

BLUE ISLAND

Historic Libby Building hits endangered list

It's falling into neglect during ongoing dispute between owner, city

By Hank Sanders
Daily Southtown

The Libby, McNeill and Libby Building in Blue Island has been named one of 2024's Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois by Landmarks Illinois, a nonprofit group that advocates for the preservation of the state's history. Nine other buildings made the list, announced May 7, including the Portage Theater in Chicago and the Johnson County Court-

house in Vienna. Criteria require the buildings to have an important history, be under threat mostly because of neglect and have a path forward to be rescued, according to the nonprofit's website. "The former canning and bottling factory was built in 1918 for the Libby, McNeill and Libby company, the second-largest producer of canned foods in the country at the time," a news release from the Landmarks Illinois states. "The building is currently vacant and is beginning to decay due to a lack of reuse and proper maintenance." Landmarks Illinois Chief Oper-

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Blue Island's Libby Building was named to the Most Endangered Historic Places in Illinois list. HANK SANDERS/DAILY SOUTHTOWN



The first crew of volunteers works on the rose compass project Saturday at the Lansing Municipal Airport. JEFF VORVA/DAILY SOUTHTOWN PHOTOS

Replacement rose

Eagle Scout project returns painted compass to Lansing airport taxiway

By Jeff Vorva
Chicago Tribune

Having a rose compass on an airport taxiway can benefit pilots both when they in the air as well as when they are on the ground. Longtime Lansing pilot Vickie Szewczyk, a member of the

Chicago Area Chapter of the Ninety-Nines women's pilot's club, said she appreciates seeing the compasses or other air markings when flying a small plane. "It's a good visual aid," she said. "It's something pilots can see to confirm where they are at." And on the ground?

"I can park my plane and check my compass by pointing it at magnetic north or east or west to make sure my compass is functioning correctly," she said. Szewczyk notes there is a variation in the magnetic field throughout the country. In the Lansing area, it is 4 degrees West. In Maine, it is 20 degrees off, she said and in California it's 25.

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DeKalb sixth grader Jack Wild made the trip to Lansing to paint the rose compass at the Lansing Municipal Airport.

LANDMARKS

Roosevelt's globe highlights revived Dixie Highway motor tour



A globe created by Weber Costello Co. in Chicago Heights along with the U.S. War Department stands on display Friday in the library at Bloom High School in Chicago Heights. PAUL EISENBERG/DAILY SOUTHTOWN

Paul Eisenberg
For a little while, there was a big secret in Chicago Heights. Washington bigwigs were visiting. Mysterious shipments of valuable resources would arrive. Something important was happening on the city's East Side at a time when most of the world's attention was focused on armed conflict that had engulfed the globe. The secret turned out to be a gift for the president being put together in a workshop at 12th Street and McKinley Avenue, where the Weber Costello Company long had manufactured

school supplies such as blackboards, erasers, maps and globes. The firm's top mapmakers, including chief cartographer B.E. Brown, of Steger, and Chicago Heights resident Arthur Wallmeyer, head of lithography, were recruited for the effort. They oversaw "nine months of secret and sometimes feverish activity," according to an account published a few years later, on display at Bloom Township High School library in Chicago Heights. "The War Department placed the full resources of the government at their disposal," including supplying "secret geographical information" from the Office of Strategic Services. "Scarce materials needed in the plate making department were rushed by plane from all parts of the country," the account states. By the time it was finished, they had assembled a 50-inch globe that was "unique in mapmaking history." Weber Costello described it as "the largest ever manufactured," with a caveat. "Actually, larger spheres have been made, but since they were planned for display rather than the shaping of world decisions, their maps have been drawn on the surface of the finished ball and they do not present the hairline accuracy of the 50-inch map," the company stated in a promotional booklet. The item originally planned as a Christmas present for President Franklin Roosevelt became part of the war effort. Identical copies were made for British Prime Minister Winston Churchill, the U.S. War Department and other

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Woman accused of bomb threat in Springfield

Police say false claim targeted Capitol, another building in April

By Olivia Stevens
Chicago Tribune

A 23-year-old Springfield woman has been arrested and charged with making a false bomb threat that targeted two Illinois state buildings last month, the Illinois State Police announced Friday.

The ISP received a call on April 22 that a bomb had been placed in the Illinois Capitol building and in a Springfield public aid building. The state's terrorism and intelligence center quickly cleared both buildings. Authorities tracked down the person who allegedly made the threats, Gabrielle Williams, through "cellular information and conducting interviews," according to a statement from the ISP.

Williams was taken to the Sangamon County Detention Facility on Thursday and charged with making a false bomb threat, a Class 4 felony. She awaits a pretrial detention hearing.

The ISP said a Clear and Present Danger report has been filed for Williams that, if affirmed by the state police, would revoke or deny a firearm owner's identification card or an application for one.

