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LOCAL ARREST Frankfort resident accused of taking child from home, Page 7

ABUSE ALLEGATIONS Former area priests accused of sexual misconduct, Page 8

The Frankfort Station™

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MAKING LEARNING A BREEZE

New wind tunnel exhibit teaches children about science, Page 5

Roran Garrelts, 3, tests out his creation Friday, March 22, at the new wind tunnel exhibit at KidsWork Children's Museum in Frankfort. NURIA MATHOG/22ND CENTURY MEDIA

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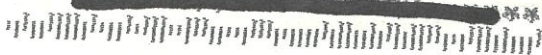
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NEWS COVER STORY

KidsWork introduces interactive wind exhibit

JURIA MATHOG, Editor

A new exhibit installed at KidsWork Children's Museum on Thursday, March 21, will give visitors a hands-on look at the power of wind — and encourage children to put their imagination to work.

The motor-generated wind tubes offer a visual demonstration of how moving air and objects interact. At the first station, children and parents are encouraged to create a device out of materials such as tissue paper, pipe cleaners and coffee filters capable of floating in the tube. Next, they place their design into the tube and watch as the continuous updraft whisks them away.

Nicole Underwood,

executive director of the museum, said the \$20,000 project was purchased from the COSI museum in Columbus, Ohio.

"This was due in part to our fundraiser that we had last year, in 2018," Underwood said. "So, from those funds, those proceeds, we were able to contract with COSI and they designed, custom-built these wind tubes for us."

Underwood said the museum selected the wind tubes because they incorporate elements of STEM — science, technology, engineering and mathematics — or STEAM, which also includes the arts. She said she hoped the project would serve as "an extension of what the schools

are teaching."

The exhibit is designed to teach science standards such as "forces can change the motion of an object" and "the amount of change in movement of an object is based on the mass of the object and the amount of force exerted."

Additionally, Underwood said, she hoped the new exhibit would give older children something fun to do at KidsWork.

"Right now, we kind of max out at about 6, so we thought, 'Hey, let's get the 8- to 10-year-olds,'" she said. "Little ones can use it too, but we would like to get that older age group in the museum."

The exhibit also comes with a display case for

Please see WIND, 8

children to show off their airborne creations.

"This is a way to convince them to display it

and show it off while they go and hang out in the rest of the museum," said Adrian French, manager of ex-

hibit fabrications at COSI, who set up the exhibit. "And then we can take them apart and reuse them,

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Braxton Paszko, of Tinley Park, watches objects move in a wind tube exhibit Friday, March 22, at Kidswork Children's Museum in Frankfort.

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Priests who had southwest suburban assignments named in new abuse allegations report

BILL JONES, Managing Editor

A report released by a Minnesota-based attorney who advocates for sexual abuse victims names 395 alleged abusers and others with accusations of misconduct who have served, past and present, in the Catholic Church in Illinois.

The 185-page report includes all six Illinois diocese, and publishes background information, photographs and assignment histories of Catholic clergy and laypersons accused of sexual misconduct. Among those named in the report were priests who over the years have had assignments in 22nd Century Media's southwest suburban coverage area.

Some of the allegations previously have been reported by 22nd Century Media and other publica-

tions in some cases predating this company. Some of the allegations also have been publicly reported by various dioceses or archdioceses. In the cases with ties to the area included in the text following, assignments to towns 22nd Century Media coverage are noted, but many of the priests were assigned to other parishes, as well. More information is available in the full report at andersonadvocates.com.

In the wake of the report, both the Archdiocese of Chicago and Diocese of Joliet issued statements. The Archdiocese said it reports all allegations it receives to civil authorities and does not "police itself."

"If the Archdiocese of Chicago receives an allegation that a religious priest has engaged in sexual misconduct with a minor, the archdiocese reports it to the civil authorities, publicly withdraws the priest's faculties to work in the archdiocese, and refers the matter to his religious superior," according to the statement.

The Archdiocese statement also took issue with how the report "conflates people who have been accused, but may be innocent, with those who have substantiated allegations against them," and offers several examples, some of which have been noted in the text that follows. It also notes the differences that pertain to religious order priests.

