Group vows to fight state operating permit

By Tim Hadac

McKinley Park residents who have been battling the owners of an asphalt plant at the community’s south end appear to have renewed their efforts as the spring approaches.

Members of Neighbors for Environmental Justice recently claimed it was their pressure (along with others) that prompted the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency to reschedule a public hearing they had planned for Jan. 29 to review a draft 10-year operating permit for MAT Asphalt, which has operated just south of Pershing and Damen for about two years.

NAEJ has long held that MAT is polluting the surrounding neighborhood, which includes the 69-acre McKinley Park and several grade schools.

In response, MAT officials have not only denied the claims but insisted that its plant “saves taxpayers millions of dollars per year while producing more environmentally friendly paving for Chicago’s streets,” according to a statement on its website. “Our plant equipment meets or exceeds the latest air quality standards of the EPA and is the most fuel efficient, environmentally clean, and lowest maintenance design available to the industry.”

Longtime South Side...
KAZIMIERZ BEDNARZ
Kazimierz Bednarz, age 64, passed away January 10.
Beloved husband of Genowefa (nee Ratalowska) Bednarz; loving father of Joseph (Ilaria) Bednarz, Karen (Andrew) and Mark; dear grandfather of Lucas; cherished son of Anna (nee Biskorka) and Franciszek Bednarz; fond brother of Czeslaw and Andrzej (Renata). Also survived by nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.
Visitation was held January 13 at Damar-Kaminski Funeral Home & Crematorium, 7861 S. 88th Avenue, Justice. Funeral was held January 14, prayers from the funeral home to St. Linus Church, 10300 S. Lawler Avenue, Oak Lawn, for Mass. Interment at Resurrection Cemetery, Justice. For more information, 708-496-0200 or www.kaminskifamilyfuneralhomes.com.

LEOCADIA CASTILLO
Leocadia Castillo, age 76, passed away November 30, 2019.
Daughter of the late Adolfo (nee Vigil) and Augustine Morales; loving mother to Francisco Castillo, Lucia Elijzondo and Eddie Castillo; dear grandmother to many.
Visitation was held December 8, 2019 at Szykowny Funeral Home Ltd. Funeral was December 9, 2019 with mass at St. Francis of Assisi. Interment St. Mary Cemetery. For more information, 708-496-0200 or www.kaminskifamilyfuneralhomes.com.

SAM DAVE COVEY, SR.
Sam Dave Covey, Sr., age 66, passed away January 10.
Beloved husband of Francine (nee Janata) Covey; loving dad of Sam Dale Jr. (Stephanie) Covey and Joseph Julian Covey; cherished son of the late David; Duncan, Carolyn (the late Buddy) Hudgens, Bill (Sandy) Covey and Pete (Connie) Covey; fond brother-in-law of Geralyn (Kevin) Goulding; fond brother of Robert (Kevin) Nesnidal, Marcia (Charles) Murphy, Michael (Ann), and Maureen (Kevin) Goulding; cherished grandson of Karly (Kevin), William, Michael (Kaylee), Daniel, Stephen, Eleni, Edward, Joseph, George, John, Timothy (the late Andy), Julian (Sandi), Janota, the late Frank Janota and Maureen (Tom) Stewart. Also survived by many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews.
Visitation was held January 14 at Damar-Kaminski Funeral Home & Crematorium, 7861 S. 88th Avenue, Justice. Funeral was held January 14, Service and Time of Remembrance were held at the funeral home. Cremation rites to be accorded. For more information, 708-496-0200 or www.kaminskifamilyfuneralhomes.com.

MARY DOLORES CRUZ
Mary Dolores Cruz (nee Hernandez), age 87, of Chicago, Back of the Yards Community, passed away peacefully with her children by her side January 12. Beloved wife of the late Donato Nieto Cruz; loving and devoted mother of Carlos (Raquel), Donato, Jr. (Ruthie) Cruz, Stella (Jose) Hernandez, Cynthia (Manuel) Vazquez, Elsa Cruz, Charlotte (Mario) Rosete, Edward H. Cruz, Mary Dolores (Efrain) Rios, Guadalupe (Vasilios) Torionis, Ricardo (Yaneth), Anna Barbara Cruz, Christine (Luis) Martinez, Rebecca Nicolasa and Hector Florencio (Araceli) Cruz; proud grandmother, great-great-grandmother of many.
Visitation was held January 14 at Foran Funeral Home, 7300 W. Archer Ave. (55th street just west of Harlem). Visitation on January 14 at Foran Funeral Home until time of Prayers. Procession from the funeral home to Holy Cross Church at 46th & Hermite, in Chicago as a Mass of Christian burial was celebrated for Mary. Interment St. Mary Cemetery.

