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BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Netanyahu dismisses US warnings

Israeli prime minister says Biden's threatened arms embargo won't stop invasion into Rafah

By Joseph Krauss and Josef Federman
Associated Press

JERUSALEM — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Thursday that a U.S. threat to withhold some arms would not prevent

Israel from continuing its offensive in Gaza, indicating it might proceed with an invasion of the packed city of Rafah against the wishes of its closest ally.

President Joe Biden has urged Israel not to go ahead with such an operation over fears that it

would exacerbate the humanitarian catastrophe in the Palestinian enclave. On Wednesday, he said the United States would not provide offensive weapons for a Rafah offensive, raising pressure on Netanyahu.

But in a statement released Thursday, Netanyahu said “if we have to stand alone, we will stand alone. If we need to, we will fight with our fingernails. But we have

much more than fingernails.”

Israel's top military spokesman, Rear Adm. Daniel Hagari, also appeared to downplay the practical impact of any arms holdup. “The army has munitions for the missions it plans, and for the missions in Rafah, too — we have what we need,” he said in response to a question at a news conference.

The United States also warned on Thursday that Israel will be

dealing a strategic victory to Hamas if it carries out plans for an all-out assault on Rafah.

The U.S. believes such a move would result in significant civilian casualties and exacerbate an already dire humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

The U.S. is making its sharpest moves yet to influence the deci-

Turn to Israel, Page 10

New test may help spot lung cancer

OSF blood screening part of trend toward noninvasive scans

By Lisa Schencker
Chicago Tribune

Julie Harris had never been tested for lung cancer. A low-dose CT scan, the only recommended screening for adults at risk of developing lung cancer, was not something she'd ever found time to do.

But when her primary care doctor recently suggested a new blood test to help look for signs of the disease, Harris was intrigued. She had her blood drawn the same day, in the same building as her doctor's appointment.

“It was something that was accessible at the moment, so it was like, ‘Sure, let's go ahead and do that and see how the results are,’ ” said Harris, 67, of Pekin. Harris, who is a longtime smoker, said if the results are positive, she'll get a low-dose CT scan next to screen for the disease.

“Science just keeps moving forward,” she said.

Harris is among the first group of patients in Illinois to get the blood test as part of a pilot program at health system OSF HealthCare, which is offering the test at 18 locations. OSF leaders hope the blood test will improve early detection of lung cancer, which kills more people in the U.S. than any other single type of cancer.

OSF's adoption of the blood test is part of a growing movement in medicine to use less invasive screenings to look for signs of cancer in patients, especially patients who may be reluctant to undergo more traditional, involved tests. A number of blood tests to help detect various types of cancer are now in development, according to the University

Turn to Cancer, Page 2

Migrant who came from Venezuela in search of a better future for her family now mourns the death of her child, one of the many unaccounted for in Chicago



‘WITHOUT MONEY, YOU’RE NOBODY’

By Nell Salzman
Chicago Tribune

Karis Calderon, 25, walked across seven countries to make it to Chicago for a stable job. Four weeks later, she couldn't even afford to pay for the funeral services of her youngest child.

The Venezuelan mother lost her 3-year-old — Luciana Valentina Suarez Calderon — at the end of April to a bacterial infection in Chicago. But without the \$2,750 needed for a funeral, Calderon had to wait in mourning while her daughter's body sat at the morgue for days. “I wanted people to be able to visit her body to say goodbye. If I had the money, I would have taken her out immediately,” Calderon said. “*Uno sin plata no es nadie*. Without money, you're nobody.”

Those who helped the mother in the days follow-

Karis Calderon, 25, from Venezuela sits on a curb near her home in Chicago on April 30. Her daughter, Luciana Valentina Suarez Calderon, 3, who made the journey with her mother, died from a bacterial infection last month.

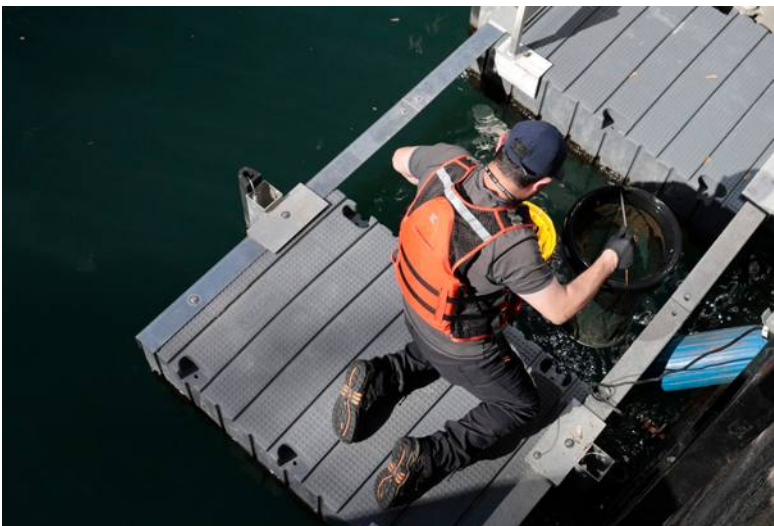
ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

ing Luciana's death on April 25 at Stroger Hospital say it is difficult to say how the city could have prevented it from happening. Chicago has received 41,000 migrants, mostly fleeing desperate poverty and violence in Venezuela, in the past 20 months since Texas Gov. Greg Abbott began busing them here. But the number represents just those migrants whom city officials have tracked. Some, like Calderon and her daughter, arrive through channels that aren't included in Chicago's daily census totals. While they don't have to rely on the city's existing shelter system for housing, they often have high needs and can miss out on social services — such as vaccines — as a result.

Last year alone, almost 100 million passengers passed through Chicago's airports, and a spokesperson for the city said that officials do not screen

Turn to Migrants, Page 4

A pick of the litter to protect the Chicago River



Wendella engineer Miguel Chavez works with the Trash Trap on Wednesday in the Chicago River near Michigan Avenue. The floating trash-collection trap is the first technology of its kind used in the Chicago River to remove litter and learn where it's coming from. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Floating trash trap helps collectors identify plastic ‘nurdles’ threatening wildlife, water

By Adriana Pérez
Chicago Tribune

Wendella engineer Miguel Chavez climbed down a ladder and over a small dock Wednesday to pull up a trap floating in the Chicago River near the Michigan Avenue Bridge. The size of a standard garbage can, the trap is designed to collect trash and can hold up to 44 pounds.

Chavez tapped the bin three times to release the contents into a trash bag. At first glance, it looked like a brownish, wet pile of leaves and twigs.

“Once you start sifting through it, it's a lot easier to see

the trash,” he said.

While large trash is not as big of a threat, plastic debris from food and product packaging and the smaller bits from when it breaks down has emerged as a persistent problem that affects wildlife, water quality and public health.

“It's no longer the dumping ground it was — it's more of this incidental, wind-blown picnic, restaurant, parking lot pollution,” said Margaret Frisbie, executive director of the nonprofit Friends of the Chicago River. “What we used to find was shopping carts and

Turn to River, Page 5

INSIDE New child services agency on the way?

The Illinois House on Thursday passed Gov. J.B. Pritzker's initiative to consolidate early childhood services under a single agency, paving the way for the creation of a new state Department of Early Childhood. The bill is part of Pritzker's effort to enhance early childhood services in Illinois. The governor has also pushed for greater preschool funding in order to make the state “the best place to raise young children.” **Chicagoland, Page 3**

A SPLENDID PITCH: How a rare lefty splitter has helped fuel Shota Imanaga's historic start for the Cubs. **Chicago Sports**



Cancer

from Page 1

of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center. Some health systems, such as OSF, are starting to offer the blood tests to patients, while others are waiting with cautious optimism for more long-term data on the tests.

“This is the future,” said Dr. Jared Meeker, a pulmonologist at OSF, said of the new blood test.

The blood test being used at OSF is not meant to replace a low-dose CT scan, which involves lying on a table that slides in and out of a type of X-ray machine.

The FirstLook Lung blood test, developed by Delfi Diagnostics, based in California and Maryland, cannot diagnose lung cancer. But doctors hope that patients who might not want a CT scan — perhaps because it would require too much time, travel or effort — will consent to undergoing the blood test. If the blood test comes back positive, indicating a possibility of lung cancer, OSF leaders hope patients will then be more likely to agree to a low-dose CT scan.

The U.S. Preventive Services Task Force recommends that people at higher risk of developing lung cancer get low-dose CT scans annually. Higher-risk patients are those who are between the ages of 50 and 80 who have been moderate to heavy smokers, who are current smokers or who quit within the past 15 years. But only about 4.5% of those people actually got low-dose CT scans in 2022, according to an American Lung Association report.

“If everyone who was eligible for low-dose CT scanning was having it already, our test wouldn’t be helpful,” said Dr. Peter Bach, chief medical officer at Delfi. “The problem we have is they’re not, so what we’re trying to do is accelerate the conversations between them and their doctors about low-dose CT and inform them.”

The blood test works by looking for patterns of DNA fragments in the blood that could indicate lung cancer. If a person has lung cancer that would be detectable on a low-dose CT scan, there’s an 80% chance the blood test will come back positive, while if the blood test is negative, there’s a 99.8% chance the person does not have lung cancer, Bach said.

Delfi is seeking approval of its test from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which in recent weeks announced it plans



Dr. Dennis Caffery talks with patient Julie Harris, of Pekin, about the effectiveness of a blood test she took to screen for lung cancer during her follow-up visit at the OSF Medical Group in Hopedale on April 3. DARYL WILSON/PHOTOS FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE



A blood collection kit used to screen for lung cancer.

to more tightly regulate laboratory developed tests. Until now, it’s primarily been the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services regulating laboratory testing. Delfi says the blood test has breakthrough designation from the FDA, which is a designation meant to help speed up the development, review and assessment of certain devices and products.

The blood test is not covered by health insurance, and Delfi declined to give a price. OSF leaders say they are still working out the pricing but are aiming to make the test as accessible as possible to patients. Neither OSF nor Delfi would say whether patients now undergoing the test at OSF are being charged. Low-dose CT scans are covered by health insurance.

Blood tests made by other

companies to help detect cancers have list prices of about \$900 to \$950.

OSF doctors hope the blood test will lead to earlier detection for patients with lung cancer. The five-year survival rate for people with very small tumors that haven’t spread to the lymph nodes is 90%, but the five-year survival rate for people with lung cancer that has spread to other organs is only 7%, according to the Cleveland Clinic.

“No one wants to diagnose Stage 3 and Stage 4 lung cancer,” Meeker said. “It’s devastating.”

Patients might not always fully understand the implications of late diagnosis, said Dr. Tim Vega, chief population health officer at OSF.

“People think, ‘I’m smoking, if I get it, I’ll just check out very quickly,’” Vega said.

“They don’t realize it could be years of difficulty for them and their families.”

At OSF, about 33% of eligible patients already receive low-dose CT scans — far better than national numbers — but still not as high as doctors would like, Vega said.

OSF leaders are looking toward the success of Cologuard as a model of how the new blood test might help patients. The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Cologuard about 10 years ago as an at-home screening test for colon cancer. Patients mail a stool sample to a lab, which then analyzes it — a much quicker and less invasive task for patients than undergoing a colonoscopy.

As with the Delfi blood test, a positive result from Cologuard is not a cancer diagnosis, but means a person may have it and needs further testing. OSF started offering Cologuard to patients a few years ago and found that when patients get positive test results, they almost always agree to have a colonoscopy next, Vega said.

OSF isn’t the only health provider with high hopes for the blood test.

The White House recently noted, in an announcement about President Joe Biden’s Cancer Moonshot, that Delfi is working with the Indigenous PACT Founda-

tion to improve lung cancer screening among American Indian tribes in the Pacific Northwest. Delfi is also working with City of Hope on a clinical study, funded by the American Cancer Society, to improve lung cancer screening in underserved Los Angeles County communities.

Doctors are keeping an eye on other types of blood tests as well, watching how they perform. Companies Grail and Guardant Health also offer blood tests to help detect various types of cancer.

University of Illinois Cancer Center is now involved in a clinical trial to help study Grail’s blood test, which screens for a cancer signal shared by multiple cancers.

“I still think that we have a long way to figure out how these types of tests fit into the broader context of cancer prevention and screening, but it’s very exciting,” said Dr. Ameen Salahudeen, an assistant professor of medicine at University of Illinois at Chicago, a member of the UI Cancer Center and an investigator in the trial, which is sponsored by Grail. “I never want to see someone with advanced cancer that could have been caught sooner, so personally, I believe that tests like these will have a role in the future.”

Dr. Rajat Thawani, an assistant professor of medicine at University of Chicago Medicine and thoracic oncologist, said such blood tests are promising, but before they’re adopted widely, more long-term data is likely needed about whether the tests can help lead to better quality and length of life for patients.

“There’s a lot of excitement in the utility of how it’s going to play out in the future, but I think right now we have to make sure it actually leads to a meaningful change in the longevity of patients,” Thawani said.

If the Delfi blood test makes a difference at OSF, leaders hope to offer it throughout the health system within a year, said Ryan Luginbuhl, OSF service line vice president for oncology services. OSF HealthCare has nearly 160 locations, including 16 hospitals, in Illinois and Michigan. Most of its locations are in central and northern Illinois, and the system includes OSF Little Company of Mary Medical Center in Evergreen Park as well as primary care, practices and urgent care centers in the Chicago area.

“We will do everything we can when we hope this proves to be effective ... to get this to as many patients as possible,” Luginbuhl said.

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INSIDE

Almanac.....	News.....	10	Horoscopes.....	A+E.....	6
Ask Amy.....	A+E.....	2	Nation & World.....	Business.....	4
Bridge.....	A+E.....	6	Obituaries.....	News.....	10
Comics.....	A+E.....	6-7	Sudoku.....	A+E.....	7
Crossword.....	A+E.....	7	Television.....	A+E.....	5
Editorials.....	News.....	7	Weather.....	News.....	12

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Chicagoland news: Phil Jurik, pjurik@chicagotribune.com
Sports: Amanda Kaschube, akaschube@chicagotribune.com
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NAPERVILLE

Downtown fountains face \$423K repairs, updates

By Tess Kenny
Naperville Sun

Naperville plans to expend \$423,600 to repair three downtown fountains despite some elected officials taking issue with the price tag.

The Naperville City Council voted 6-3 to award a contract for the work to Addison-based Crossroad Construction at its meeting Tuesday night. Council members Allison Longenbaugh, Nate Wilson and Josh McBroom opposed the expenditure, voicing concerns that more than \$400,000 was a steep cost for fountain work.

“At this time, I’m just uncomfortable with spending that amount of money on this option, which just locks the city into future long-term maintenance on fountains,” Longenbaugh said.

“I think it’s a lot of money,”

McBroom echoed.

The contract will cover the cost of fixing and updating the city’s Exchange Club Memories Fountain at Fredenhagen Park, Horse Trough Fountain just west of where Main Street and Chicago Avenue intersect, and Dandelion Fountain near Jackson Avenue and Webster Street. All border the Naperville Riverwalk.

Most costs and attention will be focused on Exchange Club Memories Fountain, which hasn’t been functional since summer 2021.

The water feature sits at the heart of Naperville’s 1.1-acre Fredenhagen Park. It was named by the Exchange Club of Naperville, a civic service organization that was a primary donor for the park when it was constructed about two decades ago.

The club dedicated the fountain to “memories”

because it sold bricks and stones on which purchasers could have messages engraved to honor friends, remember loved ones or commemorate a milestone as a means of funding the park. Those bricks and stones surround the fountain.

Fredenhagen Park itself honors Walter Fredenhagen, founder of the iconic Cock Robin ice cream shop chain. For 70 years, before closing in 2000, the creamery served square-dipped ice creams and malted milk shakes from a location on Washington Street where Fredenhagen’s namesake park and accompanying centerpiece fountain now sit.

Significant leaking shut down the fountain nearly three years ago. An assessment found broken piping and a compromised waterproofing membrane that

needed replacement. It was also determined that the vault containing fountain’s water feature controls required safety upgrades and that fountain lighting could be replaced with a more energy-efficient system.

Initially, repairing the fountain to its former glory was expected to cost about \$400,000 alone.

“We all had sticker shock when we saw (the first estimate),” Bill Novack, director of the city’s Transportation, Engineering and Development department, said Wednesday.

The fountain work made it onto a list of capital improvement projects to be tackled last year but was put on hold while other alternatives were explored in the hope that a less costly alternative could be found.

The city’s Riverwalk Commission considered

installing a more natural water feature with plantings or converting the fountain into a static art installation before deciding in August that restoring the fountain was preferable.

“In the end, the majority of the Riverwalk Commission said, ‘Hey, let’s put it back to the fountain that it was,’” Novack said.

As staff was preparing to seek bids for the Memories Fountain work, they received word from the Naperville Park District that two other downtown fountains — Horse Trough and Dandelion — required some less-extensive work. To keep costs down, staff decided to lump all of the fountain work together in one bid.

“A decent chunk of any project’s cost is always mobilization,” Novack said. “You know, getting a contractor to come into town and bring

their crews here.” In hiring one vendor for all three jobs, crews can cycle between the projects, he said.

When the city solicited bids for the work in March, the only submission was from Crossroad Construction. Novack said that while he would have “loved to see other bids,” most contractors already have jobs lined up for the year. Plus, not a lot of contractors do this sort of work, he said.

Of the \$423,600 earmarked for the projects, \$365,400 will go to Memories Fountain, \$32,900 to Horse Trough and \$25,300 to Dandelion. The improvements will be expensed out of the city’s capital projects fund, Novack said, who noted, “we have sufficient funds budgeted.”

All of the repairs should be completed by mid-July.

tkenny@chicagotribune.com

Third member of great horned owl family found dead

By Avani Kalra
Chicago Tribune

The third and final member of a family of great horned owls living in Lincoln Park’s North Pond was found dead Thursday morning. Experts said the bird is suspected to have died from rodent poisoning.

The adult female owl was found covered in blood, Annette Prince of Chicago Bird Collision Monitors said, a condition that indicates rat poisoning. It will be transported to the Willowbrook Wildlife Center to determine a cause of death.

“This was a tragic outcome,” Prince said. “The family was thriving there in North Pond. We need to petition our cities and municipalities and encourage our neighbors not to use these high amounts of poison.”

The owl’s adult male partner and their baby owl were found dead in recent weeks in the pond area. Experts suspect that rodent poisoning played a role in both owls’ deaths.

Sarah Reich, head veterinarian at the Willowbrook Wildlife Center, said

the baby owl experienced massive amounts of internal bleeding and almost certainly died from rodent poisoning. His father experienced two broken ribs but also had internal bleeding and is being tested for rodent poisoning, she said.

Reich said birds with broken ribs are often able to survive, indicating some kind of underlying cause.

Even if rodent poisoning is not the final cause of death for a bird, it can often contribute, according to Holly Fales Garvey, a volunteer environmental educator at the Lake County Forest Preserve District.

She said she sees a lot of birds die from hypothermia after becoming lethargic and slow from rat poisoning, while other birds become weak enough they fall out of trees or are hit by cars.

“The animals bleed out from the inside,” Fales Garvey said. “They don’t know what’s wrong with them, they try to get water, as if that’s going to help them. And then what we see with our big birds is that they will actually succumb to hypothermia after they



A juvenile great horned owl, left, sits next to its mother in a tree near North Pond on April 14 in Chicago's Lincoln Park. Both birds have been found dead in recent weeks. **ROBERT LOERZEL/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

end up in the water.”

Almost 4 million great horned owls can be found in a variety of habitats across North America, including in Illinois. The second-heaviest owl species in America after snowy owls, great horned owls are known for their

hunting skills, big yellow eyes, deep hoots and the feather tufts on their heads. They nest as early as January, since their owlets need more time than other young birds to learn to hunt on their own ahead of the next winter.

Candace Ridlbauer, who

runs Northern Illinois Raptor Rehab and Education, said she sees a lot of birds die by rodent poisoning. She said it’s important for Chicago residents who experience a rodent problem to find a solution that does not involve poisons.

“It gets into the food chain,” Ridlbauer said. “It’s not just birds. Fox, coyotes, all kinds of birds of prey eat mice. Your cat might eat mice. Find someplace that removes pests humanely, so that you’re not putting out these types of poisons.”

Migrants

from Page 1

travelers to Chicago to determine whether they are migrants.

“The city does not provide health screenings for every person who comes to Chicago, whether through our airports, bus stations, train stations or in personal vehicles,” Cassio Mendoza said in a statement. “The city provides basic health screenings for new arrivals seeking services at the City’s landing zone and will continue to welcome new arrivals with dignity and care.”

Calderon said she still doesn’t know how her child got so sick and why she couldn’t be saved. After the tragedy, she couldn’t get answers. “The fact that we had to have this conversation (about why her child died) days later is a policy failure,” said Jaime Grothe-Searle, a volunteer helping asylum-seekers, after watching Calderon struggle to find enough money to honor her daughter’s life.

Luciana Valentina Suarez Calderon: When Calderon arrived by plane to Chicago at the end of March, she reunited with her two sisters who were already in the city. Her family moved to Ecuador from Venezuela after struggling to find stable work in their home country, so she hadn’t seen her sisters for eight years. “We were so happy,” she said. “They met my daughter for the first time. They’d only ever met her before through a video call.” In late April, the sisters gathered on a Sunday afternoon along the beach of Lake Michigan. Calderon didn’t let Luciana enter the water because it was cold.

Luciana played around in the sand. “She was running around, dancing and singing,” her aunt Gleidys Calderon recounted. Three days later, on Wednesday, April 24, Luciana woke up in the afternoon and told her mom that her head hurt. Calderon went to the store to buy medication — which Luciana threw up. Calderon bought her *suero*, a mix of electrolytes that helps ease nausea and vomiting. Calderon waited, the child’s fever went down and she fell asleep. But the next morning, Luciana’s legs hurt, and a rash developed. Calderon said the splotches on her daughter’s limbs were turning purple instead of red, which worried her. Without insurance, Calderon didn’t know where to go. She called one of her sisters, who told her Stroger Hospital was her best option.

Nearly two years after migrants started coming to Chicago in high numbers, Stroger Hospital has become the go-to provider for the health needs of the thousands of asylum-seekers. According to a spokeswoman, the hospital has served over 30,000 new arrivals with over 91,000 hospital visits. Its lobby is now full of people speaking with the distinct, rhythmic Venezuelan accent. Calderon and Luciana were brought into a room at the hospital, and as they waited, the previously healthy, happy child — who had brown curls and soft skin — developed more splotches across her body. “The doctors started giving her this strong antibiotic to kill the bacteria,” she said. The mother and daughter went to the upstairs intensive care unit, where doctors administered more tests.

“They started to put

oxygen in her little nose. Her legs were swollen,” said Calderon, who stayed by her side for hours.

At one point, Calderon gave her daughter her phone to watch cartoons. “But I realized she couldn’t see it,” Calderon said. The doctor started putting colorful objects near Luciana, hoping she would react. More doctors came to help. They said they would give Luciana an injection to lessen the pressure in her head, and that the bacteria was affecting her brain.

The doctors then made Calderon leave the room, she said, while they administered anesthesia and put a tube in Luciana’s body so oxygen could reach her lungs.

During the most difficult moments in the hospital, Calderon said it was hard to communicate through the language barrier. She had to wait for someone to speak Spanish to translate what was happening. Sometimes the doctors spoke among themselves and Calderon didn’t know what they were saying.

They told her they planned to do an X-ray of Luciana’s head, but as they wheeled the child out of the room, she went into cardiac arrest. They started compressions on her body. “They tried to revive her, but they couldn’t,” Calderon said.

Luciana died around 8:45 p.m. on Thursday, April 25, less than a month after arriving in Chicago.

‘I came here for a better future’: Calderon had decided to travel to Chicago from Ecuador with her 3-year-old daughter and 12-year-old son after violence, robberies and protests there started

“As a mother, you always look at your kids as different from others. Yo veo a mi hija única. I saw my little girl as one-of-a-kind.”

— Karis Calderon, whose daughter died of a bacterial infection less than a month after arriving in Chicago

to rival what they’d left in their home country years earlier.

They left Ecuador in December and walked through seven countries — from Colombia to Mexico — before arriving in San Diego, where local officials flew them for free to Chicago at the end of March. They were not vaccinated at the border, according to Calderon.

The family experienced a number of hardships along the journey, but she said their time in Mexico was the most difficult. She said she was kidnapped for hours by armed men who thought she had money stashed away.

“They touched me all over. They also felt up my daughter and my son. They looked through everything,” she said. “I had to do things I’d never done before, stand on the corner and beg for money, to continue.”

When Calderon arrived in Chicago with her two children, she opted to live with a friend, who had an apartment on the South Side.

Normally, when migrants are bused to Chicago and have no one to live with, they receive routine health screenings and immunizations at the city’s “landing zone,” a parking lot in the West Loop with large white tents where city officials greet asylum seekers. But because Calderon

and her two children were flown to Chicago and went directly to a friend’s house, she didn’t go to the landing zone, according to Mendoza. Calderon’s daughter didn’t receive her routine vaccinations upon arrival, which health experts say may have put her at greater risk for infection.

Regardless, Calderon said she isn’t sure if her daughter’s reaction was caused by bacteria or the medicine they gave her. “I don’t know where she picked it up. I don’t know,” she said. “I don’t know if she picked up the bacteria in the lake, in the food here.”

She still runs the events at the hospital through her mind every day, she said. “I would have preferred that it was me in that moment, and not her,” she said.

Scrounging for answers, she went to the hospital on May 1 to try to talk to the lead doctor and ask which antibiotics her daughter was given, and what exactly happened. She was told she would have a response in a few days.

Her eyes were glazed over outside as she held the paperwork. She said it was challenging for her to coordinate everything because the staff at the funeral homes she called spoke only English.

In Venezuela, it’s traditional to have a three-day wake where loved ones

of the deceased can pay their respects, according to religious scholar Candi Cann. “It allows the family and the community to kind of come and go,” she said.

Without the thousands of dollars needed for funeral costs, Calderon had to wait more than a week in uncertainty. Volunteers eventually stepped up to help gather the funds she needed, but the funeral was one day and sparsely attended compared with what she would have had in her home country. Dany Bahar, an economist born and raised in Venezuela, said that even if Calderon was living in economic despair in the northern city of Maracay, at least there she had a support network. “If this had happened in Venezuela, she also would have struggled,” he said. “The biggest difference is here she doesn’t know anybody. She doesn’t even know who to ask for help.”

Calderon misses Luciana’s kisses. She said her daughter knew her numbers up to 10. She liked to dance. “As a mother, you always look at your kids as different from others,” said Calderon. “*Yo veo a mi hija única*. I saw my little girl as one-of-a-kind.”

Since Luciana died, Calderon has received dozens of texts offering condolences but she doesn’t have it in her to respond. She said she cries only when she’s in a closed room because she doesn’t want anyone to see her. “I need to be strong because I came here for a better future,” she said.

Crementation was her most affordable option, she said. She eventually wants to return to her country and hopes to bring back her daughter’s ashes.

TINLEY PARK

Ex-attorney sanctioned for abuse of legal system

By Mike Nolan
Daily Southtown

A former Tinley Park attorney and one-time mayoral candidate has been sanctioned by state regulators for abusing the legal system to “burden and harass” village elected officials, Tinley Park employees and residents.

Stephen Eberhardt “used the law to harass others and demonstrated disrespect for the legal system by burdening the courts with meritless lawsuits,” according to the April ruling by the Illinois Attorney Registration and Disciplinary Commission.

“Instead of upholding the legal process, he abused it

because of personal grievances he had with the village,” the ruling states.

Eberhardt ran unsuccessfully for Tinley Park mayor in 2013, and records show he was licensed in Illinois to practice law since 1982. He has since retired and is not authorized to practice law here.

A complaint against him was filed with the state in September 2022, and the ARDC ruling noted that at the time of the hearing, early last October on the complaint against Eberhardt, he still had a law office in the village.

He moved to Florida in 2021, but has since filed public records requests with Tinley Park and posted

online comments about the village, according to the commission’s April 19 ruling.

The hearing panel found that Eberhardt “filed frivolous pleadings that were intended to embarrass persons” employed with and affiliated with the village.

Since 2014, Eberhardt filed at least 26 lawsuits in state and federal court against Tinley Park, elected officials, village employees, residents and volunteers, according to the ARDC ruling.

The panel found Eberhardt represented himself in cases and “used means that had no substantial purpose other than to embarrass, harass and burden” the village and people associated

with it.

Although he has apparently retired from the practice, he would have to complete a professionalism seminar and pay sanctions of nearly \$27,000 before he could resume practicing law, according to the ruling.

Eberhardt did not respond to a message seeking comment on the ruling.

In a recent posting on the Mayor’s Corner, sent to village residents, Tinley Park Mayor Michael Glotz said that Eberhardt had “terrorized” the village, and that “for more than a decade, Eberhardt took aim at Tinley Park taxpayers, costing them hundreds of thousands of dollars to defend frivolous

lawsuits filed against the village, its elected officials, staff and residents.”

Glotz said from 2014 to 2022, Eberhardt and his associates filed lawsuits against the village, its current and previous elected officials, employees, volunteers, village attorneys and residents.

The mayor said that, over that span, Eberhardt filed some 400 public records requests with Tinley Park, as well as numerous ethics complaints and administrative complaints.

According to the ARDC ruling, Eberhardt filed a 19-count, 102-page complaint in federal court in February 2020, which

included 384 pages of exhibits. The complaint alleged Eberhardt was not being supplied with public documents by the village, and that his First Amendment rights had been violated during comments he made at Tinley Park Village Board meetings.

An appeal in federal court was pending at the time of the ARDC decision, it noted.

The ruling said that since Eberhardt’s move out of Tinley Park, his conduct “shows that his behavior stemmed from personal animosity instead of a legitimate legal purpose.”

mnolan
@southtownstar.com

River

from Page 1

sofas and tires and old pipes. ... It was big and messy, but not the way that we see litter today. Today, the litter is smaller, it’s food-related. It’s breaking down because it’s plastic, and so it’s never really going away.”

In 2023, the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District collected 675 tons of debris from the river using skimmer boats; on average they pick up 745 tons annually, according to a spokesperson. City of Chicago skimmer boats also remove trash regularly along the Riverwalk downtown.

Between 75% and 95% of debris collected in the river is plastic, and 58% of identifiable, non-fragmented trash is food-related, according to research led by Tim Hoellein, an aquatic ecologist at Loyola University Chicago, and undergraduate student Caitlin Hyatt.

Shortly after the trap’s deployment last summer, Mike McElroy, director of marine operations at Wendella Tours and Cruises, discovered a plastic toy dinosaur when he emptied the trap one day. Now the trap’s official mascot, Trappy the Dinosaur has become an emblem for all the different kinds of things that pollute the river.

The Trash Trap is the first technology of its kind used in the Chicago River to remove litter and learn where it’s coming from and what it’s made of. Contraptions like this are typically used in marinas where tides rise slowly, but this one was modified to withstand rapid changes in river levels from heavy rainfall.

It works by drawing in water and debris from the surface using a submersible pump, trapping litter inside a catch bin and pumping the water back out.

“From day one, it was pulling trash out of the river, even things that we couldn’t see readily with (our) eyes,” McElroy said. “The things we’ve pulled out have been very interesting. We’ve had a shoe, Dorito bags, Styrofoam in numbers and quantities that are just astounding.”

A common thread

Flowing from the Great Lakes and into the Mississippi River, the Chicago River connects the region to the rest of the country and the world. And plastic litter is a common thread that runs through these diverse water systems.

“That’s happening in our rivers too, it’s just not happening in the oceans,” Frisbie said. “It’s just not happening far away, it’s happening here too.”

Unsurprisingly, the composition of litter in the Chicago River mirrors that of the region’s lakes. In a recent report using data from over 14,000 beach cleanups over 20 years, the regional nonprofit Alliance for the Great Lakes found that 86% of trash entering the Great Lakes in a given year is either partially or fully composed of plastic.

“The other day I saw someone throw a bag of their leftover lunch over the wall from Wacker Drive,” Frisbie said.

Large plastic products such as single-use bags, straws, wrappers, takeout



Tim Hoellein, an aquatic ecologist at Loyola University Chicago, collects Chicago River trash on Wednesday. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE PHOTOS**



The Trash Trap collects litter in the Chicago River on Wednesday. It works by drawing in water and debris from the surface using a submersible pump, trapping litter inside a catch bin and pumping the water back out.



Hoellein displays trash collected from the river. Most of these fragments are generally smaller than an inch. Lentil-sized pellets used in plastic production called “nurdles” account for 5% to 20% of weekly findings.

containers and utensils eventually break down into smaller plastic particles. The tiniest of these particles — less than 5 millimeters long or the size of a pencil eraser — are called microplastics and have been found in Great Lakes bony fish and drinking water, as well as human blood, organs and breast milk.

“A lot of what we find is fragments,” Hoellein said of river litter collected by the Trash Trap, which students at Loyola help sort and characterize.

Most of these fragments are generally smaller than an inch. Lentil-sized pellets used in plastic production called “nurdles” account for 5% to 20% of their weekly

findings. Bits of Styrofoam broken down from food containers also present a ubiquitous problem.

“Sometimes there’s too many to count and we have to estimate,” Hoellein said. “We also find a lot of these things,” Hoellein said, holding up a green dental floss pick. “I hate tooth flossers.” He soon found another green one, its color markedly faded.

In his research, he said, almost every fish he has looked at in the Chicago-Calumet River system has some form of microplastics inside them.

Despite these findings, advocates say that in an “amazing renaissance,” the Chicago-Calumet River

system is healthier now than in the past 150 years. The river is home to all kinds of animals, including migratory birds, beavers and turtles, as well as 80 species of fish — up from less than 10 in the 1970s.

“That’s telling us that Mother Nature is healing herself,” said McElroy, who will lead a Saturday cleanup at Lucas Berg Nature Preserve in Palos Hills. “I think, through the efforts of the Friends of the Chicago River and others, that’s how we got to this point, as well as (through) the Clean Water Act. What would we do without that?”

When he started working with another boat tour company in 1988, McElroy said he couldn’t even see the bottom of the river on a sunny day. Now, he can.

“It’s incredible,” he said. “The water has become so much clearer.”

Restoring the health of the river has required a multipronged approach, Frisbie said, starting with the enforcement of a 2029 deadline to complete the Tunnel and Reservoir Plan — a system of deep tunnels and wide reservoirs for flood control — that will reduce combined sewer overflows, which occur when city pipes for stormwater runoff and sewage are overwhelmed with

rains, pouring untreated human waste into the river.

The second step entails improving the disinfecting process of sewage effluent, or treated water, using chlorination or ultraviolet light to remove pathogens and bacteria. The nonprofit has also focused on championing nature-based solutions such as planting trees and creating parks that absorb stormwater and reduce runoff into waterways.

In April, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency issued a new National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit to the city which will govern 184 city-owned outfalls that discharge into the Chicago-Calumet River system and the Des Plaines River. The new permit is more stringent and requires additional strategies to reduce pollution from sewage and litter.

“The last piece is this litter piece,” Frisbie said, which is where river cleanups come in.

Frisbie said the new permit issued to the city also includes the expansion of litter-control technologies such as skimmer boats and trash traps to remove plastic pollution along the 156-mile stretch of the river.

Researchers, organizations and companies are also looking to deploy more trash traps along the river. McElroy said Wendella plans to install one at the Chinatown water taxi stop in Ping Tom Memorial Park, and Hoellein is hoping to expand the scope of the research by partnering with other companies with riverfront locations.

Chicago River Day

Since 1992, volunteers with Friends of the Chicago River have picked up nearly 2 million pounds of trash from the river and its banks to help restore its aquatic ecosystems.

At the organization’s 32nd signature annual event Saturday, over 2,000 citizens, politicians and corporate teams will fan out

across 87 locations in the city and suburbs, up from 80 sites last year and 77 the year before.

“People are starting to really understand the problem,” Frisbie said. “They are demanding that the places they live (in) are healthy and cared for.”

Registration for Saturday cleanups is required online at chicagoriver.org and will remain open for each site until it is full. Walk-up volunteers might be able to participate, though the organization cautions that space is limited.

Volunteers will also remove invasive plants such as garlic mustard, buckthorn and honeysuckle from Chicago Park District and the Forest Preserves locations as needed.

But river restoration efforts should not be a one-and-done thing, advocates say. Saturday will kick off a new season of the nonprofit’s Litter Free Chicago-Calumet River initiative.

Individuals and organizations can host community cleanups through the nonprofit’s Litter Free Supply Stations network, of which there are 13 across the watershed. Each station has tools such as litter grabbers, buckets, bags and gloves, as well as toolkit guidance in English and Spanish.

Environmental organizations use data gathered by volunteer citizens and research scientists to inform their advocacy, which then could become the foundation for policies that curb overproduction and overreliance on plastic products.

“The increase in individual use of disposable items in the last 20 to 30 years has skyrocketed. Everyone’s got a to-go cup of coffee every day, and sometimes three. ... I think our relationship with plastic is forced upon us,” Frisbie said. “We can fight back. We turned the river around again, metaphorically. We can turn single-use plastic around as well, I believe.”

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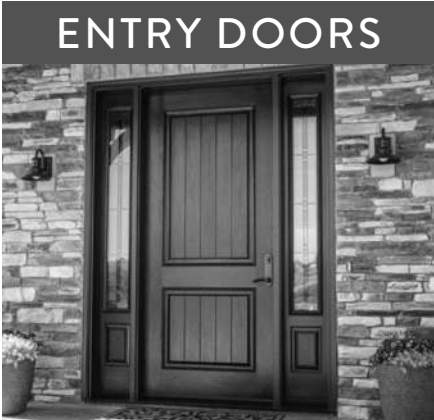
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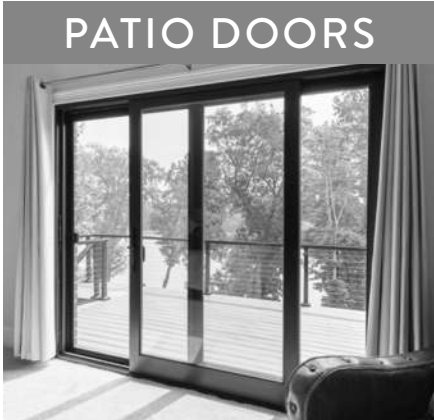
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EDITORIALS

The best new spot for a Greyhound terminal? In or around Union Station.

DePaul University’s Chaddick Institute for Metropolitan Development put out a report Monday that garnered all kinds of media attention. In it, lead author Joseph Schwieterman argues that the city has been asleep at the wheel when it comes to finding a new bus station to replace the Greyhound bus station at 630 W. Harrison St. The famous long-distance bus company is losing its lease in October, when the valuable site is expected to be redeveloped for residential use. The report used the language of catastrophe: “The Illinois intercity bus system is on the verge of crisis due to Chicago Greyhound Station’s potential closure within months,” it reads. “Several months of planning will be needed to avoid a chaotic transition.”

Some background: From 1953 through 1989, Greyhound was located at the corner of Clark and Randolph streets with direct access to Lower Wacker Drive. When that site was redeveloped, the company moved to a smaller station on Harrison, which offered quick access to the expressway but also was seen at the time as a less-than-desirable, out-of-the-way location. Since then, the area around the station has increased in value, especially as a place to build condos. So here we are again.

The DePaul institute report eloquently lays out the argument for having intercity bus travel, which it sees as appropriate for a state subsidy on the grounds of its importance to low-income Illinoisans.

But it spends less time on the related traumas of the intercity bus industry itself. In the early 1980s, Greyhound operated nearly 4,000 buses and was a regular site on Illinois expressways (as was Continental Trailways, a competitor until Greyhound bought it in 1987). You could take a direct bus from Chicago to virtually all major U.S. cities.

Since then, Greyhound hit a series of ever-harder times. There were numerous bitter labor disputes, and by 1990, Greyhound had filed for bankruptcy. When it emerged in 1991, it had greatly shrunk in size.

The Canadian company Laidlaw bought Greyhound in 1998. In 2001, Laidlaw itself went through bankruptcy reorganization, and there were further drastic route cuts in 2004. Another owner came and went, and then, in 2021, Munich-based FlixBus



A person walks to the Greyhound bus station entrance in the Near West Side neighborhood on April 17, 2023. EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

bought Greyhound.

All of this is to say that if you don’t regularly take Greyhound, you might not know how diminished your route choices are from the days tourists bought Ameripasses and the seats in Greyhound’s terminals had tiny TVs attached. You can’t take a nonstop Greyhound from Chicago to New York anymore. Los Angeles involves two transfers. Miami now means a change in Atlanta.

The actual Greyhound stations in most cities have been sold off. Chicago hardly is unusual there.