The Diocese of Joliet similarly noted it reports "all allegations of child sexual abuse to law enforcement" and in cases that involve victims who are still minors to DCF. It said all allegations in the report previously were reported by the Diocese to authorities and has posted a list on its website since 2006.

"All credibly accused priests have been removed from ministry," according to the Diocese statement.

The statement further noted the Anderson Report includes allegations that were "unsubstantiated or deemed not credible by the Diocese of Joliet Review Board, or the claim did not involve child abuse." It also notes some priests were of visiting status, and in such cases or those involving allegations against members of a religious order the diocese has revoked their authority to minister in the Diocese of Joliet.

"The Diocese of Joliet continues to express its genuine regret and profound sympathy to any victims and survivors of sexual abuse by clergy in the Diocese of Joliet and elsewhere," the statement added. "We are committed to promoting the healing and reconciliation of

survivors, and the protection of our children today."

Frankfort

• Salvatore Formusa: Assigned to St. Anthony's Parish in Frankfort (1976-1984)

Formusa allegedly sexually abused young girls as early as 1962. In 1968, after being accused of sexual misconduct with a girl younger than 16 years old, he was removed and placed on sick leave, according to the report. In 1976, he reportedly was allowed to return to the Diocese of Joliet, where he worked until his retirement in 1985. Formusa was included on a diocese list of priests facing credible allegations.

• Lowell Fischer: Assigned to Motherhouse, Novitiate, Sacred Heart Residence, Portiuncula, Center for Prayer - Retired in Frankfort (1999-2001)

The first known allegation against the priest was made in Hawaii, where he relocated for approximately 18 years from the Diocese of Joliet in 1975. Upon his return to the Diocese of Joliet in 1993, it is thought that Fischer was placed on restricted ministry, according to the report. A second allegation of abuse was made against Fischer in 2002, after which he was removed from ministry. In 2014, he was named in a lawsuit against the Diocese of Joliet pertaining to a third accusation of sexual abuse. He was included on a diocese of priests with credible allegations against them.

• Thomas A. Corbino: Assigned to St. Charles Borromeo Seminary High School in Lockport (1977-1978)

Please see **PRIESTS, 12**



Adrian French (left), COSI manager of exhibit fabrications, teams up with (left to right) Steve Haberichter, Carson Slager and Jim Elliott to install a display case at KidsWork Children's Museum. NURIA MATHOG/22ND CENTURY MEDIA

WIND

From Page 5

or discard them if we need to ... it's just another way for them to be proud of their creations."

The wind tubes were created by COSI exhibit designer Dave Pardoe, he added.

Underwood said KidsWork has an upcoming

fundraiser scheduled for May 3 at CD&ME in Frankfort. All proceeds from the fundraiser will help finance another STEM or STEAM exhibit, which will be announced at the event.

"We are super proud of this, and we're going to keep going with this STEM, STEAM [theme]," she said.

157-C

From Page 6

intends to bring a proposal before the board in April or May.

She said she hoped to formalize a draft of the objective and share it with staff and parents for feedback before presenting a final draft to the board.

After the meeting, Zinni explained that when the 21st Century Continuous Learning Plan was created, there was a heavy emphasis on academics and bringing in more technology. At this point, she said, the district wanted to focus on sustaining achievement levels and work on the social-emotional piece and bring more "cultural competence" to D157-C.

"We're excited about the work that we're investigating to bring some training to staff, to the administration and to offer opportunities

for parent engagement, specifically in regard to diverse parents and the diversity within our community," she said. "So, trying to match the levels of diversity in our school by bringing in parent volunteers and career fairs, trying to attract more diverse teaching candidates to match these levels of diversity of our students."

Director of Business and Operations Kate Ambrosini also gave a brief overview of preliminary expense projections for the upcoming school year. \$25 million of the tentative \$36.7 million budget would be allocated to the district's education fund, while \$5.2 million would go toward district operations and maintenance, \$4 million toward debt service, \$1.3 million toward transportation, and less than \$1 million to other district funds.

She also noted the district bonds will be paid of in 2021-2022.

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