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JANINA DUDA
Janina Duda (nee Bafio), age 80, passed away January 9.
Beloved wife of the late John Duda; loving mother of Halina (Sam) Hazemi, John (Agnesia) Duda, Todd and Mary (Casey) Liptak; dearest grandmother of Natalie, Monique and Ariana Hazemi, Karina, Angelina and Isabella and late Blanca Liptak, Johnny and Michael Duda; cherished daughter of the late Klementyna (nee Bukowska) and the late Jozef Bafio; dear sister of Zofia Bafio, late Andrew Bafio and the late Jozef Bafio. Also survived by nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends throughout the USA and Poland.
Visitation was held January 12 at Damar-Kaminski Funeral Home & Crematorium, 7861 S. 88th Avenue, Justice. Funeral was held January 13, prayers to begin from the funeral home to Saint Francis of Assisi Church, 15090 S. Wolf Road, Orland Park for Mass. Interment Resurrection Cemetery, Justice. For more information, 708-496-0200 or www.kaminskifamilyfuneralhomes.com.

GEORGIANA A. PENCAK
Georgiana A. Pencak (nee Mika), age 89, lifelong Garfield Ridge resident, passed away January 3.
Visitation was held January 4, and a funeral prayer service followed at St. Camillus Church for Mass. Interment Resurrection Cemetery. For more information, 708-496-0200 or www.kaminskifamilyfuneralhomes.com.

VIOLA MOORE
Viola Moore (nee Larsen), age 99, passed away January 10.
Visitation was held January 16 at the Damar-Kaminski Funeral Home & Crematorium, 7861 S. 88th Avenue, Justice. Funeral was held January 17, Service and Time of Remembrance were held at the funeral home. Interment Evergreen Cemetery, Evergreen Park. For more information, 708-496-0200 or www.kaminskifamilyfuneralhomes.com.

RICHARD S. “BIG RICH” SALACH
General chapel service was held Jan- uary 22 at the Richard-Midway Funeral Home 5749 Archer Ave. (Corner of Loret), Interment Resurrection Cemetery. Visitation was held January 21. 733-767-1840 or www.richardmidwayfh.com.

MICHAEL E. “BUBBA” SOBEY
Dear brother of Laura (Robert) Moty- cka and Thomas Sobej; fond uncle of Ryan, Nathan and Tyler Sobej and the late Bobby Motycka.
Memorial Visitation was held January 20, a funeral prayer service followed at the Richard-Midway Funeral Home 5749 Archer Ave. (Corner of Loret). Private interment St. Mary Cemetery. 733-767-1840 or www.richardmidwayfh.com.

JOZEF A. STEFANIAK
Jozef A. Stefaniaik, age 54, passed away January 2.
Dear brother and uncle of many. Also survived by relatives and friends.
Funeral Mass was held January 7, family and friends gathered at St. Joseph Basilica. Interment private. Funeral Mass was held January 7, family and friends gathered at St. Joseph Basilica. Interment private. Private cremation rites to be accorded. For more infor- mation, 708-496-0200 or www.kaminskifamilyfuneralhomes.com.

PIOTR PIATKOWSKI
Piotr Piatkowski, age 64, passed away January 7.
Beloved husband of Zofia (nee Balawojek) Piatkowski; loving father of Leszek Piatkowski, Agnieszka (Miro- slaw) Drzbik and Kings (Krzysztof) Rogalski; dear grandfather of many; cherished son of the late Eleonore (nee Wazlawione) and the late Wladyslaw Piatkowski; fond brother of Migdol and Franciszek Piatkowski. Also survived by nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends. Visitations was held January 11 at Damar-Kaminski Fu- neral Home & Crematorium, 7861 S. 88th Avenue, Justice. Funeral was held January 11, Funeral Service and Time of Remembrance were held at the funeral home. Cremation rites to be accorded. For more information, 708-496-0200 or www.kaminskifamilyfuneralhomes.com.

ROSEMARY PIERCE
Rosemary Pierce (nee Benes), age 79, passed away January 8.
Beloved wife of the late Lawrence “Larry” Pierce; beloved daughter of Andrew and Alice Liptak; dearest sister of Richard, Michael E. “Bubba” and Christine (the late Bonnie) Pierce; dear grandmother of the late Theresa Benes and the late Leona (the late Richard) Bembenek. Also survived by many nieces, nephews and friend to everyone. Retired RN City Clerk, the Village of Bridgeview. Dearest member of the congregation of St. Fabian Church.
Visitation was held January 13 at Damar-Kaminski Funeral Home & Crematorium, 7861 S. 88th Avenue, Justice. Funeral was held January 14, prayers from the funeral home to Saint Francis Church, 7459 W. 83rd Street, Bridgeview. For more information, 708-496-0200 or www.kaminskifamilyfuneralhomes.com.

