She is an inspiration
Maine East teacher receives award for educational excellence.

Maine East High School science teacher Judy Tyler is celebrated by students and staff after being named a 2019 Golden Apple Award recipient March 18.

WHAT TO DO
Nice? Try funny.
"The Nice Jewish Girls Comedy Show" will be performed March 28 at the Skokie Theatre. Page B13

SPORTS
Basketball standouts
Who's the Pioneer Press Player of the Year for girls basketball? Find out inside along with the All-Area Team. Pages 20-21

SHOWSTOPPING NEWS
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Lila Gilbert, production manager

Morton Grove native Lila Gilbert uses the skills she learned as a theater technology major at the Theatre School at DePaul University in her career as a freelance production manager.


Q: What are your duties as production manager for "Small World?"
A: I first keep the production running. On time, on budget, and safely are the three big concerns. There's lots of budgeting and scheduling of meetings and rehearsals, and helping the other designers if they need it.

Q: Why did you choose a career in production management?
A: I started out doing scenic crew. I went to Niles West, and that was a big push into theater in general. Then I went to DePaul for a theater technology major, which is another form of behind-the-scenes work. I narrowed the focus down to production management because I really like working with people and being able to bring a compassionate and humane way to being the boss, so to speak.

Q: What would you be if you couldn't be a production manager?
A: Definitely a journalist. I want the opportunity to learn about a lot of different things.

Q: How do you advocate for mental health education?
A: I work in occasional fundraising for a nonprofit called Hope for the Day. It advocates for mental health education and suicide prevention.

Q: Why do you admire birds?
A: They just bring me so much joy. My favorite kind of bird is the pigeon. The way that they walk and move is so funny. They do so much walking even though they have the capacity to fly.

Q: What's your favorite memory of growing up in Morton Grove?
A: I went to Park View Elementary, so I have lots of memories of the Fourth of July fireworks in Harrer Park.

Q: What's your favorite Morton Grove restaurant?
A: El Sol on Dempster. Every time I go in, I'm recognized by the staff.

Q: What's your idea of a perfect day?
A: Hanging out with friends outside.

Q: What recent movie would you recommend?
A: "Lady Bird" because of the mother-daughter relationship that is portrayed in it. I really like complicated relationships between women being shown onstage and onscreen.

Q: What's your favorite TV program?
A: "Parks and Recreation" or "Mr. Robot."

Q: What's your favorite saying?
A: First wait.

Q: What would be your dream vacation?
A: A big Europe tour.

Q: What was your favorite vacation?
A: Hawaii. It's beautiful.

Q: What's your most prized possession?
A: I have a "special things" box where I keep thank-you notes from productions or goodbye letters.

—Myrna Petlick, Pioneer Press

SHOUT OUT

KAITLYN JOHNSTON PHOTOGRAPHY

Lila Gilbert

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Maine East's Judy Tyler receives Golden Apple

10 educators in Illinois to receive this award

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Judy Tyler, thought she was heading into a meeting to discuss construction plans for her Maine East High School science classroom.

But upon opening the door to the room where the March 18 meeting was supposedly taking place, Tyler - dressed in blue pajamas as part of a spirit week theme activity - got a surprise.

Instead of district staff armed with remodeling plans, Tyler was greeted by a crowd of cheering students and faculty - and a banner announcing her selection as a 2019 Golden Apple Award recipient for excellence in teaching.

"I have the best students in the whole world," a visibly emotional, teary-eyed Tyler said, before rushing forward to hug them.

"You're missing class! Get back to class!" she joked with the students as the hugs and picture-taking commenced.

Tyler, a teacher at the Park Ridge high school for the last 30 years, was selected from more than 550 nominations and was one of just 10 educators in Illinois to receive this year's Golden Apple Award, which recognizes teachers who have made a "significant, positive impact on their students' growth and learning," according to the Golden Apple organization.

"Golden Apple noted that Tyler "empowers her students to work to solve the inequality that faces our nation through service and understanding" and that fellow teachers credit her with "helping to build a learning culture at Maine East High School which has resulted in increased levels of achievement for all students."

"She is an inspiration to the entire community and is the heart of the school," the organization said.

Though Tyler knew she had been selected as a finalist for a Golden Apple Award, she said she had no idea she had won the prestigious honor until walking into that crowded classroom the afternoon of March 18.

"I feel like most of the folks in this room deserve this [award]," Tyler said, her voice breaking. "That's really what I feel. Everyone here fights for the kids as much as we can. Everyone does."

"She's the teacher who really makes you want to learn," Maine East senior Josephine Vachachira, of Niles, said of Tyler. "She instills her passion of biology into all of us. She'll make sure you ask questions, that you're paying attention. And she's so nice about all of it. You can just tell she genuinely cares about all the students."

Senior Leena Saadeh, of Niles, said Tyler is a teacher who really gets involved in helping her students understand what she is teaching them.

"She's helped me a lot," Saadeh said. "I'm not really an avid studier, so she has really pushed me to study. On a test that we just took, I got an A because she inspired me to study for eight hours."

Taylor Gammell, a 2018 Maine East graduate from Niles, returned to the school for Tyler's surprise March 18.

"She was a great influence in my life," Gammell said. "She was just a great teacher who was always willing to put herself out there for us, always be there for us no matter what, and always make sure we were ready to learn while trying to help us out in life."

In addition to teaching science classes, Tyler is the founder and coordinator of the school's Gifted Lyceum, a four-year educational and service learning program offered to students who rank among the top 5 percent of their class. Students choose philanthropic projects and help raise money for selected causes.

Tyler, of Barrington, shared with Pioneer Press last month that she had not initially planned to become a teacher, but a chance encounter changed her trajectory.

"I was waitressing and a former teacher of mine stopped into the bar where I was working," she said. "She said, 'Judy, you should be a teacher. You'd be really good at it.'"

Within weeks, Tyler, who had started her college career as a pre-med student, was signing up for classes that would allow her to receive a teaching degree, she said.

Maine East Principal Michael Pressler credited Tyler with "walking the talk" when it comes to her students.

"If she expects students to perform at a high level, she's going to go there herself," he said. "She's not the least bit of hypocritical about expectations for kids. She sets them very high for herself in order to set the example for the students."

Maine Township High School District 207 Superintendent Ken Wallace praised Tyler for her work as a leader among her peers through the district's one-on-one instructional coaching program for teachers.

"No one is more deserving," he said.

In addition to her award, Tyler will receive a $5,000 cash prize and become a "Fellow of the Golden Apple Academy of Educators," a group of teachers who support current and future educators, the Golden Apple organization said.

Tyler and the other 2019 award winners will be recognized at the Golden Apple Awards for Excellence in Teaching and Leadership held on May 18.
The following items were taken from the Niles Police Department reports. An arrest does not constitute a finding of guilt.

**DISORDERLY CONDUCT**
- A 53-year-old woman from unincorporated Maine Township was ticketed for disorderly conduct and public intoxication on the morning of March 9 after police said she was intoxicated and acting in a “belligerent” manner inside Belle’s Cafe, 8600 W. Golf Road. According to police, the woman was yelling loudly while seated at a video gaming machine and alarming other patrons. When an officer asked the woman where she lived so that police could give her a ride home, she replied, “Mongolia,” and “approached the officer in an aggressive manner,” police said.
- A 43-year-old Skokie man was ticketed for disorderly conduct on March 8 after he was accused of punching another soccer player during a game at LoVerde Recreation Center, 7847 N. Caldwell Ave., police said.
- An 18-year-old Lincolnwood man was ticketed for disorderly conduct on March following a reported disturbance at a home on the 8000 block of West Lake Street, police said.
- A 29-year-old man from unincorporated Maine Township was cited for disorderly conduct and public intoxication on March 13 after he was accused of harassing the bartender and yelling at patrons who attempted to sit down at the bar next to him at Chaser’s, 9003 N. Milwaukee Ave., police said. When officers arrived, the man allegedly refused to leave the establishment and threatened to sue the officers and the Niles Police Department, police said.

**THEFT**
- Rafael Colon Bruno, 40, of the 200 block of Warren Boulevard, Chicago, was charged with retail theft and criminal damage to property on March 11, police said. According to police, Bruno was accused of breaking into a display case at a Walmart store and stealing 17 men’s watches. He was given a March 22 court date.

**BATTERY**
- Yossef A. Naama, 21, of the 7700 block of North Nordica Avenue, Niles, was charged with domestic battery on March 11, police said. He was given a March 28 court date.
- Pawel Sarata, 51, of the 6600 block of West Touhy Avenue, Niles, was charged with domestic battery on March 11 in connection with an incident that occurred inside a business at the Oak Mill Mall, 7900 N. Milwaukee Ave., police said. Court information was not included.

**DUI**
- Lolita S. Mauriz, 30, of the 3500 block of North Lockwood Avenue, Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence on March 7 following a traffic stop at 11 a.m. on the 7800 block of North Milwaukee Avenue, police said. She was given an April 3 court date.
- Janda E. Papiernik, 48, of the 5300 block of West Leland Avenue, Chicago, was charged with driving under the influence, aggravated driving under the influence while operating a vehicle for hire, and driving with a suspended license on March 8 following a crash on the 8100 block of Oakton Street, police said. According to police, Papiernik’s license had been suspended for prior DUI convictions, and an open bottle of wine and four empty wine cooler bottles were found on the front passenger seat of her car. Police did not indicate the company for which Papiernik was driving or if there were any passengers in the car at the time of the crash.
- Felipe Soriano-Torres, 30, of the 8200 block of Elizabeth Avenue, Niles, was charged with driving under the influence and driving without a valid license on March 8 after officers discovered a car parked and running on the front lawn of a residence on the 8300 block of West Oak Avenue at 8 a.m., police said. According to police, Soriano-Torres was asleep inside the car and slumped over the center console. He was given an April 26 court date.

**SPEEDING**
- Stephen E. Gustafson, 23, of the 100 block of Cuttriss Street, Park Ridge, was charged with excessive speeding on March 12 after police said he was stopped on the 7700 block of North Milwaukee Avenue for traveling 85 mph in a 35 mph speed zone. He was given an April 10 court date.

**WARRANT**
- Colette L. McKenzie, 27, of the 4800 block of Conrad Street, Skokie, was taken into custody on a Niles warrant for retail theft on March 10, police said. Court information was not provided.
- Antonio Gutierrez, 55, of the 2200 block of North Natchez Street, Chicago, was taken into custody March 10 on a 2018 Niles retail theft warrant, police said. Court information was not provided.

**POSSESSION**
- A 14-year-old Des Plaines boy was ticketed for possession of alcohol by a minor on March 7 after police said he admitted to filling up a 1-ounce bottle with tequila and bringing it to Gemini Junior High School, 8955 N. Greenwood Ave.
- Two 17-year-old boys were ticketed for possession of marijuana and violating curfew on the morning of March 9 after police said they were found inside a car parked outside Mark Twain School, 9401 N. Hamlin Ave., with a vaping cartridge that contained suspected cannabis oil.

