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Prospectus, February 25, 2015

Parkland College

Humna Sharif
Parkland College

Jose Alzaibar
Parkland College

Brittany Webb
Parkland College

Rod Lovett
Parkland College

See next page for additional authors

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Authors

Parkland College, Humna Sharif, Jose Alzaibar, Brittany Webb, Rod Lovett, and Zach Trueblood

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Parkland takes steps to help students in need



Big passion fuels farms in Illinois

Katie Dahlstrom
The (De Kalb) Daily Chronicle

LEE, Ill. (AP) — Bryan Flower seriously questioned his decision to run a small farm when he had to wrangle a testosterone-filled bull in the pouring rain.

A lightning strike had rendered the electric fence surrounding the bull useless, allowing the 700-pound animal to strut toward the cows.

It took a tractor chase to get the bull back into its corral.

Despite the challenges Flower has encountered since he and his wife, Sarah, started farming 3 years ago, he hasn't questioned his decision seriously enough to stop. In fact, he only hopes to grow his 12-acre farm in Lee.

"It's a very rewarding process," Flower said. "It's a fun process, and it's one that I really wanted my son to be able to experience."

Flower runs one of hundreds of small farms that the U.S. Department of Agriculture reports are in DeKalb County. The small-scale farmers represent an emerging and determined group of people of people returning to the land in hopes of connecting local people with locally grown food.

A small farm isn't one below a certain acreage by the U.S. Department of Agriculture standards. Rather, a farm is deemed small if it has annual sales of less than \$350,000, said Andrew Larson, a local food system and small farms educator with the University of Illinois Extension.

According to the USDA's Census of Agriculture released in 2014, 393 of the 880 farms in DeKalb County have annual sales less than \$100,000.

Larson said small-scale farmers generally fall into three categories: idealists straight from college making a career of farming; the U-turn farmer who already had another career; and the retiree who plans to farm after another career.

"There's definitely a heavy dose

at-risk for College Students

Humna Sharif
Staff Writer

Parkland College, with its diverse body of students, takes different measures to deal with the multitude of issues and concerns it faces. One such measure has been to implement the Students At-Risk program for students and faculty.

At-Risk is an online, research based training simulation developed by the software company Kognito. Stats show that, since 2014, almost 600 colleges and universities across the globe have participated in this Program. This training is also a part of Illinois Department of State Health's, Illinois Youth Suicide Prevention Program.

According to Kognito's website, the training consists of six modules, three for students and three for faculty and staff. The format of the training is such that it uses avatar characters. The student modules take approximately 30 minutes each and the faculty and staff modules take about 45 minutes to complete.

The interactive training simulation has been designed to introduce to college students, as well as faculty and staff, the most effective ways to aid three different categories of students. One such category is students who suffer from depression, anxiety, or mental illness. Another category is the LGBTQ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Questioning) students, who often suffer from exclusion or harassment. Student Veterans, who are having a hard time adjusting to civilian and college life, or are suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) fall into another category. These three kinds of students have been identified as being at a higher risk of suffering from psychological distress and suicidal thoughts.

The At-Risk training uses simulations based upon real life situations and engages users in an environment in which they come in contact with each of these three categories of students. The virtual practice environment teaches the users to recognize warning signs of an At-Risk student. It also educates the users as to the best way of approaching and handling potentially sensitive conversations with a peer who might be suffering from depression, PTSD, exclusion, or suicidal thoughts.

Dennis Cockrum, a counsellor at Parkland, has worked extensively to promote this program here on campus. He hopes that the program will help Parkland students, faculty, and staff become more aware of the signs of distress for both themselves and others. The program helps educate people about how to deal with these issues so they can help persons in distress get the resources they need, which can make a big difference in their lives.

Stats show that, annually, more than 1350 college students commit

SEE RISK PAGE 5

PARKLAND COLLEGE CELEBRATES

BLACK HISTORY MONTH
FEB 2015



Graphic courtesy of Jennifer Davis | Parkland College

Jose Alzaibar
Staff Writer

Every February in the United States is dedicated to the memory and achievements of the black community. Since 1976, this remembrance has been commonly known as Black History Month.

Every year Parkland College plays host to a number of events and lectures that commemorate Black History Month. The events range from a "Soul Food" luncheon, featuring foods traditionally associated with the Black American community, to formal academic lectures that touch on historic as well as current issues.

There are two organizations committed to the betterment of Black Americans and to the organization of Black History Month at Parkland, the Black Student Association and Black Student Success Project. At the head of both of them is Donna Tanner-Harold.

"It started as a week to remember the contributions of blacks. Blacks

“What we need in order to pull ahead as a society is to have better and more conversations about the realities of race and its implications in this country.”

Donna Tanner-Harold
Parkland Counselor

fought in wars, they also contributed to science and society. For instance a black American named George Washington Carver worked with peanuts and came up with a lot of peanut products," Tanner-Harold explained. "Another important historic figure is Frederick Douglass; he was a freed slave that helped the abolitionist movement."

Black Americans have come a long way since the inception of the United States. Their contributions, both historic and current, have helped shape this country and society into

SEE HISTORY PAGE 5

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NEWS

No clear plan if health care subsidies fall

Steve Peoples
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Millions of people could lose health insurance subsidies in the coming months if the Supreme Court sides with opponents of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul.

And one thing was clear this weekend as the nation's governors gathered in Washington: Many of the states that could be affected are not prepared for the potential fallout.

In rounds of interviews at the National Governors Association's winter meeting, several governors indicated they could do little about the estimated 8 million people who could drop coverage if they were to lose health insurance subsidies later this year — a scenario that legal experts suggest is a real possibility. While preliminary state-level discussions have begun in some cases, many governors charged that Congress should bear the burden of fixing any problems.

"That responsibility doesn't fall in the hands of the states or the governors, it falls in the hands of the leaders right here in Washington," said Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker, who is contemplating a run for the Republican presidential nomination in 2016. He's one of the many Republican leaders who resisted efforts to create a state-based health insurance exchange.

Indeed, while the Supreme Court deemed the health care overhaul constitutional more than two years ago, the Affordable Care Act still sits on shifting political sands.