In the statement, Secretary of State Alexi Giannoulias thanked police and said, "We take the security of the Capitol Complex and the safety of its employees, public officials, and visitors extremely seriously."

ostevens@chicagotribune.com

BRIDGE

Both vulnerable, East deals

North
♠ Q J 5
♥ 7 4 3
♦ 10 6 3 2
♣ K J 4

West
♠ 10 4 3 2
♥ 9 5
♦ A 9 5 4
♣ 7 6

South
♠ A K 9 8
♥ K Q J 8 6
♦ Q
♣ 9 8 3

East
♠ 7 6
♥ A 10 2
♦ K J 7
♣ A Q 10 5 2

In a pairs competition, a score of plus 200 is sometimes referred to as the "magic number". It will beat any pair sitting in your direction who makes a part-score contract or defeats their opponents by one trick undoubled. It virtually assures a good score on the deal. Sitting West in today's deal was Keith Hanson, of Boca Raton, Florida. Hanson

is known as one of America's most popular bridge teachers. He is also an outstanding player.

Good players will try to avoid rebidding five-card suits, but the club suit can be an exception. A

one-club opening bid only promises three clubs, so partner will almost never raise with three-card support. A strong five-card club suit is often worth rebidding. East's three-club bid pushed North-South to the three level, and Hanson led the seven of clubs. Declarer played dummy's jack, losing to the queen, and East shifted to the seven of spades. This ran around to dummy's queen and a low heart was led to the jack, winning the trick. South now made a slight error by leading a spade to dummy's jack before leading a diamond to his queen and Hanson's ace.

Hanson knew that he could give his partner a spade ruff, but then he would have no entry to lead a club through dummy's king. Hanson chose to lead a club. South played low from dummy, losing to the 10, and East continued with the ace of clubs. Hanson ruffed his partner's ace and led a spade for East to ruff, and that produced the "magic number" for Hanson and his partner. Very nice play!

— Bob Jones, Tribune Content Agency

DAILY Southtown

Par Ridder, General Manager

EDITORIAL
Brett Johnson
Managing Editor
bjohnson@chicagotribune.com
Bill Scheibe
Suburban Sports Editor
bscheibe@tribpub.com
General: 708-342-5646

Grand Ave., Chicago, IL, 60654.

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CANDOR HEALTH EDUCATION

Being 'open and honest'

Hinsdale-based nonprofit celebrates its 50th year of candid conversations

By Chuck Fieldman

The Robert Crown Center, known around the Chicago area for 46 years as an organization that educates students, their trusted adults, and communities on the topics of puberty, sex, and substance abuse prevention, changed its name four years ago to Candor Health Education.

But the mission remains the same: to positively impact the physical, social, and emotional health of young people through innovative education programs in partnership with parents, schools, and communities.

"We changed our name to Candor Health Education in 2020, said Candor Executive Director Barb Thayer. "Our Health Educators begin each program explaining that Candor means 'open and honest' and that what we do is have open and honest conversations with the students we work with."

While the name has changed, the nonprofit organization is still going strong as it celebrates its 50th year in 2024.

"Kids have round-the-clock access to information about sexuality," said Katie Gallagher, Candor's director of education. "If no adult is providing them quality information, they're going to find whatever they can on the internet."

Candor provides science-based sex education programming to students in grades four to eight with a curriculum presented in school classrooms by specially trained educators to an estimated 80,000 students in more than 600 schools each year, according to Candor.

"Our goal is to equip students with important, functional knowledge to make healthy decisions for themselves and to appreciate and respect the bodies of others as well," Gallagher said.

Thayer said Candor provides programs to students in both public and private schools across the Chicago area for in-person programming and across the country for live virtual programming.

The Robert Crown Center used to regularly attract busloads of students for its programs in its building at 21 Salt Creek Lane in Hinsdale. The organization sold its building in 2017 and moved to in-school delivery.

"Only about 20% of our programs were being delivered at our center at that time," Thayer said "Because of time limitations for schools and bus transportation expenses, many schools had already moved to in-school delivery."

Thayer said doing away with onsite programs in its Hinsdale building has not affected what is offered and how it's offered.

"We were already offering the same programs at the center and in schools, but we began a complete curriculum overhaul in 2017 and have completely updated all programs with social-emotional skill building, decision making, and technology," she said.

Candor has added two programs to its sex education continuum and one to its substance abuse prevention continuum as well as a social-emotional learning program called Navigating Middle School years, Thayer said.

"Most of these programs are offered in in-person, live virtual, and online interactive formats," she said, adding that in-person programs are delivered in schools within 35 miles of Candor's Hinsdale location, but do live virtual programs are done in other locations.

School clients in New York and Wisconsin currently are using Candor programs.

"Candor has been talking to kids about puberty and sex for 50 years, but the breadth of content has grown beyond just the birds and the bees," Gallagher said. "We still talk about puberty, but today we also cover topics like sexting, consent, digital dating abuse, and drug education."