**PUBLIC INTOXICATION**
- A 26-year-old Chicago man was ticketed for public intoxication after he was accused of causing a disturbance at Real Nail and Spa, 8938 N. Greenwood Ave., on March 8, police said. He was taken to the hospital, according to police.

Turn to Blotter, Page 7
The race for a seat on the Oakton Community College board of trustees features 13 candidates vying for three seats. Current board President Joan DiLeonardi of Des Plaines and Trustee Anne Tennes, village of Skokie marketing and communications chief, won't be returning to the board. Kyle Frank, who is a Skokie attorney, is the lone incumbent in the race.

As Oakton turns 50 in 2019, the community college's President Joanne Smith said of the crowded field of trustee candidates, "It certainly is no surprise that so many community members who believe in the college's mission are seeking to serve in this important governance capacity."

The community college district includes the towns of Evanston, Glencoe, Glenview, Golf, Kenilworth, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles, Northbrook, Northfield, Park Ridge, Skokie, Wilmette, Winnetka, and portions of Des Plaines, Mount Prospect and Rosemont.

Robert A. Boron, 66, of Northbrook

**Current Occupation:** Attorney

**Political or volunteer experience:** Member, Stakeholders' Interview Committee for replacement of the retiring superintendent of the Glenbrook High Schools; November 2018; Member, Northfield Township High School District 225 (Glenbrook High Schools), April, 2003-August 2017 (Vice President 2007-2017); Illinois State Bar Association, new lawyer mentor, 2015-2019; Vice President of Youth Programs, Congregation Beth Shalom, Northbrook, 1999-2003; North Suburban YMCA, youth martial arts instructor; Northbrook Baseball coach or assistant coach

**Why are you running?**

I served on the board of the Glenbrook High School District, including as vice-president for approximately 10 years. I believe my skills and experience, developed over more than 14 years on that board, along with my prior participation in youth activities, would translate well to the college board.

Theresa Bashiri-Remetio, 34, of Morton Grove

**Current Occupation:** Senior Financial Analyst

**Political or volunteer experience:** Co-chair of Oakton Alumni Council (2018-Present); Oakton Community College - Alumni council member 2014 - 2018; Trustee, Community College District 535 2013-2015; Student trustee, Oakton Community College 2012-2013; Phi Theta Kappa mentor (OCC) 2009-2011; Phi Theta Kappa Chapter president (OCC) 2008-2009

**Why are you running?**

I am running to ensure that the future students, whatever their pathway, pace, and purpose, have access to the support and empowerment they need. I want to ensure Oakton will continue to be the college's center of its programs, providing accessible, affordable quality education focused on student support, degree completion and student success.

Why do you balance tuition affordability with expanding services or improving facilities?

Expanding services and improving facilities are a necessity, but also expenses that need to be well planned for and thought about in a holistic manner. Fair allocation of state capital funding is critical to projects such as facility improvement. In the spirit of continuous improvement, it is important for an institution to consistently evaluate existing offerings, and reconcile them with the needs of students and the community. Through this exercise, an institution can continually evaluate resources and re-allocate such when the need arises.

Gail Bush, 66, of Evanston

**Current Occupation:** Professor emeritus of education, National Louis University

**Political or volunteer experience:** Evanston Public Library, trustee; Illinois Library Association, president; RAILS (Reaching Across Illinois Libraries) Library System, charter board member; Illinois State Library Advisory Committee, member; IFLA (International Federation of Library Associations), U.S. delegate; Adult ESL and ABE tutor volunteer, Evanston Township High School; Suburban Mosaic, member; Poetry Foundation, trustee; Indivisible: Poems for Social Justice Grant Program, Chicago Public Schools, founder and sponsor; Battle of the Books, Chicago Public Schools, judge; Rainbow Animal Assisted Therapy Handler serving schools and libraries in the Oakton district, Project Linus, North Suburban Chicago Chapter, blancaeter; Meals at Home, volunteer delivery driver (St. Francis Hospital).

**Why are you running?**

My career in Illinois libraries and higher education includes 10 years at Maine Township High School District 207 followed by dual faculty and administration positions at Dominican University and National Louis University. I am a 40-year resident of the district and am committed to serving our community through Oakton.

Allan H. Cohen, 71, of Glenview

**Current Occupation:** Retired

**Political or volunteer experience:** Leadership Glenview, participant (2017-18); Governing Council Of Advocate Lutheran General Hospital (2012-present); Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science, trustee (2015-present); Advisor/Reviewer for early stage women led companies through the Springboard organization (2005-present); Tall Trees HOA, area rep (1992-99, 2018-present), Oktoberfest organizer (1993), Turkey Trot fundraiser (2015-16), and organizer for the July 4 neighborhood parade/party (2019)

**Why are you running?**

As my work activities diminished I have been leveraging my skills and experience in management, finance, business development, science and board governance.
Lincolnwood to allow banquet halls in manufacturing district

BY PHIL ROCKROHR
Pioneer Press

Lincolnwood trustees have agreed to allow banquet halls in a manufacturing district and asked the Plan Commission to review whether they should be allowed in other non-residential zoning districts.

On March 5, the Village Board voted unanimously to allow banquet halls in the M-B manufacturing and business zoning district.

The vote came after developers Benjamin and Mark Figueroa expressed interest in building a banquet hall on a parcel in the district, said Doug Hammel, community development manager for Lincolnwood.

At the board's Jan. 15 Committee of the Whole meeting, trustees suggested the Plan Commission review the use in all non-residential districts to examine the potential impact on surrounding residential districts, Hammel said.

"The Plan Commission determined they wanted to focus on the petitioners' request, not in other zoning districts," he said. "They felt it was appropriate in the M-B zoning district for access to arterials, off-street parking and other factors."

The Plan Commission recommended banquet halls as a special use in the M-B district, Hammel said.

Village Attorney Steven Elrod reminded the board it had the option to ask the Plan Commission to consider other zoning districts in a separate hearing.

Trustee Ronald Cope said demand for banquet halls may not exist in other districts. The commission considered M-B because a developer expressed interest in operating a banquet hall there, Cope said.

"I'm not opposed to having the Plan Commission consider it," he said. "But we should consider if there is demand or properties that would lend themselves to a banquet facility."

Trustee Jesal Patel, who made the motion to ask the commission to review other zoning districts, argued the board might want to envision opportunities for banquet halls other than just the current proposal.

"If we change the zoning to attract a use, it just might do that," he said.

Even though existing zoning code did not specify such a use, it does contain a reference to "banquet facility, banquet hall" that staff determined would fit the proposed project, according to a report to the board by the Community Development Department.

"(Zoning code) does not specifically include 'banquet facility' or 'banquet hall' in its list of use categories," the report said. "However, given the fact that the zoning ordinance includes a definition for 'banquet facility, banquet hall' and includes on-site parking requirements associated with that defined use, it can be concluded that the zoning ordinance contemplates such a use in the village."

In referring the matter to the Plan Commission on Jan. 15, the Village Board asked the commission to consider whether such a use would be appropriate in B-1 traditional business, B-2 general business, B-3 village center and O office zoning districts.

At its Feb. 21 public hearing, commissioners expressed concerns about allowing banquet halls in zoning districts other than M-B, the report said.

"Commissioners generally agreed that the 'banquet facility, banquet hall' use is appropriate in the M-B zoning district, based on the fact that the demand for parking is generally opposite other permitted uses in that district, properties in that district generally have good access to arterial roads, and properties are generally buffered from residential neighborhoods," it said.

Phil Rockrohr is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Blotter, from Page 5

BURGLARY
■ Jewelry and electronics were reported stolen from a house on the 7600 block of North Odell Avenue between Feb. 27 and March 3, police said.
■ A resident of a home on the 6800 block of Oakton Court reported that a man came to the house on March 11, entered the locked back porch and asked her husband for a cup of water. The husband reportedly asked the man to leave, and, after becoming angry, the man reportedly did so. He was seen entering a black SUV, police said. According to police, a hole had been cut in the porch's screen door, allowing the man to lift the glass and open the door.

THEFT
■ Two unknown women allegedly stole approximately $151 worth of clothing from Old Navy, 8315 W. Golf Road, on March 7.
■ A woman, about 18 years old, allegedly grabbed an armful of clothing from sales racks at Kohls, Golf Mill, and ran out of the store without paying for them on March 12. She was last seen getting into a gray SUV, police said.
■ A jewelry box containing approximately $500 worth of necklaces, cuff links and tie tacks was reported stolen March 13 from a home on the 7400 block of West Keeney Street, police said.

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Przybylo: ‘I will not seek another term as mayor of Niles’

By Jennifer Johnson
Pioneer Press

Niles Mayor Andrew Przybylo announced this week that he will not pursue a referendum that could overturn term limits imposed on elected officials to seek a third term as mayor in 2021.

“I cannot make this any clearer: I will not seek another term as mayor of Niles in 2021, period,” Przybylo said in a statement released March 18. “Despite the fact that I never said I was going to put forward a referendum to allow an exemption to term limits, some of my political opponents have made an issue of it. I am respecting the will of the voters and will honor term limits as set forth in the 2013 referendum.”

Przybylo acknowledged that he had asked for an attorney’s opinion regarding whether the term limits approved by voters could be overturned with a new referendum and had also told Trustee George Alpogianis that he could “run again if I want to.”

He also said residents were encouraging him to run for a third term, but he insisted that he never planned to get such a referendum on the ballot.

Some trustees disagree.

In a statement released March 18, the Voice of Niles Party — consisting of Trustees Dean Strzelecki and Denise McCreery and newcomer Craig Niedermaier — contend that Przybylo made overturning term limits for himself “a condition of his support for [the] re-election of Trustees Strzelecki, McCreery, and [Joe] LoVerde” in the April 2 village board race. Each of the trustees declined to support a referendum that would eliminate term limits, the party said, alleging that this resulted in Przybylo forming another political party to run against them on April 2.

LoVerde ultimately decided not to seek another term on the village board and is running for the Niles Park Board instead.

Candidates Apostolos “Paul” Drakontaidis and Melic Bookstein, who are running with Israel “Izzy” Pacheco as a slate called the Neighbors Party and are being backed by Przybylo, said this week that if elected on April 2, they would not vote for a referendum to overturn term limits and allow the mayor to run for a third term.

“The voters have made it clear that they want term limits,” Drakontaidis said. “Term limits will apply as they have been voted on by the taxpayers.”

Przybylo, 67, said he has been approached by residents who asked him if there was a way he could run for a third term as mayor, but he expressed doubt that he would have run for re-election if term limits had not existed.

“I enjoyed being creative and serving the citizens of Niles — it’s in my DNA,” he said. “But I’m too old. I’m tired now. I have to do something else.”

Prior to being elected mayor in 2013, Przybylo served as a Niles trustee for 24 years.

ijohnson@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @jen_Tribune
Candidates, from Page 6

I am running to serve our community, listen to our community, and make a difference.

**How do you balance tuition affordability with expanding services or improving facilities?**

As a community college maintaining affordability is always a high priority. I want raising tuition to be a last resort. We want to ensure that Oakton continues to provide high quality education that is a good value for the students. This is a balancing act based heavily on property taxes and projected enrollment. Based on estimates we can formulate an operating budget that aligns with the strategic goals and allows for students, staff and faculty to thrive. As a trustee, I will work with Oakton leadership to review the budget and help make adjustments as needed to account for other expenses, such as facilities repairs and new programs. My background in fundraising and risk management should come in handy for these needs.