The Supreme Court will hear arguments March 4 on whether the health care law allows the federal government to pay subsidies in states that declined to set up their own insurance markets, or exchanges. For many Americans, the subsidies make the insurance affordable. More than 30 states — largely those led by Republicans — declined to set up state-based systems and



In this Sept. 19, 2014 file photo, Chief Justice John Roberts speaks at the University of Nebraska Lincoln in Lincoln, Neb. Opponents of President Barack Obama's health care overhaul have seized on four words in the massive law that seeks to dramatically reduce the ranks of the uninsured in the United States. Their argument threatens subsidies that help make insurance affordable to consumers in about three dozen states. The Supreme Court will hear the case on March 4.

Photo by Nati Harnik | AP Photo

have exchanges run by the federal government instead.

"We declined to operate a state exchange along with a majority of other states," said Indiana Gov. Mike Pence, a Republican who is also weighing a 2016 White House run and supports the repeal of the health care law. "Right now we're just evaluating what our options are depending on what the Supreme Court decides."

Coverage losses would be concentrated largely in Republican-led states across the South and Midwest that have resisted the law,

among them Florida, Maine, North Carolina, Michigan, Texas, Virginia and New Jersey.

Residents of states that are running their own markets, including California and New York, would continue to receive benefits.

While few governors offered specific remedies this weekend, some governors in unaffected states signaled a willingness to allow neighboring states to join their exchanges, although the governors interviewed were unclear if such partnerships were permitted under

the new law.

"I'm very interested in the concept. If we can work together with Utah and the other neighboring states that could work out well," said Nevada Gov. Brian Sandoval, a Republican whose state has its own exchange and won't be affected.

Most of his colleagues aren't as confident.

"Nobody is quite sure what's going to happen," said Virginia Gov. Terry McAuliffe, a Democrat, who said leaders in his state believe they have until June 30 to put together

contingency plans for an estimated 270,000 Virginians who may lose subsidies.

"We're having conversations," said New Hampshire's Democratic Gov. Maggie Hassan, whose state is among nine that have a hybrid state-federal partnership. She said around 30,000 New Hampshire residents currently receive health care subsidies, while another 34,000 on Medicaid, set to be moved into the exchange next year, could also be affected. "It's a significant issue," she said.

Utah Gov. Gary Herbert, a Republican, predicted the chances of the Supreme Court striking down the subsidies are "maybe 50-50."

"My expectation is that they'll give us some time to adjust," Herbert said, noting that he's already spoken to House Speaker John Boehner about his concerns.

The ruling is expected in late June. If the court agrees with the law's opponents, the federal government and states would have little time for federal government and states to address the loss of subsidies. The health law's 2016 sign-up season would be only months away. And most state legislatures are not in session during the summer.

Technically, a few tweaks from Congress would fix the problem. But after years of voting to repeal the healthcare law, Republicans are unlikely to come to its rescue.

"We're afraid there'll be another Washington standoff, and the hot potato comes back into our lap," said Tennessee Gov. Bill Haslam, a Republican, who said as many as 250,000 Tennessee residents could lose subsidies. "You have governors of all types watching with a lot of interest."

Associated Press writers Jill Colvin and Ken Thomas contributed to this report.

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Monica Synett | AP Photo/Daily Chronicle

In this Jan. 31, 2015 photo, Bryan Flower lures in his cows with some hay before feeding them at Red House Farm where he resides with his wife, Sarah, in Lee, Ill. Despite the challenges the couple has encountered since they started farming three years ago, Bryan hasn't questioned his decision seriously enough to stop. In fact, he only hopes to grow his 12-acre farm in Lee.

FROM PAGE 1

FARM

of nostalgia," Larson said. "There's definitely some idealism and thoughts about sustainability. There's a dynamic between a desire to work the land and working for yourself."

BACK TO THE ROOTS

For Flower, 46, the decision came when he was working in the culinary program at Robert Morris University in Chicago. He and his wife purchased property in Lee complete with a house and a 1930s barn, just inside in the DeKalb County border.

They call it the Red House Farm, spending roughly \$30,000 to add about 60 hens, five goats, around 10 hogs in the summer, honey bees and a handful of Dexter cattle, a small breed of cow. That's not to mention the tomatoes, peppers, beets, onion, potatoes, hay and other produce they grow.

The farm requires dozens of hours of work weekly, but it isn't either of their primary jobs. Flower is the Food Systems Lab coordinator at NIU while Sarah Flower is a teacher in Plainfield.

They also have a 3-year-old son named Liam. The ideal situation would be for one of them to focus on the farm

full-time so they can cultivate it into an educational center.

"I honestly believe that if there were more of us, if there were more people that did this," Flower said, "that we would help people understand and get back to the roots of growing healthy food, being a little bit more self-sustaining and saving money they can put back into a healthy lifestyle."

THINKING INSIDE THE BOX

Across the county in Sycamore, 30-year-old Kate Whitacre is in the final days before she starts preparing seeds to grow on the half-acre plot she rents. Unlike the Flowers, whose customers are mostly friends and family, Whitacre runs a community-supported agriculture farm where people pay her in the beginning of the season to receive a box of vegetables weekly during the summer.

"I feel it's most fulfilling to grow food for a community that I know," Whitacre said. "I think it's wonderful to know the people I'm feeding."

Whitacre has been farming since 2008, arriving in Sycamore with her husband, Brett, in 2013 to start Beets and Beats Farm. On top of the weekly shares, Whitacre sells produce at the Sycamore Farmers Market and to a couple restaurants in Chicago. Whitacre works the farm and raises her daughter

while her husband works full-time as an artist and musician.

Her goal is to grow her land by 20-fold in the next 20 years. She also hopes to see more small farms emerge, though she thinks some challenges such as the inability to get farm loans or subsidies for growing things other than commodity crops such as corn and soybeans will stand in the way for some.

While the small-scale farming market will need to mature to thrive, Larson thinks there's a good chance it will. He sees the surge in local foods and small-scale farming as more than a fad. To him, it's a lifestyle that will not only keep the county's agricultural tradition alive, but make it more vibrant.

"It means there is a chance to reconnect with the way things taste when they're vine ripe and fresh," Larson said. "It means the entrepreneurial gene is alive and well. It's a way to keep our rural landscape populated with people doing productive things."

This is an Illinois Exchange story offered by The (Sterling) Daily Gazette.

Information from: The Daily Chronicle

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LIFESTYLE

Champaign-Urbana on the MTD

Brittany Webb
Staff Writer

For students that don't have a car, the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District features buses that run from Parkland to almost everywhere in the area. Whether it's home, the grocery store, or the UIUC campus, MTD has Parkland students covered.