Francisco J. Vazquez, age 92, passed away December 7, 2019. Husband of the late Maria Natalia Najde (nee Martinez) Vazquez; father of Frank, Raul, Adela, and Josefina; son of the late Leonardo Vazquez and Carmen (nee Nieto) Vazquez; grandfather to many.
Visitation was held December 12, 2019 at Szykowny Funeral Home Ltd. Funeral was December 13, 2019 with visitation followed by Mass at St. Mary of the Angels. Interment Resurrection Cemetery.
Seek teens missing from Ashburn

**From staff reports**

Two teens last seen in the northwest corner of the Ashburn neighborhood are the subjects of two recent CPD alerts. The disappearances are not necessarily connected.

Veronica Garcia, 19, was last seen near 77th Place and Hamlin back in early September. She is Hispanic and stands 5-foot-4 and weighs about 125 pounds. She has black hair, brown eyes and a fair complexion.

Latajia Jackson, 16, was last seen near 77th Place and Pulaski on Jan. 3. She is black and stands 5-foot-4 and weighs about 125 pounds. She has orange and black hair, brown eyes, a medium complexion and a pierced belly button. Jackson was last seen wearing a dark grey/silver winter jacket, light blue jeans and white athletic shoes. She is known to frequent the West Side. Those with useful information to share about either teen are asked to notify CPD Area Central detectives.

McKinley burglaries spark CPD alert

**From staff reports**

A cluster of three possibly related residential burglaries in the McKinley Park neighborhood in recent weeks has prompted the Chicago Police Department to issue a community alert.

Police did not say if the burglaries involved homes, garages or both. Crime scenes include:

• 3300 block of South Ashland on Dec. 30.

• 2300 block of West 35th Place on Dec. 31.

• 3500 block of South Western on Jan. 4.

Those with useful information are encouraged to call CPD Area Central detectives at (312) 747-8380 and refer to crime pattern P20-1-010.

Police advise everyone:

- Keep doors and windows secured.
- Immediately repair any broken windows, doors or locks.
- If video surveillance is available, save and make a copy of the incident for investigating detectives.
- If you are a victim, do not touch anything. Instead, call police immediately.
- If approached by a witness, request contact information.
- Secure window air conditioner units.
Accused murderer apprehended in Ashburn

A 20-year-old man accused of murder was apprehended in his home in Ashburn, hours after he reportedly bludgeoned his mother’s boyfriend to death and then torched his home in Englewood. Manual Hunter was reportedly taking a shower at a relative’s home in the 2600 block of South Francisco when police knocked on the door at about 9:45 p.m. Friday, Jan. 30. He was arrested without incident. The 51-year-old suspect allegedly killed David Marshall, 41, in an apartment near 59th and Union.

Firefighters found Marshall’s body on a couch in the home. Authorities said he died of blunt force trauma to his head, and that there was no smoke in his lungs—meaning he was dead before the fire. Hunter’s mother was away at work when the incident occurred. Investigators found a piece of cloth and a bottle of lighter fluid stained with blood in the apartment, according to a published report. Hunter is currently held without bail by the Cook County Department of Corrections.

Man shot in the leg in West Lawn alley

A 28-year-old man was shot in the leg in a crime that occurred in an alley in the 6300 block of South Keating at about 7:20 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 15. The victim was hit by a bullet and taken to Stroger Hospital, where he is reportedly in fair condition. The victim initially said he was shot by a man wearing a mask. No one is in custody, and the victim was listed in good condition.

Man says he was shot on Ford City Drive

A 26-year-old man said a law enforcement source to be a gang member was shot in the abdomen as he walked to his vehicle in the 8000 block of South Francisco at 9:39 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 14. No one is in custody, and the victim was in good condition.

Say senior citizen swiped yard statues

A 67-year-old McKinley Park woman was charged with two counts of theft, battery and two counts of criminal damage to property after she was arrested on 59th Place, just east of Pulaski, at 7:45 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11. The victim, M. Scarborough, of the 7100 block of South Maplewood, crashed her vehicle into a concrete barrier at the end of a cul-de-sac, a CPD spokesman said.

Two teenage girls who had been missing from the 5200 block of South Western, were charged with soliciting unlawful business. Gabrielle Williams, 51, of the 13800 block of South Western, and Anthony B. Willis, 61, of the 6300 block of South Claremont, were arrested on 59th and Halsted and charged with obstructing traffic, resisting arrest and aggravated battery of a peace officer.

Arrest three on drug-related charges

Three men were arrested in what police called an open-air drug market in the 6700 block of South Oakley, at 2:08 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 11. Rashad Haywood, 20, of the 6700 block of South Claremont, and Anthony B. Willis, 61, of the 6300 block of South Claremont, were soliciting unlawful use of a weapon, criminal trespass to a vehicle, and battery and possession of cannabis. According to public records, Haywood has been arrested nine times by CPD since 2018 on charges that included possession of a controlled substance and retail theft.