That said, intercity bus service is far from dead. In fact, high-end boutique services recently have emerged in New York and Texas offering passengers high-speed Wi-Fi, sleeper seats and food service at their seats. We could imagine

such buses offering services from Chicago to Detroit, Minneapolis and St. Louis. Or maybe to Michigan beach towns in the summer.

Entrepreneurs see new opportunities: People don’t mind sitting on buses now when they can work remotely or watch movies on their devices.

But companies such as Megabus long ago popularized the approach of picking passengers up on sidewalks and not from costly stations. And the new luxe services tend to use downtown hotels as their terminals, not old-school bus stations with diners and interesting characters inside.

So, no, the city does not have to find or operate a costly retro station for a scale of service that no longer exists, and it should not put all of its bus chips on the dog. But

it does have to find a spot for the roughly three departures (and three arrivals) an hour at Harrison Street. Most bus travelers are making onward journeys, so Union Station is the logical spot. It has local connections, and it’s up for redevelopment.

We’ve been eyeing the CTA bus station on the opposite side of Jackson Street from Union Station. It seems to us underused. That’s an option. So is Canal Street. The relatively simple goal should be to make space by Union Station for multiple intercity bus companies, given the long-standing traumas of the industry, while also offering passengers the facilities of a major station, especially in winter.

That’s a win-win-win for retail businesses, bus operators and passengers. And it’s not hard to accomplish.

Why Costco stores succeed when others retailers flail

This week, a Costco store on Chicago’s North Side ran out of regular gas. Not entirely surprising, given the lines that routinely form at the warehouse store’s pumps. Any other gas station would simply have put up a “go away” sign and taped over the regular pump option. But Costco made a different decision. Premium gasoline was promptly reduced to the \$3.99 price of regular, saving the warehouse store’s members a bundle, given that premium was well over \$5 a gallon anywhere else in town.

That is just one customer-friendly decision that explains the massive crowds that rush into Costco, especially on week-

ends. There’s also a liberal return policy — one that we put to the test recently with a sketchy external phone battery — that requires neither the packaging nor the receipt. As long as Costco can see the purchase on your card, it returns your money, even from months ago. The only other store we remember focusing so intensely on the customer experience was Nordstrom, which would do anything for those shopping there, back in the day, before department stores and mall shopping took a dive.

We hardly need to note how rare this kind of customer-first attitude is these days. And it surely partly explains Cost-

co’s phenomenal success. On Wednesday, Costco reported net sales of an eye-popping \$19.8 billion for the retail “month” of April, the four weeks that ended May 5, showing an increase of 7.1% from last year. Net sales for the first 35 weeks of the year, the store also announced, were \$166.44 billion, an increase of 7% from last year. Costco stock has been a stunner of a success story — it’s up more than 700% over the last decade and close to 20% this trading year alone — leading to stories of some ordinary retirees from the warehouse floor exiting into their golden years with hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of stock, bought through employee

stock purchase programs over the years.

Costco knows how to generate excitement, not least when it started selling gold bars, which quickly sold out. But the secret sauce here is the \$60 to \$120 membership fee, the annual fees from which reportedly generate around 70% of the retailer’s profit and also create a sunk cost that motivates shoppers to return. This allows Costco to hold down prices, as does its huge volume of sales, giving it huge leverage with suppliers.

None of this would work, though, if people did not feel like the store treated them well. As it invariably does — unless you cannot deal with crowds.

ABOUT ENTITLEMENT REFORM

Neither of the two presumptive major party presidential nominees wants to seriously discuss Social Security. But political cowardice is no substitute for statesmanship. The longer Congress does nothing, the worse the problem gets.

On Monday, Social Security trustees released their annual report on the fiscal state of the program. Absent reform, recipients will see benefit cuts beginning in 2035. That’s a one-year improvement from last year’s analysis, but the looming cliff remains. The report on Medicare was a bit better. The government health-care program for the elderly is now expected to remain solvent until 2036, five years later than was projected last year. Simply put, these programs aren’t sustainable without congressional action.

President Joe Biden, Donald Trump and most members of Congress have no interest diving into the entitlement debate for fear of angering seniors, who tend to vote. Yet paralysis has consequences and will make it more difficult to phase in fixes. Trump insists vaguely that he will “protect” Social Security and Medicare. Biden has not yet presented a specific proposal, but has implied that raising taxes on high earners might shore up Social Security.

Tax increases alone won’t address structural problems. Social Security was created as a generational transfer. As the population ages, fewer workers now must cover the benefits of more retirees, leading to fiscal challenges. Further decoupling contributions from benefits for high-income workers also risks eroding political support. Other proposals include raising the retirement age and slowing benefit increases. Reforms likely would not fall on seniors who are currently collecting benefit checks or those within a few years of retirement. That would be an undue burden on those with minimal financial flexibility. House Republicans say they’ll convene an independent commission to study solutions. In the meantime, Biden and Trump have an obligation to present voters this fall with detailed plans.

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OPINION



Activists hug after Northwestern University officials announced an agreement with students and faculty on April 29 in Evanston. ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Why I reached an agreement with protesters at Northwestern

By Michael Schill

University presidents are between a rock and a hard place when it comes to the wave of protests and tent encampments on our campuses.

Bring in police, and we risk the physical safety of our students, staff, faculty and police for a result that is often unsustainable. Meet with students to reach a mutually satisfactory agreement, and we are accused of capitulating to the “mob.” Here are the reasons why I chose to reach an agreement with Northwestern University protesters.

Right upfront, let me be honest about my biases. I am a proud Jew who practices many of our rituals. Being Jewish is core to my identity, and I grew up with a love for Israel, which remains today. My family has experienced antisemitism, and so claims by some that I have collaborated with antisemitic people feel like personal affronts.

One of the things I love about being Jewish is our culture of rationality and tolerance. This fits with the core value

of universities to engage in dialogue and seek to bridge differences peacefully. When a tent encampment popped up on Deering Meadow on April 25, I immediately met with senior administrators to establish a set of principles. First and foremost, we needed to protect the health and safety of our entire community, including our Jewish students. Second, we believe in free expression, but that most assuredly does not include antisemitic or anti-Muslim harassment or intimidation. Third, any protest needed to be in substantial compliance with our demonstration policy, which prohibits tents.

With the help of a handful of exceptional faculty members, we began meeting with student protesters. They asked for several changes to university policy including divestment from Israel and the end of an academic program that focused on Israeli innovation. We said a flat no to both. But we did say we understood their isolation and alienation and wanted to work with them to improve life at Northwestern for Muslim students

and students from the Middle East and North Africa.

That began three days and nights of difficult but productive discussions. Ultimately, we came to an agreement that they would take down the tent encampment and bring the demonstration into compliance with our rules and regulations. We would permit peaceful demonstrations on Deering Meadow for roughly a month and provide greater information to students about our investments. We also agreed to establish a house for Muslim and Middle Eastern students to eat, pray and socialize, something already enjoyed by our Jewish, Catholic, Lutheran, Black and female students. The university also committed to including Gaza in our Scholars at Risk program, which brings students and faculty members from war-torn or devastated areas to Northwestern, a program we employed with Ukraine amid the current war with Russia as well as Tulane University following Hurricane Katrina.

So where are we today? The tents are down, removing a source of

antisemitic intimidation to many of our Jewish students. Our students are testing the edges of our agreement as one might expect from intelligent, idealistic young people. We have largely removed outside, more radical influences from the peaceful demonstrations taking place on Deering Meadow. And we stand ready to commence disciplinary proceedings against anyone who breaks our rules or engages in antisemitic or anti-Muslim behavior.

This resolution — fragile though it might be — was possible because we chose to see our students not as a mob but as young people who were in the process of learning. It was possible because we tried respectful dialogue rather than force. And it was possible because we sought to follow a set of principles, many of which I would argue are core to the tenets of Judaism.

I hope that our de-escalation proves stable and that we can be an example for other universities.

Michael Schill is president of Northwestern University.

Biden must bring full stop to catastrophic offensive on Rafah

By Zaher Sahloul

During my two-week mission to Gaza in January, I traveled from my well-equipped hospital in Chicago to work in a multispecialty clinic in Rafah and a large hospital in Khan Younis about 6 miles north of the city. During my daily commute, I passed by an endless series of tents of all shapes and colors where families huddled together, lacking the necessities for a dignified existence. They had been displaced from different parts of Gaza, forced to flee by the Israeli army.

At our clinic in Rafah, I treated Sarah, 14, who was displaced from Gaza City’s Sheikh Radwan neighborhood, which was completely leveled by bombs and missiles. She misses her school and friends. She lives with her parents and five brothers and sisters in a small tent surrounded by hundreds of others. She dares not to go the washroom at night. There is one latrine for every 200 people in the camp. Sarah presented with jaundice, fatigue, fever, nausea and abdominal pain. After a thorough examination, she was diagnosed with hepatitis A and dehydration.

In the absence of laboratory tests to confirm the diagnosis, it felt as though I had been transported back to the Middle Ages, where diagnoses relied solely on pure clinical assessment. This is what the health care system looks like now due to the war and blockade. At that time, the World Health Organization reported approxi-



Displaced Palestinians arrive in central Gaza after fleeing from Rafah on Wednesday. ABDEL KAREEM HANA/AP

mately 8,000 cases of hepatitis A in Gaza, primarily due to water contamination from seeping sewage. Our medical team administered intravenous fluid therapy to Sarah. Her heart rate improved gradually. Additionally, we provided her family with 50 shekels to help acquire food during this challenging time. The following day, Sarah returned to the clinic accompanied by her parents, her face beaming with a big smile.

Rafah, whose pre-war population was 250,000, is the last refuge for 1.5 million Palestinians fleeing war and death. You can imagine the strain on the 25 square-mile city and its limited infrastructure.

At the time I was there, there were only two functioning CT scanners, one birth center and three partially operating hospitals for 1.5 million people.

My organization, MedGlobal, provides health care in disaster regions around the world, such as Ukraine, Syria, Bangladesh and Sudan, through our local teams and medical volunteers, including in Gaza since 2018. Our local team runs 10 clinics that serve about 4,000 patients every day. We also run the only clinic in Rafah that specializes in treating children suffering from malnutrition. Each day, our stabilization center provides specialized formulas and nutritious meals to about 30 children with acute malnutrition — a condition not witnessed in Gaza in modern times — which can cause irreversible harm to the physical and mental well-being of these children, significantly affecting their growth and development. Samantha Power, administrator for the United States Agency for International Development, and the World Food Program’s director, Cindy McCain, confirmed the reports of full-blown famine in Gaza.

The famine and staggering toll of civilian casualties in Gaza — more than 34,000 dead and counting, two-thirds of them women and children, and more than 75,000 injured, per the United Nations — threaten to be the most defining global crisis of our times.

With the ongoing Israeli incursion on eastern Rafah, the flow

of humanitarian aid has been blocked by the military operation. My organization recently had to cancel our medical mission due the closure of the border crossing. Civilians have very limited evacuation options. Khan Younis to the north, destroyed by the latest assault, is uninhabitable; Deir Al-Balah, a small village in the central area, is already overcrowded; and there is no access to the north.

A full-scale assault would undermine all operations by the U.N. and nongovernmental organizations, and it would likely spark a border crisis, with civilians attempting to flee en masse through Egypt. The number of casualties would skyrocket. Thousands of lives would be lost, and many more people would be injured, with the majority being children and women, as we have witnessed in previous military operations. It should go without saying that this calamity would also be disastrous for the U.S. interests and our moral leadership.

Some may argue that President Joe Biden does not have a magic wand in Gaza. Yet many, including members of Congress I recently met with, have asserted that the president has leverage that he could bring to bear. On Wednesday, Biden demonstrated that by announcing that the U.S. would withhold certain weapons and artillery shells if Israel engages in a ground invasion of Rafah. This is a first step, and it should be applauded.

By conditioning further military aid to Israel, like other presidents have done, he could pressure all parties to impose an urgent and sustained cease-fire and head off what otherwise would be a bloodbath in Rafah, while leading at the diplomatic front for a release of the hostages and a Marshall Plan to rebuild Gaza.

In a recent meeting at the White House, my colleagues and I shared with Biden our firsthand accounts from recent medical missions in Gaza. He told us that he empathizes with the innocent victims in both Israel and Gaza and that he, the first lady and Vice President Kamala Harris are anguished by the horrors unfolding. He also mentioned that Rafah is a red line. We believe him.

Biden is fond of saying that the United States should “lead not only by the example of our power, but by the power of our example.” Biden has the opportunity to change the dynamics in Gaza and the Middle East by taking cues from history and leverage all his powers. His legacy will be shaped by his decisions on Gaza.

He can stop the ongoing offensive in Rafah and the humanitarian catastrophe that it will undoubtedly unleash.

Dr. Zaher Sahloul is a critical care specialist, president of MedGlobal and former president of the Syrian American Medical Society. He has led medical missions to regions hit by natural and human-made disasters.

OPINION

The Bears’ pitch for a lakefront stadium fizzled. Here’s how they can move forward.



David Greising

The Chicago Bears’ epically inept unveiling of plans for a new indoor stadium to replace Soldier Field will go down in Chicago lore as one of the loudest backfires in the history of the city.

The initially stated \$3.2 billion stadium budget turns out to be less than half the cost of the complete project. The promise that Chicago taxpayers wouldn’t pay a penny was far from true. And giddy cheerleading by Mayor Brandon Johnson did more harm than good.

The whole matter unraveled soon after the Bears concluded their hour-long dog-and-pony show filled with more razzmatazz than a Blue Man Group performance. Illinois House Speaker Emanuel “Chris” Welch said he couldn’t get votes for their stadium project even if he tried. Gov. J.B. Pritzker declared the plan a nonstarter.

A cardinal rule in any negotiation is to avoid getting to “no.” Once that word slips out, getting to yes gets much harder. Pritzker hasn’t entirely written off the possibility of a stadium deal, perhaps somewhere down the road, so the question now is what it might take to resuscitate an idea that nearly died on arrival.

The Bears won’t just let this one go. They hired team President Kevin Warren for the express purpose of getting a deal like this done. And Johnson — who traveled to Springfield this week to inform lawmakers that they “owed” the city \$1 billion for Chicago Public Schools — can’t turn back now, not after his over-the-top embrace a few days ago.

The Bears and Johnson are convinced they have this one right. That Chicago needs an indoor lakefront stadium in order to hold its place as an urban entertainment center. That Final Fours, Super Bowls and, say, a Taylor Swift residency might all be possible. That their project really can create billions in revenues for construction workers, locally owned suppliers, restaurants, hotels, merchants and others.

That, say, bonds sold to rehab Soldier Field just two decades ago can



Bears President Kevin Warren at Halas Hall on April 23. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

be rolled into a new \$1.2 billion debt issue — with an almost unheard-of 40-year amortization — without trashing the state’s credit rating.

Such are the visions Warren will conjure as he sets out on what will be an arduous effort to breathe new life into the lakefront stadium plan. A delay to the end of this year could add \$150 million to the project’s cost, Warren has warned. He should count on that much cost and more. A likely Friends of the Parks lawsuit alone could block progress, even if Warren can line up the political support and financing the Bears need.

In order to take even a first step toward yes, Warren will need to refocus the financial discussion.

Consider the Bears’ proposal to refinance \$400 million in bonds sold by the Illinois Sports Facilities Authority in order to refurbish Soldier Field just 22 years ago. The idea has received almost unanimous scorn — and the proposed 40-year term for the proposed new IFSA bonds is an obvious warning that the Bears are stretching hard to make the finances work.

But let’s be real: Even if the lakeside stadium does not get built, the Bears likely will still move still out of Soldier Field before those IFSA

bonds expire in 2032. If they do break their lease and move to Arlington Heights, revenues from Soldier Field would mostly dry up.

That could put Illinois taxpayers on the hook for annual bond payments that will reach \$91 million by the time those bonds expire in 2032. IFSA sold the bonds, but the state guaranteed them, and the state and city of Chicago could wind up covering the cost if IFSA’s coffers fall short.

Add up the city’s exposure, and the Bears could make a case that their proposed scoop-and-toss of the Soldier Field debt is better for taxpayers than if they move to Arlington Heights and leave Soldier Field holding the bag.

Recapitalizing the Bears might also be needed. The McCaskeys, who control the team, are pikers compared to the billionaire class that makes up most of the NFL’s ownership groups. Yes, the Bears are committing roughly \$2.3 billion toward the new stadium — but much of that is expected to come from other people’s money.

Instead of borrowing, the McCaskeys could sell shares in the team. Just one example: Billionaire Pat Ryan already owns a chunk of the

Chicago Bears Football Club Inc. Invite Ryan to buy more shares, and his equity investment would strengthen the team’s balance sheet, reducing the borrowing needed for the McCaskeys to make the deal work.

The Bears would benefit from Ryan’s savvy, besides. Look at what he accomplished in Evanston, overcoming strong local opposition to get approval for a new Northwestern University football stadium he is funding.

A third leg of the Bears’ lakeside-stadium resuscitation plan could be to turn the lip service about a “progressive” approach to their plan into an objective reality.

The Bears are promising that locally owned vendors will get contracts once the stadium gets built. At a manageable cost, they could jump-start business development by funding programs that could help would-be entrepreneurs launch companies that grow big enough, by the time the stadium opens, to serve the crowds that flock to the venue.

One such program — the Neighborhood Entrepreneurship Lab, sponsored by the Chicago Community Trust — has helped first-time business owners build successful companies. The Bears could use that program as a model and fund an independently run program to help jump-start a cohort of vendors that might grow up between now and when the stadium opens for business.

These are just a few ideas that could get the Bears past the initial public revulsion to the proposal presented late last month.

To get all the way to “yes” — with public officials, with taxpayers, with the community at large — the Bears likely will need to do much more. The state has higher spending priorities — such as schools, roads and public safety. Johnson likely lacks the political savvy to push a deal through. The Bears’ claims of economic impact from the stadium project likely won’t stand up to public scrutiny or outright opposition.

The Bears’ vision for a lakeside stadium, as first proposed, is not a live option. It would take bold, resourceful and persistent work on a second draft — by the team and the mayor — to bring it back to life.

David Greising is president and CEO of the Better Government Association.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

The endpoint in Israel, Gaza

Is it too early to declare that Hamas has won? On Oct. 7, the group launched a brutal cross-border attack that, while not attempting any sort of military victory, would very predictively elicit an overwhelming response. The Israeli government more than obliged with a campaign of collective punishment on all of Gaza, killing 34,000 and counting; attacking homes, hospitals and declared “safe” zones; and blocking humanitarian aid.

Prior to this latest round of open warfare, Israel had been gaining political ground in reaching agreements with neighboring Arab states, while shoving the Palestinian question to the side. Its control of Gaza would remain, as would the ability of “settlers” to continue chipping away at the West Bank, hilltop by hilltop.

Now, as an unintended but predictable result of Israel’s own actions, concern for the welfare of the Palestinian people is finally front and center, whereas worldwide sympathy for Israel is rapidly dwindling.

The founding of Israel as a Jewish state and not just a “national home for the Jewish people,” as vaguely referred to in Britain’s Balfour Declaration, was controversial at the time. The final step would not have been taken without the support of the United States government, which had been lobbied heavily for years by, among others, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s father. Israeli propaganda reached its apogee with the 1958 publication of Leon Uris’s best-selling novel “Exodus” and the subsequent hit 1960 movie starring Paul Newman. The movie’s main theme song was recorded by countless artists. Our high school chorus in my small Midwestern town uncomprehendingly sang Pat Boone’s lyrics, which began: “This land is mine, God gave this land to me.”

Perhaps at present, the best that can be hoped for is a cease-fire followed by work toward a two-state solution with international guarantors. But such a resolution should be considered only a stepping-stone toward a more comprehensive and stable final status. It would reward neither warring party and plot the only path forward that could achieve long-lasting mutual security, peace and prosperity: one country, from the river to the sea, established as a modern 21st century secular democracy, with equal rights for all irre-

spective of religion, ethnicity, ancestry, race, or sex.

This endpoint would not satisfy Hamas or the present extremist Israeli government, but both have lost all legitimacy. There is no other way.

— *Stephen Julstrom, Chicago*

Israelis support the war in Gaza

I suggest that columnist Daniel DePetris (“The implications of an Israeli assault on Rafah are horrible,” May 7) go back and read his history books, especially about World War II. The United States bombed German cities and dropped atomic bombs on two of Japan’s cities, and we did not give advance notice of these attacks, nor did we plan on supporting the civilian population in the aftermath.

Why is the current war in Gaza any different in its purpose to eliminate a horrible enemy? There was no talk during World War II of humanitarian implications of such attacks.

The Israeli army has made attempts to avoid civilian casualties.

Gaza is not Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s war. It is supported by Israeli citizens who do not want a resurrection of Hamas in the future that would bring about further horrible attacks on them.

For now, Netanyahu is the strong leader they need to finish off Hamas. After the war is over, the country will decide if he should remain in office.

— *Sherwin Dubren, Morton Grove*

Cease-fire, hostage release needed

I am a Jew and have always been a staunch supporter of Israel. I mourned and continue to mourn Hamas’ unprovoked Oct. 7 attack that murdered, raped, burned and kidnapped innocents. And I mourn and continue to mourn the destruction of Gaza, the loss of innocent Palestinians and the humanitarian crisis.

Following the Oct. 7 attack, the world sympathized with — and now the world condemns — Israel. Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu’s stated goal is to destroy Hamas. But Hamas is regrouping, and Israel’s actions are galvanizing and radicalizing new generations in the Middle East and elsewhere.

And, now Israel has attacked Rafah, where more than a million Palestinians have sought refuge, despite U.S. warnings against such action. While Netanyahu welcomes U.S. financial and military support, he rebuffs its counsel. President Joe Biden cajoles; Netanyahu ignores. Netanyahu would be wise to listen, for U.S. support is weakening and the tide is shifting.

It is beyond time for a cease-fire, a return of hostages and a negotiated long-term solution.

— *Ava Holly Berland, Chicago*

Lightfoot wasn’t fit to be mayor

First as the treasurer for Lori Lightfoot’s campaign for mayor and then as head of the Law Department for approximately the first two years of her administration, I had an inside view of the workings of the Lightfoot campaign and her administration as mayor. Greg Pratt’s book, “The City is Up for Grabs: How Chicago Mayor Lori Lightfoot Led and Lost a City in Crisis,” accurately details the chaos and acrimony that engulfed her tenure as mayor.

On the campaign trail, Lightfoot criticized her predecessor, Rahm Emanuel, for being a dictator who lacked transparency. Pratt’s book vividly demonstrates that this is exactly how Lightfoot ran the city. She publicly criticized her staff and had no idea how to govern. She was incapable of rallying the troops or building coalitions. Pratt has done an excellent job reconstructing the unending crises, some of Lightfoot’s own making, that engulfed her administration. With accuracy and sometimes humor, Pratt provides example after example of these self-inflicted wounds.

One example of Lightfoot’s flip-flopping policies was her handling of the coronavirus pandemic. Initially, she suggested the media exaggerated the crisis. Then, after Gov. J.B. Pritzker shut down the schools and public events, Lightfoot shut down the lakefront, the only safe outdoor space people quarantined in their homes could go. It was chaos.

Pratt’s book is certainly worth a read. It calls into question why Chicagoans — regretably including me — chose to back and vote for a mayor with zero experience governing and zero experience running a \$16 billion corporation. Pratt makes the point that running the third largest municipality in the country should never be left to

an amateur. The mayor of our beautiful city should not need on-the-job training, Pratt contends.

I recommend this book because it educates voters about the kind of candidate who should not be elected to occupy the mayor’s office ever again.

— *Mark A. Flessner, former city corporation counsel, Chicago*

Editorial wrong about Canada

I’m astonished (that was the nicest word I could think of). I just read the April 26 editorial (“Want to move to Canada? Think carefully, Americans.”) in my regional paper, and I’d like the Tribune Editorial Board to know that I pledged my allegiance to the flag of the USA when I was in high school and became a dual citizen.

Since then, I’ve worked so hard organizing, campaigning, writing and receiving my doctorate — everything I could do to make this a better country with social justice. Several weeks ago, after letting my red lines with President Joe Biden’s Palestine policy turn pink, just like his have, too many times, I got a tattoo with the Saskatchewan lily (my birthplace) on my right wrist, held it up in front of my mirror and unpledged allegiance to the USA and repledged to Canada.

The editorial neglects to note the fact that Canada is not bombing and starving and killing 34,000 Palestinian men, women and children (mostly women and children) and vetoing or refusing to support United Nations calls for a cease-fire.

And in Canada, one-half of the population does not support a deranged and dangerous narcissist whose three goals are to commit international crimes against immigrants, get reelected (or just take over) and stay out of jail.

What was the board thinking?

Yeah, I know, people will say: Love it or leave it. But it’s funny — I no longer feel that horrible weight of responsibility, guilt and shame when I sit in a taxi or airport or conference or another country and people ask me where I’m from. I just say Canada.

— *Jackie Brux, River Falls, Wisconsin*

For online exclusive letters go to www.chicagotribune.com/letters. Send letters by email to letters@chicagotribune.com. Include your name, address and phone number.



Palestinians haul their belongings Thursday as they seek to flee to a safer area of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip. **GETTY-AFP**

Israel

from Page 1

sion-making of its ally in the war against the militant group that was triggered by Hamas’ Oct. 7 attack on Israel. About 1,200 people in Israel were killed and about 250 were taken captive.

“Our view is, any kind of major Rafah ground operation would actually strengthen Hamas’ hands at the negotiating table, not Israel’s,” White House national security spokesman John Kirby said Thursday. More civilian deaths in Rafah from an Israeli offensive would give more ammunition to Hamas’ “twisted narrative” about Israel.

Israel has repeatedly threatened to invade Rafah, where 1.3 million Palestinians — over half the population — have sought refuge. The city in southern Gaza is also the main hub for humanitarian operations, which have been severely hindered by the closure of Gaza’s two main crossings this week.

In an earlier response to Biden’s decision, Israel’s far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir wrote a post on the platform X with a heart between the words “Hamas” and “Biden.” He and other ultra-nationalist members of Netanyahu’s coalition support a large-scale Rafah operation and have threatened to bring down his government if it doesn’t happen.

Aid groups say a Rafah invasion would be catastrophic. The U.N. says most

of the territory’s 2.3 million Palestinians suffer from hunger and that northern Gaza is already experiencing “full-blown famine.”

Even the limited operation Israel launched this week, in which a tank brigade captured the Gaza side of the Rafah border crossing with Egypt, has thrown humanitarian operations into crisis.

It also complicated what had been months of efforts by the U.S., Qatar and Egypt to broker a cease-fire and the release of hostages. Hamas this week said it had accepted an Egyptian-Qatari cease-fire proposal, but Israel says the plan does not meet its “core” demands. Several days of follow-up talks appeared to end inconclusively Thursday.

The pause was a setback, given that some people watching the negotiations closely had seen signs that an agreement might be in reach this week. Still, one official briefed on the talks said negotiators did not believe Hamas or Israel were leaving the negotiations permanently.

Some analysts said Biden’s tough line against Israel, and the rift between the allies, threatened to weaken Israel’s negotiating position and harden Hamas’ stances. Hamas has demanded guarantees for an end to the war and a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza as part of any deal — steps Israel has ruled out.

“It sends a discordant message at a time when Hamas is holding out on a hostage deal in the hopes that pressure will grow

on Israel and it will gain a cease-fire without having to give anything in return,” said the Israel Policy Forum, a pro-Israel organization based in New York.

The war has killed over 34,800 Palestinians, according to the Gaza Health Ministry. Israel’s offensive, waged with U.S.-supplied munitions, has caused widespread devastation and forced about 80% of Gaza’s population to flee their homes.

Israel’s capture of the Rafah crossing Tuesday forced the closure of a key entry point for fuel, and it’s unclear when it will reopen. The U.N. agency for Palestinian refugees, known as UNRWA, said it only has enough stocks to maintain operations for a few days and has started rationing.

The first aid ship bound for an American-built floating pier to be installed in Gaza departed early Thursday. But it’s unclear when that corridor will be up and running, and even then it won’t be able to handle as much aid as Gaza’s two main land crossings.

Maj. Pete Nguyen, a Pentagon spokesman, said Thursday that parts of the pier are still in the Israeli port of Ashdod awaiting more favorable seas before being moved into position off Gaza. He said the U.S. vessel Sagamore, which left Cyprus, would transport aid to another ship, the Roy P. Benavidez, which is off the coast of Gaza.

The New York Times contributed.

Chicago Daily Tribune

ON MAY 10 ...

In 1774, Louis XVI ascended the throne of France.

In 1775 Ethan Allen and his Green Mountain Boys captured the British-held fortress at Ticonderoga, N.Y.

In 1818 American patriot Paul Revere died in Boston; he was 83.

In 1838 actor John Wilkes Booth, the assassin of President Abraham Lincoln, was born near Bel Air, Md.

In 1865 Union forces captured Confederate President Jefferson Davis in Irwinville, Ga.

In 1869 a golden spike was driven at Promontory Summit, Utah, marking the completion of the first transcontinental railroad in the United States.

In 1899 Frederick Austerlitz, who became better known as entertainer Fred Astaire, was born in Omaha.

In 1908 the nation’s first Mother’s Day observances were held in Philadelphia and Grafton, W.Va.

In 1909 “Mother” Maybelle Carter, singer and guitarist who would become matriarch of a country music dynasty that included daughter June Carter Cash, was born near Nickelsville, Va.

In 1924 J. Edgar Hoover was named director of the FBI. (He retained the post until his death in 1972.)

In 1933 the Nazis staged massive public book burnings in Germany.

In 1940 British Prime Minister Neville Chamber-

lain resigned, and Winston Churchill formed a new government.

In 1941 Rudolf Hess, Adolf Hitler’s deputy, landed by parachute in Scotland on what he claimed was a private peace mission. He ended up serving a life sentence in Spandau prison. (He died in 1987, reportedly by suicide.)

In 1968 preliminary Vietnam peace talks began in Paris.

In 1978 Britain’s Princess Margaret and the Earl of Snowdon announced they were divorcing after 18 years of marriage.

In 1984 the International Court of Justice said the United States should halt any actions to blockade Nicaragua’s ports.

In 1994 serial killer John Wayne Gacy, 52, was executed by lethal injection at Stateville Prison near Joliet. (His death came 14 years after he was convicted of murdering 33 young men and boys.) Also in 1994 Nelson Mandela took the oath of office to become South Africa’s first black president.

In 1995 Terry Nichols was charged in the Oklahoma City bombing. Also in 1995 former President George H.W. Bush’s office released his letter of resignation from the National Rifle Association in which Bush expressed outrage over its reference to federal agents as “jack-booted government thugs.”

In 1996 two Marine helicopters collided in the dark and crashed at Camp Lejeune, N.C., during a U.S.-British training exercise, killing 14 people.

In 1999 Shel Silverstein, the Chicago-born cartoonist, playwright and songwriter, was found dead in Key West; he was 68.

In 2001 Boeing Co. chose Chicago as the site for its new headquarters, replacing Seattle. Also in 2001 the World Wrestling Federation announced it would fold the upstart XFL football league.

In 2002 NBA owners approved the Hornets’ move to New Orleans, ending the team’s 14-year era in Charlotte, N.C.

In 2004 President George W. Bush reacted with “deep disgust and disbelief” during a Pentagon visit as he examined new photos and video clips of American soldiers abusing Iraqi prisoners.

In 2005 a federal bankruptcy judge approved United Airlines’ plan to terminate its employees’ pension plans.

In 2013 a crane lifted the final piece of the spire at One World Trade Center in New York. Measured to the top of the spire, the tower at the 9/11 attack site is 1,776 feet tall — tallest in the Western Hemisphere.

In 2014 the St. Louis Rams selected linebacker Michael Sam in the seventh round of the NFL draft, making him the first openly gay player in league history.

In 2017 29 people, including a Tinley Park man, were killed by gunfire in an attack on a bus carrying Coptic Christians to a remote desert monastery in Egypt; the Islamic State group claimed responsibility.

Chicago Tribune Death Notices

Chicago Tribune extends our condolences to the families and loved ones of those who have passed.

chicagotribune.com/deathnotice

Death Notices

Byrne, Mary Margaret Roney ‘Peggy’

Mary Margaret “Peggy” Byrne nee Roney, age 92, of Northfield, IL. Beloved wife of the late James Patrick Byrne. Loving mother of Mary Margaret Gronskis (late George Gronskis), Rosemary Roney (Carey) Dowdle, James Patrick Byrne, Jr., Kathleen Marie (David) Kennedy, David Michael (Lori) Byrne, and the late Peter Roney Byrne.

Proud grandmother of ten grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. Dear sister of Sr. Rosemary T. Roney, RSCJ. Visitation Monday, May 13, 2024, 10:30 a.m. until time of Funeral Mass 11:00 a.m. at Saints Faith, Hope & Charity Church, 191 Linden Street, Winnetka, IL 60093. To virtually attend the Funeral Mass, visit Peggy’s obituary page on donnellanfuneral.com to access the link to the webcast. Interment at Sacred Heart Catholic Cemetery, Northbrook, IL. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to: The Alzheimer’s Association, 225 N. Michigan Avenue, Chicago, IL 60601. <http://act.alz.org/goto/peggybyrne>. Info: donnellanfuneral.com or 847-675-1990



Cooper, Marcia Jane

The Dictionary defines a Matriarch as a powerful woman in a family or tribe. Marcia Cooper (nee Podolsky) was that and more. Marcia passed away peacefully on 9/7/24. She was surrounded by love and knew her family would be alright.

She was a loving wife to Marvin, over 70 years, and a doting and caring mother, Nana and Great-Nana. Marcia is survived by scores of children, grand children and great grandchildren, all of whose names the family has elected to omit in protest over the obscene cost the Chicago Tribune wanted to charge to include them all. Our mother knew (and taught us) the value of a dollar, and we knew she would approve! The family wishes to acknowledge, with affection and gratitude, the love and care of her devoted caregivers, Rene and Gemma Baudon. Their kindness and compassion knew no bounds and brought tremendous comfort to Marvin and Marcia for six years. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation in Marcia’s memory to Honor Flight Chicago. Arrangements by **Chicago Jewish Funerals** - Skokie Chapel, 847.229.8822, www.cjfunfo.com

CHICAGO JEWISH FUNERALS

Cronin, Thomas F.

Thomas F. Cronin, 72, of Springfield, Aurora, and Summit, IL, died on Monday, May 6, 2024, at Taylorville Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. He was born September 11, 1951, in Willow Springs, IL. The adored son of the late Robert and Dorotheanne (Allison) Cronin; cherished brother of Kevin (Susan), Mary Kathleen, and Patricia Ann (James Imbrogno). Tom was also survived by his buddies from the old neighborhood, Phil Firlit, Steve Chacola, John Grexler, and Erik Karnelski. He will be missed by pretty much anyone who ever met him. After time spent with Tom, people would walk away chuckling at his quick wit and marveling at his resilience. He faced numerous challenges from birth on. Tom bore numerous hospitalizations and serious diagnoses with grace and personal strength.

The family would like to thank Kevin Hennessy of Oswego, and best pal, Pat O’Connor of Springfield. Cremation will be provided prior to ceremonies. The family will host a Funeral Mass at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, May 13, 2024, at Church of the Little Flower, 800 Adlai Stevenson Dr., Springfield, IL with Rev. Allen Kemme, celebrant. A Celebration of Life will follow at Route 66 Motorheads, 600 Toronto Road, Springfield, IL. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the Michael J. Fox Foundation. The family is being served by **Butler Funeral Home-Springfield**, 900 S. 6th St., Springfield, IL. Please visit butlerspringfield.com to offer your condolences.

Guimon, Ronald Joseph ‘Ron’

Ronald Joseph Guimon, of Ormond Beach passed away on Sunday, April 28, 2024, at the age of 78, after a courageous battle with cancer. A Catholic memorial service will be held at 12pm Saturday, May 11, 2024 at Assumption Catholic Church, 323 W. Illinois St. Chicago, IL 60654; with visitation from 10:30 a.m. until time of service. Ron is survived by his beautiful wife, Betsy, daughter Becky, son-in-law, Tony, his two grandchildren Matt and Taylor, his very special “5lb” fluffy girl - Holly!

Hail, Jayne Ann

Jayne Ann Hail, nee Okelman, age 81, beloved wife of the late Edward; loving mother of Eric (Paula), Christopher Eiers; cherished grandmother of Courtney, Jessica, Christopher, Nicholas, and Gianna Eiers; dear sister of Kenneth (Lynn), Raymond (Doloris), and Thomas (Christine) Okelman; also, many caring nieces and nephews. Memorial Visitation Saturday, May 11th, from 1 to 4 pm at **Modell Funeral Home**, 7710 South Cass Avenue, Darien. For info. 630-852-3595 or www.modellfh.com



Kelly, Joan R.

Joan Roberta (Quinn) Kelly, 90, of Tinley Park, Illinois, passed away on May 2, 2024. Joan was the loving wife of Bernard James Kelly for 69 years; mother of JoAnn Kelly (Norman Stanley), Nancy (Edward) Button, Loretta (Patrick) Howard, Eileen Stulgis (Jeff Hensel), and Daniel Kelly (Michael Christensen); and grandmother of Donovan (Heather), Kevin, Caitlin (Paul), Patrick, Connor (Sarah), Michael, Kelly, Ryan (Leslie), Nathanael, and Flannery. Loved by all who knew or met her, Joan was an independent businesswoman who operated her own hair salon and later entered the real estate field with RE/MAX. She and her husband Bernard were partners in politics as well as marriage, serving the city of Oak Forest over several decades. However, Joan always said the job she was most proud of was being mother to five children. She will be dearly missed. A Wake will be held Monday, May 13, 3-8 p.m., at Brady-Gill Funeral Home, 16600 S. Oak Park Ave., Tinley Park, Illinois. A Mass will be performed Tuesday, May 14, 10 a.m., at St. Julie’s Church, 7399 W 159th St., Tinley Park, IL, followed by a graveside service at Holy Sepulchre Cemetery, 6001 W. 111th St., Alsip, IL.

Murray, Julie C.

Julie C. Murray (nee Stenzel), beloved mother of Eileen (Bill) Maylone and James Murray; devoted grandmother of Clare and Julia; proud sister of Father Bill Stenzel, Eileen (George Kuehn) Stenzel and the late Mary, Mary Ellen and Angela; cherished aunt of Anna Stenzel Kuehn; Visitation Friday 2-8 P.M. at lawn Funeral Home 17909 S 94th Ave Tinley Park IL 60487 lying in state Saturday 9:00 A.M. until time of Funeral Mass 10:00 A.M. at St. Stephen Deacon & Martyr Church 17500 S. 84th Ave Tinley Park IL 60487 Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery (708) 532-3100.



Rauscher-Davoust, Lynne

Lynne Rauscher-Davoust (nee Rauscher), age 88, of Elmhurst, IL, died May 2nd, 2024. She was born on December 7th, 1935 in San Francisco, CA, the daughter of the late Irma and Walter Rauscher. She was the loving and beloved wife of the late Merritt J. Davoust, and is survived by her loving brother Warren Rauscher, nephew

Brent (Cheryl) Rauscher, grand-niece Brittany (Tre) Williams and her children (Hallie, Sophie, and Luke), and many Davoust in-laws. She graduated from Abraham Lincoln HS (1953), the University of California, Berkeley (BA 1957), and San Francisco State University (MA 1978). She taught grades 5-6 for 19.5 years in the San Francisco Unified School District. In 1969, BBC-TV filmed her teaching “Family Life Education”. She was active in the District Integration Task Force and Presented many in-service programs to District teachers in Content Area techniques. After her marriage in 1977, she moved to Elmhurst, IL, as her husband’s main office was in Chicago. She taught in the Villa Park School District 45 for 23 more years as a Reading Specialist, K-5, known to her students as “Mrs. R-D”. She received the District’s “Teacher of the Year” honor in 1988. She developed several District programs, such as Young Authors, STAR, Read/Write, and LEARN. In addition to making over 120 presentations at local school districts and reading conferences, she also was an occasional adjunct instructor at National Louis, St. Xavier, and Benedictine Universities, and Elmhurst College, teaching reading techniques. Lynne chaired the Suburban Council of Reading Consultants from 1981-2001, getting well-known speakers to present programs on reading twice a year. She also was on the Boards of the West Suburban, Prairie Area, and the Illinois Reading Councils. She received many certificates of recognition, including the “Those Who Excel Award of Recognition” from the Illinois State Board of Education, and the Illinois Reading Council’s Literacy Award. She organized the 1989 DuPage County Reading Institute Day, helped with the 1982 and 1993 IRC Regional Conferences, and was also a presenter for DuPage’s “Reading First” programs for teachers in 2004-5. She was a worldwide traveler all her life and visited more than 2/3 of the world. Entombment will be at Cypress Lawn’s Lower Garden in Colma, California. Memorials may be sent to the Elmhurst Symphony Orchestra or the charity of your choosing.