In fact, Parkland students make up a large portion of MTD riders. Staying connected to students through outreach programs is an important way for MTD to maintain ridership. Marketing Manager for MTD Jan Kijowski explained that MTD makes sure to stay connected with students through Facebook, Twitter, a blog, and even an e-newsletter.

"We have attended events at Parkland during new student registration to share information about the availability of MTD service," Kijowski said.

One of the many students that rely on MTD for their transportation needs is Brittany Rhed, a sophomore studying Biological Sciences here at Parkland.

"I ride MTD because it's cheaper than having a car and it's also friendlier to the environment," Rhed explained.

Many students hold annual passes, and Parkland Pathways' students ride for free with their I-Card. The cost for an annual pass is \$72, and for those less committed to riding, a monthly pass is \$15.

According to MTD's "Welcome Spring Semester 2015" blog post, students are allowed to use financial aid money to purchase a bus pass, which is beneficial to those students who may find it difficult to come up with extra cash.

Riding the bus is both easy and accessible for most students in the Champaign-Urbana area. "For me personally, I have a bus stop around



Photo by Billi Jo Hart | The Prospectus

The Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District provides public transport for many C-U residents, including Parkland students. The cost to ride the MTD is just \$72 for an annual pass, or \$15 for a monthly pass.

4 minutes from my house straight to Parkland so I don't have far to walk," freshman in the Pathways Program Bryson Taylor said. "Also, I don't have to worry about parking spaces or gas money since I ride the bus."

Even though riding the bus may be a sensible option for many students, Rhed pointed out that sometimes schedules and weather conditions make using public transportation less than ideal.

"There is also a great chance that you'll be spending a good amount of time in the heat,

cold, snow, or pouring rain since many stops aren't sheltered," Rhed explained.

In addition to riders having to face unfavorable weather conditions, there is also some degree of uncertainty and reliability associated with bus schedules. MTD strives to keep delays to a minimum but buses aren't always on time. Additional buses are added to routes when unexpected problems occur, according to MTD's website.

Even though using mass transit may present obstacles, ridership does increase during the

school year. According to Kijowski, ridership increased from 529,018 people in July 2014 to 1,514,019 people in September 2014.

"We love it when students choose the bus for their transportation needs and we are delighted to serve them well," Kijowski added.

For those students who might be somewhat apprehensive about riding the bus, there are simple ways to get started. Rhed suggests riding the bus with a friend or riding the whole line to see where it stops. Taylor recommends downloading the MTD app, which provides schedules as well as routing information.

Riding the bus is convenient not only for getting places when one doesn't have a car, but also to get things done. There is time to text, read over notes before a quiz, catch up on a favorite book, or tweet about the day. Even though riding the bus may take longer than jumping in a car and driving to school, the time can be used in many valuable ways. There are also bus routes in the evening for night classes and late studying.

There are multiple bus routes to choose from, which makes traveling to Parkland College convenient.

"There is very good service to Parkland with the 9A Brown, 9B Brown, and 7 Grey during the week when most classes are held," Kijowski said. "These routes are readily accessible from many places in the community for a one-seat ride and from anywhere with an easy transfer at Illinois Terminal, Country Fair, etc."

Students wanting to find out more information about riding the bus, such as how to acquire a pass, a map of the routes, and updated schedules, should visit www.cumtd.com.

MTD also has apps for smartphone users to make getting around town even easier. To browse their selection, visit <http://bit.ly/1D8Fs8V>.

US names first global envoy for LGBT rights

Josh Lederman
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP)- The United States named its first international envoy for gay rights Monday, tasking a veteran diplomat with leading U.S. efforts to fight violence and discrimination against LGBT individuals overseas.

Randy Berry, currently the consul general in the Netherlands, will promote human rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender individuals, Secretary of State John Kerry said. A longtime foreign service officer, Berry has served at U.S. posts in Bangladesh, Egypt, Uganda and South Africa, and speaks Spanish and Arabic.

"Defending and promoting the human rights of LGBT persons is at the core of our commitment to advancing human rights globally the heart and conscience of our diplomacy," Kerry said in a statement. He cited overturning laws that still criminalize same-sex activity in more than 75 countries as a specific priority.

The State Department has said it planned to appoint an openly gay diplomat to the post.

Long in the works, Berry's appointment as a special envoy is the latest move by the Obama administration to make LGBT rights a prominent part of its human rights efforts around the world. In 2011, Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton declared during a speech in Geneva that "gay rights are human rights, and human rights are gay rights." And earlier this year, the White House for the first time included human rights protection for LGBT people in its formal national security strategy.

"Nations that place LGBT people in the cross hairs of danger must know that the United States will not turn a blind eye," said Chad Griffin, president of the Human Rights Campaign, a gay rights group.

The announcement also comes amid a heightened public focus on transgender rights. Ash Carter, on his first overseas trip as defense secretary, suggested he was open to allowing transgender people to serve openly in the U.S. military.

White House spokesman Josh Earnest said Monday that President Barack Obama welcomed Carter's comments and agrees that all Americans qualified for military service should be able to serve.

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Dietary guidelines suggest tax on sugary foods

Mary Clare Jalonick
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) A tax on sugary drinks and snacks is one way a government panel of nutrition experts thinks Americans can be coaxed into eating better. Some members of Congress are already pushing back on the idea, saying the panel has overstepped its bounds.

The panel's recommendations will help determine what gets into the new version of dietary guidelines being prepared by the Agriculture and Health and Human Services departments. The advice includes eating more fruits and vegetables and whole grains and limiting added sugars and fat.

However, the panel goes beyond previous versions of the dietary guidelines by suggesting a broad list of possible policy changes a tax is just one that could make it easier for people to follow that diet advice.

"Taxation on higher sugar- and sodium-containing foods may encourage consumers to reduce consumption and revenues generated could support health promotion efforts," the committee wrote as part of the recommendations released this week.

Such taxes have mostly failed to

gain traction around the country, though voters in Berkeley, California, approved a special, per-ounce tax on sugary drinks in November. In New York City, former Mayor Michael Bloomberg tried to cap the size of sugary drinks sold in restaurants and other venues at 16 ounces, but legal challenges spearheaded by the beverage industry brought down the effort in the courts.

