

Chicago Tribune



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WEDNESDAY, MARCH 5, 2025

BREAKING NEWS AT CHICAGOTRIBUNE.COM

Illinoisans push for a new clean energy law

Lawmakers introduce bill with ambitious goal for large-scale storage

By Nara Schoenberg and Addison Wright
Chicago Tribune

With clean energy under siege in Congress and in the Oval Office, supporters continue to press forward in Illinois.

Lawmakers have introduced the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act, with an ambitious new goal for large-scale energy storage, in which giant batteries absorb wind and solar energy when it's not needed, and release it when it is.

The bill makes it easier to construct high-voltage transmission lines, which bring the cleanest, lowest-cost energy to consumers.

There are also measures promoting energy efficiency, addressing electricity-guzzling data centers and establishing virtual power plants — networks of homes with EVs, solar panels and batteries that, working in tandem, can produce large amounts of energy and save customers money.

"Trump has made it clear he plans to roll back federal funding and programs that support clean energy progress," Democratic state Rep. Ann Williams of Chicago, a sponsor of the bill, said at a news conference Tuesday.

"This is of great concern to all of us in Illinois, but we are not going back. Illinois can and will continue to lead on climate policy," she said.

President Donald Trump's efforts to block funding for solar and wind energy and electric vehicles have hit Illinois hard in recent weeks, with environmentalists reporting chaos and confusion.

But there's also a sense of pride in the state's sweeping 2021 law, the Climate and Equitable Jobs Act, and a determination to meet new challenges.

"Our power grid is struggling to keep up with a surge in demand for energy, largely caused by new data centers," Illinois Clean Jobs Coalition lobbyist Kady McFadden said

Turn to Energy, Page 5



President Donald Trump addresses a joint session of Congress at the Capitol in Washington on Tuesday. WIN MCNAMEE/AP

Trump vows to remain 'swift and unrelenting'

GOP allies applaud pledge to continue disruptive policies

By Zeke Miller and Michelle L. Price
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump vowed Tuesday to keep up his campaign of "swift and unrelenting action" in reorienting the nation's economy, immigration and foreign policy in an unyielding address to Congress and the nation that left Democratic legislators to register their dissent with stone faces, placards calling out "lies" and one legislator's ejection.

Trump's prime-time speech was the latest marker in his takeover of the nation's capital, where the Republican-led House and

Senate have done little to restrain him as he and his allies work to slash the size of the federal government and remake America's place in the world.

The address, more than 90 minutes long, added up to an defiant sales pitch for the policies that he promised during his campaign and leaned into during his first weeks back in office. Trump pledged to keep delivering sweeping changes to the country, rescuing it from what he described as destruction and mistakes left by his predecessor.

Emboldened after overcoming impeachments in his first term and criminal prosecutions in between his two adminis-

trations and with a tight grip on the Republican-controlled Congress, Trump has embarked on a mission to dismantle parts of the federal government, remake the relationship with America's allies and spark a North American trade war that is compounding economic uncertainty.

"It has been nothing but swift and unrelenting action," Trump said of his opening weeks in office. "The people elected me to do the job, and I am doing it."

Trump, who has billionaire adviser Elon Musk orchestrating his efforts to slash the size and scope of the federal government, said he is working to "reclaim democracy from this unaccount-

able bureaucracy" and threatened federal workers anew with firings if they resist his agenda.

Musk, seated in the House gallery, received a pair of standing ovations from Republicans in the chamber, as Trump exaggerated and shared false claims about alleged government abuse uncovered by Musk and his team.

Trump repeated false claims that tens of millions of dead people over 100 years old are receiving Social Security payments, prompting some Democrats to shout, "Not true!" and "Those are lies!"

Trump spoke at a critical juncture in his presidency, as voters who returned him to the White House on his promise to fix

Turn to Speech, Page 11



Makenna Krabath, 15, puts her hand up to signal to cars to stop while walking with Cindy Bergeron, right, a teacher for the visually impaired with Northwest Suburban Special Education Organization, during a field trip to downtown Chicago on Feb. 26. AUDREY RICHARDSON/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Learning to navigate Chicago without audible warning signals

Visually impaired students confront hazardous situations

By Robert McCoppin
Chicago Tribune

On a recent rainy morning in Chicago's Loop, a group of visually impaired students made their way along a sidewalk, sweeping their white canes back and forth to feel curbs and planters. They stopped at a corner to listen. A CTA train roared overhead.

Cars rushed in front of them. They waited. When they could hear the traffic move parallel to them, the group began venturing through the crosswalk, safely reaching the opposite corner.

The suburban students ranged from sixth grade to high school, and their vision varied from pretty good to almost none. Guided by teachers, their crossing was another little victory in a journey to make their way in a world built for sighted people.

"I would get more worried

if I was alone" today, said 10th grader Makenna Krabath, who attends Elk Grove High School. "This makes me feel like I can navigate on my own if I had to."

Every time the kids come to Chicago, they have to confront a hazardous situation — Chicago's lack of audible traffic signals that beep or play announcements to alert people when to cross.

After decades with little response to the problem, a

Turn to Students, Page 2

Fur ban ordinance advances in City Council

Southwest Side furriers say it would end their family-owned businesses

By Jake Sheridan
Chicago Tribune

Chicago was founded by fur traders. Now, it might soon kick them out.

An ordinance banning the sale of new fur products advanced in the City Council on Tuesday, setting up a final vote as soon as next week.

Ald. Raymond Lopez, the ban's author, hopes the move will stifle the "barbaric and inhumane" fur industry, and said existing furriers need to evolve.

"We know we can transition away from formerly live fur products," Lopez, 15th, told aldermen.

But Ald. Matt O'Shea, 19th, and two furriers in his Southwest Side ward warned the ban would be the end of their businesses.

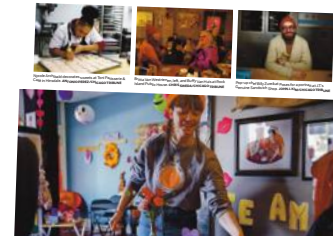
"They are family-owned. They have created jobs for residents in my community. They have contributed to our tax base," O'Shea said. "They will close. People will be out of jobs."

Lopez is the latest Chicago City Council member to court controversy with a proposal aimed at animal rights. North Side Ald. Joe Moore in 2006 got the council to ban foie gras, prohibiting restaurants from serving the delicacy made by force-feeding ducks and

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INSIDE

FOOD & HEALTH



These are a few of your favorite things

A look at the Readers' Choice Food Awards winners: Restaurants, bars, bakeries and more that impressed Chicago in 2024. **Food & Health**

A look at Chicago's endangered buildings

Once anchored by a McDonald's, 150-year-old Delaware Building tops Preservation Chicago's most endangered list. **Business**

TODAY'S WEATHER

High **51**
Low **25**



Complete Chicagoland forecast on Page 16

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Tribune books

“Dinner at Home” Cooking at home doesn’t have to be difficult, but it should always be delicious. Since 2007, Jean-Marie Brownson, culinary director for Rick Bayless’ Frontera Foods, has been helping readers put inventive, yet simple, dishes on the table through her Dinner at Home column for the Tribune. Her book includes everything you need to create spectacular food any day of the week, including sample menus and recipes for everything from prosciutto Parmesan puffs to roasted chicken with tomatillo relish. Dinner at home has never been better.

“Capone: A Photographic Portrait of America’s Most Notorious Gangster.” Using many never-before-published photographs and newspaper clippings from the Tribune’s archives, this coffee-table book chronicles the rise and fall of Al Capone.

“Ask Amy: Advice for Better Living” For over a decade, Amy Dickinson has been the Tribune’s signature general advice columnist, helping readers with questions both personal and pressing. This book, which collects columns from 2011 to 2013, is a testament to the empathetic counsel and practical common-sense tips that Dickinson has been distilling for years.

“Culture Worrier: Reflections on Race, Politics and Social Change.” Clarence Page’s newest book commemorates the 30th anniversary of his column’s first appearance in the Tribune. It is the first such collection of the Pulitzer Prize winner’s columns, covering topics such as politics, social issues, pop culture, race, family, new media and prominent figures, as well as his personal life.

“10 Things You Might Not Know About Nearly Everything.” You may never need to know the human body contains a half-pound of salt, but that’s just one of the obscure facts you’ll find about sports, history, religion, politics, arts and culture, food and leisure, and science and technology in this collection of columns from Mark Jacob and Stephan Benzkofner.

“Life Skills: How To Do Almost Anything” How do you give a good wedding toast? How do you fix a clogged drain? How do you bowl without hurting anyone? Questions like these make up this engaging do-it-yourself guide.

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Gerard Brown, owner of Island Furs, a fur salon, shows the storage room of his store Tuesday. Island Furs is at risk because of a potential fur ban that the Chicago City Council might implement. **AUDREY RICHARDSON/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

Fur

from Page 1

geese to enlarge their livers.

Mayor Richard M. Daley at the time called the foie gras ban “the silliest law the City Council has ever passed” and warned it would hurt economic development. Two years later, restaurateur Ald. Tom Tunney led a successful effort to overturn it.

Lopez’s ban does not outlaw leather, cowhide or deerskin products. It also makes exceptions to allow the sale of secondhand fur products, as well as new fur products used in religious and cultural practices.

After the License and Consumer Protection Committee approved the ordinance in a split voice vote, O’Shea predicted the ban would only shift existing

fur sales to Chicago suburbs.

“We need to do more to attract businesses, to support the businesses we have,” he said. “This is going to do nothing for those that want to stop animal fur from being sold.”

A representative of Angelo’s Leather and Fur in Oak Lawn declined to comment on the ban. He was too busy handling a going-out-of-business sale, he said.

Gerard Brown, owner of Island Furs in Chicago, shared a simple prediction Tuesday on what the ban would mean for his 31-year-old Beverly store: “We wouldn’t exist.”

The fur business is the only work Brown has ever known, he said. His South-west Side store employs as many as five people, depending on the season, as it makes and repairs fur garments.

He sees the ban as an

attack on his “art form” — and free expression. He likened the effort to banning books, history or dance.

“I think it’s a travesty,” Brown said. “People who don’t like furs, we understand, that’s your choice. That’s what makes this country great: choice.”

Eight blocks north, Cherry Tebyanian predicted a fur ban would also put her store, Adriana Furs, out of business. “This is devastating,” she said. “For 38 years we have been up and running. All of a sudden they want to ban fur coats. Why?”

She defended the morality of the industry, citing the use of farm-raised animals. There have been “ups and downs” in recent years, including when the store was robbed during the pandemic. But people still buy the warm furs from her and her 15 employees, she

said.

“We are providing jobs to people. And we are also helping our community,” she said. “Everybody should be allowed to do business, regardless of what kind of business they’re doing. Nobody should control you, how you live your life.”

Asked about the possibility of store closures, Lopez defended the ban as “just the natural evolution of business.” Six furriers remain in Chicago, he said.

“If they refuse to evolve, they are going to put themselves out of business,” Lopez said. “There is nothing saying that they have to sell their shop. There is nothing saying that they can’t sell alternative fur products.”

There is already a large shift away from natural fur products, and most Americans do not support fur sales, he added.

Students

from Page 1

lawsuit filed in 2019 tried to raise the alarm. One of the plaintiffs, a blind woman, was hit by a car while trying to cross the street and faced weeks of recovery. Another blind woman, who commutes from LaGrange to work in Chicago, was nearly hit by a bus, saved by another pedestrian who pulled her back just in time.

In 2023, a federal judge ruled that Chicago’s failure to install such warning devices violated the Americans with Disabilities Act. Yet nearly two years later, there is no court order to fix the problem.

As of November, the city listed 85 crossings with accessible pedestrian signals, or APS, out of more than 2,800 signalized intersections.

Disability Rights Advocates, which is litigating the case on behalf of the American Council of the Blind of Metropolitan Chicago, has called for the city to add the warning signals at all intersections over the next 10 years, supervising attorney Rachel Weisberg said. The Department of Justice also intervened on behalf of more than 100,000 people with low vision in Cook County.

City officials have proposed in court a more limited program, to replace up to 70% of the signals over 15 years. In contrast, in a similar case, New York City already had nearly 2,400 warning signals as of 2023, and plans to have 10,000 in 10 years.

Despite the lack of warning signals in Chicago, the suburban students on their recent field trip to the Loop were determined to get where they were going. The six students and five teachers, including certified orientation and mobility specialists, came from schools in Schaumburg, Elk Grove Village and Palatine.

“We would never put them in danger,” said Mike Gannon, a teacher in Township High School District 211. “But they need to figure it out as well. If they take one or two steps, they need to figure out why I pulled them back.”

The group navigated their way to Second Sense, a downtown nonprofit that provides services to visually impaired adults. Instructors



Nicole Smulkstys, center, a District 211 teacher for the blind and visually impaired, asks her students, Mario McMinn, 17, left, and Hannah Spedale, 15, to listen to the crosswalk noises during a field trip to downtown Chicago on Feb. 26. **AUDREY RICHARDSON/TRIBUNE PHOTOS**



Mario McMinn, 17, reads the Hot Chi Chicken menu with Nicole Smulkstys at Sterling Food Hall in downtown Chicago.

there told the kids about free services they offer to adults, including assistive technology, mobility training, help with daily living skills and guide dogs.

But guide dogs don’t help if the user doesn’t know how to get where they’re going, community engagement specialist Kathy Austin said. One missed turn, she said, can leave a blind person lost.

“If you don’t have good orientation and mobility skills,” she said, “all a guide dog will do is get you lost faster.”

Second Sense tries to provide what each client needs individually, from measuring medication to parenting classes on changing diapers. In one case, a pregnant woman with low vision couldn’t see the face of her fetus on a sonogram. Second Sense was able to make a 3D printout of the image so she could feel her baby’s features.

One important boost for people with poor vision has been the development of smart phone and tablet

apps. They can zoom and magnify things like texts, street signs and maps and read the words aloud. Some, like Be My Eyes, offer live video chats with volunteers to identify or describe objects. Volunteers can even see what the caller is looking at through Ray-Ban Meta glasses.

Other apps, like VoiceOver, offer audio description, using artificial intelligence to describe what is happening in a video. VoiceVista announces landmarks and detailed walking directions, and screen readers like JAWS convert text on computer screens to speech.

At school districts 211, 214 and 15, in the Palatine and Arlington Heights areas, teachers help the students learn daily living skills, from using appliances for cooking and cleaning, to grocery shopping and money management.

Even though some students don’t normally use a white cane in familiar surroundings at school, it

can help to “part the waters” when other people see them using it, District 211 teacher Nicole Smulkstys said, and legally, drivers must yield to anyone using such a cane.

Next on the students’ itinerary was a stop at Sterling Food Hall on South Clark Street, where teachers helped students order lunch or use apps to read the wall menus.

“The biggest thing I’ve learned on these trips is having confidence in myself,” Fremd High School sophomore Hannah Spedale said. “I like to show it doesn’t prevent me from leading a normal life. We’re pretty much able to do the same things as other kids, and want the same opportunities.”

Spedale and her younger sister Mia have a genetic condition that is causing them to gradually lose central vision, while keeping peripheral sight. That doesn’t stop Hannah from participating in track, basketball and flag football, or taking honors classes like trigonometry and pre-calculus.

Mario McMinn, a senior at Fremd, has the opposite condition — he’s losing his peripheral vision. He too has stayed active, competing in wrestling, debate and on the school chess team, which placed third in the state.

He has applied to college, and is learning how to navigate.

“I’ve always had someone to assist me, but I imagine I could handle an internship or an outing myself,” he said. “If I needed to, I could do it.”

CHICAGOLAND



Chicago Teachers Union members march into Minnie Miñoso Academy on Tuesday chanting, "Whose schools? Our schools!" **ANTONIO PEREZ/TRIBUNE**

Teachers union to petition school board over five 'sticking points'

Say CPS must satisfy those to settle on new, four-year contract

By Nell Salzman
Chicago Tribune

A group of parents, students and Chicago Teachers Union organizers braved the gray, rainy morning to put forward a message about what is at stake for children and educators with five "sticking points" they say Chicago Public Schools must satisfy to settle on a new, four-year contract.

Union members marched into Minnie Miñoso Academy holding umbrellas Tuesday morning, chanting, "Whose schools? Our schools?" At a news conference outside the Bridgeport school, officials said on Wednesday that they plan to deliver a stack of petitions outlining those demands to the Chicago Board of Education.

The American Federation of Teachers initially called the news conference to protest President Donald Trump's education policies. Instead, the event focused on what has become a highly public, nearly 11-month bargaining process for a school district under significant financial constraints.

The "must-have" demands the union officials and leaders outlined Tuesday are: increased preparatory time for teachers; enforceable smaller class sizes; an equitable educator evaluation

system; closing gaps in compensation for veteran teachers; and adding more secondary teaching staff positions such as teaching assistants, librarians, nurses, clinicians and counselors.

"Special education teachers spend a tremendous amount of unpaid time getting to the social and emotional needs of our students," said Lakisha House, a teacher who has been with CPS for over a decade. "The district knows how to provide us with that time."

On Feb. 4, Martin H. Malin, an arbitrator and emeritus professor at Chicago-Kent College of Law, released a fact-finding report with recommendations for a "path to settlement" between the two sides at the bargaining table.

The report sided with Chicago Public Schools on its offer for salary raises and staffing proposals. It sided with CTU on its demands for more school librarians and increased pay for veteran staff members. Left unaddressed in the report were teacher preparatory time, evaluations and decisions on teachers assistants or nurses — issues that were front and center at Tuesday morning's news conference.

"Without a full-time nurse, I worry about what happens when a child has an asthma attack, when a student with diabetes needs monitoring, or when injury goes beyond a Band-Aid," said Marcea Brown, the parent of a third grader at Miñoso. "No child's health or

safety should be left to chance."

With negotiations nearing the year mark, union members and CPS officials are meeting daily to reach an agreement. It's unclear how negotiations will fare over the final months of CPS CEO Pedro Martinez's tenure with the district. The school board fired him without cause in December, but he will remain in his role until June.

Stacy Davis Gates, CTU's president, said Tuesday the union has repeatedly tried to meet CPS halfway in negotiations and that the five sticking points are what union members find most important.

"CEO Martinez says we are close. It's time to prove that by finding a 'yes' in order for us to provide our students with the public schools they deserve," Davis Gates said.

When released last month, the teachers union immediately rejected Malin's report, citing state law's limits on the issues the third-party fact-finder can address and make recommendations. Meanwhile, Martinez said he "(couldn't) even imagine the need" for a teachers' strike as both sides are getting closer to an agreement.

This week marks the required 30-day "cooling-off" period since the fact-finding report was released, so the union could call for a strike. However, CTU said it does not have immediate plans to vote for a work stoppage.

The district said ongoing nego-

tiations have been "productive" with the goal of reaching a contract that "recognizes the significant contributions of our educators while being mindful of our budgetary limitations."

"CPS proudly provides one of the most competitive wage and benefits packages in the nation for our dedicated educators," a CPS spokesperson said in a statement, pointing to the school district's goals to prioritize students under its new five-year strategic plan.

The district did not provide clarification about how close the two sides are on the five points outlined by CTU, or if it agrees that those points are the most important.

Veteran teachers provide invaluable leadership and mentorship and should be compensated appropriately, said Vicki Kurzydlo, who has been a teacher for 31 years, in an interview with the Tribune. The fact-finding report showed that CPS has the money to meet the union's demands, Kurzydlo said.

"CPS needs to demonstrate that they value their veteran teachers, they value our expertise and they value the contributions that we make to our school communities," she said.

While the district has offered 10 additional minutes of preparatory time for elementary school teachers, some teachers say it's not enough. The district maintains that more planning time takes away from teaching time.

Effort to house Gompers Park homeless moving ahead

'Accelerated moving event' planned at Northwest Side park

By Jake Sheridan
Chicago Tribune

Mayor Brandon Johnson's administration is moving ahead Wednesday on a plan to get the homeless residents of a controversial Gompers Park encampment into housing.

City officials laid out their plan Tuesday for an "accelerated moving event" at the Northwest Side park where people have lived in tents for months. The delayed effort's "north star" is to get the encampment's 29 residents into permanent housing, but the city will not be asking people to leave, Chief Homelessness Officer Sindy Soto said.

"We want to ensure that they are receiving the services and that this does not feel like a displacement for them, but rather receiving a benefit and an opportunity," Soto said.

The planned flood of city resources into the encampment puts Johnson in the middle of a tense debate over the park encampment that has played out in packed community meetings and City Council public comments. Some nearby residents have long called on the city to clear out the encampment, while others insist the people living in Gompers Park must get a say over where they live, even if it means allowing them to stay.

At one October meeting of North Mayfair and North Park residents, city leaders told a frustrated crowd they had reached their capacity on the accelerated moving events that condense the process of getting a person into permanent housing. But after months of waiting and a recent weeklong delay, the plan is moving ahead.

Encampment residents will be able to "virtually tour" apartment units and select one during the event staffed by an array of city agencies. The move-in's cost the city about \$30,000 per household — potentially near \$1 million at Gompers Park, if all residents take the offer Wednesday — with most money going toward rental subsidies, according to Maura McCauley, acting commissioner of the Department of Family and Support Services.

Residents will also be connected with furniture and assigned case managers. The move-in process can take 30 to 90 days, a period in which residents are offered shelter placement, but can also return to their tents, McCauley said. In other accelerated moving events, 94.1% of residents got housing, according to an August 2023 audit by Inspector General Deborah Witzburg.

The event could lead to "no one at the park," Soto said. Encampment residents will have the choice to stay if they want, and some may turn down the housing offer if the city does not have access to units in neighborhoods they want to stay in, she said.

"Being homeless is not a crime," she said. "Homelessness is not an issue that can be solved at one park. It has to be solved with the right revenue, with the right amount of housing stock, and we're working toward that, but we're just not there yet."

Threats to federal funding from President Donald Trump's administration threaten the city's ability to expand homelessness support work, Soto said. She blamed last month's brief federal funding freeze for delaying the event a week. Addressing homelessness is a key focus for Johnson, who strongly backed an unsuccessful bid last year to raise an estimated \$100 million earmarked for homelessness services by raising taxes on real estate transfers over \$1 million.

Ald. Sam Nugent, 39th, said the city's Wednesday effort is "long overdue," but praised the plan as a "win-win" for encampment residents and park-goers alike. Another campsite in Nugent's ward along the North Shore Channel was cleared last summer and later fenced off by city authorities.

The encampment in Gompers Park is a safety issue, Nugent said. She cited three dozen Fire Department service calls since last year and several recent fires.

"There's been a lot of drug use, there's been a lot of alcohol use, and it's really not a safe environment right now," she said.

She said she is optimistic that residents will take up the housing put forward by the city.

"They've been asking for permanent stable housing, and that's what they're going to be offered."

DOLTON

Henyard absent from board meeting after primary defeat

By Olivia Stevens
Daily Southtown

At the first Dolton Village Board meeting since Mayor Tiffany Henyard lost the Democratic primary for reelection, a sense of peace washed over many attendees.