"Evidence shows that educating children appropriately with medically accurate sex education leads to better sexual health choices. Quality sex education can help young people develop better social and emotional skills and healthy relationships."

Thayer said Candor/Robert Crown Center has been offering similar, age-appropriate content for a long time. Thayer said Puberty I is the most attended program and has been since the inception of the center in 1974. Human Reproduction and Embryology and Teen Sexual Health programs also have been long-standing programs.



Kim Fronk, a Candor Health Education educator, teaches "Human Reproduction and Embryology."
CANDOR HEALTH EDUCATION PHOTOS



A Robert Crown Center, now Candor Health Education, representative teaches students.

"We received feedback from schools that they were looking for additional content in puberty and Teen Sexual Health, so we developed Puberty II and Teen Sexual Health II," Thayer said. She said program offerings don't change a great deal from year to year.

"But we do review them annually to make sure information is current and based on up-to-date information and research," Thayer said. "Based on feedback from students and teachers, we may change portions of the programs to better meet the learning needs of students."

While many of the basics of program offerings have remained similar or the same, new delivery models have been developed.

"The new delivery models, Live Virtual and Online interactive were

developed as a response to the pandemic," Thayer said. "These programs have allowed us to reach more students outside of the Chicago metro area, but some schools within the Chicago metro area also opt for virtual delivery."

Thayer said Candor is having a year-long celebration for its 50th anniversary with schools and the community, which will culminate in a 50th-anniversary fundraising event on Feb. 1, 2025, "Dancing through the Decades."

"We will celebrate songs and dancing from the 1970's through 2025," Thayer said. "It will be a great time to join with friends, staff, and supporters, both old and new."

Chuck Fieldman is a freelance reporter for Pioneer Press.

Airport

from Page 1

As a frequent user of the Lansing Municipal Airport, she had great appreciation when a group of Boy Scouts, led by Naperville's Alex Steadman, spent Saturday painting a rose compass on Taxiway G.

The 80-foot rose compass replaces one destroyed during airport improvements.

Steadman, a sophomore at Neuqua Valley High School, is heading up this project to earn Eagle Scout status and to help pilots from across the nation who might fly in the area.

Last year, he missed an opportunity for a project in Bolingbrook by one day. But his mother, Jessica Reinschmidt, who is a pilot, used her connections with the Ninety-Nine group, which knew Lansing wanted a new compass on its property.

"We went from no project to 'Oh my God' in 24 hours," Reinschmidt said. "It was zero to 60 in 24 hours."

The project was a year in the making but Steadman and Troop 75 of Bolingbrook, some members of the Ninety-Nine club, a Scout from the DeKalb area and others were finally out on Saturday painting.

"I cannot say that I knew where Lansing was on a map before this project," Steadman said. "I never imagined that I would be



Lansing's Vickie Szewczyk measures for a rose compass project Saturday at the Lansing Municipal Airport.
JEFF VORVA/DAILY SOUTHTOWN PHOTOS

doing this project specifically, but I knew because my family is very heavily into aviation that I was going to do something aviation related for my project.

"I knew that from the start, and this is something that worked."

The facility dates back to the 1920s and was used by historic figures such as Henry Ford, Charles Lindbergh and Wiley Post, According to the airport's website,

It was known as the Chicago-Hammond Airport until the village of Lansing took over ownership.

The airport traffic heats up in July, when pilots from all over the country either fly over or stop in Lansing to and from the annual air show in Oshkosh, Wisconsin.

"This is a hot spot," Szewczyk said. "A lot of people like to fuel up here

to make that last leg. It's a nice, safe, easy place to land. It can be a madhouse here."

"For those pilots who don't want to take their aircrafts across Lake Michigan, this is a good airport to use as a landmark," Reinschmidt added. "And you can use this to make sure you are not in O'Hare's airspace or Midway's airspace."

Szewczyk said the Ninety-Nines started in 1929 and Amelia Earhart was the first president. There were 99 female pilots who started the organization and there are about 3,000 worldwide in the group today.

This mixture of history and young people working on this project made Szewczyk happy.

"This is really cool," she said. "There are plans for doing a project like this for the Lake in the Hills airport.



Alex Steadman, of Naperville, shows a photo of what the rose should look like.

"The aviation community is rather small. There is not a whole lot of us. For us to come together like this is really cool."

Troop 75 had eight scouts and some parents helping. The Ninety-Nine group was expected to have close to 10 volunteers.

Steadman is anxious to become an Eagle Scout, but he had to practice patience with this project.

"We had to wait a year because they were repaving this area," he said of Taxiway G. "That took a while because that requires government regulation and acceptance."

"After that, I was really cranking this into high gear in the last four-ish months and hammering down on the planning."

Jeff Vorva is a freelance reporter for the Daily Southtown