Other ideas put forth by the committee were placing nutrition labels on the front of food packages and requiring public buildings to serve healthier foods. The committee also suggested incentives for eating fruits and vegetables, though it didn't detail how that could work. Panel members said incentives might be vouchers for farmers markets or subsidies for growers or grocery stores.

The panel endorsed adding a line on the nutrition facts label for added sugars, which the Obama administration has already proposed. It also backed the administration's standards for healthier school lunches.

Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Pat Roberts, R-Kan., criticized the report shortly after it came out Thursday, saying the committee strayed from its science-

based nutrition recommendations.

"This is economic, not nutrition, policy," he said.

Congress weighed in on a draft of the report last December, noting that the dietary guidelines panel was poised to suggest a more environmentally friendly diet of plant-based foods. In a massive spending bill, lawmakers instructed Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack "to only include nutrition and dietary information, not extraneous factors" in the final guidelines.

After the report was issued, Vilsack said the guidelines are supposed to be informed by the "latest and best science and medical knowledge."

He wouldn't address the content of the report specifically, but said he doesn't want the final report to have "anything outside of the lines in the guidelines that would potentially undercut the legitimacy, credibility and acceptance of the guidelines. ... The law is fairly clear to me, it's about nutrition and it's about diet."

Committee members say their panel was charged with looking at implications of its findings, and the policy changes were just suggestions.

"The idea is to stimulate thinking on how to get there," Barbara Millen,

the chairwoman of the committee, said Friday.

Alice Lichtenstein, a member of the panel and a professor at Tufts University, said there is some data that similar policy initiatives have worked, like efforts to ban trans fat from the food supply. She said the policy suggestions are to raise the issue for the future.

"To bring it up as something for future consideration, I think that's appropriate," she said.

One former member of a dietary guidelines advisory panel disagreed. Joanne Lupton of Texas A&M University, who served on the 2005 dietary guidelines advisory panel, said her committee was told just to stick to the science.

"They should show us studies that taxes have a beneficial effect," she said of this year's panel.

The beverage industry argued the same point. "The committee does not have the authority to make such recommendations, nor the scientific evidence or expertise to back up its recommendations," the American Beverage Association said in a statement.

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CORRECTION

In last week's issue, we ran a piece on the Student Government's Valentine's Day Dance, featuring author Hannah Brencher. Brencher's name was misspelled throughout the article. We strive for accuracy and fairness in all aspects of the newspaper and regret the error.

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OPINIONS

TAX TALK



Photo by Evan Vucci | AP Photo

In this Feb. 20, 2015 file photo, President Barack Obama speaks in Washington about his proposal to raise investment taxes on high-income families.

Americans Speak Out

68% feel that wealthy households pay too little in federal taxes.

11% say wealthy households pay too much.

60% say middle-class households pay too much in federal taxes.

7% say they pay too little.

56% of us think our federal taxes are too high.

4% think they are too low.

Most back Obama plan to raise investment taxes

Stephen Ohlemacher and Emily Swanson
Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — The rich aren't taxed enough and the middle class is taxed too much. As for your taxes, you probably think they're too high as well.

Those are the results of an Associated Press-GfK poll that found that most people in the United States support President Barack Obama's proposal to raise investment taxes on high-income families.

The findings echo the populist messages of two liberal senators — Elizabeth Warren of Massachusetts and Bernie Sanders of Vermont — being courted by the progressive wing of the Democratic Party to run for president in 2016.

The results also add weight to Obama's new push to raise taxes on the rich and use some of the revenue to lower taxes on the middle class.

Obama calls his approach "middle-class economics."

It's not flying with Republicans in Congress, who oppose higher taxes.

But Bob Montgomery of Martinsville, Virginia, said people with higher incomes should pay more.

"I think the more you make the more taxes you should pay," said Montgomery, who is retired after working 40 years at an auto dealership. "I can't see where a man makes \$50,000 a year pays as

much taxes as somebody that makes \$300,000 a year."

According to the poll, 68 percent of those questioned said wealthy households pay too little in federal taxes; only 11 percent said the wealthy pay too much.

Also, 60 percent said middle-class households pay too much in federal taxes, while 7 percent said they paid too little.

Obama laid out a series of tax proposals as part of his 2016 budget released this month. Few are likely to win approval in the Republican-controlled Congress. But if fellow Democrats were to embrace his ideas, they could play a role in the 2016 race.

One proposal would increase capital gains taxes on households making more than \$500,000. In the survey, 56 percent favored the proposal, while only 16 percent opposed it.

Democrats, at 71 percent, were the most likely to support raising taxes on capital gains. Among Republicans and independents, 46 percent supported it.

Obama's other tax plans didn't fare as well.

About 27 percent said they favored making estates pay capital gains taxes on assets when they are inherited, and 36 percent opposed it.

Just 19 percent said they supported the president's aborted plan to scale back the tax benefits of popular college savings plans, 529 accounts, named

after a section in federal tax law. Obama withdrew the proposal after Republicans and some Democrats in Congress opposed it.

"I think that's a poor idea," said Jamie Starr of suburban Atlanta. "Being that I'm a mother of five children, that is a wonderful program."

"That's kids trying to make their own way in this world without having student loans," she said.

Obama's proposal to levy a new tax on banks was supported by 47 percent of those surveyed. Only 13 percent opposed it, while 36 percent were undecided.

It's tax season, that time of the year when people are confronted by their obligations to the government. The poll found that 56 percent of us think our own federal taxes are too high, and 4 percent said they pay too little.

If taxes are increased, a slight majority said the additional money should help pay down the national debt. Using the money to cut other taxes or fund government programs were less popular options.

Republicans, in general, are more likely than Democrats to oppose higher taxes, except when it comes to low-income families.

Only 19 percent of respondents said low-income families pay too little in federal taxes, but there was a significant split between the political parties.

Just 10 percent of Democrats said

low-income families pay too little, while 33 percent of Republicans said they don't pay enough.

According to the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office, the poorest 20 percent of households paid less than 1 percent of all federal taxes in 2011, the latest year for data. The top 10 percent paid more than half of all federal taxes.

That's OK, said Sen. Sanders, an independent from Vermont, because wealthy people have seen their incomes soar while the rest of the country's wages have been much more flat.