If you are interested in managing pain, go to fightarthritispain.org.
A udrey Maher enjoys a relaxing afternoon tea with finger sandwiches or pastries but had a hard time finding a south suburban establishment that served one to her liking.

So, she opened her own earlier this month in Tinley Park’s downtown district on Oak Park Avenue.

“I’ve been obsessed with hot beverages for the past six years,” she said Friday, on opening day of the Pekoe & Bean Tea Room & Coffee Bar at 17028 S. Oak Park Ave.

The Pekoe & Bean tea room is now open at 17028 S. Oak Park Ave. in Tinley Park.

Greater Southwest News-Herald photo by Bob Bong

“In Bridgeview, Tibor Machine Products, 7400 W. 100th Place, received a 6b Sustainable Emergency Relief incentive. Tibor was established in 1968 and is a contract machined products manufacturer of parts. Products include steering knuckles, hydraulic cylinder components, rod eyes, rod ends, yokes, spindles, axles, shafts, brake drums, wheel hubs, trunnions, housings and more. In Forest View, Liberty Property, 5063 S. Merrimac Ave., received a Class 65 incentive to secure industrial tenants to the site, who will likely be third party logistics providers and/or packaging and food related companies. The site will be designed to accommodate 284 car parking stalls.

If you see a new business in town or wonder what happened to an old favorite, drop me a line at bobbong@hot mail.com. You can track business openings and closings at http://bobbongonbusiness.com/
One year in, JB looks ahead

Gov. J.B. Pritzker regularly deflects questions about House Speaker Michael Madigan's future by saying it wants to let the investigative process work.

But during an interview with me to mark his one-year anniversary in office, the governor pointed to his reaction after Sen. Tom Cullerton (D-Villa Park) was indicted, now-former Sen. Martin Sandoval’s (D-Chicago) Statehouse office was raided and now-former Rep. Luis Arroyo (D-Chicago) was arrested. In every instance, he said, he called on the legislators to step aside or resign.

When there’s “clear” evidence of targeting by criminal investigators, the governor said, “That’s the point at which folks should step aside.”

The questions aren’t new. During the sexual harassment scandals of 2018, candidate Pritzker was often asked if Madigan should relinquish at least one or both of his roles as House Speaker and state party chairman. He’d always defer, prefacing his remarks by saying “I want to let the investigative process work.”

Pritzker’s latest answer, however, is more specific and allows him to set the bar for any future showdown with Madigan, who surely seems to be on the federal government’s radar screen but it’s still unclear what, exactly, the feds are looking for.

Pritzker’s newest result, however, is more specific and allows him to set the bar for any future showdown with Madigan, who surely seems to be on the federal government’s radar screen but it’s still unclear what, exactly, the feds are looking for. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged. We know that some of his pals have been raided (including Mike McClain), yet been alleged.
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Suspended no longer

JB signs bill restoring driving privileges

By Peter Hancock  
Capital News Illinois  
phancock@capitalnewsillinois.com

SPRINGFIELD — Hundreds of Southwest Side residents are celebrating Monday that their driver’s license suspensions for unpaid parking tickets or fines for other non-moving violations will soon get their driving privileges reinstated.

Democratic Gov. JB Pritzker last Friday signed Senate Bill 1786 into law. Effective July 1, it repeals existing laws that either required or allowed the secretary of state to suspend driving privileges for unpaid fines and other violations.

Dubbed the “License to Work Act,” it passed both chambers this fall veto session when it passed that chamber on Oct. 29 by a vote of 88-27.

“This bipartisan legislation, Illinois now recognizes the fact that suspending licenses for having too many unpaid parking tickets, fines, and fees doesn’t necessarily make a person pay the bill — but it does mean that people don’t have a way to pay,” Pritzker said in a statement. “As a state, have a vested interest in making sure all our residents who need their licenses to apply to a job or an apprenticeship program, or who already use their licenses to drive to work, to the grocery store, or to the doctor, don’t lose those opportunities because of a practice that reinforces cycles of instability.”

Under current law, the state can revoke someone’s license for having 10 or more outstanding parking tickets in one municipality. It can also suspend the license of any person who owes civil penalties or taxes to the Illinois Commerce Commission or owes fines to the Illinois Toll Highway Authority for five or more toll violations.

Current law also provides for automatic suspensions for committing certain offenses unrelated to driving. Those include underage drinking and supplying alcohol to a minor, even if the offenders were not in a vehicle at the time; criminal trespass on a vehicle, even if the person doesn’t take control of the vehicle; and theft of motor fuel.

The secretary of state also has authority to suspend or revoke the driver’s license of any minor who is judged to be truant, delinquent or addicted. The same applies to anyone judged to be “afflicted with or suffering from any mental disorder or disease.”