Henyard was absent from Monday's meeting at the Dolton Park District Field House, leaving Trustee Jason House, the Democratic nominee for mayor, to lead. He guided the approval of settlements of several lawsuits brought against Henyard and the village, as well as contract agreements with union workers.

"This board is about making sure that we listen to the residents and we are able to actually take things and put them into action," House said.

The board members in attendance — Tammie Brown, Stan Brown, Brittney Norwood and Kiana Belcher — expressed their support for House and excitement for the village's future.

House received 3,896 votes, or 88%, to 536 votes for Henyard, according to unofficial results from the Cook County clerk's office. The winner of the Democratic primary will face independent candidate Casundra Hopson-Jordan in the April 1 election.

"Eighty-eight percent is an avalanche, not a landslide," Belcher said, to a chorus of laughter and applause.

Norwood led a field of seven

candidates running for three Village Board seats with 3,554 votes, while Belcher had 3,414 and former Trustee Edward "Ed" Steave had 3,335 votes, according to unofficial results. All are members of House's Clean House 2025 slate.

The trustee candidates running with Henyard were well behind, with Joslyn King at 653 votes, Linda Terrell at 618, and Vanessa R. Wesco with 536 votes, unofficial results show.

Henyard has not spoken publicly since losing the Dolton primary, but in social media posts has written that she is "going to keep winning."

"Trust the process. Watch my comeback. Stay tuned," Henyard wrote Thursday on Facebook. "Wait y'all thought I was finish — hell no."

Henyard has been under federal investigation, with subpoenas delivered to Dolton Village Hall and Thornton Township offices last spring. Henyard is township supervisor but faces a challenge in getting elected to a full term, having been blocked from being part of the Democratic caucus that instead chose state Sen. Napoleon Harris as its candidate. Henyard did not immediately respond Tuesday to requests for comment from the Daily Southtown.

In unanimous approvals, the board designated certain village property Class 8, intending space for commercial business, as well as approved bargaining agreements with the firefighters' union



The Democratic nominee for Dolton mayor, Jason House, leads the Dolton Village Board through its meeting at the Dolton Park District Field House on Monday. **TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/**

and Police Department record technicians.

Dolton firefighters' Local 3766 has spoken out about working without a contract during Henyard's tenure, citing a dysfunctional negotiation process. They also filed a lawsuit the board settled Monday to resolve all pending grievances and matters before the Labor Relations Board.

The board agreed to settle two other lawsuits that together will cost the village close to \$100,000. In a Freedom of Information Act case brought by Nexstar Media, the village agreed to pay a judgment of about \$52,000. In another case brought by Karen Johnson, the village settled for \$35,000.

The board also overrode a veto from Henyard that prevented it from issuing a liquor license to Pablo's Cafe and Bar on Sibley Boulevard. Village attorney Michael McGrath said House was

given court approval to issue the license due to Henyard's unwillingness to comply with court orders.

"Unfortunately, the next board ... (is) going to be faced with cleaning up a number of matters that were inherited from the current administration," McGrath said.

House agreed with this sentiment and encouraged Dolton residents to remain engaged in government affairs beyond Henyard's controversial tenure. He said he was encouraged by voter turnout in the Feb. 25 primary, which saw about 4,500 votes compared with about 2,900 in 2021.

"A more engaged community brings more dollars, and Lord knows we're going to need some of those," House said.

An array of speakers congratulated House and his slate during public comment, and expressed hope for a clean slate in Dolton village government.

Resident Elaine Wheatley called House a "man of character" and encouraged the community to rally behind him while "throwing away all unforgiveness, bitterness and resentment" toward Henyard's administration and its supporters.

"Let us not esteem past discrepancies, unlawful actions and unwise leadership," Wheatley said. "Let us believe that the atmosphere has shifted and the light is shining brightly over Dolton."

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Hundreds gather in Daley Plaza to protest Trump

By Carolyn Stein and Tess Kenny
Chicago Tribune

Hundreds of people braved rainfall in Daley Plaza on Tuesday afternoon for a pro-democracy rally and march, chanting, “Trump isn’t America, we are America” in one of several planned protests ahead of President Donald Trump’s Tuesday night address to a joint session of Congress.

Many people held signs at the protest that read “Power to the people,” “Save the civil service” and “It’s so bad even the introverts are here.” Some people also held Ukrainian flags to show support for Ukraine the day after Trump announced he would halt military aid to the country following a tense meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

“When I see each one of you standing here today in this cold, rainy weather, my hope goes just beyond work,” Lity Kurisinkal, co-president of Illinois Democratic Women of Cook County, said to the crowd. “My dear friends, when you stand here, you are the defenders of democracy. We are the warriors.”

Organizers led the crowd in songs at various points in the rally, singing everything from the national anthem to an American version of

the anti-fascist song “Bella Ciao,” which was sung for the Italian resistance movement during World War II.

“We the people, the U.S. people, we are one, we are one, one, one,” the crowd sang.

“The foundation of our government is being tested by those who seek to concentrate power in the hands of the gluttonous few instead of the will of the many,” said Maggie O’Keefe, a community organizer and voting rights activist. “I ask you today: Will you stand by and watch as executive power expand unchecked?”

“No!” the crowd of protesters roared back.

Protesters also gathered in Connecticut, Utah and Alabama, according to organizers. The nationwide demonstrations, named the March 4th for Democracy protests, were organized by the national 50501 Movement, a grassroots movement dedicated to pushing back against the actions of the second Trump administration.

The first protests held by the 50501 Movement took place across the nation on Feb. 5. Shortly thereafter, the organization held a “No Kings on Presidents Day” protest on Feb. 17.

Since taking office, Trump has taken numerous sweeping actions that have challenged constitutional and federal law, including sign-



Jenny Silbiger, visiting Chicago from Hawaii, records people marching south on LaSalle Street toward Federal Plaza on Tuesday to protest actions by the Trump administration they see as executive overreach. Silbiger was excited to see people exercising their right to speak out. **TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

ing an executive order to end birthright citizenship, freezing trillions of dollars on federal spending, firing National Labor Relations Board member Gwynne Wilcox and 18 inspector generals from various federal agencies, among other actions.

Protesters also condemned the firing of hundreds of federal workers across agencies by the Department of Government Efficiency, including firings at the Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Veteran Affairs and the Department of Health

and Human Services.

“He’s stomping all over Congress. He’s stomping all over the judiciary. He’s stomping all over immigrant rights. He’s stomping all over union rights, environmental protection, international rights, Constitution, the rule of law, parliamentarism — you name it,” Paul Street, an activist and historian who has taught at DePaul University.

Following the rally, protesters marched through downtown, chanting, “In the name of humanity, we refuse a fascist America” and “We say humanity first, Trump

says America first.”

Later on Tuesday, more than 50 people protested near the Fifth Avenue Train station in Naperville, standing on the Washington Street overpass with signs that read “America for the people not for kings or oligarchs” and “An oligarchy and democracy cannot coexist.”

Naperville resident Mary Horek stood at the edge of the overpass with a sign that read, “Vote like democracy depends on it. (It does.)” She wore a bright yellow poncho, her hood pulled up as it steadily drizzled. Tues-

day marked the first time that Horek, 71, had ever attended a protest, she said. “I’m at a boiling point,” she said. “I’m depressed. I can’t sleep. Everything that’s happening, it’s just not right. ... I’m worried about everybody in our country.”

Tim Nelson, also a first-time protester, stood alongside his 9-year-old daughter and mother-in-law.

“We are, I wouldn’t say, traditional activists, but I think just given the state of things,” he said, “we’re out here to support peace and democracy and to make sure it’s upheld.”

Public works labor union dispute continues in Midlothian

By Samantha Moilanen
Daily Southtown

A large inflatable Scabby the Rat greeted passersby outside Midlothian Village Hall Monday, drawing honks of support from passing drivers. The national symbol of labor disputes was erected after a dozen

public works employees went on strike following the failure of federal mediation sessions to secure a new contract, according to Local 150 of the International Union of Operating Engineers.

Inside, village and union representatives were in their third mediation session,

working to reach an agreement after the contract expired at the end of April last year, according to Local 150.

Mike Quinn, who has dedicated 30 years to the village’s Public Works Department, said this is the first time in his tenure a contract dispute has esca-

lated to a strike.

“I just want to get back to work,” Quinn said Monday, the ninth day of the strike during which employees have gone without pay and braved cold temperatures to picket.

“I miss my grandkids,” Quinn said.

Local 150 filed an unfair labor practice charge Feb. 12 with the Illinois Labor Relations Board then later notified the village of its intent to call a strike.

The labor union said it’s members are striking not only to address the alleged unfair labor practice, but also to advocate for a fair and equitable contract.

Key demands include wages and insurance, the union said. The union is seeking insurance coverage for bargaining unit retirees, something it says is available to other village employees.

Since the strike began on Feb. 23, public works employees, and represen-

tatives of Local 150, have stood outside Village Hall in the cold around the clock in 12-hour shifts.

Many of them, including Nick Sawicki, who has worked for the village for eight years, say the strike has been especially tough on their families. For those with young children, adjusting sleep schedules and balancing family life has been a challenge.

“You are basically thrown out, like literally into the cold, just trying to be treated fairly,” Sawicki said.

Still, the workers value their jobs and have no desire to leave, Sawicki said.

“I would say this is my last job,” he said. “I love doing what I do.”

The union said a mediation session took place Jan. 23, with a federal mediator meeting separately with both sides, during which each made oral contract proposals. Another session was held Feb. 21, according to the union, which said it

was prepared to “sit at the bargaining table as long as necessary to negotiate a fair contract.”

After presenting its final offer, the union said the village ended the session for the day and was not able to meet again until March 3.

Mayor Gary L’Heureux said in a statement previously shared with the Southtown that the walk-out comes at a time when the village is facing water main breaks.

“These breaks are threatening the safety of the drinking water to our residents and have resulted in over a half-million gallons of clean, drinking water to be flushed down the drain, costing the Village and its residents thousands of dollars,” L’Heureux wrote.

The village alleges union members interfered with a village contractor attempting to stop the leak, resulting in the contractor leaving the job site without fixing the leak.



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NAPERVILLE

Gun arrests outside Topgolf back with three busts in four weeks

By Tess Kenny
Naperville Sun

After a few months of quiet, gun-related arrests at the Topgolf in Naperville have started up again, with police apprehending three suspects in the past month on firearm charges in and near the facility’s parking lot.

Arrests occurred Feb. 1, Feb. 11 and March 1, which was this past Saturday. Prior to February, the last gun-related arrest outside the 3211 Odyssey Court venue was in late October, according to Naperville police spokeswoman Kelley Munch.

Malik Jacorey Gulley, 31 of Chicago, was taken into custody just after midnight Saturday and charged with one felony count of aggravated unlawful possession of a weapon.

Officers were patrolling the Topgolf parking lot when they checked an unoccupied silver Chevrolet and “observed cannabis, open alcohol and a black firearm in plain view,” Naperville police Cmdr. Rick Krakow said.

When Gulley and two other occupants returned to the vehicle, the officers detained them, recovered the firearm, cannabis and alcohol and arrested Gulley, Krakow said.

Following his initial appearance, Gulley is next scheduled to be in court March 24.

Jihad Yousef Yamin, 23, of Lisle, was arrested at 7:43 p.m. Feb. 11 in a parking lot adjacent to Topgolf and charged with three felony counts of unlawful possession of a weapon without a valid Firearm Owner’s Identification (FOID) card/Concealed Carry License.

Officers were patrolling the Topgolf lot when they noticed a black Mercedes Benz with a permit improperly displayed, Krakow said. When they checked car’s vehicle identification number, they observed a firearm in plain view inside, he said.

They waited for the Mercedes leave the Topgolf lot before pulling over the driver in the neighboring WhirlyBall venue parking lot at 3103 Odyssey Court, Krakow said.

It was later learned that the loaded firearm they recovered had been reported as stolen in Chicago, he said. Charges filed in DuPage County Circuit Court say Yamin “knowingly carried on or about his person while in a vehicle a pistol, being a Taurus G2S 9mm firearm, loaded with 7 rounds” and that the pistol was “uncased, loaded and immediately

accessible at the time of the offense.”

Yamin’s next court appearance is scheduled for Mar. 20.

Boy Deion Perez, 27 of Harwood Heights, was taken into custody outside Topgolf at 11:24 a.m. Feb. 1 on one count each of unlawful possession of a weapon by a felon and possession of a controlled substance.

Officers were conducting a foot patrol of the Topgolf lot when they observed suspected drugs in plain view inside a BMW, Krakow said. When two people returned the vehicle, police detained them, recovered a loaded Ruger LCP .380 firearm with an extended magazine and arrested Perez, he said.

According to DuPage court records filed on Feb. 25, Perez also has been indicted on an additional count of aggravated unlawful possession of a weapon.

He has pleaded not guilty to all three counts, court records show. His next court appearance is scheduled for March 10.

Prior to the start of this year, Naperville police made 25 arrests on gun-related offenses outside Naperville’s Topgolf between August 2023 and October 2024.

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Landlord ordered to pay \$80K for threat to call ICE

By **Laura Rodríguez**
Presa and
Rebecca Johnson
Chicago Tribune

A judge ordered a Chicago landlord last month to pay \$80,000 to former tenants after the landlord threatened to call ICE on them during a verbal dispute in June 2020, according to court documents.

The case is the first to reach a judgment under the state's 2019 Immigrant Tenant Protection Act, according to the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, which filed the case on behalf of the tenants.

"Everyone has rights under the rule of law regardless of their actual or perceived immigration status. In Illinois, landlords are prohibited from wielding the threat of immigration enforcement as a weapon against their tenants," said Susana Sandoval Vargas, MALDEF's Midwest regional counsel. "This decision shows that those who choose to disregard these protections will face serious consequences. This is an important victory for all tenants in Illinois, who, like our clients, just want a safe place to call home."

On Feb. 19, Cook County Circuit Judge Catherine A. Schneider ordered former landlord Marco Antonio Contreras and his wife, Denise Contreras, to pay more than \$80,000 in damages as well as attorneys' fees and costs for violating the state law,



Illinois State Rep. Theresa Mah speaks at a "Know Your Rights" gathering organized by immigrant advocates in Chicago's Pilsen neighborhood on Nov. 7. **CHRIS SWEDA/TRIBUNE**

according to the lawsuit. The judge also awarded a smaller sum in compensation for Contreras denying the tenants access to their belongings.

Neither the Contrerases nor their attorney could be reached for comment. The former tenants also declined an interview but released a statement through their attorney.

"We decided not to stay silent because our landlords threatened us with calling immigration, and we do not believe that anyone has a right to threaten us," the couple said in the statement. "No one should feel or act superior to others. We are all equals and deserve respect. Just because someone is your landlord does not mean that they get to do whatever they want to you."

Sandoval Vargas declined to comment on the tenants' immigration status.

When Gov. JB Pritzker signed the Immigrant

Tenant Protection Act into law in 2019, Illinois became the second state to prohibit landlords from evicting tenants solely because they're living in the U.S. illegally. The law also barred landlords from reporting or threatening to report tenants' immigration status to intimidate or retaliate against them.

California was the first state to pass an immigrant tenant law in 2017. In 2021, a Colorado Tenant Protection Act went into effect.

While the Illinois Human Rights Act also prohibits discrimination broadly based on citizenship status, the Immigrant Tenant Protection Act provided extra protection, said Eric Sirota, a law professor and director of the Tenant Advocacy Clinic at Northwestern University. He said housing providers will hopefully take this week's judgment as a "shot across the bow."

"This is the law of Illinois,

and people are hurt really badly when their housing status (is) jeopardized or made unstable," he said. "Courts are recognizing how harmful that is."

Another case filed in September 2021 has not yet reached judgment, according to Sandoval Vargas. In that case, a Cicero couple is accused of reporting one of their tenants to immigration officials after the tenant requested a repair in his apartment, according to the lawsuit.

State Rep. Theresa Mah, a Chicago Democrat who sponsored the legislation, said Tuesday it's a "nice feeling" to know that the law is working and that the couple found it useful in their case. Mah added that due to the current political environment — where she said "immigrants are being mistreated and disparaged" — the legislation is "more relevant than ever."

"I don't feel that anybody should be put in a vulnerable position because of whatever immigration status they occupy," Mah said. "I'm glad that the law is ... helping ensure that people have rights and that they're able to use the law to protect those rights."

"I hope that the news about this judgment will send a message to people that tenants can't be mistreated in this way," she added.

According to the lawsuit, Marco and Denise Contreras invited the couple to rent the basement from their single-family home in

the Ashburn neighborhood in August 2017. In a verbal contract, they agreed to \$600 rent, which included utilities, due on the first of each month.

Around February 2020, the landlords asked the couple to sign a contract describing the terms of the rental agreement. They told the couple a written contract was necessary so they could show proof of income for a loan to buy a second house, according to the lawsuit.

The couple signed the contract, which changed the rent due date to the 29th of each month, and paid a \$600 deposit, the lawsuit said. The contract also required the couple to pay their own utilities. They were not provided a copy of the contract, the lawsuit said.

Two months later, Marco and Denise Contreras — who had already moved out of the home — informed their tenants that their rent would be raised to \$800 a month, a sum the couple could not afford, according to the lawsuit. The landlords agreed to let the tenants continue to pay \$600 per month from April through June 2020, according to the lawsuit.

In June of that year, the landlords told the couple they were selling the home and they would have to move out of the apartment by August 2020. They did not provide written notification, the lawsuit said.

Later in June, the landlords entered the basement apartment and told the couple the July rent

was due on June 29 and demanded they pay. When the couple offered to pay a prorated amount since they were planning to move out, Marco Contreras threatened to report the couple to federal immigration officials, in violation of Illinois state law, the lawsuit said.

Though the couple moved out of the apartment on July 31, 2020, it wasn't until 2022 when they reached MALDEF and their attorneys. MALDEF filed the lawsuit on behalf of a tenant family.

"This decision provides a measure of justice to a family facing a landlord willing to threaten to call federal immigration authorities in the belief that it would scare tenants," said Thomas A. Saenz, MALDEF's president and general counsel. "Such unscrupulous conduct is appropriately unlawful under Illinois state law."

Sandoval Vargas said MALDEF has not noticed any recent uptake on calls about landlords harassing tenants. However, she suspects that most people are not aware of the new law.

"The most important thing is that everyone has protection under the law — the Immigrant Tenant Protection law protects everybody whether they're being threatened on their actual or perceived immigration status," Sandoval Vargas said. "People should be aware of those protections so that if they find themselves in that situation, they know that there's something that they can do."

Girl, 15, wounded in shooting near Chatham neighborhood school

By **Deanese Williams-Harris** and **Nell Salzman**
Chicago Tribune

A 15-year-old girl was wounded Tuesday morning in a shooting near her school on the South Side in the Chatham neighborhood, Chicago police said.

Shortly before 7:45 a.m., the teen was walking in the 8500 block of South Lafayette Avenue when a black sedan approached and two gunmen exited and opened fire, striking the girl to the left thigh, police said.

The girl was taken to Comer Children's Hospital where she was listed in fair condition. The gunmen fled the scene southbound, police said. No one was in custody and detectives were investigating.

The charter network confirmed the girl who was shot attended Perspectives Leadership Academy in Chatham. A little over an hour after the shooting, the assistant principal at Perspectives sent an email to families informing them the school was on lockdown.

"At this time all students are in classes with their teachers and safe," Karla Morris, the assistant principal wrote. "Please know that the safety of our students and staff is of utmost importance."

Later in the morning, a line of parents' cars parked on the street with their blinkers. Those who wanted to pick up their children were supposed to come to the building and sign them out, Morris wrote in her email.

Shena Wriddley, 44, said



People walk past the scene where police evidence markers and bullet casings remain along 85th Street following the shooting of a student outside Perspective Leadership Campus on Tuesday. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

her daughter Destiny, 14, called to let her know about the shooting.

"I was scared when I heard," Wriddley said. "I wasn't sure if it happened inside the school."

Destiny said there were few students in school after the shooting. She said her classmates were talking about what happened, but no one really knew for sure.

Another mother said her "heart dropped" when she heard from her 15-year-old daughter that the school was on lockdown. Gretta Austin, 38, said her daughter Sydney is "just learning how to navigate her life."

"This happened feet away from her, where she could have been dropped off," Austin said.

Pastor Donovan Price,

who lives and works in Chatham, said parents will think about the shooting every day for weeks when they drop their kids off at school.

"So even though this one didn't end up in total physical tragedy, the mental ramifications are major," he said.

Price is working with the family of the Perspectives student who was shot.

District staff were onsite to provide "additional security and crisis counseling support," according to a Chicago Public Schools spokesperson. Schools in the Perspectives Charter network receive funding from CPS but are responsible for managing their day-to-day operations.

Asked what kind of extra support is being provided

to the school community following the shooting, Holly Copeland, a spokesperson for Perspectives said in a statement that "counseling and support services are available for those in need" but provided no specifics.

"Our thoughts are with the students, their families, and all those impacted by this tragic incident," Copeland said.

Energy

from Page 1

at the news conference.

McFadden also pointed to the long waits for new solar and wind farms to get permission to connect to the grid from multistate grid operators.

"As a result, Illinois electric customers are increasingly threatened with unexpected price spikes, our power grid may struggle to maintain reliability, and (as) extreme weather intensifies, Illinois climate progress is at risk," McFadden said.

Sarah Moskowitz, executive director of the Citizens Utility Board, projects the average ComEd customer bill is going to increase by about \$10.50 per month this June due to shortcomings in the regional electric transmission and capacity policy, which is managed by the multistate grid operator PJM Interconnection.

Capacity charges make up roughly 20% of electric supply cost and are one factor contributing to Illinois residents' electricity bills, according to Brian McDaniel, director of government affairs at the Citizens Utility Board.

A key aspect of the Reliable Grid Affordability Act is energy storage, which can reduce costs and smooth out peaks in demand.

"(Energy storage) is very flexible and also responsive," said James Gignac, Union of Concerned Scientists' Midwest policy director. "And also it allows us to use more of the low-cost clean electricity that wind and solar generate, because without storage, electricity on the grid needs to be continuously consumed."

U.S. battery storage had a record year in 2024, with 10.3 gigawatts of new capacity, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, and the agency



Double Black Diamond Solar near Waverly, south of Springfield, is set to be the largest solar farm east of the Mississippi River. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

expects another record year in 2025.

To put that number in some perspective, 1 gigawatt of energy storage could power roughly 73,000 homes for a day, according to Solar Energy Industries Association Vice President of Markets and Research

Justin Baca, who added that this isn't typically the way batteries are used.

The Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act sets an ambitious goal for energy storage in Illinois: 3 gigawatts by 2030.

That's the amount that Illinois would need to

achieve its climate goals in 2030 according to Gignac, who co-authored an analysis for the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Another bill supported by the clean energy industry, including the Solar Energy Industries Association, sets an even higher goal: 15 gigawatts of storage.