"Most people understand that at a time when the rich are becoming much richer, the middle class is continuing to disappear," Sanders said. "And people also understand that the very wealthy and large corporations are able to take advantage of huge loopholes, which enable them not to pay their fair share of taxes."

Obama has been pushing to raise taxes on the rich since his first campaign for president in 2008. He has had some success. In January 2013, Obama persuaded Republicans in Congress to let income tax rates go up for families making more than \$450,000 a year. It was part of a deal that made permanent a large package of tax cuts first enacted under Republican President George W. Bush.

Some liberals are looking for a candidate to push for higher taxes on

the rich in the 2016 race. Sanders and Democrat Warren would fit the profile, though Warren says she is not running for the nomination; she has yet to make her candidacy official.

Among Democrats, Hillary Rodham Clinton is seen as the front-runner for the nomination; she has yet to make her candidacy official.

Clinton hasn't offered specifics on how she would approach taxes as a candidate. But she offered a glimpse of her views following Obama's State of the Union Address in January, when she tweeted that Obama "pointed way to an economy that works for all."

Now we need to step up & deliver for the middle class. #FairShot #FairShare."

The AP-GfK Poll of 1,045 adults was conducted online Jan. 29-Feb. 2, using a sample drawn from GfK's probability-based KnowledgePanel, which is designed to be representative of the U.S. population.

The margin of sampling error for all respondents is plus or minus 3.5 percentage points.

Respondents were first selected randomly using phone or mail survey methods, and later interviewed online. People selected for KnowledgePanel who didn't otherwise have access to the Internet were provided access at no cost to them.

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Rauner budget strikes at Illinois hospitals, nursing homes

Carla K. Johnson
AP Medical Writer

CHICAGO (AP) — In proposing to cut Illinois' Medicaid program by \$1.5 billion, Gov. Bruce Rauner has chosen to go toe-to-toe with three powerful business lobbies: retail pharmacies, nursing homes and hospitals.

The Republican wants to reinstate service cuts temporarily made to Medicaid in 2012 and later restored by the Legislature and his Democratic predecessor, Gov. Pat Quinn. That would eliminate — again — optional Medicaid services such as adult dental care and podiatry. But Rauner surprised stakeholders by pushing further: proposing nearly \$1 billion in payment cuts to health care institutions that traditionally have been able to fight them off.

Medicaid occupies a huge part of all states' budgets. It's no surprise Rauner and his advisers see the federal and state health insurance program for the poor as a target for savings as they try to close a \$6.2 billion budget deficit, lawmakers of both parties said.

"You know why a robber robs a bank? That's where the money is," said Rep. Sara Feigenholtz, a Chicago Democrat. "Medicaid is the bank."

Rauner's plan, unveiled Wednesday, recommends roughly \$19 billion in Medicaid spending to cover nearly 3.5 million Illinoisans. It would maintain eligibility levels and avoid charging higher copays or adding token premium contributions — strategies some stakeholders had expected Rauner to employ.

Instead, hospitals are a main target, shouldering \$735 million in payment cuts — a 13 percent reduction, according to the Illinois Hospital Association. That may prove difficult to accomplish. Hospitals are major employers in many districts and the association will tell lawmakers the statewide economic impact of cuts would equate to 12,591 jobs lost.

The association's political action committee contributes to candidates of both parties, giving \$463,055 last year in Illinois races, including



Photo by Seth Perlman | AP Photo

In this Wednesday, Feb. 18, 2015 photo, Lawmakers applaud Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner before he delivers his State of the Budget Address to a joint session of the General Assembly in the House chambers in Springfield Ill.

\$150,000 to Pat Quinn's losing campaign.

Republicans, who want to back Rauner, may have trouble supporting the cuts after they hear from local hospital leaders.

"There will be difficult discussions," predicted Rep. Patti Bellock, a Hinsdale Republican who helped lead a bipartisan panel that hammered out the Medicaid cuts passed in 2012 known as the SMART Act. "There are a lot of districts where hospitals are extremely important. I consider them the backbone of our communities."

Democrats, meanwhile, will be pushing for new revenue. The SMART Act included a \$1-per-pack increase in the cigarette tax, noted Sen. Heather Steans, a Chicago Democrat who co-led the 2012 Medicaid overhaul effort.

"We've already made most of the eligibility and service reductions allowed," Steans said. "Everything has to be discussed and negotiated in the context of where we can find savings in the overall budget and where we can put revenues on the table."

Rauner's budget office said his proposal is at least partially an attempt to get hospitals to rethink how they are paid. Over the years, Medicaid payments to hospitals have become convoluted and difficult to understand. A Rauner budget official described the payment system as "a disaster."

The proposed payment cut to hospitals is nearly three times what the facilities lost in funding in 2012, said A.J. Wilhelmi of the Illinois Hospital Association. He warned of unintended

consequences. "When you cut Medicaid, there's a cost shift to the private insurance market and therefore middle-class families will pay more," Wilhelmi said.

Rauner's budget would cut \$216 million from nursing homes (a SMART Act restoration) and save \$40 million by ending a fee to pharmacies for dispensing brand-name drugs.

The reaction from the nursing home industry has been muted. Pat Comstock, of the Health Care Council of Illinois, said the nursing home advocacy group looks forward to working with Rauner and the Legislature "to ensure the budget protects funding for nursing homes, so residents continue to get quality care, staff continue to have job security and families can continue to depend on nursing homes to care for their loved ones."

Illinois Retail Merchants Association President Rob Karr called the cut to pharmacies "a pretty brutal hit" on top of 2012 reductions. "You can't fill a prescription for nothing," Karr said.

As some Republican governors lash out against President Barack Obama's health care law, Rauner's budget reveals a cautious co-existence with it. The governor's overall budget counts nearly \$98 million in savings by assuming certain people — women, people with AIDS and home-care workers — can get subsidized private health insurance through the HealthCare.gov insurance exchange.

Through the health care law's Medicaid expansion, the federal government is paying the entire cost of covering more than 572,000 Illinois adults who previously had no insurance and wound up as charity care cases when they got sick; that support gradually falls to 90 percent by 2020 where it remains.

Rauner's budget office said opting out of the Medicaid expansion was an option that was "toyed with" and rejected "at this time."

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FROM PAGE 1

RISK

suicide. This makes suicide the second leading cause of death in college students. Almost 80% of the students who commit suicide are not seen by a counselor.