Those laws are now all repealed or greatly curtailed. Starting July 1, people whose licenses are suspended or revoked for those reasons will have their licenses reinstated.

Gov. JB Pritzker signs a bill into law Friday that eliminates driver’s license suspensions for unpaid parking tickets and a host of other reasons during a bill-signing ceremony in Chicago.

That means unpaid parking tickets, toll violations, unpaid fees and civil penalties and convictions for motor fuel theft are no longer grounds for suspending or revoking a person’s driving license.

Hundreds of thousands of Illinois residents, who have had their driver’s license suspended or revoked for having too many unpaid parking tickets or fines for other non-moving violations will soon get their driving privileges reinstated.

The new law also provides for automatic suspensions only if the person was in a vehicle at the time of the offense. And criminal trespass on a vehicle, even if the person doesn’t take control of the vehicle, and theft of motor fuel, doesn’t take control of the vehicle, and theft of motor fuel.

For years, Illinois has held driver’s licenses hostage when people couldn’t pay excessive parking and vehicle tickets,” said Omar Aquino, a Chicago Democrat and principal sponsor of the bill in the Senate. “That drives people into poverty and keeps them out of work. Using license suspensions for debt collection is cruel, counterproductive, and frankly embarrassing.”

Mah legislation gives longer renewal period for exemption

Homeowners who receive the senior citizens homestead exemption this year will be able to keep that exemption through 2024 due to legislation sponsored by State Rep. Theresa Mah (D-2nd) and signed into law recently by Gov. J.B. Pritzker.

Under Mah’s House Bill 961, those who apply for and receive the exemption this year will not need to reapply for a five-year period. The five-year automatic renewal period was previously set to begin in 2021.

“The Senior Citizens Homestead Exemption can save homeowners hundreds, or even thousands of dollars each year, but is often overlooked by residents who have lived in their home for decades. They may assume they are already covered, or they simply forget to reapply,” said Mah. “This new law will help ensure more seniors receive the exemptions for which they qualify, so they can continue to afford living in their home full of cherished memories.”

Ticket deadline approaching for Mardi Gras dance

Those who feel like celebrating Mardi Gras are invited to a Mardi Gras Dance being held from 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. Saturday, Feb. 15 in the St. Richard Parish gymnasium, 5030 S. Kostner.

Tickets are $30 per person and include dinner and soda. There will also be a cash bar and live music. Hundreds of thousands of Cook County residents who were eligible for the Senior Citizens Homestead Exemption did not apply last year, according to the Cook County Assessor’s office. Mah is serving her second term representing the 2nd District, which includes the Chicago neighborhoods of McKinley Park, Pilsen, Chinatown, Bridgeport, Brighton Park and Back of the Yards. For more information, contact Mah’s district office at (773) 284-5775.

Mad Hatters coming to McKinley Park Branch Library

Families can join the library staff and The Mad Hatters for a fun-filled program of books, poems and songs. There will be some classic books performed including Caps for Sale, Where the Wild Things Are and the Magic Hat. For more information, call (312) 747-6082.

Tickets available for An American in Paris

The St. Richard Golden Eagles are hosting a trip to see An American in Paris at 1 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 19 at the Drury Lane Oak Brook. Ticket price is $70 per person and transportation is not included. There are a limited number of tickets. For tickets and more information, call Wish Kucik at (773) 284-2000.
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SOUTHWEST SPORTS

Dolphins rally past Roadrunners

Whitney Young overcomes 18-point deficit

By Steve Metsch
Correspondent

Whitney Young’s Olivia Vick may be a freshman, but she plays with the poise of a seasoned veteran.

Consider last week’s matchup with Nazareth, when the 14-year-old’s precise shooting from beyond the arc proved fatal for the host Roadrunners.

Vick hit five 3-pointers in the second half, including three consecutive treys in the fourth quarter, to power the Dolphins to a 48-45 come-from-behind victory.

“She’s amazing and she’s a freshman,” said Young coach Kristen Harper.

Vick acknowledged she was “kind of off” in the first half.

“But once I hit the first three, I knew if I kept shooting it would get hot,” she said.

Vick scored a team-high 17 points. Her last three gave Young a 46-42 lead.

The outcome was still in doubt with 21.8 seconds left after Nazareth freshman guard Grace Carstensen hit two free throws, cutting the lead to 46-45.

The Dolphins’ Yasmin Mosi missed a free throw, and Nazareth got the board, hoping to set up the game-winner, however, Kayla Evans – whose 17 points led Nazareth - lost possession as she crossed half court.

Young’s Kayla Green was fouled with 5.7 seconds left. Green, who scored 15, missed the free throw, but grabbed the rebound and scored to seal the win.

Vick’s sharpshooting capped a furious Dolphins rally. Young (17-2) outscored Nazareth 33-17 in the second half.

Green chipped in with 11 of her 15 points in the second half.