Installing 15 gigawatts of energy storage would save Illinois consumers \$2.4 billion between 2031 and 2049, according to a 2024 study by Mark Pruitt, former director of the Illinois Power Agency. Legislative leaders have convened a series of working groups to bring together stakeholders and review stakeholder proposals, with the goal of passing a significant energy bill by the end of May.

Other measures in the Clean and Reliable Grid Affordability Act include a requirement that the state's two largest electric utilities, ComEd and Ameren,

increase their energy efficiency goals.

The bill requires larger utilities to submit plans for virtual power plants for review, which is to be followed by "immediate implementation by the utility."

The bill would also create an Office of Energy Modeling, which would create a public database of energy information for the state that could answer questions about the power grid, according to Gignac.

"Typically this type of energy system modeling is done by consultants who use proprietary models," Gignac said. "Those are good models, but they're expensive and opaque. It's hard to determine what assumptions were made. We want this new Illinois state capability to be fully transparent."

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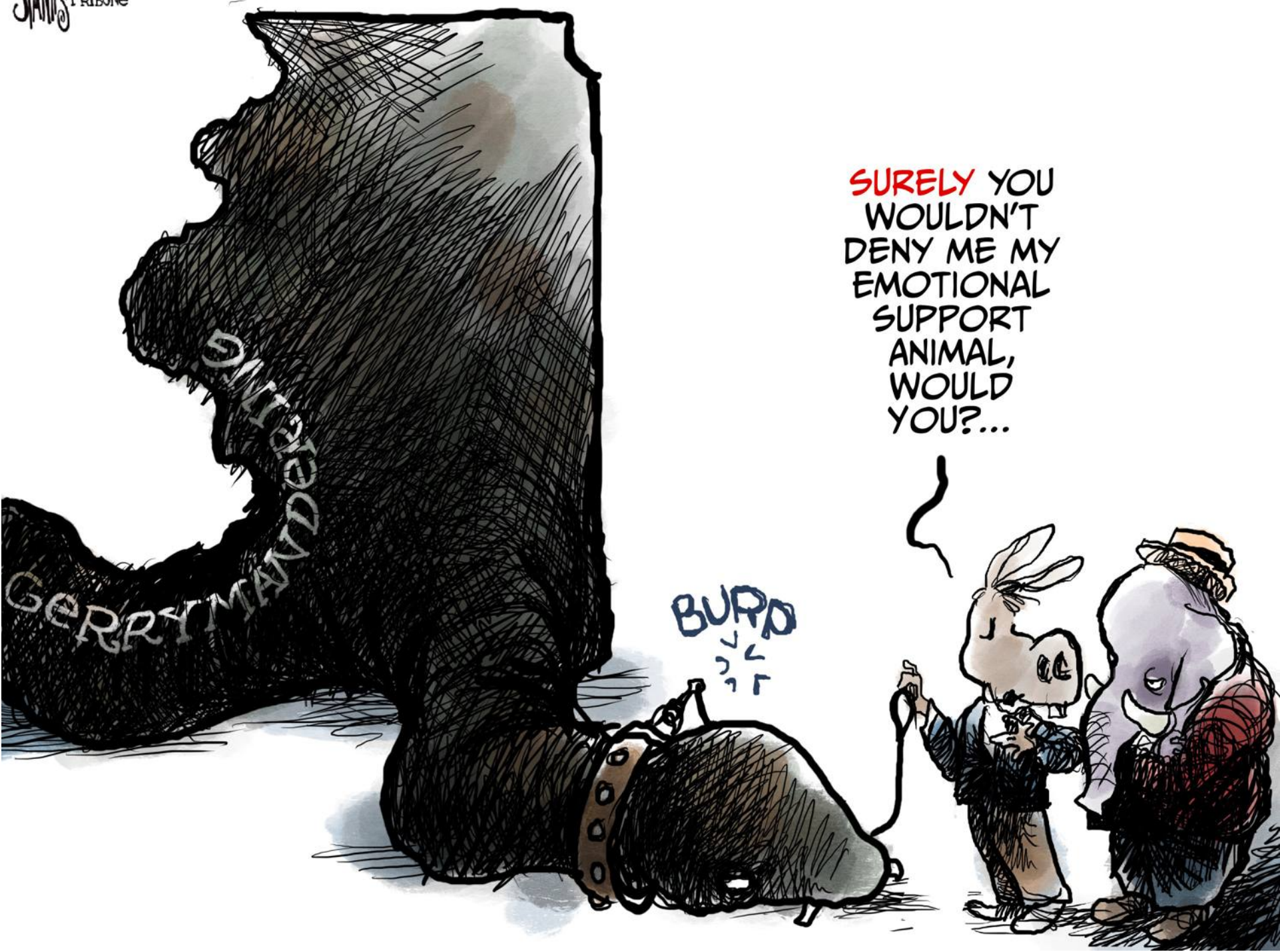
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EDITORIALS

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SCOTT STANTIS/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Illinois Supreme Court, it's time — finally — to act on gerrymandering

For better or worse, November 2024 elections were a triumph for Republicans nationwide. And margins for the GOP in deep-blue Illinois were no exception. For the Illinois House, Republicans received a total 45% of votes statewide, a considerably better showing than in 2020, the previous presidential election year, when the GOP got just 39% of the Illinois House vote.

But in terms of seats in Springfield's lower chamber, nothing changed after November.

Literally nothing.

Not a single district went from blue to red or vice versa. Just as they did before the 2024 election, Democrats have a 78-40 supermajority in the House, 66% of the seats. That's despite their winning just 55% of the vote.

This tells any fair-minded person that Illinois has a map problem.

Democrats have drawn the 118 House districts in such a way as to reduce the truly competitive seats to a minimum, leading to more politically extreme representatives from both parties in the state capital and an embarrassing number of uncontested elections.

In November, voters had no choice in 55 of the 118 House races. In 2020, the number of uncontested races was 47. An unacceptable figure in 2020 only got much worse four years later.

House Minority Leader Tony McCombie along with Reps. Ryan Spain, R-Peoria and Dan Ugaste, R-Geneva are championing a lawsuit filed in January that would throw out the gerry-

mandered map in favor of a fairer one. They've asked the Illinois Supreme Court to declare the map unconstitutional and appoint an independent official to draw a new map.

This is the latest in a string of such attempts over the past two decades, all of which the state's high court declined to consider. But in a meeting with us, McCombie, Spain and Ugaste said there's reason to be optimistic about a different outcome this time.

First, courts in this state and others have ruled in the past that such challenges weren't timely because elections were looming in the near future and judges didn't want to change the rules in the middle of the game.

The Republicans purposefully filed this challenge just after the November election to remove that obstacle.

Secondly, the Democratic-drawn map is so egregious that the GOP challengers have amassed considerable data from university experts to support their case.

We agree with McCombie and her colleagues: The Illinois Supreme Court should accept this case and determine whether, in fact, too many Illinois voters are being unconstitutionally deprived of their electoral franchise.

It's unfortunate it's come to this point. We were hopeful things would change when JB Pritzker said on the campaign trail ahead of his first term in office, "We should amend the (state) constitution to create an independent commission to draw legislative

maps," and vowed to veto any unfairly drawn map. Unfortunately, when the time came for action, Pritzker lined up with Democrats in the General Assembly.

Mapmaking, like so many other things, was thrown off during COVID, as the 2020 census data used to draw electoral maps was delayed significantly. Instead of waiting, lawmakers rushed to approve new political maps in May 2021, using incomplete population estimates. A federal court later forced a redraw using actual census data in August 2021.

Despite this, the maps remained heavily skewed, triggering multiple lawsuits. The Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund challenged the maps for failing to create enough majority-Latino districts. Civil rights groups argued they diluted Black voting power, violating the Voting Rights Act and the U.S. Constitution. Republicans also filed a lawsuit, claiming partisan bias. This board acknowledged that these new maps are anything but fair and nonpartisan.

The argument put forth by McCombie, Ugaste, and Spain focuses on two key points: Compactness and free-and-equal elections.

They point to the Illinois Constitution, which says "all legislative districts shall be contiguous and compact," which they describe as meaning districts should follow logical, existing municipal boundaries. Indeed, many of Illinois' electoral districts are far from compact, spanning

multiple towns and counties in an array of tortured, irregular shapes.

McCombie, Spain and Ugaste cited another portion of the state Constitution that says, "All elections shall be free and equal." In other words, each person's vote should count as much as every other person in the state.

We're interested in hearing the Democrats' response to these points. House Speaker Emanuel "Chris" Welch did not reply to a request for comment.

Illinois' political maps, and the power they give to one party — currently Democrats — has led to many policies that we believe are well to the left of the political center in this state.

The gerrymandering also explains why Republicans are often excluded from key conversations. We've heard from multiple GOP state lawmakers that they have been iced out of budget talks.

In the House, Speaker Welch has frustrated Republicans repeatedly by forming "working groups" on hot-button issues comprised entirely of Democrats. Recent examples include pensions and property taxes. It's wrong to exclude Republicans from the debate over these issues critical to Illinois' future, particularly when 45% of voters just chose the GOP.

Why else do fair maps matter to regular Illinoisans? They're an antidote to apathy.

Ugaste told us that a common refrain he hears is that "Nothing is ever going to change in this state." It's prompted many, he said, to move out of state, and we've certainly heard the same stories.

The lack of competitive elections means lawmakers have little incentive to listen to dissenting voices or compromise on major policy decisions.

Fewer competitive elections also hurts turnout. Research shows that having more candidates on the ballot leads to higher voter participation. Gerrymandering reduces electoral competition, entrenches incumbents, and marginalizes whole communities, ultimately eroding public trust in democracy.

Gerrymandering isn't just a Democratic problem — it's a Republican one too. Texas, North Carolina, and Ohio have faced legal challenges over maps that were allegedly drawn to dilute Democratic votes or disproportionately favor Republican candidates. And many years ago, Republicans gerrymandered Illinois' maps as well.

Other states have done something about the problem. Michigan voters passed a constitutional amendment in 2018 that created an independent redistricting commission. Out west, California and Arizona have similar commissions that have drawn districts that better reflect the political diversity of voters.

The Illinois Supreme Court is composed of five Democrats and two Republicans, so the cynics among us will say we shouldn't hold our breath that this time will be different.

But this time really should be different; democracy in Illinois is badly undermined by such egregious gerrymandering.

ON THIS DAY 30 YEARS AGO

It was a slow breakup—the kind you know is coming but neither side wants to initiate.

Then Tuesday arrived, the day when procrastination met realization. Oprah Winfrey formally broke up with Chicago. She announced to her remaining staff at Harpo Studios ... that her media enterprise would move permanently to West Hollywood, Calif., where her production company Oprah Winfrey Network is located. The Carpenter Street campus was sold last year; Winfrey had been leasing it. The doors of Harpo will close for good in December.

Having staged hundreds of emotional episodes on her show, we're guessing Winfrey handled the breakup with a soft touch ... and perhaps a send-off video featuring Josh Groban.

Really, it was only a matter of time. When Winfrey ended her talk show in 2011 ... the clock began ticking on her official departure from the city that made her.

And make no mistake—Chicago did. Only an authentic audience would have welcomed the young A.M. Chicago host when she went on the air in 1984 and began opening up about ... insecurities. New York or Los Angeles would have chewed her to pieces ... But not us. Not Chicago. We embraced her vulnerabilities.

Winfrey reciprocated by staying with us through her ascension into stardom ... She oversees one of the world's biggest entertainment empires ... Her studio reinvigorated the Near West Side and West Loop. Only Michael Jordan ... could match the mojo she brought to this city.

A ticket to The Oprah Winfrey Show was a dream come true ... Oprah inspired them.

Viewers will never forget the mother Winfrey interviewed ... the mother spoke of missing her little boy's "dirty dog smell."

Who could forget the confessions, the breakdowns ... the giving? Say what you will about Winfrey—she has raised gobs of money over the years for innumerable causes.

But now ... the separation is official. Her final plane ticket is stamped for California.

Thank you, Ms. Winfrey ... We'll welcome you with a warm embrace when you return ...

Until we meet again ...

Tribune editorial board, March 5, 1995

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Arthritis Knee Pain Treatment Helps Many Avoid Surgery

A huge decline in the need for knee replacement after scientists nailed a major secret and the non-surgical treatment success rates soared to levels never seen before - Doctor's Office Swarmed For FDA Approved Treatment Covered By Most Insurance And Medicare

You can now eliminate your knee pain with a hot new pain cure.

Imagine..... go shopping, walking, jogging, gardening, going to church, playing with your grandchildren, or going golfing without knee pain...

Do all of the things you used to enjoy and... get your life back free of knee pain.

Not only is it possible, thousands of Chicagoland Boomers and Seniors with knee pain have experienced the amazing relief this new non-surgical treatment option provides.

It's like taking 30 years of wear and tear off your knees - in less than 30 minutes!

"I didn't know how much LIFE and SLEEP I was missing because of my knee pain, until it went away with this wonderful treatment."
— George R.

You know how it is...

You stop enjoying your favorite activities because your knee is hurting. You try pain medicines, braces, or different over-the-counter arthritis supplements but all of them leave you regretting spending the afternoon raking up leaves, tickling grandkids, or even just taking that short trip upstairs..

So What Is Causing My Knee Pain And How Do I Stop It?

It's pretty simple, really. You see, when you're young, you have a thick, fluid protein inside your knee joints to lubricate them as you move.

This fluid also acts as a cushion and shock absorber inside your knee. It's called synovial fluid, and it works much like the oil in a car's engine to keep all the parts moving freely, without friction.

However, as you age, this fluid dries out, leaving your bones to painfully rub and grind against each other with every step and unfortunately, there's no way for the joint to make more.

After years of trusted service in moving you everywhere you need to go, your knee starts to feel a subtle ache with certain activities like using stairs, kneeling down, or getting out of the car. With time, it becomes a constant ache. If left untreated, it can keep you awake at night, and hurt with every step.

Why are many doctors with knee pain fleeing away from knee surgery to this treatment *for themselves*?

Research has proven that up to one-third of those who have knees replaced continue to experience chronic pain, while 2 in 5 are dissatisfied with the results.

The number of total knee replacement surgeries done in the US each year has more than doubled between 1991 and 2010. A recent study analyzed data of more than 4800 patients with Osteoarthritis showed "One-third of Total Knee replacement performed may be inappropriate."

The good news is, scientists have discovered an all natural, lubricating fluid that is identical to the fluid we have in our knees. It has been proven in numerous clinical studies to act as a natural lubricant in your joints.



It's FDA approved and is a perfect cushion and shock absorber for your joints. In fact, it's even been compared to letting your sore joints rest on the softest down pillow. It's almost as if your knee sighs with relief and relaxation.

Once it's **correctly** placed inside your knee, it can make them feel just like new again, **eliminate any rubbing and friction**, and make your joints glide smoothly.

Sounds good but in general, I have been able to tough it out so far.

Here is why this is a mistake that you could regret for the many years to come, because while we have seen much better response with proactive people, this ache in your knees could be a sign of serious damage, and people who choose to simply "tough it out," will definitely see their knees deteriorate further over time. The one thing we know is: The damage will NEVER undo itself without some help.

You see, once the fluid in your knees is gone, you're out of luck. You're facing a lifelong fight against knee pain. And while some pills and topical gels might disguise the pain - *the damage is still happening.*

That's the real issue here. Just because the pain can be reduced with a few anti-inflammatory pills and an ice pack, **doesn't mean it's ok**. You need to do something about it now before your knee is completely destroyed.

With less activity, comes weight gain, depression, more aches and pains, until finally you realize you can no longer do all of those fun & exciting activities you enjoy.

Sure, you can put up with this ache in your knee, but the cost of doing nothing about it is HUGE. You are not doing yourself a favor by "toughing it out."

"Every day was hard. I couldn't enjoy my favorite activities anymore. But thankfully, now I'm back in full form. I am doing yard work for the first time in years!"

—Phil M.

Seriously, you can get the knee pain relief you are looking for without wasting your precious time recovering or even spending a dime (more on that shortly).

One thing you should know:

As long as you haven't had knee surgery, you will feel relief from this treatment. Patients should be aware that surgery is a "done deal." That's why you cannot have this treatment after surgery if you still hurt.

This special treatment is often called "Joint Oil" because it's like squirting oil on a rusty door hinge. It eliminates a lot of the rubbing, grinding, and pain.

The doctors at Joint Relief Institute use live digital imaging in addition to a unique double-confirmation technique that **GUARANTEES** that **100% of the medicine is delivered with extreme precision into the troubled areas inside your joint every single time.**

You can't get results like these with stem cells, supplements, or even surgery. Glucosamine and Chondroitin can't do what this treatment can do.

Why is the success rate for this treatment very high at Joint Relief Institute while many people getting the same treatment with no relief whatsoever?

Scientists recently discovered why many non-surgical treatments fail. They found out that 30% of the time, treatments miss the joint space!

Both the patients and their doctors think that the knee didn't respond. Turns out, in most cases, the medicine never got in the right space.

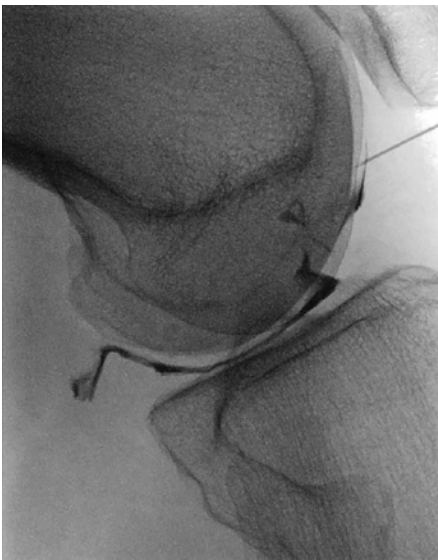
The doctors at Joint Relief Institute use live digital imaging in addition to a unique double-confirmation technique that **GUARANTEES** that 100% of the medicine is delivered with extreme precision into the troubled areas inside your joint every single time.

PLUS - the injection is virtually painless because the doctors at Joint Relief Institute use a two step numbing and imaging process to eliminate pain.

Most of the injections done everywhere else are done blind with no digital confirmation, and very few are done with a single digital confirmation technique.

One patient even said this:

"When I received a similar treatment to this, and it didn't help me, the doctor scheduled me for surgery. Luckily, I decided to travel more than 400 miles to the Joint Relief Institute. I am painfree now, and I never had to go under the knife."



Is it true this natural treatment option could cost NOTHING?

Yes, more good news, besides the pain relief, is that because this non-surgical program has already proven to help thousands of seniors, Medicare and other insurance plans will cover this wonderful treatment.

So there is very likely NO COST to you for this life-changing treatment.

Here is what you need to do to claim your No-Obligation Consultation:

If you or a loved one is suffering with knee pain, this could be the blessed relief you're looking for.

You are personally invited to a No-Obligation knee pain Consultation from the Joint Relief Institute doctors to see if you are a good candidate for this all natural, highly-precise treatment.

Your Consultation will only take about 20-30 minutes of your time, as one of their doctors sits down with you and answers all the questions you have about your knees.

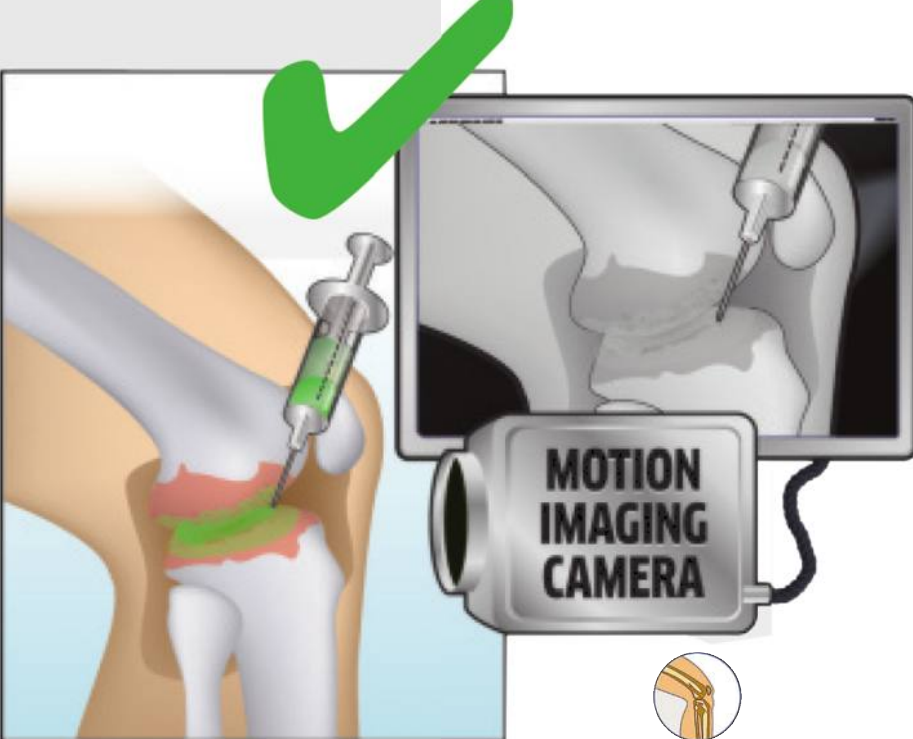
On the day of your treatment, you'll be able to come in on your own, and be done within 30 minutes or less. No pain. No problem driving yourself home.

Due to high demand, they can only offer a limited number of No-Obligation Consultations every month.

So if you're interested,

Call Now for a No-Obligation Consultation (708) 578-5509

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JRI Doctors see live into the knee joint. Even you will be able to tell the medicine went where it needs to be. No guess work, no poking around, the medicine cushions, lubricates and helps heal the damaged knee.

Call now (708) 578-5509

to schedule your No-Obligation Consultation.

You can be pain free!

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OPINION

The mayor’s choice of an inexperienced ally to lead Chicago parks could backfire



Laura Washington

It’s a risky move. Despite Mayor Brandon Johnson’s precarious position, it’s one he seems willing to make.

Nearly two years into a turbulent mayoral term, Johnson needs a turnaround. Longtime allies could help him get there.

That’s why he has tapped 35th Ward Ald. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa as general superintendent and chief executive officer of the Chicago Park District, to replace City Hall veteran Rosa Escareno. Johnson recently declared he wanted to clean house of holdovers from previous administrations, and Escareno, among others, retired soon after that.

On Friday, the Johnson-appointed Park District board quickly confirmed the appointment, effective April 1.

Johnson aims to bring in his own “trusted” people to execute his progressive agenda. I get that, but the Ramirez-Rosa move could backfire and dig Johnson into an even deeper political hole.

The appointment invites two significant risks that revolve around experience and controversy.

The three-term alderman represents a Northwest Side ward that includes parts of Avondale, Hermosa, Irving Park and Logan Square. He was elected on a socialist banner and rose to quickly make a name for himself as an outspoken leftist stalwart.

That, and his support for Johnson in the 2023 mayoral election, earned him coveted spots as Johnson’s floor leader and chair of the council’s Zoning Committee. Ramirez-Rosa has advocated for some of Johnson’s biggest progressive gets, including the passage of city ordinances that eliminated the subminimum wage for tipped workers and mandated that all Chicago-based employers provide staff with at least 10 days of annual paid leave.

