emmett, 26, of the 6900 block of North Rosemary Lane, Niles, was charged with domestic battery on Feb. 16, police said. Court information was not included.
■ A 12-year-old Niles boy was issued a local ordinance citation for battery after he allegedly “hit checked” another student during a passing period at Emerson Middle School, 8101 N. Cumberland Ave., police said. According to police, the alleged action caused the other student to run into another classmate, but no visible injuries were observed.

THEFT
■ Donna Lynn Hatfield, 47, of the 8100 block of Knox Street, Skokie, was charged with retail theft on Feb. 15 after police said she was accused of stealing two containers of baby formula, valued at $55.96, from Walmart, 5630 W. Touhy Ave. She was given a March 22 court date.
■ A 92-year-old Glenview man was ticketed for theft on Feb. 15 after he was accused of removing an electric razor and replacement blades from their packaging, concealing the items and leaving Target, Golf Mill, without paying for them, police said. The value of the merchandise was $99.97, according to police. The man was reportedly taken to the hospital for an evaluation.

EXCESSIVE SPEEDING
■ Police said two men were traveling 96 mph when they were stopped for excessive speeding around 12:45 a.m. Feb. 19 on the 9400 block of Crawford Avenue, Chicago. Both men were ticketed for excessive speeding, and Steven Marroquin, 27, of the 4700 block of West Belle Plaine Avenue, Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence and excessive speeding, police said. Both were given March 8 court dates.

WARRANT
■ Mathew A. Valdes, 36, of the 10400 block of Dearlove Road, Glenview, and Irina M. Tsipis, 33, of the 8800 block of West Golf Road, unincorporated Maine Township, were each taken into custody Feb. 20 on arrest warrants related to the alleged retail theft of power tools, police said. Court information was not included.
■ Marisa A. Quaderer, 25, of the 9400 block of Crawford Avenue, Skokie, was taken into custody on a theft warrant Feb. 20 after police said she allegedly stole $300 from another woman’s purse. Court information was not included.

ORDER VIOLATION
■ Hassamo H. Shamoun, 46, of the 6100 block of North Cicero Avenue, Chicago, was taken into custody Feb. 19 after he was reportedly violating an order of protection, police said. He was given an April 3 court date.

PUBLIC INTOXICATION
■ A 31-year-old Chicago man was ticketed for public intoxication on Feb. 17 after police responded to a sidewalk on the 6600 block of North Milwaukee Avenue. According to police, the woman had trouble standing up and said she had taken heroin and an unknown number of prescription pills. She was taken to a hospital, police said.
■ A 54-year-old Chicago man was ticketed for public intoxication on Feb. 18 after he allegedly entered a restaurant on the 8500 block of West Dempster Street while intoxicated. He also complained of chest pain and was taken to the hospital, police said.

BURGLARY
■ A resident told police she saw a man with a red backpack walking in an alley on the 8500 block of North Milwaukee Avenue and pulling on car door handles around 9:30 p.m. Feb. 17. He was charged with motor vehicle theft, police said.

THEFT
■ An unknown man allegedly stole $732.18 worth of allergy medication and nasal strips from Walgreens, 9640 N. Greenwood Ave., around 1:20 a.m. Feb. 16.

BATTERY
■ A relative of a Niles nursing home patient told police his relative alleged she was awoken, grabbed and shaken by a person she identified as a nurse during the early morning hours of Feb. 10. The alleged incident was reported to police on Feb. 18.
This is the culmination of the goal

Open house at Lincoln Hall school puts spotlight on recent renovations

BY DANIEL I. DORFMAN
Pioneer Press

Show and tell is usually an activity for children, but that concept was in place Feb. 21 when Lincolnwood District 74 highlighted its renovated Lincoln Hall Middle School.

School officials and some children took visitors on a guided tour of the newly renovated building, following an approximate $20 million upgrade in a project that started in the summer of 2016.

“Toni's been a labor of love, hate, challenge for the last three years through three phases of the project, and we are proud to be at the end of this project,” school board President Scott Anderson said.

The best moment came when that construction trailer was hauled off the property.

The tour originated in the school's auditorium that was converted from a gymnasium where the nearly 300 retractable chairs can be pushed inward, allowing for myriad events to take place.

That represented an overall larger goal of the entire project, Anderson noted.

“This is the culmination of the goal to create flexible spaces throughout this building and throughout this district,” he said.

As he greeted the curiosity seekers, Principal Dominick Lupo spoke of the cafeteria that he said provided healthier foods, including a free salad bar for all students.

“Toni is not just any kind of salad bar. It has garbanzo beans, olives, pickles, the good romaine lettuce. It has a lot of good stuff, and any kid has access to that every day,” Lupo said. “I wish I had that growing up.”

After the introduction, the audience gathered at the building that now has new red lockers, receiving a tour of the science labs, STEM labs, fitness center, food science room and several classes dedicated to music.

In the STEM lab, there is flexible furniture easily allowing for the conversion of classes for the needs of the day with computers all around. In the food science lab, under a picture of famed chef Gordon Ramsay, students can learn about healthy choices and can test fat substitutes, and in the music room, children are challenged to come up with their own inventions, “Shark Tank”-style.

Finally, there is an updated band room where students test their musical skills.

“It's so nice in here, they won't let us eat in here,” noted student Elena Evans.

The enhancement drew rave reviews from some in the audience.

“I decided to come today to see how my tax dollars are being spent. I am really amazed,” said Sharon Schachtel, who said her last child to attend Lincoln Hall was 25 years ago. “I really care for our future, and I want our kids to have the best education. This is why I am really happy.”

Parent Jeff Evans, who has two children at the school, including Elena, was also pleased.

“Toni have a place that is pretty close to state-of-the-art for these kids is going to help them start learning, is to going to help put them further ahead when they go to high school, college and beyond that,” he said. “Toni are proud of where they go to school, they are excited where they go during the day, and hopefully it gives them a leg up.”

As the tour concluded in the cafeteria, Anderson said he was excited to be finished, but acknowledged some anxiety about the future, noting there is more to be completed on the greater District 74 campus at some point in the future.

Anderson pointed to a need to accommodate a growing fine arts program and a K-8 STEM program that was recently implemented.

“We have more work to do,” he said. “We have to create spaces for the STEM programs in the other two other buildings. So now it is what is next and what other things we can do to support our curriculum.”

Daniel I. Dorfman is a freelance reporter.

Lincolnwood police chief speaks on first year in role

BY DANIEL I. DORFMAN
Pioneer Press

Nearly a year into his tenure as Lincolnwood's police chief, Jason "Jay" Parrott, reflected on his record in office at the Feb. 19 village board meeting, including the latest crime statistics.

Speaking minutes after he awarded three citizens for calling police to apprehend three individuals charged with residential burglary, Parrott spoke of the accomplishments of the approximate 42-employee department (32 sworn officers) since he took over as chief on April 30, 2018.

"In my time here there has been a lot of change within the department," Parrott said. "We've hired several officers, made several promotions, put people in place and made some structural changes in the department."

He added the newly promoted sergeant, two lieutenants and the deputy chief are mentoring many of the young officers in the ranks.

He pointed to an increase of young officers in the ranks. Mentoring many of the promoted sergeant, two lieutenants and the chief.

Parrott noted the department has efforts through social media and the village newsletter to get residents to lock their cars.

"I realize that is something that needs to be constantly reminded," Parrott said.

He added there were 178 retail thefts last year and about half resulted in arrests.

Parrott stated there were 16 violent crime reports in the village last year, down from 20 in 2017.

"We are trying to use good deploying strategies of putting resources in good spots to make sure we keep this number down as much as possible," he said.

As for changes within the department, Parrott said sworn officers have had a reduction in administrative tasks that allows them to heighten patrols. One example he cited was a change in the state law allowing officers to issue citations in some misdemeanors and not have to bring people into the department for fingerprints and processing.

Parrott mentioned the inaugural National Night Out in the village last August, saying that led to greater interaction between the police and the community.

"We found it to be a great success," he said.

Parrott said the department is undergoing policy revisions, conceding it is a timely process, but there is a tentative completion date of the end of March.

"Most of them are just updating, but some of them are policy changes that reflect the changes of legislation that have passed through the Illinois General Assembly, so we have to comply with that," Parrott said.

Parrott added he is having officers become certified by a state board for mental health recognition and treatment.

"So officers properly handle those calls when responding to incidents of mental health," he noted.

Parrott said the department is working on a mapping portal that will give people general locations where crimes and accidents have been committed.

Finally, Parrott said there would be "Coffee with a Cop" sessions and starting April 3, a Citizens Police Academy will be re-launched and there are various collaborative exercises taking place with School District 74 staff, the fire department and security from the Lincolnwood Town Center Mall.

In separate action, Anne Marie Gaura was sworn in as the new village manager.

"It is my privilege and honor to serve the resident of the village of Lincolnwood, and I look forward to working with many of you," Gaura said.

Prior to coming to Lincolnwood, Gaura was the interim village manager in Homer Glen.

Daniel I. Dorfman is a freelance reporter.
Why shouldn’t you label multiple shelves of jeans?

SALLY HIGGINSON

My friend, Karen, who was visiting me from New York, had asked to borrow a bathrobe when she opened my closet door and stopped dead in her tracks.

“You label your jeans?” Karen asked.

“I don’t label my jeeeeeans,” I said, drawing out the word “jean” for emphasis. “I label the shelves,” I clarified, although my system was perfectly obvious.

It was literally spelled out in black and white in front of her.


She looked at me. “You know, there are medications to treat people like you,” she said.