The Roadrunners (13-8) sprinted to a 23-5 lead and were up 13 at halftime, and by eight after three quarters.

Vick thought her team could win, even when down by 18.

“I have trust in my team,” she said. “I don’t think there’s anybody that can beat us, honestly, because of our attitude and how we play.”

The rally was made more impressive as Harper only had eight players available.

“What’s good about our team is they recognized [Vick] was hot and they were looking to feed her,” he said. “That last one put the nail in.”

“The first half showed us we have to be to on our game at all times. We can’t be lax. Nazareth will lull you to sleep running their sets, and they do it well.”

The Roadrunners committed several turnovers late in the second quarter, allowing Whitney Young to trim the deficit from 23-5 to 28-15 at the break.

“(At halftime) I told them basketball is a game of runs. They had their run. Now, it’s time for us to have ours. One stop. One basket. They understood that and believed in that,” Harper said.

Nazareth has lost five of eight games.

“We have to pick it up now,” said Carstensen, who scored 12.

Whitney Young put the game away with an 18-7 fourth quarter.

“One of our problems is having tough times finishing our games. Once they started getting on a run, we kind of put our heads down

Spartans win their first conference crown since 1992

Ten Oak Lawn wrestlers earned individual championships and the Spartans won their first conference title in 28 years at the South Suburban Red tournament.

Oak Lawn got championships from Collin Smith (106), Mike Kass (126), Marcel Binner (132), Mo Ed (138), Anthony Binzer (152), Mike Alberts (160), Chris Czopek (170), Naseem Barakat (182), Jordan Sprysha (220) and Jamal Ali (285).

This season has been a fantastic journey so far, with more to come because we aren’t done yet,” said Spartans coach Stephen Long. “The kids, especially the seniors, earned this. They have worked hard and remained focused on accomplishing this task all season long. And to get it done in convincing fashion that left no doubt was incredibly enjoyable to watch.

“I’m so happy for all those kids in the program for what they did for this school. ‘They’ve erased 28 years of futility and put Oak Lawn back on the wrestling map.”

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Red Stars draft five; pick up Hill in trade

Get Glenbard East’s Camryn Biegalski with 16th pick

The 2020 National Women’s Soccer League Draft has concluded, with Chicago acquisiting forward Rachel Hill and making five selections. The Red Stars began the draft by acquiring the second and third overall selections in exchange for allocation money and the fourth and fifth overall picks.

Chicago then acquired the 15th and 16th overall selections and allocation money from the Portland Thorns in exchange for the second overall selection. They also acquired Hill, the 19th overall selection and a first-round selection in the 2021 NWSL College Draft in exchange for the 3rd and 26th overall selections.

“I am really appreciative of Rory and the rest of the staff for bringing me in,” Hill said. “I know there is a great group of girls there, so I am really excited to get going. The fans are always awesome every time we have played there...you can always hear them. They’re great and I am going to work my hardest to do everything I can to help the team.”

Hill was a two-time ODP team member for five years and was also a member of the U-14, U-15, and U-18 U.S. Women’s National Teams and was also a member of the ODP teams for five years.

“I am so excited to be on the team,” Bingham said. “I can’t wait to start this journey with the Red Stars and I can’t wait to put in some work.”

16th - Camryn Biegalski
F: Wisconsin

As a key part of Wisconsin’s defense, Biegalski, of Lombard, started all 22 games in 2018, scoring one goal with two assists. As a junior, she also started all 22 games in the backline for the Badgers. She ended the 2017 season with her first career goal against Drake and one assist in round one of the NCAA Tournament versus Toledo.

Biegalski finished her college career with two goals, six assists, 3,356 minutes of field time. Her noteworthy performance earned her second-team 2019 United Soccer Coaches All-America honors.

19th - Zoe Morse
F: Virginia

As team captain at Virginia, Morse started all 22 games in the 2019 season. She led the team with 1,923 minutes on the field, playing the full 90 minutes for 14-of-22 games. Morse helped Virginia solidify a record 14 shutouts, including seven consecutive shutouts in ACC play.

Morse was selected to the All-Region Second Team by the United Soccer Coaches, named to the ACC Championship All-Tournament Team, CoSIDA Academic All-District Second Team, and was Scholar All-Region second team by United Soccer Coaches. Morse wrapped up her college career with four goals, three assists, and 6,826 minutes on the field.

Morse was also a member of the U.S. U-17, U-18 and U-20 Women’s National Teams.

35th - Aerial Chavarin
F: Duke

As a junior, Stevens played in all 17 games, making 14 starts. She led the team with ten assists, putting her 27th for her career, fourth all-time in Duke Women’s Soccer history, and second in the ACC. Stevens was ranked seventh nationally during the 2018 season. This past season, Stevens started at midfield for every game with the Devils. She tied second on the team for goals, scoring eight, and first for assists, with six.