"I believe that intervention and effective treatment of depression, anxiety and other forms of mental illness is available in our community and accessing appropriate services is going to save lives," Cockrum explained.

Cockrum collaborated with Molly Murphy, Assistant Director in the Center of Excellence in Teaching and Learning, to introduce the training to faculty and staff for the first time in January during a session of faculty welcome back week. The results were extremely positive. The training was also introduced to student clubs and organizations at Parkland during a recent meeting in hopes that the club officers can help spread the word and reach more of the student body.

According to Cockrum, the At-Risk program is clearly making a difference in people's lives. In addition to creating awareness about veterans and LGBTQ students, a reverse stigmatization process is also occurring.

"All of these efforts are creating a much larger safety net for students who may be struggling and are in need of helping resources," Cockrum concluded.

Cockrum and Murphy highly encourage people to take out a little time to complete the course, which takes less than an hour.

"I think it's personally beneficial to be prepared with as many tools as possible when a challenging situation comes up," Murphy explained.

Anyone wishing to complete the At-Risk training can go to Parkland's website and look for Illinois Youth Suicide Prevention Project underneath the college resources tab. The training program can also be accessed by going to www.kognito.com/illinois. Users will have to create an account to begin the course and, once they are finished with the training, participants can print a certificate of completion.

FROM PAGE 1

HISTORY

what it is today.

However, Tanner-Harold thinks we shouldn't yet rest in our laurels. Even though racism isn't as prevalent in contemporary American society as it has been historically, she believes there's still a lot of room for improvement.

"Race relations need to be bettered. Racism still exists. What we need in order to pull ahead as a society is to have better and more conversations about the realities of race and its implications in this country," Tanner-Harold stated.

In an institution such as Parkland College, students are an integral part of any public dialogue about complex issues such as race or history. One such student is Business Administration major Kaprice Singletary.

"Black History Month is a month to highlight what blacks have done and what they do," Singletary said.

"It is about soberly remembering and contemplating history. Blacks have given a lot to the world. I think music is our greatest contribution."

The influence of black Americans in music is not lost on Parkland Students. Jazz especially seems to be the genre that most significantly impacts the life of another African American student, Business Administration major Alprentice Jackson.

"Yeah, I would definitely go with Jazz as black's greatest contribution to not only America but to the world. It's good that we have Black History Month so that we can remember all that we as a community have provided to the world," Jackson explained.

Jackson was passionate about Black History Month and what it means, but he agreed with Tanner-Harold about there still being issues that need to be improved upon in American society.

"Races treat each other differently," Jackson said. "Sometimes that's understandable but other times it feels like it is

hard to feel connected with society as a whole and that we each go our separate ways. Sometimes it's very hard to understand each other. Some other times you feel like it's very hard to make progress in this society as a person of color."

Jackson is not alone in his feeling of being unable to connect or to succeed. Picking up on these feelings of some members of the community is part of the reason why Tanner-Harold started Black Success Project.

"I started it 8 years ago in order to connect students to each other and give them the tools they need to succeed," Tanner-Harold said.

Black Student Success Project is open to anyone who is interested and everyone is invited, not just black students.

You can find out more not only about Black Student Success Project but also the schedule of different events for this year's Black History Month, on Parkland's Student Life office located in room U 111 of the U-wing.



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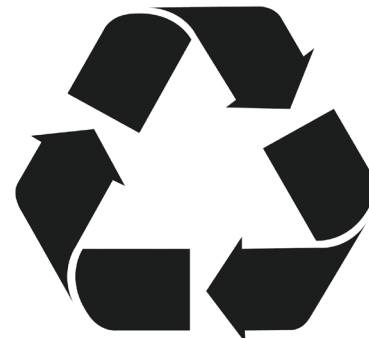
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Events

Do you have an event you'd like to add to our calendar? Email it to prospectus.production@gmail.com

Last week's answers

Sudoku #6

8	2	3	1	7	4	6	5	9
6	5	9	8	2	3	1	7	4
1	7	4	6	5	9	8	2	3
3	8	2	4	9	1	7	6	5
7	1	6	3	8	5	4	9	2
4	9	5	2	6	7	3	8	1
5	3	8	7	4	2	9	1	6
2	6	1	9	3	8	5	4	7
9	4	7	5	1	6	2	3	8

Thursday (2/26)

7:30 p.m. - Fantasy/Drama "The Sparrow" in the Black Box Theatre.

Friday (2/27)

Noon - 1 p.m. - Concert - Urbana High School Choir in the cafeteria.

2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m. - Brazil Agriculture & Business Talk in U140.

7:00 p.m. - "Prarie Skies" in the Planetarium.

7:30 p.m. - Fantasy/Drama "The Sparrow" in the Black Box Theatre.

8:00 p.m. - "SUPERVOLCANOES" in the Planetarium.

Saturday (2/28)

Noon - Presently Absent: Paintings by Tom Berenz in the Parkland Gallery.

7:00 p.m. - "Zula Patrol: Down to Earth" in the Planetarium.

7:30 p.m. - Fantasy/Drama "The Sparrow" in the Parkland Theatre. Students - \$13 admission.

8:00 p.m. - "SUPERVOLCANOES" in the Planetarium.

Sunday (3/1)

3:00 p.m. - Fantasy/Drama "The Sparrow" in the Black Box Theatre.

Monday (3/2)

10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Presently Absent: Paintings by Tom Berenz in the Parkland Gallery.

Tuesday (3/3)

10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. - Presently Absent: Paintings by Tom Berenz in the Parkland Gallery.

Upcoming:

3/4/15 Noon - 1:00 p.m. - Anxiety screening in D-244

3/6/15 7:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. - "The Fear Factor of GMO Plants" in the Planetarium.

For a full list of Parkland events, go to <http://bit.ly/1FQzHQc>.

