

Chicago Tribune



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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

2 suburban Catholic schools to close in June

Archdiocese cites the expiration of state tax credit scholarship program

By Alysa Guffey
Chicago Tribune

Two west suburban Catholic grade schools will close this summer, the Archdiocese of Chicago announced Thursday, citing an “overwhelming financial cliff” after the loss of a state tax

credit scholarship program for school choice.

St. Frances of Rome School in Cicero and St. Odilo School in Berwyn, two pre-K to eighth grade private schools, will close their doors in June after the conclusion of the academic year.

School and church leaders said

more than half of students at the schools rely on the program to attend. Between the two schools, 164 students attended through the tax credit scholarship program, the archdiocese said, and the schools have been open for a combined 196 years.

Invest in Kids grant money goes toward covering a student’s tuition. Student tuition covers only a portion of funds that Catholic schools in the archdiocese need

to operate, the Office of Catholic Schools said.

Spending varies based on the individual school, but they rely on donations and subsidies from parishes, among other channels, to round out spending budgets.

“More than half the students at our two schools rely on these scholarships,” said the Rev. Bartholomew Juncer, pastor of St. Odilo School. “These are hard-working families who want a Cath-

olic education for their children.”

An annual report for the Invest in Kids scholarship program is released by the state in March each year for the previous academic year. The report includes the number of students in the program, how many students attend each school and student demographics.

During the 2022-23 school year the tax credit scholarship allowed

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E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

THE RAT HOLE UNCOVERED

Neighbors requesting anonymity cleaned what has been dubbed “The Chicago Rat Hole” on a Roscoe Village sidewalk on Friday. The impression had been covered with a concrete-like material, so the neighbors restored the impression using hot water and a scrub brush. **Chicagoland, Page 3**

Highland Park worker gets fired

Recreation director was on leave for PTSD from shooting

By Chloe Hilles
Chicago Tribune

A recreation director was fired by the Park District of Highland Park while on leave for the post-traumatic stress disorder he has experienced since the mass shooting during the suburb’s 2022 Fourth of July Parade.

While Chris Maliszewski was planning a return-to-work routine with his psychologist, the 41-year-old was terminated from his position Dec. 27, according to interviews and records obtained by the News-Sun.

As director of recreation, Maliszewski was co-chair of the 2022 Fourth of July Parade and one of the first Park District employees to arrive at work that morning.

At the time of the shooting he was at the start of the parade route, just north of where a gunman fired into the crowd from a rooftop. The mass shooting left seven people dead and dozens injured.

Later that night Robert “Bobby” Crimo III was taken into custody by the Highland Park police department. The 23-year-old remains in custody at the Lake County jail and faces more than a hundred felony

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Republican presidential candidate and former U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley, center, takes a selfie with diners during a campaign stop Friday at Mary Ann’s Diner in Amherst, New Hampshire. **CHARLES KRUPA/AP**

ELECTION 2024

Haley’s heritage a target for Trump

Latest attacks echo ‘birther’ rhetoric leveled at Obama

By Bill Barrow
Associated Press

ATLANTA — Donald Trump used his social media platform Friday to mock Nikki Haley’s birth name, the latest example of the former president keying on race and ethnicity to attack people of color, especially his political rivals.

In a post on his Truth Social account, Trump repeatedly referred to Haley, the daugh-

ter of immigrants from India, as “Nimbura.” Haley, the former South Carolina governor, was born in Bamberg, South Carolina, as Nimarata Nikki Randhawa. She has always gone by her middle name, Nikki. She took her surname upon her marriage in 1996.

Trump called Haley “Nimbura” three times in the post and said she “doesn’t have what it takes.”

The attack comes four days before the New Hampshire primary, in which Haley is trying to establish herself as the only viable Trump alternative in the

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Court upholds pension fund law

Affirms consolidation of police, firefighter retirement assets

By Dan Petrella
Chicago Tribune

The Illinois Supreme Court on Friday upheld a landmark law that consolidated hundreds of suburban and downstate police and firefighter pension funds.

In a unanimous decision, the state’s high court sided with two lower courts in rejecting the argument that participants’ diluted role in electing representatives to make investment decisions under the new law violates the state constitution’s pension protection clause.

“The ability to vote in elections for local pension board members is not ... a constitutionally protected benefit, nor is the ability to have local board members control and invest pension funds,” Chief Justice Mary Jane Theis wrote in an 11-page opinion joined by the court’s six other justices.

Gov. J.B. Pritzker signed the measure in 2019, promising it

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INSIDE

Suspended star cleared to return to Illini

All-Big Ten guard Terrence Shannon Jr., who was suspended last month amid a rape allegation in Kansas, was cleared to return to the basketball team Friday when a federal judge granted a preliminary injunction. U.S. District Judge Colleen Lawless said Shannon stood to “suffer irreparable harm” without the injunction. **Chicago Sports**



ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

FEMA tries new approach to aid

The Biden administration is overhauling disaster assistance programs, expanding aid for survivors of hurricanes, wildfires and other catastrophes, and making aid easier to access. **Nation & World**

TODAY’S WEATHER **COLD** High 14 Low -2

Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 8

\$4.00 city and suburbs and elsewhere
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