Quick editorial inquiry: Doesn’t everyone arrange their spices alphabetically? Doesn’t everyone fold their fitted sheets?

By the time we were into our second cup, we decided we needed to talk to a few other women.

Next, we called Andrea, who lives in California. I asked outright, “Labeling jeans in the closet: Are you for or against?”

“Love the labels,” Andrea said. “What about a label for Looked Cute/Never Fit?”

“Can you send me a picture of what looked cute but never fit?” I asked.

Within minutes, my phone pinged. I opened up the photo, and I had to agree. “Super cute.”

“Never fit,” Andrea repeated.

Sally Higginson is a freelance columnist for Pioneer Press.
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Smollett and Trump, 2 juveniles who want us to believe their fantasies

RANDY BLASER

We are becoming a nation of juveniles who believe in our own fantasies. Look around and you will see everywhere in our culture examples of people who desperately want the world to be the way they say it is. They want us to believe it too.

We're like petulant children who demand the adults believe our stories because, well we say so, and we want the world to be the way we say.

It's a sad way to live, but it is an even more dangerous way to run a country.

One needs to look no further than the White House and our hedonist-in-chief. He's been braying about building a wall for so many years that he believes it is the only way to save the country. If he can't get his way, he's decided to stamp his feet and demand that it be built.

Isn't that the point of the so-called national emergency he's just declared over border security?

This is a dangerous precedent. It will give future presidents a template to follow when they can't get their way on a controversial issue. Government by presidential decree is not what the founders intended.

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi is already threatening that a Democratic president could impose a national emergency over gun violence. Tit-for-tat is how children settle disputes.

Of course there is no national emergency at the southern border. It has been a problem for decades. What we have is a stalemate over a national policy on immigration. What we need is someone willing to work on the issue and do the hard work of legislating.

We have an example. President Lyndon Johnson was the master at passing tough legislation. But his way takes work.

But when you're lazy, unable to make an argument beyond catchphrases and spend no time consulting with Congress, this is what we get.

But Trump is not the sole example in believing in a fantasy.

One month ago, I had never heard of a television actor named Jussie Smollett who stars on "Empire." I learned about him after hearing news reports that in the early morning of Jan. 29, he was jumped by two men who beat him, shouted racial and homophobic slurs at him and put a rope around his neck and poured a liquid thought to be bleach on him.

He claimed they then yelled that this is "MAGA country."

It was the left-leaning trifecta — racist, homophobic Trump supporters.

I admit I was doubtful of the report. Why? Because the temperature overnight was below zero, and bad guys don't hang out on Chicago streets in sub-zero temperatures.

Also, bad guys are ill-prepared. They don't just happen to have a rope and bleach in the car when looking for a gay black man to beat up at 2 a.m.

And the MAGA slogan? As I life-long Chicagoan, I'm pretty certain most crooks in the city are Democrats.

Now Smollett faces a felony charge of disorderly conduct alleging he made a false police report. Police say he paid two brothers $3,500 to fake the attack because he was "dissatisfied with his salary" on his television show.

Smollett, for whatever reason, used the incident because he wanted to prove a point about America in 2019.

Trump and Smollett are similarly delusion about the America they live in. And both feel the false need to do something about it, whether facts justify it or not. And have we have seen again and again, their supporters jump to their feet to back them and cheer them on.

We need more adults.

Randy Blaser is a freelance columnist.
How to have the ‘What are we?’ conversation

“Honey, we need to talk...” That phrase is usually the start of a relationship conversation both partners know is going to be brutal. I’m talking about one of those awkward, dreadful, uncomfortable chats that boil down to statements like, “I need space” or “I met someone else,” or perhaps the one that feels most like a punch in the stomach, “I’m not in love with you anymore.”

But there’s a relationship conversation that isn’t necessarily always negative, and could even bring a couple closer together. It’s the “What are we?” discussion, in which couples have a heart-to-heart to define exactly what their relationship is, and to determine one of two things: are they committed to a future together, or are they just friends having fun?

Dr. Victor Harris is a relationship expert at the University of Florida, who teaches courses on the topics of dating and healthy romantic and familial relationships. Harris said more and more couples are finding it necessary to have the “What are we?” talk because of the “hooking up and hanging out” culture.

“The way people get involved currently in relationships is that they get physical way too soon,” said Harris, who holds a Ph.D in family consumer and human development with a focus on close relationships. “So, then they have to figure out, ‘Do we have a friendship here?’ ‘Do we have trust and should I commit to the relationship?’ It’s risky because they don’t know since they might not have the foundation of friendship, trust and commitment.”

How do you start the “What are we?” conversation? Harris said healthy ways include asking, “How do you think we are doing?” or saying “I would really like to talk about what we both want from this relationship.” Also, make sure to bring up the subject in a gentle, non-confrontational way versus acting defensive, aggressive, resentful or bitter.

Having asked a few men in my life the question, “What are we?”, I can say with certainty that there are only two possible outcomes when it comes to the response: you’ll either hear what you want or you won’t.

Possible responses to “What are we?”:
- We’re friends.
- We’re having fun.
- I don’t want a long-term relationship.
- I really don’t know.
- I don’t want to get married.
- I like you, but I don’t think you’re the one.
- What do you think we are?

cause you to feel ecstatic, excited, happy or relieved. Then again, a response you didn’t want to hear could cause you to feel upset, devastated, disappointed, frustrated, angry or sad.

When I was in my 30s, I had the “what are we?” conversation with a boyfriend. His response: “I feel like I should be in love with you right now, and I’m just not.” It killed me. But, I have to say, I’m glad I found out how he felt because I didn’t have to wonder anymore. It helped me to end the relationship and move on.

Another time I asked “what are we?” it turned out great. The response was short and sweet. Said my current boyfriend, “Do you even have to ask? We’re on the same page.”

But be careful. According to Harris, timing is everything. If you ask “what are we?” too soon, it could scare off your partner. That said, if you wait too long, you could be wasting time and becoming emotionally attached when your partner just isn’t.

“You can go 5, 10 even 20 years without the person committing to you, and it’s harder to get over because of the length of time you’ve invested in the relationship,” said Harris, who has been married for 34 years and who has worked in the field of relationships for two decades. “Having the conversation early on will save you a lot of time and heartache and investment in a relationship that wasn’t going anywhere, and you can then begin to focus on another relationship that is based on friendship and trust and commitment.”

It takes courage and vulnerability to ask someone “what are we?” It’s no small thing. But I know that personally, I’d rather learn where I stand in a relationship than continue to see the person, wonder what he’s thinking, and possibly harbor resentment for him not expressing his feelings either way.

Think of it this way. If you get crushed by a response (like I did), you’ll survive. Because even more important than the answer to “what are we?” in a relationship is “what am I?” That answer is: strong, beautiful and worthy of joy and of course, true love.

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist.
EMPLOYMENT

Help Wanted Full Time

Multiple Openings at Various Professional Levels  S219057
Chicago, IL

Send resumes to address

CITADEL SECURITIES AMERICAS LLC - Citadel Securities Americas LLC has multiple openings at various professional levels in Chicago, IL. The following positions to design, develop and deploy new and existing high-volume business critical trading systems: Software Developer (048914-000040); Software Developer (048914-000029); Software Developer (048914-000036); Software Developer (048914-000032). The following positions to conduct empirical research, statistical analyses, and implementation of equity derivatives and associated asset classes: Quantitative Research Analyst (048914-000041); Quantitative Research Analyst (048914-000052); Quantitative Research Analyst (048914-000033). The following position to develop and enhance financial risk models, alpha models, transaction cost models and other numerical algorithms: Quantitative Developer (048914-000047). Work location: Chicago, IL. All positions require related degree and/or experience and/or skills. Multiple openings at various professional levels. To apply, send your hard copy resume to the following address: Citadel Securities Americas LLC, 131 S Dearborn Street, Chicago, IL 60603, ATTN: Employee Relations. Please include the job title and the job code you are applying for in your cover letter.

Multiple Openings  S219052
New York, NY

Send resumes to address

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MINIATURES & TOYS - Sat. 3/17 10 am (By Appointment Only) 117 North State Street (parking garage front door). Admission is $4 for adults or $3 for children under age 12. If your toys are from 1960 or earlier, this is the place to go. Call 844-363-0342 TDD 844-363-0343 to schedule your free appointment. Parking is free.

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IN THE COURT OF COUNTY COURT OF ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION 500 W. Monroe St. Chicago, Illinois 60606 WFF Pursuant to a Judgment made and entered by said Court in the above entitled cause on September 25, 2017, and the same being now filed of record in the Office of the Clerk of said Court, the Court has entered a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale for the following property located in the County of Cook and State of Illinois, namely 1800 Chicago, IL 60603 (312) 431-1455 E-Mail: intake@noonanandli.com, a certificate of sale of the property is hereby issued.

ROOMS TO RENT

Flat Rate $375, 1 bedroom, 1 bathroom, 1st floor, no deposits, utilities included. Pets OK. Call 847-724-3848.

ROOMS TO RENT

Flats to Rent

Flats to Rent

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LEGALADS

Assumed Name
Cook County - Assumed Name
LEGAL ADOURED NAME
NOTICE OF SALE IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHICAGO, ABDUL MOHAMED GANSELMOLINDBERG.COM ATTORNEY FILE NO. F17020015, 1/10/2019. At The Judicial Sales Corporation: South Waevs Drive, Chase, Suite 120, NAPERVILLE, IL 60563, (630) 453.6960. For bidding instructions and to gain entry into the building and the property, all prospective bidders are to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, or a unit of real estate that is a timeshare, or a unit that is a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. The Classifieds is the most cost-effective way to sell your home, car or valuables!