Sudoku (hard)

7			1			4	9	
4	8			3			5	
			6					
1	4	3						
						8	2	9
				6				
	2			8			4	6
	1	5		3				7

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GREEN APPLES by Jeff Harris



Crossword (solve for the answers below)

1		2		3		4		5		6				
											7			8
9									10					
11									12					
13		14						15			16			
								17						
18										19				20
21							22				23		24	
											25			
26									27					
														28

ACROSS

- 1 Fruit drink (6,6)
- 9 Member of Tinnors' Parliament requires tin to be brought to a height (9)
- 10 One is left nothing (5)
- 11 Terribly rude filth (6)
- 12 Operatic heroine gives thanks (8)
- 13 Ex-president of Yugoslavia doesn't start in the usual manner (6)
- 15 About-turn can be employed more than once (8)
- 18 The enemy's returning old silk to the front of the ship (8)
- 19 Turn over hotel heartlesly (6)
- 21 The privileged can use it to pay for diamond perhaps (4,4)
- 23 C-convexity of surface (6)
- 26 Out of practice for a year (5)
- 27 Birnam Wood marched to here? 'S absurd (9)
- 28 Drivers end up here, of course, having drunk up dry gin mix (7,5)

DOWN

- 1 Greek hero lost doughty exterior, having swallowed ring of bone (7)
- 2 Give notice over conflict (5)
- 3 Turning traitor, initially, renegade is produced (9)
- 4 Bristle at extremely egregious upset (4)
- 5 Held aloft... plutonium? (8)
- 6 Part of plant could become petals with time (5)
- 7 Leaderless town in Beds is liable to flare up (8)
- 8 Writer embracing revolting militia movement ends up in the soup (6)
- 14 Pupil has ordained learning experience cut short, having no master (8)
- 16 Browning in Australia, giving offensive snub to a monarch? (9)
- 17 Attribute good character to a church leader (8)
- 18 Work out to keep or improve it (6)
- 20 Old dish for 8 - could be casserole, we hear (7)
- 22 Shy bear we're told - or another animal (5)
- 24 Minor poet like Wordsworth? Hardly! (5)
- 25 Nameless woman in Massenet's opera gets beheaded (4)

Last week's answers

1	N	Y	2	N	O	3	R	S	4	K	5	O	V	U	L	7	A	8	T	E
9	S	E	M	10	A	M	E	T	A	B	O	L	A	11	A	R	T	E	R	Y
12	G	I	13	Q	14	M	E	C	C	A	15	U	P	16	N	17	I	S	H	
18	S	E	19	M	E	20	O	R	21	N	22	M	I	23	N	24	R	O	C	
25	O	I	26	N	27	E	28	F	O	R	29	D	R	E	A	M	E	R		

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SPORTS

Men win at Lincoln, remained tied for M-WAC lead

Rod Lovett
Parkland College

The #10 Parkland Men's Basketball team finished a perfect 2-0 on their two-game road trip as they knocked off Lincoln 76-66 in a key M-WAC showdown. The victory leaves the Cobras tied with John Wood for first place in the conference with two games remaining.

Just four days after their best over-all win, a 27-point victory over ICC, the Cobras put together another strong first half at Lincoln. A balanced and sharing attack on offense combined with a strong defensive effort, pushed to Cobras to a 21 point lead at 45-24 late in the first half. The Lynx closed the half on a 7-2 run and PC would take a 47-31 lead into intermission.

Lincoln picked up the pressure in the second half forcing the Cobras into 11 second half turnovers and the Lynx would climb all the way

back to within two of the Cobras with just over 3 minutes remaining. Leading by four with just over a minute to play. Washawn Watson delivered the dagger, as he nailed a three-pointer as the shot clock expired, to push the lead to seven and the Cobras would hang on for the ten point road victory.

The trio of Watson, Capreace Salinas, and Corvon Butler came up big off the bench for the Cobras as they scored 28 points. Charles Sweatt-Washington led the PC attack with 15 points while Butler had a double-double with 12 points and 10 rebounds. Capreace Salinas added 10 points as 10 different players scored. The win improves Parkland to (23-5 6-2) with two games remaining. The Cobras will play their final home game of the season on Wednesday night when they host Lincoln Land starting at 7:30 before traveling to Danville for the regular season finale next Saturday.

Women rout Lincoln to keep streak alive

Rod Lovett
Parkland College

Hannah Wascher hit two free throws for the first points of the game, giving her 1000 for her career, as she helped the #1 ranked PC Women's Basketball team to an easy 107-44 rout of Lincoln College on Sunday afternoon in Lincoln.

Wascher finished the game with 24 points and 7 rebounds as the Cobras won for the 27th straight time.

Parkland raced out to a 55-19 lead at the half over the Lynx and never looked back in cruising to the 63 point win. PC had beaten Lincoln by 59 at home just three weeks ago in Champaign.

In addition to Wascher's 24 point outburst, the Cobras were paced by Chelsea Cross who had 16 points, 6 rebounds, 5 steals, and

4 assists. Haley Toohill came off the bench to add 12 points and also dished out 4 assists.

Parkland had a season high 36 assists on 42 made baskets in the game. Cassidy Alderman and Lauren Moses each added 11 points while Laura Litchfield had an outstanding floor game with 13 assists to go along with 6 points and 4 steals.

Parkland (27-1 8-0) can wrap up the #1 seed for the upcoming Region 24 tournament and also clinch at least a tie for the M-WAC title when they host Lincoln Land starting at 5:30 on Wednesday night.

The Cobras will wrap up the regular season at Danville next Saturday. The Jaguars are just one game behind PC in the M-WAC standings.

To view the Women's Basketball schedule, please visit www.parkland.edu/athletics/womensbasketball.

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ENTERTAINMENT

Parkland Theatre presents... **The Sparrow**



Zach Trueblood
Staff Writer

Chris Matthews, Jake Minton, and Nathan Allen's original screenplay, "The Sparrow", is flying off the pages and into Parkland's very own Black Box Theatre. This adaptation is directed by Gary Ambler. Ambler is complimented by a dedicated production crew and a very lively cast.

Despite the delay in construction, the Black Box seems to be well worth the wait. The new theatre suits the production style of "in the round" very well. The new space and new equipment provide learning opportunities for the production staff while some of the kinks get worked out.

"The production was designed for the new space. I walked through it the first time last spring and it was roofless and had a giant hole in the floor where the trap system now lives. Now, it's a beautiful, flexible, and very functional theatre space, with many state of the art features," Director Ambler said. "Future productions are going to enjoy working in it, and discovering all its possibilities. The theatre was not finished at the time we began rehearsal in January, but we were lucky to be able to move in to it by our third week. 'The Sparrow' was originally created to be performed in a small, neutral space, and this production embraces that aesthetic as well."