Scharringhausen, Lawrence Arnold

Lawrence Arnold Scharringhausen, 82, of Arlington Hts., beloved husband of Sharon (nee Von Oepen); loving father of John (Laurie) Shahinian, Michael (Vicki) Scharringhausen, Lisa (Bill) Seagraves, Shari (Dean) Nickens, and Janet (Ron) Fowler; loved grandfather of Madeline (Dan) Mowery, Megan (Caleb) Bounds, Shannon Shahinian, Eric and Samantha Scharringhausen, Bill and Sara Seagraves, Alexander and Victoria Nickens, Nick (Karina) and Nathan Fowler and great grandfather of Amelia Mowery and Leo and Elliana Fowler; dear brother of the late Carl and Paul; dear brother-in-law of Eileen (Lee) Burden; cherished uncle of many. Visitation from 3:00 pm until 9:00 pm, with Remembrance Service at 6:30 pm, Monday at the **Glueckert Funeral Home, Ltd.**, 1520 N. Arlington Heights Rd., Arl. Hts., IL 60004 and from 10:00 am until the time of service at 11:00 am, Tuesday at St. Peter Lutheran Church, 111 W. Olive St., Arl. Hts., IL 60004. Interment following is at Elk Grove Township Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials to Wounded Warrior Project, <https://www.woundedwarriorproject.org/>, St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, <http://www.stjude.org/donate>, or to St. Peter Lutheran Church-South Africa Mission, <https://stpeterah.churchcenter.com/giving/> (please specify “South Africa”) are appreciated. Funeral information and condolences can be given at www.GlueckertFuneralHome.com or (847) 253-0168.

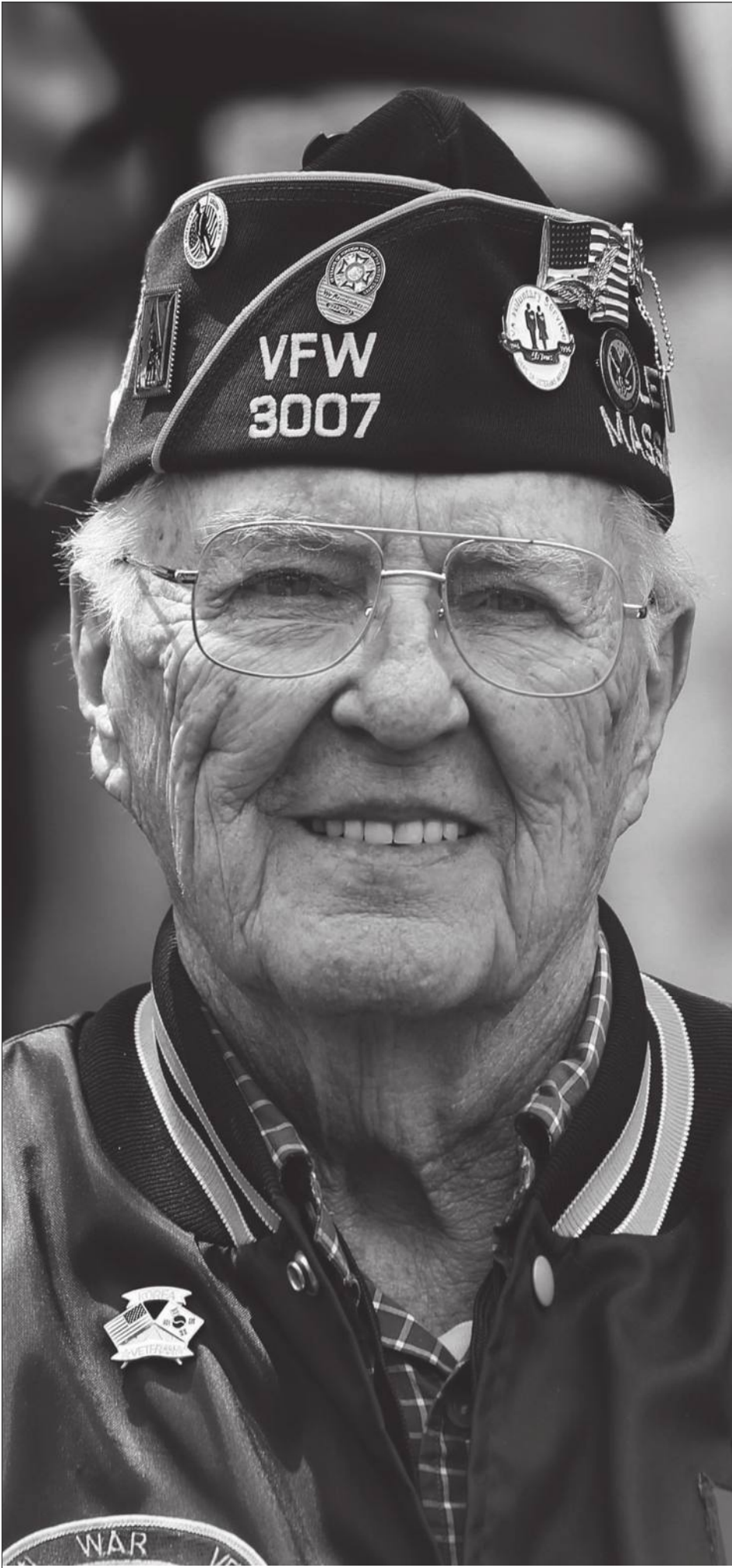


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ASSUMED NAMES

Notice is hereby given, Pursuant to "An Act in relation To the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in The State" as amended, that a Certification was filed by the Undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County File No. G24000069 on the Date: April 26, 2024 Under the Assumed Name of: MOAN SHEET with the business located at: 3018 N HOYNE AVE 2F Chicago, IL, 60618 The true name and residence Address of the owner is: OMARI JAWANZA TABOR 3018 N HOYNE AVE 2F Chicago, IL, 60618 5/10, 5/17 & 5/24/2024 7633545

Notice is hereby given, Pursuant to "An Act in relation To the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in The State" as amended, that a Certification was filed by the Undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County File No. G24000096 on the Date: May 1, 2024 Under the Assumed Name of: Once Twice with the business located at: 1025 W Hollywood Ave Chicago, IL, 60660 The true name and residence Address of the owner is: Christine Stringer 1025 W Hollywood Ave Apt 517 Chicago, Illinois, 60660 5/10, 5/17 & 5/24/2024 7633063

Notice is hereby given, Pursuant to "An Act in relation To the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in The State" as amended, that a Certification was filed by the Undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County File No. G24000094 on the Date: 5/1/2024 Under the Assumed Name of: Sunny Skies Music Company with the business located at: 447 Rio Vista Rd Glenview, IL, 60025 The true name and residence Address of the owner is: Adam Williamson 447 Rio Vista Rd Glenview, IL, 60025 5/3, 5/10 & 5/17/2024 7630109

Notice is hereby given, Pursuant to "An Act in relation To the use of an Assumed Business Name in the conduct or transaction of Business in The State" as amended, that a Certification was filed by the Undersigned with the County Clerk of Cook County File No. G24000031 on the Date: April 16, 2024 Under the Assumed Name of: Yarn and Hook Creations with the business located at: 1930 Ridge Ave Apt D-410 Evanston, IL, 60201 The true name and residence Address of the owner is: Ann Marlae Favela 1930 Ridge Ave Apt D-410 Evanston, IL, 60201 4/26, 5/3 & 5/10/2024 7624982

LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS NOTICE OF TIME EXTENSION
Notice is hereby given that the opening date heretofore advertised as Friday, May 10, 2024 has been extended to Friday, May 24, 2024 no later than 2:00 P.M. for the following items:
Req No. B210P01501R
Invitation for Bids (IFB) for Railroad Track Fastening Materials for a period of up to 36 months.
PROPOSAL GUARANTEE: NONE
For additional information, please contact Sherri Hutcherson, Procurement Administrator, shutcherson@ctrachicago.com. Any contract resulting from this advertisement will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.
The contractor will be required to furnish certified copies of any and all insurance Policies required in relation to this contract prior to CTA's execution.
Chicago Transit Authority hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in regard to any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, Disadvantaged Business Enterprise will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.
PLEASE NOTE: The right is reserved to accept any bid or any part or parts thereof or to reject any and all bids.
CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
By: Ellen G. McCormack
Vice President
Purchasing & Supply Chain
May 10, 2024
5/10/20247633553

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LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN by the Board of Education of Glenbrook High School District Number 225, in the County of Cook, State of Illinois, that amended budget for said School District for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2023, will be on file and conveniently available to public inspection on the District's website accessible at www.glenbrook225.org or at the District Administration Building located at 3801 W. Lake Avenue, Suite 101A, Glenview, Illinois from and after 8:00 a.m., on the 14th day of May 2024.

Notice is further given that a public hearing on said budget will be held at 7:00 PM, on the 24th day of June 2024, at the District Administration Building located at 3801 W. Lake Avenue, Public Meeting Room, Glenview, Illinois in this School District Number 225.

Dated this 14th day of May 2024 Board of Education of Glenbrook High School District Number 225, in the County of Cook, State of Illinois.

By, Carol Smith, Board of Education Secretary
5/10/2024 7633270

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS COMBINED NOTICE

May 10th, 2024
Cook County Department of Planning and Development
69 W. Washington Street, Suite 2900
Chicago, IL, 60602
312-603-1000

To All Interested Persons, Agencies, and Groups:

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS
On or about May 28th, 2024 Cook County Department of Planning and Development will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to release Federal funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383) for the following project:

The subject property is currently developed with the Aloha Motel (a two-story, 55 sleeping room former motel that is currently occupied by Beds Plus which is utilizing the subject property for transitional housing). The proposed project includes the acquisition of the 55 sleeping room motel. Renovation plans include: site and building facade improvements; improvements of the current reception & managers apartment into office and congregate eating space; renovation of sleeping rooms, including new doors, windows and bathroom upgrades; addition of elevator; conversion of five rooms into accessible units; and, replacement of exterior staircases and railings.

Property address is 8515-8525 S. Cicero Ave Chicago, IL 60652. Project will be funded in the amount of \$2,800,000. Type of funding will be CDBG-CV.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
The Cook County Department of Planning and Development has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR). The ERR will be made available to the public in review electronically. Please submit your request by email to David.Washington@CookCountyil.gov.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Cook County Department of Planning and Development. All comments received by May 27th, 2024 will be considered by Cook County prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing. Please submit all public comments to David.Washington@CookCountyil.gov.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION
Cook County is certifying to HUD that Cook County and Susan Campbell in her capacity as Director of Planning and Development consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. HUD's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities and allows the Cook County to use Program funds.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS
- HUD will accept objections to its release of funds and the Cook County's certification for a period of fifteen days following the anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer; (b) the applicant has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted via email in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58, Sec. 58.76), and shall be addressed to Donald Kathan at the Chicago HUD Field Office at email address CPDRROF@hud.gov. Potential objectors should contact the Chicago HUD Field Office at email address CPDRROFCHI@hud.gov to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Susan Campbell, Cook County, Director of Planning and Development
5/10/23 7633406

DATE ADVERTISED: FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024 COUNTY OF COOK OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PROCUREMENT COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FACILITIES MANAGEMENT SOUTHERN FOLGERS DETENTION GRADE LOCK PARTS AND ACCESSORIES BID NO.: 2402-12214R

Bid Document:
The Bid document is available for download at: <https://legacy.cookcountylil.gov/purchasing/bids/listAllBids.php>

Contact Person:
If you are not able to download the Bid or if you have other questions, please contact Angelique Randle, Senior Contract Negotiator, at (312) 603-4478 or angelique.randle@cookcountylil.gov

Questions:
Questions can be submitted in writing to the contact person above until 1:00 PM Local Time - Chicago on May 16, 2024.

Bid Due Date, Time, and Location:
Wednesday, June 5, 2024, at 10:00 AM Local Time - Chicago All Bids must be submitted electronically and uploaded to <https://cookcountylil.bonfirehub.com/portal/tab=open> Opportunities following the instructions set forth in the Bid Solicitation document.

Toni Preckwinkle
President, Cook County Board of Commissioners

Raffi Sarrafian
Chief Procurement Officer

Late Proposals Will Not Be Accepted
May 10, 2024 - 7633384

LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

DATE ADVERTISED: FRIDAY, MAY 10, 2024 COUNTY OF COOK OFFICE OF THE CHIEF PROCUREMENT COOK COUNTY DEPARTMENT OF FACILITIES MANAGEMENT V-BELT SUPPLIES BID NO.: 2302-10311R

Bid Document:
The Bid document is available for download at: <https://legacy.cookcountylil.gov/purchasing/bids/listAllBids.php>

Contact Person:
If you are not able to download the Bid or if you have other questions, please contact Angelique Randle, Senior Contract Negotiator, at (312) 603-4478 or angelique.randle@cookcountylil.gov

Questions:
Questions can be submitted in writing to the contact person above until 1:00 PM Local Time - Chicago on May 16, 2024.

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Toni Preckwinkle
President, Cook County Board of Commissioners

Raffi Sarrafian
Chief Procurement Officer

Late Proposals Will Not Be Accepted
May 10, 2024 - 7633371

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Willow Springs Surgery Center, Ltd. has filed a Certificate of Need application with the Illinois Health Facilities and Services Review Board to discontinue its ambulatory surgical treatment center located at 9050 West 81st Street in Justice, IL 60458, in the third quarter of 2026. After submission of the application to discontinue the facility to the HFSRB, the application for the proposed discontinuation may be found on the HFSRB website at <https://www2.illinois.gov/sites/hfsrb/Pages/default.aspx>. If you are or have been a patient at Willow Springs Surgery Center, Ltd., and have questions about accessing your medical records, please call (708) 594-3500.
5/10/2024 7633438

FORECLOSURES

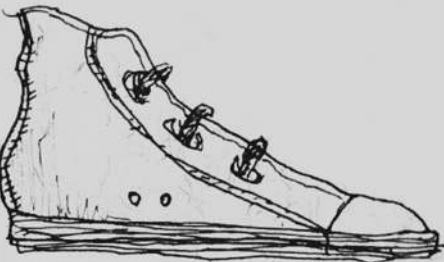
IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS COUNTY DEPARTMENT - CHANCERY DIVISION WILMINGTON SAVINGS FUND SOCIETY, FSB, D/B/A CHRISTIANA TRUST, AS OWNER TRUSTEE ON BEHALF OF CSJAC 2018-APR-12 TRUST Plaintiff, v. JUAN AGUILAR, SELENA AGUILAR, JUAN ARRIOLA Defendants 2022 CH 01753 3905 WEST 71ST STREET CHICAGO, IL 60629 NOTICE OF SALE PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered in the above cause on July 7, 2023, an agent for The Judicial Sales Corporation, will at 10:30 AM on May 21, 2024, at The Judicial Sales Corporation, One South Wacker, 1st Floor Suite 35R, Chicago, IL, 60606, sell at a public sale to the highest bidder, as set forth below, the following described real estate: Lot 2 in Block 3 in Marquette Park Terrace, a subdivision in the Northwest 1/4 of the Northwest 1/4 of Section 26, Township 36 North, Range 13, East of the Third Principal Meridian, in Cook County, Illinois. Commonly known as 3905 WEST 71ST STREET, CHICAGO, IL 60629 Property Index No. 19-26-101-009-0000 The real estate is improved with a single family residence. The judgment amount was \$359,765.10. Sale terms: 25% down of the highest bid by certified funds at the close of the sale payable to The Judicial Sales Corporation. No third party checks will be accepted. The balance, in certified funds or wire transfer, is due within twenty-four (24) hours. The subject property is subject to general real estate taxes, special assessments, or special taxes levied against said real estate and offered for sale without any representation as to quality or quantity of title and without recourse to Plaintiff and in "AS IS" condition. The sale is further subject to confirmation by the court. Upon payment in full of the amount bid, the purchaser will receive a Certificate of Sale that will entitle the purchaser to a deed to the real estate after confirmation of the sale. The property will NOT be open for inspection and plaintiff makes no representation as to the condition of the property. Prospective bidders are admonished to check the court file to verify all information. If this property is a condominium unit, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee, shall pay the assessments and the legal fees required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/9(b)(1) and (g)(4). If this property is a condominium unit which is part of a common interest community, the purchaser of the unit at the foreclosure sale other than a mortgagee shall pay the assessments required by The Condominium Property Act, 765 ILCS 605/18.5(g)-1. IF YOU ARE THE MORTGAGOR (HOMEOWNER), YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMAIN IN POSSESSION FOR 30 DAYS AFTER ENTRY OF AN ORDER OF POSSESSION, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SECTION 15-1701(C) OF THE ILLINOIS MORTGAGE FORECLOSURE LAW. You will need a photo identification issued by a government agency (driver's license, passport, etc.) in order to gain entry into our building and the foreclosure sale room in Cook County and the same identification for sales held at other county venues where The Judicial Sales Corporation conducts foreclosure sales. For information, contact RANDALL S. MILLER & ASSOCIATES Plaintiff's Attorneys, 120 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 1140, Chicago, IL, 60602 (312) 239-3432. Please refer to file number 20IL00313-1. THE JUDICIAL SALES CORPORATION One South Wacker Drive, 24th Floor, Chicago, IL 60606-4650 (312) 236-5ALE You can also visit The Judicial Sales Corporation at www.jscc.com for a 7 day status report of pending sales. RANDALL S. MILLER & ASSOCIATES 120 N. LASALLE STREET, SUITE 1140 Chicago, IL, 60602 312-239-3432 E-Mail: lpleadings@smalaw.com Attorney File No. 20IL00313-1 Attorney Code 464689 Case Number: 2022 CH 01753 TISC#: 44-972 NOTE: Pursuant to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, you are advised that Plaintiff's attorney is deemed to be a debt collector attempting to collect a debt and any information obtained will be used for that purpose. Case # 2022 CH 01753 8120-941789 4/26, 5/3, 5/10/20247625015

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	Fri.	Sat.
City	Hi/Low	Hi/Low
Kyiv	66/51/°C	63/43/°C
Lima	73/65/°C	72/64/°C
Lisbon	80/57/°C	76/57/°C
London	74/51/°C	74/55/°C
Madrid	85/54/°C	85/55/°C
Manila	94/82/°C	97/83/°C
Mexico City	91/60/°C	91/60/°C
Monterrey	99/73/°C	87/70/°C
Montreal	63/44/°C	60/49/°C
Moscow	50/40/°F	47/33/°C
Munich	68/43/°C	70/44/°C
Nairobi	75/61/°F	77/59/°F
Nassau	87/74/°S	88/75/°S
New Delhi	104/84/°C	105/80/°C
Oslo	61/41/°C	68/47/°C
Ottawa	63/43/°C	59/48/°S
Panama City	88/76/°F	88/76/°S
Paris	74/53/°C	77/56/°C
Prague	67/45/°C	68/48/°C
Rio de Janeiro	81/72/°S	85/76/°S
Riyadh	100/76/°C	105/80/°C
Rome	76/54/°S	76/52/°S
Santiago	57/38/°C	59/39/°S
Seoul	73/55/°S	71/53/°F
Singapore	90/80/°S	89/80/°F
Sofia	56/42/°C	66/42/°S
Stockholm	55/37/°C	61/40/°C
Sydney	68/59/°S	64/57/°F
Taipei	89/71/°C	89/74/°S
Tehran	75/62/°S	81/67/°S
Tokyo	73/64/°S	76/65/°S
Toronto	59/45/°C	57/47/°S
Trinidad	90/80/°C	91/79/°C
Vancouver	68/50/°C	66/51/°S
Vienna	70/47/°C	71/51/°C
Warsaw	63/47/°C	61/42/°C
Winnipeg	68/48/°C	82/47/°C

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INSIDE NATION & WORLD

Chicago Tribune
BUSINESS

Ascension victim of ‘cyber security event’

Health giant that operates 14 Illinois hospitals probing suspected attack that disrupted service

By Lisa Schencker
Chicago Tribune

A suspected cyberattack has disrupted clinical operations at health system giant Ascension, which has about 150 sites of care in Illinois, including 14 hospitals. Ascension’s Illinois hospitals were still providing all patient care services as of Thursday afternoon,

though some medical procedures have had to be rescheduled and there have been several IT service interruptions, said Ascension Illinois spokeswoman Olga Solares, in an email. Nationwide, the system has about 140 hospitals. Ascension “detected unusual activity on select technology network systems” on Wednesday, according to an Ascension news

release issued Thursday. Ascension said access to some of its systems has been interrupted, and it’s experiencing “a disruption to clinical operations.” “Our care teams are trained for these kinds of disruptions and have initiated procedures to ensure patient care delivery continues to be safe and as minimally impacted as possible,” Ascension said in the release. Ascension said it’s investigating the situation including what information, if any, may have been

compromised. If any individuals’ personal information has been potentially exposed, Ascension said it will notify and support those individuals. Ascension said it is working with Mandiant, a third party expert, to help with the investigation and remediation process. The incident comes shortly after Lurie Children’s Hospital in Chicago dealt with its own cyberattack earlier this year. A group named Rhysida, an overseas ransomware operation, made

claims related to that attack. Lurie took its phone, email and electronic medical record systems offline Jan. 31, after the cyberattack, and its hospital, outpatient centers and primary care offices were affected, making it more difficult for patients to reach providers. Lurie restored its systems in March. It also follows a cybersecurity incident at Change Healthcare — a unit of UnitedHealth Group — in late February, which made it difficult for many providers to file health insurance claims.

EAST DUNDEE

Downtown restaurants resist food truck zones

By Gloria Casas
Chicago Tribune

A proposal to bring food trucks to downtown East Dundee has prompted push-back from local restaurant owners who say the mobile businesses will threaten their livelihoods. The village board is considering a new ordinance that would establish three zones in which food trucks would be allowed to park: the east portion of Meier Street, south of Railroad Street; a side road adjacent to 311 Barrington Ave.; and the east side portion of the Fourth Street right-of-way, south of Barrington Avenue.

Under the concept, food truck owners would no longer need to submit an application or obtain a sponsorship in order to to sell food on private property or at local events but they would have to pay a \$100 fee to operate in the village. Dan Hart, owner of D.C. Cobb in the village’s downtown district, told the board this week that he strongly objects to the plan, which he said would not only consume parking spaces businesses need downtown but siphon away customers who would otherwise eat his restaurant or others in the area. “I’m also very scared it will take sales away from myself and other restaurants in the area that have also made significant investments,” he said at the Monday meeting.

There is community support for food trucks in village, according to a survey conducted by the East Dundee Community Events & Depot Committee. Of the 265 people who participated in the survey, 83% were in favor of permitting food trucks and 76% said they thought food trucks would benefit the local economy.

About 11% did not favor the idea and 16% said they thought the increased competition could have a negative impact on local businesses. Hart said restaurant owners make a big investment when they open a brick-and-mortar operation and hire people to work there.

He paid \$750,000 to renovate his 311 Barrington Ave. location and spends about \$7,500 a week on labor costs, meaning he needs to make at least four times that amount to make ends meet, he said.

“The food side for us in East Dundee has been a bit of a struggle,” Hart said. “Our late-night hours allow us to stay open.”

Joe Condo, owner of Diamond Jim’s Gas Grill at 325 Meier St., said he has no problem with the food trucks that participate in village events and festivals but having them around all the time would be “detrimental for us.”

“Every sale we are clinging on to everyday,” Condo said. Tequila Val’s, the Mexican restaurant opening in the former Anvil Club, is counting on customers to make his business a success, owner Colin Hegarty said.



Haylie Bollweg operates Haylie B’s Bakery in a Batavia building, below, more than a century old. DAVID SHAROS/PHOTOS FOR THE BEACON-NEWS

That’s the sweet spot

For Batavia bakery owner, operating out of historic location takes the cake



By David Sharos | Chicago Tribune

Batavia MainStreet is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year with a special “Then and Now” series of social media postings where the business advocacy group has been looking at Batavia’s history as well as its present to see how things have changed. One of its recent postings focused on the downtown landscape and the building at 109 E. Wilson St., which is currently the home of Haylie B’s Bakery. The store got its start three years ago after being part of MainStreet’s Batavia Boardwalk Shops Incubator Program, where small independent businesses rent spaces with more than half going on to open brick-and-mortar locations of their own.

Beth Walker, executive director of Batavia MainStreet, said the “Then and Now” promotion currently underway has been a learning experience. “We’ve really loved learning the history of downtown businesses,” she said, adding that highlighting their past and present “helps a community feel more connected to the downtown.” “We have several buildings that have historic significance that have been around for a long time,” Walker said. “In terms of the newer bakery in this historic building, people love it. Since this was a Boardwalk shop I think there is this feeling of people here in the community being a part of what’s happened since and their being a part of the journey as well.” According to a press release from the MainStreet group, the building at 109 E. Wilson St. “has a long history as a bakery in downtown Batavia.” “It was constructed around 1880 and started as a grocery store and butcher, and for a short time, it was home to a plumbing and pipefitting company,” the release said. In 1917, Peter B. McCabe started a bakery and lived across the street at 118 E. Wilson St., officials said. The longest occupant of the building was Wright’s Bakery, owned and operated by John and Gertrude Wright from 1924 to 1950, the release added. The owner of the current business there, Haylie Bollweg of Batavia, said opening Haylie B’s Bakery has been a great experience. “This started out as a hobby outside of high school and learning all the basics in foods class and then I was doing this out of my house for friends and family and I wound up working for a few different bakeries along the way,” Bollweg said. “Then, across the street, the Batavia Boardwalk Shops that opened in the middle of COVID in 2020. I was selected as one of those

Turn to Bakery, Page 3

Activist investor gaining sway at Norfolk Southern

After fiery Ohio derailment, rail firm weighs safety, profit

By Josh Funk
Associated Press

Norfolk Southern’s CEO will be under more pressure to improve profits after the railroad’s shareholders voted Thursday to elect three of the board members nominated by an activist investor, but the CEO won’t be fired right away.

Ancora Holdings had nominated seven directors as part of a bid to take control of the railroad’s 13-member board and overhaul its operations.

The key support that Ancora picked up from major investors, two major rail unions and proxy advisory firms wasn’t enough to persuade shareholders to elect Ancora’s entire slate.

Ancora’s Jim Chadwick blamed passive investors for failing to support the nominees.

Chadwick promised to hold CEO Alan Shaw accountable and keep fighting to improve the railroad.

“For the passive investors: If anything should go wrong here and there’s another derailment and people die, this is on you,” Chadwick said. “You ignored the recommendation of the proxy advisers, the unions, the largest customer of the company. You gave us literally no support, and we still won three board seats without you.”

The board members who were voted out included Chair Amy Miles.

Shaw had argued that Ancora’s plan would cut the railroad too deep and jeopardize the improvements in safety and service Norfolk Southern has seen since its disastrous February 2023 derailment in East Palestine, Ohio.

Shaw’s plan calls for keeping more workers on hand during a downturn to make sure the railroad is prepared to handle the eventual rebound in shipments once the economy recovers and continuing to invest in safety improvements to prevent derailments.

He received the backing of the rest of rail labor, several key regulators and a number of the railroad’s customers.

Ancora had argued that Norfolk South-

ern should implement the industry standard Precision Scheduled Railroading operating model that is designed to minimize the number of workers, locomotives and railcars a railroad needs.

That operating model relies on running fewer, longer trains on a tighter schedule and switching cars between trains less often to streamline operations.

Rail unions have said they believe Precision Scheduled Railroading has made the industry more dangerous and derailments more likely because inspections are so rushed and preventive maintenance may be neglected.

The Brotherhood of Locomotive Engineers and Trainmen union that backed Ancora encouraged Shaw to keep improving safety and consider adopting some of the proposals the investors made to expand the railroad’s pilot program to let workers use an anonymous federal safety hotline to report concerns and abandon all talk of trying to reduce the current two-person train crews down to one.

For now, Shaw and the chief operating officer he hired in March, John Orr, will have more time to implement their strategy.



President Joe Biden speaks April 17 at the United Steelworkers Union headquarters in Pittsburgh. AL DRAGO/THE NEW YORK TIMES

‘The prices are unfairly low’

With eye to past experience, Europe now, Biden sees new threat in China export surge

By Jim Tankersley
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — President Joe Biden is warning that a new surge of cheap Chinese products poses a threat to American factories. There is little sign of one in official trade data, which show that Chinese steel imports are down sharply from last year and that the gap between what the United States sells to China and what it buys is at a post-pandemic low.

But the president’s aides are looking past those numbers and fixating on what they call troubling signs from China and Europe. That includes data showing China’s growing appetite to churn out big-ticket goods like cars and heavy metals at a rate that far exceeds domestic demand.

China’s lavish subsidies, including loans from state-run banks, have helped sustain companies that might otherwise have folded in a struggling domestic economy. The result is, in many cases, a significant cost advantage for Chinese manufactured

goods such as steel and electric cars.

In Europe, the problem is much broader. Chinese exports are washing over the continent, to the chagrin of political leaders and business executives.

In an effort to avoid a similar fate, Biden has promised new measures to shield steel mills, automakers and other American companies against what he calls trade “cheating” by Beijing.

European officials are struggling to counter the import surge, an issue they focused on this week when President Xi Jinping of China visited the continent. In a meeting Monday with Xi and President Emmanuel Macron of France, Ursula von der Leyen, the European Commission president, urged Xi to address the wave of subsidized exports flowing from his nation’s factories into Western countries.

“These subsidized products — such as the electric vehicles or, for example, steel — are flooding the European market,” von der Leyen said. “The world cannot absorb China’s surplus production.”

Europe has begun imposing tariffs on electric cars from China over what officials there call evidence of illegal state subsidies.

The United States has ample experience with cheap Chinese products overwhelm-

ing its markets, including a wave of solar panels that undercut the Obama administration’s efforts to nurture a domestic solar industry. Cheap solar panels are again flowing into the U.S., causing some manufacturers to delay planned investments there.

Other goods, like electric vehicles, have been slower to arrive, in part because of tariffs and other barriers the U.S. government has in place.

Biden has proposed higher tariffs on Chinese steel and aluminum and started investigations of its automotive technologies.

“Because Chinese steel companies produce a lot more steel than China needs, it ends up dumping the extra steel into the global markets at unfairly low prices,” Biden told steelworkers in Pittsburgh last month. “And the prices are unfairly low because Chinese steel companies don’t need to worry about making a profit, because the Chinese government is subsidizing them so heavily.”

Chinese officials reject those charges. The administration’s claims are “not a market-driven conclusion but a crafted narrative to manipulate perception and politicize trade,” Lin Jian, a spokesperson for the Foreign Ministry, told reporters last week.

TikTok to add clarity by labeling AI content

By Michelle Chapman
Associated Press

TikTok will begin labeling content created using artificial intelligence when it’s been uploaded from outside its own platform in an attempt to combat misinformation.

“AI enables incredible creative opportunities, but can confuse or mislead viewers if they don’t know content was AI-generated,” the company said in a statement Thursday.

TikTok’s shift in policy is part of a broader attempt in the technology industry to provide more safeguards for AI usage.

In February, Meta announced that it was working with industry partners on technical standards that will make it easier to identify images and eventually video and audio generated by artificial intelligence tools.

Users on Facebook and Instagram users would see labels on AI-generated images.

Google said last year that AI labels are coming to YouTube and its other platforms.

A push for digital watermarking and labeling of AI-generated content was also part of an executive order that President Joe Biden signed in October.

TikTok is working with the Coalition for Content Provenance and Authenticity and will use its Content Credentials technology.

The company said that the technology can attach metadata to content, which it can use to instantly recognize and label AI-generated content.

TikTok said it began using the technology Thursday on images and videos and will be coming to audio-only content soon.

In coming months, Content Credentials will be attached to submissions made on TikTok, which will remain on the content when downloaded. This will help identify AI-generated material and help people learn when, where and how the content was made or edited.

BUSINESS BRIEFING

Argentine strike targets Milei rule

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — Argentina’s biggest trade unions mounted one of their fiercest challenges to the libertarian government of President Javier Milei on Thursday, staging a mass general strike that halted key bus, rail and subway lines.

Most teachers couldn’t make it to school. Trash collectors walked off the job — as did health workers, except for those in emergency rooms. Banks, businesses and state agencies also closed in protest.

Thursday’s action marked the second nationwide union strike since Milei came to power in December, slashing spending and laying off government workers in a bid to rescue Argentina from its worst financial crisis in two decades. He has also devalued the local currency, stabilizing the peso but causing prices to soar. — Associated Press

AstraZeneca pulls vaccine in Europe

LONDON — The pharma giant AstraZeneca has requested that the European authorization for its COVID-19 vaccine be pulled, according to the EU medicines regulator.

In an update on the European Medicines Agency’s website Wednesday, the regulator said the approval for AstraZeneca’s Vaxzevria had been withdrawn at the manufacturer’s request.

AstraZeneca’s COVID-19 vaccine was first given the nod by the EMA in January 2021. Within weeks, however, concerns grew about the vaccine’s safety, when dozens of countries suspended the vaccine’s use after unusual but rare blood clots were detected in a small number of immunized people. The EU regulator concluded AstraZeneca’s shot didn’t raise the overall risk of clots, but doubts remained. — Associated Press

NHTSA seeks answers on Ford’s fuel leak fix

By Tom Krisher
Associated Press

DETROIT — Federal investigators say they have “significant safety concerns” about a Ford SUV recall repair that doesn’t fix gasoline leaks that can cause engine fires.

The U.S. National Highway Traffic Safety Administration is demanding volumes of information from the automaker as it investigates the fix in a March 8 recall of nearly 43,000 Bronco Sport SUVs from the 2022 and 2023 model years, and Escape SUVs from 2022. All have 1.5-liter engines.

Ford says the SUVs have fuel injectors that will crack, allowing gas or vapor to leak near hot engine parts that can cause fires,

fuel odors and an increased risk of injuries.

In an April 25 letter to Ford released Thursday, the agency’s Office of Defects Investigation wrote that based on its review of the recall repairs, it “believes that the remedy program does not address the root cause of the issue and does not proactively call for the replacement of defective fuel injectors prior to their failure.”

Ford’s remedy for the leaks is to add a drain tube to send the gas away from hot surfaces and install a software update to detect a pressure drop in the fuel injection system. If that happens, the software will disable the high pressure fuel pump, reduce engine power and cut temperatures in the engine compartment. Owners also will get a “seek service” message.

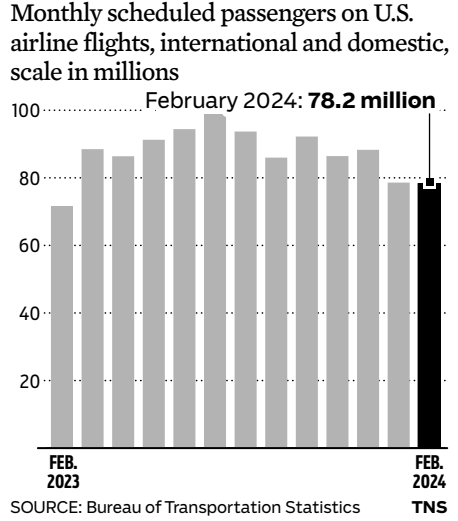
But in the 11-page letter to the automaker, the agency asks Ford to detail any testing it did to verify the remedy resolved the problem and whether hardware repairs are needed.

Safety advocates have said Ford is trying to avoid the cost of replacing the fuel injectors and instead go with a cheaper fix that drains gasoline to the ground.

Ford said Thursday that it is working with the NHTSA during its investigation.

The NHTSA also is asking Ford to detail how the software will detect a fuel pressure drop, how much time elapses between cracking and detection, and what messages will be sent to the driver. It also asks what effect disabling the high-pressure fuel pump has on other fuel system parts.

Airline traffic



Prada focuses on artisans amid generational shift

By Colleen Barry
Associated Press

TORGIANO, Italy — The Prada Group is expanding its production footprint in Italy, including dozens of new jobs at its knitwear factory in Umbria, leaning into “Made in Italy” as integral to the brand’s ethos and developing new artisanal talent to ease the luxury group through a generational shift in its workforce.

Prada CEO Andrea Guerra, who was brought in last year as part of the generational change in family-run Prada’s management, said at an unveiling of the expanded plant Tuesday that the company is investing \$65 million in production this year.

At Torgiano, Prada has added 30 jobs this year, alongside 65 last year, bringing the workforce to some 220 employees, mostly women, to create knitwear for the Prada and Miu Miu brands, a key category for the group. The site had just 39 employees when Prada bought it in 2001.

“For many years, Torgiano was a small, important place, linked to the Umbrian knitwear tradition,” mostly dedicated to product research and development, Guerra said. “In the last six or seven years, with the extraordinary growth in knitwear, we decided to create an all-around industrial hub, adding production to a reinforced R&D center.”

The innocuous low-slung plant, identified by a simple, small Prada nameplate near the gate, is at the heart of a network that includes dozens of smaller compa-



Italian artisans create knitwear Tuesday for the Prada and Miu Miu fashion brands at a recently expanded factory in Italy’s Perugia province. COLLEEN BARRY/AP

nies that together create some 30,000 pieces of knitwear a month for the global luxury group. They include red crocheted Miu Miu culottes to soft gray Prada cardigans that have become a trademark.

Guerra described the Milan-based fashion group’s manufacturing footprint in central Italy as a “network of intelligent relationships and craftsmanship merged with a constant capacity to bring innovation to the market.”

Prada’s investments to exert more control over its supply chain stand out against the backdrop of a recent investigation that revealed sweatshop conditions in Chinese-owned factories producing luxury goods for other Italian

brands in the Lombardy region, where the fashion capital Milan is located. The production arm of Giorgio Armani has been put under receivership as part of an ongoing supply chain probe.

Prada has focused on what it calls vertical integration of its supply chain — working with smaller companies, some with just a handful of craftspeople, that provide specific, sometimes unique, skills. For its knitwear operation, Prada works with some 60 companies that it refers to as “partners” or “collaborators.”

“Contractors, subcontractors, that is not something tied to this world. There are production phases that are assigned to our collaborators, our partners,” Guerra

said, adding: “The way I work inside and the way I work outside needs to be the same.”

Lorenzo Bertelli, marketing director and head of corporate social responsibility who is slated to take over the company from his parents, Patrizio Bertelli and Miuccia Prada, said a strong governance is the key to avoiding “such incidents.” He credited his father with starting Prada on the road to integrating its supply chain in the 1990s.

Audits of suppliers, which have so far been voluntary, become mandatory in 2025 under the Corporate Sustainability Reporting legislation, aimed at controlling abuses, said Stefania Saviolo, a fashion

and luxury expert at Milan’s Bocconi University. Publicly quoted companies like Prada, which are used for transparency and reporting, will likely have an easier time than others, she said.

Integrating the supply chain doesn’t just mean that a major player buys up smaller companies, she said, but they may invest in specific machinery, or help them secure bank financing.

Noting that the luxury and fashion industries have long relied on third-party manufacturing, Bernstein analyst Luca Solca said the kind of investments by Prada to integrate manufacturing products in-house “is a sort of catch-up with best-in-class players in the industry.”

Bakery

from Page 1

and took the plunge and the rest is history.”

According to Bollweg’s own knowledge and those of her customers, the building her bakery is in has also been home to an Argentine cafe, a dentist’s office and a yoga studio.

“People mention something to me about this place and what it used to be on a

weekly basis. I’ve had people come in and tell me they have worked here before and were patients of the dentist or went to yoga classes here,” Bollweg said. “It’s interesting. I feel like new information keeps unraveling as I’m here.”

She said the business definitely keeps her busy.

“I bake, I decorate, I stock everything, clean dishes, the whole thing,” she said. “Most of my business is custom-made cakes and things, but

I have product available in the case as retail for walk-ins. I hand-make about 1,000 items a week, including all the individual cupcakes.”

Wanda Kutschke of North Aurora said she has stopped in at the bakery a number of times “for particular occasions” and enjoys the “specialty cupcakes.”

“They are special and are stuff I buy when I’m having company and need something special for dessert,” Kutschke said recently

while visiting Batavia. “If I’m doing something with friends — whether it’s pickleball or playing pinocle or whatever — if we’re getting together at my house, I go out and come down here. I like the flavors and the cake. The cake is always good and it’s the right choice for me. My husband loves chocolate and I love vanilla and they’re both there.”

Bollweg said she understands the significance of the spot her business currently

occupies and is happy to be part of the bakery legacy that has been established there.

“I realize there is a legacy here and being here does mean more to me,” she said. “The location is excellent and the building itself has a lot of character and to me historical buildings are beautiful. It’s natural limestone outside and it’s wonderful.”

David Sharos is a freelance reporter for The Beacon-News.

Trucks

from Page 1

Having a taco truck parked outside would be direct competition, he said.

While he acknowledged that food trucks can bring people into a village or town, he couldn’t support the amendment as it was currently written, Hegarty said.