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NOTICE OF SALE
of Property Owned by the Village of Norridge and Invitation to Bid Thereon

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the corporate authorities of the Village of Norridge will receive sealed bids for the purchase, under the successful bid, of the fee simple interest in the following real property.

Legal Description:
PARCEL 1:
THAT part of the SOUTH 1/2 of the NORTH 1/2 of the SOUTH 1/4 of the NORTH 1/4 of SECTION 13, TOWNSHIP 40, RANGE 12, EAST OF THE THIRD PRINCIPAL Meridian, bounded and described as follows: COMMENCING at the NORTHWEST Corner THEREOF THENCE NORTH 87 DEGREES 42 MINUTES 12 SECONDS EAST, BEING AN ASSUMED BEARING FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS LEGAL DESCRIPTION, ALONG THE NORTH LINE OF THE SOUTH 1/2 of the NORTH 1/2 of the SOUTH 1/4 of the NORTH 1/4 of SECTION 13, 33.83 FEET TO AN INTERSECTION WITH A LINE BEING 33.83 FEET EAST OF AND PARALLEL WITH THE NORTHEAST LINE OF THE SOUTH 1/2 of the NORTH 1/2 of the SOUTH 1/4 of SECTION 13, AS MEASURED PERPENDICULAR TO SAID WEST LINE, THENCE SOUTH 00 DEGREES 22 MINUTES 45 SECONDS WEST, ALONG SAID LAST DESCRIBED PARALLEL LINE, 20.49 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING OF THIS LEGAL DESCRIPTION, THENCE NORTH 87 DEGREES 42 MINUTES 12 SECONDS EAST, ALONG A LINE RUNNING PARALLEL WITH THE NORTH LINE OF THE SOUTH 1/2 of the NORTH 1/2 of the SOUTH 1/4 of SECTION 13, 200.42 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 02 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 45 SECONDS EAST, 123.10 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 87 DEGREES 42 MINUTES 12 SECONDS WEST, ALONG A LINE RUNNING PARALLEL WITH THE SOUTHEAST LINE OF THE SOUTH 1/2 of the SOUTH 1/4 of SECTION 13, 200.44 FEET TO AN INTERSECTION WITH A LINE BEING 33.83 FEET EAST OF AND PARALLEL WITH THE WEST LINE OF THE SOUTH 1/2 of the NORTH 1/2 of the SOUTH 1/4 of SECTION 13, 200.42 FEET, THENCE SOUTH 02 DEGREES 17 MINUTES 45 SECONDS WEST, 123.10 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING, IN COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS.

A list of projects for Village homes and phone numbers demonstrating eligibility, a completed Contractor's Qualification Statement AIA Document A201. The village will consider but is not limited to removing/replacing: standing roof, plumbing, heating, and miscellaneous maintenance (See Construction Recommendations attached).

The pamphlet for Ordinance No. 1945-19, including the ordinance and a cover sheet thereof, was prepared, and a copy of such ordinance shall be made available for public inspection at the Village of Norridge, 1475 Mobile Ave., Norridge, Illinois 60706, from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. on March 27, 2019. Said proposals shall be addressed to: Village of Norridge, 1475 Mobile Ave., Norridge, Illinois 60706.

To be published: February 21, 2019; February 28, and March 7, 2019

Date: March 27, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. on March 27, 2019.

Common address: 4526 Harlem Avenue, Norridge, IL
PIN: 12-13-223-038-000

The classifieds are located at 4526 Harlem Avenue in the Village of Norridge, Illinois 60706 and are currently devoted to municipal and parking uses ("Subject Property").

Bids for the purchase of the aforementioned interests in the above-described Subject Property are hereby invited and will be received by the Village Administrator at Village Hall, 4000 N. Olcott Avenue no later than 10:00 A.M. on March 28, 2019, for the opening of the bids the following day, March 29, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. Said proposals shall be addressed to:

Village of Norridge
Joanna Skupen
Village Administrator
4000 N. Olcott Avenue
Norridge, Illinois 60706

and for the Subject Property shall be held the legend "bid 0201919 PROPOSAL - SALE OF 4526 Harlem Avenue, Norridge, Illinois" and the name and address of the bidder. All submitted bids must be for the acquisition of the Subject Property and shall specify the net cash consideration for the purchase of each property. The Village Zoning Ordinance is available on the Village website or in the Village office at Village Hall.

Subject Property 4526 N. Harlem Avenue, Norridge, Illinois

1. The minimum bid price for the Subject Property is $750,000.00.
2. The applicable zoning is B-3-Rel. Business District with certain additional use restrictions set forth in certain recorded documents referenced in the bid packet.
3. The current uses of the Subject Property are municipal uses and automobile parking.
4. The Subject Property shall be sold on an "AS-IS/WHERE IS" basis.
5. The Village makes no warranties, either expressed or implied, nor assumes any liability whatsoever regarding the social, economic, or environmental aspects of the Subject Property.
6. Purchaser is responsible for any real estate commission and all closing costs.
7. The Village reserves the right to reject any or all bids tendered, to waive irregularities, or to cancel or rescind the bid submission date and time.
8. The bid shall indicate acceptance of the form of real estate sale agreement included in the bid packet.
9. All bids received will be publicly opened and read aloud at the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Village of Norridge at 6:30 p.m. on March 27, 2019.
10. A contract may be awarded to the highest bidder for the Subject Property whose bid is in the best interests of the Village of Norridge.

The contract shall include acceptance of the form of the real estate sale contract which shall be included in the bid packets.

The Board of Trustees reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to waive any irregularities or irregularities in the bidding. The Board of Trustees further reserves the right to review and study any and all bids and to make a contract award at any time within thirty (30) days after the bids have been opened and publicly read.

Bid Packets may be obtained at the office of the Village Administrator:

Village of Norridge
Joanna Skupen
Village Administrator
4000 N. Olcott Avenue
Norridge, Illinois 60706

Honor, Debra J. Budnik, Village Clerk
To be published: February 21, 2019, February 28, and March 7, 2019

VILLAGE CLERK'S CERTIFICATE

I, Debra J. Budnik, certify that I am the duly elected and acting Village Clerk for the Village of Norridge, Cook County, Illinois. I further certify that on February 11, 2019, the corporate authorities of Norridge passed and approved Ordinance No. 1945-19, An Ordinance Directing the Sale of Real Estate in the Village of Norridge, Cook County, Illinois.

The petition for Ordinance No. 1945-19, including the ordinance and a cover sheet thereof, was prepared, and a copy of such ordinance was posted in the Village Hall, 1475 Mobile Ave., Norridge, Illinois on February 11, 2019 and continuing for at least 10 days thereafter. Copies of the ordinance were also available to the public for inspection at the office of the Village Clerk and also posted on the Village’s website.

I further certify that the Notice of the proposal to sell municipal property per Illinois Statutes shall be published once each for 3 successive weeks in a daily or weekly newspaper published in the Village of Norridge or in Cook County. The firstpublication shall be not less than 30 days before the day specified in the Notice for the opening of bids for the real estate.

Dated in Norridge, Illinois this 1st day of February 2019.

Honor, Debra J. Budnik
(village seal)
Quote-Acrostic

1. Define clues, writing in Words column over numbered dashes.
2. Transfer letters to numbered squares in diagram.
3. When pattern is completed, quotation can be read left to right. The first letters of the filled-in words reading down form an acrostic yielding the speaker's name and the topic of the quotation.

Clues Words
A. Sushi ingredient: 2 wds.
   148 84 26 118 132 49 6
B. Too many pounds
   31 61 147 10 52 87 99 80 112 20
C. James Earl Jones vocal role
   86 137 162 45 103 88 129 30 60 15
D. Rapture
   33 110 25 131 163 53 135
E. Hurry
   28 106 143 101
F. Financial option
   67 121 146 42 116 5 47 79 69
G. Rank indicator
   119 57 7 32 105 141 133
H. Deferential bow
   152 18 76 100 113 1
I. Come upon
   158 144 126 48
J. Layers above Earth's surface
   89 145 4 21 127 128 36 77 63 51

K. Not a soul 65 81 94 150 22 12
L. Kyoto gown 160 91 139 117 59 54
M. Very impressive 157 70 120 114 27 41 104
N. Like a pillow 136 29 123 19 55 17
O. Able to be heard 159 142 83 109 97 38 64
P. Current controller
   124 46 37 151 107 56 23 75
Q. Prison pic?: 2 wds.
   134 14 155 40 2 96 102
R. With modesty
   92 161 39 73 11 24
S. Almost: 3 wds.
   93 85 115 140 62 13 72 44 50 156
T. Endorse
   9 95 86 3 138
U. Gulp
   43 34 125 108 74
V. Teach
   130 35 71 149 16 82 98

Across
1 27th president
5 Impudent
10 Roe source
14 Fashion magazine
15 Fred Allen's medium
16 Tramp
17 Ballet from Balanchine
20 Parts
21 Wed
22 Madison Ave. products
23 Does a supermarket job
25 Barely adequate
29 Child: prefix
30 Time units abbr.
33 See 47 Down
34 Tiny amounts
35 River islet
36 Song from Berlin
40 First lady?
41 Orbital position
42 Road to Rome
43 Carmine
44 Not masc. or fem.
45 Self-interested one
47 ___ fixe
48 Ailing