Richard A. Geline, 81, of Glenview

Current Occupation: Retired orthopedic surgeon

Political or volunteer experience: President, Illinois State Medical Society; President, Chicago Medical Society; President of the Medical Staff Advocate Illinois Masonic Medical Center

Why are you running?

I am running for a position on the Board of Trustees of the Oakton Community College as a natural extension of my background of organizational leadership, familiarity with Oakton Community College as a lifelong student and a desire to be involved and work toward the betterment of the institution.

**How do you balance tuition affordability with expanding services or improving facilities?**

Balance of tuition affordability and expanding services must be achieved by establishing priorities for the limited funds which are available. Determination, with input from, students, faculty, and the community must be made which programs, services and facilities will produce the most beneficial experience for the most students. Funding allotment can then follow to produce the maximum value for available revenue.

Michele Hays, 51, of Evanston

Current Occupation: Volunteer Community Advocate

Political or volunteer experience: Back On Their Feet, Evanston, 2017-present; Founder and Administrator; Evanston Citizens for Appropriate Special Education Parent Partner, 2019; Brummel Park Neighbors and Hands Across Howard, Chair 2008-present; Member of Evanston Police Chief's Advisory Council, 2005-2017; Volunteer Voter Registrar with League of Women Voters and OPAL 2015-2017; PTA President at Chute Middle School, 2013-15; Battle of the Books Club Coordinator, Washington Elementary School, 2008-2018; Board Chair, Puerta Abierta Preschool 2004-5

Why are you running?

I am running to continue my advocacy of dual credit. I also wish to make sure that residents in the eastern portion of the district have full access to OCC. I have attended enough seminars to receive a five year education certificate from ICCTA. Seminars covers best practices, state financing (which is grim) and innovative new college programs. Besides my continued advocacy of dual credit and the Skokie Campus, I wish to put my full attention to educational partnership.

**How do you balance tuition affordability with expanding services or improving facilities?**

One hot issue for community colleges nationwide is granting BA degrees. We do not need this since we already have so many great institutions already granting bachelor's degrees. So I advocate minimizing new programs and cutting unnecessary existing programs.

Kyle Frank

Occupation: Attorney

Political or volunteer experience: Member Board of Oakton Community College District 535 2013-19; Glenview Chamber of Commerce 2014-18; ICCTA 2013-19

Why are you running?

I am running to continue my advocacy of dual credit. I wish to make sure that residents in the eastern portion of the district have full access to OCC. I have attended enough seminars to receive a five year education certificate from ICCTA. Seminars covers best practices, state financing (which is grim) and innovative new college programs. Besides my continued advocacy of dual credit and the Skokie Campus, I wish to put my full attention to educational partnership.

**How do you balance tuition affordability with expanding services or improving facilities?**

The main attraction of a community college is its affordability, which is why it's necessary to keep tuition as affordable as possible or else risk losing enrollment. The other main attraction for particular community colleges is the resources and diversity of programs that they offer, which is why Oakton must seek to expand services and improve facilities when it's in the school's interests. The way to balance the two is to keep a steady flow of capital and service improvements that won't exceed budgetary limitations, which will keep Oakton an attractive place of study for prospective students.

R. Razz Jenkins, 64, of Des Plaines

Current Occupation: Retired HR Recruiter, currently professional actor

Political or volunteer experience: Former board member Chicago Lighthouse For People Who Are Blind Or Visually Impaired; past President, Valparaiso University Alumni Association, Board of Directors; SAG-AFTRA Chicago Local Board member, Performers Union

Why are you running?

My mission is, "I create a world committed to serving by modeling service." I am most valuable when I have "skin in the game" and am looking forward to serving the many constituencies in our community.

**How do you balance tuition affordability with expanding services or improving facilities?**

OCC and community colleges in general are a true 'Best Buy' in the training and education field. As a community-funded entity, OCC has the unique ability to levy, with voter approval, operational funds. I support using resources without being either profligate nor miserly, but rather focus on what is ethical, legal, mission focused and in the best interests of the student, tax payer and internal stakeholders.

Havee Makedon, 25, of Des Plaines

Current Occupation: Substitute teacher

Political or volunteer experience: Volunteer for various Democratic Party candidates; Volunteer for the Clean Up - Give Back NGO in Des Plaines; Board Member of Munich Center for Mathematical Philosophy (2016-2018)

Why are you running?

It was through Oakton, and the opportunities it afforded to me, that I was able to complete my undergraduate and later graduate education completely debt-free. I realize the importance of such institutions in providing opportunities for members of our community, and I am running to ensure that Oakton remains a place of opportunity.

**How do you balance tuition affordability with expanding services or improving facilities?**

The current facilities are excellent and just need to be properly maintained. Strengthening programs that serve growing areas of the economy such as health sciences, data analysis, and programs that combine soft and hard sciences should be explored. To help make resources available, underutilized programs and teaming with other tax funded organizations for economies of scale purchasing should be evaluated. The Oakton Education Foundation should be substantially strengthened as a source of scholarships and grants to partially offset not only tuition but lost wage opportunities.

Alexandra Eidenberg, 35, of Wilmette

Current Occupation: Owns a small business in Skokie

Political or volunteer experience: I am a long-time volunteer and community activist and very proudly the founder of WE WILL, an organization that helps women and children get involved in legislation that supports families. We have over 7000 members across Illinois and have had the opportunity to write, testify for and pass various pieces of legislation. I am a board member emeritus of the Small Business Advocacy Council (SBAC), Founder of the SBAC Women’s Board, Policy Committee Member; Member of the Skokie Chamber, Winnetka Northfield Chamber, Chicagoland Chamber; and the National Association of Women Business Owners (NAWBO). I hold the 2017 LiftUpLift Ally Award; eWomenNetwork Woman to Watch; Open Communities & Arise Suburban Language Award; and 2016, 2017, 2018 Circle of Champions Affordable Care Act Enrollment. I am a big fan of supporting women in various phases of life and am a Wilmette Girl Scout troop leader; ERA, Family Leave, Equal Pay organizer and coalition builder; Columbia College Chicago Alumni Association event coordinator and fundraiser; and member of Moms Demand Action.

Why are you running?

Our family's foundation started with Oakton's EMS class: with that, my husband got work as an EMT-B and continued at Oakton to get his Paramedic license, which lead to a career as a firefighter in Evanston. I want everyone in the District to have access to these kinds of opportunities.
Candidates, from Page 10

Entrepreneurship Program volunteer.

What is the main issue currently facing Oakton Community College?

The main issue facing Oakton community college is its inability to address many of the needs of its student body. District 535 is a large district encompassing Evanston, Skokie, Deerfield, Des Plaines, Glencoe, Glenview, Golf, Kenilworth, Lincolnwood, Morton Grove, Niles, Northbrook, Northfield, Park Ridge, Wilmette and Winnetka. Each district is unique and each district should be viewed through its own lens before implementing any programs or services for that particular district.

Why are you running?

As an attorney for the past 25 years, I am running because I want to establish a liaison between the Courts and Oakton Community College to provide opportunities for those who have been involved in the criminal justice system. I am also running because I would like to increase workforce development between high schools in the district and Oakton Community College.

How do you balance tuition affordability with expanding services or improving facilities?

As tuition costs continue to escalate, it has excluded many students and families access to a higher education. Tuition affordability needs to be Oakton's top priority. A post-secondary education/certification is the greatest driver of socioeconomic mobility in America. Higher education is no longer a luxury, it is a necessity and extremely vital in this global economy. Too many prospective students fail to attend college due to prohibitive tuition costs. Therefore, it must be given first priority before any expansion of services or improvement of facilities.

Cynthia “Cindy” Veremis, 66, of Des Plaines

Current Occupation: Regional Human Resources Director, LSG Sky Chefs, airline catering company owned by Lufthansa Airlines, HR oversight for 6,000 employees in my region

Political or volunteer experience: President Des Plaines Chamber of Commerce; Des Plaines Comprehensive Plan Steering Committee; President, Brown Street Condominium Association; Volunteer at Des Plaines events - July 4th parade, Fall Fest, Taste of Des Plaines, Winter Wonderland

Why are you running?

I have worked in a diverse multi-cultural environment my entire career with 35 years experience in human resources. I have a long standing and highly respected reputation for helping people succeed and change their lives. I want the opportunity to do more of this by helping individuals be successful in their current employment, future careers and in general enriching their lives through the many avenues of learning that Oakton has to offer.

How do you balance tuition affordability with expanding services or improving facilities?

Understand the current and future needs of the students and community; ensure programs of highest value are available and accessible where they will serve the most students; remove barriers for student's success; seek input from businesses to assess how Oakton can serve to enhance the skills of their current workforce as well as prepare students to meet the needs of the future. Companies are willing to invest in their human resources, especially as they compete for talent. Oakton needs to leverage those needs. Focus on value-added programs and services and closely examine all non-value added expenses to reduce costs.

Wendy B. Yanow, 64, of Evanston

Current Occupation: Higher Education, Adult Education

Political or volunteer experience: Volunteer Teacher, Dorothy Stang Popular Education Adult High School, Chicago, 2017 and 2018; Anti-racism community teacher/facilitator and activist

Why are you running?

I am running because I believe in high quality higher education that is inclusive, meets the needs of the entire community and is accessible to all. My education and experience in higher and adult education have prepared me well for this leadership role and I am ready to serve.

How do you balance tuition affordability with expanding services or improving facilities?

Students need access to education and affordability is a key component. We balance affordability with expanding services or improving facilities by critically evaluating proposals through a lens of equity. Who will these serve teaching and learning? There are many improvements in services that can result from deeper understanding and training that don't limit access through tuition increases.
Signs of spring: Plants, gardening, Shamrock Shakes

LYNN PETRAK  
Home on LaGrange

Did something green catch your eye as you got out of your car or walked into your house? Right there, where the charcoal-colored chunks of leftover snow and ice covered the surface just a week or so ago, something vaguely familiar is on the ground. It’s an emerging plant, maybe even one of the daffodils that you planted on a chilly October weekend and have largely forgotten about in the months since.

After a long, cold winter in which more than a few people have broken bones or torn hamstrings — I’m dealing with some kind of elbow issue I got when the dog took after a bunny on one of the coldest nights in February — it’s relieving to see buds emerging from branches and sprouts of annual plants emerging from the ground.

The back of winter has been broken and other signs of spring are emerging. Maybe you’ve even smelled it: that unmistakable fragrance of spring that is probably dank but welcome nonetheless. It hits you when you walk out the door in the morning. Another thing you notice in the morning is the sound of the returning birds. That relative silence over winter was pretty dispiriting, right? Now, it’s a veritable chirp-fest when I take the dogs out in the morning, albeit cradling the elbow that was impacted by the subzero run on the rabbit.