Village President Jeff Lynam said he’s not for or against the ordinance, but “we’re talking about it as if it’s a really cool thing that needs to be done. I’m not convinced of that.”

Trustee Scott Kunze suggested researching other communities’ food truck ordinances.

“I don’t think we want to see (our local restaurant) sales cannibalized,” he said, especially since the board is still discussing plans to build a downtown parking deck, which is supported by the local business owners.

“I have yet to find one resident who wants to build a parking deck in downtown,” Kunze said. “But we are still trying to make it happen because you guys want more parking. It’s kind of a give-and-take thing.”

East Dundee invited food trucks into the village as part of a one-year pilot in 2019 but never revised the rules after that trial period ended. The village could consider another one-year program to see how it works, Kunze said.

“We get people who want them and of course we get people who don’t want them,” Trustee Tricia Saviano said. “I’d like to hear the middle ground. I’d like to hear ideas that would make it win-win,” she said.

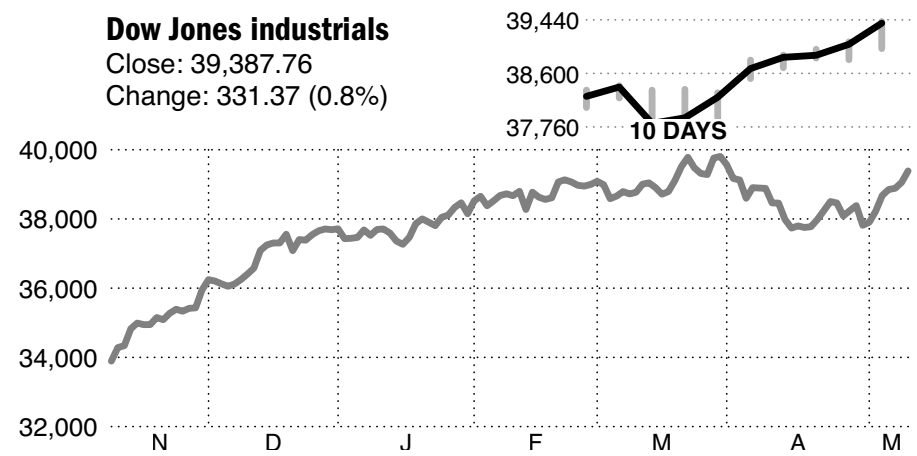
One possibility suggested would be to limit the number of times food trucks can come into the village. Another would be allowing the trucks to operate elsewhere, not downtown, or holding an annual food truck festival.

A vote on the ordinance was postponed to June 3 so alternatives could be considered.

Gloria Casas is a freelance reporter for The Courier-News.

MARKET ROUNDUP

Dow	High: 39,413.66	Low: 38,988.85	Previous: 39,056.39
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Major market growth and decline

5-day % change	30-day % change	1-year % change
DOW +3.04 NASD +3.19 S&P +2.96	DOW +2.41 NASD -.58 S&P +.29	DOW +18.25 NASD +32.59 S&P +26.23

FUTURES							
COMMODITY	AMOUNT-PRICE	MO.	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	SETTLE	CHG.
WHEAT (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	May 24	624.25	624.25	619.75	619.75	+3.75
		Jul 24	633	647.50	631.50	637.50	+3.50
CORN (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	May 24	447.25	447.50	441	442.75	-2.75
		Jul 24	458.50	462	454.25	456.50	-2
SOYBEANS (CBOT)	5,000 bu minimum- cents per bushel	May 24	1216.50	1218	1192.50	1192.75	-20
		Jul 24	1227.75	1236.75	1206.25	1208.50	-19.25
SOYBEAN OIL (CBOT)	60,000 lbs- cents per lb	May 24	42.67	42.67	42.01	42.01	-1.14
		Jul 24	43.79	43.88	42.53	42.64	-1.15
SOYBEAN MEAL (CBOT)	100 tons- dollars per ton	May 24	376.00	376.00	367.60	368.00	-6.80
		Jul 24	378.50	382.00	372.50	372.90	-5.60
LIGHT SWEET CRUDE (NYMX)	1,000 bbl.- dollars per bbl.	Jun 24	79.23	79.80	78.91	79.26	+27
		Jul 24	78.79	79.32	78.46	78.80	+24
NATURAL GAS (NYMX)	10,000 mm btu's, \$ per mm btu	Jun 24	2.186	2.316	2.153	2.301	+114
		Jul 24	2.470	2.561	2.438	2.537	+063
NY HARBOR GAS BLEND (NYMX)	42,000 gallons- dollars per gallon	Jun 24	2.5426	2.5655	2.5300	2.5418	+0100
		Jul 24	2.5220	2.5406	2.5108	2.5218	+0123

Source: The Associated Press

LOCAL STOCKS

Stocks listed may change due to daily fluctuations in market capitalization.

Exchange key: N=NYSE, O=NASDAQ

STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.	STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.	STOCK	XCHG.	CLOSE	CHG.
Abbott Labs	N	104.67	-.27	Exelon Corp	O	38.33	+51	Middleby Corp	O	136.28	-2.30
Abbvie Inc	N	160.40	-.05	Federal Signal	N	87.22	+1.84	Mondelez Intl	O	70.20	-.23
Allstate Corp	N	171.46	+1.18	First Indl RT	N	48.12	+74	Morningstar Inc	O	299.16	+3.22
Apargroup Inc	N	149.08	-1.71	Fortune Brands Innov	N	75.10	+1.83	Motorola Solutions	N	360.11	+1.09
Arch Dan Mid	N	62.44	+41	GATX	N	132.16	+68	NiSource Inc	N	28.90	+1.18
Baxter Intl	N	35.95	+20	Gallagher AJ	N	247.56	+2.55	Nthn Trust Cp	O	86.78	+1.16
Brunswick Corp	N	83.81	+2.13	Grainger WW	N	956.21	+7.29	Old Republic	N	31.19	+05
CBOE Global Markets	N	182.92	-2.58	Hub Group Inc	O	43.87	+51	Packaging Corp Am	N	180.38	+1.84
CCC Intellig Solut	O	10.67	-.23	Hyatt Hotels Corp	N	152.27	+4.45	Paylocity Hldg	O	163.79	-4.49
CDW Corp	O	222.97	+2.65	IDEX Corp	N	222.74	+67	RLI Corp	N	146.96	-.11
CF Industries	N	74.29	+1.04	ITW	N	249.73	+2.33	Ryan Specialty Group	N	53.33	+1.12
CME Group	O	213.61	+1.77	Ingredion Inc	N	119.97	+1.52	Stericycle Inc	O	46.91	-.16
CNA Financial	N	44.81	+03	John Bean Technol	N	93.58	+1.80	TransUnion	N	78.11	+31
ConAgra Brands Inc	N	30.78	-.05	Jones Lang LaSalle	N	193.89	+2.80	US Foods Holding	N	54.80	+2.42
Deere Co	N	409.00	+3.58	Kemper Corp	N	61.16	+76	Ulta Salon Cosmetics	O	396.67	+8.19
Discover Fin Svcs	N	124.04	+47	Kraft Heinz Co	O	35.71	-.18	United Airlines Hldg	O	52.63	-.39
Dover Corp	N	184.95	+1.20	LKQ Corporation	O	44.32	+37	Ventas Inc	N	47.55	+11
Envestnet Inc	N	66.23	+2.47	Littelfuse Inc	O	255.81	-.18	Wingreen Boots Alli	O	17.25	+02
Equity Lifestyle Prop	N	63.04	+31	MYR Group	O	156.65	+1.00	Wintrust Financial	O	100.73	-.01
Equity Residential	N	67.04	+34	McDonalds Corp	N	267.95	-.54	Zebra Tech	O	316.50	-3.45

MOST ACTIVE STOCKS

NEW YORK STOCK EXCHANGE

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
Roblox Corp	30.42	-8.61
Ginkgo Bioworks Hldg	.92	+0.03
Banco Bradesco ADS	2.60	-.11
Palantir Technol	21.14	-.42
Pfizer Inc	28.18	+33
Snpr Inc A	16.55	-.19
AMC Entertainment A	3.05	-.14
Ford Motor	12.13	-.02
Uber Technologies	67.93	+1.53
Bank of America	38.28	+57
GameStop Corp	18.01	+2.09
Carnival Corp	14.56	+2.6
Nu Holdings Ltd	11.79	-.21
AT&T Inc	17.18	+07
Vale SA	12.58	+03
Medical Prop Trust	4.69	+23
Kosmos Energy Ltd	6.17	+16
Energy Transfer L.P.	16.23	-.02
Alight Inc	7.69	-.09
Shopify Inc	62.45	-.28
Itau Unibanco Hldg	6.29	-.25
Barrick Gold	17.03	+31
Kinross Gold	7.53	+43
Hecla Mng	5.47	+56

NASDAQ STOCK MARKET

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
Safe and Green Devel	.85	-.23
Faraday Fut Intllgt	.04	+0.03
Nikola Corp	.58	-.00
Pop Culture Grp Cp	3.12	+1.42
Jaguar Health Inc	.31	+04
Tesla Inc	171.97	-2.75
Plug Power Inc	2.77	+25
FuelCell Energy	.74	-.02
Pineapple Holdings	.07	+00
Warner Bros Disc A	8.04	+24
Robinhood Markets	A17.30	-.55
Apple Inc	184.57	+1.83
Intel Corp	30.09	-.09
Marathon Digital Hld	19.65	+44
Amazon.com Inc	189.50	+1.50
CytomX Therapeutics	2.47	-2.15
Nvidia Corporation	887.47	-16.65
GI Therapeutics Inc	4.98	+69
Adv Micro Dev	152.39	-1.23
Rivian Automotive A	10.22	-.05
Arm Holdings plc ADS	103.59	-2.48
CleanSpark Inc	16.59	+22
Comcast Corp A	38.54	-.51
American Airlines Gp	14.48	+06

FOREIGN MARKETS

INDEX	CLOSE	CHG./%
Shanghai	3154.32	+25.8/+8
Stoxx600	516.77	+1.0/+2
Nikkei	38073.98	-128.4/-3
MSCI-EAFE	2333.42	+8.3/+4
Bovespa	128188.35	-1292.6/-1.0
FTSE 100	8381.35	+27.3/+3
CAC-40	8187.65	+56.2/+7

LARGEST COMPANIES

Based on market capitalization

STOCK	CLOSE	CHG.
Alphabet Inc C	171.58	+42
Alphabet Inc A	169.96	+58
Amazon.com Inc	189.50	+1.50
Apple Inc	184.57	+1.83
Berkshire Hath B	408.82	+2.45
MasterCard Inc	1305.67	-19.70
Eli Lilly	771.55	-3.49
Exxon Mobil Corp	118.44	+2.25
JPMorgan Chase	197.50	+1.85
Meta Platforms Inc	475.42	+2.82
Microsoft Corp	412.32	+1.78
Novo Nordisk AS	128.66	+1.97
Nvidia Corporation	142.79	-16.65
Taiwan Semicon	142.79	-.81
Tesla Inc	171.97	-2.75
Unitedhealth Group	507.03	+3.82
Visa Inc	278.54	+1.35
WalMart Strs	60.44	+35

TREASURY YIELDS

DURATION	CLOSE	PREV.
3-month Disc	5.25	5.25
6-month disc	5.15	5.16
2-year	4.82	4.84
10-year	4.46	4.49
30-year	4.61	4.64

SPOT METALS

	CLOSE	PREV.
Gold	\$2332.10	\$2313.60
Silver	\$28.132	\$27.361
Platinum	\$990.80	\$984.60

INTEREST RATES

Prime Rate	8.50
Discount Rate Primary	6.00
Fed Funds Target	5.25-5.50
Money Mkt Overnight Avg.	0.47

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

A U.S. Dollar buys ...

Argentina (Peso)	882.6125
Australia (Dollar)	1.5108
Brazil (Real)	5.1440
Britain (Pound)	.7985
Canada (Dollar)	1.3677
China (Yuan)	7.2203
Euro	.9275
India (Rupee)	83.452
Israel (Shekel)	3.7291
Japan (Yen)	155.46
Mexico (Peso)	16.8651
Poland (Zloty)	3.98
So. Korea (Won)	1367.05
Taiwan (Dollar)	32.39
Thailand (Baht)	36.75

LARGEST MUTUAL FUNDS

Based on total assets

FUND	NAV	CHG	1-YR %RTN
American Funds AMCPA m	41.52	+16	+28.9
American Funds AMRCNBALa m	33.62	+14	+16.5
American Funds AMRCNMutA m	53.97	+37	+14.6
American Funds CptWldGrncA m	m64.80	+15	+21.9
American Funds CptlncBldrA m	m68.06	+34	+9.8
American Funds FdmtilnvsA m	m79.29	+37	+31.1
American Funds GrfAmrcA m	m70.57	+25	+37.4

NATION & WORLD

Daniels wraps up heated testimony

Judge denies 2nd bid for Trump mistrial, amending gag order

By Michael R. Sisak, Jake Offenhartz, Jennifer Peltz and Colleen Long Associated Press

NEW YORK — Former President Donald Trump’s defense attorney on Thursday accused Stormy Daniels of slowly altering the details of an alleged 2006 sexual encounter with Trump and tried to persuade jurors that the prosecution witness in Trump’s hush money trial cannot be believed.

“The details of your story keep changing, right?” attorney Susan Necheles asked at one point.

“No,” Daniels said.

As the jury watched, the women traded barbs over what Necheles said were inconsistencies in Daniels’ description of the encounter with Trump in a hotel room. He denies the story.

“You made all this up, right?” Necheles asked.

“No,” Daniels shot back.

But despite all the talk over what may have happened in that hotel room, despite the discomfiting testimony by the adult film actor that she consented to sex in part because of a “power imbalance,” the case against Trump doesn’t rise or fall on whether her account is true or even believable.

It’s a trial about money changing hands — business transactions — and whether those payments were made to illegally influence the 2016 election.

Trump is charged with 34 counts of falsifying internal Trump Organization business records. The charges stem from paperwork such



Stormy Daniels leaves court after testifying in the hush money trial Thursday in New York City. CHARLY TRIBALLEAU/GETTY-AFF

as invoices and checks that were deemed legal expenses in company records. Prosecutors say those payments largely were reimbursements to Trump attorney Michael Cohen, who paid Daniels \$130,000 to keep quiet.

The testimony over the past three weeks has seesawed between bookkeepers and bankers relaying the nuts and bolts of check-paying procedures and wire transfers to unflattering, seamy stories about Trump and the tabloid world machinations meant to keep them secret.

Meanwhile, as the threat of jail looms over Trump following his repeated gag order violations, his attorneys are fighting Judge Juan M. Merchan’s order and seeking a fast decision

in an appeals court. If the court refuses to lift the gag order, Trump’s lawyers want permission to take their appeal to the state’s high court.

At the same time, they also asked Merchan to modify the order so Trump could publicly respond to Daniels’ testimony.

Merchan denied the request, as well as a second request for a mistrial.

Trump fumed outside the courtroom at the end of the day.

“I’m innocent,” he said.

At the time of the payment to Daniels, Trump and his campaign were reeling from the October 2016 publication of the 2005 “Access Hollywood” recording in which he boasted about grabbing women’s genitals without their permission.

Prosecutors have argued that the political firestorm over the “Access Hollywood” tape hastened Cohen’s payment to keep Daniels from going public with her claims that could further hurt Trump in the eyes of voters.

The tape rattled RNC leadership, and “there were conversations about how it would be possible to replace him as the candidate if it came to that,” according to testimony from Madeleine Westerhout, a Trump aide who was working at the Republican National Committee when the recording leaked.

Daniels was on the stand for 7 ½ hours over two days. During questioning from prosecutors, she relayed in graphic detail what she said happened during their

encounter, after the two met at a celebrity golf outing at Lake Tahoe where sponsors included the adult film studio where she worked.

On Thursday, Necheles grilled Daniels on her description of the encounter in which she described fear and discomfort even as she consented to sex.

She testified earlier this week that while she wasn’t physically menaced, she felt a “power imbalance” as Trump, in his hotel bedroom, stood between her and the door and propositioned her.

As for whether she felt compelled to have sex with him, she reiterated Thursday that he didn’t drug her or physically threaten her.

But, she said, “My own insecurities, in that moment, kept me from saying no.”

Necheles suggested that her work in porn meant her story about being shocked and frightened by Trump’s alleged sexual advances was not believable.

The experience with Trump was different from porn for a number of reasons, Daniels explained, including that Trump was more than twice her age, larger than her and that she was not expecting to find him undressed when she emerged from the bathroom.

Necheles pressed her on why she accepted the payout to keep quiet instead of going public.

“Why didn’t you do that?” she asked, wondering why Daniels didn’t hold a news conference as she had planned.

“Because we were running out of time,” Daniels said.

Did she mean, Necheles asked, that she was running out of time to use the claim to make money?

“To get the story out,” Daniels countered.

The negotiations were happening in the final weeks of the 2016 presidential campaign.

While she was in talks with Cohen, Daniels was also talking with other journalists as a “backup” plan, she testified.

Necheles accused her of refusing to share the story with reporters because she wouldn’t be paid for it.

“The better alternative was to get my story protected with a paper trail so that my family didn’t get hurt,” Daniels replied.

But she testified that she never spoke with Trump about payment, and said she had no knowledge of whether Trump was aware of or involved in the transaction.

RFK Jr. says doctor found dead parasite in his brain

2010 diagnosis gets revisited as he runs for president now

By Susanne Craig The New York Times

In 2010, Robert F. Kennedy Jr. was experiencing memory loss and mental foggy so severe that a friend grew concerned that he might have a brain tumor. Kennedy said he consulted several of the country’s top neurologists, many of whom had either treated or spoken to his uncle, Sen. Edward Kennedy, before his death the previous year of brain cancer.

Several doctors noticed a dark spot on the younger Kennedy’s brain scans and concluded that he had a tumor, he said in a 2012 deposition reviewed by The New York Times. Kennedy was immediately scheduled for a procedure at Duke University Medical Center by the same surgeon who had operated on his uncle, he said.

While packing for the trip, he said, he received a call from a doctor at New York-Presbyterian Hospital who had a different opinion: Kennedy, he believed, had a

dead parasite in his head.

The doctor believed that the abnormality seen on his scans “was caused by a worm that got into my brain and ate a portion of it and then died,” Kennedy said in the deposition.

Now an independent presidential candidate, the 70-year-old Kennedy has portrayed his athleticism and relative youth as an advantage over the two oldest people to ever seek the White House: President Joe Biden, 81, and former President Donald Trump, 77. Kennedy has secured a place on the ballots in Utah, Michigan, Hawaii and, his campaign says, California and Delaware. His intensive efforts to gain access in more states could put him in a position to tip the election.

He has gone to lengths to appear hale, skiing with a professional snowboarder and with an Olympic gold medalist who called him a “ripper” as they raced down the mountain. A camera crew was at his side while he lifted weights, shirtless, at an outdoor gym in Venice Beach in Los Angeles.

Still, over the years, he has faced serious health issues, some previously undisclosed, including the

apparent parasite.

For decades, Kennedy suffered from atrial fibrillation, a common heartbeat abnormality that increases the risk of stroke or heart failure. He has been hospitalized at least four times for episodes, although in an interview with the Times this winter, he said he had not had an incident in more than a decade and believed the condition had disappeared.

About the same time he learned of the parasite, he said, he was also diagnosed with mercury poisoning, most likely from ingesting too much fish containing the dangerous heavy metal, which can cause serious neurological issues.

“I have cognitive problems, clearly,” he said in the 2012 deposition. “I have short-term memory loss, and I have longer-term memory loss that affects me.”

In the interview with the Times, he said he had recovered from the memory loss and foggy and had no aftereffects from the parasite, which he said had not required treatment. Asked last week whether any of Kennedy’s health issues could compromise his



Robert F. Kennedy Jr., seen last year in Irving, Texas, has had to discuss his health issues as he runs an independent campaign for president. JUAN FIGUEROA/DALLAS MORNING NEWS

fitness for the presidency, Stefanie Spear, a spokesperson for the Kennedy campaign, told the Times: “That is a hilarious suggestion, given the competition.”

The campaign declined to provide his medical records to the Times. Neither Biden nor Trump has released medical records in this election cycle. However, the White House put out a six-page health summary for Biden in February. Trump released a three-paragraph statement from his doctor in November.

On Wednesday afternoon, hours after this article was published on The Times’ website, Kennedy posted

a comment on his profile on the social platform X: “I offer to eat 5 more brain worms and still beat President Trump and President Biden in a debate. I feel confident in the result even with a six-worm handicap.”

Some of Kennedy’s health issues were revealed in the 2012 deposition, which he gave during divorce proceedings from his second wife, Mary Richardson Kennedy. At the time, he was arguing that his earning power had been diminished by his cognitive struggles.

Doctors ultimately concluded that the cyst they saw on scans contained the remains of a parasite.

Kennedy said he did not know the type of parasite or where he might have contracted it, although he suspected it might have been during a trip through South Asia.

Several infectious-disease experts and neurosurgeons told the Times that, based on what Kennedy described, they believed it was likely a pork tapeworm larva. The doctors have not treated Kennedy and were speaking generally.

Some tapeworm larvae can live in a human brain for years with no problems. Others can wreak havoc, often when they start to die, which causes inflammation.

Trump’s son Barron, relatives to be Florida delegates at GOP convention

By Michael Gold The New York Times

After years in which his privacy has been fiercely guarded and he has been kept out of the political arena, former President Donald Trump’s youngest son, Barron, was chosen to be one of Florida’s delegates to the Republican National Convention in Milwaukee.

Barron, who turned 18 in March and will graduate high school this month, will be one of 41 at-large



Barron Trump last year. GIORGIO VIERA/GETTY-AFF

delegates at the party’s national meeting in July, when the GOP is expected to officially nominate his

father as its presidential candidate. His selection was reported earlier by NBC News. The youngest Trump will be joined in the delegation by his two more politically active brothers, Eric and Donald Jr. Both have appeared on the campaign trail or done interviews to support their father’s candidacy.

Trump’s youngest daughter, Tiffany, will also be a Florida delegate. Ivanka Trump, his eldest child, is not on the list.

Although politicians’ children often hit the trail to stump alongside their parents, Barron Trump has largely been absent from his father’s campaign this year. It remains to be seen whether he will give a speech at the Republican convention, as his siblings did in 2016 and 2020.

For the past several years, Barron has been attending a private high school in Florida. His graduation, on May 17, became a point of contention in Trump’s hush money

trial because it overlaps with the court schedule.

The judge in the case initially delayed a decision on whether court would be in session that day, prompting complaints from Trump, but he eventually agreed to allow the day off from court.

The Florida party’s list of delegates further demonstrates the extent to which the Trump family and Trump’s supporters have moved to the center of Republican politics. His daughter-in-law, Lara, who

is married to Eric Trump, was made co-chair of the Republican National Committee this year.

Also on the Florida delegation list are Kimberly Guilfoyle, the fiancée of Donald Trump Jr., and Michael Boulos, Tiffany Trump’s husband. Other longtime Trump allies chosen include Isaac Perlmutter, the former Marvel Entertainment chief executive who is a major donor, and the real estate investor Steve Witkoff, a longtime friend of Trump.

Confusion delayed Guard on Jan. 6

Pentagon approved, but order stalled by miscommunication

By Luke Broadwater
The New York Times

WASHINGTON — As a pro-Trump mob stormed the Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021, the commanders and members of the District of Columbia National Guard waited in frustration for hours for the order to help put down the riot unfolding just minutes from where they were stationed.

With marauders assaulting the police and a fatal shooting at the Capitol, Gen. William Walker, then the commander of the D.C. National Guard, turned to colleagues and openly contemplated defying his chain of command and sending his troops immediately to help the overrun Capitol Police restore order.

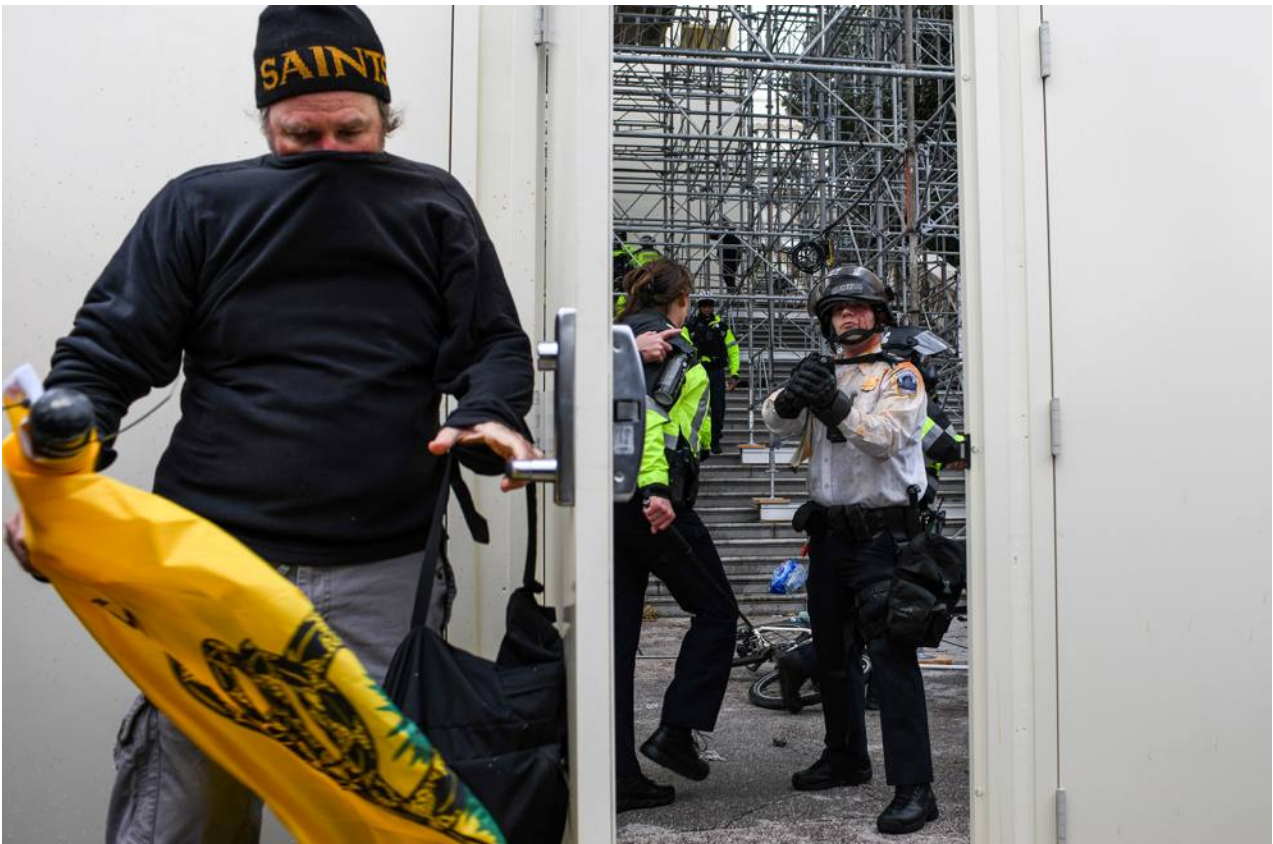
“If I could send them right now without being fired, I would send them right now,” Walker told Brig. Gen. Aaron Dean, then the Guard’s adjutant general.

What Walker did not know as he fumed was that his superiors at the Pentagon had already agreed that the Guard needed to be deployed but, because of a huge miscommunication, hadn’t conveyed the order.

It was only through a bit of chance hours later that the command made its way to Walker, when a colleague who had heard there was an order from on high to deploy walked by a teleconference screen and was surprised to see Walker still sitting and waiting at 5:09 p.m.

The colleague, Gen. James McConville, the Army chief of staff, “came back into the call and said, ‘Hey, you’re a go,’” according to Walker’s testimony.

More than three years after the deadly riot, a clearer picture is emerging of one of its enduring mysteries: What caused the hourslong delay in deploy-



Rioting went on for hours at the U.S. Capitol on Jan. 6, 2021. New testimony underscores how miscommunication between military officials helped delay the restoration of order at the Capitol. **KENNY HOLSTON/THE NEW YORK TIMES**

ing the D.C. National Guard, whose headquarters are less than 2 miles away, to the Capitol on Jan. 6?

Dean and three other former members of the Guard recently sat for interviews and then a public hearing with the House Administration Committee, which is continuing to dig into the events of Jan. 6.

The closed-door interviews, combined with those conducted by the Democratic-led House Jan. 6 Committee and other panels during the previous Congress, have produced the most complete record to date of why the Guard took more than four hours to respond that day.

The picture is far from flattering: A miscommunication between Christopher Miller, the secretary of defense at the time, and Ryan McCarthy, the secretary of the Army, resulted in each man leaving a critical exchange on the afternoon of Jan. 6 with a different un-

derstanding of how quickly the Guard would be sent — and who would give word that it was authorized.

Instead of giving that order, McCarthy then made a series of calls to lawmakers and members of the media and drew up never-implemented plans for the deployment, according to several witnesses.

On top of that, the military had adopted a particularly cautious approach to deploying the Guard, with several top commanders openly worried about the “optics” of such a mobilization in part because of concerns that President Donald Trump could misuse the Guard. Complicating matters even further, Trump, who had set in motion a plan to overturn his election defeat and was sitting at the White House watching the mayhem unfold on television, never picked up the phone to expedite a military response.

The testimony highlighted a still-simmering feud inside the military over who is to blame for the delay in deploying the National Guard. The pro-Trump mob began assaulting police officers at the Capitol just before 1 p.m. But it took until 5:40 p.m. for the National Guard to arrive on the Capitol grounds, after the Capitol Police and the Metropolitan Police Department had largely put down the riot.

House Republicans have been investigating the Jan. 6 events in an effort to find bias or errors in the work of the Democratic-run House Jan. 6 Committee, which produced a series of blockbuster hearings during the last Congress. They have produced no evidence to invalidate the committee’s work, but they have released transcripts and videos that add important details to the public’s understanding of that violent day.

The latest transcripts

from the four former National Guardsmen cast McCarthy as a major contributor to the delay in the Guard’s deployment.

Dean testified that on Jan. 6, Walker called McCarthy at least three times seeking to deploy the Guard but was either brushed aside or his calls went straight to voice-mail.

He described a frantic call that Walker received from Steven Sund, then the chief of the Capitol Police.

“There’s shots fired; I need your help right now,” Dean said Sund told the Guard commander. “And you could hear it in his voice. His voice was shaking. You could hear it in his voice. And so he would have sent them right then.”

Dean also raised a much-discussed call at 2:30 p.m. in which top military brass pushed back on calls to deploy the Guard and expressed concerns about optics. Among the men on

the call were Lt. Gen. Walter Piatt, the director of the Army staff, and Gen. Charles Flynn, then a deputy Army chief of staff and the brother of Michael Flynn, Trump’s former national security adviser.

“I’m not sure why we’re concerned about optics when it comes to, you know, saving lives and preventing damage and loss of property, but OK,” Dean said.

Under questioning from Democratic congressional staff, Dean added that Trump could have sped up the Guard deployment had he intervened.

“He could call Gen. Walker directly: ‘Hey, Gen. Walker. I need you at the Capitol right now,’” Dean said.

“And did that happen?” he was asked.

“No,” he replied.

One of the factors at play in the Guard delay can be traced to summer 2020, when the Department of Defense came under harsh criticism for its response to the unrest after the police murder of George Floyd.

As a result, just days before the Jan. 6 riot, the Pentagon had removed Walker’s authority to quickly deploy his troops without permission from McCarthy.

Another contributing factor was the loss of experienced people in their positions toward the end of the Trump administration. Trump had fired Mark T. Esper as defense secretary, and Attorney General William Barr had resigned.

Miller had been defense secretary for just 72 days at the time of the riot.

The miscommunication that appears to have driven the delay on Jan. 6 came during a 3:04 p.m. conversation at the Pentagon between Miller and McCarthy. Miller has testified that he left the conversation thinking that the Guard deployment was already in motion, but neither he nor McCarthy conveyed the order to Walker.



Valerie Bernhardt looks through the debris of her home Thursday in Columbia, Tenn., where officials said a tornado damaged or destroyed more than 100 homes. **GEORGE WALKER IV/AP**

South cleans up as latest US region hit by severe weather

By Kristin M. Hall and George Walker IV
Associated Press

COLUMBIA, Tenn. — Dangerous storms crashed over parts of the South on Thursday even as the region cleaned up from earlier severe weather that spawned tornadoes, killed at least three people and gravely injured a boy who was swept into a storm drain as he played in a flooded street.

A heavy line of storms swept into Atlanta near the end of the morning rush hour. Busy hub airports in Atlanta and Charlotte, North Carolina, reported delays. The National Weather Service’s Storm Prediction Center cited an “enhanced risk” for severe weather from Texas to South Carolina. An emergency manager reported “significant wind damage” from a possible tornado Thursday afternoon in the Vidalia, Georgia, area, a region known for producing onions.

The storms continue a streak of torrential rains and tornadoes this week from the Plains to the Midwest, and now the Southeast.

Since Monday, 39 states have been under threat of severe weather and at least four people have died. On Wednesday, 98 million people were under some sort of severe weather risk, said Evan Bentley, a Storm Prediction Center forecaster.

The weather comes on the heels of a stormy April in which the U.S. had 300 confirmed tornadoes, the second-most on record for the month and the most since 2011.

More than 100,000 homes and businesses still lacked power Thursday afternoon in several Southern states after storms the night before, according to PowerOutage.us.

One in Tennessee damaged homes, injured people, toppled power lines and trees, and killed a 22-year-old man in a car in Claiborne County, north of Knoxville, officials said. A second person was killed south of Nashville in Columbia, the seat of Maury County, where officials said a tornado with 140-mph winds damaged or destroyed more than 100 homes.

Tennessee Gov. Bill Lee, visiting officials in the

storm-stricken area Thursday, said the woman who died in Maury County was in a mobile home that was thrown several feet into a wooded area.

Torrential rains led to a flash-flood emergency and water rescues northeast of Nashville, and the weather service issued a tornado emergency, its highest alert level, for nearby areas.

A 10-year-old boy was seriously injured in Christiana, southeast of Nashville, when he got caught in a storm drain and swept under streets while playing with other children as adults cleared debris, his father, Rutherford County Schools Superintendent Jimmy Sullivan, posted on social media.

The boy emerged in a drainage ditch and survived after being given CPR, “but the damage is substantial,” Sullivan posted on Facebook, asking for prayers.

Schools were closed Thursday in Rutherford and several other Tennessee counties.

A strong tornado damaged at least 20 homes in northern Alabama’s DeKalb County and caused injuries but no deaths, officials said.

Airman’s shooting came after Fla. deputy’s ID, video shows

By Stephen Smith and Mike Schneider
Associated Press

FORT WALTON BEACH, Fla. — A Florida sheriff’s deputy announced himself as law enforcement just before fatally shooting a Black U.S. Air Force airman inside his apartment in the state’s Panhandle, according to body camera video shown to reporters Thursday.

Okaloosa County Sheriff Eric Aden presented the video hours after the family of Senior Airman Roger Fortson and their attorneys held a news conference in which they disputed that the deputy acted in self-defense. Aden rejected assertions made by civil rights attorney Ben Crump, who is representing Fortson’s family, that the deputy had gone to the wrong apartment, covered the door’s peephole and did not announce himself.

The video shows the deputy arriving May 3 at a Fort Walton Beach apartment building, banging on the door of Fortson’s apartment and stepping aside, seemingly out of view of the door. Twice he shouted: “Sheriff’s office! Open the door!”

Fortson opened the door and could be seen holding what appeared to be handgun pointed down toward the floor. The deputy shouted “Step back!” and fired off shots. He then shouted “Drop the gun! Drop the gun!”

“It’s over there,” Fortson said.

“Drop the gun!” the deputy yelled back.

“I don’t have it,” Fortson said, lying on the ground.

The deputy then called paramedics on his radio. The sheriff’s office has declined to identify the responding deputy or his race. The deputy was placed on administrative leave, pending an investigation.

Crump released a state-



Chantemekki Fortson, the mother of Senior Airman Roger Fortson, holds a photo of her son during a news conference Thursday in Fort Walton Beach, Florida. **GERALD HERBERT/AP**

ment later noting that the officer did not tell Fortson to drop his gun before shooting “multiple times within a split second of the door being opened.”

“We remain adamant that the police had the wrong apartment as Roger was on the phone with his girlfriend for a substantial amount of time leading up to the shooting, and no one else was in the apartment,” the statement said.

Crump also told reporters earlier that Fortson was talking to his girlfriend on FaceTime and that he grabbed his gun because he heard someone outside his apartment. He said the deputy burst into the apartment, citing the account of the girlfriend, who has not yet been identified.

“The girlfriend acknowledges that even though she initially thought the door was forced open by the police that she stands by her emotional recollection of what happened,” Crump’s later statement said.

In a clip from the FaceTime video captured by Fortson’s cellphone, the airman can be heard groaning and saying “I can’t breathe.” A deputy can be heard yelling back at him: “Stop moving!” The phone is pointed at the ceiling and does not show what is going on in the apartment.

Aden said he had met

with the family Thursday and extended his deepest condolences.

“This result is one we never hope to encounter,” he said. “These investigations take time, but I want to assure you that we are not hiding or attempting to cover anything up.”

Officials have said the Florida Department of Law Enforcement is investigating.

The sheriff said the probe is being handled as a criminal investigation and that no determination has yet been made on whether the deputy’s actions were justified. However, the initial news release from the sheriff’s office that described the shooting said the deputy “reacted in self-defense after he encountered a 23-year-old man armed with a gun.”

Fortson’s mother, Chantemekki Fortson, walked into the morning news conference holding a framed portrait of her son. She burst into tears as Crump spoke about her son’s death.

“My baby was shot up,” she said. Crump called the shooting “an unjustifiable killing.” “For whatever reason, they thought he was a bad guy, but he was a good guy. He was a great guy. He was an exceptional guy,” Crump said. “They took a patriot from us.”

Trump revels in pomp of VP tryouts

But top prospects still have long list of hurdles to clear

By Jill Colvin, Lisa Mascaro and Andrew DeMillo
Associated Press

NEW YORK — As former President Donald Trump remains in the courtroom listening to salacious details of an extramarital sexual encounter he denies, another spectacle is playing out in the background as his vice presidential tryouts get underway.

The dynamic was on full display in Florida over the weekend at a closed-door fundraiser at his Mar-a-Lago club that doubled as an audition featuring a list of potential running mates.

Trump, at one point, invited many of the contenders on stage like contestants in one of his old beauty pageants.

The next day several of them, including North Dakota Gov. Doug Burgum, Florida Sen. Marco Rubio, South Carolina Sen. Tim Scott and New York Rep. Elise Stefanik, fanned out across Sunday news shows to sing his praises.

“This weekend, we had 15 people. ... They’re all out there campaigning,” Trump told Spectrum News 1 Wisconsin on Tuesday. “It might actually be more effective this way because, you know, every one of them thinks they could be chosen, which I guess, possibly, is so.”

The comments demonstrate why Trump is in no rush to pick his potential second-in-command or publicly winnow his choices.

For now, the presumptive GOP nominee is happy to revel in the attention as reporters parse his choices and prospective candidates jockey and woo him in an “Apprentice”-style competition.

Trump has said he intends



Arkansas Gov. Sarah Huckabee Sanders, seen with former Kentucky swimmer Riley Gaines, has been dogged by a \$19,000 lectern scandal. **ANDREW DEMILLO/AP**

to make an announcement shortly before July’s Republican National Convention, as he did when he picked then-Indiana Gov. Mike Pence in 2016.

Trump continues to mull a list of prospects: governors, senators and members of Congress, including some who ran against him and lost, according to several people familiar with his thinking. The people spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss the fundraiser and private conversations.

As Trump mulls his decision, he is watching to see who can raise money, defend him effectively and perform at political events. He’s especially interested in how they come across on television.

Part of what seems to have made the decision harder is that many of the candidates under serious consideration

have knocks against them.

Rubio, one potential top contender, could help Trump win over Hispanic voters as well as establishment donors still leery of a second Trump term. But Rubio has a problem: He lives in Florida, the same state as Trump, which would violate the Constitution’s 12th Amendment.

Ohio Sen. JD Vance, a friend of Trump’s eldest son who has become close with the former president, is also considered a top contender. He impressed Trump allies with a CNN interview last week.

But Trump continues to note that Vance was a critic before he became a supporter — something he mentioned at a Saturday fundraising luncheon before praising Vance as a great senator.

Scott, whom Trump has repeatedly joked is a far better surrogate than a candidate, also has drawbacks. Scott pushed Trump to back a 15-week national abortion ban during the GOP primaries, and his selection would draw new attention to something Trump has tried to eliminate as a campaign issue by insisting it should be left to the states.