Patriotic

BY CHARLES PRESTON

ACROSS
1 Hardy heroine
2 German old one
3 Ensign
4 School-year period
5 Postprandial drink
6 Raves
7 Append
8 Fam. member
9 Word on a tap
10 Leg bones
11 AZ tribe
12 Encourage
13 Patient's portion
18 Pants part
19 Having many creases
23 Some frat members
30 Caribbean island
31 Does a kitchen chore
32 Commence
33 Copy
37 Closed carriage
38 Fencer's weapon
39 View from Sugarloaf
41 Ballet from Balanchine
42 Fred Allen's medium
43 Eden outcast
44 Plaza child
45 Smooth and shallow
46 Much
47 ___ face
48 Estuary
49 JFK sights
50 State of France
51 Back of the neck
52 ___ effort
53 Leningrad's river
54 Priam's kingdom
55 Novel ending
56 Hennas
58 Superlative suffix
59 Surprised interjection

DOWN
15 Yellow-flowered plant
24 Wiser
26 Spice
27 Helped
28 Catch
29 Postulate
30 Caribbean island
31 Does a kitchen chore
32 Commence
33 Copy
34 Eden outcast
35 View from Sugarloaf
36 Plaza child
37 Closed carriage
38 Fencer's weapon
39 View from Sugarloaf
40 Eden outcast
41 Ballet from Balanchine
42 Fred Allen's medium
43 Eden outcast
44 Plaza child
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58 Superlative suffix
59 Surprised interjection

Last week's answers appear on the last page of Puzzle Island © 2019 Creators News Service.
OFFICIAL NOTICE — CITY OF EVANSTON

The Evanston Zoning Board of Appeals makes a recommendation to the City Council of the City of Evanston, Illinois for a variance. The variance is requested for a property located at 1477 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, Illinois. The variance will be considered at a public hearing to be held on Thursday, March 21, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. at the Evanston City Council Chambers, 1701 Chicago Avenue, Evanston, Illinois. The hearing is open to the public.

Bid Notice

FOR PROPOSAL OF ENGINEERING CONSULTING

The City of Park Ridge will accept sealed proposals for the Engineering Consulting services, for the purpose of providing engineering services for the design and construction of various projects within the City of Park Ridge. Proposals must be submitted for consideration. The City reserves the right to reject any and all proposals. Proposals will be opened and read at the above stated time and place.

Sealed bids for the 2019 General Conference on the 2nd Floor of the Liberty Union Church of Christ will be received by the Clerk of the Liberty Union Church at 704 N. Main St., Liberty, MO 64074, during regular business hours up to 10:00 a.m. prevailing time on Thursday, March 21, 2019. Lump sum proposals will be opened and read at the above stated time and place. The City reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

Sealed bids for the Park Ridge Public Works Department will be received by the Clerk of the Village of Park Ridge, 164 South Prospect Avenue, Park Ridge, IL 60063, up to 10:00 a.m. prevailing time on Thursday, March 21, 2019. Lump sum proposals will be opened and read at the above stated time and place. The City reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

Sealed bids for the Village of Lincolnwood Public Works Department will be received by the Chief School Business Official, 2 South Refugee Road, Park Ridge, IL 60063, up to 10:00 a.m. prevailing time on Thursday, March 21, 2019. Lump sum proposals will be opened and read at the above stated time and place. The City reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.

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Sealed bids for the Village of Lincolnwood Public Works Department will be received by the Chief School Business Official, 2 South Refugee Road, Park Ridge, IL 60063, up to 10:00 a.m. prevailing time on Thursday, March 21, 2019. Lump sum proposals will be opened and read at the above stated time and place. The City reserves the right to reject any and all proposals.
NOTICE OF TIME AND PLACE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Board of Local Improvements of the City of Evanston has adopted a Resolution for a local improvement to be made in the City of Evanston, Cook County, State of Illinois, providing in substance as follows:

That the unimproved public alley in the block bounded by Payne Street on the north, Simpson Street on the west, McDaniel Avenue on the south, and a line east therefrom, be improved by excavating, constructing the necessary drainage system and paving with 8" Portland Cement Concrete Pavement, to a width of sixteen feet (16') and West North South leg to a width of thirteen feet (13').

Said improvement to be constructed in detail as specified in above Resolution.

The estimated cost of said improvement, as made by the Engineer for the Board of Local Improvements of the City of Evanston, is as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alley Parking Construction Cost</th>
<th>City Share $328,844.28</th>
<th>Construction Cost Private Share $328,844.28</th>
<th>Constructed on Cost per Unit $657,688.56</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Local Improvements of the City of Evanston, has fixed March 21, 2019 at the hour of 7:00 P.M., in the Village Hall, 1200 Main Street, Evanston, Illinois, as the time and place for the public hearing thereon. All persons interested are hereby notified and are respectfully requested to be present and be heard. All inquiries regarding this public hearing can be addressed to the attention of Tony Repp, Senior Planner, at 847-948-4039.

Thirteenth Saturday, February 28, 2019

Iihitha Desai, Secretary
Board of Local Improvements

NOTICE

The City of Evanston is committed to making all public meetings accessible to persons with disabilities. Any citizen needing mobility or communications access assistance should contact Facilities Management Office at 847-866-2816 (voice) or 847-444-8052 (TDD).

Evanston Review
February 28, 2019
Three Certified Copies Requested

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Your Stuff! Placing an ad in the Classifieds is the most cost-effective way to sell your home, car or valuables! Call 847-399-0537 or go online to placeanad.com trubusuburbs.com to place your advertisement.
Park Ridge Civic Orchestra marks 25 years

Program includes violin soloist Joshua Brown, 'The Planets'

BY MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

The Park Ridge Civic Orchestra has been making beautiful music for a quarter of century. Music Director and Conductor Victor Muenzer and his 90-piece orchestra will celebrate that landmark with a "25th Anniversary Concert" at 3 p.m. March 3 at Maine South High School Auditorium in Park Ridge.


"Every now and then, all the stars line up and somebody writes a masterpiece," Muenzer said. "'The Planets' is such a piece. This is a piece that has resonated with everyone. It has a way of capturing our imagination about what is beyond us."

Soloist Joshua Brown, who is a 19-year-old student of Donald Weilerstein at the New England Conservatory of Music on a full Dean's Scholarship, was the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra's scholarship winner last year.

"He played the first movement of the Tchaikovsky for us and our jaws dropped," Muenzer said. "This is a person who really has something to give and is going to go somewhere."

Brown has already earned numerous honors including dozens of regional, national and international competitions.

At the upcoming concert, Brown will perform the piece that he auditioned with for the Park Ridge Civic Orchestra competition. "It's a piece I've played with orchestras four or five times already. It's an audience favorite," he said. "I think it's probably one of the most exciting violin concertos. It's beautiful and romantic."

Brown was about 13 years old when his family moved from Virginia to this area so that he could study at the Music Institute of Chicago with Almita and Roland Vamos as the recipient of the Rachel Barton Pine Scholarship. His brother and sister also studied at the Music Institute.

Brown has been playing the violin since he was 2 and was entertaining audiences by the time he was four. "I've always loved performing for other people," he said. "I used to go to nursing homes with my siblings. We would play for them and talk with them afterwards."

He described performing music as "a great way to connect with people no matter what your differences are."

Victor Muenzer took over the leadership of the orchestra from his late father Edgar Muenzer in 2014.

Carrying on the tradition of the orchestra that was co-founded by his father and his mother Nancy, is "a profound thing," Muenzer said. "I've been with the orchestra since the beginning. I watched them struggle with getting it started. With any organization, there are great moments and there are trials and tribulations."

"Any organization like this that endures is something to be cherished and honored. Now, with 25 years, there is a great weight of responsibility to carry it forward in the best way possible, and to help the orchestra reach as wide an audience as possible," Muenzer noted, "My parents' dream was always to bring classical music to Park Ridge. The challenge of a modern-day orchestra is to show people this is not something that is somewhere up there on a pedestal."

The Music Director's goal is to attract younger audiences. He described classical music as "a form of meditation; a form of spiritual connection. Some of this music does resonate with the human soul."

Myrna Petlicki is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
WHAT TO DO

COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Listings are subject to change. Please call the venue in advance.

Thursday, Feb. 28

Family STEM Exploration Night: All area families can participate in this free "STEM" Exploratory Program. It gives children (ages 5-14) and their parents a chance to visit various "stations" and participate in hands-on activities to learn more about science, technology, engineering and math. Registration is required; please call the school office. 6:30 p.m. Thursday, St. Philip the Apostle School, 1233 W. Galena St., Evanston, 847-467-4000.

Skype, FaceTime & Hangouts 101: Want to connect with long-distance family and friends, but not sure where to start? Register at glenviewp.org, 847-729-7500, ext. 7720, or visit Reference Services. 2 p.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Animal Secrets: Families will explore the hidden habitats and secret lives of forest animals. Using imaginative role-play and hands-on activities, children will discover nature from an animal's point of view in naturalistic environments, including a meadow, woodland, cave and naturalists' tents. 9:30 a.m. Thursday, Kohl Children's Museum, 2000 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, $11-$12, 847-832-6600.

Senior Resource Specialist: A representative from CJE SeniorLife is available for help with government benefits, health care and Social Security. This is a drop-in event; no registration is required. 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277.