Maybe you’ve heard the remarkable sound overhead of sandhill cranes migrating back north, which is one of the coolest sounds around. Beyond the cycle of nature, of course, there are other signs of spring. People at garden centers and hardware stores start lug-ging out bags of soil, displaying containers and garden gloves in the window, and setting up cute spring and summer accents for indoors and outdoors.

I don’t know about you, but March isn’t complete without a Shamrock Shake. Yes, I saw the infographic that made the rounds on social media last week breaking down the amount of sugar and dye in that shake, but to me, the point is that I only drink one or two a year, so I might as well savor every sip. The same is true of my other vice: black jellybeans from Brach’s that come out every Easter.

Menus start phasing out short rib and cassoulets and bringing on more salads and lighter dishes. Car washes have long lines again, as we wipe off the caked-on vestige of a season that no one really loves, except for some who love to skate or ski and those of us who savor snow and scarves at Christmastime.

I know that a writer I studied in English class declared that “April is the cruelest month” because there’s always a rude snap back to cold and snow, but for now, in March, I’m happy that the air isn’t hurting my face, even if my elbow still has a twinge.

Lynn Petrak is a freelance columnist.
College can be as corrupt, unfair and tyrannical as the rest of the world

Randy Blaser

I guess it is true what they say. College isn't for everyone.
And as it turns out, this is might be especially true if
you are a thinking person.
Or, if you believe in fairness and equality.
Or, if you believe in justice and free speech.
Or, if you believe in academic freedom.

As it turns out, college can be just as corrupt,
unfair, tyrannical and unjust as the rest of the world,
maybe even more so.

What else can one think when faced with the latest
scandal to hit the Ivory Towers of America's most
elite schools, where well-heeled and famous parents
are alleged to have paid
millions of dollars in scams
to cheat college admissions
so their kids could get into
top schools?

The scams reveal a lot
about higher education
today, which is increasingly
a place where no one with
an independent brain
might want to be.

We all know that every
parent would do every-
thing they can to help their
kid get into the best school
possible.

Some parents lay down
the law about their child's
study habits throughout
their academic life.

Some parents pay high-
priced learning centers or
tutors for extra coaching
for their kids. Some pay for
coaching on how to take
the big tests — the ACT and
the SAT.

Some parents pay exor-
bitant amounts to athletic
camps and travel leagues to
help their kids excel in
sports with the hopes of
obtaining an athletic schol-
arship to a Division I
school.

And we now know that
some parents allegedly pay
exorbitant fees for bribes,
fake resumes and fake
sports accomplishments to
get into top universities.

The fact that these un-
derstanding students can get
into these prestigious
schools also says some-
thing about higher educa-
tion in the United States
today. It's baffling why a
parent would waste so
much time, effort and mon-
ey to get their low-per-
forming offspring into a
school they don't deserve.
Isn't it likely the student
would eventually flunk
out?

But apparently they
don't. It seems you don't
have to get perfect scores
on the SAT or have a 5.0
GPA on a 4-point scale to
do well at Harvard, or USC
or Stanford. You just have
to get in, by hook or crook.

The school will do the rest.

Apparently the whole
testing scheme and admis-
sion process is a sham.

The latest revelations are
just another chip in the
so-called Ivory Towers to
go along with all the other
shams of higher learning in
America today.

We've already seen that
a college campus is no-
where to be if you care
about free speech. The
exchange of ideas is only
OK on a college campus if
they are the ideas deemed
correct. Conservative
speakers are routinely
chased off college cam-
puses by students.

Conservative firebrands
like Ben Shapiro and Ann
Coulter to former Secret-
tary of State Condoleeza
Rice and former CIA direc-
tor John Brennan have
been chased off campuses.
Even former Cook County
State's Attorney Anita
Alvarez got shouted down
at the University of Chi-
cago.

A group of students at
Sarah Lawrence University
want a professor kicked off
the faculty because he
wrote an essay in the New
York Times showing that
student affairs adminis-
trators lean far more to the
left than faculty.

It seems everyone is
gaming the system to get
their way.

Oh, except for those kids
who can't even get in the
game.

Randy Blaser is a freelance
columnist.
Big, beautiful love story will never die

Ten years ago, Elizabeth Long met Michael Dolan at a mutual friend’s Christmas party, and said she thought he was a really nice guy who was easy to talk to. What Long didn’t know at the time, was that Dolan would end up being the love of her life.

“I remember leaving the party and I forgot my purse, so I walked back into the house and he saw me and said, ‘You’re back!’ and his whole face lit up,” Long said. “No one’s face ever lit up like that when they saw me.”

Three years later (seven years ago), Long and Dolan ran into each other again, this time at a fundraiser. Both divorced with kids, they fell in love.

“He walked in, and that was it,” said 38-year-old Long, a North Shore mom of two and ecommerce skin care business owner. “He sat on the couch next to me and admitted that he came there for me.”

I wish I could say that the couple lived happily ever after. I truly wish I could say that, but I can’t. Fifty-seven-year-old Dolan, a man truly devoted to Long her two little girls, and his teenage son, died in a car accident three months ago.

I sat down with Long to talk about her life with her beloved Dolan, the tragedy, and how she is coping with the devastating loss.

“Our big, beautiful life. That’s how Michael and I referred to our life together,” said Long. “Nothing really mattered. We knew what we had and we were so grateful.”

Describing Dolan’s physical appearance as “gorgeous with pristine, icy blue eyes, in shape and strong,” Long said on the inside, the man she adored had incredible depth, warmth and vulnerability.

“He so tenderly cared for me,” she said. “He was always touching me and hugging me and telling me how much he loved me, and he would write me notes and cards. He wrote me a note on the second anniversary of our first kiss. I mean, who keeps track of your kisses?”

What made their relationship so special? Long said she and Dolan were opposites, who brought out the best in each other.

“I was wild and crazy, and he was the most secure man,” she said. “He knew who he was. He told me one time, ‘You saved my life. You came in and brought all this joy and fun and light and laughter into my life.’”

Dolan was also a wonderful father, according to Long. Proud and involved in his son Jack’s life, he also treated her children like they were his own, and showed them what unconditional love looks like.

“Jack was the light of his world, and Michael wanted to be involved in his life every way he could,” Long said. “He had no reservations about expressing love. His text messages to Jack were so cute and endearing.”

Two years ago, on a trip to Turks and Caicos, Dolan proposed, and shortly after, they moved in together.

“Our house was full of light, laughter and fun,” Long said. “I remember one time he said, ‘It feels like when I walk in the door, I’m walking into a vacation.’”

The two had a surprise wedding planned for May 11. But on Dec. 8, 2018, a devastating tragedy struck.

Long was in Florida for her sister’s baby shower, and had talked to Dolan earlier in the day, telling him she missed him and loved him. He told her he would talk to her later, but that never happened. He was killed in a car accident coming home from a hunting trip. The family dog, “Dutch” was in the car and also died.

Telling me the story through tears, Long said, “Michael loved me unconditionally, and he slipped through my hands like water.”

“What do you do when the love of your life dies?” I asked Long. “I mean, how do you cope? How do you even begin moving on?”

Long’s answer: love.

“The only thing that’s real is love,” said Long. “Love is everywhere. There are a million acts of love and kindness, and it’s there if you choose to see it. Michael was a teacher of love, and that’s what he did for 7 years and that’s what I will continue to do. We don’t have Michael, but we have people pouring love on us every minute. If we only focus on the body, we miss all the love.”

Long said she copes by beginning every day with a 20-minute meditation, a handwritten gratitude list, and a daily mantra, which she said always includes peaceful productivity. She also says good morning to Dolan and tells him she loves him.

“I feel him. He’s around. Every night I walk up the stairs, and he’s right behind me,” Long said.

Rest in peace, Michael. Like your big, beautiful life, you sound like you were a big, beautiful person.

Jackie Pilossoph is a freelance columnist for Chicago Tribune Media Group.
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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

Across

A. Italian politics
   La Cavaliere
   61 104 151 140 123 117 71 46 56 167
B. In good health
   97 51 49 110 74 57 154 37 163 11 17
C. Creator of The Plumbers
   156 103 138 7 89 54 95 33 111 64
D. Comedy muse
   102 35 50 18 8 77
E. Purposeful
   70 1 89 84 137 157 118 32
F. Color
   scheme?
   5 65 40 144 58 85 161 126
G. Make like
   43 25 114 159 63 88 147
H. Priestess at Delphi
   158 19 145 133 79 6
I. Near the end
   14 90 136 119 9 128 44 36 98 27 67
J. Lefty QB
   turned analyst
   96 125 75 2 53 60 146

Words

K. GOP elephant creator
   Thomas
   23 152 127 109
L. Absolute:
   hyph.
   148 132 22 91 62 166 39 73 83
M. FDR getaway:
   2 wds.
   34 93 113 164 59 155 142 26 47 81 131
N. Exceed
   16 76 38 120 112 162 42
O. Cheerful
   86 24 122 116 139 13 105
P. They're close to your heart
   115 72 52 141 30
Q. Skedaddle
   150 68 21 100 130 3
R. Romeo and Juliet site
   107 20 92 121 80 169
S. ---, Charlie Brown:
   3 wds.
   4 94 135 55
T. Relief
   124 29 48 78 143 166 108
U. 'Third' playwright
   153 87 149 45 129 69

Down

1. Scan
2. Hence
3. Opinion
4. Film script
5. Domingo, for one
6. Composer Joplin
7. Hilo hello
8. Bring down the house, in Soho
9. Mulligan or Irish
10. Chaplain
11. Taste enhancers
12. Newhart establishment
13. JFK arrival
21. Shelley's Skylark
22. Like Machu Picchu
25. Meager
26. Prepared for a heist
27. Secondary school exam, in Britain
28. Heart helpers
29. Evening, in Roma
30. Actor Tamiroff
32. Church areas
34. St. Vincent Millay
35. UN member
36. 1 or 66: abbr.
39. Explosive, briefly
40. Of the earth
46. contra
48. Bungling
49. Composition
50. Low card
51. Cads
53. Spouse
54. Cut
55. Walt Kelly's creation
56. Gave the once over
57. Fall
58. Leatherworker's tool
59. Chou En-
**Last week's crosswords**

"LIKE CLOCKWORK"

AMMO IPASE IRATE CARE PEAR NEPI LONEY MIDE ADJUSTABLE PODCASTING RIO EEL VERIFY TEASE TARTAN OPENS TWIRLED SHAPED CONFESSIONS FLAP ENDORSEMENT HOW LID CUE EAST WIDE DRESDEN RADAR OPAQUE FAYE YANKEE"" SERF REAPER THE LIT HISP SPODN SWELL AMT HUE ICY CLANDESTINE RTHE DESIGN ACROSS AFRO SATCHET UNDERPULLED ALONG ACROSS ACTAS SAND

**Last week's Quote-Acrostic**

ROGER ANGELL: THIS OLD MAN: I have endured a few knocks but missed worse. I know how lucky I am and secretly tap wood, greet the day, and grab a sneaky pleasure from my survival at long odds. The pains and insults are bearable.

**Last week's Sudoku**

Example of a Sudoku puzzle.