Those issues could help a candidate like Burgum, a billionaire who has traveled with Trump since he dropped his own presidential bid.

Others have seemed to test the limits of what it takes to be disqualified.

South Dakota Gov. Kristi Noem has faced a media storm since reports emerged that she wrote about shooting a family dog to death in

a book released this week. Noem has also been caught in errors, including falsely claiming that she once met North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un.

She has continued to appear in interviews defending her actions, drawing the storyline out for days.

Trump, in his Tuesday interview, continued to praise Noem, who at one point had been considered a top contender, though he acknowledged that “she had a rough couple of days, I will say that.”

Noem’s star, in fact, had been tarnished before the revelation of her dog killing amid questions about her judgment, including her decision to appear in an informal-style video lavishing praise on a team of cosmetic dentists in Texas.

Arkansas Gov. Sarah

Huckabee Sanders, meanwhile, has also been the subject of negative headlines. A recent audit suggested that her office may have broken the law when it purchased a \$19,000 lectern — a scandal dubbed “lecterngate” by some.

Sanders may still face more questions, with an audit of her travel and security records pending. But her unapologetic response reinforced her image as an acolyte of the Trump brand. “In the Trump era, what used to be a scandal is no longer a scandal, and what used to be seen as a liability is not really as much of a liability,” said Kevin Madden, who was a senior adviser to former Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney. “Trump has an ability to block out the sun.”



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5/10/24

ACROSS

- 1 Kate Middleton's sis
- 6 Car fuel
- 9 Pretense
- 13 Eco-friendly greeting
- 14 A long time —
- 15 Sung musical drama
- 16 Sweet palm fruits
- 17 Size between sm. and lge.
- 18 Railroad vehicle
- 19 Be a muse for
- 21 Sticks
- 23 Consumed
- 24 Compass pointer
- 25 Fancy coffeehouses: 2 wds.
- 31 After-sun gel ingredient
- 32 No ___ traffic
- 33 Male swan
- 36 Maple tree liquids
- 37 100%
- 38 Uninteresting person
- 39 ___ on the prize
- 40 Steals from
- 42 Region
- 43 Doctor who works on the head: 2 wds.

DOWN

- 1 Mani-___
- 2 Volunteer's phrase: 2 wds.
- 3 New England NFL players, for short
- 4 Makes ready
- 5 Pop-up producer: 2 wds.
- 6 Chess or checkers
- 7 Get older
- 8 Coke or Pepsi
- 9 Benders
- 10 "So I've ___"
- 11 Disney mermaid
- 12 Parson's estate
- 15 Significant ___
- 20 Take a break

Solutions

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- 25 Simplify
- 26 Do in
- 27 Vatican leader
- 28 Puppeteer Lewis
- 29 Synthetic fiber
- 30 Garlic units
- 33 Apple's center
- 34 Black-and-white cookie
- 35 Chili legume
- 38 Airline restriction: 2 wds.
- 41 Adds up
- 43 Easter hat
- 44 Equestrian
- 45 "Those ___ the rules!"
- 46 Puts down a new lawn
- 47 Angry with: 2 wds.
- 48 Author Zola
- 49 Pork and beef, e.g.
- 52 Quick race
- 53 Tailless primates
- 54 Keep for later
- 55 Those people
- 56 Give lip to
- 59 Sphere in a pod

Abortion rights may be factor among Latinas

Arizona Democrats hope to make gains over divisive issue

By Jazmine Ulloa
The New York Times

PHOENIX — Hours before Arizona state legislators voted to repeal an 1864 abortion ban last month, a group of mostly Latina Democrats huddled at a nearby Mexican restaurant for a strategy session on galvanizing Latina voters over abortion rights.

“I am 23 — why do I have less rights than my abuelita in Mexico?” Melissa Herrera, a Democratic campaign staffer, asked the cluster of women at the restaurant, referring to her grandmother.

The question crystallized what Democrats hope will be a decisive electoral factor in their favor this year, one that upends conventional political wisdom: A majority of Latino voters now support abortion rights, according to polls, a reversal from two decades ago. Polling trends, interviews with strategists and election results in Ohio and Virginia, where abortion rights played a central role, suggest Democrats’ optimism regarding Latinas — once considered too religious or too socially conservative to support abortion rights — could bear out.

Since the Supreme Court struck down Roe v. Wade in 2022, stringent curbs have been taking effect in Republican-dominated states.

In Arizona, for one, the May 2 repeal of the blanket ban from 1864 still leaves abortions governed by a 2-year-old law prohibiting the procedure after 15 weeks of pregnancy, with no exception for rape or incest.

As of April 2023, according to the Pew Research Center, 62% of Latinos believed abortion should be legal in all or most cases. Twenty years earlier, most Hispanics told Pew that they opposed abortion rights by a



A television plays coverage of President Joe Biden campaigning on abortion rights April 24 as a group of Latina Democrats gathers to discuss the election-year issue at El Portal, a Mexican restaurant in Phoenix. PAUL RATJE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

nearly 2-1 margin.

Latino majorities came out in favor of reproductive rights in 2023 elections in Ohio and Virginia, according to other surveys, and women played a major role in stalling the shift of Hispanic voters toward the Republican Party in 2022, when many voted for Democrats, citing abortion and reproductive health as the most important issue.

“Abortion is going to be an essential issue this cycle,” said Victoria McGroary, the executive director of BOLD PAC, the campaign arm of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus. “We are going to see what I think is going to be crystal-clear evidence that reproductive freedom matters to Latino voters.”

Surveys show the diversity of the Latino voting population still poses some obstacles for Democrats, with support for abortion rights varying based on factors including age, geography and party affiliation.

Latino voters in South Texas and South Florida remain more culturally conservative, and a majority of Latino evangelicals, a growing segment of the population, still says abortion should be illegal.

Within that culturally conservative world, many remain unmoved.

Leaving a shopping plaza in Phoenix, Daisy Ochoa, 31, a paralegal, said she was planning to vote for Republicans in November because their stances on the issue are in line with her Christian faith.

“I believe that if there is life, there is life,” she said. “I don’t think anybody should take life, unless there’s some threat to the mom.”

Democratic officials and activists in Arizona point to lingering uncertainty over abortion access in the state, since the repeal will not take effect until 90 days after the Legislature adjourns

for the summer. That, they say, is fueling support for a November ballot initiative that would enshrine the right to abortion in the state’s Constitution — and could lift Democrats up and down the ballot.

“It is still not over,” said Mary Rose Wilcox, a former City Council member and elected county official who owns El Portal, the restaurant that has served as a center of Latino political activity in Phoenix and hosted the April strategy session. “We need a straight law that safeguards protections.”

The women also said they needed to counter what they called misconceptions about Latino voters’ conservatism.

“I always say I’m a pro-choice Catholic,” Raquel Terán, a Democratic House candidate who convened the round-table meeting, said in an interview. “I go to Mass, but I also support a woman’s right to choose.”

Rosie Villegas-Smith, a Mexican immigrant who founded Voces Unidas por la Vida, an anti-abortion organization in Phoenix, said she believed Hispanic support for abortion rights in recent polling was overblown.

She accused Democrats of fear-mongering and misleading voters on the issue.

“They speak in euphemisms and say abortion is health care, but abortion is not health care,” she said. “Once Latinos learn what abortion truly is, they are against it.”

Republicans at the national level argue that abortion is not going to matter more to Latinos than crime, border security or the economy.

“You have seen Republicans making up ground with Latino voters because of a message on those issues,” said Jack Pandol, a spokesperson for the National

Republican Congressional Committee, the campaign arm of House Republicans. “They have a better message on improving quality of life, on bringing costs down, on making communities safe.”

A crop of Latina Democratic candidates is nonetheless running on abortion rights in districts with large or fast-growing Hispanic populations.

In interviews, some said the fall of Roe had made the issue more urgent for their constituencies — and made voters more receptive to their message that abortion access was crucial to personal freedom and health care, even if the voters themselves were against the procedure.

In Oregon, Rep. Andrea Salinas, who in 2022 became one of the first two Hispanic candidates elected to Congress from the state, said she cast the issue of abortion rights as a matter of “empowering women to make their own personal choices with their doctor.”

Salinas said the issue helped fuel her victory in a northeastern district home to the most Latinos in the state.

Terán, who is running to become the first Latina to represent Arizona in Congress, recalled that Democratic operatives cautioned her not to talk about her work experience with Planned Parenthood, an abortion rights group, when she first ran for a state legislative seat in 2018 because it was a Latino-heavy district. She disregarded that advice and won.

She went on to make abortion rights central to her platform in the Arizona House.

In 2019, she and other state lawmakers visited El Salvador to study the impact of the nation’s abortion ban, and they met with women who had been imprisoned for having the procedure done. She later co-wrote the measure that repealed Arizona’s 1864 abortion law.

Chicago Tribune

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NEWS BRIEFING

Hunter Biden’s appeal in gun case rejected, setting stage for trial

From news services

WASHINGTON — Hunter Biden’s federal gun case should move forward, an appeals court ruled Thursday, setting the stage for the president’s son to stand trial on criminal charges next month in Delaware.

Hunter Biden’s lawyers went to the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals after the judge overseeing the case last month rejected his bid to dismiss the prosecution. A three-judge panel of the appeals court did not rule on the merits of his claims but said the court doesn’t have jurisdiction to review the matter.

In an order shortly after that ruling came down, U.S. District Judge Maryellen Noreika said the case would proceed to trial on June 3, and it is expected to last three to six days. Noreika, who was appointed to the bench by then-President Donald Trump, later denied another bid to dismiss the case that challenged the constitutionality of the central gun charge.

The rulings pave the way for the Justice Department to bring President Joe Biden’s son to trial in the midst of the president’s reelection campaign. Hunter Biden is separately charged in a tax case in California that is tentatively scheduled to go to trial in late June.

His legal team, however, suggested they will continue fighting the issue, which they can ask the full appeals court to consider.

“In reviewing the panel’s decision, we believe the issues involved are too important and further review of our request is appropriate,” his defense lawyer, Abbe Lowell, said in an emailed statement.

Hunter Biden has pleaded not guilty to lying about his

drug use in October 2018 on a form to buy a gun that he kept for about 11 days in Delaware. He has acknowledged an addiction to crack cocaine during that period, but his lawyers have said he didn’t break the law.

Child migrant policy: The Biden administration will seek to partially end the 27-year-old court supervision of how the federal government cares for child migrants traveling alone, shortly after producing its own list of safeguards against mistreatment, an attorney in the case says.

The Justice Department has told opposing attorneys it will ask a federal judge on Friday to terminate the so-called Flores agreement at the U.S. Health and Human Services Department, which takes custody of unaccompanied children within 72 hours of arrest by the Border Patrol, according to Leecia Welch, deputy litigation director at Children’s Rights, which represents children in the case.

The landmark settlement — named for a child immigrant from El Salvador, Jenny Flores — would remain in effect at the Border Patrol and its parent agency, the Department of Homeland Security, creating what Welch called a “piecemeal” dismantling. Attorneys for unaccompanied children will oppose the move, which would be subject to approval by U.S. District Judge Dolly Gee in Los Angeles.

Cuellar bribery case: A top former aide to U.S. Rep. Henry Cuellar and a political and business consultant have agreed to plead guilty to conspiring to help the Democrat congressman from Texas launder more than \$200,000 in bribes and to assist prosecutors in a federal criminal inquiry,



Honoring end of WWII: A Russian honor guard carries a replica of the USSR Victory Banner Thursday as snow falls on the Victory Day parade in Moscow. The event marks the 79th anniversary of the end of World War II, when the Soviet Union in Eastern Europe and the U.S. and other allies in Western Europe fought Nazi Germany to its defeat. **ALEXANDER ZEMLIANICHENKO/AP**

according to court documents unsealed this week.

Colin Strother, Cuellar’s former chief of staff and campaign manager, and Florencia Rendon, a business consultant and former chief of staff for former U.S. Rep. Solomon Ortiz, struck plea deals in March to ensure their cooperation in a U.S. Department of Justice investigation into Cuellar and his wife.

The Cuellars have been charged with accepting nearly \$600,000 in bribes from an Azerbaijan-controlled energy company and a bank in Mexico, in exchange for advancing the interests of the country and the bank in the U.S.

Cuellar, 68, has said he and his wife, Imelda Cuellar, 67, are innocent.

Supreme Court ruling: A divided Supreme Court ruled Thursday that authorities do not have to provide a quick hearing when they seize cars and other property used in drug crimes, even when the property

belongs to so-called innocent owners.

By a 6-3 vote, the justices rejected the claims of two Alabama women who had to wait more than a year for their cars to be returned. Police had stopped the cars when they were being driven by other people and, after finding drugs, seized the vehicles.

Civil forfeiture allows authorities to take someone’s property, without having to prove it was used for illicit purposes. Critics of the practice describe it as “legalized theft.”

Justice Brett Kavanaugh wrote for the conservative majority that a civil forfeiture hearing to determine whether an owner will lose the property permanently must be timely. But he said the Constitution does not also require a separate hearing about whether police may keep cars or other property in the meantime.

In a dissent for the liberal members of the court, Justice Sonia Sotomayor wrote that civil forfeiture

is “vulnerable to abuse” because police departments often have a financial incentive to keep the property.

Boeing plane fire: A Boeing 737-300 plane carrying 85 people caught fire and skidded off a runway at Senegal’s main airport, near the capital of Dakar. Ten people were injured in the crash, including the pilot, the country’s transport minister said Thursday.

Passengers were evacuated from the burning aircraft at Blaise Diagne International Airport and some described “complete panic” as they scrambled for their lives.

The Air Sénégal flight operated by TransAir was headed to Bamako, in neighboring Mali, late Wednesday with 79 passengers, two pilots and four cabin crew when the crash happened.

It wasn’t immediately clear what caused the plane to catch fire and skid off the runway.

Boeing, which has faced a string of safety concerns this

year, referred all request for comment to the airlines.

US-China deportations: Beijing and Washington have quietly resumed cooperation on the deportation of Chinese immigrants who are in the U.S. illegally, as the countries are reestablishing and widening contacts after their leaders’ met in California last year.

After China suspended cooperation in August 2022, the United States saw a surge in Chinese immigrants entering the country illegally from Mexico. U.S. border officials arrested more than 37,000 Chinese nationals on the southern border in 2023, 10 times the number in the previous year.

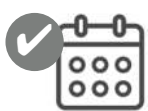


In a statement to The Associated Press this week, the Chinese foreign ministry said Beijing was “willing to maintain dialogue and cooperation in the area of immigration enforcement with the U.S.” and would accept the deportation of those whose Chinese nationality has been verified.

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Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO SPORTS

Chicago's best sports section, as judged by the Associated Press Sports Editors

WHITE SOX

Ramos making most of his shot

White Sox newcomer leaving an impression on the organization

By LaMond Pope
Chicago Tribune

Bryan Ramos smashed an AaBryan Ramos smashed an Aaron Civale curveball to deep left field in the fifth inning of Wednesday's game against the Rays at Tropicana Field.

When Ramos picked up where his liner was headed, he thought, "Go, ball." It hit off the top of the wall.

"Two more pushups," Ramos joked after the game in St. Petersburg, Fla. "Two more pushups and that's a homer."

Ramos nearly had his first major-league homer but instead settled for his first big-league double. It was one of his two hits in the 4-1 victory.

Ramos went 2-for-4 on Thursday in a 3-2 victory against the Cleveland Guardians at Guaranteed Rate Field. After his fifth straight start for the White Sox, he is hitting .389 (7-for-18) with two RBIs and three runs in six games since being called up from Double-A Birmingham on Saturday.

"Bryan has done a really nice job," general manager Chris Getz said Wednesday. "He's had some real quality at-bats. He's come up with bigger moments and come through. He doesn't look overmatched. This is a nice opportunity to boost his development, this experience, but also I've enjoyed watching him, and others have as well."

Manager Pedro Grifol said Ramos "brings a hell of a lot of energy to us."

"He's hungry, he's young, athletic," Grifol said before Thursday's game at Guaranteed Rate Field. "He's got tools. And most importantly, he's performed."

"He's a learner. He's a sponge. Always asking questions. A really good makeup, good character. High-integrity kid. Fun to be around."

Ramos — who entered the

Turn to White Sox, Page 3



White Sox third baseman Bryan Ramos scores a run on Thursday at Guaranteed Rate Field. CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

UP NEXT



Guardians at White Sox
6:40 Fri., NBCSCH



Cubs starter Shota Imanaga throws a splitter against the Mets on May 1 in New York. SARAH STIER/GETTY

CUBS

His splitter? Splendid.



Imanaga celebrates after getting the final out of the sixth inning against the Padres on Tuesday at Wrigley Field. CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

How a rare lefty split-finger pitch has helped fuel Imanaga's historic season start

By Meghan Montemurro
Chicago Tribune

Five years ago in Japan, Shota Imanaga searched for a new pitch. He wanted to incorporate something that would use the same arm path as his four-seam fastball. Imanaga didn't like his tendency to pull his arm down when throwing changeups, so he tinkered. The left-hander landed on a split-finger grip that felt good in bullpen sessions, and eventually he threw it in games.

Once he saw Nippon Professional Baseball hitters' reaction to the splitter, Imanaga knew he had a potentially great pitch.

Since he joined the Cubs rotation this year, Imanaga's splitter has been nearly unhittable with a 477% whiff rate and a .177 expected average. San Diego Padres hitters whiffed on 15 of the 24 splitters they swung at from Imanaga in the Cubs' 3-2 walk-off win Tuesday night. Jurickson Profar's two-run homer in the eighth inning — well-located down and out of the

UP NEXT



Cubs at Pirates
5:40 p.m. Friday
Marquee



■ Pirates top prospect Skenes to debut Saturday vs. Cubs. **Page 2**

zone — was only the second extra-base hit Imanaga has allowed on the pitch this season.

The splitter has played a key role in the must-watch beginning to Imanaga's major-league career. His 1.08 ERA leads all starters, and only two pitchers since 1913, when earned runs became an official statistic in both leagues, had a lower ERA through seven career starts: the Boston Red Sox's Dave Ferriss in 1945 (0.57) and the White Sox's Cisco Carlos in 1967 (0.89).

The nastiness of Imanaga's splitter goes beyond his elite command. Big-league hitters aren't used to seeing lefties throw the pitch.

Only 16 lefty starters have thrown a splitter since the start

Turn to Cubs, Page 2

Despite the buzz, WNBA still seems to be playing catch-up

Charter flight decision welcome, but teams were surprised

It's an exciting time in the WNBA.

The much-anticipated 2024 season is mere days away, yet from an organizational standpoint, the league still looks as if it's playing from behind.

To address player safety concerns, WNBA Commissioner Cathy Engelbert announced Tuesday that the league will launch a charter flight program "as soon as we can get planes in places." The program is projected to cost about \$25 million per year for the next two seasons and would provide full-time charter flight service for

SEASON OPENER

Sky at Dallas Wings
7 p.m. Wednesday, The U



Shakeia Taylor

each team.

But the announcement was the first time teams had heard the news.

"We don't have a ton of details, but everybody's happy for obvious reasons," Chicago Sky general manager Jeff Pagliocca said Wednesday at the team's media day. "The players and teams have been fighting for this for some time, so to finally hear what we heard yesterday, players are thrilled, they're relieved."

"But there's not a ton of details that have come our way yet. It happened pretty quickly. We'll be happy to share more details as soon as we have them."


According to Sophie Cunningham, the players association rep for the Phoenix Mercury, the union also was uninvolved in the decision to fly charter this season.

Commercial flights have long been a concern for the WNBA. Last season Mercury star Brittney Griner — who was freed from a Russian prison in December 2022

Turn to Taylor, Page 2



Sky guard Dana Evans defends Liberty guard Sabrina Ionescu during a preseason game at Wintrust Arena on Tuesday. EILEEN T. MESLAR/TRIBUNE

Team	Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
 CUBS	@PIT 5:40 p.m. Marquee	@PIT 3:05 p.m. Marquee	@PIT 12:35 p.m. Marquee	@ATL 6:20 p.m. Marquee	@ATL 6:20 p.m. Marquee
 WHITE SOX	CLE 6:40 p.m. NBCSCH	CLE 6:10 p.m. NBCSCH	CLE 1:10 p.m. NBCSCH	WAS 6:40 p.m. NBCSCH	WAS 6:40 p.m. NBCSCH
 SKY					Next game May 15 @DAL
 FIRE		@STL 7:30 p.m. Apple TV			
 RED STARS			UTA 4:30 p.m. Marquee		

Taylor

from Page 1

after being wrongfully detained, according to the U.S. State Department — was harassed in a Dallas airport and video was posted on social media.

“Player safety while traveling should be at the forefront,” Griner’s then-teammate Brianna Turner, now with the Sky, posted on social media after the incident. “People following with cameras saying wild remarks is never acceptable. Excessive harassment. Our team nervously huddled in a corner unsure how to move about. We demand better.”

Flying commercial is part of the WNBA’s current collective bargaining agreement with players, which was signed in 2020. The league has said it didn’t allow charter flights previously because it would create a competitive advantage for teams that wanted to pay for them over those that did not.

The announcement of full-time charters is significant and comes at a pivotal time.

But with such a huge, season-impacting announcement, why weren’t teams made aware? Why wasn’t the announcement made on a bigger stage instead of in a meeting with sports editors? Why was it made so close to the start of the season and not weeks — or even months — in advance?

Plane travel wasn’t the only off-court issue to arise on the brink of the new season. On Monday the Sky confirmed to the Tribune they would stream Tuesday night’s preseason matchup against Courtney Vandersloot and the New York Liberty after a Minnesota Lynx fan, Alli Schneider, had streamed the Sky-Lynx preseason opener Friday on her iPhone.

Viewership of the livestream reached 250,000 as word spread after a glitch in the WNBA League Pass app incorrectly listed the game as available when it wasn’t. Schneider, a four-year Lynx season ticket holder, said coach Cheryl Reeve sent her a note thanking her for supporting the team. South Carolina women’s basketball coach Dawn Staley said she watched the stream and even sent the fan \$100 via Cash App.

Because of the demand to see rookies Angel Reese and Kamilla Cardoso, the Sky — whose game Tuesday at Wintrust Arena originally wasn’t going to be available — were left with a few options:

- They could pay a production crew and stream the game themselves, with the stream then picked up by WNBA League Pass.
- A regional sports network could broadcast and/or stream the game.
- Or the WNBA could send a crew to produce and stream the game.

The Sky wound up going with the first option and hiring a crew themselves, and Tuesday’s game was available via League Pass.

While providing livestreams or broadcasts of preseason games is a relatively new venture for both the WNBA and the Sky, the entire debacle begs the question: Why weren’t they prepared?

The entire NBA preseason is broadcast through local affiliates and the NBA League Pass app. The WNBA selected two preseason games to offer in 2023: its annual exhibition in Canada and the first preseason game for No. 1 draft pick Aliyah Boston of the Indiana Fever. No preseason games were streamed in 2022. This year the league expanded its broadcast offerings to four games, adding a second game featuring No. 1 pick Caitlin Clark of the Fever (Thursday vs. the Atlanta Dream) and a game featuring No. 2 pick Cameron Brink of the Los Angeles Sparks (Friday vs. the Mercury).

Shouldn’t the league have known the influx of attention brought in by players such as Clark, Brink, Cardoso and Reese would stoke desire for broadcast accessibility? Why weren’t the league and individual teams prepared, especially considering the viewership numbers during the women’s college basketball season?

Also at the forefront of WNBA discussions are team practice facilities.

The Las Vegas Aces opened theirs last year. In April, the Seattle Storm — who won over free agents Nneka Ogumike and Skylar Diggins-Smith in the offseason over the Sky — opened the second stand-alone practice facility dedicated to a WNBA team. In October, the Mercury unveiled plans for a new business headquarters shared with the Phoenix Suns and a state-of-the-art practice facility dedicated to the Mercury.

But in Chicago, there has been no news. Reese, Cardoso and others are coming to the WNBA from college programs that have professional-level practice facilities with state-of-the-art amenities. A new facility is as important to the franchise’s future as this year’s draft was. While we’ve heard the team is exploring locations and other logistics related to such a move, the lack of updates with a new season so close leaves more questions and continues to draw criticism.

When will the WNBA and its teams catch up to the growth that is happening? When will they invest big in their product and its offerings to meet the demand that a new generation of players — and their name, image and likeness deals — are bringing with them? With new eyes come bigger expectations. The interest and growth the league has been asking for is standing outside the window in the rain with a boombox, begging for more.

Will the WNBA answer the call?



Pirates pitcher Paul Skenes throws in the fourth inning of a spring training game against the Rays in Port Charlotte, Fla., on March 4, 2024. **AP**

Top prospect to debut

Pirates pitcher Skenes scheduled Saturday vs. Cubs

By Will Graves

Associated Press

PITTSBURGH — The Paul Skenes era is ready to begin in Pittsburgh.

The top pick in last year’s amateur draft will make his major-league debut for the Pirates on Saturday when they face the Cubs, a person with direct knowledge of the decision told The Associated Press.

The person spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity Wednesday because the Pirates hadn’t explicitly announced the promotion, although the club did send out a hype video of Skenes with “5.11.24.”

The 21-year-old, taken with the first pick last summer after a couple of stand-out years at LSU, has dominated opponents at Triple-A Indianapolis.

Skenes, whose fastball regularly hits triple digits, has an 0.99 ERA in seven Triple-A starts with 45 strikeouts in 27 ⅓ innings.

He is considered among baseball’s top prospects and comes with unusual star power for a baseball rookie, in part because of his relationship with LSU gymnast and

social media influencer Livvy Dunne.

The Pirates have brought Skenes along slowly during the spring, methodically ramping up his pitch count at Triple A. They have given him a little more latitude recently.

He threw 75 pitches on April 30 and 66 on Sunday against Buffalo.

Skenes joins a rotation that includes 22-year-old rookie Jared Jones, who has a 2.63 ERA through seven starts and whose 52 strikeouts were ninth in the majors entering Wednesday.

The Pirates have floundered of late after a strong start. They’re 6-16 over their last 22 games after falling to the Los Angeles Angels 5-4 on Wednesday.

Skenes’ arrival represents a significant milestone for the organization. General manager Ben Cherington has overseen a top-to-bottom overhaul since taking over in the fall of 2019. Some of the pieces he has acquired and/or developed since his arrival either are on the major-league roster (Jones) or on the cusp.

It also starts the clock on a hopeful return to contention. The Pirates finished last in the NL Central from 2019-22 before taking a step forward last season. The expectation internally is for the competitive window to open either this year or next. Skenes could

have an outsized impact on the timeline.

Skenes’ debut figures to be the most anticipated by a major-league pitching prospect since Stephen Strasburg arrived in the majors with the Washington Nationals in 2009 and promptly struck out 14 Pirates in his first start.

The last Pirates pitcher to reach the majors with this much hype came in 2013 when Gerrit Cole — the No. 1 pick in 2011 — joined a team that ended a streak of 20 consecutive losing seasons. Cole was a fixture in a rotation that helped the Pirates reach the playoffs from 2013-15 before being traded to the Houston Astros in January 2018.

The Pirates moved on from Cole in part because of concerns about being able to pay him long term. They appear to be in a slightly different position now, having signed third baseman Ke’Bryan Hayes, center fielder Bryan Reynolds and pitcher Mitch Keller to lengthy contracts in recent years.

Skenes, if he delivers on his considerable promise, may test the Pirates’ commitment. That discussion, however, is for down the road.

For now, his debut gives the Pirates something they have lacked for most of the last decade: considerable buzz.

Cubs

from Page 1

of the 2008 season. Five of them — Jorge De La Rosa, Manny Parra, Ariel Miranda, Randy Johnson and Erik Bedard — threw more splitters than Imanaga has, according to Baseball Savant. But no lefty in that span came close to using it as frequently as Imanaga relies on his splitter, which accounts for 30.3% of his pitches thrown.

Even when expanding to include lefty relievers, Imanaga already has thrown the 13th-most splitters over the last 17 seasons and ranks second in percentage of splitters thrown.

“For me the splitter being effective and dangerous, it’s a fine line because if I miss, then the hitters are a lot stronger here so they’re going to hit it further,” Imanaga told the Tribune through interpreter Edwin Stanberry. “But the most important thing for me, since I do throw my fastball up in the zone, having that in the hitters’ head is effective because then I can go up and then down low.”

Although he uses a splitter grip, Imanaga thinks of the pitch as a changeup. When on the mound, he doesn’t feel like he’s throwing splitters, a mentality that seemingly helps him throw it for strikes.

“Honestly, it’s never really taught a whole lot to lefties, and so for him, it is such a unique pitch and the ability to throw it with a lot of depth,” Cubs pitching coach Tommy Hottovy said. “It’s always going to be a unique weapon.”

Left-handers tend to naturally pronate and work inside the baseball, so a changeup is typically an effective pitch. Cubs lefties Jordan Wicks and Drew Smyly, armed with changeups, are good examples of that.

Smyly understands how difficult harnessing a good splitter can be for a left-hander. He added the pitch to his repertoire while

working out at Driveline Baseball in the offseason, and though he used it in spring training outings, he hasn’t needed it now that he’s pitching out of the bullpen. Smyly marvels at Imanaga’s splitter.

“That’s why it’s so effective: It looks like a fastball for so long and you just rip it like a fastball, then it has crazy action,” Smyly said. “You never know if it’s going to go this way or that way. It’s a very fun pitch but also a very hard pitch to throw.”

When scouting Imanaga, the usage and effectiveness of his splitter was something president of baseball operations Jed Hoyer and the Cubs hoped would translate well against major-league hitters. The organization also was uncertain how well Imanaga could control his repertoire to fill up the zone.

Through seven starts, Imanaga has walked only five batters while striking out 43. No other starter has posted an ERA as low as Imanaga’s with that few walks through seven career starts since 1913, according to MLB.com researcher Sarah Langs. Paired with his heater, the splitter-fastball combination has neutralized big-league hitters.

“He’s done a great job of playing the high-low game — fastballs up and splitters down has been really effective,” Hoyer said last week. “Just in general the strike throwing. You never know, when a pitcher is coming from Japan and having a different ball and a different strike zone, how the command is going to be, and his command has obviously been excellent.”

Imanaga’s unique rising fastball characteristics — and his ability to tunnel his splitter off of it with similar release points — force hitters to change their sight lines significantly with the difference in vertical movement. His splitter averages 32.3 inches of drop, 4 inches more than league average for already limited looks against the pitch, while his fastball has 13.2 inches of drop,

with 3.4 inches more rise than average.

The inherent vertical separation between a fastball and splitter is taken to an extreme with Imanaga, adding to hitters’ challenge. They have to pick which one to commit to in the batter’s box to help them focus on one part of the zone. Even then, Imanaga’s command of the two pitches has limited chances for damage.

“The arm action never changes,” veteran catcher Yan Gomes said. “And he throws the splitter for a strike, so it becomes another pitch to have instead of, oh, it’s going to be a punchout or chase. He can do that, but it’s almost like, lay it in there changeup style and then (he) can bury it. The arm speed and how he does it is really cool.”

Hitting coach Dustin Kelly feels fortunate the Cubs don’t have to build a game plan to face Imanaga.

“He’s just got confidence and an aura about him,” Kelly said recently. “That translates, and when you see a guy bouncing around the mound like that and coming at you with his best stuff at all times, it’s like, all right, this guy’s here, we better go attack him. You’re seeing guys just miss pitches that they probably think they should hit.”

The numbers don’t lie when it comes to Imanaga’s effectiveness to begin his major-league career. Although he is considered a rookie by MLB standards, he brings eight years of professional experience and knowledge from Japan. He recently declared he will wait and let hitters determine whether he is a dominant pitcher in this country.

Even after a torrid start with another lights-out performance Tuesday, Imanaga isn’t ready to acknowledge how he has been one of the best starters in the majors.

“I think it’s going to take a long time,” he said. “I try not to think I’m a good pitcher because when I do, I feel like I’m going to relax a little bit, ease up a little bit. I want to keep going and working hard.”

BASEBALL

WHITE SOX 4, RAYS 1 LATE WEDNESDAY



White Sox shortstop Paul DeJong hits a two-run home run in the fifth inning against the Tampa Bay Rays on Wednesday in St Petersburg, Fla. JULIO AGUILAR/GETTY

Sox avoid sweep

Flexen silences Rays’ bats, striking out 8 in six innings of work

By LaMond Pope
Chicago Tribune

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — White Sox starter Chris Flexen had his sharpest outing of the season against the Rays on April 26 at Guaranteed Rate Field, pitching five-plus scoreless innings.

The right-hander saw the Rays again Wednesday at Tropicana Field and had another impressive start. Flexen allowed one run on three hits in six innings, pitching the Sox to a 4-1 victory in front of 12,877.

“I had a little life in the fastball and we were able to utilize that,” Flexen said. “We were trying to avoid a sweep and we got it done.”

Flexen had a season-high eight strikeouts as the Sox salvaged the finale of the three-game series. He has a 1.61 ERA in his last five appearances (three starts).

“He was 92-94 (mph), touching 95 maybe, and when his velocity is up like that, he’s tough to hit,” manager Pedro Grifol said.

Flexen is 2-0 with a 0.82 ERA in his two starts against the Rays.

“Definitely have to make

adjustments, if needed,” Flexen said of seeing the Rays again. “(Catcher Martin Maldonado) did an awesome job of not falling into any patterns. We still utilized the same game plan. I had a different fastball, so we were able to utilize that a little better tonight.”

Flexen averages 91.3 mph on his fastball, according to MLB Statcast. He averaged 93 mph Wednesday.

He retired the first nine batters before Yandy Díaz began the bottom of the fourth with a single. Díaz scored on a double Isaac Paredes. The hit gave the Rays runners on second and third with one out.

The Sox brought the infield in and Amed Rosario smoked a line drive that shortstop Paul DeJong caught. Harold Ramírez, the runner on third, took off for home and was easily doubled up.

“The infield’s in and you’re hoping for weak contact,” Flexen said. “It was barreled and luckily went right at (DeJong) and we doubled them off.”

DeJong also made an impact at the plate, hitting a two-run home run off Rays starter Aaron Civale to give the Sox a 2-1 lead in the fifth. The Sox scored two more runs in the next inning with RBI singles from Bryan Ramos and Tommy Pham for a 4-1 advantage.

The Sox still had the three-run lead in the seventh when the Rays made another baserunning blunder. They had runners on first and second with one out and Josh Lowe batting as the tying run.

The pinch hitter lofted a fly ball to right. Gavin Sheets ran a long way, made a nice catch and then threw to second to double off Paredes, who had raced to third when the ball was still in the air.

“I got a good read on it,” Sheets said. “I was in the right-center gap, could tell (Lowe) got it off the end a little bit and just took off. Luckily it stayed up in the air long enough.”

“I saw (Paredes) rounding third. I was a little confused at first, but I threw it to second and got the double play there, which is great.”

The Sox got a conventional 4-6-3 double play in the ninth to wrap up a six-game trip at 3-3.

“Tampa’s playing really well and St. Louis is getting it going as well, they’ve got some great pitching,” Sheets said. “To go 3-3 this series, it’s a step in the right direction.”

“It’s not fully where we want to be, but it’s a step in the right direction and that’s what you’ve got to take right now. You’ve got to take positives as we go.”

White Sox

from Page 1

season rated the No. 4 prospect in the organization by MLB.com — described his short time in the majors as “something special.”

“To be here, to have them give me the opportunity — now I’m playing, I would say, pretty good, and I feel pretty good about it,” he said Thursday.

“I’ve been feeling good. But I’m not going to say comfortable because this game is way too hard and I’ve got just five games in the big leagues. I’m just going to live in the moment and keep playing the same way.”

Ramos, 22, said the double has been among his favorite moments so far. His second hit of Wednesday’s game, an opposite-field RBI single to right, also was impressive.

Andrew Benintendi led off the sixth with a double. Ramos had it in his mind to try to get him to third.

“In that AB, my approach was stay middle, or the other way to try to get the runner to third base,” he said Wednesday. “A ground ball to second or a ground ball to first, that was my plan.”

Ramos’ chopper to the right side got past diving second baseman Amed Rosario for the RBI hit.

“I just want to try to get the runner moved,” Ramos added Thursday. “I can’t think like, ‘I want to get a base hit,’ because that doesn’t work. Many of the times you think about that, you never get a base hit. You’ve got to do whatever you’ve got to do for the team in that moment, and if (you get) something better, you’ll take it.”

Ramos said he’s working on the defense at the hot corner.

“I think I’ve been improving (over) the years, and I want to keep learning in that area — in all of the game — because no matter if you’ve got 10 years in the big leagues or two days, you’re never going to stop learning,” Ramos

said.

He was busy Tuesday, fielded five grounders cleanly in a 5-1 loss to the Rays.

“He’s extremely athletic, he’s got good hands,” Grifol said. “He moves his feet well. There’s some things he’s got to work on. (Infield coach Eddie Rodríguez is) on top of that stuff. But he’s done pretty good so far. He’s gotten a lot of action too. I like the fact he moves around well.”

Ramos joined the Sox when Danny Mendick went on the injured list with lower back tightness.

He hasn’t got too caught up in the future plan. His focus is on the day to day work.

“They haven’t told me anything, and I don’t expect anything, either,” Ramos said. “I just want to keep playing baseball the way I’m playing. They know what they’ve got to do. When they’ve got the opportunity to make a decision, they know what’s going to be the best for me.”

CHICAGO BASEBALL REPORT

Adjustments continue for White Sox’s Crochet

By Meghan Montemurro and LaMond Pope
Chicago Tribune

Other than finishing a series against the Twins on May 1, the White Sox are facing their only American League Central foe of the month with their current four-game set against the Cleveland Guardians at Guaranteed Rate Field. The Sox entered Thursday’s series opener 2-18 against the AL Central this season (1-8 at home), their worst start since the three-division format began in 1994.

The Cubs hit the road looking to win their first series in two weeks as they continue to get healthier. Center fielder Cody Bellinger delivered a punch in his return Tuesday with a three-hit game, including a home run, while right fielder Seiya Suzuki is expected to rejoin the Cubs in Pittsburgh and could be activated off the injured list Friday or Saturday. They need his bat, averaging only 2.83 runs in their last 12 games.

Every Friday during the regular season, Tribune baseball writers will provide an update on what happened — and what’s ahead — ahead for the Cubs and White Sox.

Lefty Richard Lovelady gives Cubs bullpen swing-and-miss stuff: Cubs left-hander Richard Lovelady realized during the second half of last season that he needed to tweak his repertoire.

Lovelady, then with the Oakland Athletics, saw the slider he threw to lefties and righties start to flatten in July and August. He wasn’t getting the horizontal movement he needed to have an effective offspeed pitch. So he developed a sweeper that became a lot easier for Lovelady to “hammer it down,” but as the end of the 2023 season neared, he again had issues with a pitch flattening against lefties. In the offseason, Lovelady continued to refine his slider and developed a splitter to help combat that, though he has found some success in five appearances with the Cubs and hasn’t needed to use it.

“The pitches I learned in the offseason, (the Cubs) have helped me make it better or even just not having one or two good ones but consistent shape,” Lovelady said recently.

Lovelady heaped praise on the Cubs and their pitching infrastructure, saying, “everything has been amazing” since he signed a minor-league deal in January. He was part of big-league camp in spring in which he learned how to unlock more within himself. A big part of that, Lovelady said, has involved finger placement on the baseball and creating more consistent shape with his pitches.

Lovelady’s addition to the bullpen since he was called up April 28 has given the Cubs more swing-and-miss stuff. He struck out 20 in 12 innings with Triple-A Iowa before his promotion. In five appearances with the Cubs, Lovelady has tallied two walks and six strikeouts in 4 innings. He has been a bit unlucky en route to the three runs and five hits allowed, owning a .417 Batting Average on Balls in Play (BABIP).

He put himself on the Cubs’ radar in spring by showing he can miss bats.

“You always wish that everybody up here stays healthy and has a great year,” Lovelady said. “But in this game that usually doesn’t happen. You’ve got to be ready anytime they call your name.”

Adjustments continue for Garrett Crochet in 1st season as starter: Advice from other pitchers has gone a long way for Garrett Crochet, who continues navigating through his first major-league season as a starter after three years in the bullpen.

“The guys I’m surrounded by have had a ton of success, but at one time they were where I am right now,” Crochet told the Tribune on Monday in a discussion about the rotation. “I’m just picking their brains on how to get there, how to get to that point. I’ve had a lot of growth, just on the pitching side, being able to pick their brains.”

Crochet is 2-4 with a 5.31 ERA and 53 strikeouts. He’s scheduled to make his ninth start Friday against Guardians. The left-hander had a tough stretch, allowing 17 runs in 11 ⅔ innings in three starts from April 13-24. He has bounced back in his last two outings, allowing three runs in 11 innings.

He has enjoyed making adjustments along the way — with helpful words from coaches and teammates.