Stevens’ contributions were recognized when she earned United Soccer Coaches All-Atlantic Region Second Team, All-ACC Second Team, and all-conference honors for her fourth consecutive season.

“I am excited, I really am,” said Stevens. “[Chi- cago] has always been a team that I’ve looked at and hoped that maybe one day I could play for them.”

35th - Aerial Chavarin
F: Duke

Chavarin joins the Red Stars as a strong scorer. She kicked off her college soccer career with a unanimous selection as Ivy League Rookie of the Year. In 2019, Chavarin started all 16 games for the Bull- dog’s, logging 1,377 minutes on the field with eight goals and one assist.

Chavarin has had 25 career goals, ten of them game-winning goals, 63 career games played, 55 starts, 12 career assists, and 62 career points.

Chavarin’s accolades include Ivy League’s De- fensive Player of the Year and United Soccer Coaches All-America Second Team. She was only the third Bulldog to earn All-America recognition and the first since 2005. Chavarin was also a Three-time All-Ivy selection, including two first-team selections. In 2019, Chavarin was invited to play in the New England Women’s Intercollegiate Soccer Association Senior Bowl.
FANTER SCORES 17; ZOBEL NABS DOUBLE-DOUBLE

From staff reports

Saint Xavier started hot and opened up a big lead early, then held off Gov-ernors State in the second half and won, 82-69, last Friday in University Park.

The win was the seventh straight for the Jaguars (18-3, 13-0 CCAC), who were strong from the start on both ends of the floor. They held the Jaguars (8-12, 5-7 CCAC) to one field goal over a six-and-a-half-minute stretch of the first quarter while opening up a 25-6 lead.

SXU led 28-12 after one and the lead grew to as many as 21 points, howev-er, Governors State mount-ed a comeback that nar-rowed the deficit to three at 2:18 to go in the third quarter.

Saint Xavier opened the second half with five unanswered points and pulled away late, going up 73-60 on a 3-pointer by Fanter with 4:41 to play. SXU closed the game on a 9-4 run.

Chanel Lanter led all scorers with 17 points on 8-of-10 shooting. Three other Cougars scored in double figures: Maddie Weller had 15 points on 5-of-10 from three-point range; McKenna Zobel had her second double-double of the year with 14 points and 13 boards; and Brianna Flayter fin-ished with 13 points and six steals.

Saint Xavier returns to the Shannon Center after a week-long break to face No. 25 Olivet Nazarene at 1 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25.

SAINT XAVIER

A Good Start

The Saint Xavier men’s volleyball team, ranked No. 8 in the nation, began its 2020 season with a free-set victory over 6th-ranked Aquinas on Jan. 17 at the Shannon Center.

The Cougars dropped the first set 22-25, won the next two 25-20, 25-22 to get within one victory of a match win, but Aquinas forced a decisive fifth set with a 21-25 win. SXU won the final set 15-13.

Outside hitter Grant Ochs had 15 kills and 15 digs in his first appearance in an SXU uniform, and three players finished in double figures for the Cougars. Kyle Springer re-corded 14 kills and Ben Gabor had 13 kills and a career-high six blocks. Libero Ryan Gossett tallied nine digs, while setter Aar-on Kummer recorded 50 assists.

Looking to close out the match, Saint Xavier led 13-11 in game four, but a 6-1 run by Aquinas gave the visitors a three-point lead. The Cougars rallied to tie the game at 19 following three Aquinas errors, but the Saints closed out the set with seven of the final nine points.

The Cougars took a 4-1 lead to start the decisive set, and trailed only once at 10-9 Back-to-back kills from Springer put SXU back on top, 11-10, and the teams battled from there with Aquinas tying the score at 11, 12 and 13 – each time with a kill. Gab-ber set up match point with a kill at 14-13, and an attack error close out the win.

Jags pounce

Jack Halverson scored 21 points to lead Saint Xavier, but the Cougars struggled to keep pace with the Governors State Jaguars, falling on the road 94-79 on Jan. 18.

The Jaguars commit-ted 11 turnovers in the first half, helping the Jaguars (13-6, 8-4 CCAC) build a double-digit lead midway through the first half. Saint Xavier (14-6, 9-4 CCAC) went nearly five minutes without a field goal in that span. Halverson hit a pair of free throws that gave SXU a 15-14 lead, but the Jaguars went on a 16-1 run to take a 30-16 lead with 9:56 left in the first half.

The Cougars trailed by 19 at halftime. They closed the game on a 13-2 run but were never able to cut the lead to single digits in the second half.

Sophomore guard Josh-ua Evans scored 11 points and dished out a team-high five assists. Junior Calvin Payawal finished with 11 points on 4-of-7 shooting and one steal.