**This week's Jumble**

QUIVER NEARLY RADIAL PEANUT AFRAID THEORY

The St. Patrick's Day festivities were ready to begin, but they hoped it wouldn't —

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1.6 TIME OF COMPLETION

1.5 DOCUMENTS

A. Bidder Documents: Go to BHF website at www.chicagopanels.com/procure/p'do and register. All bid forms are included in the bidder documents and can also be downloaded separately from the BHF website. Additional bids may be submitted by BHF to the Plan holders of record.

1.2 TIME SUBMITAL \& OPENING

1.1 PROJECT INFORMATION

A. Project Identification: 2019 Roofing work. Project Location: 7040 Laramie Avenue, Skokie, IL 60077.

1.4 BID SECURITY

A. Bid security shall be submitted with the amount of 10 (ten) percent of the bid amount. No bids may be withdrawn for a period of 45 days after opening of bids. Owner reserves the right to reject any and all bids and to withhold awards in pursuance of any bid irregularities and irregularities. Form of Bond shall be AIA Document BD.

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1.2 TIME SUBMITAL \& OPENING

A. Owner will receive sealed lump sum bids until the bid time and date at the location given below. Owner will consider bids prepared and submitted to the instructions to bidders issued by Owner and delivered as follows:

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Skokie show features ‘Nice Jewish Girls’

‘Every single woman on this bill could do her own hour of comedy’

By MYRNA PETLICKI
Pioneer Press

What defines a nice Jewish girl? “You make good chicken soup, you can take care of a household, and you don’t have a sketchy background — and maybe you light the Shabbos candles,” said standup comic Jan Slavin.

“Someone who is opinionated but not rude about it,” comic Rena Calm declared.

“Someone who calls her parents regularly,” comic Jessica Besser-Rosenberg chimed in.

That phrase will be more completely defined at “The Nice Jewish Girls Comedy Show” March 28 at the Skokie Theatre. The lineup also includes Lia Berman, Mallory Bradford, Kat Herskovic, and Eunji Kim.

“I’m not so sure they’re all nice. In fact, I’m pretty sure they’re not,” Slavin playfully admitted of the cast she assembled. Despite that disclaimer, Slavin is happy to have them all onboard for this show.

“I grew up loving all the Jewish comedians,” Slavin said. “Having lived in New York for so many years, and that whole Jewish Catskills, Borscht Belt kind of humor — it’s been owned by men. Yet, women are hilarious.”

“I don’t think we have enough Jewish women comics in this city,” Slavin added. “LA and New York have so many. I could probably do two or three shows and go through all the Jewish women comics in this city.”

Slavin is thrilled that she was able to assemble some of the best local Jewish women comics for this show.

Calm said that she was “honored to be included. It’s one of the last shows I’ll be able to do before I leave the Chicagoland area. I just moved all my stuff down to Texas and I’m going to be touring full time, so I’ll be living on the road. I’m getting a van. I’m going to be a real vagabond.”

Calm studied at The Second City and did a lot of improv after moving here 14 years ago. She currently teaches standup at The Second City and tours all over the country. “I’m known for my Calmedy Tour,” Calm said.

“There’s a lot of stuff in my act already that comes from being Jewish,” she said. “I will definitely have some charmingly inappropriate puns and some of them are Jewish-themed.”

She will also share stories about her relationship experiences. “I like to talk about sex from a woman’s perspective,” Calm explained. Besser-Rosenberg said that she “jumped at the chance” to be in this show. “It was a great opportunity to perform with a lot of women that I really love, respect, and find hilarious.”

She has been doing standup for about five years in Chicago; before that she did improv. “I think I’m a late bloomer,” she said.

Besser-Rosenberg’s routine will focus on the fact that “I’m a generally neurotic person and there’s no avoiding it,” she said. The comic will also share stories of her three young children as well as “reflections on the sad state of the country today — but in a funny way,” she said.

Slavin promises to include her Jewish commercial routine and to share details of growing up with a Jewish mother. “The fact that I’m a nice Jewish girl will come through,” she said, despite admitting that she can’t make chicken soup.

Slavin considers each of the comics in this show to be headliners.

“The fact that I’m a nice Jewish girl will come through,” she said, despite admitting that she can’t make chicken soup.

“Every single woman on this bill could do her own hour of comedy,” Slavin declared. “They’re all sensational comics. You put the Jewish woman piece together, that means a show that everyone’s going to love.”

Myrna Petlicki is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Thursday, March 21

"The Bridges of Madison County"**: A handsome photographer, Robert Kincaid, pulls into Francesca Johnson’s driveway seeking directions. What happens in the four days while her family is away may very well alter the course of Francesca’s life. Show only: Thursdays and Sundays $39-$49; Fridays and Saturdays $44-$54. Show and dinner: Thursdays and Sundays $64; Fridays and Saturdays $69. 7:30 p.m. Thursday, Theo Ubique Cabaret Theatre, 721 Howard St., Evanston, $39-$69, 773-347-1109.

Music & Movement with Baker Demonstration School: Join us for a special morning of singing and play with students from Baker Demonstration School. Register online, call or visit youth services. 10:30 a.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Sew With a Friend - Adults & High School Teens: Learn the basics of operating a sewing machine, then use your new skills to make a sunglasses case. Bring two coordinating fat quarters of fabric; we provide the rest. Registration and Glenview library card required. Register online, call 847-729-7500, ext. 7600, or visit Reader Services. 6 p.m. Thursday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Alzheimer’s Support Group: We’ll share successful care giving approaches and discuss what works, what doesn’t, and how you can care for yourself and your loved one. 6:30 p.m. Thursday, Belmont Village of Glenview, 2200 Golf Road, Glenview, free, 847-657-1000.

Armchair Travel Series: Roman Holiday and a Taste of Italy: Enjoy playtime

Wednesday, March 20

ESL Book Reading and Discussion Group: Practice your English conversation and reading skills while expanding your vocabulary as the group discusses “The House On Mango Street” by Sandra Cisneros. To register, visit mgpl.org or call 2 p.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

Pay for College Without Going Broke: This workshop covers little-known strategies not covered in regular college planning workshops. Includes new material about important changes in higher education. To register, visit mgpl.org or call 7 p.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

Between the Lines: Crooked Heart: This book discussion is held at two different times. No registration is required, and new members are welcome. The book is about an orphaned 10-year-old bookworm, Noel, and a reluctant guardian, Vee, aka Mrs. Vera Sledge. 10 a.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

Latin Dancing: Salsa is largely a pair dance, but with many "shines" that can be done individually. We will put those shines into choreography and work with lots of hip and torso motions. 7:15 p.m. Thursday, Morton Grove Park District, 6834 Dempster St., Morton Grove, free per couple: $75 resident, 593 nonresident, 847-965-1200.

Current Events Discussion Group: A wide-ranging, fast-moving discussion of current events and items in the news that gives an outlet to share insights and wide-ranging, fast-moving discussion of Current Events Discussion Group: A wide-ranging, fast-moving discussion of current events and items in the news that gives an outlet to share insights and

Friday, March 22

The Last Word In concert: This quartet combines music, lyrics and poetry to take spoken word into a whole new realm. Featuring vocalist Al Day and poet Marc Kelly Smith, backed by pianist Bob Long, bassist Doug Love and saxophonist Brian Geprakt. This performance will be 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@studio5dance.com or call or visit www.studio5dance.com. 8 p.m. Friday, Studio 5, 1934 Dempster St., Evanston, $20 for general seating, $25 for cabaret seating, 847-328-6683.

Teen Advisory Board Meeting: A VolunTeen Opportunity: Grades 9-12, meet service hours by joining us after school to help plan programs, discuss books you love, and brainstorm with your peers and library staff. TAB meets monthly, just drop in. 5 p.m. Friday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

ShawChicag presents Address Unknown Luncheon & Event: This theatrical presentation consists of a series of letters between friends and business partners from Nazi Germany to California sent from 1932 to 1934. A question-and-answer session will follow the show. 11:30 a.m. Friday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $25 member, $30 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

Chicago Salsa and Bachata Festivals: Each evening begins with live dance showcases with a mix of acrobatic, sexy and high-energy performances. We then move on to live music with internationally recognized artists and then end the evening with some of the best tropical music DJs in the world. 10 a.m. Friday, Rosemont Hilton, 5550 N. River Road, Rosemont, $25-$165, 847-678-4488.

Saturday, March 23

Northern Illinois Gesneriad Display and Sale: Expect "Miracle Houseplants" to grow in your windows, under lights, or as tropical annuals outdoors. Noon Saturday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, free, 847-835-5440.

BYOB Parenting Playgroup (birth-23 months): Enjoy playtime and connect with other growing families. Infant specialists will occasionally be on hand to briefly discuss their areas of expertise and answer questions. Just drop in. 10 a.m. Saturday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Library Links: Spring Golf Clinic - Chipping/Pitching: Show off on the links this spring with new skills learned at this clinic. Glenview Park Golf Club teaching professional Michael Stone is offering a two-part group lesson at the library. Limit 20. Register on mgpl.org, call 847-729-7500, ext. 7600, or visit Reader Services. 2 p.m. Saturday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Sensory-Friendly Family Classic: Lady and the Tramp: Enjoy the classic film "Lady and the Tramp" with the whole family. Assistive hearing devices or noise-cancelling headphones available upon request. Rated G, 1h 16m. No registration required. 2 p.m. Turn to Calendar, Page 15
WHAT TO DO COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Calendar, from Page 14

Sunday, March 24

Bach Week Festival Gallery Gala: This fundraiser features intimate music of J.S. Bach. Proceeds from the Gallery Gala, which includes light hors d'oeuvres, wine and other beverages, support the annual Bach Week Festival (April 26 to May 3). Richard Webster is Bach Week's music director and emcee for the fundraiser. The evening's music program is titled "Bach at Home." Guests may also view four exhibits in the Evanston Art Center's first- and second-floor galleries. 5:30 p.m. Sunday, Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central St., Evanston, $60 per person, 800-838-3006.

The Producers: For this Studio 5 Sunday Film Festival, join friends, grab some popcorn, order a drink and enjoy a screening of "The Producers" (1947), one of Mel Brooks' films, starring Gene Wilder. This feature a pre-show commentary by screenwriter Dana Olsen. For information, email Steve Rashid at steve@studio5dance.com. 4 p.m. Sunday, Studio 5, 1934 Dempster St., Evanston, $10, 847-328-6683.

Weekly Irish Music Session: Join in every Sunday for a dash of Irish music led by a world renowned master of many a musical instrument, John Williams, joined by his many talented musical friends. Feel free to drink and enjoy free live music at your local pub in lovely downtown Evanston. 3 p.m. Sunday, The Celtic Knot Public House, 626 Church St., Evanston, free, 847-864-1679.

Orchids After Hours: View 10,000 orchids in bloom while sipping on tropical-inspired drinks. Light fare is available for purchase. 4 p.m. Sunday, Chicago Botanic Garden, 1000 Lake Cook Road, Glencoe, $10-$12; $8-$10 seniors; free 2 and under, 847-835-5440.