Alfred Hitchcock: The Greatest Film Director of Them All: Sir Alfred Hitchcock directed some of the greatest suspense films of all time. His life and amazing body of work are highlighted in this multimedia presentation. 1 p.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $12 member; $17 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

Tai Chi: Wear loose clothing to practice the ancient, healing art of Tai Chi. Increase your understanding of the mind-body connection, breathing techniques, flexibility and all other healthy benefits of Tai Chi. 9 a.m. Thursday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $8 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

Climate Action: Think Global - Acting Local Discussion: Hosted by Go Green Wilmette and League of Women Voters - Wilmette. Learn about efforts to engage local communities in solving the global climate crisis. This includes Evanston's and Wilmette's efforts to create and implement sustainability plans and reduce their carbon footprints. 7 p.m. Thursday, Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-258-5025.

Northwestern University’s Henry and Leigh Bienen School of Music presents the opera from Feb. 28 to March 3, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Cahn Auditorium, 600 Emerson St., Evanston, $8-$18, 847-467-4000.

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Friday, March 1

Paula Froehle, Deborah Hirshfield and Laurie LeBreton: This exhibition showcases three artists, Paula Froehle, Deborah Hirshfield and Laurie LeBreton, using fiber materials and sculptural elements to create a cohesive display exploring gender roles, healing and identity. The opening reception is from 5 to 8 p.m. March 1, and is free and open to the public. The gallery hours are 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Monday through Thursday; 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Friday to 4 p.m. Saturday and Sunday. First- and second-floor gallery spaces are handicapped accessible. 9 a.m. Thursday, Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St., Evanston, free, 847-475-5300.

Sarah Marie Young in concert: Sarah Marie Young performs songs from her last three albums as well as brand new music. This concert features the recorded live for Chicago Jazz Live on WDCB FM Radio. Doors open for cocktails and socializing at 7:30 p.m. with cash bar, light snacks and free street parking. For more information, email Steve Rashid at steve@studio5.dance, call or visit www.studio5.dance. 8 p.m. Friday, Studio5, 1934 Dempster St., Evanston, $20 general seating, $25 cabaret seating, 847-328-6683.

Wirtz Center’s Danceworks 2019: Ascension, migration, mindfulness and visibility are among the themes explored in Danceworks 2019. The annual contemporary dance showcase features world premieres by Chicago dance-makers Paige Fraser and J'Sun Howard and Northwestern University dance faculty Jeffery Hancock and Joel Valentin-Martinez, who also serves as the production’s artistic director. 7:30 p.m. Friday, Josephine Louis Theatre, Northwestern University, 20 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, $6-$25, 847-491-7282.

Northwestern Wirtz Center’s “Guys and Dolls” These performances take place through March 3. “Guys and Dolls” is based on Damon Runyon’s colorful story of characters in the New York underworld. The Wirtz Center production’s modern twist acknowledges the non-binary gender and sexual identity of its characters that exist both today and were present, if under-ground, when the musical was first written. 7:30 p.m. Friday, Ethel M. Barber Theatre, 30 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, $6-$30, 847-491-7282.

Segovia Classical Guitar Series: Features guitarists Waller and Maxwell Duo, Richard Graef and Charles Pikler, 7:30 p.m. Friday, March 1; Paul O’Dette and Ronn McFarlane, 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 26; and Juditha Perron, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, May 11. 7:30 p.m. Friday, Mary Galvin Recital Hall at Northwestern University, 70 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, $10-$30, 847-491-7575.

Friday Night Meltdowns: Join in this awesome skate and dance party. A DJ plays today’s hits and disco lighting shines on the ice throughout the night. Bring your own skates or rent a pair for the evening. Use your season skating pass, or pay $8 per person. 8:15 p.m. Friday, Glenview Ice Center, 1851 Landwehr Road, Glenview, $8 admit; $4 rental skates, 847-724-2800.

Build It: Kohl Children’s Museum of Greater Chicago celebrates the return of the temporary exhibit “Build It,” a larger-than-life collection of building blocks that allow children to explore their creativity while learning about architecture, science and storytelling. 9:30 a.m. Friday, Kohl Children’s Museum, 2100 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, museum admission is $13 for children and adults; $12 for seniors; free for members and children under 1 year old, 847-832-6600.

Chair Yoga: This program is a part of the Let’s Get Together series for older adults. Students perform postures and breathing exercises with the aid of a chair and experience the many benefits of yoga without having to get up or down from the floor. All equipment is provided; wear comfortable clothes. To register, visit the website or call. 10 a.m. Friday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

Silver Screen Series: The Nutty Professor: This film from 1963 is not rated. The story, with the cast including Jerry Lewis and Stella Stevens, is about a nerdy professor. To improve his social life, the professor drinks a potion that temporarily turns him into the handsome, but obnoxious, Buddy Love. For more information, visit the website or call. 2 p.m. Friday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

MommyCon Chicago: MommyCon Chicago 2019 takes place on March 1-3 for families who attend for a weekend of fun focusing on new and expectant parents. Meet with one of their resident educators: learn about picky eating solutions with their feeding therapist, and help your family get more sleep with their sleep guru. 1 p.m. Friday, Donald E. Stephens Convention Cen-
WHAT TO DO COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Calendar, from Page 14

Saturday, March 2

Law Enforcement Hockey Classic: Honor Flight Chicago presents this Hockey Classic featuring the Chicago Police Department vs. the Chicago FBI. A fun, family-friendly evening of pagaentry, games, raffles, silent auctions and an exciting hockey match-up with all proceeds benefiting Honor Flight Chicago, a non-profit organization that flies war heroes from WWII, the Korean War and the Vietnam War to Washington, D.C., for a day of honor, thanks and inspiration. 7 p.m. Saturday, The Edge Ice Arena, 725 E. Jefferson St., Bensenville, advance tickets $25 adults or $15 kids 12 and under; all tickets $30 at door, 773-227-8387.

Ede2: On Time: Inspired by Abha Dawesar's 2013 TED Talk, "Life in the Digital Now," the Evanston Dance Ensemble's Ede2 company explores through dance our varied relationships with time: How it affects our lives and informs our perspectives. 4 p.m. Saturday, 7 p.m. Saturday, StudioS, 1924 Dempster St., Evanston, $6, 847-328-6683.

Nefesh Mountain Concert: For the eighth annual Gassel Concert, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation invites you to experience the music and joy of Nefesh Mountain. People of all ages are invited to dance and sing along. 7 p.m. Saturday, Jewish Reconstructionist Congregation, 303 Dodge Ave., Evanston, adults: $40; youth/students ages 5-22: $25; children 4 and under: Free.

Skyline Piano Artist Series: The fourth annual Skyline Piano Artist Series showcases an array of virtuosity against the backdrop of the Chicago skyline. Appearing are Kirill Gerstein, 7:30 p.m. Saturday, March 2; Alexander Toradze, 7:30 p.m. Friday, April 12; Marc-André Hamelin, 7:30 p.m. Friday, May 3; and James Gilles, 7:30 p.m. Thursday, May 30. 7:30 p.m. Saturday, Mary Galvin Recital Hall at Northwestern University, 70 Arts Circle Drive, Evanston, $10-$30, 847-491-7575.

Sunday, March 3


Creative Coloring for Adults: This program is a part of the Let's Get Together series for older adults. Unique coloring pages are provided for all skill levels, as well as markers and colored pencils: you provide the imagination. Must be 18 or older. To register, visit the website or call. 2 p.m. Sunday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

Annual YMCA Art Show: Art Show and reception featuring art students from the North Suburban YMCA Winter Session. Free and open to the public. For more information, contact Cathie Winnie by phone or email: cwinnie@nsymca.org. 3 p.m. Sunday, Northbrook Public Library, 1201 Cedar Lane, Northbrook, free, 847-272-7250.

Monday, March 4

Live Storytelling Workshop by Pres Vasile: Want to become a compelling presenter and impress your audience? Attend this interactive workshop to learn how to take your public speaking and storytelling skills to the next level. Seats are limited. Get your free ticket at tinyurl.com/1645Workshop. 6:45 p.m. Monday, Des Plaines Public Library, 1501 Ellinwood St., Des Plaines, free, 847-823-4777.

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous: This is for those who have trouble controlling the way they eat. You are not alone. Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous (FA) is a free 12-step recovery program for anyone suffering from food obsession, overeating, undereating or bulimia. The following meeting is held in Evanston every week: 6:45 to 8:15 p.m. Mondays in room 1711 of the Evanston Hospital. 6:45 p.m. Monday, Evanston Hospital, 2650 Ridge Ave, Evanston, free.

Monday, March 4

Animal Secrets: Families will explore the hidden habitats and secret lives of forest animals. Using imaginative role-
play and hands-on activities, children will discover nature from an animal's point of view in naturalistic environments, including a meadow, woodland, cave and naturalists' tent. 9:30 a.m. Tuesday, Kohl Children's Museum, 2100 Patriot Blvd., Glenview, $11-$12, 847-832-6600.

M.M.& M. Film: "A League of Their Own"*: In this 1992 film rated PG, there are two sisters who join the first female professional baseball league and struggle to help it succeed amid their own growing rivalry. Cast includes Tom Hanks, Gina Davis, Madonna. 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

Should I Stay or Should I Go?: Realtor Betsy Phillips shares her insights of years helping people make the big decision to move on, downsize, head south or wherever you want to go. RSVP by phone or online at www.nsymca.org. 11:15 a.m. Tuesday, North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techny Road, Northbrook, free, 847-272-7250.

Artist Workshop: Working in Color: This is for the advanced student as well as beginners to explore color and different media using props, photographs, and one's own imagination. Participants do not need to bring their own art supplies to complete their individual projects. For the student who wants to work independently, the class can be used as a workshop. 10 a.m. Tuesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $225 member; $265 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

The Breakfast Club: Rise and shine and start your day off right with networking and breakfast. This is hosted by Park Ridge Chamber Ambassador Dave Donovan. Register at the event website or by calling the Park Ridge Chamber office. 7:30 a.m. Tuesday, Lola's Diner, 920 Busse Highway, Park Ridge, $11 members; $15 prospective members, 847-825-3121.