The mayor’s office issued a news release that tried mightily to tout the alderman’s accomplishments. Before joining the City Council, Ramirez-Rosa, 36, worked as a congressional aide, a union staffer and a deportation defense organizer with the Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights, and he served on



Ald. Carlos Ramirez-Rosa, 35th, talks with colleagues after they declined to vote on a proposal to alter Chicago’s welcoming city policy during a City Council meeting on Jan. 15 at City Hall. **BRIAN CASSELLA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

a Local School Council at a public elementary school. He earned a bachelor’s in political science from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Ramirez-Rosa, the mayor’s office touted, has worked “to address key issues like public safety, homelessness, and maintenance at city parks.” He brings a “proven track record of securing millions in funding for urban green space improvements and advocating for equitable infrastructure and youth programs.”

Glaringly absent from his resume, however, is any experience managing even a midsize organization, much less a sprawling entity such as the Park District.

Johnson is putting a virtual administrative novice in charge of a system with more than 600 parks, a \$598 million budget and about 6,000 employees. That would seem to be a job requiring

exceptional administrative experience and skills.

Johnson should know how crucial that is. His own inexperience is showing, and it’s not a pretty picture. He came to the office after stints as a Cook County commissioner, a union organizer and Chicago Public Schools teacher, but unschooled in managing organizations.

Johnson’s tenure has been marred by his struggles to bring down the city’s violent crime and handle its troubled finances and migrant crisis, multiple fights with the City Council; botched appointments and questions about his oversight of city sister agencies such as CPS and the CTA, to name a few challenges.

Johnson’s thin management resume has likely exacerbated those troubles. And he hasn’t learned much on the job.

Voter sentiment tells the tale. Nearly 80% of Chicago voters

said that they disapproved of Johnson’s performance as mayor, a recent poll of 700 likely Chicago voters by the firm M3 Strategies shows.

Then there’s controversy. Ramirez-Rosa has been a magnet for it, in ways that could further irritate the city’s already-tender Black-Latino relations.

In November 2023, he was forced to step down from his powerful perches as floor leader and Zoning Committee chief after a high-profile confrontation with a colleague, 37th Ward Ald. Emma Mitts. He was accused of manhandling Mitts during a heated debate about Chicago’s status as a sanctuary city, by blocking her from entering the City Council chambers. That incident triggered a call from council critics to censure him.

Ramirez-Rosa later apologized to Mitts and survived the censure push, but there was bad blood

over his treatment of the veteran African American alderman.

Ramirez-Rosa is a staunch backer of aiding the thousands of migrants who have arrived here, as well as Chicago’s sanctuary city status.

That has been a key friction point among African American voters who resent that the city has paid hundreds of millions of dollars to house and support the predominantly Latino migrant population — to the detriment of Black citizens in need, they fear.

Now, more than ever, Johnson needs savvy, experienced pros who can smoothly execute his agenda. Ramirez-Rosa may not fit that bill.

Laura Washington is a political commentator and longtime Chicago journalist. Her columns appear in the Tribune each Wednesday. Write to her at LauraLauraWashington@gmail.com.

A law that’s a boon for your bladder, pioneered by Illinois



Steve Chapman

Illinois politicians, as a class, are known for many things: corruption, high taxes, profligate spending and heavy regulation. We don’t expect them to adopt policies that are sensible, frugal, carefully wrought and easily implemented. So it may surprise you to learn that in one realm, our lawmakers have pioneered an idea that deserves emulation throughout the land.

I refer to restrooms, which are unimportant only when you don’t need one. In 2019, the General Assembly passed the Equitable Restrooms Act, which mandated that all single-occupancy facilities in public buildings and places of public accommodation (restaurants, hotels, hospitals and so on) be open to anyone, with signage saying so. No more one-stall men’s rooms and women’s rooms. Anyone may use these restrooms without impediment.

It may sound like a trivial change. But sometimes you have to travel to appreciate what you have back home. A couple of years ago, I signed up for a presidential history tour hitting a host of sites in Ohio for leaders, ranging from Ulysses S. Grant to William McKinley. Our group of a couple of dozen people was two-thirds female. And several of the sites we visited featured a pair of single-occupancy restrooms — one for men and one for women.

Women will have no trouble imagining how things went when the travelers got off our bus and needed to attend to the call



An all-gender restroom inside a Chicago Public Schools elementary school in 2021. **ERIN HOOLEY/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

of nature. The guys in our party zipped through, thanks to short lines, while the more numerous women had to queue up and wait — even when the men’s room was no longer in use.

After a while, with Illinois’ policy in mind, I proposed that we implement our own gender-neutral rule, with the women allowed to use the men’s rooms. We all agreed, and the logjam was eased. My wife tells me that sometimes, a group of women will take turns standing guard while one or more of them use men’s rooms that otherwise would be idle.

But the problem on the tour most likely wouldn’t have arisen in Illinois, whose legislators noticed a problem and addressed it. If you go into a coffee shop, gas

station or medical office here, you can expect to see all-gender facilities. I am not normally a huge fan of government intervention in such matters, but the Equitable Restrooms Act had some conspicuous virtues.

First, it was limited in scope, identifying a specific concern and taking a modest action to address it. Second, it involved minimal expense to public or private owners — not reconfiguring fixtures or installing new facilities but merely replacing exterior signs.

A third benefit is that it helped all restroom users by fostering a more efficient use of existing facilities, without putting a burden on anyone. No more squirming outside a locked restroom with

a swollen bladder, while desperately eyeing a vacant restroom restricted to people of a different gender.

Alarmists may not like the idea of anything that erases gender boundaries, but we’re not talking about making multi-occupancy restrooms open to all (something allowed, though not required or common, in Illinois). And really: What could be simpler or less objectionable? Just as always, you enter the restroom, do what you need to do and leave, all in complete solitude. The only thing that has changed is the sign on the door and possibly the length of time you had to wait to get in.

The new policy also has the virtue of sparing transgender people of the need to choose

— or to effectively out themselves as transgender, which can be uncomfortable and, in some places, even dangerous.

Those souls who might be alarmed by the presence of a transgender person have nothing to worry about, since they will be doing their business solo. Transgender people who feel stigmatized can tend to their basic bodily functions without fear of exposure. It’s as close as you can get to a policy that is good for literally everyone.

Not that it’s been universally implemented. “I know there are still some small businesses that may not have made the required change to their restrooms, or maybe just haven’t updated the signage,” Rep. Katie Stuart, D-Edwardsville, who voted for the bill, told me.

The goal, however, was not to strong-arm businesses but to give them a polite nudge. In any event, Stuart said, “Most people seem to understand that a single stall facility is open to everyone, and I know that families and caregivers appreciate them wherever they are located.”

In a better world, every state would have quickly followed the Illinois example. Some, including New York and California, have similar laws. But my experience as a traveler confirms that, like Ohio, most haven’t taken this simple, unassailable step.

My question for them is what they’re waiting for. Besides the restroom, that is.

Steve Chapman was a member of the Tribune Editorial Board from 1981 to 2021. His columns, exclusive to the Tribune, now appear the first week of every month. He can be reached at stephenjchapman@icloud.com.

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- Your ability to detect underlying health issues
- Your long-term hearing health

Regular hearing exams can detect issues early, allowing for timely treatment and prevention of further deterioration. By prioritizing hearing health, you ensure better communication, mental sharpness, and an improved overall quality of life.

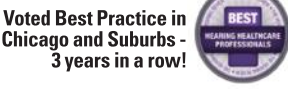


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OPINION

Chicagoans need FEMA — not to write checks but to coordinate aid

By Kelly McKinney

Many years ago, I was standing on a freezing sidewalk, awash in the thick black smoke of a smoldering apartment building. A grizzled Red Cross volunteer seized the opportunity to call me out: “You people think it’s about the collapsed buildings and helicopters,” he said. “But it ain’t about those things. It’s about the people, stupid.”

Alleviating human suffering in the midst of disaster is the mission — the why — of every emergency manager. It is also the hardest job in the world, requiring us to organize and activate a multitude of complex operations involving personnel, expertise, equipment and supplies from government, the private sector, and nonprofit and faith-based organizations. It is not enough to do all these things very quickly. To create order out of chaos, we must do everything all at once.

The problem — proven time and again, from Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans to Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico to COVID-19 — is that Federal Emergency Management Agency has never been particularly good at this. Nine out of ten Americans believe FEMA should take ownership of catastrophes. But ownership requires leadership, and FEMA doesn’t provide it.

Dozens of times a year, a governor will appeal to the president to be rescued from a disaster. But when the savior arrives, it doesn’t come ‘round the mountain on a white horse with the flag flying. Instead of a national disaster response, FEMA just brings itself. FEMA’s cavalry is a bunch of guys in polo shirts clutching check-books.

This approach creates a dangerous phenomenon known as moral hazard: When states believe they are protected from the consequences of disasters, they are less likely to prepare for them. This is why so many are caught flat-footed when catastrophe strikes. They’ve bought into the “cavalry is coming” myth, despite decades of evidence to the contrary.

The president tells us that we



People from various relief agencies guide people affected by the wildfires at a FEMA Disaster Recovery Center at Pasadena City College on Jan. 16 in Pasadena, Calif. **ETIENNE LAURENT/AP**

don’t need FEMA because “all disasters are local,” but the reality is that, beyond the big states frequently visited by hurricanes — such as Florida and Texas — few can come close to doing what is needed. Believe me when I tell you that those emergency managers understand this better than anyone. And because they don’t have the bandwidth they need, the prospect of a catastrophe is daunting. They know that their governor’s reliance on FEMA’s free money makes them weak, but they keep it to themselves, dreading the day when the black swan will come.

In Chicago’s 1995 heatwave, more than 700 people died, many

of them elderly and isolated. A study published in 2023 in the journal Environmental Science & Technology indicates that if such a heatwave coincided with a multiday power failure, nearly half the population, more than a million Chicagoans, would need hospital emergency department care. If such a historic heatwave and blackout happened this summer, Chicago and Illinois would be on their own, negotiating individual mutual aid agreements with surrounding states that are under no obligation to help.

The richest nation the world has ever seen, faced with the increasingly complex and severe

disasters of a multicrisis age, lacks the ability to get the right resources in the right place at the right time. Instead of a national disaster system, we have 50-plus state systems duct-taped together, each with its own structures, capabilities and methods.

Illinois can’t keep waiting for a cavalry that never comes. It needs FEMA — but not to write checks. Instead, Illinois needs it to bring all of the governors together to build a supercharged mutual aid process that isn’t dependent on politics or goodwill. To do this, FEMA must step up into its inescapable role as the leader of a proactive, integrated and all-of-nation disaster system.

FEMA was never meant to be just an insurance company for disaster-stricken states. Chicagoans need it to lead the disaster machine the broader Midwest desperately lacks: fast, coordinated, relentless.

Because when the inevitable next catastrophe strikes, it will not be about collapsed buildings or helicopters. It will be about the people. And they won’t have time to wait.

Kelly McKinney is a former deputy commissioner at the New York City Office of Emergency Management and a former member of Federal Emergency Management Agency’s National Advisory Council.

VOICE OF THE PEOPLE

This isn’t diplomacy

Let me understand this correctly: Russia invades a sovereign state and commits war crimes, and President Donald Trump believes it’s the victim’s fault. Our president meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin and rewards him for the invasion. Then he determines what’s best for Ukraine, demands its valuable resources without any security guarantee or fair compensation, and doesn’t want its leaders or our European allies to be a part of the bargaining process — and he wonders why, oh, why Ukraine doesn’t jump at the opportunity for peace.

The Oxford Dictionary defines diplomacy as “the art of dealing with people in a sensitive and effective way.” A diplomat should be able to convince his or her counterparts of the wisdom of the day — and make them believe it was their idea! None of that was present on the American side when Trump met with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy.

America has had some memorable moments in foreign affairs; the Monroe Doctrine and Marshall Plan certainly come to mind. President Teddy Roosevelt spoke of “speaking softly and carrying a big stick.” I believe there is considerable doubt that treating foreign dignitaries as minions is an effective diplomatic style.

— Joel W. Ostrander, Oak Park

Still time to act

Falsely accusing an ally of starting a war against his own country. Threatening to make Canada the 51st state. Planning to buy Greenland. Placing tariffs on friends. Firing the workers who keep us safe.

President Donald Trump’s main driving forces are retribution and adulation-seeking. There is no insult, real or imagined, that is too petty. There is no adoring crowd big enough. He has convinced his die-hard followers — still a minority of Americans — that his lies are the truth, even though his utterances are often projections.

But most members of Congress know exactly what’s going on: Trump is dismantling our democracy and creating self-rule. His tactics are right out of the autocrat’s playbook: lying continually, replacing professionals with unqualified loyalists, sowing mistrust of the press, letting an unelected billionaire destroy public services and line his own pockets — and let’s not forget the threats, bullying and lawsuits that are the only “arts of the deal” that Trump knows.

Then there’s the travesty of the meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. There’s no proof that Trump is a Russian asset, but by abandoning our Western allies and siding with Vladimir Putin, a murderous ex-KGB officer who interfered in our elections, he is doing everything that a Russian asset would do.

His unsteady grip on reality means his decisions are guided by insecurity and ego, not the nation’s interests. The garden-variety narcissist needs to be the tallest tree in the forest. But this malignant narcissist needs to burn down all the other trees so he’s the only one left standing.

He can be stopped. He should be stopped. Yet most members of Congress, who in theory represent an equal branch of government, are doing nothing. That makes

them complicit in destroying our republic. Each concession gives Trump more power.

What is the party in power afraid of? Going to a gulag? Being thrown out of a window? Nope — at least, not yet. That they’ll be primaried. That’s it. Where are the Republicans with guts? Where are the people like our Founders, who put their “lives, fortunes, and sacred honor” on the line?

Congress still has a small window of time to act. We cannot wait four more years or even for midterms. By then, it may be too late, and there’s an even chance that our elections will become what they are in Putin’s Russia: shams, just like Trump.

— Francesca Kelly, Highland Park

Abandoning its role

One of the most disturbing comments that came from European leaders after the meeting between President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy was from Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orbán, who wrote on the X platform that “strong men make peace, weak men make war.”

He might have been referring to strong-minded individuals who seek diplomatic solutions, but numerous strong men such as Napoleon Bonaparte, Adolf Hitler, Josef Stalin and Mao Zedong were not models of restraint. They wreaked havoc on their own people and those abroad by waging wars and occupying areas to consolidate their power.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is no different as he seeks to restore the Russian Empire that existed during the time of the Soviet Union. He once famously stated that the breakup of the Soviet Union was “the greatest geopolitical catastrophe of the 20th century.”

But what is really catastrophic is what appears to be America abandoning its role as the leader of the free world allowing individuals like Putin and his ilk to intimidate and invade other sovereign areas without worrying about the consequences.

— Larry Vigon, Chicago

Editorial board mum

Where is the outrage from the Tribune Editorial Board? Nothing but crickets from the board on the embarrassment that took place in the Oval Office on Friday. The president and vice president spouted Kremlin talking points and stabbed Ukraine in the back. There are the same crickets from the board as there was when it came time to endorse a presidential candidate last fall.

I am glad that one newspaper in Chicago supported Ukraine. Glory to Ukraine, glory to the heroes.

— Paul Breit, Tinley Park

We are a disgrace

For a couple of full-of-themselves high school brats egging each other on to needlessly berate a courageous ally — a real leader — in the Oval Office, was painful and shocking to watch. It was an utterly shameful embarrassment for our country.

Children are starving to death as I write this. Millions of dutiful, hardworking Americans are arbitrarily losing their careers (some are getting them back, some are losing them again), leaving the rest of us frighteningly less secure on countless levels. Our environment and health are being threatened, our democracy is at a grievous tipping point, our global allies are alarmed and our adversaries are grinning.

President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance have the vulgarity to sneer at what Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy is wearing? This man is a valiant dignitary, at war, bearing immeasurable loss and fighting for his people.

This administration is a disgrace to the world. Its conduct is beyond appalling. It is mortifying. And dangerous.

What are we doing about it?

— Phyllis G. Beattie, Winnetka

Weakening our power

In the aftermath of the embarrassing treatment of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy by President Donald Trump and Vice President JD Vance, European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Kaja Kallas stated that “the free world needs a new leader.”

The president and vice president might reflect that the reason they have the power to bully our allies is because of the approach of prior administrations that allowed our allies to prosper and feel safe. By voluntarily deserting our position of leadership, they are weakening our power. The path they are taking is leading our nation to not be seen as a reliable partner, and our ability to shape the world in our image and to our benefit is being diminished.

Let’s have long-term influence and prosperity, not short-term ego boosts.

— Ben Ravenscroft, Winnetka

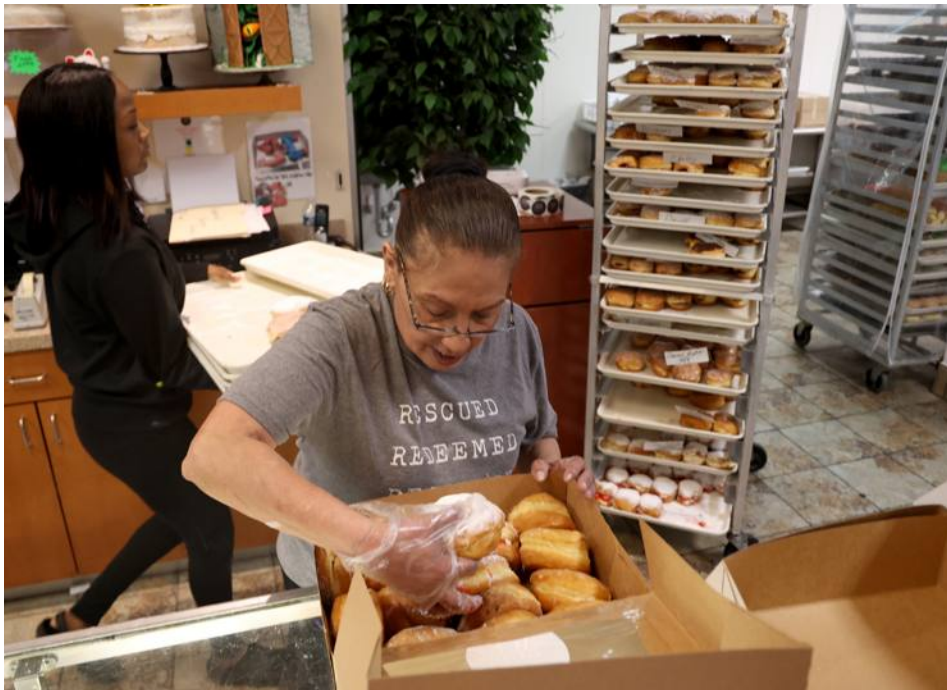
I don’t support this

Shock, embarrassment, sadness, alarm, anger and frustration — these are what I experienced after watching the televised meeting between President Donald Trump, Vice President JD Vance and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. The meeting was to be a diplomatic peace discussion, but it was neither diplomatic nor peaceful. It was a disgraceful display of disrespect, arrogance and bullying, with Trump playing the good cop and Vance the bad. It resembled nothing more than a “shakedown” scene from a gangster movie, leaving me with an overwhelming wish to make apologies to Zelenskyy, the Ukrainian people and the world at large.

This dishonorable behavior does not represent me as a citizen of the United States.

— Sandra Burk, Elmhurst

For online-exclusive letters, go to www.chicagotribune.com/letters. Email your letter submissions, 400 words or less, to letters@chicagotribune.com. Include your full name, address and phone number.



ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Packing up paczki

Employee Anna Martinez loads up a box of paczki for a customer, as people line up for paczki — a traditional Polish pastry of deep-fried dough filled with fruit or cream and powdered sugar — on Fat Tuesday or Paczki Day, the day before Lent, at Ace Bakery on Halsted Street on Tuesday.

Speech

from Page 1

inflation are instead finding economic chaos. All the gains the S&P 500 have made since Election Day are now gone, while consumer sentiment surveys show the public sees inflation as worsening.

Trump seemed prepared to double down on his trade war, which experts have warned will raise prices for consumers.

“Whatever they tariff us, we tariff them. Whatever they tax us, we tax them,” Trump said. He sought to ease concerns about price increases, saying, “There’ll be a little disturbance, but we’re OK with that. It won’t be much.”

Trump said one of his “very highest priorities” was to rescue the economy and offer relief to working families. He promised to organize the federal government to lower costs on eggs and energy, blaming his Democratic predecessor Joe Biden for the situation and offering scant details of his own plans.

Trump also called for the extension of his first-term tax cuts and additional federal funding for his

border crackdown, including for his promised efforts at “mass deportation” of people in the U.S. illegally.

The backdrop was the new economic uncertainty unleashed after the president opened the day by placing stiff tariffs on imports from the country’s neighbors and closest trading partners. A 25% tax on goods from Canada and Mexico went into effect Tuesday — ostensibly to secure greater cooperation to tackleentanyl trafficking and illegal immigration — triggering immediate retaliation. Trump also raised tariffs on goods from China to 20%.

Trump also celebrated his sharp crackdown on migration to the U.S., fulfilling a key campaign promise and taunting Democrats for not doing more to secure the border, saying, “It turns out all we really needed was a new president.”

Republicans were boisterous as Trump stepped to the lectern in the House, chanting “USA! USA!” as the president basked in the cheers. Across the aisle, out-of-power Democrats set the tone early, with most remaining seated without applauding or making eye contact with

Trump as he was introduced in the chamber.

Trump also used his proposals to address his proposals for fostering peace in Ukraine and the Middle East, where he has unceremoniously upended the policies of the Biden administration in a matter of just weeks and also to press his efforts to reshape the country’s approach to social issues.

Trump said he ended the “tyranny” of diversity, equity and inclusion policies that he rolled back for the federal government and military, along with pushing similar moves in the private sector. “Our country will be woke no longer,” he declared.

In delivering the Democratic Party’s response to the address, Michigan Sen. Elissa Slotkin said from Wyandotte, Michigan, that Trump is “trying to deliver an unprecedented giveaway to his billionaire friends.”

She criticized the administration’s effort led by Musk for firing scores of federal employees only to rehire them after realizing they worked on critical issues.

She suggested that Musk himself would have lost his job if he had done similarly in the business world.

Chicago Daily Tribune

ON MARCH 5 ...

In 1512, cartographer Gerardus Mercator was born in present-day Belgium.

In 1766 Spanish official Don Antonio de Ulloa arrived in New Orleans to take possession of the Louisiana Territory from the French.

In 1770 the Boston Massacre took place as British soldiers who had been taunted by a crowd of colonists opened fire, killing five people.

In 1849 Zachary Taylor took the oath of office at his presidential inauguration.

In 1853 Heinrich Steinway and his sons established their piano-manufacturing business in New York.

In 1868 the Senate was organized into a court of impeachment to decide charges against President Andrew Johnson.