The Gospel of Suffering: A Call to Courage: Lecture discussion with Fr. Pawel Kimpdera, associate pastor of Incarnation Parish, adjunct spiritual director at Mundelein Seminary. Come and learn about the Christian's share in the Messianic mission, developing the virtue of fortitude and spiritual maturity, the call to the Cross in 2019: USA and worldwide. A free-will offering is taken. Refreshments available. Noon Sunday, St. Catherine Laboure Parish Rec Room, 3333 Thornwood Ave., Glenview, free, 847-826-4704.

Hidden Memory: An American Story: After the bombing of Pearl Harbor in 1941, 120,000 Japanese Americans were placed in internment camps, including storyteller and Morton Grove resident Anne Shimojima's family. Anne provides a profound window into the devastating experience. 2 p.m. Sunday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

Jewish Genealogical Society of Illinois: Genealogist Tammy A. Hepps will speak. Registration and networking open at 12:30 p.m. before the presentation, "The Margarine Moonshiners from Minsk" and "Constructing Story Driven Research," start at 1 p.m. 12:30 p.m. Sunday, Temple Beth-El, 3610 66th Street, Northbrook, free, 847-729-7500.

10th Annual Purim Shpiel - Parody of Frankenstein: "Young Ethernet - A Not-So-Scary Purim Parody" is a delicious take-off on the movie "Young Frankenstein" and much more. The Shpiel will be presented for two weekends in March. To make reservations, call the synagogue office or go to www.ehnt.org/YES 1:30 p.m. Sunday, Ezra Habonim, The Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, $20 per person, $10 for children under 12; at the door, $25 and $12, 847-675-4141.

Chicago Philharmonic presents: Silent Sherlock: Bringing a touch of old-school Hollywood to the North Shore, composer and conductor Tom Nazzali leads Chi Phi in a fresh new score to three classic silent films. Laugh at the zany antics of Buster Keaton as he bumbles his way through the case pretending to be a famous detective, at legendary cartoon character Felix who proves himself a scaredy-cat, and at Koko the Clown as he attempts to escape the confines of his animated world. 3 p.m. Sunday, North Shore Center for the Performing Arts, 9501 Skokie Blvd., Skokie, $25-$75 (discounts available for seniors and students), 847-673-6300.

Monday, March 25

Mulberry Street: A Tribute to Billy Joel: 7 p.m. Monday, Evanston Space, 1245 Chicago Ave., Evanston, $12-$22, 847-492-8860.

Food Addicts in Recovery Anonymous: A free 12-step recovery program for anyone suffering from food obsession, overeating, undereating or bulimia. Weekly meeting is held from 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.

Alliance Francaise du North Shore Apéro Conversation: Join in for relaxed French conversation, facilitated by native or fluent speakers. Listening in French is encouraged; all levels are welcome. Pour yourself a glass of wine, tap a beer or choose a fresh-brewed coffee. A large array of cheeses, cold cuts, prepared meals, salads, baked goods, etc., are available for purchase. For more information: Meetup.com/ afnorthshore and Afnorthshore.org. 7 p.m. Monday, Café at Heinen's Grocery Store, 1020 Waukegan Road, Glenview, free, 847-858-1274.

hoopla, MyMediaMail & Zinio Individual Subscriptions: Meet with library staff for a 45-minute session and learn how to download e-books, audio-books, magazines, movies, TV shows or music to your mobile device. Visit or call the Reader Services Desk for questions, registration and for appointment locations. Glenview library card required. 10 a.m. Monday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

Take Charge of Your Health Programs: A six-week interactive workshop designed to help older adults living with ongoing health conditions learn new skills in self-management, so they can continue to thrive as they age. Registration for the Week 1 workshop will register you for all six workshops. Register at mgpl.org or by calling. 9:30 a.m. Monday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

JCC Chicago Open Game Room: JCC Chicago offers free game rooms at the Bernard Weinger JCC in Northbrook. You bring the games, and we'll provide a room, tables, and chairs. Noon Monday, Bernard Weinger JCC, 300 Revere Drive, Northbrook, free, 224-406-9257.

Deiftful Salzburg and the Salzkammergut: Nestled snugly in its Alpine valley, Salzburg is considered one of Europe's most beautiful cities. The fairytale Hohe Salzberg fortress perches high above provides spectacular views of the narrow streets, palaces and dazzling flower gardens of Old Town. Strains of Mozart and "The Sound of Music" accompany your leisurely drive into the Salzkammergut area, revealing the intriguing history, steep mountain vistas, hidden lakes, and charming villages of the Austrian Alps. 1 p.m. Monday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $10 member, $15 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

So Teach Us to Number Our Days: Ancient answers can still heal and inspire. Share a trove of insights gleaned from decades of study and counseling on these current issues: declining ability and limited resources; new generations and the world to come; work, wisdom, and leisure. 10 a.m. Monday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $20 member; $30 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

Technology for Your Home and Lifestyle: Find out about L.E.D. lighting colors, wireless thermostats, heating vents, front door locks and much more. What is Smart TV and how do you stream videos through Netflix, Roku or Chromecast? Learn more about how to incorporate technology safely and at your own pace. 1 p.m. Monday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $19 member; $25 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

American Politics and Current Events: Enjoy a lively discussion on topical issues of the day: politics, economy, international happenings, science, our diverse society, local issues, and more. Come to actively contribute to the moderator-led discussion, or just listen and learn from the opinions of others. 9 a.m. Monday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $19 member; $25 non-member, 847-784-6030.

Planning for Possible Mental or Physical Incapacity: The Chicago Estate Planning Council will provide an informational presentation on adult guardianships, alternatives to adult guardianships (advance directives and the Health Care Surrogate Act) and brief discussion of involuntary commitment. 7 p.m. Monday, Wilmette Public Library, 1242 Wilmette Ave., Wilmette, free, 847-256-6935.

Turn to Calendar, Page 16
Tuesday, March 26

Free Range Crafting (suggested for ages 5+ w/adult): Get creative with the library’s collection of craft materials in a template-free zone. Just drop in. 10 a.m. Tuesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

M,M,&M: Film: Disneynature: Wings of Life: This 2011 film is rated G. It is a French-American documentary examining how the Earth’s food chain depends on bees, hummingbirds, bats and other creatures, and is narrated by Meryl Streep. 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

Magic the Gathering: Open Play: This is for grades 7-12 to bring their best deck, or use the library’s, and duel with other Magic enthusiasts. If you don’t know how to play, they will show you and send you home with a free deck. Noon Tuesday, Morton Grove Public Library, 6140 Lincoln Ave., Morton Grove, free, 847-965-4220.

America’s Eleven Nations: Author Colin Woodward argues that your roots almost certainly link you to one of 11 distinct “nation-states,” or regional cultures of North America, whose cultural dynamics inform everything from voting patterns to social values and more. In this class, each one is explored: Yankeeedom, New Netherlands, the Midlands, Tidewater, Greater Appalachia, Deep South, El Norte, the Left Coast, the Far West, New France, and First Nation. 1 p.m. Tuesday, North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techny Road, Northbrook, free, 847-372-7250.

Prediabetes Prevention Workshop: Participants will learn preventive steps they can take to reduce their chances of developing prediabetes or type 2 diabetes. 10 a.m. Wednesday, North Suburban YMCA, 2705 Techny Road, Northbrook, free, 847-729-7500.

Genealogy Club: Please bring research work and your questions and expertise. We’ll provide computers. Our topic for March will be learning how to use newspaper sources to enhance your family history research. Registration required. 1 p.m. Wednesday, Lincolnwood Public Library, 4000 W. Pratt Ave., Lincolnwood, free, 847-677-5277.

Sew, What? (grades 5-8): Meet the library’s sewing machines and learn the basics of machine and hand sewing, then use your new skills to create an awesome project to take home. Space is limited. Register on glenviewpl.org, call 847-729-7500, ext. 7900, or visit Youth Services. 10 a.m. Wednesday, noon Wednesday, Glenview Public Library, 1930 Glenview Road, Glenview, free, 847-729-7500.

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The Holocaust in Film: Passenger (Pasazerka): This 1963 classic is the final project of Polish director Andrzej Munk, who died during its production. Working from the story notes, the film was finished by his assistant director and film editor, who could only speculate on what Munk intended. Highly psychological, the film examines the dialogue between the past and the present, the need to forget, and the helplessness of that need against the power of memory. 1 p.m. Wednesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $10; $15 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

Spring Break History Hunt: Families are invited to visit the Churchville One-Room Schoolhouse and Fischer Farm for a history-themed scavenger hunt through the buildings and grounds. At the Schoolhouse, kids will participate in early 20th-century lessons, play old-fashioned games, practice penmanship, and make a craft while supplies last. 11 a.m. Wednesday, Churchville Schoolhouse, 3N784 Church Road, Bensenville, free, 630-833-1457.

Yoga for the Rest of Us: Certified yoga instructor accommodates individual needs through the use of chairs, blocks, bolsters, and other props to help you develop a more mindful awareness of your body and a sense of overall well-being. 9 a.m. Tuesday, North Shore Senior Center, 161 Northfield Road, Northfield, $49 member, $65 nonmember, 847-784-6030.

Wednesday, March 27

Spring Break History Hunt: Families are invited to visit the Churchville One-Room Schoolhouse and Fischer Farm for a history-themed scavenger hunt through the buildings and grounds. At the Schoolhouse, kids will participate in early 20th-century lessons, play old-fashioned games, practice penmanship, and make a craft while supplies last. 11 a.m. Wednesday, Churchville Schoolhouse, 3N784 Church Road, Bensenville, free, 630-833-1457.

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Skokie Synagogue - Class in Health and Nutrition: Hosted by the Sisterhood of Ezra-Habonim. Dr. Jerry Gore, of the Center for Holistic Medicine in Riverwoods, is the speaker and teacher. Included are heart health, building strong bones and keeping weight off as well as reducing inflammation. Refreshments are served. 10 a.m. Wednesday, Ezra Habonim, The Niles Township Jewish Congregation, 4500 Dempster St., Skokie, $5 for Sisterhood members; $8 for nonmembers and at the door, 847-675-4141.

Have an event to submit? Go to www.ChicagoTribune.com/Calendars.
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Niles Village Board candidates talk village challenges

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Two slates of candidates are running for three open seats on the Niles Village Board this spring.

The Voice of Niles Party consists of incumbents Dean Strzelecki and Denise McCreery, and new candidate Craig Niedermaier. The opposition Neighbors Party consists of new candidates Melic Bookstein, Apostolos “Paul” Drakontaidis and Israel “Izzy” Pucheco.

Five of the six candidates recently answered questionnaires for the Niles Herald-Spectator.

Voice of Niles

Denise McCreery
Q: Why do you want to be a Niles trustee?
A: I have decided to run for trustee again because I want to continue evolving some of the great programs my committees created during my first term.

Q: What current or previous public service roles have you held?
A: Trustee since 2015, chairperson of Economic Development, chairperson of Building and Zoning, co-chair of the Milwaukee Streetscape Committee.

Q: How long have you lived in Niles?
A: Forty-five years

Q: What strengths can you bring to the Niles Village Board?
A: I am a strategic problem-solver. Large companies entrust me with helping to steward their brands through the murky waters of the modern marketplace.