Wednesday, March 6

Booktalk: Women's History Month: Held at the American Legion Memorial Civic Center of Morton Grove, this library event requires attendees to bring their library card; books will be available to check out. No registration is required. Celebrate Women's History Month by finding a new book to read written by or about notable women; both fiction and nonfiction titles will be featured. For more information, visit the website or call. 1 p.m. Wednesday, Morton Grove American Legion Civic Center, 6140 Dempster St., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

Sensory Friendly Film: "Cars": This 2006 film is rated G. At this special screening, the lights are turned up, the volume down, and attendees are welcome to move around, talk or sing their way through. A limited supply of noise-canceling headphones and fidgets will be available. The intended audience for this program is those with special needs, but everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, visit the website or call. 4 p.m. Wednesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

Religious Diversity and the American Promise: Eboo Patel, the renowned speaker and author and founder of Interfaith Youth Core, offers a positive and inspiring talk on "Religious Diversity and the American Promise." Come away with a better understanding of how diversity and plurality are unique and powerful elements of the American experiment and how we can leverage them to strengthen our society. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Temple Jeremiah, 937 Happ Road, Northfield, free, 847-441-5760.

Park Ridge Fly Tying Club Meetings: The Chicago Fly Fisher's Club meets at 7 p.m. Wednesdays, from mid-September through May. An experienced demonstrator does demonstrations of fly tying, with members tying the same pattern using tools and materials provided by the club. 7 p.m. Wednesday, Park Ridge Community Church, 100 S. Courtland Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-823-3164.

Tales From the Jewish Tradition at Skokie Synagogue: A luncheon and program. Storyteller and teaching artist Susan Stone tells charming tales as well as personal narratives, all in the Jewish tradition. For further information, call the synagogue or go to the website. 11:30 a.m. Wednesday, Park Ridge Community Church, 100 S. Courtland Ave., Park Ridge, free, 847-823-3164.

Rotary Club of Wilmette: Join the Rotary Club of Wilmette members for lunch to learn how you can become a member of this service organization. Interesting programs are presented each week. Let them know you are coming, so they can welcome you to the meeting. 12:15 p.m. Wednesday, Wilmette Golf Club, 3900 Fairway Drive, Wilmette, free, 847-722-2115.

Have an event to submit? Go to www.ChicagoTribune.com/Calendars.
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This list is not intended to be a complete record of all real estate transactions. Data compiled by Record Information Services  630-557-1000  public-record.com
Officials: Medical evaluations needed before pension ruling

BY PHIL ROCKROHR
Pioneer Press

A former Rosemont police sergeant who requested his pension two months after he was charged with armed robbery must undergo three independent medical evaluations before officials rule on his request, attorneys said Feb. 25.

The Rosemont Public Safety Officers Pension Fund board officially accepted the village's formal intervention in former Sgt. Edward Karas' request on Feb. 25, but it cannot open the hearing until it receives results of the evaluations and any other relevant medical records, said Melissa Wolf, attorney for the board.

"The next step is for him to be evaluated," Wolf said. "The board can only open the hearing if he is evaluated by at least three physicians. He has to submit to the evaluations, and we will set a hearing."

Karas, 40, was on administrative leave after being stripped of his authority in June when he was charged with armed robbery for allegedly driving the getaway car in gas station robberies in Park Ridge and Norridge, police said. The robberies had been reported on the morning of Sept. 12 at a Shell station at 2301 W. Touhy Ave. in Park Ridge, and Fire King Exxon at 8500 W. Lawrence Ave. in Norridge, police said.

Public Safety Department officials declined to say why Karas had been on leave, but Public Safety Superintendent Donald E. Stephens III has filed a complaint accusing Karas of escorting a convicted felon and a dozen other people into an event at Allstate Arena within the past year. A hearing on that complaint is scheduled for late April.

Karas had been on leave, but the park district adds any- 
costs outside their bounda-
ries. Therefore, the board needs to examine doctors to find three doctors to find Karas' departure a "retirement." Karas was fired in December, according to documents filed in court.

The pension board voted earlier in February to hire Inspe Associates medical-legal consultants of Chicago to find three doctors to examine Karas, said Matthew Rose, attorney for the village in the case.

"This ensures an independent process," Rose said. "If one or the pension boards in the area, you can identify your own doctors. That has been called into question. This makes the selection process one step

Members of the Public Safety Officers Pension Fund Board listen as board attorney Melissa Wolf, right, explains the rules for a proposed hearing on the pension request of former police Sgt. Edward Karas, who is charged with two counts of armed robbery.

Park district looks for modifications to $33M plan for Oakton Park

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Park district staff are seeking modifications to a roughly $33 million plan for Park Ridge's Oakton Park as efforts to develop a master plan for the 16.5-acre site move forward.

The proposal, which calls for the construction of an indoor turf facility next to the existing Oakton Ice Arena and expanding the parking lot, would "best capture the needs of the usuarios" in a market analysis and by residents who answered a survey and participated in stakeholder meetings, Executive Director Gayle Mountcastle told the park board on Feb. 20.

Mountcastle said athletic programming attendance has increased, and the park district's affiliate groups are traveling to other communities to find indoor fields. "Building an indoor turf facility would bring them back to their community," she said.

The option, estimated at $33 million, is one of four that were presented to the park board in January — and the second most costly. It called for keeping the existing driving range and ice arena, but removing the batting cages, city-owned salt dome and possibly the dog park, Paws Park.

It's important to note that we have not gone through the figures in detail and looked for opportunities for reductions in the [estimated cost]," Mountcastle said.

But she did acknowledge that staff had some concerns when discussing the long-term capital costs of the project and have asked architects to determine the cost of adding a "dome" with a turf surface instead of the athletic building.

That information was not available to the board during the Feb. 20 meeting.

Park District spokes-
woman Margaret Holler said the proposed material for the dome would be "architectural grade fabric" with an exterior coating.

If built, the athletic turf would accommodate activities like baseball, soccer, football and lacrosse, and allow for the expansion of youth and adult programming, including leagues, Holler said.

The park district would need voter approval to borrow the money needed for the project, if the park board decides to move forward with it, Mountcastle said. The earliest the park district could go to referendum would be in March 2023, she said.

Commissioner Harmony Harrington questioned the cost.

"I still feel we're not hitting as many users as I'd like to see for a $33 million price tag," she said, asking for costs of each amenity proposed.

Commissioner Cindy Grau suggested the park board "look outside the box" — and maybe even outside of Park Ridge — for an athletic facility. She pointed to the long-vacant Best Buy store at Golf Road and Greenwood Avenue in Niles.

"I wonder if that's something we can repurpose rather than ripping away amenities we have at this park," Grau said. "I don't like paving over what we don't have to pave over. And I see a lot of pavement here."

Park Ridge Park District Attorney Tom Hoffman said there have been park districts that owned facilities outside their boundaries.

"I'm not opposed to exploring options like that," Harrington replied. "I think it's a creative idea."

Commissioner Robert Leach asked park district staff to provide costs of similar athletic facilities to the one proposed so that comparisons could be made.

Regardless of whether the park district adds anything new to Oakton Park, plans remain to upgrade the ice arena's coolant system, as the R22 refrigerant that is currently used will no longer be manufactured after this year, park district officials said.

The park district has budgeted $31 million in its 2023 capital plan to replace this system, as well as the rink floor and bleachers, Holler said. The cost will also cover the resurfacing of the parking lot, she said.

The park district has stockpiled on refrigerant so it will have enough until the project is ready to be undertaken in 2023, said Terry Wolf, superintendent of buildings and grounds.
Search for superintendent draws 30

BY HEATHER CHERONE
Pioneer Press

Thirty candidates applied to be the next superintendent at Park Ridge-Niles School District 64, school board President Anthony Borrelli said Feb. 25.

Twenty-three of the candidates to replace Superintendent Laurie Heinz are male, and all but three candidates are from Illinois, school district officials said. Heinz is leaving for a new job as superintendent of Palatine-based Community Consolidated School District 15.

School Exec Connect, the firm hired to search for Heinz’s replacement, screened all of the candidates and recommended that seven candidates advance to the next round of interviews, officials said.

The board will interview candidates during the first round of interviews that will take place March 4 and 5 behind closed doors, Borrelli said. Two candidates are expected to be named finalists and are to be interviewed by a 17-member panel that will include five parents and two community residents on March 11 and 12.

The panel will provide written feedback back to the school board before it conducts its own final interviews.

The challengers running for seats on the District 64 board in the April 2 election will be invited to observe the final interviews, but they will not be allowed to question the finalists. The candidates will, however, be invited to submit written feedback, the board agreed.

The search is expected to end on March 18 with the appointment of a new superintendent, officials said.

Heather Cherone is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Construction worker taken to hospital after falling 15 feet into trench, then climbing out

BY STEVE SCHERING
Pioneer Press

A construction worker who fell approximately 15 feet into a trench on Niles Park District property was able to climb out before he was taken to a hospital Feb. 25, fire and police officials said.

According to Niles police Cmdr. Robert Tornabene, the fire department responded in the afternoon to the 6700 block of Howard Street for a report of a construction worker who had fallen and was stuck inside a trench.

Fire Chief Marty Feld said when officials arrived, the man had already climbed out of the trench, but he was taken to Lutheran General Hospital in Park Ridge for precautionary reasons.