“At first I didn’t really understand because I kind of had one plan,” he said. “If I execute this plan, then things will go well. And then I had three starts in a row where it didn’t go well.”

“I was kind of lying to myself a little bit, saying some pitches were good pitches when truly they weren’t. And talked to (starter Erick) Fedde about that a good bit.”

He recalled an April 23 start in

which Fedde did a good job changing the eye level of the batters on the way to 11 strikeouts against the Minnesota Twins.

“I’ve always viewed myself as an east-west pitcher because of my sweeper, I’ve kind of got to play the east-west game,” Crochet said. “But something I feel like I had success in my last outing (against the St. Louis Cardinals), I was playing north-south and east-west.”

Crochet allowed one run on three hits with six strikeouts in that start Sunday.

“I had to give myself a little bit more credit and realize there was a dimension to my game that I had yet to discover, that I had yet to actually utilize,” Crochet said. “And that is I can locate the fastball down as well as the fastball up in the zone.”

“That’s what I’ve seen so far.”

Number of the week — 30: The Cubs’ stretch of 30 consecutive scoreless innings by starting pitchers ended in the eighth inning Tuesday when the San Diego Padres’ Jurickson Profar took Shota Imanaga deep for a two-run homer. The streak marked the second-longest in club history, trailing only the 33 shutout innings by Fergie Jenkins, Bill Hands, Milt Pappas and Juan Pizarro from Aug. 2-5, 1971.

Week ahead: Cubs

- Friday: at Pirates, 5:40 p.m., Marquee
- Saturday: at Pirates, 3:05 p.m., Marquee
- Sunday: at Pirates, 12:35 p.m., Marquee
- Monday: at Braves, 6:20 p.m., Marquee
- Tuesday: at Braves, 6:20 p.m., Marquee
- Wednesday: at Braves, 6:20 p.m., Marquee
- Thursday: vs. Pirates, 6:40 p.m., Marquee

A quirky schedule has the Cubs set to finally face more National League Central teams in the upcoming week and through the month.

The Cubs opened the season with a franchise-record 32 straight games against nondivision opponents. Losing two of three to close the homestand wrapped up their season series against the Padres. The Cubs already have played four of the five NL West teams but only just faced their first division rival when they played the Milwaukee Brewers last weekend.

That changes this weekend in Pittsburgh, beginning a stretch in which the Cubs play only the Pirates and Atlanta Braves in their next 13 games. They wrap up the month with 10 games against the St. Louis Cardinals, Brewers and Cincinnati Reds. A scuffling offense that managed just one hit in Wednesday’s loss to the Padres will be challenged by the upcoming probable starters.

Pirates rookie right-hander Jared Jones, whose 10.40 strikeout-to-walk ratio leads the majors, is lined up to start Friday’s series opener while top prospect and last year’s No. 1 pick Paul Skenes is being called up to start Saturday at PNC Park. The Cubs announced Thursday that they will start right-hander Javier Assad and left-hander Justin Steele in the first two games while Sunday remains to be determined.

Week ahead: Sox

- Friday: vs. Guardians, 6:40 p.m., NBCSCH
- Saturday: vs. Guardians, 6:10 p.m., NBCSCH
- Sunday: vs. Guardians, 1:10 p.m., NBCSCH
- Monday: vs. Nationals, 6:40 p.m., NBCSCH
- Tuesday: vs. Nationals, 6:40 p.m., NBCSCH
- Wednesday: vs. Nationals, 1:10 p.m., NBCSCH
- Thursday: Off

Dominic Leone had just exited with lower back tightness. Jordan Leasure got called on in the emergency situation with a runner on first and no outs in the eighth inning of a tie game Saturday against the Cardinals at Busch Stadium.

Leasure threw a wild pitch but then retired the three batters he faced to keep the score even. The Sox won 6-5 in 10 innings.

“He’s calm, he has tremendous presence and the moment never gets too high or fast for him,” manager Pedro Grifol said of Leasure recently.

Leasure has been reliable out of the bullpen. The rookie has a 2.57 ERA in 15 appearances coming into Thursday. His longest outing came against the Guardians, when he pitched two scoreless innings April 9 at Progressive Field.

He has one save, which came against the team he grew up rooting for — the Tampa Bay Rays — on April 28 at Guaranteed Rate Field. Leasure grew up about 45 minutes away from the Rays’ home park and attended games with his grandfather.

BASEBALL

American League

EAST	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Baltimore	24	12	.667	—	—	7-3	W-1	12-7	12-5
New York	25	14	.641	½	+2½	6-4	L-1	13-6	12-8
Boston	19	18	.514	5½	2½	5-5	L-2	7-9	12-9
Tampa Bay	19	19	.500	6	3	6-4	L-1	13-10	6-9
Toronto	17	20	.459	7½	4½	4-6	W-1	8-7	9-13

CENTRAL	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Cleveland	24	14	.632	—	—	5-5	L-1	12-6	12-8
Minnesota	22	15	.595	1½	+½	8-2	W-2	11-8	11-7
Kansas City	22	16	.579	2	—	5-5	W-1	15-8	7-8
Detroit	19	18	.514	4½	2½	4-6	L-1	8-9	11-9
Chicago	10	28	.263	14	12	4-6	W-2	6-12	4-16

WEST	W	L	PCT	GB	WCGB	L10	STR	HOME	AWAY
Texas	22	17	.564	—	—	7-3	W-1	10-9	12-8
Seattle	20	18	.526	1½	2	5-5	L-2	11-8	9-10
Oakland	18	21	.462	4	4½	6-4	L-1	10-13	8-8
Los Angeles	14	23	.378	7	7½	4-6	W-2	4-11	10-12
Houston	13	24	.351	8	8½	5-5	W-1	7-12	6-12

BOX SCORES

MINNESOTA 11, SEATTLE 1

Seattle	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Rojas lf	3	0	1	0	1	.348
Rodriguez cf	3	0	0	0	2	.262
Raleigh c	3	0	0	0	3	.209
Zavala c	1	0	0	0	1	.185
Haniger rf	3	1	1	0	1	.213
Haggerty rf	1	0	0	0	0	.000
Garver dh	3	0	0	0	1	.176
Polanco 2b	4	0	0	0	2	.182
Raley 1b	4	0	2	1	1	.243
Urias 3b	3	0	1	0	1	.176
Rivas ss	4	0	1	0	2	.333
TOTALS	32	1	6	1	15	

Minnesota	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Julien 2b	4	1	1	1	2	.205
Jeffers c	2	1	1	2	0	.306
Larnach rf	5	1	1	0	2	.345
Kepler dh	4	2	2	1	1	.329
Miranda 3b	4	3	2	2	0	.293
Castro ss	4	0	1	0	0	.272
Margot lf	4	1	1	5	0	.169
Santana 1b	4	1	2	1	1	.192
Martin cf	3	1	0	0	2	.232
TOTALS	34	11	11	11	8	

Seattle	010	000	000	1	6	2
Minnesota	510	210	20x	1111	1	

E: Haggerty 2 (1), Urias (2), Jeffers (1). **LOB:** Seattle 8, Minnesota 4. **2B:** Haniger (8), Margot (2), Miranda (7). **HR:** Jeffers (8), off Gilbert; Kepler (3), off T.Miller. **RBIs:** Raley (5), Kepler (2-14), Margot (5) (9), Santana (14), Jeffers (249), Julien (15). **SB:** Julien (3). **SF:** Jeffers.

Runners left in scoring position: Seattle 3 (Rivas, Haggerty, Rodriguez); Minnesota 1 (Martin). **RISP:** Seattle 1 for 8; Minnesota 6 for 14.

Runners moved up: Castro 2, Margot, Santana. **GIDP:** Urias, Larnach, Margot. **DP:** Seattle 2 (Rivas, Polanco, Raley); Rivas, Raley); Minnesota 1 (Julien, Santana).

SEATTLE	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Gilbert, L, 3-1	4	9	8	8	2	4	2.94
Bazardo	2	1	1	1	1	4	4.50
Miller	2	1	2	1	0	0	3.09
MINNESOTA	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Lopez, W, 4-2	6½	4	1	1	0	10	3.89
Funderburk	½	0	0	0	0	2	4.96
Staubert	1	0	0	0	1	3	0.00
Pitches-Strikes: Gilbert 91-59; Bazardo 35-22; Miller 23-15; López 100-61; Funderburk 27-14; Staubert 26-15.							
Inherited runners-scored: Funderburk 1-0. HBP: Lopez (Urias), T.Miller (Jeffers). WP: Funderburk(2). Umpires: Home, Nate Tomlinson; First, Chris Segal; Second, Larry Vanover; Third, David Rackley. Time: 2:39. A: 22,154(38,544).							

LATE WEDNESDAY: CHI. WHITE SOX 4, TAMPA BAY 1

White Sox	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Pham cf-rf	5	0	2	1	1	.295
Sheets rf	3	0	1	0	1	.262
Ortega cf	0	0	0	0	0	.000
Vaughn 1b	4	0	2	0	0	.192
Jimenez dh	5	0	1	0	2	.209
Benintendi lf	4	1	2	0	0	.154
Ramos 3b	4	1	2	1	0	.397
DeJong ss	4	2	2	1	2	.240
Shewmake 2b	4	0	0	0	0	.138
Maldonado c	4	0	0	0	3	.098
TOTALS	37	4	12	4	10	

Tampa Bay	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Diaz 1b	4	1	1	0	2	.228
Arozarena lf	4	0	0	0	2	.147
H.Ramirez dh	4	0	2	0	0	.291
Paredes 3b	3	0	1	1	0	.300
Rosario 2b-ss	3	0	0	0	1	.301
DeLuca rf	2	0	0	0	0	.350
Caballero ss	2	0	0	0	2	.254
a-Lowe ph	1	0	0	0	0	.300
Rortvedt c	0	0	0	0	0	.333
Jackson c	1	0	0	0	1	.125
Palacios 2b	1	0	0	0	1	.180
Sirf c	3	0	0	0	2	.270
TOTALS	28	1	4	1	11	

Chi. White Sox	000	022	000	412	0	
Tampa Bay	000	100	000	1	4	0

a-filed out for Caballero in the 7th. **LOB:** Chicago 9, Tampa Bay 3. **2B:** Ramos (1), Benintendi (3), Sheets (11), Vaughn (7), Paredes (5). **HR:** DeJong (5), off Civalre. **RBIs:** DeJong 2(10), Ramos (2), Pham (6), Paredes (20). **CS:** Pham (1).

Runners left in scoring position: Chicago 5 (Benintendi, Ramos, Jimenez 3); Tampa Bay 0. **RISP:** Chicago 4 for 12; Tampa Bay 1 for 3. **LIDP:** Rosario. **GIDP:** Ramos, Paredes. **DP:** Chicago 3 (DeJong, Sheets, Shewmake, DeJong, Vaughn); Tampa Bay 1 (Rosario, Diaz).

WHITE SOX	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Flexen, W, 2-3	6	3	1	1	1	8	4.29
Wilson, H, 5	½	0	0	0	2	0	2.93
Brebbia, H, 3	½	0	0	0	3	3	3.38
Kopech, S, 3-4	1	1	0	0	0	0	3.93
TAMPA BAY	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Civale, L, 2-3	4½	5	2	2	2	4	5.88
Kelly	½	5	2	2	0	2	3.86
Uceta	2	1	0	0	1	2	5.06
Rodriguez	1	1	0	0	2	0	0.00
Pitches-Strikes: Flexen 96-58; Wilson 13-4; Brebbia 18-13; Kopech 10-7; Civale 82-49; Kelly 26-19; Uceta 29-19; Rodriguez 18-12.							
Inherited runners-scored: Brebbia 2-0, Kelly 2-0.							

ON THIS DATE

MAY 10 Hoyt Wilhelm pitched his 1,000th major league game, but the Braves lost 6-5 to the Cardinals. **2005:** Tony Peña, the American League Manager of the Year in 2003, resigns as manager of the Royals. **2008:** Greg Maddux of the San Diego Padres became the ninth pitcher in big league history to win 350 games, allowing an unearned over six innings in a 3-2 victory over the Colorado Rockies. **2015:** Felix Hernandez records his 2,000th career strikeout in leading the Mariners to a 4-3 win over the Athletics; at 29, he is the fourth-youngest to mark the milestone. **2022:** Coming into his 11th career start with an ERA of 6.33, Reid Detmers of the Angels pitches the first complete game no-hitter of the season in a 12-0 win over the Rays. He allows just one walk and strikes out 2 as Mike Trout homers twice and Chad Wallach and Anthony Rendon once each in a one-sided game. **2023:** Kenley Jansen becomes the seventh pitcher to record 400 career saves in preserving the Red Sox's 5-2 win over the Braves.

ARIZONA 5, CINCINNATI 4

Arizona	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Carroll cf	4	0	1	1	1	.206
Marte 2b	5	1	1	0	1	.298
Pederson dh	5	2	3	1	2	.302
Walker 1b	4	1	2	1	0	.279
Gurriel lf	5	0	1	1	2	.233
Suarez 3b	4	0	1	1	1	.226
McCarthy rf	2	0	0	0	1	.299
Barnhart c	2	1	0	0	1	.216
Alexander ss	2	0	0	0	1	.278
b-Smith ph	0	0	0	0	0	.214
Newman ss	0	0	0	0	0	.188
TOTALS	33	5	9	5	10	

Cincinnati	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Friedl cf	5	1	1	0	0	.231
De La Cruz ss	3	1	2	1	0	.264
Steer 1b	3	0	1	2	0	.237
Fraleigh rf	4	0	1	0	0	.292
India 2b	4	0	0	0	2	.214
Ford dh	4	0	1	0	0	.200
1-Fairchild dh	0	0	0	0	0	.186
Candelario 3b	4	2	2	1	0	.216
Benson lf	3	0	1	0	2	.193
Maile c	1	0	0	0	1	.137
a-Stephenson c	2	0	0	0	1	.222
TOTALS	33	4	9	4	6	

a-lined out for Maile in the 7th. b-walked for Alexander in the 8th. 1-run for Ford in the 8th. **LOB:** Arizona 10, Cincinnati 6. **2B:** Walker (5), Suarez (8), Gurriel (7), Benson (10), 3B: Marte (1), HR: Pederson (4), off Greene; Candelario (4), off Ceconi. **RBIs:** Pederson (9), Gurriel (23), Suarez (21), Walker (26), Carroll (13), Candelario (12), De La Cruz (20), Steer 2(25), SB: De La Cruz (23), Pederson (1), CS: Benson (3), De La Cruz (4), SF: Suarez. **Runners left in scoring position:** Arizona 4 (Alexander, Marte 2, Gurriel, Suarez, Pederson, Barnhart); Cincinnati 3 (Friedl, Fraley, Ford). **RISP:** Arizona 3 for 12; Cincinnati 2 for 6. **Runners moved up:** Marte. **LIDP:** Marte. **DP:** Arizona 1 (Carroll, Walker, Carroll); Cincinnati 1 (De La Cruz).

ARIZONA	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Cecconi	5½	3	1	1	3	2	4.15
Allen, H, 1	1½	4	3	3	0	1	4.05
Thompson, BS, 0-1½	1	0	0	0	0	0	1.20
Ginkel, W, 2-0	1	1	0	0	0	1	1.93
Sewald, S, 1-1	1	0	0	0	0	2	4.50
CINCINNATI	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Greene	5	4	3	3	5	6	3.38
N.Martinez	2	3	1	1	1	2	5.06
Cruz, L, 1-3	1	1	1	1	2	2	4.20
Farmer	1	1	0	0	0	0	2.66

Inherited runners-scored: Allen 1-0, Thompson 2-2, N.Martinez 2-2. **HBP:** Cecconi (Maile). **WP:** Cruz. **Umpires:** Home, Edwin Moscoso; First, D.J. Reyburn; Second, Vic Carapazza; Third, Adam Hamari. **Time:** 2:51. A: 18,214(43,891).

AMERICAN LEAGUE LEADERS

BALTIMORE 7, WASHINGTON 6 (12)						
Baltimore	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Henderson ss	5	2	2	1	2	.271
Rutschman dh-c5	0	1	0	0	0	.318
Mountcastle 1b5	1	1	2	0	0	.277
Santander rf	3	1	1	1	1	.215
2-McKenna pr-rf0	0	0	0	0	0	.375
Westburg 3b	5	2	1	0	2	.283

WASHINGTON	AB	R	H	BI	SO	AVG
Young cf	3	0	1	1	0	.301
Abrams ss	5	1	1	1	2	.272
Garcia 2b	6	0	1	1	1	.321
Senzel dh	5	0	0	0	4	.214
Winker lf	5	0	0	1	2	.252
Meneses 1b	5	2	0	0	1	.218
Ruiz c	5	0	2	0	0	.145
Rosario rf	4	2	2	1	2	.143
Lipscomb 3b	3	0	1	1	0	.244
1-Nunez pr	0	1	0	0	0	.000
Vargas 3b	1	0	1	1	0	.322
TOTALS	42	6	9	6	11	

Baltimore	000	101	100	022	7	10	0
Washington	010	000	002	021	6	9	2

a-walked for McCann in the 10th. b-grounded out for Suarez in the 12th. 1-run for Lipscomb in the 9th. 2-run for Santander in the 11th. **E:** Weems (1), Vargas (1). **LOB:** Baltimore 5, Washington 12. **2B:** Cowser (9), Westburg (6), Vargas (8), Garcia (9). **HR:** Santander (6), off Parker; Henderson (11), off Parker; Mountcastle (6), off Harvey; Rosario (3), off Kimbrel. **RBIs:** Santander (24), Henderson (25), Cowser (20), Mountcastle 2 (18), Mateo (5), Lipscomb (6), Rosario (7), Abrams (20), Vargas (6), Young (8), Garcia (20). **SB:** Nunez (2). **CS:** McKenna (1). **SF:** Cowser, Young, S. Mateo.

Runners left in scoring position: Baltimore 1 (Henderson); Washington 9 (Abrams 3, Young, Meneses 2, Garcia, Winker 2). **RISP:** Baltimore 2 for 6; Washington 4 for 21. **Runners moved up:** Rutschman, Garcia, Young, Lipscomb, Ruiz. **LIDP:** Winker. **GIDP:** Mountcastle, Rutschman, Lipscomb. **DP:** Baltimore 2 (Henderson, Mountcastle; Henderson, Mountcastle, Hende rson); Washington 3 (Abrams, Garcia, Meneses; Garcia, Meneses; Ruiz, Garcia, Ruiz).

BALTIMORE	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Bradish	5	4	1	1	2	9	1.86
Coulombe, H, 8	1	0	0	0	0	0	2.57
Cano, H, 9	½	0	0	0	1	0	2.00
Perez, H, 3	½	0	0	0	1	0	4.15
Kimbrel, H, 2	½	1	2	2	0	0	4.73
Akin, BS, 0-1	½	1	0	0	0	0	3.31
Suarez, W, 2-0	2	1	2	1	1	1	2.29
Webb, S, 2-3	1	1	1	0	1	1	1.65
WASHINGTON	IP	H	R	ER	BB	SO	ERA
Parker	½	5	2	2	1	3	2.67
Law	½	1	1	0	0	0	3.47
Garcia	½	1	0	0	1	1	

SCOREBOARD

NBA PLAYOFFS

CONFERENCE SEMIFINALS

(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
#1 Boston 1, #4 Cleveland 1
G1: May 7 at Boston 120-95.
G2: Thursday Cleveland 118-94.
G3: Saturday at Cleveland, 7:30 p.m.
G4: Monday at Cleveland, 6 p.m.
G5: Wednesday at Boston, TBA
x-G6: Fri., May 17 at Cleveland, TBA
x-G7: Sun., May 19 at Boston, TBA

#2 New York 2, #6 Indiana 0
G1: May 6 at New York 121-117.
G2: May 8 at New York 130-121.
G3: Friday at Indiana, 6 p.m.
G4: Sunday at Indiana, 2:30 p.m.
x-G5: Tuesday at New York, 7 p.m.
x-G6: Fri., May 17 at Indiana, TBA
x-G7: Sun., May 19 at New York, TBA

WESTERN CONFERENCE

#1 Oklahoma City 1, #5 Dallas 0
G1: May 7 at Oklahoma City 117-95.
G2: Thursday at Okla. City, late
G3: Saturday at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
G4: Monday at Dallas, 8:30 p.m.
x-G5: Wednesday at Okla. City, TBA
x-G6: Sat., May 18 at Dallas, 7:30 p.m.
x-G7: Mon., May 20 at Okla. City, 7:30 p.m.

#3 Minnesota 2, #2 Denver 0
G1: May 4 Minnesota 106-99
G2: May 6 Minnesota 106-80.
G3: Friday at Minnesota, 8:30 p.m.
G4: Sunday at Minnesota, 7 p.m.
x-G5: Tuesday at Denver, TBA
x-G6: Thu., May 16 at Minnesota, 7:30 p.m.
x-G7: Sun., May 19 at Denver, TBA

NBA KAREEM ABDUL-JABBAR SOCIAL JUSTICE CHAMPION

Winner: C Karl-Anthony Towns, Minnesota
FINALISTS
C/F Bam Adebayo, Miami
G CJ McCollum, New Orleans
F Lindy Waters III, Oklahoma City
G Russell Westbrook, LA Clippers

PAST SOCIAL JUSTICE CHAMPIONS
2022-23: Stephen Curry, G, Golden State
2021-22: Reggie Bullock, F, Dallas
2020-21: Carmelo Anthony, F, Portland

NBA DRAFT LOTTERY

The Draft Lottery presented by State Farm will take place in Chicago on Sunday, May 12 (3 p.m. on ABC).
Draft: Jun 26-27 at Barclays Center, Brooklyn, N.Y.

LOTTERY ODDS TO WIN

TEAM	1	2	3	4	5	6	AVG
Detroit	14.0	13.4	12.7	12.0	47.9	-	3.7
Washi.	14.0	13.4	12.7	12.0	27.8	20.0	3.9
Charlotte	13.3	12.9	12.4	11.7	15.3	27.1	4.1
Portland	13.2	12.8	12.3	11.7	6.8	24.6	4.4
San Ant.	10.5	10.5	10.6	10.5	2.2	19.6	5.0
Toronto	9.0	9.2	9.4	9.6		8.6	5.5
Memphis	7.5	7.8	8.1	8.5		6.2	6.2
Utah	6.0	6.3	6.7	7.2		7.0	7.0
Brooklyn	4.5	4.8	5.2	5.7		8.0	8.0
Atlanta	3.0	3.3	3.6	4.0		9.2	9.2
Chicago	2.0	2.2	2.4	2.8		10.3	10.3
Houston	1.5	1.7	1.9	2.1		11.4	11.4
Sacra.	0.8	0.9	1.0	1.1		12.6	12.6
GoldenSt.	0.7	0.8	0.9	1.0		13.6	13.6

UFL FOOTBALL

USFL	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
Birmingham	6	0	0	1.000	171	89
Michigan	4	2	0	.667	137	120
Memphis	1	5	0	.167	107	171
Houston	1	5	0	.167	84	138
XFL	W	L	T	PCT	PF	PA
St. Louis	5	1	0	.833	173	103
San Antonio	4	2	0	.667	127	104
DC	3	3	0	.500	112	150
Arlington	0	6	0	.000	117	153

WEEK 7

SATURDAY'S GAMES

Memphis at Arlington, noon
St. Louis at Birmingham, 3p.m.

SUNDAY'S GAMES

Michigan at D.C., 11a.m.
San Antonio at Houston, 2p.m.

UFL SEASON PLAYER STATISTICS

through Week 6 games

PASS YARDS	TM	YDS	TD	I	RAT
Luis Perez	Arl	1,331	7	2	92.0
A.J. McCarron	STL	1,306	13	2	103.5
Jordan Ta'amu	DC	1,076	8	5	76.9
Adrian Martinez	Bir	971	7	1	108.1
Reid Sinnett	Hou	947	4	2	83.5
Case Cookus	Mem	707	5	2	82.4
E.J. Perry	Mich	664	2	3	78.1
Chase Garbers	SA	588	6	1	99.1

RUSHING YARDS

John Lovett	SA	74	347	4.69	4
Adrian Martinez	Bir	31	32710.55	1	1
Jacob Saylor	STL	48	242	5.04	2
Wes Hills	Mich	62	240	3.87	4
Ricky Person	Bir	61	193	3.16	3
CJ Marable	Bir	61	190	3.11	1
Cam/Ron Harris	DC	57	180	3.16	3
T.J. Pledger	Hou	54	179	3.31	1
De'Veon Smith	Arl	56	178	3.18	1
Darius Victor	Mem	60	173	2.88	1
Matt Colburn	Mich	44	157	3.57	2

RECEIVING YARDSTM REC YDS AVG TD

Hakeem Butler	STL	31	478	15.42	5
Marcus Simms	Mich	19	385	20.26	3
Deon Cain	Bir	21	342	16.29	1
Kelvin Harmon	DC	25	338	13.52	3
Jontre Kirklin	SA	37	333	9.00	2
JaVonta Payton	Arl	17	285	16.76	2
Justin Hall	Hou	33	283	8.58	1
Daewood Davis	Mem	28	274	9.79	2
Tyler Vaughns	Arl	27	267	9.89	1
Jonathan Adams	Mem	18	255	14.17	1
Jace Sternberger	Bir	12	236	19.67	2
Cody Latimer	SA	28	230	8.21	1

TOUCHDOWNS

AJ McCarron	StL	98	14	13	1
Adrian Martinez	Bir	56	8	7	1
Jordan Ta'amu	DC	52	8	8	0
Chase Garbers	SA	44	7	6	1
Ricky Person Jr.	Bir	36	6	-	6
E.J. Perry	Mich	40	6	2	4
Luis Perez	Arl	40	6	6	0

FIELD GOALS

Jake Bates	Mich	36	12	14	64
Matthew McCrane	DC	36	12	14	58
Andre Szmyt	STL	36	12	14	54
Matt Coghlin	Mem	33	11	12	57
Chris Blewitt	Bir	24	8	9	46
J.J. Molson	Hou	24	8	9	55
R. Santoso	SA	24	8	9	43
R. Ahmed	Bir	21	7	9	46
J. Garibay	Arl	18	6	7	48
Taylor Russolino	Arl	15	5	6	52

INTERCEPTIONS

Kai Nacua	Mich	3	6	4	6
Mike Rose	StL	2	35	35	2

SACKS

Carlos Davis	Bir	3	6.0	39
Malik Fisher	DC	5	5.0	35
Breeland Speaks	Mich	6	4.5	28
Jalen Redmond	ARL	5	4.5	22
Derrick Roberson	DC	3	4.5	20
Pita Taumoepeunu	STL	4	4.0	40
Travis Feeney	STL	4	4.0	28
Taco Charlton	Bir	3	4.0	32
Ethan Westbrook	Hou	5	3.5	18
Chris Odum	Hou	6	3.5	13
Greg Reeves	Mem	2	3.5	14
Wyatt Ray	SA	5	3.5	32
Jonathan Garvin	Bir	1	3.5	16

FORCED FUMBLES

Derick Roberson	DC	2	0	0
Jonathan Garvin	Bir	2	0	1
Tavante Beckett	SA	2	0	1

TACKLES

Jordan Williams	SA	24	22	46
Jordan Mosley	SA	29	16	45
Tavante Beckett	SA	30	13	43
Donald Payne	Arl	18	21	39
Anthony Hines III	DC	24	15	39
Willie Harvey	STL	18	21	39
Kyahva Tezino	Bir	19	17	36
Frank Ginda	Mich	21	15	36
Kai Nacua	Mich	23	9	32
Malik Lawal	Mem	21	11	32
Makel Roby	Hou	21	10	31

source: ufootball; foxsports.com

source: uflfootball; foxsports.com

NHL PLAYOFFS

SECOND ROUND

(Best-of-7; x-if necessary)
EASTERN CONFERENCE
N.Y. Rangers 3, Carolina 0
G1: May 5 at N.Y. Rangers 4-3.
G2: May 7 at N.Y. Rangers 4-3 (2OT)
G3: Thursday N.Y. Rangers 3-2 (OT).
G4: Saturday at Carolina, 6 p.m.
x-G5: Monday at N.Y. Rangers, 6 p.m.
x-G6: Thu., May 16 at Carolina, TBA
x-G7: Sat., May 18 at N.Y. Rangers, TBA

Boston 1, Florida 1
G1: May 6 Boston 5-1.
G2: May 8 at Florida 6-1.
G3: Friday at Boston, 6 p.m.
G4: Sunday at Boston, 5:30 p.m.
x-G5: Tuesday at Florida, TBD
x-G6: Fri., May 17 at Boston, TBD
x-G7: Sun., May 19 at Florida, TBD

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Vancouver 1, Edmonton 0
G1: May 8 at Vancouver 5-4.
G2: Friday at Vancouver, 9 p.m.
G3: Sunday at Edmonton, 8:30 p.m.
G4: Tuesday at Edmonton, TBA
x-G5: Thu., May 16 at Vancouver, TBA
x-G6: Sat., May 18 at Edmonton, TBA
x-G7: Mon., May 20 at Vancouver, TBA

Colorado 1, Dallas 0
G1: May 7 Colorado 4-3 (OT)
G2: Thursday at Dallas, late
G3: Saturday at Colorado, 9 p.m.
G4: Monday at Colorado, TBA
x-G5: Wednesay at Dallas, TBA
x-G6: Fri., May 17 at Colorado, TBA
x-G7: Sun., May 19 at Dallas, TBA

WNBA

PRESEASON

THURSDAY'S RESULT

New York 82, Connecticut 79
Indiana 83, Atlanta 80

FRIDAY'S GAME

Los Angeles at Phoenix, 9p.m.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS

Chicago 101, New York 53
Seattle 85, Phoenix 59

TENNIS

INTERNAZIONALI BNL D'ITALIA

Thursday at Foro Italico; Rome; outdoors, Red clay

MEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 128

Hamad Medjedovic d. Alexei Popyrin, 6-3, 6-2.
Dominik Koepfer d. Andrea Vavassori, 6-4, 6-3.

Thiago Seyboth Wild d. Gregoire Barrere, 6-4, 6-2.

Jaume Munar d. Rinky Hijikata, 6-4, 7-5.
Stefano Napolitano d. Jeffrey John Wolf, 6-2, 7-6(3).

Rafael Nadal d. Zizou Bergs, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Matteo Gigante d. Giulio Zeppieri, 7-6(2), 6-4.

Miomir Kecmanovic d. Brandon Nakashima, 6-4, 6-4.

Corentin Moutet d. Roman Safiullin, 3-6, 7-6, 6-2.

Jack Draper d. Borna Coric, 7-5, 6-1.

Matteo Arnaldi d. Harold Mayot, 3-6, 7-5, 6-4.

Roberto Carballes Baena d. Christopher O'Connell, 6-7(7), 5-0, retired.

Jan-Lennard Struff d. Pedro Cachin, 6-4, 6-4.

Marcos Giron d. Emil Ruusuvuori, 3-6, 6-3, 6-3.

Fabio Fognini d. Daniel Evans, 6-4, 3-6, 6-2.

Alexandre Muller d. Marton Fucsovics, 4-6, 7-6(5), 6-2.

Botic Van de Zandschulp d. Nicolas Moreno de Alboran, 7-5, 6-7(5), 7-6(4).

Aslan Karatsev d. Mackenzie McDonald, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 64

#1Iga Swiatek d. Bernarda Pera, 6-0, 6-2.

#3Coco Gauff d. Magdalena Frech, 6-3, 6-3.

#6Marketa Vondrousova d. Ana Bogdan, 6-2, 3-6, 6-4.

#7Zheng Qinwen d. Shelby Rogers, 6-2, 6-0.

#10Daria Kasatkina d. Tatjana Maria, 7-5, 6-1.

#12Beatriz Haddad Maia d. Wang Xinyu, 4-6, 6-3, 6-4.

Aliaksandra Sasnovich d. #14Ekaterina Alexandrova, 6-0, 6-1.

Diana Shnaider d. #15Lucimila Samsonova, 6-1, 6-3.

Angelique Kerber d. #17Veronika Kudermetova, 6-3, 6-0.

#18Madison Keys d. Camila Osorio, 6-0, 4-6, 6-3.

Naomi Osaka d. #19Marta Kostyuk, 6-3, 6-2.

Paula Badosa d. #21Emma Navarro, 1-6, 6-4, 6-2.

#28Sorana Cirstea d. Brenda Fruhvirtova, 7-5, 6-0.

#29 Linda Noskova d. Lucrezia Stefanini, 6-3, 7-6(1).

Yulia Putintseva d. #31 Sloane Stephens, 6-3, 6-2.

Jaqueline Arianne Cristian d. Elina Avanesyan, 5-7, 6-2, 6-2.

WOMEN'S SINGLES, ROUND OF 128

Varvara Gracheva d. Federica Di Sarra, 6-1, 6-3.

Rebecca Sramkova d. Giorgia Pedone, 6-4, 6-1.

Anastasia Potapova d. Wang Xiyu, 6-1, 7-5.

Clara Tauson d. Daria Saville, 6-2, 6-3.

Sara Errani d. Amanda Anisimova, 4-6, 6-2, 6-1.

Katie Volynets d. Wang Yafan, 7-6(6), 6-1.

ODDS

NBA PLAYOFFS

FAVORITE **LINE** **O/U** **UNDERDOG**
at Indiana 7 (222½)
at Minnesota 4½ (204½) Denver

NHL PLAYOFFS

FAVORITE **LINE** **UNDERDOG** **LINE**
Florida -125 at Boston +104
Edmonton -130 at Vancouver +108

MLB

American League

FAVORITE **LINE** **UNDERDOG** **LINE**
Houston -126 at Detroit +108
NY Yankees -148 at Tampa Bay +126
Minnesota -112 at Toronto -104
Cleveland -134 at Chi Wh. Sox +114
Kansas City off at LA Angels off
at Seattle -130 Oakland +110

National League

FAVORITE **LINE** **UNDERDOG** **LINE**
at Pittsburgh off Chi. Cubs off
Atlanta -156 at NY Mets +132
Philadelphia -174 at Miami +146
at Milwaukee off St. Louis off
LA Dodgers -168 at San Diego +142
at San Francisco -156 Cincinnati +132

Interleague

FAVORITE **LINE** **UNDERDOG** **LINE**
at Baltimore -132 Arizona +112
at Boston -205 Washington +172
at Houston -188 at Colorado +158

WNBA

WNBA Finals Champion

Las Vegas 1-1 News York 5-2
Connecticut 9-1 Seattle 9-1
Indiana 18-1 Dallas 25-1
Phoenix 25-1 Chicago 40-1
Los Angeles 40-1 Atlanta 50-1
Minnesota 66-1 Washington 100-1
Regular Season Most Valuable Player
Aja Wilson, F, Las Vegas 3-2
Caitlin Clark, G, Indiana 4-1
Breanna Stewart, F, New York 5-1
Alyssa Thomas, F, Connecticut 19-2
Jewell Lloyd, F, Seattle 12-1
Brittney Griner, C, Phoenix 25-1
Sabrina Ionescu, G, New York 25-1
Kelsey Plum, G, Las Vegas 25-1
Satou Sabally, F, Dallas 25-1
Arike Ogunbowale, G, Dallas 25-1
Nneka Ogwumike, F, Seattle 25-1
Chelsea Gray, G, Las Vegas 40-1
Jackie Young, G, Las Vegas 40-1
Alyiah Boston, F, Indiana 50-1
Kahleah Cooper, G/F, Phoenix 50-1

NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

Hornets hire Lee as next head coach

The Hornets named Charles Lee as their head coach on Thursday, hoping he'll turn around the long-struggling NBA franchise. The 39-year-old Lee joins the Hornets after serving as the Celtics top assistant coach. Lee will complete the Celtics' playoff run before joining the Hornets on a full-time basis. Lee spent five seasons under Mike Budenholzer before joining the Celtics last summer. Lee received a four-year deal from the Hornets, according to reports. Financial terms weren't yet available. Lee replaces Steve Clifford, who announced before the end of the regular season that he was stepping down after two seasons in his second stint with the club. The Hornets finished 21-61 this season, tied with the Trail Blazers for the league's third-worst record. Lee helped led the Bucks to the 2020-21 NBA championship as an associate head coach. Throughout his 10 NBA seasons, Lee's teams have accumulated a 510-291 (.637) regular-season record, reached the playoffs nine times, captured seven division titles and earned five Eastern Conference No. 1 seeds. In four of the last six seasons, Lee has helped coach teams that have finished the regular season with the best record in the NBA.

Woods to join PGA Tour-LIV talks



Tiger Woods will be the lone player on a five-member subcommittee that will be involved in negotiations with the Public Investent Fund, part of a busy day of governance as the PGA Tour tries to strike a deal with Saudi backers of LIV Golf. Woods was appointed to the PGA Tour board in August, making him the sixth player-director and the only one whose board term has no limits. The tour said Woods, 48, will be part of the "transaction subcommittee" on the board of PGA Tour Enterprises that will handle day-to-day negotiations as PIF seeks to become a minority investor. Also on the subcommittee are PGA Tour Commissioner Jay Monahan, board chairman Joe Gorder, John W. Henry of Fenway Sports Group and Joe Ogilvie, a former tour player. The subcommittee reports back to the full board. Six current players — Woods, Jordan Spieth, Webb Simpson, Patrick Cantlay, Adam Scott and Peter Malnati — are on the board of the PGA Tour and PGA Tour Enterprises, the commercial entity that agreed to a deal with Strategic Sports Group as a minority investor.

Hall of Fame DB Johnson dies at 86

Pro Football Hall of Fame defensive back Jimmy Johnson, a three-time All-Pro and member of the All-Decade Team of the 1970s, has died. He was 86. Johnson died Wednesday night at home in the San Francisco area after a lengthy illness. Johnson, inducted into the Hall of Fame in 1994, played his entire 16-year pro career with the 49ers. He appeared in 213 games, more than any other franchise player at the time of his retirement. The 49ers drafted Johnson sixth overall in 1961 out of UCLA. He had five interceptions as a rookie. But he was so versatile that the 49ers used Johnson on offense in 1962, when he made 34 receptions for 627 yards and scored four touchdowns. Preventing opponents from compiling such stats was his forte, however, and by 1964 Johnson was a fixture on the corner. He remained there until retiring after the 1976 season, totaling 47 interceptions, returning two for scores, and earning a reputation as a stingy cover man with a nose for the ball. In 1971, in the midst of a three-year run as an All-Pro, Johnson won the George Halas Award for courageous play. Johnson was the brother of Olympic decathlon champion Rafer Johnson, who presented him for enshrinement in the Hall of Fame. —AP



A's infielder Brett Harris celebrates after hitting a home run Wednesday. Playing their final season in Oakland, the A's are showing improvement. They are 18-21 after starting the season 1-7. The A's will move to Las Vegas in 2028 after three years in Sacramento. **GODOFREDO A. VÁSQUEZ/AP**

BASEBALL

Catch them while you can

A's winning again, even if only diehard fans are there to see it

By Janie McCauley
Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — The Treehouse entertainment space way out in left-center field bustled between games of a doubleheader as Athletics fans relished a chance to get out of the sun on a cloudless, spectacular day in the Bay Area, for some pingpong or to grab a cold drink.

They are few but mighty at the moment, small crowds of longtime diehards determined to cheer their beloved A's this year before they relocate to Sacramento for the next three seasons and, later, Las Vegas.

Those who are making an effort to come to the Coliseum are seeing more winning baseball, too. The A's lost 112 games last season and 102 the year before that, and now are 18-21 heading into their weekend series against the Mariners in Seattle.

It's a promising start for a club projected for last place and began the season 1-7.

They didn't win their 18th game in 2023 until June 12.

"Guys are confident," pitcher Alex Wood said. "Down to each guy, ... they were sick of going through what they went through last year. There's really a strong will to go out there and play well and try and win every night and you can see it in every guy out there. And I think the cool thing about this group is we're a super young group but a lot of these guys have been together for a while."

Even if not many fans are getting to see this group come together and finally reap the rewards.

Monday's series opener against the defending World Series champion Rangers drew a season-low 2,895, then Tuesday's

announced crowd was 3,965 and another 8,230 showed up Wednesday to give the A's an average of 6,222 through 22 home dates. Last year, the A's averaged 10,276 per game, but they always draw better during the summer months once kids are out of school, while April is always the lowest month.

Manager Mark Kotsay is quick to praise his players for their focus on what they can control on the field and not all the other stuff, like attendance.

"There's just no quit in this group," he said.

Longtime friends Diego Valdez, Aubrey Porter and John Solis have for years attended the home opener, and now they are trying to get to as many games as possible.

"It's kind of sad for me, honestly," said Porter, a 43-year-old from San Jose. "I've been going to games since I was a kid. I was here when Rickey Henderson broke the (stolen base) record. We used to catch the BART when I lived in Fremont and my dad used to drive me to games here whether I wanted to go or not and I started loving it after that. It's been one of those things I'm really sad they're going away."