In 1933, in German parliamentary elections, the Nazi Party won 44 percent of the vote, enabling it to join with the Nationalists to gain a slender majority in the Reichstag.

In 1946 Winston Churchill delivered his famous “Iron Curtain” speech at Westminster College in Fulton, Mo.

In 1963 country music star Patsy Cline, 30, was killed in the crash of her private plane near Camden, Tenn. (Also killed were singers Cowboy Copas and Hawkshaw Hawkins.)

In 1969 Bulls guard Jerry Sloan scored a career-high 43 points against Milwaukee.

In 1970 a nuclear nonproliferation treaty went into

effect after 43 nations ratified it.

In 1976 the British pound fell below the equivalent of \$2 for the first time.

In 1982 Chicago-born comedian John Belushi was found dead of a drug overdose in a rented bungalow in Hollywood; he was 33.

In 1991 Iraq repealed its annexation of Kuwait.

In 1994 White House Counsel Bernard Nussbaum resigned in the wake of turmoil over the Clinton administration’s handling of questions related to White-water.

In 1997 the Ohio River rose to its highest level in a generation, flooding the Louisville area. Also in 1997 Nellie Fox, star second baseman for the White Sox in the 1950s, was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame by its veterans committee.

In 1998 NASA scientists said enough water was frozen in the loose soil of the moon to support a lunar base and perhaps, one day, a human colony.

In 2001 a stampede broke out during the annual hajj pilgrimage in Mina, Saudi Arabia, killing 35 Muslims.

In 2003, in a blunt warning to the United States and Britain, the foreign ministers of France, Germany and Russia said they would block any attempt to get U.N. approval for war against Iraq. Also in 2003 comedian George Miller died in Los Angeles (his age is given variously as 53 or 61).

In 2004 Martha Stewart was convicted in New York of obstructing justice

and lying to the government about why she had sold her Imclone stock just before the price plummeted; her ex-stockbroker, Peter Bacanovic, also was found guilty in the stock scandal. (Each later received a 5-month prison sentence.) In 2006 AT&T Inc. announced it was buying BellSouth Corp., a big step toward resurrecting the old Ma Bell telephone system.

In 2007 a suicide car bomber turned a venerable Baghdad book market into a deadly inferno, killing some three dozen people.

In 2012 President Barack Obama announced that the G-8 summit scheduled for May in Chicago would take place at Camp David, Md. Also in 2012 John Madigan, a Chicago native who had a 60-year career in journalism that spanned print, television and radio, and who was best known for his years at WBBM and his earlier role on television’s “Face the Nation,” died in Florida; he was 94. Also in 2012, William Heirens, the “Lipstick Killer” who pleaded guilty to killing two women and a girl in 1945 and 1946 in Chicago, died; he was 83.

In 2013 Hugo Chavez, the anti-U.S. president of Venezuela, died in Caracas; he was 58. Also in 2013 Chinese Premier Wen Jiabo stepped down as the country’s second in command.

In 2016, on his first official day on the job, University of Illinois athletic director Josh Whitman made a stunning move when he announced the firing of head football coach Bill Cubit; two days later former Bears coach Lovie Smith became the first African-American to fill the position.

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

Augustine, Joseph Frank

Joseph F. Augustine, age 94 departed his earthly journey on February 15, 2025, at his home in Benton, IL. Joe was born on January 31, 1931, to Frank and Josephine (Sweda) Augustine. Beloved husband of the late Theresa (Radetski) for 58 years. Loving father of Shirley (James) Arch, David (the late Brenda), Eugene and the late Ronald (MaryEllen) Augustine. Dear grandfather of 8, Matthew (Adrianna) Arch, Melissa (engaged to Stanley Komperda) Olson, Michael (Jennifer) Arch, Dr. Michelle (Brian) Kusel, JoEllen (Josh) Mau, Adam (Bethany) Augustine, Brianne (Scott) Mann, and Catherine (David) Traverski. Great grandfather of 15, Patrick, Kaylin, Alexis, Gabriella, Andrew, Joseph, Nicholas, Logan, Eli, Connor, Evelyn, Kinsley, Talia, Hannah and Wilder. Visitation Friday from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at **Hursen Funeral Home & Crematory**, SW corner of Roosevelt & Mannheim Roads, Hillside. Prayers Saturday at 9:00 a.m. from the funeral home to Queen of All Nations Parish, St. Domitilla Church, Hillside. Mass 10:00 a.m. Entombment Christ the King Mausoleum, Queen of Heaven Cemetery, Hillside. Info: 1-800-562-0082 or www.hursen.com



Bevington, Jennifer Lauer

Jennifer Lauer Bevington age 78, a resident of Northbrook, Illinois, died on January 30, 2025. Born May 27, 1946 in Highland Park, Illinois to the late Charles and Sylvia McKay Lauer, she grew up in Wilmette, Illinois and was a graduate of New Trier Township High School, Winnetka, Illinois and of Monmouth College, Monmouth, Illinois where she was centennial President of the Alpha Chapter of Pi Beta Phi fraternity. She held marketing, sales, and product management positions in the College, Professional, and Supplementary divisions at Scott, Foresman & Company and Pearson Education, educational publishers. At the end of her career she worked in trade publishing at NTC/Contemporary Publishing and in rights and permissions for Pearson and The Permissions Group. She is survived by her husband of 37 years, Jack E. Bevington and four Bevington step-children: Jennifer D. Bevington (Eric Seyfarth and son William) of Oakland, California; Geoffrey M. Bevington (Lisa Sallwasser) of Glen Ellyn, Illinois; Carolyn M. Bevington of Boise, Idaho; and Christopher E. Bevington (and daughters MacKenzie & Zooley) of Oak Forest, Illinois. She is also survived by nieces Kate Aiello (Rich and sons Michael & Jack) of Colorado, and Heather Bearfield (Erik and sons Blake & Connor) of Chicago, Illinois and nephews Vincent Lindenmeyer (Cynthia and children Carly & Luke), Victor Lindenmeyer, and Brian Lindenmeyer. She is preceded in death by two older sisters and their spouses, Karen L. Lindenmeyer (Karl), and Heath L. Coffield (Michael), as well as Christopher Bevington’s partner, Martha Hanes. A memorial service will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2025 at 3:00 pm at Covenant Living of Northbrook in the North/South Village Room, 2625 Techny Road, Northbrook, Illinois. Memorials should be sent to Monmouth College, 700 East Broadway, Monmouth, Illinois 61462 or to Pi Beta Phi, designated for Holt House, 1154 Town and Country Drive, Town and Country, MO 63017.

Busch, Deborah L.

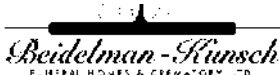
Deborah L. Busch 74, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, February 25, 2025, shortly after entering hospice care. She was born in Chicago and was a 61-year resident of Oak Lawn. She graduated from N.I.U. and worked for Busch Brothers Realty and Property Mgmt. She was a long-time volunteer of the Oak Lawn Park District’s Funstatck’s program and a member of Brookfield Zoo. Debbie was a true and loyal friend. She loved traveling, music and antiquing in Kane County. She is survived by her brother Steve Busch. She was preceded in death by her loving parents, Alvin G. and Marion Busch. Her family would like to recognize and thank the staff of Christ Hospital and Vitas Hospice. A memorial celebration of her life will be held at a future date. In lieu of flowers, contributions can be made to Brookfield Zoo.

Bychowski, Barbara A.

Barbara A. Bychowski (née Bader), age 85, was called home to God on March 2, 2025, after a life of faith, service, and devotion to family and friends. She lived with quiet grace, offering kindness to all and leaving behind a legacy of love. Born in Chicago on November 15, 1939, to Elmer and Marion Bader, Barbara grew up in Mount Prospect and graduated from Arlington High School in 1957. She held secretarial and administrative roles for a variety of local businesses and organizations, including Prospect High School, Amour Packaging and Wiedemann Insurance, always bringing dedication and warmth to her work. A founding parishioner of St. Raymond’s, Barbara met her husband Howard there, and together they raised four children: Michael, Laura, David (Ken), and Karen. She was a devoted mother, sister, aunt, godmother, and friend, always remembering the little details that made people feel cherished. Her faith guided her, and she was deeply involved in ministries at St. Raymond’s, including Meals on Wheels, CCD, PADS, Women’s Club, and Eucharistic Ministry. Even after a stroke left her bedridden, she continued to uplift others with her warmth and encouragement. Barbara had a love for travel, cherishing visits with family and friends across the U.S. and abroad, including trips to France, Italy, Germany, and Kenya. She embraced adventure, but it was the people she met and the bonds she strengthened that meant the most. She is survived by her children, Michael, Laura, David, and Karen; her siblings, Rich Bader and Pat Frey; and many dear family members and friends. Her life reflected the words of 1 Corinthians 13:13: “And now these three remain: faith, hope, and love. But the greatest of these is love.” A visitation will be held Sunday, March 9, 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at Friedrichs Funeral Home, 320 W. Central Rd. (at Northwest Highway) Mt. Prospect, IL 60056. Visitation Monday March 10, 10:00 a.m. until Funeral Mass 11:00 a.m. at St. Raymond de Penafort Church, Elmhurst Rd. (St. 83) & Lincoln St., Mt. Prospect, IL 60056. Interment will be at All Saints Cemetery in Des Plaines. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to To Africa with Love, NFP (www.tawl.org). May she rest in God’s eternal peace. Funeral information (847) 255-7800 or www.friedrichsfh.com.

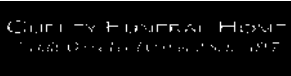
Chiocca, Mara R.

Mara R. Chiocca nee Sonkin age 42, passed away February 27, 2025. Beloved wife of Robert and devoted mother to Janessa Chiocca; loving daughter of Gail and Myron Sonkin, two brothers, and fond sister-in-law of Karen (late Walter) Rybicki. Mara was employed at Edward Hospital Naperville as an Occupational Therapist. Funeral service Friday, March 7, 2025, 1:00 p.m. at the **Beidelman-Kunsch Funeral Homes and Crematory**, 516 S. Washington St. Naperville. Visitation 10:00 a.m. until the time of service. Shiva will be observed at the family home on Thursday, March 6, from 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. Interment Naperville Cemetery. Memorials to the family. (630) 355-0264. www.beidelmankunschfh.com.



Cunningham, Thomas F.

Age 82, beloved husband of the late Sandra J. (nee Corbett). Devoted father of Colleen (Dave) Cornwall, Barbara (Tim) Spratt, Kathleen (Rick) Tisza, late Sue (Steve) Breer, Kerry (Randy) Lee and Shannon (Ryan) King. Proud grandfather of Matt, Noah, Luke, Isabel, Josh, Travis, Parker, Dylan and Ellie. Loving son of the late Thomas and Josephine Cunningham. Dear brother of Mary Jo Cunningham. Kind brother-in-law, uncle, cousin and friend of many. Proud graduate of Ignatius College Prep and Xavier University. Founding member of F.N.A.C. Retired Chief Administrative Officer of the Cook County Court System. Visitation Thursday 3-8 p.m. Funeral Service Friday 10:30 a.m. at the **Curley Funeral Home**, 6116 W. 111th Street, Chicago Ridge, IL. Interment Holy Sepulchre Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations to American Cancer Society, P. O. Box 42040, Oklahoma City, OK 73123 would be appreciated. Please leave a memory for the family on Tom’s Tribute Wall; your stories will bring comfort to his family. www.curleyfuneralhome.com 708-422-2700



Fodor, Michael Blakney

February 25, age 88, after a long illness. He was born in Milwaukee, WI, to Joseph and Katherine Blakney Fodor. He grew up in Pittsburgh and wrestled, played football and was on the track team at Mount Lebanon High School and later, at Muskingum College, playing left tackle on the undefeated 1955 Ohio Conference championship football team. He joined the Insurance Company of North America after graduating with a degree in economics and built a career in the surety and fidelity bonding industry. After finishing his service with the Pennsylvania National Guard, he moved his young family across the country five times before settling in the Chicago area in 1974. He was a nearly 50-year member of the Chicago Union League Club, and a Fourth-Degree member of the Knights of Columbus. By 1983, he was President of INA Bond Facilities in Chicago, and when corporate mergers ended his 24 years at INA he elected to stay in Chicago and take his talents to AON and Willis Corroon. He leaves behind his wife of 62 years Janice Hoyer Fodor, his two children Joe (Laura) Fodor and Nancy (Dave) Fritz, and 5 grandchildren. Visitation Friday, March 7, at **Williams-Kampp Funeral Home**, Wheaton 4-8 pm, and funeral mass at 10 am on Saturday at St. Daniel in Wheaton.

Jonigkeit, Sylvia Brunhilde

Major Sylvia Brunhilde Jonigkeit, 61, of Mt. Prospect, IL, died on February 22, 2025, from a brain hemorrhage. She was born October 1, 1963, at Ravenswood Hospital in Chicago to Heinz and Brunhilde (nee Kremser) Jonigkeit. She is preceded in death by her parents. She is survived by her sister, Renee Witt (Dan), her nephew, Nathan Witt, and by her close friend and fellow veteran, Captain Eric Grote. Sylvia is a veteran from the U.S. Air Force having served in Desert Storm and Operation Provide Comfort, achieving the rank of Major, having graduated from the nursing program at Northern Illinois University. Sylvia is a Stage IV endometrial cancer survivor. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to her favorite charity, https://samartianspurse.org For information about funeral services contact 847-767-2810.

Kaihara, Dr. Wesley T. S.

Dr. Wesley T. S. Kaihara, age 68, suddenly. Former husband of Lisa; loving father of Erin, Rachel, and the late Amy Kaihara; devoted son of the late Thomas and Lynn, nee Yanokawa; dear brother of Pamela Karafotas. Memorial Gathering, Saturday, March 22, 2025, from 1 to 3 p.m., at **HABEN Funeral Home & Crematory**, 8057 Niles Center Rd., Skokie. Interment private. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to World Central Kitchen, P.O. Box 96538, Washington, DC 20090 (wck.org/donate). Funeral info: 847.673.6111 or to leave a condolence message, go to habenfuneral.com, click on Wesley’s obituary, and post a message under Tributes.



Kubik, Daniel J.

Daniel J. Kubik, age 90, passed away March 2, 2025 in Oak Brook. He was born May 22, 1934 in Chicago, to the late Frank and Bernice Kubik. Daniel was an insurance executive and entrepreneur, known for his ability to quickly solve complex problems. He was an avid outdoorsman who enjoyed fishing and hunting. Above all, he loved his family. Rooting for his grandchildren at sporting events brought him immeasurable joy. Daniel was deeply loved and will be dearly missed by his family. Loving father to Gregory (Sandy) Kubik and Jeffrey (Sarah) Kubik; devoted grandfather to Kristina (Alex) Barnett, Daniel Kubik and Michael Kubik, Elizabeth (Joseph) Foran and James (Maura) Kubik; and beloved “GGPA” to Mary Katherine, Michael and Patrick Foran and Liliana and Ethan Barnett. Daniel was also a cherished uncle to his many nieces and nephews. He is preceded in death by his siblings, Frank Kubik, Kenneth Kubik, Harriette Vertis and Bruce Kubik. A visitation will be held from 5 – 8 p.m. on Thursday, March 6, 2025 at Elmhurst Community Funeral Home – THE AHLGRIM CHAPEL, 567 South Spring Road, Elmhurst. Mass of Christian Burial at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 7, 2025 at Visitation Catholic Church, 779 South York Street, Elmhurst, IL 60126. For information, (630) 834 – 3515.



Renaud, Janice Marie ‘Jan’
Janice Marie “Jan” Renaud (née Beyer), age 75, a resident of Lisle, IL since 1963, formerly of Staunton, IL, passed away on Friday, February 28, 2025, at Endeavor Health Edward Hospital in Naperville, IL. She was born on November 20, 1949, in Litchfield, IL. **Arrangements by Friedrich-Jones Funeral Home & Cremation Services, 44 S. Mill St., Naperville, IL 60540.** For service times and a complete obituary, please visit www.friedrich-jones.com or call (630) 355-0213 for more information.



Shipp, William F. ‘Bill’
William “Bill” Shipp, 99, passed away peacefully on March 1, 2025, in Riverwoods, Illinois. Born on December 16, 1925, in Chicago, Illinois, proud US Army veteran, husband, father, grandfather and great-grandfather. Preceded in death by his beloved wife Martha “Marty” Shipp, his parents Arthur and Catherine and siblings Rita, Tom and Kathleen. He is survived by his children Gwen Chandler (Ronald), Glenn Shipp (Catherine), and Judy Shipp; grandchildren and great-grandchildren. Visitation will be held on Thursday, March 6, 2025, from 4:00 PM to 8:00 PM at **Oehler Funeral Home, 2099 Miner St., Des Plaines, Illinois.** A funeral service will be held on Friday, March 7, 2025, at 10:30 AM at Christ Church UCC, 1492 Henry Ave., Des Plaines, Illinois. Bill’s legacy of love, dedication, and faith will be remembered by all who knew him.

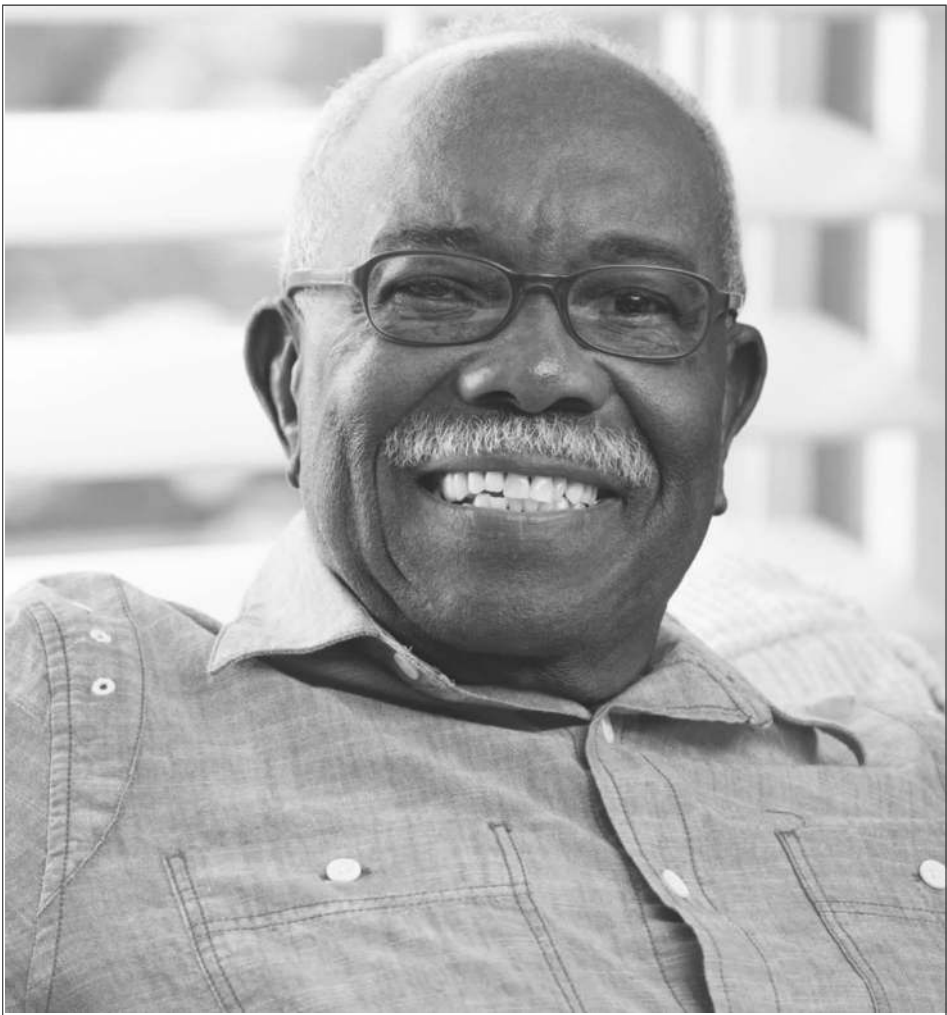
Starzec, Dolores M.
Dolores M. Starzec (nee, Klich); beloved wife of the late Edwin; loving mother of the late Dennis (Louise) and Deborah Starzec; cherished grandmother of the late Jeffrey (Dawn) Starzec and Vikki (Gregory) Klemundt; dear great-grandmother of Stefanie (Michael) Soboleski, Matthew & Eric Starzec, and Ryan, Tyler & Ethan Klemundt; fond sister of the late Stanley (late Julia) Klich and the late Virginia (late Chester) Jabczynski; thoughtful aunt of Carole (late Harvey) Morgan, Marlene (late Thomas) Blucher, the late Robert Klich, Ronald (late Patricia) Jabczynski and the late Sharon Jabczynski. Visitation and funeral Mass will be held on Saturday, March 8, 2025. Family and friends are invited to meet at St. Hedwig Church, 2226 N. Hoyne Ave. in Chicago, beginning at 9:00 A.M. until time of Mass at 10:00 A.M. Interment will follow at St. Adalbert Cemetery, in Niles. In lieu of flowers donations to the American Cancer Society or Famous Fido Rescue would be appreciated. Arrangements entrusted to **Colonial-Wojciechowski Funeral Home**, for info 773-774-0366



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Chicago Tribune

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GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

52nd ANNUAL GLASS SHOW & SALE 3/8 10-5, 3/9 11-4 NEW LOCATION!
Holiday Inn Countryside 6201 Joliet Rd. 24+ dealers of MCM, Depression & Elegant Glass, Pottery & Utensils.
More details on Facebook at: 20-30-40 Glass Society of Illinois Annual Show and Sale
Show ad for \$1 discount 7086551702

Lien Sale 2005 Nissan Xterra
5N1AN08W25C623572 will be auctioned for charges owed \$2235 at 10am on 3/29/2025 at 52072 N-935, South Bend, IN 46637. 5742730030

Promised to Publish Thank You to Jesus Christ Our Saviour Blessed Mother Mary and St. Jude Patron St. of Hopeless Causes for Prayers Granted in Novena. AC

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. M25000245 on the Date: February 26, 2025 Under the Assumed Name of: Ruthies Kreationz with the business located at: P.O Box 29616 Chicago, IL, 60629 The true name and residence Address of the owner is: Ruth L Anderson 7754 S Kedzie ave 1W Chicago, IL, 60652 March 5, 12, 19, 2025 - 7778319

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. M25000198 on the Date: February 4, 2025 Under the Assumed Name of: ZUBBY SALES DECOR with the business located at: 1905 RIDGELAND AVE BERWYN, IL, 60402 The true name and residence Address of the owner is: ZUGHEY CERNA 1905 RIDGELAND AVE BERWYN, IL, 60402 2/19, 2/26 & 3/5/2025 7769440

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. M25000237 on the Date: February 24, 2025 Under the Assumed Name of: Carol Morreale Scholarship Fund with the business located at: 2429 W Leland Avenue #3 Chicago, Illinois, 60625 The true name and residence Address of the owner is: Andrew David Morreale 2429 W Leland Ave #3 Chicago, IL, 60429 Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 2025 7773736

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. M25000216 on the Date: February 10, 2025 Under the Assumed Name of: SD NOTARY SERVICE with the business located at: PO Box 452 South Holland, IL, 60473 The true name and residence Address of the owner is: Sherrold DeMar 18024 Kedzie Avenue, 101 Hazel Crest, IL, 60429 Feb. 19, 26, March 5, 2025 7770024

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. M25000229 on the Date: 02/20/2025 Under the Assumed Name of: the flying pig project with the business located at: 869 E. Schaumburg Rd #119 Schaumburg, IL, 60193 The true name and residence Address of the owner is: Rachael Kanalas 150 E. Beech Drive Schaumburg, IL, 60194 Feb. 26, March 5, 12, 2025 7772992

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. M25000230 on the Date: February 20, 2025 Under the Assumed Name of: Life Reflections with the business located at: 6050 N Overhill Ave Chicago, IL, 60631 The true name and residence Address of the owner is: Misty Pollack 6050 N. Overhill Ave. Chicago, IL, 60631 2/26, 3/5, 3/12/2025 7773055

LEGAL NOTICES GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT
March 5, 2025
CITY OF CHICAGO
DEPARTMENT OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES

The Bidder must complete and submit an Electronic Bid prior to the bid due date. An electronic bid must be submitted through the City of Chicago’s website at www.cityofchicago.org/eprocurement, on or before the due date and time stated below. The City’s system will not accept electronic bids after the due date and time. Bidders must register for a log-in account to submit an electronic bid. Please allow up to three business days for creation of your log-in account. Paper bids will not be accepted. All Bids will be opened and publicly read aloud for the following:

DESCRIPTION: 1202668A: SWPP Lift Pump Building, Chemical Building and Garage Roof Replacement (eProcurement)
DEPARTMENT: DEPARTMENT OF WATER MANAGEMENT
TYPE: CONSTRUCTION

ELECTRONIC BID DOCUMENTS CAN BE DOWNLOADED AND RESPONDED TO FROM THIS URL ADDRESS: www.cityofchicago.org/eprocurement

NOTICE OF ADDENDUM: Addendum # 2 will be e-mailed to all bidders on the Bid Opportunity Take-Out List

SPECIFICATION NO:1202668A
RFQ NO: 516012
ORIGINAL BID OPENING DATE: March 5, 2025
REVISED QUESTION DUE DATE: March 25, 2025
REVISED BID OPENING DATE: May 1, 2025
TIME: 11:00 a.m., Central Time

Scheduled Site Visit -March 12, 2025 @ 11:00 A.M.