Q: What are the top three challenges facing the village today and how can the village board address them?
A: 1. Long-term vision planning. This is the town that created the free bus and the universal recycling program. I want to get back to the “big idea” thinking that a town like ours needs to have to thrive.
   2. Independent voices. I want to make sure our town is not turning into a “political machine.” I will enter into this position with no personal agenda. You do this job because you feel you have to, not because you think you can make money by doing it. This mentality has plagued our American politics in recent history. This is our town, not the personal sandbox of a few people.
   3. Niles identity. Our town is a brand and everything we do should strategically reflect who we are as a village and who we want to be. When people visit Niles from other cities, they need to leave with a strong impression of the town we love. When our own citizens speak of Niles, I want them to do so with pride and enthusiasm.

Q: What kind of development would you support in the Touhy Triangle area? Should the village use eminent domain to acquire necessary properties within the site?
A: Niles has some unique challenges. We have no downtown, and we are not on either of the two predominant train lines. Our town is in need of some bold, intelligent choices. We are pretty mature from a real estate perspective, so it is difficult to paint with broad strokes one building at a time. In that spirit, looking for opportunities like the Touhy Triangle and exploring how they can help redefine our town is a smart and exciting concept. What we don’t need is more of the same of what we have.

Q: Will you support placing a referendum on the ballot that would seek to allow the mayor to run for a third term in office?
A: No. I am in favor of term limits. As a village, we have a council-manager form of government. I am personally witnessed what can happen when there are none.

Q: What capital projects do you believe are most needed in the village and how should they be funded?
A: Long-term vision planning, independent voices and Niles identity.

Dean Strzelecki
Q: Why do you want to be a Niles trustee?
A: I worked for the village of Niles for 39 years and have volunteered in many capacities for over 40 years. I wish to give back to the community that I live, worked and shop in. I feel that my knowledge of Niles and my Niles experiences are invaluable and I can contribute to a high level.

Q: What current or previous public service roles have you held?
A: I was hired by the Niles Police Department in 1975 and retired in 2014 as the chief of police. I am an incumbent trustee, elected to office in 2015. I chaired the public safety committee and the finance committee. I am co-chair of the Niles Economic Enhancement Committee, I was appointed to the Niles Video Gaming Committee and RED (Regional Emergency Dispatch Center) Board of Directors, and I chair the administrative committee of RED Center.

Q: How long have you lived in Niles?
A: Fifty-three years

Q: What strengths can you bring to the Niles Village Board?
A: Long-term vision, management skills, public sector budgeting, public safety knowledge and forward thinking.

Q: What are the top three challenges facing the village today and how can the village board address them?
A: Economic Development, finances and building infrastructure. Providing incentives and working with developers to enhance our economic base while rebuilding Niles. Doing this will enhance finances and improve housing stock by driving more people to Niles. We need to seek out additional grants and work with other governmental agencies to rebuild Niles.

Q: What kind of development would you support in the Touhy Triangle area? Should the village use eminent domain to acquire necessary properties within the site?
A: Mixed use [development] and [we should] continue to pursue a Metra Train Station. [Eminent Domain should be used as the ultimate last option. I think there are numerous
other ways to reach the goals of a project or development.

Q: Will you support placing a referendum on the ballot that would seek to allow the mayor to run for a third term in office?
A: No.

Q: What capital projects do you believe are most needed in the village and how should they be funded?
A: Infrastructure, by earmarking certain economic programs and grants.

Q: Anything else you would like to add?
A: I have made Niles my Home for 53 years. My wife, Miss Laurie, and I have raised our family here, and they in turn have decided to raise their families in Niles, purchasing homes here. When I make my well-informed decisions for what is in the best interest of the people of Niles, that includes family as well.

Neighbors Party

Melic Bookstein
Q: Why do you want to be a Niles trustee?
A: I believe I will be able to bring a fresh perspective to the village. I love living in Niles and I would like to work with a team to help make Niles an even better place to live.

Q: What current or previous public service roles have you held?
A: N/A

Q: How long have you lived in Niles?
A: Two-and-a-half years.

Q: What strengths can you bring to the Niles Village Board?
A: I have multiple years of project and budget management. My organizational skills, attention to detail, and time management skills will be beneficial when dealing with multiple projects at a time.

Q: What are the top three challenges facing
Candidates, from Page 14

the village today and how can the village board address them?
A: 1. Establish businesses in Niles to increase revenue to lower/maintain current property tax levels.
2. Ensure the highest level of safety possible for all residents, specifically focusing on pedestrian traffic accidents because they have increased in severity recently.
3. Bring down the cost of labor in Niles. A proposal to meet this goal would be by bringing in a Performance Management system.

Q: Will you support placing a referendum on the ballot that would seek to allow the mayor to run for a third term in office?
A: No.

Q: What capital projects do you believe are most needed in the village and how should they be funded?
A: 1. Establish businesses in Niles and determine what areas are saturated and what types of businesses are lacking; reach out to small to mid-size businesses in surrounding communities to make them aware of all Niles has to offer if they would invest in the community; take account of all unused/underused/vacant properties to be able to market them to businesses who currently have brick and mortar stores in Illinois in an effort to get them to add additional sites or expand into Niles; seek out niche specialized businesses for the area, like specialty shops, local farmers market, service-oriented businesses.

Q: Why do you want to be a Niles trustee?
A: The village should address the village today and how can the village board address them?
A: 1. The Pension obligations have severe underfunding compared to neighboring suburbs. The board has neglected the necessary obligation that they have to the village workers in fulfilling their duty of funding their pension. In response to this inexcusable lack of action by the board I would, upon being elected, evaluate the village's financial records and find a solution as to how the pension funding percentage can be increased.
2. The safety of the Niles residents, primarily pedestrian traffic accidents. In addition, lack of street repair in the village.
3. Economic development that has been neglected and has thus fallen behind compared to our neighboring suburbs of Skokie, Morton Grove, Park Ridge, etc. I would create a land bank funded by low rate loans that would buy abandoned/vacant property for future development by experienced local developers.

Q: What capital projects do you believe are most needed in the village and how should they be funded?
A: Economic development and infrastructure improvement to meet the needs and demands of the village. These should both be funded by existing sources of revenue from the implementation of operational efficiencies within the village.

Q: Anything else you would like to add?
A: The village is in need of positive change from cohesive collaboration within the board. At this current time the board is much more focused on the promotion of self interest than that of the taxpayers' needs. They have lost touch as to whom they are working for and the responsibility of the position.

Israel "Izzy" Pacheco. Pacheco did not respond to a candidate questionnaire.

jjohnson@chicagotribune.com
Twitter @Jen_Tribune
‘We need to eradicate hatred’

Hundreds gather to honor victims of New Zealand mosque attacks

BY JENNIFER JOHNSON
Pioneer Press

Hundreds gathered in Morton Grove on March 16 to show solidarity with area Muslims and take a stand against hate and white supremacy in the wake of the New Zealand mosque attacks.

Victims of the mass shootings at two Christchurch mosques on March 15 were remembered as prayers and messages of unity were shared with a crowd that spilled out the doors of the Muslim Community Center of Morton Grove during an interfaith vigil.

Representatives of MCC, Jewish and Christian leaders, students, and local government representatives were all among the speakers of the one-hour event.

“This is what America looks like,” U.S. Rep. Jan Schakowsky said as, to much applause, she noted the ethnic and racial diversity of the crowd. “This is who we are.”

Dilnaz Waraich, chairwoman of MCC’s interfaith and outreach community and an organizer of the March 16 vigil, asked the crowd to remember not only the 50 Muslims killed in New Zealand, but the victims of other recent attacks on Jewish, Christian and Muslim houses of worship around the world.

“We have woken up to these terrorist attacks way too many times in recent years,” she said. “We need to work toward a goal where Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, anti-blackness and all hatred has no oxygen.”

“As we pray for the victims’ families and the victims themselves, we need to also pray for humanity, that we come together and not separate ourselves because of ethnicities, faith, race or religion,” said Habib Qadri, superintendent of MCC Academy. “We are all children of God.”

Rabbi Andrea London of Beth Emet Synagogue in Evanston, spoke of how her congregation and MCC have come together for prior interfaith events and following last October’s mass shooting at Tree of Life synagogue in Pittsburgh.

“We gather here together again because we know how important it is to support each other,” she said. “We need to eradicate hatred.”

Kenneth Mantel of Skokie wipes away tears during the vigil for victims of the New Zealand mosque attacks on March 16 in Morton Grove.

Dilnaz Waraich, an organizer of the Muslim Community Center’s interfaith vigil, speaks with audience members attending the Morton Grove event March 16.

Michelle Oxman, of Evanston, a member of Beth Emet, said she attended the vigil because members of the Muslim community came out in support of the Jewish community following the Tree of Life massacre.

“I felt I had to be here,” she said. Cristina Chung, of Winnetka, attended the vigil with her four children.

“It was really important to show them there is a lot of love out in this world,” she said. “The woman who started the program talked about how hate has no boundaries. I needed to teach my children that love has no boundaries as well.”

Morton Grove neighbors and friends Laura Frisch and Sabiha Patel came to the vigil together.

“This community is so diverse, and we neighbors know each other. When something like this happens, it’s very natural to come together,” Patel said.

For Frisch, living among a diverse community and getting to know people of other faiths and backgrounds only creates bonds among neighbors, she indicated.

“We need to sit down with each other and literally break bread,” she said.
Jake Barzowski helps St. Cloud State be the best in D-II wrestling

By Bob Narang
Pioneer Press

Notre Dame graduate Jake Barzowski fell short of accomplishing some of his goals in high school. The Park Ridge resident made sure that wouldn't happen in college.

Barzowski, a redshirt sophomore, helped St. Cloud State capture the NCAA Division II wrestling championship on March 9 in Cleveland.

Barzowski placed third in the 157-pound weight class. He finished with a 5-1 record in the two-day tournament to earn All-American honors.

Barzowski reached the state tournament twice while at Notre Dame but did not take home any hardware.

"I never really accomplished the goals I set for myself in high school wrestling," he said, "so one of the driving forces after high school was to wrestle in college and win a national championship."

Barzowski finished this season with a 25-3 record, while the Huskies were 20-0 and 8-0 in the Northern Sun Intercollegiate Conference. The Huskies have won four NCAA titles in the last five years.

Barzowski said it was a magical season.

"It was an awesome year," he said. "We won the conference, an NCAA regional, NWCA Division II national duals and the NCAA championships. We got all of those done."

"It's always our goal to win the NCAA national title. We did what we wanted to do in 2018-19."

His younger brother, Josh Barzowski, wrestled at 174 pounds for the Huskies and went 9-4. Jake Barzowski said he's looking forward to the next two seasons, as well as watching his brother develop into a solid wrestler.

"Our team goal is to continue to win national championships here at St. Cloud State, and for me, a goal is to win an individual national championship," he said. "My brother and I were on the same team in high school, so it would be awesome to see him and myself in the same starting lineup here at St. Cloud State."