This is Ambler's third time directing here at Parkland but he is nowhere near new to the field. He's directed roughly 100 productions. The last one at Parkland being nearly 20 years ago in which he acted and directed in "Dancing at Lughnasa".

"The Sparrow" is classified as a Fantasy/Drama. There are supernatural aspects that would be easy to tackle on the big screen but a little harder to in a community college theatre. Despite the challenges, the cast and crew of "The Sparrow" bring fantasy to life onstage.

"The authors of the play freely acknowledge that they are challenging companies who present 'The Sparrow' to accomplish some fantastic effects with little explanation as to how to do them. We've tried to keep it simple enough that the company of actors are able to tell the story and create the characters and images and effects without much outside technical wizardry," Ambler stated. "That said, we rely heavily on all the design elements: scenery, lighting, costumes and sound, to augment the actors' work. And we're very fortunate to have gifted designers in all those areas. This production uses the music and underscoring composed for the original production, and dance and movement are a big part of how the story gets told. Our choreographer, Alicia Cross Engelhardt, has been invaluable to the process."

Despite the morose feeling that looms throughout much of "The Sparrow", there are many energetic choreographed dance scenes for the audience to enjoy. Many of the dance scenes take place during transitions, which helps give the production a seamless feel. Paired with the new and improved lighting in the Black Box, the dance sequences provide a lighter balance to the darker aspects of the play. Alicia Cross Engelhardt is the choreographer for "The Sparrow" and is behind getting the actors acclimated with the various dance sequences presented throughout the production.

"My favorite part about the production so far has been working with Gary Ambler and the way the designers, cast, and crew have worked together on this production," Engelhardt stated. Engelhardt also explained how excited she was working in the Black Box and being part of the inaugural production in the new space.

"The Sparrow" is a coming of age story that is centered on the main character Emily Book, played by Karen Hughes. Emily Book is a typical awkward teen who carries the weight of a dark past.

This dark past is alluded to most of the play and comes to light towards the end. There is also a fantasy and supernatural component to "The Sparrow". The struggle of Emily Book to control her newfound powers is almost a metaphor for the way that we as humans try to control every facet of our lives. We come to find out, like Emily Book does, this isn't so easily done.

Hughes is a first year Master's student studying special education. Hughes fell in love with theatre in first grade and has been involved with productions ever since.

"Parkland has always had a special place in my heart because my father worked there for so long (he was the general manager of WPCD and taught radio broadcasting for 26 years). I was particularly excited to audition for this show because it was the first show in the new theatre and because Gary Ambler was directing," Hughes remarked.

Amidst the morbidity and depression throughout the play, there are moments of comedy. For example, there is a scene in which Emily Book telepathically controls her teacher and classmates into singing and dancing to a Frank Sinatra tune. Hughes explained some of the challenges she faced with bringing Emily Book to life onstage.

"One of the biggest challenges has been trying to find exactly the right way to inflect each line and to figure out how Emily gestures, carries herself, and uses facial expressions," Hughes explained. "That's always a challenge for every role, but Emily is so special to me, it is extremely important to do her justice."

Emily Book's counterpart, friend, and sometimes enemy onstage is Jenny McGrath. Jenny McGrath is played by Parkland Theatre Arts major Jelinda Smith.

"My favorite part about Jenny is she helps bring out the energy in me! She is full of radiance and positive energy! The comparison between Emily's dark past and my bright personality definitely brings a fun balance to the audience," Smith exclaimed.

This is Smith's first lead role. She has been involved with theatre even before she was born while her mother would participate in plays while she was pregnant with her. Smith felt as if her character Jenny McGrath, represented her upbeat personality entirely.

Smith's character goes through a dark transformation from a bubbly head cheerleader to a dark and disturbed young woman. Smith wrangled with some of the tougher aspects of getting into character.

"Jenny is a very jealous person, while I am open and welcoming to new people," Smith remarked. "I have to literally tap out of myself, and enter into another person who is driven by hurt and loneliness, as something my character deals with."

Students who enjoy a meaningful coming of age story with splashes of dance, comedy, and the supernatural should definitely grab a seat in the new Black Box for Parkland Theatre's production of "The Sparrow".

Seating is limited and, due to high interest, many shows have been sold out. The remaining dates are Feb. 26, 27, 28 at 7:30pm, and March 1 at 3pm. There is a waiting list for sold out shows but students must be present to be put on it. Cancelled and unclaimed tickets will be given out before the show starts.

Call 217-351-2528 or visit theatre.parkland.edu for more information.



All photos by Scott Wells | The Prospectus
The cast of Parkland Theatre's production of "The Sparrow" stand on stage in the new Black Box Theatre at Parkland College.



Parkland Student Jelinda Smith, left, and Director Gary Ambler, right



(Clockwise from left) Jelinda Smith, Karen Hughes, Joey Moser and Jamie Simmering



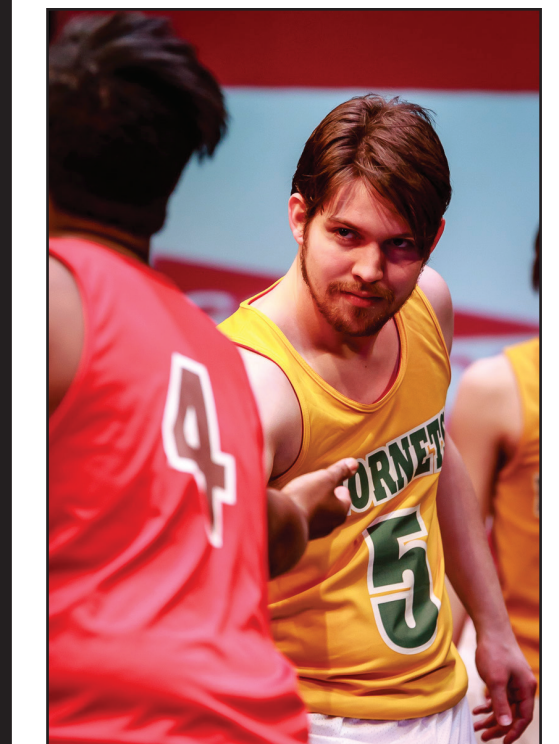
Parkland Student Teri Sturdyvin



Parkland Student Ryan Fleming



Joey Moser, left, and Karen Hughes right



Parkland Student Warren Garver



Parkland Student Jace Jamison



Parkland Student Mamie Simmering