Potential bidders need to provide their contact info in advance in order to be placed on the security list for entry. Please bring a valid ID at time of visit.

Location:
Sawyer Water Purification Plant
3300 E Cheltenham Pl, Chicago, IL 60649
The last day to register for this site visit is March 10, 2025.

CONTACT: Please submit all attendance request via email to Antoinette Mitchell, Senior Procurement Specialist
Email: antoinette.mitchell2@cityofchicago.org
Pub: 3/5/2025 7778074

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LEGAL NOTICES
GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF
Alexandria Sandifer

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) of **Gabriella Minorondi (Mother)**

JUVENILE NO.: **2022JA00788**

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Unknown (Father)**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **February 7, 2025**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **EILEEN M. O'NEILL-BURKE** in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Debjani Desai** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON **April 3, 2025, at 1:30 PM** in CALENDAR 8 COURTROOM A, or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, a hearing will be held upon the petition to terminate your parental rights and appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order of judgment entered.

Mariyana T. Spyropoulos, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
March 5, 2025 7778132

CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
ADVERTISEMENT FOR PROFESSIONAL SERVICES NOTICE OF TIME EXTENSION
Notice is hereby given that the opening date heretofore advised as Tuesday, March 4, 2025 has been extended to Tuesday, March 11, 2025 no later than 3:30 P.M. for the following items:
Req No: B220P00219R2,
Request for Proposals (RFP) to provide inspection, servicing, maintenance and repair of electric and electric-hydraulic elevators for three years with two, one-year options.

PROPOSAL GUARANTEE: NONE
For additional information, please contact C. Lahciv, Sr. Procurement Administrator at clahciv@transitchicago.com.

A contract resulting from this advertisement will be awarded to the responsive and responsible proposer.

The contractor who is awarded the contract shall 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 proposal or to reject any and all proposals.
CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
By: Ellen G. McCormack
Vice President,
Purchasing & Supply Chain
March 5, 2025
3/5/2025 7778414

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF
Baby Girl aka Grace Longman

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) of **Ashley Longman Martinez (Mother)**

JUVENILE NO.: **2025JA00055**

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Ashley Longman (Mother)**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **January 24, 2025**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **EILEEN M. O'NEILL-BURKE** in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Debjani Desai** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON **March 26, 2025, at 9:00 AM** in CALENDAR 2 COURTROOM A, or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, an adjudicatory hearing will be held upon the petition to have the minor declared to be a ward of the court and for other relief under the Act.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order of judgment entered.

Mariyana T. Spyropoulos, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
March 5, 2025 777982

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF
Baby Girl aka Grace Longman

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) of **Ashley Longman (Mother)**

JUVENILE NO.: **2025JA00055**

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Unknown (Father)**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **January 24, 2025**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **EILEEN M. O'NEILL-BURKE** in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Debjani Desai** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON **March 26, 2025, at 9:00 AM** in CALENDAR 2 COURTROOM A, or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, an adjudicatory hearing will be held upon the petition to have the minor declared to be a ward of the court and for other relief under the Act.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order of judgment entered.

Mariyana T. Spyropoulos, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
March 5, 2025 7778129

LEGAL NOTICES
GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

CHICAGO TRANSIT AUTHORITY
ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS SMALL BUSINESS ENTERPRISE (SBE) PROGRAM NOTICE OF TIME EXTENSION AND ADDENDUM NO 1 TO FOLLOW

Notice is hereby given that the opening date heretofore advised as Friday, March 7, 2025 has been extended to Friday, March 14, 2025 no later than 2:00 P.M. for the following items:
Req No.: C24CT103011318,
Invitation For Bids (IFB) for Small Business Enterprise (SBE)Procurement for ten (10) Dell Latitude 7230 Rugged Tablets with ancillary items and warranty.

For additional information, please contact Greg Medrano, Sr. Procurement Administrator, gmedrano@transitchicago.com.

Any contract resulting from this advertisement will be awarded to the lowest responsive and responsible bidder.

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
March 5, 2025
3/5/2025 7778412

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF
Dason Armenta Faith Armenta

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) of **Ashley Armenta Martinez (Mother)**

JUVENILE NO.: **19JA00070 21JA01085**

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Ashley Armenta Martinez (Mother)**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **June 24, 2024**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **EILEEN M. O'NEILL-BURKE** in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Pamela Saindon** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON **May 19, 2025, at 11:30 AM** in CALENDAR 14 COURTROOM A, or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, a hearing will be held upon the petition to terminate your parental rights and appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order of judgment entered.

Mariyana T. Spyropoulos, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
March 5, 2025 7777977

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF
Dason Armenta Faith Armenta

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) of **Ashley Armenta Martinez (Mother)**

JUVENILE NO.: **19JA00070 21JA01085**

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Ashley Armenta Martinez (Mother)**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **June 24, 2024**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **EILEEN M. O'NEILL-BURKE** in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Pamela Saindon** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON **May 19, 2025, at 11:30 AM** in CALENDAR 14 COURTROOM A, or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, a hearing will be held upon the petition to terminate your parental rights and appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order of judgment entered.

Mariyana T. Spyropoulos, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
March 5, 2025 7777979

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF
Melanie Navarro-Torres

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) of **Hilda Torres-Navarro (Mother)**

JUVENILE NO.: **25JA00108**

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Rafael Navarro (Father)**, **Unknown Father's**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **February 13, 2025**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **EILEEN M. O'NEILL-BURKE** in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Peter Vilkelis** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON **March 19, 2025 at 10:30 AM** in CALENDAR 13 COURTROOM A, or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, an adjudicatory hearing will be held upon the petition to have the minor declared to be a ward of the court and for other relief under the Act.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order of judgment entered.

Mariyana T. Spyropoulos, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
March 5, 2025 7777984

LEGAL NOTICES
GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

PUBLIC NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT a public hearing is tentatively scheduled before the Chicago Plan Commission on Thursday, the twentieth (20th) day of March 2025, at 10:00 AM in the City Council Chambers on the 2nd Floor of City Hall, 121 North LaSalle Street, Chicago, Illinois, on the following proposed applications and/or amendments:

A proposed amendment to Residential Business Planned Development 1323, as amended, submitted by 1006 S Michigan LLC, for the property generally located at 920-1006 S. Michigan Ave. The applicant proposes to amend Subarea B to convert an existing office building at 1006 S. Michigan Avenue to a residential building with up to 49 dwelling units above the ground floor with ground-floor retail space. No changes to the proposed Subarea A. No change is proposed to the current Subarea B floor area ratio of 5.66 and the overall floor area ratio of the planned development, which is 21.22. The Chicago Plan Commission granted Lake Michigan a Chicago Lakefront Ordinance approval of the project on April 21, 2016, therefore an exemption from the Lakefront Ordinance pursuant to Section 16-4-150 has been approved by the Zoning Administrator for the proposed amendment. (22635; 4th Ward)

A proposed amendment to Residential Planned Development 1412, submitted by PCS Land Acquisition, LLC and CH Land Acquisition, LLC, for the property generally located at 9329-9429 S. Stony Island Avenue. The applicant proposes to rezone all of Residential Planned Development No. 1412 to Residential Planned Development No. 1412, as amended, to permit a drive-through facility to be located in Subarea C to allow the development of an approximately 2,500 sf Starbucks store with 27 parking spaces. (#22602; 8th Ward)

A proposed amendment to Planned Development No. 1456, submitted by 1000 W Canal, LLC, for the property generally located at 350 N. Morgan Street. The applicant proposes to amend Planned Development No. 1456 - Subarea A to Planned Development No. 1456 - Subarea A as amended, to construct a 39-story, 436' mixed use residential building with 11,000 sf of ground floor retail, 573 units, 240 accessory parking spaces, 573 bicycle spaces, with accessory and incidental uses and max base FAR of 5.0. The overall Planned Development FAR of 8.1 will remain unchanged. (#22600; 27th Ward)

A proposed amendment to Planned Development No. 1420, submitted by LMV II Triangle Square Holdings, LP, for the property generally located at 1653-1739 W. Webster Street and 2705-2189 N. Elston Avenue. The applicant proposes to amend the Planned Development to expand the allowable business and commercial uses in Subarea A for the building's ground-level commercial storefronts. There are no other proposed changes to Planned Development Statements, Bulk Table, Graphics or improvements. The overall FAR for the Planned Development will remain at 3.0. (#22673; 32nd Ward)

A proposed Residential Planned Development, submitted by Bickerdike Redevelopment Corporation, an Illinois not-for-profit corporation, for the property generally located at 5853 N. Broadway. The applicant is proposing to rezone the site from B1-2 (Neighborhood Shopping District) to a B2-5 (Neighborhood Mixed Use District) and then to a Residential Planned Development. The applicant proposes to construct an 11-story residential building not to exceed 128 feet, with up to 90 residential dwelling units and 14parking spaces. The maximum floor area ratio will be 5.0. (22371; 48th Ward)

The Department intends to make three informational presentations to the Plan Commission:

79th Street Corridor Plan. The Plan is a collaborative effort led by the Department of Planning and Development and the Regional Transportation Authority to revitalize commercial activity along 79th Street between Ashland Avenue and Vincennes Avenue and down S Halsted Street from W 77th to W 83rd Street. Draft recommendations are to optimize land use for local businesses and affordable housing, improve multi-modal transportation, and drive economic development along the 79th Street Corridor. The draft of the plan is available online at Chicago.gov/79th for public comment. (6th and 17th Wards)

The Armitage Industrial Corridor (AIC) is on Chicago's northwest side, generally bounded by Grand Avenue (north), Oak Park Avenue (west), Concord Street and Bloomingdale Avenue (south), and Cicero Avenue (east). Included as Planned Manufacturing District (PMD) 15. As part of the Industrial Corridor Modernization Initiative, the Department of Planning and Development launched a planning process in spring 2024 to assess the AIC's effectiveness. The effort provided multiple opportunities for interested members of the business and residential community to collaborate with each other and the City in shaping a framework plan to guide future growth while allowing the AIC to adapt to changing market conditions. (29th, 36th and 37th Wards)

Moving Archer Forward is an upcoming planning initiative, led by the Department of Planning and Development, to vision for the future of Archer Avenue between S. Halsted Street and S. Cicero Avenue. Funded by a grant from the Regional Transportation Authority, Moving Archer Forward will focus on improved access to transit, equitable transportation, and future investment along this important corridor on the City's Southwest Side. (11th, 12th, 14th and 23rd Wards)

Dated at Chicago, Illinois, this the fifth (5th) day of March 2025.

Laura Flores,
Chicago, Chicago Plan Commission

Claire Boatright
Commissioner, Department of Planning and Development
Secretary, Chicago Plan Commission
3/5/2025 7777989

LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF NAPERVILLE
BIDS AND
REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS (RFP)
AVAILABLE ONLINE

All City of Naperville formal bids, RFP's, and competitive solicitations are posted at Demandstar.com, the City's electronic bidding platform and procurement software provider. A link to the City's Demandstar solicitation page is accessible by visiting the Procurement page of the City's website at: www.naperville.il.us/government/city-finance/purchasing-and-bids.

All prospective bidders, their authorized agents, and interested parties are invited to view upcoming opportunities and download available documents. General procurement questions may be sent by email to: lanev@naperville.il.us



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LEGAL NOTICES
GOVERNMENT/EDUCATION

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS JUVENILE JUSTICE AND CHILD PROTECTION DEPARTMENT CHILD PROTECTION DIVISION

IN THE INTEREST OF
Rosita Harvey

MINOR(S) CHILD(REN) of **Alexandra a.k.a. Alexandria Rodriguez (Mother)**

JUVENILE NO.: **19JA00952**

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION

NOTICE IS GIVEN YOU, **Alexandra a.k.a. Alexandria Rodriguez (Mother)**, respondents, and to **All Whom It May Concern**, that on **December 5, 2024**, a petition was filed under the Juvenile Court Act by **EILEEN M. O'NEILL-BURKE** in this court and that in the courtroom of Judge **Pamela Saindon** in the Cook County Juvenile Court Building, 1100 So. Hamilton Avenue, Chicago, Illinois, ON **May 27, 2025, at 1:30 PM** in CALENDAR 14 COURTROOM A, or as soon thereafter as this case may be heard, a hearing will be held upon the petition to terminate your parental rights and appoint a guardian with power to consent to adoption.

THE COURT HAS AUTHORITY IN THIS CASE TO TAKE FROM YOU THE CUSTODY AND GUARDIANSHIP OF THE MINOR, TO TERMINATE YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND TO APPOINT A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION. YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO YOUR CHILD. IF THE PETITION REQUESTS THE TERMINATION OF YOUR PARENTAL RIGHTS AND APPOINTMENT OF A GUARDIAN WITH POWER TO CONSENT TO ADOPTION, YOU MAY LOSE ALL PARENTAL RIGHTS TO THE CHILD.

UNLESS YOU appear, you will not be entitled to further written notices or publication notices of the proceedings in this case, including the filing of an amended petition or a motion to terminate parental rights.

UNLESS YOU appear at the hearing and show cause against the petition, the allegations of the petition may stand admitted as against you and each of you, and an order of judgment entered.

Mariyana T. Spyropoulos, CLERK OF THE CIRCUIT COURT OF COOK COUNTY, ILLINOIS
March 5, 2025 7777985

LEGAL NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a public hearing will be held before the Zoning Board of Appeals on Thursday, March 20, 2025 at 2 p.m. in the City Council Chambers of Park Ridge City Hall, 65 Butler Place, Park Ridge, Illinois, when the following matter will be considered:

Zoning Case Number VA-25-10: Application by Nick Hansen for relief from the strict adherence to Section 15.1, and Section 15.5 of the City of Park Ridge Zoning Ordinance to permit an addition that encroaches the front yard setback, a front porch that encroaches the front yard by more than the code allotted encroachment, and an addition to an existing nonconforming single-family home on the property commonly known 405 Ashland Avenue, Park Ridge, IL 60068. PIN: 09-26-142-006-0000

All persons interested in the above described matter are invited to attend and will be heard. The case file for this matter is available for review in the Department of Community Preservation and Development in City Hall. Interested parties may also submit written evidence or testimony in advance to the Department of Community Preservation and Development. The above indicated Public Hearing may be continued from time to time and without further notice, on the motion of the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Rebecca J. Schellie, Chair
Zoning Board of Appeals
3/5/25 7778169

NOTE TO DISADVANTAGED BUSINESSES
Inliner Solutions, LLC, 5031 W. 66th St. Bedford Park, IL 60638, (708) 594-6082, is seeking disadvantaged businesses for the KRIG-EGAN SOLIDS PIPELINE REHABILITATION, SECTION 15, N/A (CONTRACT 23-416-25). Project consists of 2,705 feet of 18-inch diameter sewer, rehabilitation of four (4) structures, removal and replacement of existing piping and values in four (4) structures, rehabilitation of existing temporary access roads, sewer cleaning and surface restoration work. Project subcontracting opportunities in the following areas: Traffic Control, Manhole/Structure Rehab, Sewer Cleaning, Pavement Restoration, By-Pass, etc. All disadvantaged businesses should contact in writing, Jillian Lugo to discuss subcontracting opportunities and link to plans/specs. All negotiations must be completed no later than Friday, March 21st, 2025, by 5:00 PM. Bids will be evaluated based on performance, qualifications, experience and price. Please send quotes and DBE certification to Jillian. Lugo@puriscorp.com.
Inliner Solutions, LLC, an equal opportunity employer.
3/5/25 7778440

TAKE NOTICES

TO: MONICA GORDON, COOK COUNTY CLERK; CHICAGO TITLE LAND TRUST COMPANY SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO STANDARD BANK & TRUST AUTUAD 3/11/2016 AKATN 22094; CHERISE A. PADOVANO; KEVIN MORABY; PERSONS OR PARTIES INTERESTED IN SAID PROPERTY. TAX DEED NO. 2025COTD000340 FILED: 1/14/2025 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 11/16/2022 Certificate No.: 20-0003111 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2020 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality) and special assessment number: N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 1005 VALLEY STREAM DRIVE WHEELING, ILLINOIS Legal Description or Property Index No.: 03-03-302-005-0000 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 6/24/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 6/24/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/16/2025 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before 6/24/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602 TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645 PLUS7 ENTERPRISES LLC Purchaser or Assignee January 14, 2025 3/4, 3/5, 3/6/20257773284

TO: MONICA GORDON, COOK COUNTY CLERK; CHICAGO TITLE LAND TRUST COMPANY SUCCESSOR TRUSTEE TO STANDARD BANK & TRUST AUTUAD 3/11/2016 AKATN 22094; CHERISE A. PADOVANO; KEVIN MORABY; PERSONS OR PARTIES INTERESTED IN SAID PROPERTY. TAX DEED NO. 2025COTD000340 FILED: 1/14/2025 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 11/16/2022 Certificate No.: 20-0003111 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2020 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality) and special assessment number: N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 1005 VALLEY STREAM DRIVE WHEELING, ILLINOIS Legal Description or Property Index No.: 03-03-302-005-0000 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 6/24/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 6/24/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/16/2025 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before 6/24/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602 TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645 PLUS7 ENTERPRISES LLC Purchaser or Assignee January 14, 2025 3/4, 3/5, 3/6/20257773284

TO: MONICA GORDON, COOK COUNTY CLERK; SAM KONDILES; MARIA KONDILES; BENCHMARK CONDOMINIUM ASSOCIATION; BENCHMARK KONDILES; BRIAN P. TALKITS; VILLAGE OF MELROSE PARK; PERSONS OR TENANTS IN ACTUAL OCCUPANCY OR POSSESSION OF SAID PROPERTY; UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS OR PARTIES INTERESTED IN SAID PROPERTY. TAX DEED NO. 2025COTD000321 FILED: 1/14/2025 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 11/15/2022 Certificate No.: 20-0001303 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2020 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality) and special assessment number: N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 1378 PERRY STREET, UNIT 404 DES PLAINES, ILLINOIS Legal Description or Property Index No.: 09-17-406-033-1028 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 6/24/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent forfeitures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 6/24/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/16/2025 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before 6/24/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago

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NOTICES

TO: MONICA GORDON, COOK COUNTY CLERK; TLM GROUP, INC.; TAWFIK TAWIL; AYUR TAWFIK TAWIL; IBRAHIM TAWFIK TAWIL; ISMAIL TAWFIK TAWIL; HIBAH TABBAAT; TIM TAWIL; MOATH ALSHANTI; KAREN PEARL DANIELSON; OMAR R. TAWIL; CITY OF CHICAGO; PERSONS OR TENANTS IN ACTUAL OCCUPANCY OR POSSESSION OF SAID PROPERTY; UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS OR PARTIES INTERESTED IN SAID PROPERTY. TAX DEED NO. 2025COTD000326 FILED: 1/14/2025 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 11/16/2022 Certificate No.: 20-0001708 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2020 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality) and special assessment number: N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 23-01-404-016-0000 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 6/24/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent foreclosures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 6/24/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/16/2025 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before 6/24/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602 TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645 PINE VALLEY ENTERPRISES LLC Purchaser or Assignee January 14, 2025 3/4, 3/5, 3/6/2025/773151

TO: MONICA GORDON, COOK COUNTY CLERK; LYNN ANNE PACKER, OAK HILLS CONDOMINIUM I ASSOCIATION; PERSONS OR TENANTS IN ACTUAL OCCUPANCY OR POSSESSION OF SAID PROPERTY; UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS OR PARTIES INTERESTED IN SAID PROPERTY. TAX DEED NO. 2025COTD000324 FILED: 1/14/2025 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 11/16/2022 Certificate No.: 20-0001755 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2020 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality) and special assessment number: N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 7847 FORESTHILL LANE, UNIT 20R PALOS HEIGHTS, ILLINOIS Legal Description or Property Index No.: 23-36-303-143-1352 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 6/24/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent foreclosures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 6/24/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/16/2025 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before 6/24/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602 TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645 PLUST ENTERPRISES LLC Purchaser or Assignee January 14, 2025 3/4, 3/5, 3/6/2025/773154

