

INFLUENTIAL FIRST LADY MOURNED

Tough-minded former Chicagoan dies of heart failure at 94. **NATION & WORLD, PAGE 5**



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GARY MIDDENDORF/DAILY SOUTHTOWN PHOTOS

Parade participants toss candy on Sunday on Oak Park Avenue from the Durbin's float, sponsor of Tinley Park's Irish Parade.

County closes recycle centers

Electronics intake suspended to find more efficient way

BY SUSAN DEMAR LAFFERTY
Daily Southtown

Most electronic items have been banned from landfills in Illinois for the past four years. But state and local officials are still struggling with what to do with all the unwanted TVs and computer monitors.

Will County now has the same problem.

On Tuesday, Will County was forced to pull the plug on all of its free electronic recycling centers — at least temporarily — while county officials revamp their program and work with the state on new legislation to find efficient ways to deal with mounting piles of electronic waste, or e-waste.

When the centers do reopen — possibly in May — there will be far fewer than the 13 sites once operated by the county, and with more restrictions, said Marta Keane, program director for Will County's Resource Recovery and Energy Division. She is reaching out to other communities to see if they can host a dropoff site or a one-day collection event.

The Orland Township Highway Department will host a one-day collection April 9 — for residents only. Several months ago, it closed its facility on Wolf Road.

The township shut its facility because recycling companies started charging for the service, and it could not afford it.

Meanwhile, just of north Chicago, the Solid Waste Agency of Lake County, which operated the largest electronic collection system in the state, voted in a special meeting Thursday night to close its five dropoff sites beginning May 1. It cited insufficient funds to keep operating.

"The agency was faced with an unanticipated mandate to pay for collecting electronics, and regrettably, we cannot afford to pay more when we are already providing nearly \$150,000 per year in manpower and equipment at the five collection sites," SWALCO Chairman Larry Mount said in a statement.

SWALCO Executive Director Walter Willis said, "It is our goal to work with the other stakeholders, including the electronics manufacturers and recyclers, to develop a more sustainable program so that our residents are able to

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Green with PRIDE

Beads, candy and causes at Tinley Park parade

BY FRANK VAISVILAS
Daily Southtown

It wasn't leprechauns but rather the children of Tinley Park employees Meghan Fenlon was trying to organize Sunday near a rainbow parade float to hand out green beads to spectators.

Fenlon, a recreational supervisor, said the park district rents the float every year for the Tinley Park Irish Parade to help people welcome spring and celebrate all things Irish.

"We think it's very festive and fun," she said. "Being Irish, I like the Irish

Parade, and it's great to be outside after the winter."

The parade, which goes down Oak Park Avenue, is now in its 17th year and draws more than 20,000 spectators, said Tinley Park marketing director Donna Framke.

"It's a great opportunity to show Irish pride," Framke said.

Taking place a week before the South Side Irish Parade, Framke called Tinley Park's parade a family-orientated and community-centric event.

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Delilah Capuano, 4, dances in the street before the start of the Tinley Park's Irish Parade.

Zopp, Harris challenge Duckworth

Democrats battle for chance to claim Kirk's seat in Senate

BY SARA BURNETT
Associated Press

In the Democrats' race for a chance to unseat Republican U.S. Sen. Mark Kirk, the question has always been whether U.S. Rep. Tammy Duckworth's two opponents can overcome her advantages as a sitting congresswoman with name recognition, more funding and a personal war story.

Former Chicago Urban League CEO Andrea Zopp and state Sen. Napoleon Harris will at least try — something other Democratic members of Illinois' congressional delegation considered but ultimately decided against.

And while Duckworth also enters the March 15 primary with party establishment backing, Zopp and Harris say they bring valuable things Duckworth does not.

The primary will make clear what's expected to be one of the year's most contested U.S. Senate races, with Democrats trying to



CHARLES REX ARBOGAST/AP

Andrea Zopp

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Kirk faces challenge from Marter in primary. **Page 3**

retake control of the Senate targeting Kirk's seat in left-leaning Illinois as one of their best prospects.

One of the few polls conducted on the race, by the Paul Simon Public Policy Institute at Southern Illinois University, showed Duckworth with support from 52 percent of self-identified Democratic primary voters, while Zopp and Harris were in single digits.



ABEL URIBE/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Napoleon Harris

Zopp has stepped up her attacks on Duckworth since that poll was conducted in mid-February, going after her repeatedly in their lone televised debate.

Zopp says Duckworth doesn't have much to show for her time in office, criticizes her for not participating in more debates and says the congresswoman's strategy seems to be not to engage with Zopp, instead "running on her (military) service record and her name recognition."

Zopp, who was recently en-



MICHAEL TERCHA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Tammy Duckworth

dorsed by the Chicago Sun-Times, also argues her experience as a federal and state prosecutor and leading a civil rights organization that advocates for minority communities makes her the most qualified to take on Kirk.

"For me the challenge has always been name recognition ... My polls very early on showed that when people know who I am, know my background and what I bring to the table, they move," she said. "That's clearly

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Rescue dogs go from shelter to spotlight



Shelter pets routinely find a new purpose as loving family members. But some go above and beyond and serve in other ways — from appearing in operas to searching for missing persons. **Vickroy, Page 2**

St. Francis player thrives despite limited use of hand

Junior starter Landus Anderson doesn't let his Erb's palsy stop him from excelling. **Sports**