The Cougars return to the Shannon Center when they host No. 4 Olivet Naz-arene at 3 p.m. Saturday, Jan. 25.

MORAINVILLE VALLEY

Women’s Basketball

The Cyclones earned their second conference win Jan. 14 with a 78-65 victory over College of Lake County.

The Lancers came into the game with seven wins in their past eight games and were 12-6 overall, but Moraine (11-4) was ready for the challenge. They led by three after the first quar-ter and had built a 10-point lead by halftime. The Cy-clones outscored the Lancers 22-11 in a decisive third quarter and built a lead of as many as 25 points.

The Cyclones return to the road with five straight games on the horizon, starting with a visit from Aquinas on Jan. 25.

“I AM A VETERAN AND THIS IS MY VICTORY.”
What’s old is new again, fondue making a come back

I hope everyone has saved their avocado green fondue pots from the 1970s. According to several foodie magazines, fondue is making a comeback. I know what you’re thinking—Peggy only reports the most important and exciting news! I got a fondue pot for a wedding present in 1977. I collected lots of fondue recipes and usually made a traditional cheese sauce with gruyere and swiss cheese. I cut up pieces of french bread for dipping. Food and Wine magazine recently suggested dunking steamed red potatoes and sliced pears.

We used our fondue pot all the time until it finally conked out. We even let the kids use it. What could go wrong? Yes, when I was a kid my mom let me and my sister, Patti, play with dry-cleaner bags. Anyhoo, I thought about fondue because it has somehow been a recurring part of my life since my marriage ring with my hubby, Roman. We celebrated our 43rd anniversary recently. In addition to thinking about the fondue wedding gift I remember getting to a fondue restaurant on the North Side when we were dating. It was called, Fondue Studio.

On our 25th anniversary we went to a fondue place called Geja’s Cafe. It is in the Lincoln Park neighborhood. It’s been there since 1965. During our dinner there, Romanian customers came in and ordered a missionary ring for me into an empty fondue pot. I thought that was so funny and romantic.

Now, fondue is making a comeback. What is old is new again. Hey Ro - thanks for always making me feel like a princess.

Call the league President Sergio Rivera at (773) 396-1579 for details, call (773) 838-9470. The West Lawn Branch Library, 4002 W. 63rd St., will show the movie Bumblebee on Wednesday, Jan. 29 from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

The library will be hosting a discussion about the book and movie, World War Z on Monday, Jan. 27. This event will take place at Palermo’s Pizzeria, 751 W. 63rd St., from 6 to 7:30 p.m. Call the library at (312) 747-7381 if you have any questions.

The library recently hosted a book presentation by Mark Farina, author of the book Caseys and the Flying Fortresses. I mentioned this in a column about two weeks ago. I attended the presentation. Mark talked about how and why he wrote this exciting book about bravery and survival. He presented a slide show with lots of photos of World War II planes and pilots. This true story is about a Chicago man who became a bomber pilot in Europe during World War II. The book is available online at Amazon.com, BarnesandNoble.com, and MarkFarina.Author.com. I’m glad I bought a copy.

Finally, welcome to new West Lawn restaurant, Soph- sia Tamales, 5926 S. Pulaski. This new eatery is open every day from 11 a.m. to 8 p.m. Celebrating this month will be the Rev. Paul Whittington, OP. Re- freshments will follow.

On Saturday, Feb. 1, there will be a performance and training at St. Rita Church for both current and prospective altar servers. The pizza party will be held in St. Augustine Hall at 11:30 a.m. and training a practice will take place in the church from noon to 2 p.m. Training is mandato- ry for all current servers.

Now back to the 1950s: Last week Marilynn M. gave us a good brainteaser. She told us on the northwest corner of 69th and Campbell, the first building was a butcher shop and next door to it was a jewelry store. Both businesses had the same name. There would also be a funeral home on 71st Street later on with the same name. While Jim L. grew up right down the street on Campbell, he thinks he might have been a little too young to remember the butcher shop and jewelry store but the hint of the Sisters of St. Casimir, he said he would test the guess of Petkus. He was right.

J & R Variety opened their first store in the 1950s at 7050 W. 63rd St. in South Western. Anybody remember the name of the variety store that preceded them at that location?
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Gage Park correspondent
5351 S. Rockwell St.
Chicago, IL 60632
(773) 471-1429

As the search continues for a new Greater Ashburn correspondent, I’m filling in again. As usual, there’s so much to see and do in the neighborhood, so here goes!

An adult book discussion will be held from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 5 at the Wrightwood-Ashburn Branch Library, 8436 S. Kedzie. Join other readers as they talk about *Linden Hills* by Gloria Naylor. This African American class takes a powerful look at an affluent black community trapped by the American Dream. For more information, call (773) 745-4521 and refer to “dent Investigation Unit at CPD’s Major Acci-

A surveillance photo of the suspect car, provided by police.

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