All-star at Emory: Glenbrook South graduate Ashley Oldshue wrapped up a stellar basketball career at Emory earlier this month.

The senior center averaged 16.7 points and 8.2 rebounds and shot 55.4 percent from the field this season. For her career, the 6-foot-2 Oldshue averaged 13.4 points and started 77 games.

Oldshue played her last game with Emory on March 1, but she still had one more game to play. She was selected as one of 20 Division III players to participate in the inaugural Beyond Sports Women's Collegiate All-Star Game presented by the Women's Basketball Coaches Association on Saturday at Roanoke College.

Oldshue earned First-Team All-University Athletic Association honors for the third consecutive season.

Oak Park-River Forest graduate Blair Ripley, a sophomore center, averaged 6.6 points and 5.5 rebounds per game for Emory this season.

Will wraps up at Brown: Prospect graduate Taylor Will started 26 games in her senior season for Brown.

The Arlington Heights native averaged 10.6 points and 4.1 rebounds for the Bears, and she also made 27 3-pointers and collected 50 steals.

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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Pioneer Press Girls Basketball Player of the Year: Nazareth's Annie Stritzel

BY BOB NARANG
Pioneer Press

Three seasons ago, the Nazareth girls basketball team was winless in the East Suburban Catholic Conference.

But then something changed: The Roadrunners finished .500 two seasons ago, then made it to state in back-to-back seasons. They became contenders in the ESCC almost overnight.

Call it the Annie Stritzel effect.

The Nazareth senior guard led the program to a second consecutive Class 3A state trophy. Before her arrival at the La Grange Park school, the Roadrunners had never won a sectional title.

Stritzel first played at Nazareth as a sophomore. She guided the program to a second-place finish last season, then helped the Roadrunners finish third this season as they won a program-record 32 games.

Stritzel, a Harvard recruit, has been named the Pioneer Press All-Area Girls Basketball Player of the Year in back-to-back seasons. She also was selected to the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Class 3A All-State First Team and was named the ESCC Player of the Year.

This season, the 5-foot-11 Stritzel averaged 23 points, 6.3 rebounds and 2.8 assists and made 51 3-pointers.

Nazareth coach Eddie Stritzel said his daughter was a program-changing player.

"I don't think I've ever seen a kid take a program literally on their back and make it better," he said. "A lot of other kids helped, too. The program is now set for the future."

But Annie Stritzel's road hasn't always been smooth. Stritzel always dreamed of playing for her father at Trinity, but an IHSA investigation led to a 30-day suspension for Eddie Stritzel due to a recruiting violation. Eddie Stritzel's suspension began just before the start of Annie Stritzel's freshman season at Trinity.

Then, Eddie Stritzel and three of his assistant coaches resigned before his suspension ended. Annie Stritzel recalled facing reporters after a two-point home loss.

"It's funny, we've had all these great moments together at Nazareth. But there was so much doubt early in my high school career in everything. But we got lucky, and everything started clicking when I got to Nazareth."

Anne Stritzel led Nazareth to back-to-back appearances at the Class 3A state tournament.

After sitting out the first 16 games of her sophomore season at Nazareth due to IHSA transfer rules, Stritzel showed her name belonged among the best in the state.

Even though the Roadrunners lost two Division I players to graduation from last season's team, Stritzel elevated her game to keep Nazareth among the state's best. She said winning the Montini Christmas Tournament this season was a big highlight.

"I never thought all this success was possible, not for a second," Annie Stritzel said. "My freshman year, I was not happy at school or with basketball. At times, I worried basketball wasn't my passion."

Stritzel turned things around and finished her career as Nazareth's all-time leader in points (2,175) and steals (294).

"We had so much talent last year," Annie Stritzel said. "This year, we had to put so much work into it. When we made state, we all felt so proud. It felt more special this year."

"I wanted to win a state championship and do it for my dad, so there was added pressure on me. But I had a really special opportunity to play for him. We are so close."

Bob Narang is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

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Introducing the 2018-19 Pioneer Press Girls Basketball All-Area Team

First Team

Kayla Caudle

School: Vernon Hills.
Year: Senior.
Position: Center.
Key stats: Averaged 12.8 points, 12.9 rebounds, 1.5 steals, 1.4 assists and 1.5 blocks.

Halle Douglass

School: Lake Forest.
Year: Junior.
Position: Point guard.
Accolades: North Suburban Conference Player of the Year. IBCA Class 4A First-Team All-State.
Key stats: Averaged 17.4 points, 5.2 rebounds, 3.6 assists and 2.1 steals.

Sam Galanopoulos

School: Niles West.
Year: Senior.
Position: Point guard.
Accolades: IBCA Class 4A Second-Team All-State. Central Suburban South Player of the Year. Committed to Loyola in Chicago.
Key stats: Averaged 17.4 points, 5.2 rebounds, 3.6 assists and 2.1 steals.

Ramatoulaye Keita

School: Lake Forest Academy.
Year: Senior.
Position: Forward.
Accolades: Named Caxys team MVP. Being recruited by numerous Division I schools.
Key stats: Averaged 16 points, 15 rebounds and 1.2 blocks.

Julia Martinez

School: Loyola.
Year: Senior.
Position: Point guard.
Accolades: All-conference selection. IBCA Class 4A Second-Team All-State. Committed to Saint Louis.
Key stats: Averaged 6.8 points, 6.8 rebounds, 2.1 assists and 2.2 steals.

Twitter @Pioneer_Press

Turn to Team, Next Page
Annie Stritzel
School: Nazareth.
Year: Senior.
Position: Guard.
Accolades: All-conference selection.
Named Giants team MVP. Committed to Harvard.
Key stats: Averaged 23 points, 6.3 rebounds and 2.8 assists.

Ahsha Spencer
School: Oak Park-River Forest.
Year: Senior.
Position: Guard.
Accolades: All-conference selection.
Named Huskies team MVP. Committed to UIC.
Key stats: Averaged 18.8 points, 10.2 rebounds and 4.5 assists to go with 42 blocks.

Celia Satter
School: Loyola.
Year: Senior.
Position: Guard.
Accolades: All-conference selection.
IBCA Class 4A Third-Team All-State. Committed to Richmond.
Key stats: Averaged 10.7 points, 3.4 rebounds and 1.2 steals. Made 73 3-pointers.

Jayla Turchin
School: Evanston.
Year: Junior.
Position: Forward.
Accolades: All-conference selection.
IBCA Class 4A Third-Team All-State.
Key stats: Averaged 13.2 points, 7.2 rebounds, 3.1 assists and 1.4 steals.

Joy Bergstrom
School: St. Viator.
Year: Freshman.
Position: Guard.
Accolades: All-conference selection.
IBCA Class 3A Third-Team All-State.
Key stats: Averaged 14.4 points, 4.2 rebounds and 1.8 steals.

Margaret Buchert
School: Libertyville.
Year: Junior.
Position: Point guard.
Accolades: All-conference selection.
IBCA Class 4A Special Mention All-State.
Key stats: Averaged 13.8 points, 7.3 rebounds, 2.6 blocks, 1.6 steals and 1.3 assists.

Addie Budnik
School: Highland Park.
Year: Junior.
Position: Forward.
Accolades: All-conference selection.
Named Giants team MVP.
Key stats: Averaged 16 points, 11 rebounds, five blocks and four assists.

Lily Courier
School: Lyons.
Year: Junior.
Position: Forward.
Accolades: All-conference selection.
Key stats: Averaged 15 points and eight rebounds.

Taylor Thompson
School: Barrington.
Year: Junior.
Position: Forward.
Accolades: All-conference selection.
IBCA Class 4A Special Mention All-State.
Key stats: Averaged 14.8 points, 7.0 rebounds, 2.6 steals and 2.6 blocks.

Makiyah Williams
School: Trinity.
Year: Sophomore.
Position: Forward.
Accolades: IBCA Class 4A Special Mention All-State.
Key stats: Averaged 14.5 points, 6.9 rebounds, 1.3 steals and 2.1 blocks.

Honorable Mention
Caya Apostolou, Maine East, senior, guard; Emily Collins, Hersey, senior, guard; Kaylen Evans, Nazareth, junior, guard; Morgan Frank, Mundelein, junior, forward; Ambrea Gentle, Evanston, junior, center; Mia Gillen, Lake Zurich, junior, guard; Lily Greifenstein, Rolling Meadows, senior, guard; Rebecca Goldman, New Trier, senior, guard; Sara Krissinger, York, junior, guard; Kendra Lee, Buffalo Grove, junior, forward; Lily Medrano, St. Joseph, sophomore; Kristin Ralston, Glenbrook South, senior, forward; Darse Sanchez, OPF, senior, guard; Simone Sawyer, Stevenson, freshman, guard; Hannah Schuringa, Timothy Christian, sophomore, forward; Caroline Segal, North Shore Country Day, junior, guard; Makayla Stadler, Glenbrook South, senior, guard; Jamyah Tate, Leyden, junior, guard; Grace Tirzmalis, Lake Forest, senior, forward.

Bob Narang is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.
Twitter: @Pioneer_Press
Evanston claims second place in 4A after falling to Belleville West in final

BY MIKE CLARK
Pioneer Press

PEORIA — The IHSA website traces the history of the Evanston boys basketball program for more than a century.

But never since the first recorded games in 1900 have the Wildkits had back-to-back seasons like the last two.

Saturday night's 71-59 loss to Belleville West in the Class 4A championship game at Carver Arena wrapped up a remarkable run for senior guard Jaheim Holden and his teammates.

Over the past two seasons, Evanston went 59-11, winning two regionals, two sectionals, two supersectionals, and the fifth and sixth state trophies in program history.

This season, the Wildkits went 32-5 to tie the program record for wins set by the 32-1 Class AA runners-up in 1983-84. That was the last time Evanston played in the state final.

The Wildkits entered the Class 4A playoffs on an eight-game winning streak, and they stretched that run to 14 games before Saturday's loss. Belleville West was the first team to score 70 points against Evanston since Bolingbrook did so on Jan. 19 — the last time the Wildkits lost.

What will Holden remember from his high school career?

Holden had a big game against Belleville West, which became the first repeat 4A champ since Simeon won four straight titles from 2010-13.

He scored a team-high 20 points on 8-for-13 shooting. Fellow senior guard Lance Jones, a Southern Illinois recruit, had 15 points and four steals.

Holden, Jones, senior guard Ryan Bost and sophomore guard Blake Peters were returning starters from the team that finished third in 4A. Holden said he picked up pointers from the only senior starter on that team, Matt Hall.

"I learned a lot from Matt," Holden said. "I've seen him grow over the three years I've been with him. As a senior, he showed a lot of maturity.

"He always set a good example, never a bad example. That's something I can take from him, just being a good person on and off the court."

Though three senior starters graduate, the Wildkits have the makings of a productive core for the next two seasons in sophomore guards Blake Peters, Jaylin Gibson and Louis Lesmond.

Peters is on track to be a four-year varsity starter, while Gibson projects as a three-year regular.

"They really looked up to me and Lance and Ryan. We tried to put them in the best position to know what it was like to have a leadership role. When it is time for them to be in the position we were in, I think they'll be even better than we were."

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