Valdez made it to his first game Wednesday since before the COVID-19 pandemic.

These fans understand why the stands are empty. They understand the heartbreak and the hurt.

"It's just kind of frustrating, the A's leaving to Vegas, going to Sacramento next year," the 49-year-old Valdez said. "We lost the Warriors, the Raiders, so I'm trying to come to at least three or four or five more games this year before they leave."

Porter and Valdez are dreaming big, as in playoffs or — dare they say it — a World Series title.

"That would be awesome," Valdez said. "That would be the best thing ever," Porter said. "Incredible."

Rona Brooks Morris and younger brother

Adam have been coming to midweek games together for nearly a decade — even when Morris was pregnant with son, Colin. Both doctors, they have some flexibility.

"It's our sibling bonding time, and it's been an amazing experience. I've learned a lot," Morris said, noting of the early 2024 success: "It's very exciting because one of my first memories of coming to these games was in 2012 with Colin in my belly."

They were here together with late father Irv in 2012 when the A's clinched the division on the final day of the season — Game 162 — against the Rangers when Josh Hamilton dropped the ball in shallow center field on a high popup by Yoenis Cespedes.

Current Rangers second baseman Marcus Semien appreciates his former club's success so far and has already thought about how his next trip to the Coliseum in late September will likely be his last — the final three-game home series for the A's.

"It's a place where my family gets to come watch me play," said Semien, who grew up in nearby Albany and went to college at Cal in neighboring Berkeley. "I've played a lot of baseball in the place and worked out here in the offseason. It doesn't feel right, but like I always say, business is business."

One special fan plans to be around the Coliseum as much as possible until that last day: Hall of Fame pitcher Dennis Eckersley.

The 69-year-old, who won a World Series with the A's in 1989, has become nostalgic — and even somewhat sad — about the team's impending departure.

"More than anything, I wanted to feel it," Eckersley said. "Before I said, 'Aaaw, they'll be around three more years.' Well they're not, and now I feel like there's a need to want to say goodbye to it. ... I'm originally from the Bay Area and this place has been here since 1968. I mean wow! So I just want to experience it and send it off."

GYMNASTICS

Biles wants fall tour to be 'celebration'

By Will Graves
Associated Press

Simone Biles is bringing back her Gold Over America Tour this fall, with a twist. This time, the guys are invited too.

The decision to include the men on the 30-city tour that starts in Southern California on Sept. 17 and ends in Detroit on Nov. 3 was intentional. Biles, who will try to build on her haul of seven Olympic medals this summer in Paris, wanted to broaden the show.

"I think the first time we were very driven on female-forward cast and having the beauty in that and knowing that we can put on a show without the guys and just having the girls being in their feminine power and being beautiful and being the stars," Biles said ahead of the tour's announcement on Thursday. "But this time around we're like 'OK, that worked but let's do it a little bit differently, let's invite the men.'"

That includes Fred Richard, 20, who became the first American man to medal in the all-around at the world championships since 2010 when he earned bronze in Belgium last fall.

Richard, who is eyeing making his first Olympic team, has made it his mission to help make men's gymnastics relevant in a country where the women have commanded much of the attention — and much of the international success — for decades.

The sophomore at Michigan has cultivated an avid following on social media thanks to an ability to make men's gymnastics look both fun and relatable, a somewhat difficult needle to thread.

"The goal is to get as many eyes on men's gymnastics side as possible and have more people understand who we are and what we do," Richard said. "The dream is that someone walks down the street one day and someone says 'Name a male gymnast' and they actually name a male gymnast."

Working with the most decorated gymnast in the history of the sport for a couple of months might help. Richard called Biles a "role model." She sees in Richard someone who has a unique ability to connect with an audience.

"I think it gets really intimate when you get on Fred's platform, just because how he talks to you, the kind of stuff that he puts out is really interesting," Biles said. "I think it'll bring a whole different take." The rest of the men's group won't be determined until after the run-up to the Paris Olympics.

"(The men) also bring a little bit, in the best way, sex appeal," Biles said. "I think that's very interesting and it brings a different type of crowd too."

The women joining Biles include 2020 Tokyo Olympic teammate Jordan Chiles and 2020 Olympic floor exercise champion Jade Carey, with the rest of the roster to be revealed in the coming weeks.

Biles described the show as a "celebration" of gymnastics, though as a celebration with decidedly personal elements.

She used the 2021 tour to help promote the importance of prioritizing mental health, a sometimes taboo subject Biles brought out into the open when she removed herself from multiple competitions at the Tokyo Games while battling "the twisties."

"We want to bring the fun ... we want to bring the golden side out of everybody but those touchy subjects or whatever we want to touch on, those will come whenever people get a chance to tell their stories at the Olympics," she said.

The 27-year-old laughed when asked if this would be her last time as an active participant in the tour. She just celebrated her first anniversary with Bears safety Jonathan Owens and said she's not thinking much long-term beyond 2024.

"I would never say never and I think that would be amazing to (do this) after every Olympic cycle," she said. "I think that would be a beautiful thing. But right now I can't tell you yes or no. Like no definitive answers because I don't know."



Raka (Peter Macon), from left, Noa (Owen Teague) and the human Nova (Freya Allan) fight for their lives in “Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes.” 20TH CENTURY STUDIOS PHOTOS

REVIEW ‘KINGDOM OF THE PLANET OF THE APES’ ★★★

Simian, begin again

By Michael Phillips
Chicago Tribune

Strange thing: The recent 2011-17 films in the “Planet of the Apes” franchise, now joined by the chapter opening this week, follow a similar narrative cycle of peril, punishment, survival. And yet these movies, spaced out in ways Marvel never learned to respect, feel just fresh enough to matter — as long as you don’t mind the adverb “grimly” in front of a word like “compelling.”

“Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes” leaps roughly 300 years into the future, after the death of the great Caesar, rough-hewn, tender-hearted warrior leader. In the 2011-17 trilogy, Andy Serkis made this motion-captured ape king wholly his own, emotionally as well as physically. He’s gone now. But building on those films’ technology, the amalgam of motion-capture techniques and astonishingly subtle digital artistry in “Kingdom” represent the visual gold standard in big-budget screen fantasy. Shooting largely in real locations (as opposed to virtual, video-wall sets *a la* “The Mandalorian”) lends the texture, well, real texture. I



In a future ruled by the cruel Proximus Caesar, Anaya (Travis Jeffery), from left, Noa (Owen Teague) and Soona (Lydia Peckham) discover the ancient human artifacts known as books in “Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes.”

appreciate it, especially having never fully recovered from the canned, lemme-outta-here quantum realm in “Ant-Man and the Wasp: Quantumania.”

“Kingdom,” directed by Wes Ball of the “Maze Runner” trilogy, works quite well as a standalone, no intimate knowledge required of where things stood in 2017 at

the close of “War for the Planet of the Apes.” Our central figure this time is the chimpanzee Noa (Owen Teague), whose eagle-trainer father is the king of the peaceable but ever-vigilant tribe. In the “Valley Beyond,” and beyond, lurks a vicious rival clan, armed with deadly cattle-prod-like weaponry and a penchant for tense if repet-

itive scenes of village decimation and rampant slaughter that go on a bit. (The new film runs two hours and 25 minutes, making it the longest in the series.)

Grieving and determined to avenge some highly personal losses, Noa heads out in search of

Turn to ‘Apes,’ Page 2

REVIEW ‘INTERVIEW WITH THE VAMPIRE’ ★★★★★

One of the best shows on TV is back for second season

By Nina Metz
Chicago Tribune

“Interview with the Vampire” might be one of the best TV shows of the decade in part because it understands certain basic tenets of solidly crafted television in a way that too many series (especially those based on books) simply do not.

It’s also probably one of the most under-watched by Emmy voters; the first season received zero nominations. That’s one of the more head-shaking omissions I’ve seen in recent memory, because AMC’s adaptation of the Anne Rice novels is just so richly written, so thrillingly inhabited by its cast, so effortlessly *funny*. The first season premiered two years ago and if you missed it and want to catch up, it’s worth subscribing to AMC+ for this show alone. I don’t even *like* vampire stories and I’m in the bag for this one.

A key choice at the outset by show creator Rolin Jones was to shift Rice’s timeline forward, beginning the story in 1910 rather than 1791, when Louis de Pointe du Lac (a wonderfully miserable Jacob Anderson) is turned into



Jacob Anderson, left, as Louis De Point Du Lac and Delainey Hayles as Claudia in Season 2 of “Interview with the Vampire.” LARRY HORRICKS/AMC

a vampire by Lestat de Lioncourt (the equally wonderful and louche Sam Reid).

Their toxic affair falls apart viciously 30 years later — the homoerotic subtext of the book is no longer merely hinted at — which is where Season 2 picks up, with Louis and his quasi-

spawn Claudia (Delainey Hayles, ably replacing Season 1’s Bailey Bass) traveling through Europe during World War II in search of other vampires. They haven’t been human for decades, but their human needs and compulsions remain. They’re looking for community, driven by the desire

to be known and to be understood.

Eventually, the pair settle in Paris after the war and find their way to Théâtre des Vampires, where the grand guignol on stage is all too real. Everyone in the troupe is a vampire, but the audience is blissfully unaware,

which is why these nightly performances are such a handy way to hide in plain sight. Claudia is instantly drawn to this world. Louis is mildly disgusted (he really has not come around to the whole vampire thing!) so he keeps a respectful distance while she immerses herself in this twisted little community where “Who’s your maker?” passes for small talk the same way someone might ask, “Where are you from?”

Beneath the cheery, circus-like surface of the theater troupe, power plays and schisms abound, some of them fueled by the sly, dangerous and excitingly diva-esque Santiago (Ben Daniels), whose over-the-top ego is only matched by his opportunism. He’s a riveting, hilarious menace! Louis finds him lacking: “I nodded off one night while Santiago was hamming it up. Apparently that made me persona non grata with the leading man.”

Overseeing the theater company’s operations is the elegantly serene Armand (Assad Zaman), whose romance with Louis creates yet more tension within the troupe — tension

Turn to ‘Vampire,’ Page 2

CELEBRITIES

Serkis to direct, star in ‘LOTR’ film

From news services

Andy Serkis is going back to Middle-earth to play Gollum in two new “Lord of the Rings” films.

Warner Bros. Motion Picture Group’s Michael De Luca and Pam Abdy said Thursday that Peter Jackson, Fran Walsh and Philippa Boyens — the team behind the “Lord of the Rings” and “The Hobbit” trilogies — will produce and Serkis will direct the first film.

“Yesssss, Precious,” Serkis said in a statement. “The time has come once more to venture into the unknown with my dear friends, the extraordinary and incomparable guardians of Middle Earth: Peter, Fran and Philippa ... It’s just too delicious.”

The first film’s working title is “Lord of the Rings: The Hunt for Gollum,” and Walsh and Boyens are co-writing the screenplay. The collaboration between Warner Bros. and New Line Cinema is expected to be released in 2026. The companies did not reveal more information about the second film.

The “Lord of the Rings” and “The Hobbit” films have made nearly \$6 billion at the box office. “The Return of the King” won 11 Oscars, including best director and best picture, tying “Titanic” and “Ben-Hur” for most won.

Duff, Koma welcome daughter: Hilary Duff and husband Matthew Koma have welcomed a new member of their family: Townes Meadow Bair. The actor announced the arrival of her fourth child — her third with Koma — with an Instagram post shared Tuesday. The black-and-white images show the couple embracing their newborn.

“Now we know why she made us wait so long,” Duff captioned her photos. “She was perfecting those



Andy Serkis, seen April 25, will reprise his role as Gollum in two new “Lord of the Rings” films. **JOE MAHER/GETTY**

cheeks!” Duff said her daughter was born May 3. The actor married musician Koma, both 36, in 2019. They share daughters Banks Violet, 5, and Mae James, 3. Duff shares son Luca, 12, with ex-husband and former hockey star Mike Comrie.

Lawrence announces comedy tour: Martin Lawrence is hitting the road for his first headlining comedy tour since 2016, he announced Wednesday. The Y’all Know What It Is! tour opens July 20 will travel to 36 U.S. arenas through April. Joining Lawrence are “hand-picked” special guests, including Ms. Pat, Desi Banks and Benji Brown.

Producer Albini dies: Steve Albini — an alternative rock pioneer and legendary producer who shaped the musical landscape through his work with

Nirvana, the Pixies, PJ Harvey and more — has died. He was 61. Brian Fox, an engineer at Albini’s studio, said Wednesday that Albini died after a heart attack Tuesday. Albini was also the front-man of the underground bands Big Black and Shellac. Shellac releases its first new album in a decade, “To All Trains,” next week. Other acts whose music was shaped by Albini include the Breeders, the Jesus Lizard, Hum, Superchunk, Low and Mogwai.

May 10 birthdays: Actor David Clennon is 81. Singer Donovan is 78. Singer Graham Gouldman is 78. Sportscaster Chris Berman is 69. Actor Victoria Rowell is 65. Singer Bono is 64. Musician Danny Carey is 63. Model Linda Evangelista is 59. Rapper Young MC is 57. Actor Kenan Thompson is 46. Actor Lindsey Shaw is 35.



ASK AMY

By Amy Dickinson
askamy@amydickinson.com Twitter@askingamy

Man frets about reactions to cancer diagnosis

Dear Amy: I’m a 57-year-old man recently diagnosed with stage 4 prostate cancer.

I am not overjoyed, but I am totally accepting of this news. Living with — not dying of — cancer means a few lifestyle changes and the need to be more aware of things. My cancer is not curable, but it is treatable, similar to many other illnesses.

I have a large circle of family, friends and acquaintances who have been supportive of me during my life. I have chosen to share my diagnosis with only a few of them.

While I’m OK with my cancer, I know it isn’t going to be well received by most people, and so that’s why I’ve decided to keep it private. I hate seeing people I care about distressed, and knowing the knowledge of my illness will cause this in turn causes me pain.

I know that after I pass and the news of the cancer becomes known, many of my friends will be blaming themselves for not noticing “the signs” and will feel awful for that as well.

I don’t want people to fawn over me and treat me differently, but I feel guilty about keeping this a secret.

I’m not sure what I’m asking you for, but I’m at a loss about what I should do. Thanks for being here.

— *Accepting my Diagnosis*

Dear Accepting: I’m impressed by your equanimity regarding your diagnosis, but I think you’re also getting a little ahead of yourself.

It is natural to see your future in a telescoped way right now, but people are

complicated, and feelings (including yours) change through time.

You should anticipate that the news of your diagnosis could leak out; if so, other people will react across a spectrum. Some will be worried, some helpful, and some people will mean well but be downright annoying.

I highly recommend that you connect with other men who have prostate cancer, meeting in-person (if possible) and virtually. Your treatment center will have information about local groups.

Oftentimes it is strangers who can step up with great understanding and pointed advice and support. The American Cancer Society’s cancer survivor network hosts active, informative and supportive discussion boards for men with prostate cancer. (Check csncancer.org.)

In addition to reviewing your treatment options with others going through this, they can communicate about how aspects of your diagnosis and prognosis will affect your life and relationships.

Dear Amy: My wife and I agreed years ago to supplement my father-in-law financially after my wife’s mom passed away.

He has gotten remarried, and we have continued to support him financially. However, I am wondering if his second wife has any right to expect continued support after his death.

Is there a solution? I’d like to continue to support him, but his wife is almost my age and supporting her would be a long-term commitment.

My wife and I are trying

to be good people, but we don’t know what to do.

— *Wondering*

Dear Wondering: This is a great question.

The quick answer is that after your wife’s father dies, strictly speaking, you and your wife are no longer related to his widow and therefore you don’t have an obligation to her.

However, there are many factors you should consider, including your own resources, her resources, your desire to possibly support other family members, your father-in-law’s estate planning, and — frankly — how you feel over time about the woman he married.

If your father-in-law has a long and lingering illness and his younger wife is devoted to him, then you might want to repay her kindness after his passing.

But does she have the right to expect your ongoing financial support? In my opinion, no.

Dear Amy: You’re so naïve. You recently stated that wedding invitations are “bids for connection.”

What they are is bids for loot. It’s called a “gift grab,” girl.

— *Over It*

Dear Over It: The average cost of a wedding in the U.S. is around \$35,000. The recommended amount to spend on a wedding gift is \$75 to \$200.

Throwing a wedding in order to receive gifts is a tough way to make a living.

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‘Apes’

from Page 1

survivors and his destiny. He’s accompanied by the feral human woman Mae (Freya Allan), who serves as the audience’s reminder that while apes are running the show, others wait in the wings, and if we don’t learn to coexist we’re doomed to repeat the harsh lessons of previous “Planet of the Apes” movies.

Noa’s cherished ape friends include Anaya (Travis Jeffery) and Soona (Lydia Peckham), and there’s a lovely orange orangutan Noa and Mae meet along their perpetually dangerous trek. His scenes are the balm the on-screen ordeals need.

Screenwriter Josh Friedman varies the rhythms and the threats satisfyingly for a good long time, a little past the halfway mark. Once Noa and the film arrive at the tyrannical oceanfront compound of the bonobo heir to Caesar, aka Proximus Caesar (Kevin Durand), “Kingdom” settles for a heavier beat and some excess baggage. William H. Macy plays the other key human on screen, a raggedy Shake-



A scene, reminiscent of the 1968 “Planet of the Apes,” from the new film “Kingdom of the Planet of the Apes.” **20TH CENTURY STUDIOS**

spearean fool in thrall to Proximus Caesar.

They’re consistently impressive, for lots of reasons. Now: Are these movies fun? I’m not sure we ever go to a “Planet of the Apes” movie for easygoing escapism. The going is rarely, if ever, easy, for

the apes we care about. “Kingdom” lays on the cruelty, braking right at the edge of manipulative gall. For all that, though, these films actually seem to care about the fate of the planet, and the possibility of human and simian progress. Noa is a genu-

inely touching creation, no little thanks to the expressive pain and fear and pathos finessed, artfully, by Teague in the motion capture stage.

What I wrote a decade ago about Serkis and Caesar in “Dawn of the Planet of the Apes” applies

anew to “Kingdom.” In close-up, “we believe there is an actor, a real actor, in there, behind the eyes of the digital creation. And this is why the film, despite its bloat and its overfondness for scenes of massacre, feels as if it were made by actual humans.”

MPA rating: PG-13 (for intense scenes of intense sci-fi violence and action, and brief strong language)
Running time: 2:25
How to watch: n theaters

Michael Phillips is a Tribune critic.

‘Vampire’

from Page 1

that will ultimately come to a head. But before all that can happen, there’s a quiet moment of flirtation between the two as they stand outside a sprawling country villa. Inside, havoc is on the menu as the theater troupe feasts on humans who likely deserved it, not that these vampires seem terribly concerned about such distinctions. But the contrast — romance in the foreground, chaos in the background — is emblematic of the show’s sense of humor.

Where is Lestat during all of this? Vanquished — or so we’re meant to believe. But he haunts Louis’ psyche like an invasive thought, always



Assad Zaman, left, as Armand and Eric Bogosian as Daniel Molloy in Season 2 of “Interview with the Vampire.” **LARRY HORRICKS/AMC PHOTOS**

showing up at inopportune moments, because Louis can be tedious and self-pitying if left to his own devices, leading you to wonder: Can a vampire be a nihilist?

The story’s framing device — the interview of the title — is just as thick

with that blend of intrigue and comedy, as journalist Daniel Molloy (an amusingly sour Eric Bogosian) tries to wrangle something approximating the truth from both present-day Louis and Armand, who live together in expensive



domestic bliss. Their penthouse in Dubai is where the interview takes place. Cranky as always, Daniel is impatient and unimpressed with Louis’ ramblings and Armand’s polite reticence. But eventually he gets at something messier than

expected: The real story about his first attempt to interview Louis in San Francisco back in 1973, when both were fried on coke and quaaludes.

The show understands how to build emotional stakes that make all this

timeline jumping so gripping. Other small nuances stand out, like the way a couple can fight and then somehow also bicker *within* said fight, like a nesting doll of anger and frustration. “Interview with the Vampire” is always atmospheric, whether it’s the calming concrete and right angles of the modernist Dubai abode, or the ancient catacombs of the theater’s bowels. The show’s minimalist title sequence is such a stroke of genius, mimicking the sound of an orchestra tuning its instruments. The performance is about to begin. And what a performance it is.

Where to watch: 8 p.m. Sundays on AMC (and streaming on AMC+)

Nina Metz is a Tribune critic.

APPRECIATION STEVE ALBINI

Producer was brutally honest — and usually right

By Christopher Borrelli
Chicago Tribune

Steve Albini, who died on Tuesday in Chicago at 61, talked a lot. Like, *a lot* a lot. The first time I met him was about 30 years ago. I was a graduate student at Northwestern University and assigned to interview somebody, and I had just bought “In Utero,” Nirvana’s follow-up to its blockbuster album “Nevermind.” Albini was the producer of “In Utero,” and one of my favorite albums, The Pixies’ “Surfer Rosa,” and so I called him, he agreed to chat, and while I remember little of what he said, I remember we talked for hours.

He had studied journalism himself at Northwestern, so he was generous. He had endless opinions on culture and music and what it means to stand by your convictions. I remember at point simply asking what a record producer did. He said he wasn’t a record producer, he was a record engineer. I asked what that was, and he said it was like a record producer.

A year ago, the last time I spoke to him, I asked about his first concert, and he replied as he replied to everything, with too much knowledge and detail and an opinion so insightful and provocative and hilarious that it sucked the air from the room. The concert was the Edgar Winter Group, Sept. 27, 1975, Montana, where he lived as a teenager. He recalled his father saying people only went to rock shows to buy drugs. He recalled, as Edgar Winter launched into a 20-minute keyboard solo, the “dead-eyed gaze” of Johnny Winter “navigating solo breaks in this tumultuous excess, like Ahab resumed to his fate in a dinghy, tossed by the sea and pernicious corpus of his brother’s prog rock white whale ...” He didn’t know if the concert itself was exactly a good idea, but: “An impressionable young Steve thanks whoever set it up for those enduring images of madness and futility.”

Albini talked like that. He was an intimidating guy, and eventually, a sweet guy. He was, as kids say these days, a “gatekeeper,” the prototypical record store owner who frowns at what you bring to his cash register — though he made records, he didn’t sell them. The day after he died, the satirical website Hard Times posted this headline: “Steve Albini standing outside gates of Heaven telling everyone how much he hates the Smashing Pumpkins.”

He could go off on corporate culture and its deadening effects on artists and consumers (and did so elegantly at times, for literary journals like the Hyde Park-based Baffler). He produced famous records and made lesser-known ones with his bands Big Black and Shellac, but also became, by dint of his taste, a sought-after totem of cultural integrity — a representative of a way of being. Or as comedian Fred Armisen told this newspaper several years ago: “Steve Albini became a huge influence on me, which I don’t know if he knows. He had this philosophy on how to live and be and gave me advice I still



Music producer Steve Albini, who died Tuesday in Chicago at the age of 61, in his studio on July 24, 2014. BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

keep in mind.” As for Albini, he always kept it blunt: “I wasn’t a fan of Trenchmouth (Armisen’s Chicago-based punk band) — and so that’s not why we would have become friends.”

He was vintage Gen-X sarcastic, ironic, contrarian, defiantly principled. One of the best things ever written on music was Albini’s 1993 essay “The Problem With Music” for the Baffler, in which he laid out finances, empty promises, unnecessary flourishes. It opens with quite the metaphor: a band (“some of them good friends, some of them barely acquaintances”) standing at one end of a trench filled with waste and at the other end is a music industry “lackey” with a fountain pen and contract. Whoever swims the trench first will get the deal. Only then, the industry insists: “Swim it again, please. Backstroke.”

Thomas Frank, the founder of the Baffler, told me in an email that he never knew Albini personally, but that essay for the journal would become its “consummate expression”: “Seeing through the falsehoods of the culture industry was the first order of business, and no one was better at it than Steve Albini.”

By credits alone, Albini became not only a glue stick of underground music, and a major influence around the country as Wicker Park became an early ’90s music mecca, but a tastemaker for what was once called college radio music and later rebranded “alt rock.”

He held it to ideals that no popular cultural business could entirely satisfy.

He recorded a who’s who of ’90s Chicago bands (including Urge Overkill, Veruca Salt and Jesus Lizard); alt superstars (PJ Harvey, Bush); and the occasional icon (Robert Plant and Jimmy Page, The Stooges, Cheap Trick).

He became known for applying loving sonic care to acts best known by their fields of distortion. He captured, as the cliché went, how a performer sounded live. But attaining clarity, power and honesty seemed deceptively easy. As Albini told Chicago magazine in 1997: “I honestly just feel that music like this deserves to be taken seriously. And that means people who record them should be as concerned about quality as if they were recording the (expletive) Chicago symphony.”

Yet, at the peak of his influence, he also said: “If you wanted to take punk seriously on a more significant level, you could. If you pretend to take dance music seriously on a more significant level, that is a delusional pretension. There really is no substance to it.”

Rick Nielsen of Cheap Trick said they first met in the late 1970s. A teenage Albini sold him a guitar. Nielsen’s son Miles, now of the Rockford-based band Rusted Hearts, even helped Albini physically build his Electrical Audio studio in Avondale. When Albini later produced Cheap Trick, he was “a stickler, but excellent,” Nielsen said. He had “this reputation as a tough guy,” though Nielsen suspects “a lot of it came from record execs because Steve was so different. He was the most honest person in the music business.

“And that’s a list without a lot of company.”

Still, as Albini got older, he came to regret some of the hard-line things he spouted. (He once wrote for a music zine that the Replacements’ breakthrough “Let It Be” was a “sad, pathetic end to a long downhill slide.”) Michael Azerrad, biographer of Nirvana and author of “Our Band Could Be Your Life,” posted Wednesday on X that Albini “was a great artist and underwent the most remarkable and inspiring

personal transformation.” With years came warmth, pleasantness. He faced his incendiary urges. After all, here was a man who once, for a Northwestern art class, invited 100 of his enemies to throw stuff at him as he swore at them behind Plexiglass.

People threw dog poop, bricks, bowling pins.

Martin Atkins, former drummer of Public Image Ltd., a Pilsen resident and industrial mainstay with bands such as Pigface, Nine Inch Nails and Killing Joke, recorded with Albini for years. “We would argue,” he said. “He didn’t like the idea that Pigface was touring in a bus. He would say, ‘Oh, what a bunch of (expletive) rock stars!’ And I would go, ‘Steve, there are 16 of us! What would you want us to do — tour in five mini-vans?’

“I remember in Minnesota, coming back from one of his favorite studios, he agreed to drive me to the airport and we argued music for so long that he drove 40 minutes past the airport and I missed my flight. Things were often very cut and dry to Steve, but always centered on the glorious movement of sound. Whatever personal, spiritual, creative problems he might have had, he worked hard to clear them out to get you your sound.”

Indeed, of all the legendary tales of Steve Albini, one of the best is the long letter that he wrote to Nirvana before recording “In Utero,” to lay out his philosophy and expectations:

“I do not want and will not take a royalty on any record I record. ... I think paying a royalty to a producer or engineer is ethically indefensible. ... I would like to be paid like a plumber: I do the job and you pay me what it’s worth. The record company will expect me to ask for a point or a point and a half. If we assume three million sales, that works out to

400,000 dollars or so. There’s no (expletive) way I would ever take that much money. I wouldn’t be able to sleep.”

Nirvana, eager to retain a shred of indie cred after becoming the biggest band in the world, was a natural fit with Albini. The problem was, after they made “In Utero,” the record company hated its sound; the band itself began airing doubts. And so, before release, changes were made. Moreover, Albini’s reputation as a pedantic, prickly and iconoclastic collaborator, quick to question someone’s ideology, caught up to him.

He told interviewers major labels didn’t want to work with him; critics accused him of selling out by working with them at all, then being fast to complain if it went badly.

But as goofy as it sounds now, since that concept has lost its meaning: He never could sell out. Not the way we assume artists inevitably do. He retained a pure righteous punk intention, except when astringent logic failed. Talking about his young, unpromising self, he gave himself little room to hide. Last year he told the Guardian newspaper: “The one thing I don’t want to do is say: ‘The culture shifted — excuse my behavior.’ It provides a context for why I was wrong at the time, but I *was wrong at the time*.”

In an Instagram post on Wednesday, Armisen said that just the other day Albini had texted him about cymbals. He didn’t get cymbals: “Like I can tell the difference between this one and that one but if I’m honest they both sound like cymbals and I don’t care.”

Armisen concluded: “I always loved hearing him say ‘I don’t care.’”

cborrelli@chicagotribune.com

REVIEW ‘SLOW’ ★★★

He’s asexual. She’s not. This movie explores what happens next

By Michael Phillips
Chicago Tribune

Like the couple it’s about, “Slow” acknowledges and, to some degree, gives in to expectations set by a world overloaded with conformist-minded romcoms and conventional relationship blueprints. But it’s worth seeing. And for a weeklong run starting Friday at the Gene Siskel Film Center, Chicago audiences can see for themselves.

Simple, efficient set-up here, in Lithuanian writer-director Marija Kavtaradze’s second feature. We meet Elena in her natural element, in a dance studio, working out some contemporary choreography. A man arrives and introduces himself as Dovydas, a sign language interpreter. He’s bringing a group of deaf adolescent students to the studio where Elena develops a dance piece with them, communicating non-verbally, as choreographer and performer, and through Dovydas’ signing.

There’s a warmth and something of a spark between the two adults. They share a performer’s

expressivity in their respective mediums. “Slow” returns periodically to scenes of Dovydas alone, on camera, providing eloquent sign language translation for pop song lyrics; throughout the film, Elena rehearses in the studio with two fellow dancers, as they prepare a piece for full production.

Soon enough, after a few walk-and-talks, they’re in Elena’s bedroom, on the brink of a next step. That step in “Slow” turns out to be two words that reset Elena’s expectations. “I’m asexual,” Dovydas says. Not attracted to anyone, really, he adds. “Never was.” The end? Hardly; the friendship already underway has created a closeness that feels right. “Slow” is about how that feeling leads to a relationship frontier new to Elena, and rewarding and challenging and frustrating and fraught to both parties.

At its best, “Slow” pays intimate attention to the way these two deal, humanely, sometimes testily, with their circumstances. Shooting on mellow 16-millimeter film, director Kavtaradze does



A dancer (Greta Grineviciute) meets a sign language interpreter (Kestutis Cicenass) in the Lithuanian romance “Slow,” screening May 10-16 at the Gene Siskel Film Center in Chicago. TOTEM FILMS

very well by both key performers. Greta Grineviciute gives Elena an easygoing combination of solidity and freedom, while Kestutis Cicenass lends Dovydas the affable, somewhat guarded air of a man in limbo. A comfortable gray area?

The script has its on-the-nose impulses. A visit with Elena’s ice-cold, fat-shaming mother explains it all for us, too bluntly. And while the actors work with real skill and ease together, “Slow” tends to establish and re-establish the characters’ connection in familiar ways,

with lots of tense conversational silence followed by mutual peals of laughter.

When the scenes work, however, they really work, and the conversation feels like some things are being said, straightforwardly and without ambiguity (you know, like they talk in the movies) while other things are not. “Slow” goes only so far into Dovydas’s self-proclaimed state of sexual being, while complicating it along the narrative path. I took the film not as any sort of design for living, or facile expla-

nation of anything, but as a design for communicating — honestly, humanely, painfully, sometimes — for the good of whatever relationships yours happen to be.

No MPA rating (sexual content, some language)
Running time: 1:48
How to watch: May 10-16 at the Gene Siskel Film Center, 164 N. State St.; siskelfilmcenter.org. In Lithuanian and English with English subtitles.

Michael Phillips is a Tribune critic.

Inaugural Evanston Folk Festival announces lineup

Sierra Ferrell, Bonnie ‘Prince’ Billy, others slated to perform

By Doug George
Chicago Tribune

The musical lineup has been announced for the first-time Evanston Folk Festival in September, including Sierra Ferrell, Patty Griffin, Hiss Golden Messenger, Sarah Jarosz and Bonnie “Prince” Billy. The festival will run Sept. 7-8 in the lakefront Dawes Park (1700 N. Sheridan Road, Evanston) with music on three stages. Two-day tickets (\$99.50; all ages) are now on sale at www.evanstonfolkfestival.com.

Also, a conversation tent will host presentations and interviews with Jeff Tweedy, Ann Powers, former Tribune music critic Greg Kot, Francesca Royster, Mark Guarino and others.

THE FULL MUSICAL LINEUP

- Sierra Ferrell
- Patty Griffin
- Hiss Golden Messenger
- Sarah Jarosz
- Bonnie Prince Billy
- Madi Diaz
- Robbie Fulks
- Gaby Moreno
- Mon Rovia
- Yasmin Williams
- Willi Carlisle
- Jon Muq
- Adeem the Artist



Sierra Ferrell performs at Railbird Music Festival in Lexington, Kentucky. **AMY HARRIS/INVISION**

- Jontavious Willis
- Dom Flemons
- Chaparelle
- Tré Burt

- Nicolette & The Nobodies
- Sons of the Never Wrong
- The Sullivan Sisters
- Nat Myers
- Free Range
- Vance Gilbert
- The Lowest Pair
- Nora O’Connor
- Mark Dvorak
- Corky Siegel

The Evanston Folk Festival will be presented by the busy Evanston music venue Space, which also is putting on its summer concert series Out of Space (July 26-28; www.outofspaceconcerts.com) and is a partner for the Winnetka Music Festival (June 14-15; www.winnetkamusicfestival.com).

dgeorge@chicagotribune.com

REVIEW ‘THE HEART OF ROCK AND ROLL’ ON BROADWAY

A funny, warm-hearted Huey Lewis jukebox show

By Chris Jones
New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Back in the 1980s, Huey Lewis and the News were sometimes compared to The Cars and even Elvis Costello, but their string of catchy hit singles also had the distinctive everyman air of flowing out of a bunch of regular dudes, Joe six-packs who could just as easily have been headlining at your local tavern and carrying out their own amps.

Presumably, that’s why the book writer Jonathan A. Abrams (working from a story co-written with Tyler Mitchell) chose to set the new jukebox musical “The Heart of Rock & Roll” in Milwaukee and Chicago, even though Lewis came from California. His numerous ditties, such as “If This Is It” “Stuck With You” “Tattoo (Giving It All Up for Love),” “Doing it All For My Baby” and “The Power of Love,” just seem to fit the Midwest.

Over time, especially since Lewis stopped touring after revealing he had hearing loss as a result of Ménière’s disease, these earworms often have become disassociated with their creators: most everyone knows “The Heart of Rock & Roll” but neither Lewis nor The News always land at top of mind.

Ideal fodder, then, for a modestly scaled and warm-hearted jukebox show that might just prove to be one of the sleeper hits of the season, thanks to an inestimably witty book with plenty of what comedians like to call hard laughs, a suite of winning lead performances under director Gordon Greenberg and another *tour de force* suite of choreography from Lorin Latarro, who sure has shaken up Broadway movement this season.

With the help of a killer ensemble decked out in glittery ’80s trashiness, this choreography takes an industrial assembly line in the 1980s as its starting place and lets young bodies move energetically and unpretentiously through time and space. And what a blast they are to watch. The show captures much of the energy of classics like “Road House” and even “Dirty Danc-ing,” as well as drawing from the Broadway world of “Rock of Ages” and “School of Rock.” It’s kinda like a gritty Midwest-



Corey Cott, McKenzie Kurtz and company in “The Heart of Rock and Roll” on Broadway at the James Earl Jones Theatre in New York.



Corey Cott and McKenzie Kurtz in “The Heart of Rock and Roll.”
MATTHEW MURPHY PHOTOS

ern “Mamma Mia!” with paper-pushers and Lake Michigan basement dwellers taking the place of the beautiful Greeks astride the Ionian Sea.

The premise here is that the Huey-like, working-class Bobby (Corey Cott) has given up on his

dreams of being in a successful band and gone to work for a Wisconsin cardboard box company (an industry that keeps on giving in the gag department). But you can’t keep an ambitious guy down and so Bobby crashes a sales convention in Chicago’s

Drake Hotel, simultaneously trying to prove to the owner of the company Stone (John Dossett) and his daughter Cassandra (McKenzie Kurtz) (love interest alert!) that he can strike a deal with an IKEA-like mogul, Fjord (Orville Mendoza) for more boxes than Milwaukee has Miller Lites.

Obstacles are in the way: Cassandra has a Princeton “Pez Dispenser” (Billy Harrigan Tighe) wooing her and Bobby has old bandmates (F. Michael Haynie, Raymond J. Lee and John Michael-Lyles) who want him back. Then there’s the head of HR, Roz (Tamika Lawrence) who seems to have dreams of her own.

None of this is to be taken too seriously, of course, and there is no reinvention of any rules nor desperately pretentious grabs for awards and critical acclaim. “The Heart of Rock and Roll,” which does not look like it cost \$30 million and is all the better for that, feels happy to play to its

target audience of Huey fans who prefer a decent beer to Moët & Chandon any night of the week.

Aside from a truly lovely central performance from Cott, all handsome heart and full-on commitment to his loser guy’s optimism, the biggest surprise of this show is how funny it turns out to be (also true when I first saw “Mamma Mia!” before its London opening). There’s a series of wicked lines lampooning life’s little details that put me in mind of both Tina Fey and “The Office,” given how HR and paper keep on giving in this show. The show is never crass and does not overpush its genuinely warm welcome from the work-weary. Hip to be square indeed.

At the James Earl Jones Theatre, 138 W. 48th St., New York; heartofrocknrollbway.com

Chris Jones is a Tribune critic. cjones5@chicagotribune.com

REVIEW ‘POOLMAN’ ★★½

Pine’s directorial debut packs plenty of star power in LA noir

By Katie Walsh
Tribune News Service

Chris Pine might love Los Angeles more than anyone else. He also loves movies about Los Angeles, talking about movies about Los Angeles, going to the movies in Los Angeles, and making movies about making movies in Los Angeles, which is all laid out in his affable directorial debut, “Poolman,” a love letter-homage-satire of stoner LA noir movies.

Pine co-wrote the script with Ian Gotler and stars in the titular role as Darren Barrenman, aka DB, a slacker pool cleaner with eyes of the same cerulean shade as the chlorinated water he tends to with an almost religious ecstasy.

In “Poolman,” a riff on “Chinatown” that keeps announcing itself as such, DB has to follow the water. Our unlikely hero is the Dude from “The Big Lebowski” as a manic pixie dream boy, an effervescent and inexplicably quirky chap. With his willingness to be vulnerable, childlike enthusiasm and unique wardrobe, DB calls to mind another classic LA character: Pee-wee Herman.

DB lives in an RV in the court-



Chris Pine directed and stars in “Poolman.” **VERTICAL**

yard of a downtrodden apartment complex, hanging with his pals, including his therapist, Diane (Annette Bening), documentary film collaborator Jack (Danny DeVito), girlfriend, Susan (Jennifer Jason Leigh), and friend and associate Wayne (John Ortiz). Together they ruminate about the good old days of LA and

storm city council meetings with dramatic filibusters about bus schedules.

But this isn’t just another shaggy-dog hangout movie, showcasing Pine’s appreciation for classic movies, beloved actors, old-school LA restaurants and short shorts.

Enter the femme fatale, at the

edge of the pool. In a sculptural 1940s-inspired frock and hat, she is June Del Ray (Dewanda Wise), the assistant to the city councilman (Stephen Tobolowsky) with whom Darren is locked in a brutal battle. She tells DB she has dirt on her boss collaborating into a shady real estate deal with a developer, Teddy Holladaise (Clancy Brown). With a bat of her eyelashes, the pool man becomes a PI.

“Poolman” is Pine’s guileless and utterly goofy take on the movies like the aforementioned “Chinatown” and “Who Framed Roger Rabbit?” It unfolds like more recent films, such as “Inherent Vice” and “Under the Silver Lake,” self-conscious takes on LA noir that come with extra layers of existentialism and winking commentary. Pine seems less motivated to comment on the genre, just happy to be playing in the sandbox, flinging around the iconography, archetypes and niche references.

The Achilles’ heel of “Poolman” is its tendency toward hyper-specific geographical jokes; it’s too “inside baseball” to appeal to anyone outside Los Angeles and sometimes feels like

a feature-length version of the “Saturday Night Live” sketch “The Californians.”

The central mystery is flabby and un compelling, and feels obligatory at best — a real estate scandal offering a loose background in front of which these actors play.

Thankfully, the best part of “Poolman” is the cast. If Pine has great taste in anything, it’s actors. He’s assembled an ensemble that includes a superstar (Bening), a comedic heavy-hitter (DeVito) and a group of character actors who always make you feel like you’re in safe, capable hands (Ortiz, Leigh, Brown, Tobolowsky). Add to that a compelling ingenue (Wise) and one delightful weirdo (Ray Wise), and the film would be entertaining even if they just read the phone book.