TO: MONICA GORDON, COOK COUNTY CLERK; IADD HAMAD, MPD PROPERTIES, LLC; BOOMERANG FINANCE SUB-REIT, LLC; GERSILDA BACI - ERIC FELDMAN & ASSOCIATES, P.C.; MICHAEL MURPHY TANNEN; FADI Y. RAFATI - RAFATI WARD & ASSOCIATES, P.C.; FIRAS M. ABUNDA - FIRAS LAW, LLC; ASGHAR SHAHID; PERSONS OR TENANTS IN ACTUAL OCCUPANCY OR POSSESSION OF SAID PROPERTY; UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS OR PARTIES INTERESTED IN SAID PROPERTY. TAX DEED NO. 2025COTD000348 FILED: 1/14/2025 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 11/16/2022 Certificate No.: 20-0003226 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2020 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality) and special assessment number: N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 5209 OAK STREET OAK LAWN, ILLINOIS Legal Description or Property Index No.: 24-04-332-018-0000 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 6/24/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent foreclosures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 6/24/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/16/2025 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before 6/24/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602 TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645 PLUST ENTERPRISES LLC Purchaser or Assignee January 14, 2025 3/4, 3/5, 3/6/2025/773286

TO: First Midwest 51707, Kevin Moriarty, Kevin J. Moriarty Meink, Kevin J. Moriarty, Chicago Title Land Trust Company, as Successor Trustee to First Midwest Bank and Old National Bank, as Trustee, w/tn 1-7707, Trust Dated: 4-15-2003, and Chicago Title Land Trust Company, as Successor Trustee to First Midwest Bank and Old National Bank, as Trustee, w/tn 1-7707, Trust Dated: 4-15-2003 RA: CT Corporation System; Slutsky & Blumenthal, Meineke Discount Mufflers c/o Kevin J. Moriarty, Meineke Discount Muffler Shops, Inc. c/o Illinois Secretary of State, City of Chicago c/o City Clerk, Occupant, 10722 S. Western Ave., Chicago, IL Parties in occupancy and possession; any unknown owners and occupants. TAX DEED NO. 2025COTD000726. FILED: February 7, 2025. TAKE NOTICE. County of Cook. Date Premises Sold: 11/17/2022. Certificate No.: 20-00096364. Sold for General Taxes of (year) 2020. Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality) and special assessment number: N/A Warrant No.: N/A Inst. No.: N/A. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES. Property located at: 10722 S. Western Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60642. Legal Description or Property Index No.: 24-13-407-030-0000. This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 7/9/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent foreclosures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 7/9/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602, on 8/6/2025 at 9:30 AM in room 1704. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY. Redemption can be made at any time on or before 7/9/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. ADDRESS: 118 North Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602. TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645. Pine Valley One Real Estate LLC, Purchaser or Assignee. Dated: February 14, 2025. 3/4, 3/5, 3/6/2025/769917

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TO: Paul Smith, Frances A. Smith, Francis A. Smith, Donna Henderson, Terrell Harris, Darrion Sanders, Malco Smith, Paul C. Smith II, Citibank, N.A., City of Chicago c/o City Clerk, Illinois Dept. of Revenue, Illinois Attorney General, County of Richmond c/o Richmond County Clerk, PERSONS OR TENANTS IN ACTUAL OCCUPANCY OR POSSESSION OF SAID PROPERTY; UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS OR PARTIES INTERESTED IN SAID PROPERTY. TAX DEED NO. 2025COTD000036. FILED: 1/14/2025 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 11/16/2022 Certificate No.: 20-0004310. Sold for General Taxes of (year) 2020. Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality) and special assessment number: N/A Warrant No.: N/A Inst. No.: N/A. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES. Property located at: 8848 S. Jeffrey Avenue, Chicago, Illinois. Legal Description or Property Index No. 25-01-117-072-0000. This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 7/9/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent foreclosures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 7/9/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602, on 8/6/2025 at 9:30 AM in room 1704. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY. Redemption can be made at any time on or before 7/9/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. ADDRESS: 118 North Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602. TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645. Two Ton Holdings, LLC, Purchaser or Assignee. Dated: February 14, 2025. 3/4, 3/5, 3/6/2025/769990

TO: MONICA GORDON, COOK COUNTY CLERK; JOSEPHINE PETERSON; KENNETH LOUIS PETERSON OR TENANTS IN ACTUAL OCCUPANCY OR POSSESSION OF SAID PROPERTY; UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS OR PARTIES INTERESTED IN SAID PROPERTY. TAX DEED NO. 2025COTD000038 FILED: 1/14/2025 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 11/17/2022 Certificate No.: 20-0006576 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2020 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality) and special assessment number: N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 321 W. 100TH STREET CHICAGO, ILLINOIS Legal Description or Property Index No.: 25-09-408-049-0000 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 6/24/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent foreclosures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 6/24/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/16/2025 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before 6/24/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602 TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645 PLUST ENTERPRISES LLC Purchaser or Assignee January 14, 2025 3/4, 3/5, 3/6/2025/773301

TO: Leslie Lawrence, DeAngel Lawrence, Muriel Lawrence; United States Small Business Administration; United States Attorney General - U.S. Department of Justice, United States Attorney, County of Cook c/o Cook County Clerk, Midland Credit Service, Inc.; Midland Credit Service, Inc. Service Company, Leslie Lawrence, Sprintcom, Inc. c/o Illinois Secretary of State, Sprintcom, Inc. RA: Illinois Corporation Service, Sprintcom, Inc., Mo'e Auto, Clear Channel Outdoor, LLC RA: CT Corporation System, STC, LLC RA: Illinois Corporation System, STC, LLC RA: CT Corporation System, Global Signal Acquisitions IV LLC RA: CT Corporation System, Global Signal Acquisitions IV LLC RA: CT Corporation System, Crown Castle USA Inc. c/o General Counsel, Hard Rock Construction, Inc. c/o Illinois Secretary of State, Global Signal Acquisitions IV LLC c/o General Counsel, Occupant, 315 W. 119th St., Chicago, IL Parties in occupancy and possession; any unknown owners and occupants. TAX DEED NO. 2025COTD000727. FILED: February 7, 2025. TAKE NOTICE. County of Cook. Date Premises Sold: 11/18/2022. Certificate No.: 20-0006863 & 20-0006864. Sold for General Taxes of (year) 2020. Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality) and special assessment number: N/A Warrant No.: N/A Inst. No.: N/A. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES. Property located at: A 50 foot wide parcel lying West of and adjoining the real estate C/K/A 315 W. 119th St., Chicago, Illinois. Legal Description or Property Index No.: 25-01-003-000 and 25-01-004-0000. This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 7/9/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent foreclosures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 7/9/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602, on 8/6/2025 at 9:30 AM in room 1704. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY. Redemption can be made at any time on or before 7/9/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. ADDRESS: 118 North Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602. TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645. PLUST ENTERPRISES LLC Purchaser or Assignee. Dated: February 14, 2025. 3/4, 3/5, 3/6/2025/769925

To: Marguerite Iasiniski, Charles Williams; Rafael Mascote, Illinois Dept. of Revenue, Illinois Attorney General, Capital One Bank (USA), N.A., Laquita Bains, City of Chicago c/o City Clerk, Occupant, 14343 S. Western Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60642. Parties in occupancy and possession; any unknown owners and occupants. TAX DEED NO. 2025COTD000726. FILED: February 7, 2025. TAKE NOTICE. County of Cook. Date Premises Sold: 11/15/2022. Certificate No.: 20-0000488. Sold for General Taxes of (year) 2020. Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality) and special assessment number: N/A Warrant No.: N/A Inst. No.: N/A. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES. Property located at: 14343 S. Western Ave., Chicago, Illinois 60642. Legal Description or Property Index No.: 28-12-025-022-0000. This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 7/9/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent foreclosures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 7/9/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this county in the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602, on 8/6/2025 at 9:30 AM in room 1704. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY. Redemption can be made at any time on or before 7/9/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. ADDRESS: 118 North Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602. TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645. Oakwood Real Estate LLC, Purchaser or Assignee. Dated: February 14, 2025. 3/4, 3/5, 3/6/2025/769985

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NOTICES

TO: 3M Realty Investments LLC, 3M Realty Investments LLC RA: Sued Hyssand, 3M Realty Investments LLC c/o Illinois Secretary of State, BMO Bank, N.A.; Occupants of 2809, 2811 and 2813 W 147TH St, Posen, IL; Parties in occupancy and possession; any unknown owners and occupants. TAX DEED NO. 2025COTD000078. FILED: February 7, 2025. TAKE NOTICE. County of Cook. Date Premises Sold: 11/15/2022. Certificate No.: 20-0000498. Sold for General Taxes of (year) 2020. Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and special assessment number: N/A Warrant No.: N/A Inst. No.: N/A. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES. Property located at: THE EAST 25 FEET OF THE WEST 108.21 FEET OF THE REAL ESTATE C/K/A 2801-2813 W 147TH St, Posen, Illinois. Legal Description or Property Index No.: 28-12-321-004-0000. This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 7/9/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent foreclosures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 7/9/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington St., Chicago, IL 60602, on 8/6/2025 at 9:30 AM in room 1704. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY. Redemption can be made at any time on or before 7/9/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. For further information contact the County Clerk. ADDRESS: 118 North Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602. TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645. Pine Valley One Real Estate LLC, Purchaser or Assignee. Dated: February 14, 2025. 3/4, 3/5, 3/6/2025/769873

TO: MONICA GORDON, COOK COUNTY CLERK; FRED COLEMAN, CITY OF CALUMET CITY; MARIO K. AUSTIN; MARY AUSTIN; LORI LIGHTBOURNE; JOHN H. HUDSON; DAWN A. JACKSON; DOMINIQUE HOPKINS; CHRISTOPHER SMITH; VITTORIO K. JONES; STEVIE AUSTIN; BRIANNA M. WALTON; PERSONS OR TENANTS IN ACTUAL OCCUPANCY OR POSSESSION OF SAID PROPERTY; UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS OR PARTIES INTERESTED IN SAID PROPERTY. TAX DEED NO. 2025COTD000329 FILED: 1/14/2025 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 11/16/2022 Certificate No.: 20-0002361 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2020 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality) and special assessment number: N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 1653 HARBOR AVENUE CALUMET CITY, ILLINOIS Legal Description or Property Index No.: 29-01-402-036-0000 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 6/24/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent foreclosures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 6/24/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/16/2025 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before 6/24/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602 TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645 PLUST ENTERPRISES LLC Purchaser or Assignee January 14, 2025 3/4, 3/5, 3/6/2025/773187

TO: MONICA GORDON, COOK COUNTY CLERK; AMINA BROOKS; MARCUS HALEY; JOHN T. WALLACE; JEROME MAPLE; PERSONS OR TENANTS IN ACTUAL OCCUPANCY OR POSSESSION OF SAID PROPERTY; UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS OR PARTIES INTERESTED IN SAID PROPERTY. TAX DEED NO. 2025COTD000031 FILED: 1/14/2025 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 11/16/2022 Certificate No.: 20-0002365 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2020 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality) and special assessment number: N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 14235 ELSIE AVENUE DOLTON, ILLINOIS Legal Description or Property Index No.: 29-03-014-018-0000 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 6/24/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent foreclosures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 6/24/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/16/2025 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before 6/24/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602 TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645 PLUST ENTERPRISES LLC Purchaser or Assignee January 14, 2025 3/4, 3/5, 3/6/2025/773188

TO: MONICA GORDON, COOK COUNTY CLERK; GOTHIE INVESTMENTS LTD.; RUSSELL SWILLEY; KALEY Y. SWILLEY; KALEAH DIAMOND SWILLEY; XAVION BOSWELL; JEFFERY JACKSON; MAKAYLA TAYLOR; TRANLYA WATSON; CITY OF CHICAGO; PERSONS OR TENANTS IN ACTUAL OCCUPANCY OR POSSESSION OF SAID PROPERTY; UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS OR PARTIES INTERESTED IN SAID PROPERTY. TAX DEED NO. 2025COTD000030 FILED: 1/14/2025 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 11/16/2022 Certificate No.: 20-0002375 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2020 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality) and special assessment number: N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 14414 MINERVA AVENUE DOLTON, ILLINOIS Legal Description or Property Index No.: 29-02-022-0000 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 6/24/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent foreclosures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 6/24/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in the Richard J. Daley Center, 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY. Redemption can be made at any time on or before 6/24/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602 TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645 PLUST ENTERPRISES LLC Purchaser or Assignee January 14, 2025 3/4, 3/5, 3/6/2025/773190

TAKE
NOTICES

TO: MONICA GORDON, COOK COUNTY CLERK; SANJUANITA TAMEZ; AREL JUDEH; NEGIA JUDIE ENRIQUEZ; ANDREW T. HAYS - HAYS FIRM LLC (IN RE: 23CH09700); MARCUS GRAY - GRAY LAW PC. (IN RE: 23CH09700); ALEXIUS D. WASHINGTON; ANDRZEJ MASNIK; CHIEFSUMSH WOODS; TYLER SMITH; JASMINE VIVANS; PERSONS OR TENANTS IN ACTUAL OCCUPANCY OR POSSESSION OF SAID PROPERTY; UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS OR PARTIES INTERESTED IN SAID PROPERTY. TAX DEED NO. 2025COTD000332 FILED: 1/14/2025 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 11/16/2022 Certificate No.: 20-0002411 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2020 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality) and special assessment number: N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 14311 LINCOLN AVENUE DOLTON, ILLINOIS Legal Description or Property Index No.: 29-03-406-020-0000 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 6/24/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent foreclosures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 6/24/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/16/2025 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before 6/24/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602 TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645 PLUST ENTERPRISES LLC Purchaser or Assignee January 14, 2025 3/4, 3/5, 3/6/2025/773192

TO: MONICA GORDON, COOK COUNTY CLERK; LAURENCE L. ANDERSON; TRACY L. ANDERSON; TAD 11/3/2015 AKATN 8002369390; ILLINOIS HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY; ILLINOIS ATTORNEY GENERAL; ALESIA D. USHER; CURTIS K. KETCHUM; DOMINIQUE E. REYNOLDS; JULIAN WASHINGTON; DAVON KETCHUM; PERSONS OR TENANTS IN ACTUAL OCCUPANCY OR POSSESSION OF SAID PROPERTY; UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS OR PARTIES INTERESTED IN SAID PROPERTY. TAX DEED NO. 2025COTD000333 FILED: 1/14/2025 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 11/16/2022 Certificate No.: 20-0002414 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2020 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality) and special assessment number: N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 14336 IRVING AVENUE DOLTON, ILLINOIS Legal Description or Property Index No.: 29-03-411-033-0000 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 6/24/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent foreclosures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 6/24/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/16/2025 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before 6/24/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602 TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645 PLUST ENTERPRISES LLC Purchaser or Assignee January 14, 2025 3/4, 3/5, 3/6/2025/773195

TO: MONICA GORDON, COOK COUNTY CLERK; ANTONIO WRIGHT; LOURDES MAGANA VALENZUELA; MARCIURU LUNA; ALFREDO MAGANA; JESSICA THOMPSON; SETI AVALO; LAMAR PERSONS OR TENANTS IN ACTUAL OCCUPANCY OR POSSESSION OF SAID PROPERTY; UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS OR PARTIES INTERESTED IN SAID PROPERTY. TAX DEED NO. 2025COTD000337 FILED: 1/14/2025 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 11/16/2022 Certificate No.: 20-0002418 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2020 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality) and special assessment number: N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 14136 IRVING AVENUE DOLTON, ILLINOIS Legal Description or Property Index No.: 29-03-415-014-0000 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 6/24/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent foreclosures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 6/24/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/16/2025 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before 6/24/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602 TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645 PLUST ENTERPRISES LLC Purchaser or Assignee January 14, 2025 3/4, 3/5, 3/6/2025/773196

TO: MONICA GORDON, COOK COUNTY CLERK; BRUCE US DEVELOPMENT, INC.; CITY OF CHICAGO; LARRY D. BENSON; DEVONTA GENTRY; BEATRICE WILLIS; LARRY BRUCE; CLAUDETTE ROSS; JAMES TURNER; JEREMY GORDON; CALVIN HANNAH; KEYON WILLIAMS; PERSONS OR TENANTS IN ACTUAL OCCUPANCY OR POSSESSION OF SAID PROPERTY; UNKNOWN OCCUPANTS OR PARTIES INTERESTED IN SAID PROPERTY. TAX DEED NO. 2025COTD000335 FILED: 1/14/2025 TAKE NOTICE County of Cook Date Premises Sold: 11/16/2022 Certificate No.: 20-0002629 Sold for General Taxes of (year): 2020 Sold for Special Assessments of (Municipality) and special assessment number: N/A Warrant No.: N/A Installment No.: N/A THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES Property located at: 14810 IRVING AVENUE DOLTON, ILLINOIS Legal Description or Property Index No.: 29-10-221-025-0000 This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 6/24/2025. The amount to redeem is subject to increase at 6 month intervals from the date of sale and may be further increased if the purchaser at the tax sale or his or her assignee pays any subsequently accruing taxes or special assessments to redeem the property from subsequent foreclosures or tax sales. Check with the county clerk as to the exact amount you owe before redeeming. This notice is also to advise you that a petition has been filed for a tax deed which will transfer title and the right to possession of this property if redemption is not made on or before 6/24/2025. This matter is set for hearing in the Circuit Court of this County in Chicago, Illinois, on 7/16/2025 in Room 1704 of the Richard J. Daley Center at 50 W. Washington Street, Chicago, Illinois at 9:30 a.m. You may be present at this hearing but your right to redeem will already have expired at that time. YOU ARE URGED TO REDEEM IMMEDIATELY TO PREVENT LOSS OF PROPERTY Redemption can be made at any time on or before 6/24/2025 by applying to the County Clerk of Cook County, Illinois, at the Office of the County Clerk in Chicago, Illinois. FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE COUNTY CLERK ADDRESS: 118 N. Clark Street, Room 434, Chicago, Illinois 60602 TELEPHONE: (312) 603-5645 PLUST ENTERPRISES LLC Purchaser or Assignee January 14, 2025 3/4, 3/5, 3/6/2025/773202

TAKE
NOTICES

TO: Private Bank & 1 6908, Family Car Corner, LLC, Family Car Corner, LLC RA: Issam Younis, Jamu Odunsi, Grand Car Outlet, Inc., Prime Motors, Inc.; Occupant, 533 East Sibley Blvd., Dolton, IL; Parties in occupancy and possession; any unknown owners and occupants. TAX DEED NO. 2025COTD000016. FILED: February 7, 2025. TAKE NOTICE. County of Cook. Date Premises Sold: 11/16/2022. Certificate No.: 20-0002639. Sold for General Taxes of (year) 2020. Sold for Special Assessment of (Municipality) and special assessment number: N/A Warrant No.: N/A Inst. No.: N/A. THIS PROPERTY HAS BEEN SOLD FOR DELINQUENT TAXES. Property located at: ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF SIBLEY BLVD BEGINNING 33 FEET EAST OF BEACHVIEW TERRACE (25 FEET OF FRONTAGE ON SIBLEY BLVD), Dolton, Illinois. Legal Description or Property Index No.: 29-10-307-002-0000. This notice is to advise you that the above property has been sold for delinquent taxes and that the period of redemption from the sale will expire on 7/9/

CHICAGO ACCUWEATHER



ABC7 Outlook:
Showers and fog in the morning, falling temperatures in the afternoon with rain changing to snow. Afternoon winds increasing to 40-plus mph. High 50 in the morning falling into the 30s.

WEDNESDAY		THURSDAY		FRIDAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY		MONDAY	
Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night	Day	Night
High: 51 Low: 25		High: 41 Low: 32		High: 40 Low: 27		High: 43 Low: 28		High: 48 Low: 34		High: 60 Low: 46	
Becoming windier with rain, then snow late		Breezy in the morning; mostly sunny		Snow and rain at times		Sunny to partly cloudy		Partly sunny		Mostly sunny, pleasant and warmer	
POP: 95%		POP: 0%		POP: 95%		POP: 10%		POP: 5%		POP: 0%	
Winds: WSW 12-25 mph		Winds: WNW 10-20 mph		Winds: ESE 6-12 mph		Winds: W 8-16 mph		Winds: W 8-16 mph		Winds: SW 7-14 mph	

CHICAGO FORECAST
Wednesday Conditions
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. 8 p.m.
AccuWeather.com UV Index™
0 1 1 1 0 0 0
RealFeel Temperature®
38 41 40 35 28 17 17
Wednesday Activities
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. 8 p.m.
Outdoor Activities Index
0 0 1 0 0 0 0
Fishing Index
0 3 8 0 0 0 0
The higher the **AccuWeather.com UV Index** number, the greater the need for eye and skin protection. 0-2 Low, 3-5 Moderate, 6-7 High, 8-10 Very High, 11+ Extreme. The patented **AccuWeather.com RealFeel Temperature** is an exclusive index of effective temperature based on eight weather factors. **Outdoor Activities and Fishing Indexes:** 0-2: Poor; 3-4: Fair; 5-6: Good; 7-8: Very Good; 9-10: Excellent.