“The individual that fell into the hole actually walked out of the hole and was out prior to our arrival,” Feld said. “He had a sizable bump on his forehead. He did go to the hospital to get checked out.”

According to Feld, the construction worker, who was a private contractor, was on park district property performing work when the accident happened.

“From what I understand, he was guiding a piece of heavy equipment into the area when he lost track of where he was walking and fell into the hole,” Feld said.

An update on the man’s condition was not immediately available, officials said.
Fare hikes, low gas prices reducing riders

Metra sees drop in ridership from 2014-18

BY MARY WISNIEWSKI
Chicago Tribune

Metra saw its ridership fall by 9 percent between 2014 and 2018, a period of time in which the railway raised fares four times to help pay for new equipment.

The commuter railroad said its ridership dropped from 83.4 million trips in 2014 to 76.1 million passenger trips in 2018, which was about the same number as in 2005 and was down from a high of 96.8 million in 2008.

Metra officials gave the ridership update at the Feb. 20 monthly board meeting. The board also approved the purchase of 15 locomotives, and Metra announced a new reverse commute service to Lake County.

Metra attributed the ridership drop to fare increases and other factors, such as low gas prices. The railroad also has been troubled by delays related to equipment problems.

The agency's board chose not to raise fares in 2019, and is instead calling on Springfield lawmakers to pass an infrastructure bill to help the railroad pay for new coaches and locomotives and repairs. There has not been a capital bill in 10 years.

The Metra Electric District, which runs between downtown and the South Side and south suburbs, saw the biggest drop in business, with riders down 18.1 percent over five years, followed by the Milwaukee District West Line from Elgin, which saw an 11.5 percent drop.

Weekend trips fell during 2018, following an increase in the weekend pass to $10 from $8, said Lynette Ciavarella, senior division director of strategic capital planning. Service cutbacks dinged ridership on the Milwaukee District North and Rock Island lines.

In a bid to upgrade the railroad's fleet and reduce breakdowns, the Metra board on Feb. 20 approved spending $71 million on 15 remanufactured locomotives. Metra is buying them from Progress Rail Locomotives in La Grange, a Caterpillar company, and has the option to buy up to 27 additional vehicles, if the funding is available.

"These like-new locomotives will be replacing some of the oldest locomotives in our fleet, and we would expect to see a significant increase in reliability," said Metra CEO Jim Derwinski, in a statement. Progress Rail is taking existing freight locomotives and upgrading them for passenger use.

About 70 percent of Metra's current fleet of 147 locomotives is rated in marginal or poor condition, and the average age is 31 years. Metra Chief Mechanical Officer Kevin McCann told the board that the newer locomotives will meet the Environmental Protection Agency's Tier 3 emissions standards, and replace current locomotives rated Tier 0.

He said each newer engine will cut emissions by 24 percent compared against an older engine.

"We feel it's the responsible thing to do," McCann said of the decision to go with the older vehicles. The locomotives will have AC traction motors, which are more durable and reliable than the DC traction motors in Metra's older locomotives, Metra said.

Howard Learner, the head of the Environmental Law & Policy Center, said Metra should buy cleaner engines, but may be doing the best it can do on a low budget.

"Metra needs to clean up its fleet and should move overall to the cleanest Tier 4 locomotives," said Learner in an email. "That said, Metra has some really aging and inefficient locomotives that need replacing now, and if Metra is getting a great price on the Tier 3 locomotives, that's a positive step forward."

Learner also noted that Chicago-area transit agencies are starved for funds and need to make these kinds of trade-offs until more funding is available.

"It makes sense in the short term if you don't think you're going to get a big appropriation to switch to the new technology," said Rick Harnish, executive director of the Midwest High Speed Rail Association.

"From the state's perspective, we should be funding the newest technology for Metra."

Metra also announced that it is starting a two-year reverse-commute pilot program between Chicago and Lake County. The project will be funded by a $1.4 million public-private partnership between Metra and Lake County businesses and governments, and will start on March 4 on the Milwaukee District North Line. The service is intended to help the growing number of commuters who live in the city, but commute to jobs in the suburbs.

Metra's board also approved a 3.5 percent raise for Derwinski, bringing the CEO's annual salary to $285,000. The board also voted to give Derwinski an extra week of annual vacation, bringing his total allotment to six weeks. Metra's previous CEO, Don Orseno, who retired at the end of 2017, was paid $317,500.

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Boy's Swimming Notes

Luke Maurer joins his father in Loyola record books

By Jon J. Kerr
Pioneer Press

Heading into Saturday's final heats at the boys swimming state meet at New Trier, Loyola junior Luke Maurer had two school records. By the end of the day, he had two state championships. Maurer won the 200-yard freestyle and then the 100 freestyle to become the first to win multiple freestyle races at state since his father, Erik Maurer, won three titles 30 years ago. Luke Maurer also became the first Loyola boys swimmer to win two individual state races of any variety since Andrew Jovanovic won the 50 free and 100 butterfly in 2011.

Luke Maurer won the 200 free in 1 minute, 37.33 seconds and claimed the 100 free in 44.33.

"It's exciting," he said. "There was great competition in both events. I'm happy it worked out." Maurer, who had made the state meet twice before, broke his father's program records in both events.

"He claims he's not mad," Luke Maurer said of his father. "It's definitely a friendly rivalry."

Wildkit nerves: Evanston senior diver Trevor Nelson knew what to expect at the state meet.

He's competed with the Wildkits for four seasons, but he still felt nerves as he approached the diving board for the final time Saturday.

"State is unlike anything else," Nelson said. "I've been to junior national club tournaments, but state is different. Everyone's eyes are on you. Everyone expects you to perform well."

In his final performance as a Wildkit, Nelson placed third with a final point total of 501.10.

In September, Nelson committed to dive at Penn. He said getting his college commitment out of the way allowed him to focus all of his efforts on the high school diving season.

"I was confident going into the season knowing I had a future ahead of me," Nelson said.

Senior Henry Goodman placed 11th in diving with a score of 410.70.

As a team, Evanston finished second at the state meet with 14 points.

Bailey paces Trevians: Last season, New Trier won the boys swimming state championship. This season, the Trevians won the Niles North sectional but were never in contention at state in their home pool.

Only one individual, junior Pearce Bailey, made it out of the prelims. He placed sixth in the 50 free (21.11) and 12th in the 100 free (47.04).

The Trevians' only placing relay team was the 200 free relay, which finished 10th (1:25.95).

"Not what I was hoping for," said Bailey, who also swam a leg of the 200 free relay. "I'll take what I can get. We still put up some good times."

New Trier finished in a three-way tie with Homewood-Flossmoor and Marmon for 18th place with 16 points.

Hawk finishes 5th: Maine South sophomore Brendan Forrest was the lone Hawks swimmer to qualify for Saturday's final heats at the state meet. Forrest placed fifth in the 500 free with a time of 4:36.38.

Evanston focuses on accomplishments after nearly upsetting Maine West

By Dan Shalin
Pioneer Press

An all-conference player as a sophomore, Evanston junior point guard Kayla Henning has spent much of the season trying to return to top form after having knee surgery last April.

But in the Wildkits' 65-50 overtime loss to Maine West in Thursday's Class 4A Evanston sectional final, the Henning of old appeared just when it mattered most.

In the fourth quarter, Henning hit three 3-pointers to electrify Beardsley Gym and help the Wildkits give the undefeated Warriors (32-0) all they could handle.

Evanston (24-8) had a chance to win at the end of regulation but couldn't get a shot up. The Wildkits then missed six of eight free throws in overtime, allowing Maine West to escape with a win.

But it was Henning's fourth-quarter heroics that turned a close contest into a potential upset.

"I'd say I'm a streaky shooter, I'm a confident shooter. If I have confidence, I'll hit," said Henning, who had 12 points.

Henning said her willingness to take the big shots came out of her desire to see the team's seniors extend their high school careers.

"I felt like these seniors are my big sisters. You look at them and you want to do anything to make sure their season isn't over," she said. "I definitely wanted to do my part and step up. Unfortunately, it wasn't quite enough."

Henning's final 3-pointer of the game gave the Wildkits a 45-43 lead with 2:22 remaining in the fourth quarter. Maine West senior Rachel Kent (15 points) forged a 45-45 tie with just over a minute remaining.

Evanston entered the sectional final having lost to Maine West twice this season by a combined 38 points.

Free throws have been a problem for the Wildkits all season, and that proved to be the case in overtime, as Evanston twice came away empty on potential game-tying trips to the line in the final 30 seconds.

"Normally, you lose with what you struggle with, and we struggled with free throws all season," Evanston coach Brittany Johnson said.

At points during the season, it appeared injuries would be Evanston's undoing.

"I'd say we're a streaky team," Johnson said. "We were really short-handed the first two games," Johnson said. "We felt like they hadn't seen the real Evanston yet."

"Disappointment is an understatement. My kids really believed they were going to win (the sectional title). Tough loss."

Turchin supplied 11 points and 10 rebounds, junior guard Tyler Mayne had 11 points, and Holmes added eight points and six rebounds. Maine West junior center Angela Dugalic had 11 points and 13 rebounds.

With only two seniors Holmes and Brooks among their top eight, the Wildkits' future appears to be bright.

But Johnson said there was no need to talk about the future after Thursday's game. Instead, she spoke about the legacy of the current squad, which captured a Central Suburban South title and a regional crown.

"We were really fun to watch, battled every game, played the toughest schedule in the state, and we took the No. 1 team in the state to overtime in the sectional final," Johnson said. "And we were right there. We just couldn't pull it off."