Pine’s “Poolman” is sort of the physical, emotional and spiritual embodiment of Los Angeles itself: earnest, silly and a little bit ridiculous, but insistently charming if you surrender to the experience.

No MPA rating
Running time: 1:40
How to watch: In theaters

What to watch FRIDAY

May 10, 2024

All times Central. Start times can vary based on cable/satellite provider. Confirm times on your on-screen guide.

Living With Leopards

Netflix
This up-close-and-personal nature documentary follows two leopard cubs as they make their journey from infancy to adulthood.

The Ultimatum: South Africa

Netflix ■ New Series
In this spinoff of *The Ultimatum* reality series, a six-way partner swap sparks wild attractions and tearful betrayals, and participants choose whom to love or leave.

Doctor Who

Disney+, available beginning at 6 p.m. ■ Season Premiere
The Fifteenth Doctor (Ncuti Gatwa) and Ruby



WILFORD HAREWOOD

Sunday (Millie Gibson), who were introduced in December's special "The Church on Ruby Road" (also available today, along with the new episodes "Space Babies" and "Devil's Chord"), pick up their adventures traveling across time and space in the TARDIS and exploring the groovy 1960s, England's Regency era, war-torn futures and more. Along the way, they encounter incredible friends and dangerous foes, including a terrifying boogeyman and the Doctor's most powerful enemy yet. Guest stars in the series include Indira Varma, Callie Cooke, Anita Dobson and others. New episodes drop on Fridays.

S.W.A.T.

CBS, 7 p.m.
Violent ecoterrorists abduct the teenage son of an energy-company executive, sending SWAT on a mission to untangle the kidnappers' twisted motives before attempting a high-stakes rescue in the new episode "Alliance."

BMF

Starz, 7 p.m. ■ Season Finale
The drama following Demetrius "Big Meech" and Terry "Southwest T" Flenory (Demetrius "Lil Meech" Flenory Jr. and Da'Vinci) as they grow their criminal empire concludes Season 3.

Fire Country

CBS, 8 p.m.
The heroes of Station 42 and Three Rock struggle with difficult decisions as they battle a dangerous fire in the new episode "No Future, No Consequences."

Cesar Millan: Better Human Better Dog

Nat Geo, 8 p.m.
In "Fortress of Fear, Part 2," Cesar carries on with his red-zone rehab of Ricky and Bronnie, two violent super-mutt brothers with a long history of attacking each other. With their latest bloody fight happening in front of Cesar, he's taken them back to the ranch for further calm surrender work. However, as the rehab progresses, Cesar realizes that the pet parents are the greatest challenge of the pack.

Blue Bloods

CBS, 9 p.m.
In the new episode "Two of a Kind," Danny (Donnie Wahlberg) gets involved when Sean (Andrew Terraciano) becomes the latest victim in a series of robberies on campus.

MOVIES YOU'LL LOVE



MELISSA MOSELEY, SMPSP

The Secret Life of Pets 2 (2019, Children) Patton Oswalt, Kevin Hart **Freeform, 5:30 p.m.**

Everything Christmas (2023, Romance-comedy) Cindy Busby, Katherine Barrell **Hallmark, 6 p.m.**

Sing 2 (2021, Children) Matthew McConaughey, Reese Witherspoon **Nick, 6 p.m.**

Beetlejuice (1988, Comedy) Michael Keaton, Winona Ryder **AMC, 7 p.m.**

Girls Trip (2017, Comedy) Regina Hall, Queen Latifah **TBS, 7 p.m.**

My Sister's Serial Killer Boyfriend (2023, Suspense) Brianna Cohen, Rib Hillis **LMN, 7 p.m.**

3 Bed, 2 Bath, 1 Ghost (2023, Romance-comedy) Julie Gonzalo, Chris McNally **Hallmark Movies & Mysteries, 8 p.m.**

The Santa Summit (2023, Romance-comedy) Hunter King, Benjamin Hollingsworth **Hallmark, 8 p.m.**

The Lost Boys (1987, Horror) Jason Patric, Corey Haim **AMC, 9 p.m.**

Superbad (2007, Comedy) Jonah Hill, Michael Cera **E!, 10 p.m.**

Aeon Flux (2005, Science fiction) Charlize Theron, Marton Csokas **SYFY, 10:30 p.m.**

CATCH A CLASSIC

Lucas (1986)

MOVIES!, 2:30 p.m.
This funny, touching and sweet 1986 film was a cut above most other teen comedies of its decade when it debuted, and it remains one of the more realistic cinematic depictions of high schoolers in any era. Led by a fantastic young cast, including Corey Haim as the title character, Kerri Green (*The Goonies*), Charlie Sheen, Courtney Thorne-Smith and Winona Ryder in her feature-film debut, writer/director David Seltzer's film treats all of its various characters — whether nerd, jock, cheerleader or otherwise — as real and complex people, with inner lives and motivations, who usually don't respond in the stereotypical ways seen in similar movies. The romantic comedy/drama is enhanced by composer Dave Grusin's lovely musical score.



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From the editors of TV Weekly and tvinsider.com



Ivan Mbakop, seen March 20, plays gangster Zenzo in "Parish." RICHARD SHOTWELL/INVISION

Mbakop unsure if character survived 'Parish' season finale

By Rodney Ho
Atlanta Journal-Constitution

Most actors embrace playing an unrelenting bad guy because it's fun.

Ivan Mbakop, in the juiciest role of his career, gets to indulge in evil power-mongering as a trigger-happy gangster named Zenzo from Zimbabwe dealing with challenges within his family and outside his family in AMC's "Parish," which recently concluded its six-episode first season on AMC.

The series, set in New Orleans, features Emmy-nominated Giancarlo Esposito ("Breaking Bad," "The Mandalorian") as Gracián "Gray" Parish, a broken and broke driver with a criminal past who reluctantly returns to his shadowy ways to pay the bills and eventually avenge the death of his teenage son. Mbakop's character is not a fan of Parish — or his more sophisticated, even-keeled younger brother, who goes by Horse and runs their dirty human trafficking operation.

"In African culture, the

father usually gives the elder brother the family business," said Mbakop. "But Zenzo is so brash, so abrasive, his father in South Africa allowed Horse to take over the business. There's some serious resentment over that."

When Horse brings outsider Parish into the fold, Zenzo is deeply suspicious. His revenge? He becomes a mole, feeding info to a rival human trafficking gang run by Bradley Whitford's Anton to try to get his brother (and Parish) killed so he could take over.

"Horse brings someone in we don't know," Mbakop said. "Worst of all, he's American. If you notice, our entire crew is from Zimbabwe. Who is this outsider?"

The season finale ends in a cliffhanger, which makes it unclear if Mbakop's character survives as the siblings battle it out for supremacy and their father flies in from South Africa to resolve the family dispute.

Mbakop isn't sure his character will see a second season, which AMC has not yet committed to. But he hopes so. "Zenzo is a

lion," he said. "He fights for a living."

For Mbakop, he said he's still learning the craft of acting. He would come to set on his days off to watch how the TV show was being made and observe Esposito. "I got a front-row seat to see a legend at work," he said.

He recalls their first scene together, which is super tense. "I walk out. He walks out behind me," he recalled. "We're in the hallway. When they call cut, we burst out laughing like little kids."

Mbakop said he thinks he got the role because he didn't play Zenzo in auditions as an uncontrollable hothead. Rather, his insecurity and anger seethes beneath the surface, only to pop out at inopportune moments.

And Zenzo is nothing if not pragmatic, teaching Horse's 12-year-old son how to use a gun. "This is not a politically correct show," Mbakop said. "Kids in Africa are trained to be warriors. He is teaching the child that you can't let others define your destiny."



Soaring

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Sunday, May 19, at 3:30 PM

Wentz Concert Hall in Naperville

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Chicago Tribune

Horoscopes



Today's birthday (May 10): This is your year to shine. Build and strengthen collaborative efforts to win big. Take a summer pause to reorient plans, before social fun lights up the autumn. Resolve winter health challenges, before falling in love again next spring.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Today is a 7. Domestic comforts pull with magnetic attraction. Pamper yourself and family with small luxuries like flowers or candles.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): 8. Dig into the research. Discover fascinating information and let others know about it. Share breaking news. Get the word out. Talk gets farther than action.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): 9. Produce valuable work one step at a time. Have faith in your own imagination. Make deals and keep them. Keep your customers satisfied.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): 9. Discuss personal plans. Work out the practical details. Check your course. Ensure that foundational structures are sturdy before adding weight.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): 7. Consider where you've been and are going. Meditate on what results you're after, to clarify your direction. What would you love? Organize for that.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): 8. Teamwork helps navigate unexpected opportunities. Don't get frustrated by obstacles. Slow and steady wins the race. Coordinate communications and actions. Revise plans and try again.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): 8. Your work is gaining attention. Focus on advancing despite complications or distractions. An important job needs doing. Stay flexible with expectations.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): 7. Explore possibilities. A brilliant idea inspires your investigation. Dig into the research for an amazing development. Unexpected deviations along the trail reveal hidden treasures.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): 8. Manage financial obligations for positive cash flow. Surprising circumstances may require adaptation. Work with your partner. Don't push. Talk things over. Listen generously.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): 7. Collaborate with your partner to manage an unexpected situation. Stay flexible. Shift directions gracefully to adapt. Support each other without getting pushy. Relax and discuss.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): 8. Maintain physical routines despite complications. Slow to avoid accidents. Adapt around unexpected changes gracefully. Keep providing excellent service. Prioritize your work and health.

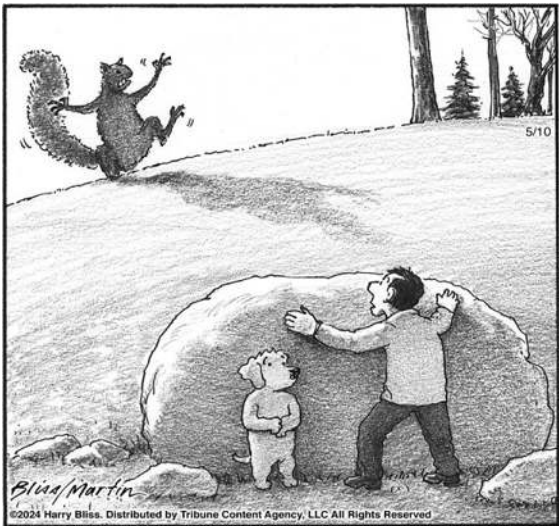
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): 8. Let romance develop naturally. When the timing is right, you'll know. Focus on having fun. Share creative ideas and curiosities. Relax and enjoy.

— Nancy Black, Tribune Content Agency

The Argyle Sweater By Scott Hilburn



Bliss By Harry Bliss



Bridge

North-South vulnerable, West deals

North		East	
♠ K 6		♠ A J 10 9 5 3	
♥ A K Q J 8 5 4		♥ 9 7 3	
♦ J		♦ 10 7	
♣ A Q 2		♣ J 4	
West		South	
♠ Q 4 2		♠ 8 7	
♥ 2		♥ 10 6	
♦ A Q 9 8 6 4 3		♦ K 5 2	
♣ 9 3		♣ K 10 8 7 6 5	

Today's deal was played over 15 years ago. North-South were one of America's leading partnerships, who will remain nameless on this occasion. North wasn't sure what to do over South's three no trump, but great players can smell when a slam is in the air sometimes. Sometimes. North chose to bid five no trump, which South interpreted as "pick-a-slam", and they ended up in six no trump.

The bidding:			
West	North	East	South
3♦	Dbt	Pass	3NT
Pass	5NT	Pass	6♣
Pass	6♥	Pass	6NT

All pass

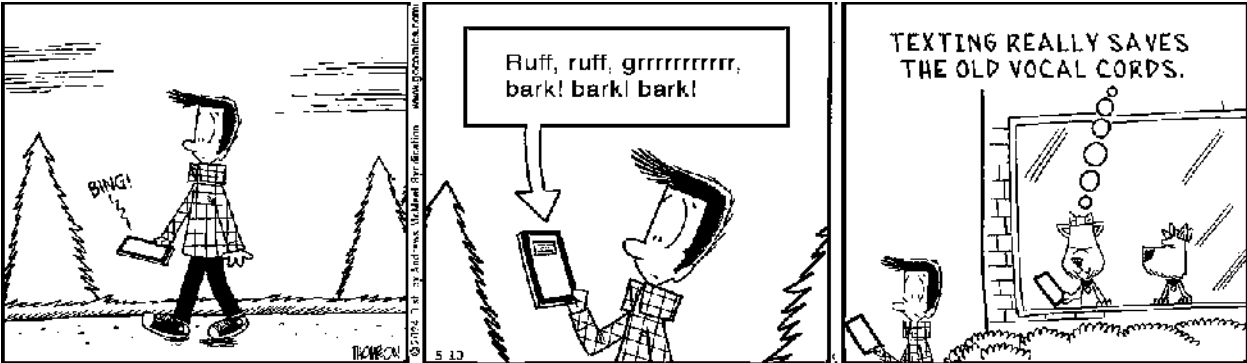
Opening lead: ♠

East-West were a World Champion pair. A few years after this deal they were accused of illegally sharing information at the table and were banned from ever competing in the USA again. One of the things that triggered suspicion against them was their incredible accuracy on opening lead. Perhaps the embarrassment of this result shaped their future behavior. We are told that West gave the opening lead a full five minutes of thought before finally leading the ... two of hearts! A grateful South quickly scooped up all 13 tricks to make his slam with an overtrick.

Had West found a low spade lead, it would have been possible for the defense to take all 13 tricks, although we doubt they would have found that defense. An opening lead swing of 26 possible tricks is extremely rare.

— Bob Jones
Tribune Content Agency

Grand Avenue By Mike Thompson



Baby Blues By Rick Kirkman and Jerry Scott



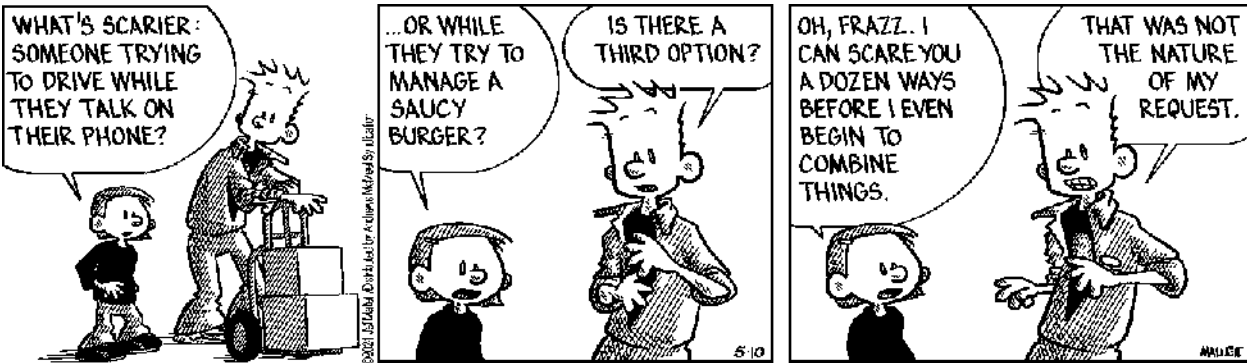
Zits By Jerry Scott and Jim Borgman



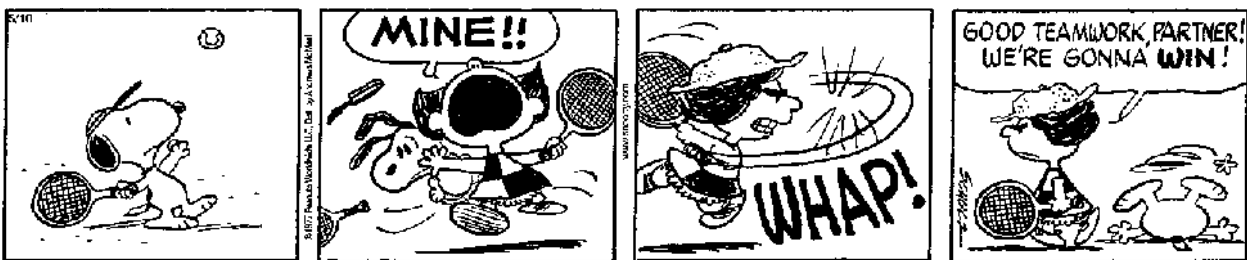
Mr. Boffo By Joe Martin



Frazz By Jef Mallett



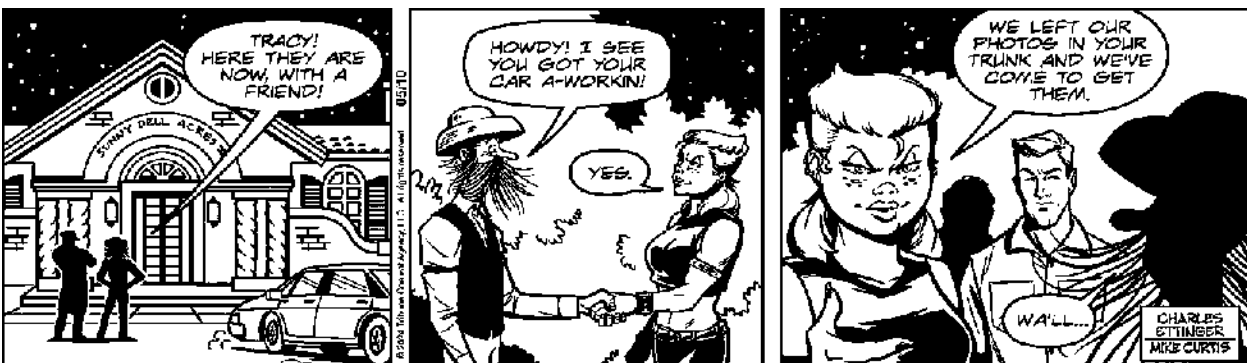
Classic Peanuts By Charles Schulz



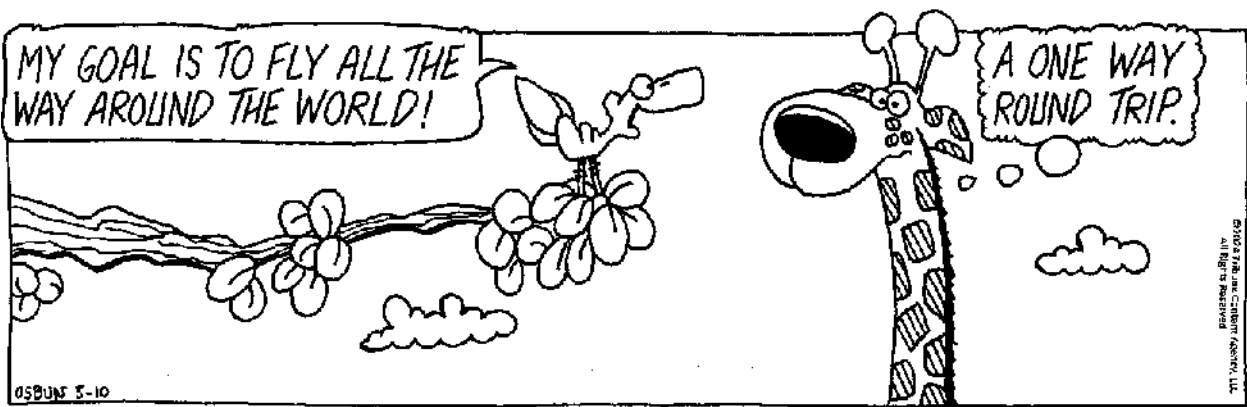
Pickles By Brian Crane



Dick Tracy By Charles Ettinger and Mike Curtis



Animal Crackers By Mike Osburn



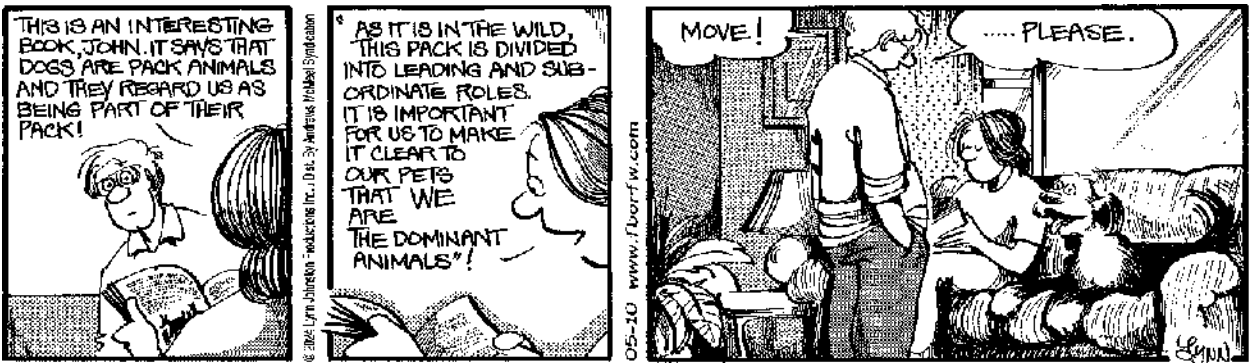
Prickly City By Scott Stantis



Dustin By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



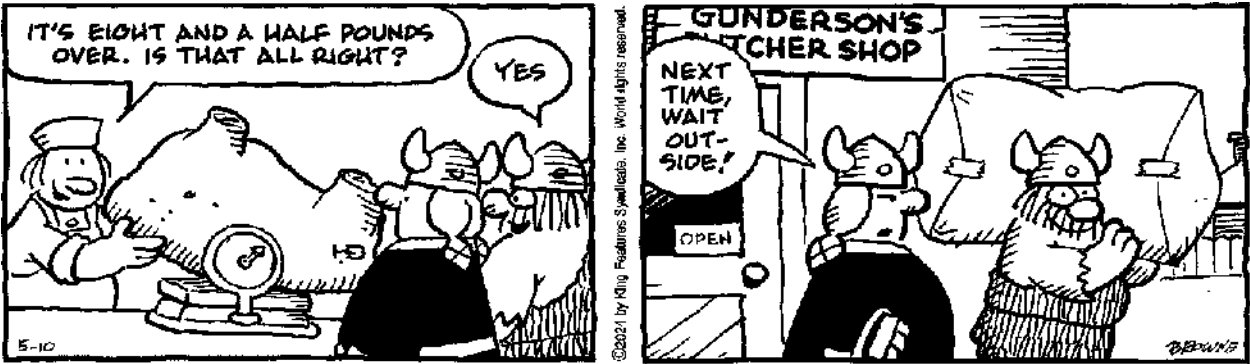
For Better or for Worse By Lynn Johnston



Blondie By Dean Young and John Marshall



Hägar the Horrible By Chris Browne



Mutts By Patrick McDonnell



WuMo By Mikael Wulff and Anders Morgenthaler



Sherman's Lagoon By Jim Toomey



Brewster Rockit: Space Guy! By Tim Rickard



Broom-Hilda By Russell Myers

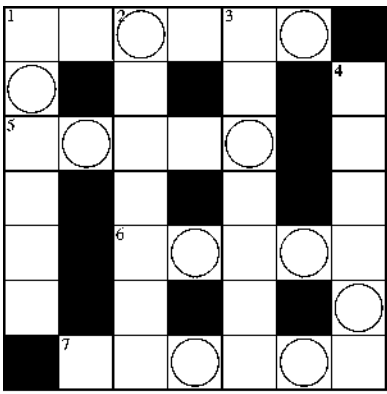


Trivia Bits

In 1669, Hennig Brandt discovered phosphorus by distilling what liquid?
A) Beer
B) Milk
C) Urine
D) Water
Thursday's answer: Sam Snead was the first winner of the PGA Masters tournament to be presented with a green jacket from Augusta National Golf Club.

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Jumble Crossword



5-10-24

CLUE: A native of Canada, _____ became a naturalized U.S. citizen in 1998.

BONUS

- CLUE ACROSS ANSWER
1. Launch, commence BAMEKR
5. Path, way LTARI
6. Flap PELLA
7. Self-_____ ETESME
- CLUE DOWN ANSWER
1. Lengthen EXEDNT
2. The _____ LEAEBS
3. Become ill again PAERSL
4. Coat of arms BLMEME

How to play - Complete the crossword puzzle by looking at the clues and unscrambling the answers. When the puzzle is complete, unscramble the circled letters to solve the BONUS.

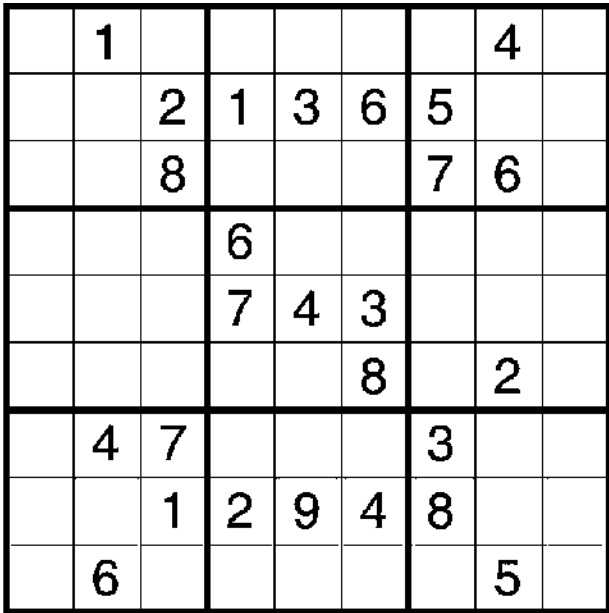
ANSWERS: 1A-Finmark 3A-Trait 6A-Trait 7A-Finmark 8A-Finmark 9A-Finmark 10A-Finmark 11A-Finmark 12A-Finmark 13A-Finmark 14A-Finmark 15A-Finmark 16A-Finmark 17A-Finmark 18A-Finmark 19A-Finmark 20A-Finmark 21A-Finmark 22A-Finmark 23A-Finmark 24A-Finmark 25A-Finmark 26A-Finmark 27A-Finmark 28A-Finmark 29A-Finmark 30A-Finmark 31A-Finmark 32A-Finmark 33A-Finmark 34A-Finmark 35A-Finmark 36A-Finmark 37A-Finmark 38A-Finmark 39A-Finmark 40A-Finmark 41A-Finmark 42A-Finmark 43A-Finmark 44A-Finmark 45A-Finmark 46A-Finmark 47A-Finmark 48A-Finmark 49A-Finmark 50A-Finmark 51A-Finmark 52A-Finmark 53A-Finmark 54A-Finmark 55A-Finmark 56A-Finmark 57A-Finmark 58A-Finmark 59A-Finmark 60A-Finmark 61A-Finmark 62A-Finmark 63A-Finmark 64A-Finmark 65A-Finmark 66A-Finmark

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By David L. Hoyt.

Sudoku 1 2 3 4

5/10



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

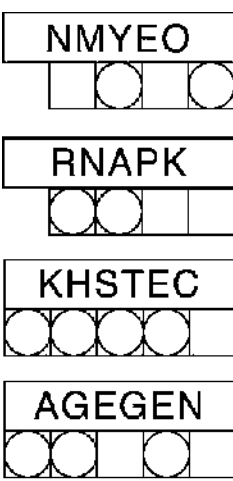
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit 1 to 9.

Thursday's solutions

By The Mephram Group
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Jumble

Unscramble the four Jumbles, one letter per square, to form four words. Then arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by this cartoon.



Answer here



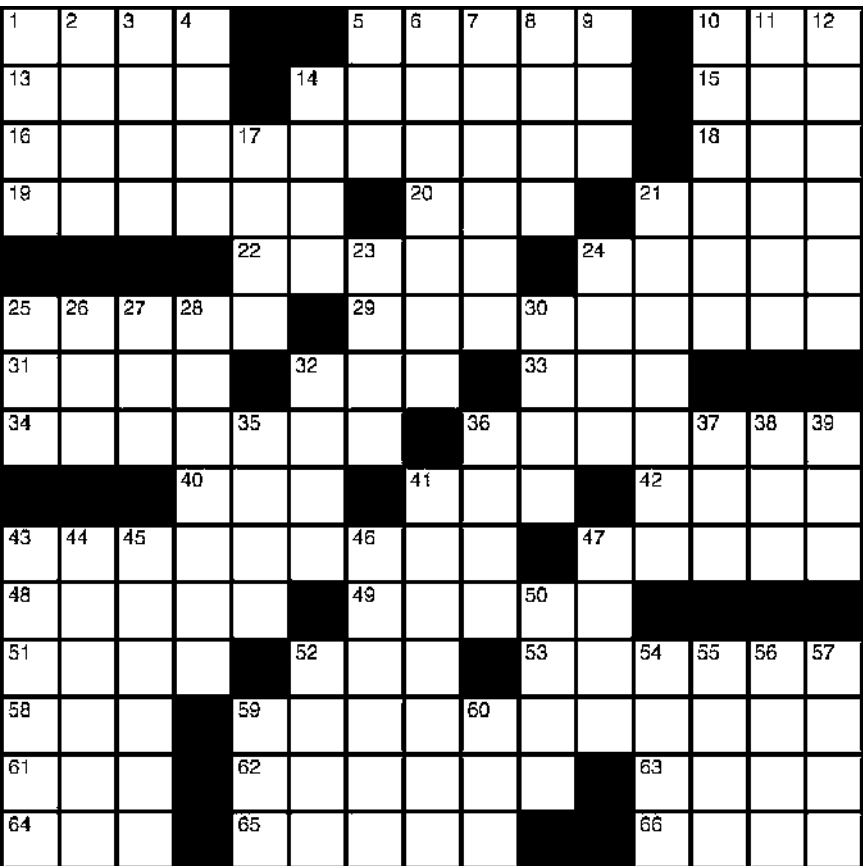
Thursday's answers

Jumbles: IMAGE GOING DRENCH INTACT
Answer: When softball was invented in Chicago in 1887, it was a — GAME CHANGER

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2024 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved. PlayJumble.com

Crossword

5/10



Across

- 1 Percolate
5 After, in Avignon
10 Texting format initials
13 Tiniest bit
14 Flexible
15 — it on thick
16 *Sound made by bursting a cereal bag?
18 Ancient
19 Fix, in a way
20 Tags on Insta, say
21 — song
22 California home of the National Yo-Yo Museum
24 "Us" director Jordan
25 Sales talk
29 *24-hour TV marathon that requires glasses?
31 "Brave New World" drug
32 —ray
33 Rooibos, for one

Thursday's solution



By David B. Ritterskamp. Edited by Patti Varol. © 2024 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

- 34 With 36-Across, first encounter, or what the answers to the starred clues make?
36 See 34-Across
40 University extension
41 Baseball's Mattingly
42 Sound reflection
43 *Many fan letters to N.W.A.?
47 Spot of land
48 Some vines
49 Bailey's Irish —
51 Give for a time
52 Means to be cooler
53 Irrigates
58 Gerund suffix
59 *Bridge that plays a familiar note when crossed?
61 Take advice from a personal injury lawyer, perhaps
62 Submits taxes sans paper
63 Anti-fur gp.
64 Them alternative
65 Make big bangs?
66 Percolate

Down

- 1 Compact —
2 Wrangler's need
3 Shipped pair?
4 Walk to and fro
5 Tide shelfmate
6 Detective voiced by Ryan Reynolds
7 Kite, for one
8 Father of Kenan
9 Gas additive brand

- 10 Got ready to stop
11 UNESCO's — Fund for Girls' Right to Education
12 "Finding Nemo" city
14 Well-worn trail
17 Move slowly
21 Gets ready for surgery
23 "— cost ya!"
24 Hammer end
25 Penultimate Greek letter
26 F-, e.g.
27 "I'm covering my ears now!"
28 Like some retro frames
30 School near Heathrow
32 Scarecrow creator
35 — of March
36 Natalie with nine Grammys
37 Knee pt.
38 Marxist Guevara
39 Tyke
41 Oktoberfest outfits
43 Billie who is the youngest woman to win two Oscars
44 Way, or means
45 Snappy put-down
46 National park on Mount Desert Island
47 Apple with a few cores
50 Stupefies
52 Revolutionary era pipe
54 Baking amts.
55 Foil alternative
56 Give a star, maybe
57 Lose it
59 Crossed
60 Greta of "The Morning Show"

BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at [PlayJumble.com](https://www.playjumble.com)



SUDOKU

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

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Level 1 2 3 4

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box (in bold borders) contains every digit from 1 to 9. For strategies on solving Sudoku, visit sudoku.org.uk.

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

8/14/20

BOGGLE



By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek



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INSTRUCTIONS: Find as many words as you can by linking letters up, down, side-to-side and diagonally, writing words on a blank sheet of paper. You may only use each letter box once within a single word. Play with a friend and compare word finds, crossing out common words.

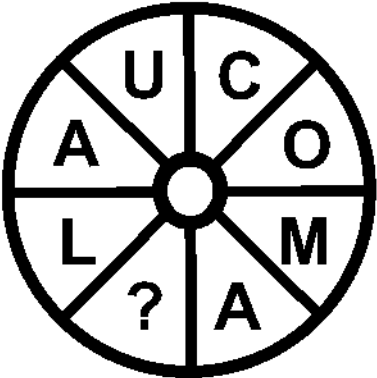
BOGGLE POINT SCALE
3 letters = 1 point
4 letters = 2 points
5 letters = 3 points
6 letters = 4 points
7 letters = 5 points
8 letters = 10 points
9+ letters = 15 points

YOUR BOGGLE RATING
151+ = Champ
101-150 = Expert
61-100 = Pro
31-60 = Gamer
21-30 = Rookie
11-20 = Amateur
0-10 = Try again

Boggle BrainBusters Bonus
We put special brain-busting words into the grid of letters. Can you find them?
Find AT LEAST FIVE CURRENCIES in the grid of letters.

YEN EURO PESO RUPEE POUND

WordWheel



Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

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WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: Six letter words beginning with La

811

Can you find all the words hidden in the grid? Read backwards or forwards, up or down, or diagonally. The words will always be in a straight line. Cross them off the list as you find them.

N	F	O	M	T	S	K	E	L	A	N	D	E	D	Q	D	R	E
N	O	O	G	A	L	L	B	A	S	H	H	B	E	I	L	F	
I	H	L	D	A	E	A	P	A	Y	M	N	L	L	W	A	B	C
K	T	V	T	F	B	S	L	A	P	S	E	D	A	R	K	M	A
H	T	H	N	L	A	S	N	S	M	T	A	N	Y	R	V	C	B
V	E	L	V	A	L	E	X	E	V	L	O	N	T	N	K	A	H
R	J	A	T	R	T	S	X	I	L	B	X	P	X	Y	G	E	X
E	E	S	V	G	C	R	E	D	N	A	L	D	D	D	L	R	D
D	K	H	J	E	Z	N	J	A	U	M	S	E	J	A	Q	X	L
D	V	E	Z	R	Y	P	Z	L	S	H	K	E	S	U	B	L	X
A	E	S	P	L	A	T	E	L	Y	C	L	T	R	T	L	A	R
L	J	G	E	L	X	B	E	R	A	V	E	U	L	S	A	C	O
W	D	M	G	O	D	P	A	L	S	D	L	A	U	O	R	I	B
A	A	Q	J	A	A	R	V	F	Z	N	Y	D	H	E	D	E	C
L	V	O	J	L	L	A	N	C	E	R	X	N	C	D	E	R	W
Y	L	A	T	T	E	R	O	A	K	F	R	A	Y	C	R	N	H
H	K	E	A	V	R	A	L	Z	N	O	N	L	R	E	Z	Y	W
V	J	D	D	E	G	H	Z	R	G	U	I	S	F	Z	Y	T	Y

LABELS
LACIER
LACKED
LADDER
LADIES
LADLED
LAGGED
LAGOON
LAMELY
LAMENT

LANGER
LANDAU
LANDED
LANDER
LAPDOG
LAPELS
LAPSED
LAPTOP
LARGER
LARGER

LARKED
LARVAE
LARYNX
LASERS
LASSES
LASTED
LATELY
LATHER
LATTER

TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews

	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				
29					30	31				32	33	34
35					36					37		
	38		39						40			
	41								42			
				43					44			

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews

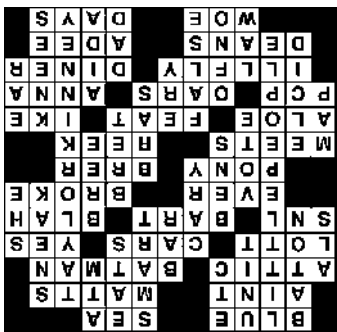
12/13/20

ACROSS

- 1 "___ Bloods"
- 5 "Voyage to the Bottom of the ___"
- 8 "___ Misbehavin'"; Broadway musical
- 9 LeBlanc & Roloff
- 12 Room under the roof
- 13 Adam West role
- 14 Former U.S. senator Trent ___
- 15 Fusion & Jetta
- 16 "Say ___ to the Dress"
- 18 NBC's hit Sat. evening show
- 19 Brother to Lisa & Maggie
- 20 Boring
- 21 "Unhappily ___ After"
- 23 "2 ___ Girls"
- 24 Small horse
- 25 ___ Rabbit; Joel Chandler Harris character
- 26 "Boy ___ World"
- 28 Smell to high heaven
- 29 ___ vera; lotion ingredient
- 30 Brave act
- 32 Storekeeper on "The Waltons"

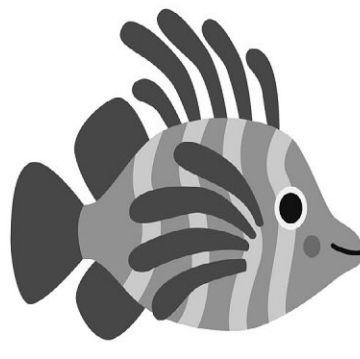
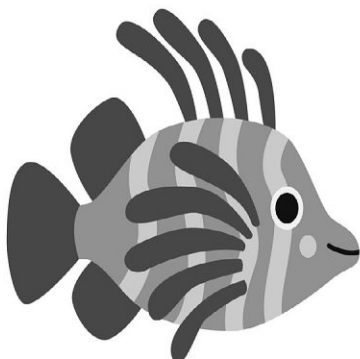
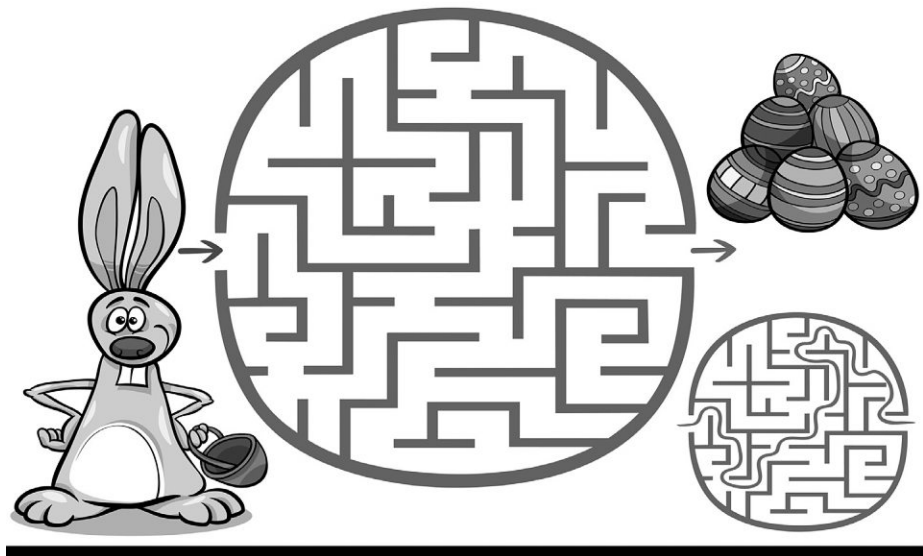
DOWN

- 1 ___ Rouge, LA
- 2 "___, Big World"
- 3 "Law & Order: Special Victims ___"
- 4 And so forth: abbr.
- 5 Actress Jean
- 6 Dines
- 7 Source of quick cash, for short
- 10 Actor on "Chicago Fire"
- 11 Move about stealthily
- 12 Pacino & Molinaro
- 13 Saloon
- 15 Actor Grant
- 17 "Murder, ___ Wrote"
- 19 Stein & Stiller
- 20 Marcia's "Desperate Housewives" role
- 22 Cast a ballot
- 23 One of the Maverick brothers
- 25 Lingerie items
- 26 Atlas page
- 27 Charlton Heston movie
- 30 Untrue
- 31 Suffix for green or distill
- 33 Leg joints
- 34 Cochlea's place
- 36 "Point ___ Return"; Bridget Fonda film
- 37 Verdi opera
- 39 "Bluff City ___"; 2019 series
- 40 "American ___!"



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KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



FIND 3 DIFFERENCES