Dan Shalin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Good Shabbos

After a restful Sabbath, Rochelle Zell rallies past Yeshiva for 1A regional title

BY STEVE SADIN
Pioneer Press

Jake Silvers and his Rochelle Zell teammates did not spend the day of their Class 1A regional final watching film or doing a walkthrough on the basketball court. Neither did Fasman Yeshiva's Doni Miretzky or his teammates, because players on both teams observed the Jewish Sabbath from sunset Feb. 22 until sunset Feb. 23.

For Silvers, a Highland Park resident who strictly observes the Sabbath, the day of rest was what he needed to get his mind and body ready before leading the Tigers to a 64-57 come-from-behind victory over Yeshiva to win the Class 1A Christian Liberty Regional title on Feb. 23 in Arlington Heights.

"I'm shomer Shabbat, and it was a day of rest," Silvers said, using the Hebrew phrase for a person who strictly observes the Sabbath, "I had a restful day. It was just the right thing to get ready for tonight."

Almost all of the Class 1A and 2A regional title games took place Feb. 22, but that would not have worked for Sabbath-observing students of Rochelle Zell and Yeshiva. IHSA assistant executive director Matt Troha said an accommodation was made for the two Jewish schools from Deerfield and Skokie that allowed them to play later Feb. 23, after the Sabbath had ended.

"The IHSA tries to be as sensitive as possible when it comes to accommodations and a school's faith," Troha said in an email. "We strive to be inclusive and would not want to automatically disqualify a team from participating if a reasonable modification to the schedule can be made."

Rochelle Zell coach Marty Dello said he has made adjustments from years past, when he coached public school teams. He got the Tigers ready for the game on Feb. 21, and the players made their own arrangements to get to Arlington Heights on Feb. 23.

"When I coached in public school, we'd watch film, do a walkthrough and get on a bus to the game," Dello said. "We watched film Thursday, I gave them their game notes, and it was up to them."

Miretzky, a senior from Chicago, said he too spent the day observing the Sabbath, but after two games this season against Rochelle Zell - a 69-57 win Dec. 2 and a 56-55 loss Feb. 2 - he knew what to expect and was ready.

"We knew whoever played better was going to win," Miretzky said. "I'm very thankful to the IHSA for scheduling this game Saturday night."

Miretzky led all scorers with 26 points and helped propel Yeshiva to a 32-39 edge at halftime. He and junior Ari Schuman, who made four 3-pointers in the first half, seemingly could not miss.

"We passed the ball very well," Miretzky said. "My teammates saw I was hot, and they worked to get me the ball. We passed until there was a good shot."

But Rochelle Zell outscored Yeshiva 18-5 in the third quarter and forged a tie heading into the fourth. Silvers scored 15 of his team-high 21 points in the fourth quarter to give the Tigers a lead they never relinquished.

"My teammates did all the work," Silvers said. "They got me the ball. It was all them."

That help came from seniors Sammy Vayngart and Brian Silverstein. They had 14 points each, and Dello said they were in position to feed Silvers for drives and layups when the Yeshiva defense concentrated on them instead.

Another ingredient to the Rochelle Zell comeback was a change in defensive tactics at halftime.

"We weren't putting pressure on them in the first half," Dello said. "We changed that by adding traps to our zone."

Steve Sadin is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Twitter @Pioneer_Press

Notre Dame thrilled to get ‘over that hump,’ wrestle at 2A team state meet

BY STEVE MILLAR
Pioneer Press

BLOOMINGTON - A heartwarming overtime loss in the consolation semifinals at the Class 2A Antioch Sectional left Notre Dame senior Jake Curtin one win short of qualifying for the individual state meet.

Getting to compete with the Dons at the team state finals, however, proved to be just as sweet for Curtin.

"It's been 15 years since the team's been down here," Curtin said. "It felt good to represent Notre Dame for the last time on those state mats.

"The loss at sectionals pushed me knowing that every match after that could be my last match. I tried to give it my all."

Curtin closed his Notre Dame career in style in the state quarterfinal dual against Coal City on Saturday. He picked up a 4-1 win against state qualifier Brandon Strnad at 138 pounds, but the eventual state runner-up Cougars pulled away for a 45-20 win at Gossinger Motors Arena.

Entering this season, Notre Dame (15-3) had won regional titles in seven of the last eight years but had lost its sectional dual all seven times.

The Dons broke through with a 40-24 win against rival St. Patrick and earned their first trip to team state since 2004.

"I'm really proud of our guys for making it down here," Notre Dame coach Michael Rosengrant said. "It's indicative of the direction of our program. It was really nice to get over that hump at sectionals and get here."

After falling 4-3 to Fenton's Jeremiasz Piskorz at the individual sectional, Curtin (30-16) shifted his focus to helping the team. He beat St. Patrick's Delano Walker 8-5 at the sectional dual before capping his career with Saturday's big win.

"Being a state qualifier (Saturday) definitely makes me think, 'What could have been?'" Curtin said. "But I'm happy with how I wrestled. It was a good way to end it."

Rosengrant said he was proud of Curtin's ability to fight for the team after the personal disappointment.

"After losing in the blood round at sectionals, now he was able to finish his career on a high note with a really quality win," Rosengrant said. "That was great. I'm happy for him, and I think this will be something he remembers."

Senior heavyweight Gabe Fitzpatrick (38-9) also concluded his Dons career in memorable fashion by earning a 9-0 major decision over Wills Payton.

Fitzpatrick made his second trip to the individual state meet a week before and went 1-2.

"It means a lot to get to compete in both state finals my senior year," he said. "This year, I really realized I can escalate in the sport, and I'm hoping to wrestle in college now. I owe everything to Notre Dame and my coaches for getting me where I am."

Jackson Swinkle (170) picked up a pin for Notre Dame, while Sean Crump (126) and Alex Valenzona (145) added wins on Saturday in Bloomington.

Curtin and Fitzpatrick hope they've set the bar for future Notre Dame teams. They both depart the program with plenty of good memories.

Steve Millar is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Meet your nominees!

It is time to meet your March Athlete of the Month challenge nominees! Go to chicagotribune.com/suburbs/athletes on March 14 to find out who our expert panel of judges have selected to be the Athlete of the Month. Winners will be featured in print and online, receive a commemorative plaque, and his or her school will receive $500, presented by Country Financial.

Name: Jon Halvorsen.
Year in school: Senior.
School: Maine South.
Sport: Wrestling.
Position: 182 pounds.
Highlights: Earned second place in Class 3A on Feb. 16, becoming only the second wrestler in program history to reach a state final.
Quote: “Now, I have to start working again,” Halvorsen said. “It’s something I didn’t think about. All I thought about was winning this tournament.”

Name: Vincent Pi.
Year in school: Sophomore.
School: Niles North.
Sport: Swimming.
Position: 106 pounds.
Highlights: Posted a 2-2 record at the Class 2A state meet, losing in third round of the consolation bracket. Randell (333) just missed a top-six medal, but helped the Dons advance to the 2A team state meet for the second time in program history.
Quote: “Vincent is a fierce competitor,” Niles North coach Seth Orlove said. “He has learned throughout the season to perfect different aspects of his race, spending time in workouts detailing some of the little things.”

Name: Alex Randell.
Year in school: Junior.
School: Notre Dame.
Sport: Wrestling.
Position: 106 pounds.
Highlights: Earned first-place in the 50-yard freestyle (21.27 seconds) at the Niles North Sectional on Feb. 16. He also placed second in the 100-yard freestyle (46.95) to advance to the state meet in two events.
Quote: “Alex had a breakout season and was a big part of our team’s success,” Notre Dame wrestling coach Michael Rosengrant said.

College Notes

Jared Murphy helps St. Norbert hoops win Midwest Conference crown

BY BOB NARANG
Pioneer Press

Jared Murphy has been a key contributor during St. Norbert’s run to its eighth Midwest Conference men’s basketball championship in the last 10 seasons.

The Rolling Meadows graduate playing sparingly last season but has started 11 of his first 23 games this season.

Murphy, a 6-foot-4 forward, said he’s happy to be contributing on a winning team. St. Norbert, a Division III program, finished with a 16-2 record in the MWC and earned the No. 1 seed in the conference tournament.

“We have a very young team, so it’s exciting to see that we are able to play well together given our inexperience,” Murphy said. “I think both individually and as a team we can accomplish amazing things.”

Murphy has also kept an eye on Rolling Meadows star sophomore guard Max Christie, one of the top recruits in the class of 2021.

“I think it’s awesome what Max has been able to accomplish,” Murphy said. “He’s putting Rolling Meadows on the map and has a bright future ahead of him.”

Sophomore guard Matt Lynch, a Loyola graduate, and junior guard Jordan Newman, a Stevenson alumna, are among the local players on the Green Knights. Lynch is averaging 2.3 points, and Newman has played in 11 games coming off the bench.

Bolles maker at-bats: Carmel alumna Jenny Behan has started the season on a good note for the Purdue softball team.

The senior had two hits, including a home run, in the season-opener against Charleston on Feb. 8, then added two more hits against Pittsburgh later that day. She batted 3-for-3 against Central Michigan on Feb. 9.

Through 10 games, Behan is hitting .353 with one home run.

Behan, who hit 53 home runs in four years at Carmel, played her first two seasons at James Madison and made the NCAA Tournament both seasons.

Barrington graduate Rachel Krzysko is batting .182 with two walks and two RBIs in eight appearances for the Boilermakers.

Have a suggestion for College Notes? Email Bob Narang at bobnarang@yahoo.com.

Bob Narang is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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