CHICAGO ALMANAC
Tuesday Temperatures
O'Hare through 4 p.m.
High **48**
Low **43**
Normal high **42**
Normal low **27**
Record high **73 (1983)**
Record low **-12 (1873)**
Local Temperatures
through 6 p.m. Tuesday

Location	Hi	Lo	Hi	Lo
Aurora	46	41	42	24
Gary	48	41	43	26
Kankakee	48	41	43	25
Lansing	47	41	42	26
Midway	49	45	43	28
Romeoville	47	43	43	26
Valparaiso	47	38	44	27
Waukegan	52	45	40	24

Tuesday Precipitation

	2025	2024	Normal
Tuesday*	0.46"	0.07"	0.07"
Month to date	0.46"	0.07"	0.33"
Year to date	2.96"	4.22"	4.29"

Snowfall
Tuesday* **0.0"** **0.0"** **0.2"**
Month to date **Trace** **0.0"** **1.1"**
Season to date **14.8"** **21.2"** **32.7"**
*24-hour period ending 4 p.m. Tuesday

Air Quality Index
Tuesday's reading
Moderate
Wednesday's forecast
Good
Primary pollutant **Nitrogen Oxide**
Source: AirNow.gov
Sun and Moon

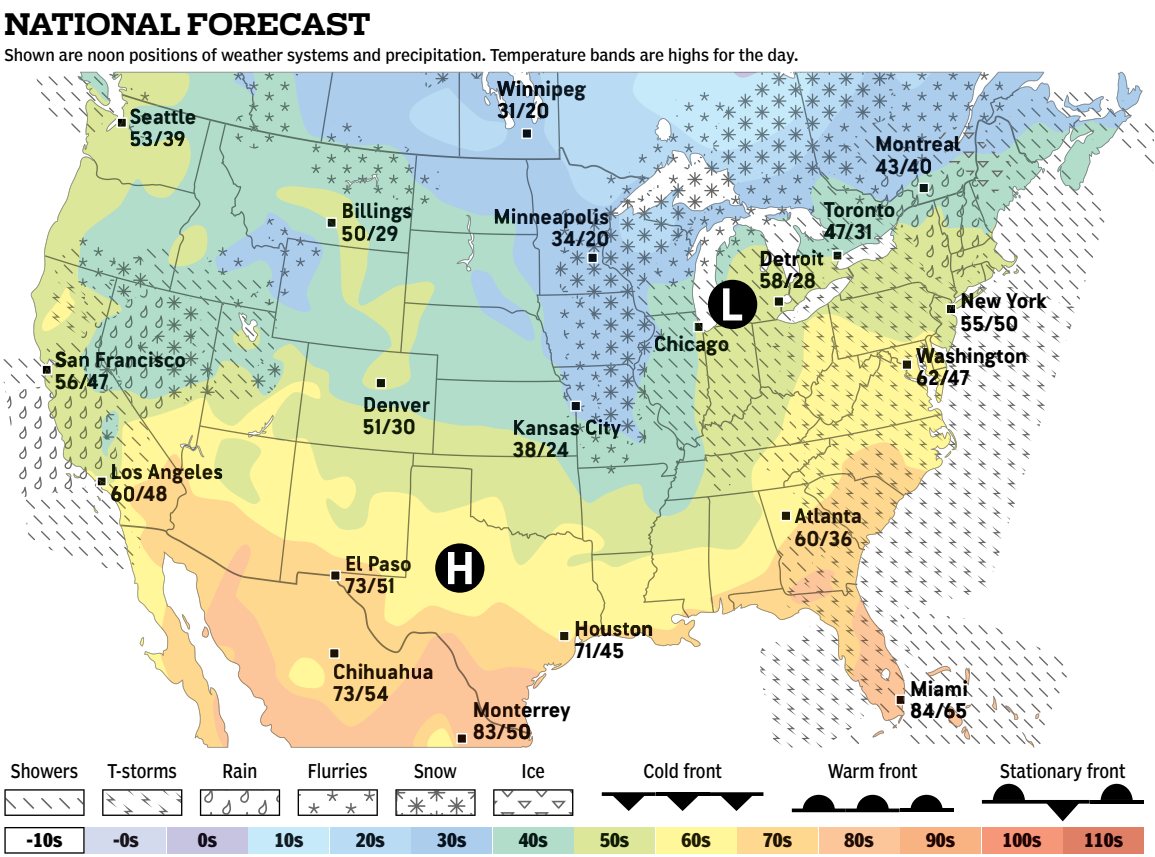
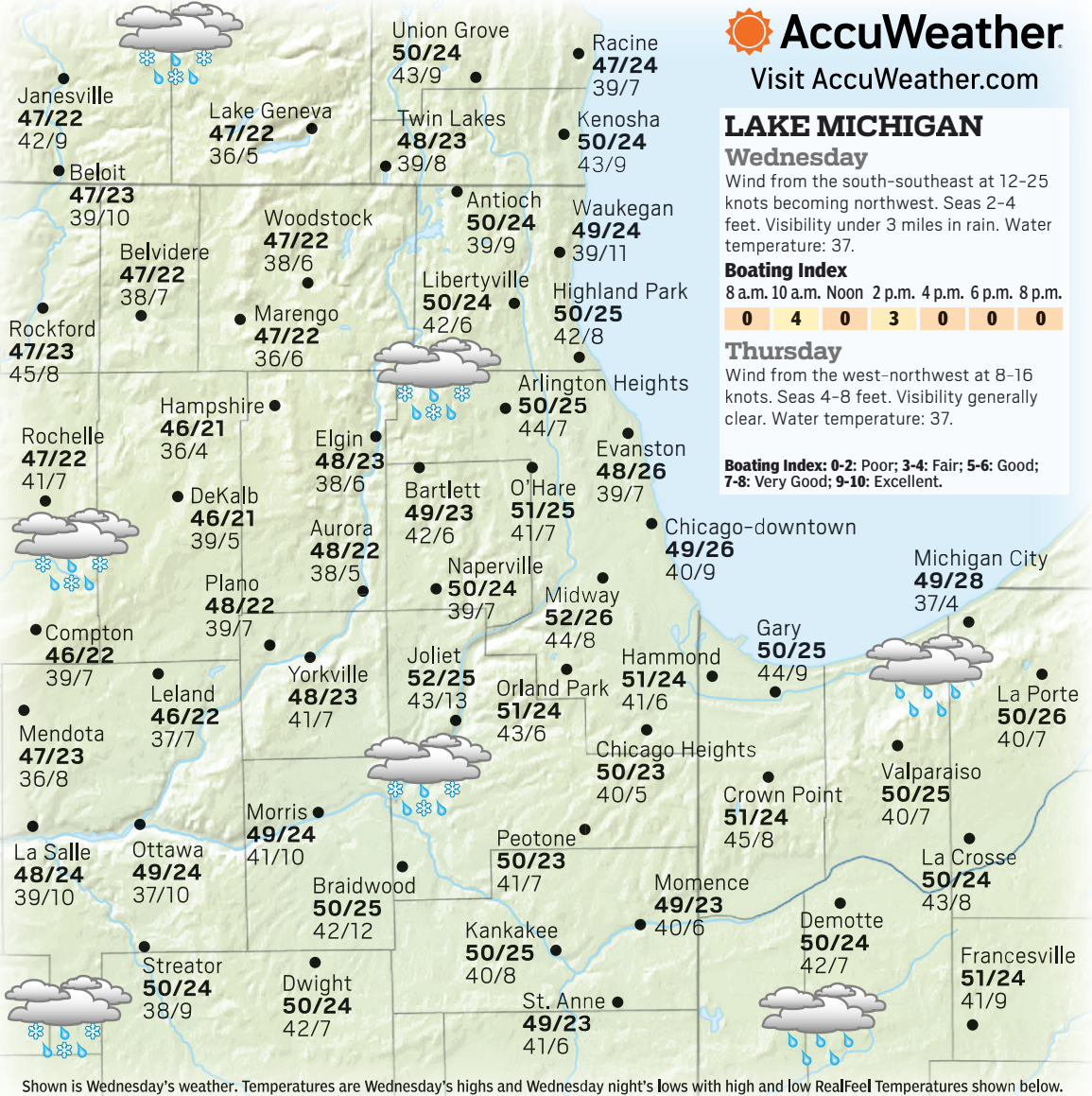
	Wed.	Thu.
Sunrise	6:19 a.m.	6:17 a.m.
Sunset	5:46 p.m.	5:47 p.m.
Moonrise	9:12 a.m.	9:57 a.m.
Moonset	12:01 a.m.	1:17 a.m.

	First	Full	Last	New
	Mar 6	Mar 14	Mar 22	Mar 29

Wednesday's Planet Watch

	Rise	Set
Mercury	6:53 a.m.	7:18 p.m.
Venus	6:39 a.m.	8:06 p.m.
Mars	12:30 p.m.	4:02 a.m.
Jupiter	10:12 a.m.	1:08 a.m.
Saturn	6:42 a.m.	6:11 p.m.

Best viewing times today: Venus: 6:45 p.m. Mars: 6:45 p.m. Jupiter: 6:45 p.m. Saturn: not visible Mercury: 6:45 p.m.



AccuWeather
Visit AccuWeather.com
LAKE MICHIGAN
Wednesday
Wind from the south-southeast at 12-25 knots becoming northwest. Seas 2-4 feet. Visibility under 3 miles in rain. Water temperature: 37.
Boating Index
8 a.m. 10 a.m. Noon 2 p.m. 4 p.m. 6 p.m. 8 p.m.
0 4 0 3 0 0 0
Thursday
Wind from the west-northwest at 8-16 knots. Seas 4-8 feet. Visibility generally clear. Water temperature: 37.
Boating Index: 0-2: Poor; 3-4: Fair; 5-6: Good; 7-8: Very Good; 9-10: Excellent.
QUESTION: How much snow do we average in March?
ANSWER: The average snowfall for March is 5.5 inches. The snowiest March was 23.1 inches in 1926. The least snowiest is several years where we only saw a trace amount. Those years were 2000, 1997, 1994, 1921 and 1910.
Do you have a weather question for the ABC 7 team? Submit them at abc7chicago.com/weather or send them to:
Ask ABC 7 Weather Team
190 N. State Street
Chicago, IL 60601

NATIONAL CITIES

City	Wed. Hi/Low/W	Thu. Hi/Low/W
Abilene	64/45/s	71/55/pc
Albany, NY	54/48/r	51/24/sn
Albuquerque	64/44/s	65/32/pc
Amarillo	59/36/r	71/43/pc
Anchorage	41/34/r	39/27/pc
Asheville	64/32/t	46/32/pc
Aspen	42/30/pc	39/17/sn
Atlanta	60/36/c	56/37/s
Atlantic City	52/48/r	51/32/pc
Austin	72/40/s	77/58/pc
Baltimore	57/45/r	53/31/c
Billings	50/29/pc	40/25/c
Birmingham	56/34/pc	57/38/s
Bismarck	39/22/pc	41/20/c
Boise	53/34/pc	50/30/r
Boston	53/50/c	58/30/c
Brownsville	80/55/s	80/65/s
Buffalo	57/34/r	39/25/sf
Burlington, VT	52/47/r	50/19/c
Charleston, SC	72/45/t	61/38/s
Charleston, WV	67/32/t	42/27/sf
Charlotte	71/38/t	55/36/pc
Chattanooga	60/36/c	55/34/pc
Cheyenne	48/28/s	39/24/sn
Cincinnati	57/34/r	43/28/pc
Cleveland	60/29/r	36/27/sf
Colorado Spgs	48/26/c	59/28/pc
Columbia, MO	73/25/sn	49/35/pc
Columbia, SC	73/40/r	60/32/s
Columbus, OH	59/29/r	40/28/pc
Concord	50/46/r	55/23/pc
Corpus Christi	82/52/s	76/65/s
Dallas	61/41/s	66/55/pc
Daytona Beach	79/50/t	69/42/s
Denver	51/30/pc	48/27/pc
Duluth	29/15/sn	35/13/pc
El Paso	73/51/s	78/48/pc

City	Wed. Hi/Low/W	Thu. Hi/Low/W
Fairbanks	39/20/pc	36/15/sn
Fargo	36/20/c	41/18/s
Flagstaff	53/27/pc	39/25/sn
Fort Myers	82/63/t	74/48/s
Fort Smith	54/31/s	61/47/pc
Fresno	56/43/r	57/41/sh
Grand Junction	59/46/pc	52/31/sh
Great Falls	45/22/c	41/22/pc
Harrisburg	59/44/r	49/31/c
Hartford	55/50/r	60/28/sh
Helena, MT	48/28/c	42/20/c
Honolulu	85/73/sh	82/71/sh
Houston	71/45/s	71/58/pc
Int'l Falls	27/10/c	31/5/c
Jackson, MS	60/36/s	60/43/pc
Jacksonville	77/48/t	66/40/s
Juneau	44/37/r	41/38/r
Kansas City	38/24/c	48/37/pc
Las Vegas	67/49/c	58/46/sh
Lexington	57/31/sh	44/32/pc
Lincoln	41/20/pc	46/32/c
Little Rock	53/33/s	60/45/pc
Los Angeles	60/48/r	60/47/r
Louisville	56/32/sh	48/36/pc
Macon	71/40/pc	60/35/s
Memphis	47/32/pc	55/43/pc
Miami	84/65/pc	82/55/s
Minneapolis	34/20/sn	42/22/s
Mobile	69/39/s	67/42/s
Montgomery	63/38/s	62/37/s
Nashville	56/33/c	52/37/s
New Orleans	69/47/s	64/52/pc
New York City	55/50/r	53/34/pc
Norfolk	67/49/t	55/36/pc
Oklahoma City	54/32/s	61/46/pc
Omaha	35/20/pc	41/33/sh
Orlando	84/54/t	72/48/s

WORLD CITIES

City	Wed. Hi/Low/W	Thu. Hi/Low/W
Palm Beach	85/60/t	75/49/s
Palm Springs	73/53/r	64/47/sh
Philadelphia	59/47/r	52/33/pc
Phoenix	77/58/pc	71/46/s
Pittsburgh	64/32/r	37/28/sf
Portland, ME	46/42/r	48/29/c
Portland, OR	56/37/c	58/33/s
Providence	50/48/r	55/27/c
Raleigh	73/43/t	54/36/pc
Rapid City	46/26/s	41/23/sn
Reno	47/33/r	43/26/sh
Richmond	64/44/t	54/31/pc
Rochester	57/39/r	44/26/sf
Sacramento	58/42/sh	57/38/sh
St. Louis	42/27/sn	51/38/s
Salem, OR	59/36/c	58/33/s
Salt Lake City	54/41/pc	45/33/r
San Antonio	75/45/s	76/57/pc
San Diego	63/55/r	62/51/r
San Francisco	56/47/pc	57/44/sh
San Juan	85/73/sh	87/74/sh
Santa Fe	61/35/pc	60/30/pc
Savannah	77/45/s	62/39/s
Seattle	53/39/c	53/37/s
Shreveport	61/35/s	66/49/pc
Sioux Falls	38/21/pc	50/29/c
Spokane	47/28/pc	51/28/s
Syracuse	56/43/r	48/26/sh
Tallahassee	78/45/t	67/38/s
Tampa	76/57/t	65/51/s
Topeka	43/22/pc	51/36/c
Tucson	80/56/s	68/42/pc
Tulsa	53/30/s	57/48/pc
Washington, DC	62/47/t	51/36/pc
Wichita	50/28/s	52/41/pc
Wilkes-Barre	58/43/r	47/24/sf
Yuma	78/56/pc	68/49/s

City	Wed. Hi/Low/W	Thu. Hi/Low/W
Acapulco	86/70/s	87/71/s
Algiers	72/56/c	71/54/c
Amsterdam	55/35/pc	59/40/pc
Ankara	58/25/s	63/25/pc
Athens	61/46/s	67/47/s
Auckland	73/52/s	69/55/s
Baghdad	58/49/sh	73/54/pc
Bangkok	100/80/s	99/80/pc
Barbados	86/77/pc	86/76/sh
Barcelona	61/53/pc	60/54/sh
Beijing	57/28/pc	56/29/pc
Beirut	68/56/r	68/56/pc
Berlin	59/36/s	59/35/s
Bermuda	66/62/c	71/61/sh
Bogota	65/51/r	64/50/r
Brussels	58/37/pc	61/44/pc
Bucharest	61/32/s	66/32/s
Budapest	59/27/s	62/29/s
Buenos Aires	91/79/c	92/79/s
Cairo	70/54/c	70/56/sh
Cancun	91/72/sh	86/65/s
Caracas	88/76/pc	88/74/pc
Casablanca	65/51/sh	63/48/r
Copenhagen	49/39/pc	52/36/s
Dublin	56/41/c	55/45/sh
Edmonton	37/23/s	43/24/s
Frankfurt	56/30/s	57/32/s
Geneva	57/33/pc	57/33/pc
Guadalajara	90/47/s	89/45/s
Havana	87/66/sh	80/56/s
Helsinki	44/38/c	46/35/pc
Hong Kong	73/59/sh	64/54/r
Istanbul	53/38/s	56/40/pc
Jerusalem	58/46/sh	59/45/pc
Johannesburg	79/58/t	82/59/t
Kabul	44/31/pc	49/34/s
Kingston	89/76/s	89/76/sh

City	Wed. Hi/Low/W	Thu. Hi/Low/W
Kyiv	50/42/c	57/40/s
Lima	80/70/pc	81/71/c
Lisbon	61/54/sh	64/54/pc
London	58/36/s	59/46/s
Madrid	58/47/sh	57/47/sh
Manila	95/79/t	92/78/s
Mexico City	83/52/s	79/56/s
Montreal	83/50/pc	81/57/s
Monterrey	43/40/r	46/17/c
Moscow	38/35/c	41/38/sn
Munich	56/30/s	57/31/s
Nairobi	84/61/pc	85/62/s
Nassau	82/72/sh	82/62/s
New Delhi	76/53/s	82/55/s
Oslo	51/43/pc	57/37/c
Ottawa	40/37/r	42/16/sn
Panama City	92/71/pc	91/69/pc
Paris	60/36/s	62/43/s
Prague	57/30/s	56/31/s
Rio de Janeiro	86/74/pc	85/74/sh
Riyadh	85/66/s	87/63/c
Rome	62/39/s	63/40/s
Santiago	87/55/s	82/54/s
Seoul	48/24/pc	50/22/s
Singapore	88/77/t	88/78/t
Sofia	60/26/s	64/30/s
Stockholm	48/41/c	53/36/pc
Sydney	79/70/sh	79/69/sh
Taipei	69/60/sh	62/56/r
Tehran	52/44/c	59/46/pc
Tokyo	51/47/r	54/42/sh
Toronto	47/31/r	35/25/sf
Trinidad	86/76/pc	86/75/pc
Vancouver	50/36/pc	50/39/s
Vienna	57/32/s	62/38/s
Warsaw	56/37/pc	59/34/s
Winnipeg	31/20/pc	24/13/sn



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Chicago Tribune
BUSINESS

Chicago Fire training facility opens

Community members, advocates still frustrated with team and CHA

By Lizzie Kane
Chicago Tribune

The Chicago Fire Football Club celebrated the opening of its new training facility on the Near West Side in a ribbon-cutting ceremony Monday, as community members, public housing residents and worker and housing advocates remain frustrated with the Fire and the Chicago Housing Authority, whose land the facility sits on. That tension was on display as CHA residents who showed up for the event were asked to leave and then escorted out by security and Chicago police.

Before the event began, the CHA residents were standing quietly in the new training center. Paul Cadwell, the Chicago Fire's senior vice president of community programs, engagement and facilities, mouthed to his staff to



A Chicago police officer escorts a resident of Brooks Homes out before the ribbon-cutting event for the Endeavor Health Performance Center, the Chicago Fire's new practice facility on Monday. EILEEN T. MESLAR/TRIBUNE

“get them out.” The residents, who were standing behind seated event attendees, were then ushered out of the space.

Mary Baggett, president of the ABLA Homes Local Advisory Council, CHA's resident board for

the Near West Side community, and who has been the Chicago Fire's face for CHA residents for the partnership, told the Tribune that she asked the other residents to leave because they were there to be “disruptive.”

Baggett spoke at the event, praising the Fire for their investment in the community. The residents who spoke with the Tribune who were asked to leave said they were there to learn what is going on in their community. One asked to remain anonymous because he said he feared retaliation from CHA.

“It is unfair to bring events to the community and be escorted out by police when we are not making noise or causing conflict,” said Lorraine McCray, who lives near the training facility in CHA housing.

The facility has been mired in controversy from its inception. The City Council initially blocked the deal and then reversed course in September 2022, and housing advocates sued CHA — the entity that leased the land to the team — the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development and then-HUD Secretary Marcia Fudge in June 2023, alleging the deal to lease 23 acres of vacant CHA land did not undergo proper local and federal reviews. Members of

Congress also expressed concerns, sending letters to Fudge and then-CHA CEO Tracey Scott, after the project broke ground in April 2023. The lawsuit was dismissed in October.

Chicago Fire officials at the event were joined by city leaders such as Ald. Jason Ervin, whose 28th Ward is home to the new facility, Chicago Department of Planning and Development Commissioner Ciere Boatright and former CHA Chief Development Officer Ann McKenzie. No current CHA officials appeared to be present.

The practice facility, named the Endeavor Health Performance Center, includes five turf/grass fields, a performance space, hydro pools and an area for the sports medicine team in Roosevelt Square on the site of CHA's former ABLA Homes housing complex. ABLA Homes consisted of four combined developments, Addams, Brooks, Loomis and Abbott.

The lease agreement between

Turn to Facility, Page 2

Housing authority union OKs new contracts

Workers earn raises after detailing their struggle to pay bills

By Lizzie Kane
Chicago Tribune

Housing Authority of Cook County union workers ratified two new union contracts this week, earning average salary floor raises of 4% and 7% and annual cost of living wage increases of 3% and 4%.

Workers previously told the Tribune that they struggled to pay their bills, including rent and mortgage payments, on their pre-ratification salaries. The employees worked without a contract for about a year. As the parties struggled to reach an agreement on the union's wage and health insurance proposals, they moved to bring in a federal mediator but were able to close a deal without one. The raises for union workers follow recent hefty salary increases for HACC's senior leadership, which the Tribune recently reported on.

“(Management) thought about us,” said Cassy Williams, who has been an off-again, on-again steward in the HACC union for about 12 years. “We got more out of the deal this time around,” she said, while praising HACC Executive Director Danita Childers for moving the agency in a “good direction” compared to prior management.

Housing Authority of Cook County management said in a statement that Childers, who recently commissioned a study on agency pay and benefits, “continues to lead the commitment to prioritize and improve human resources” at the agency. These new union contracts, the statement said, show that the HACC leadership team is committed to “retain staff members and to make the agency more attractive to newcomers.”

The union contracts will be presented for approval by the board at the March board meeting.

“We're happy to be able to come to agreement with the union and to continue to provide housing to low-income families in suburban Cook County,” Childers said in the statement.

Childers said in a November interview that the agency budgeted for “a significant salary increase” for many roles for this fiscal year — which wraps up at the end of this month — in anticipation of the union contract negotiations being closed out.

The Tribune previously reported that union workers said the workloads are high and wages are low, causing many union employees to leave the housing authority, one that is deemed “troubled” by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. This designation stemmed from performance issues related to an absentee board, low-grade

Turn to Union, Page 2



The Delaware Building, designed by architects Wheelock and Thomas, is at 36 W. Randolph St. EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Delaware Building tops most endangered list

Shuttered McDonald's may be threatening plans to renovate, repurpose the Loop site



The Clarence Darrow Memorial Bridge. TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2017



An undated photo of the J.J. Walser House in Chicago's Austin neighborhood. ERIC ALLIX ROGERS



The Olivet Baptist Church on Tuesday. EILEEN T. MESLAR/CHICAGO TRIBUNE



The Central Manufacturing District clock tower. JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2016



The Kinsella Landscaping Building on South Western Boulevard. SERHII CHRUCKY/ESTO



St. Martin's Church at 5848 South Princeton Avenue on Tuesday. EILEEN T. MESLAR/TRIBUNE

By Robert Channick
Chicago Tribune

For the first time in the 22-year history of Preservation Chicago's annual ranking of the city's seven most endangered buildings, a former McDonald's restaurant has cracked the list — sort of.

No, it's not a classic golden arches burger joint, but rather a shuttered first-floor McDonald's restaurant that may be threatening plans to renovate and repurpose a 150-year-old Loop office building, which tops the endangered list for 2025.

The Delaware Building at 36 W. Randolph St., an eight-story, Italianate-style building that was among the first to rise from the ashes of the 1871 Great Chicago Fire, is nearly vacant, deteriorating and stuck in redevelopment limbo. McDonald's, which closed the restaurant during the pandemic and never reopened, has a half-century remaining on a 99-year lease, which the Chicago-based chain has yet to relinquish.

“It just seems like various plans have fallen through because of the McDonald's space,” said Ward Miller, executive director of Preservation Chicago. “They're making it very hard for the repurposing of this building.”

A McDonald's spokesperson did not respond to a request for comment Tuesday.

Designed by architects Wheelock & Thomas, the ornate Delaware Building features a cast-iron base topped with a concrete facade. It was completed between 1872 and 1874, with an 1889 remodel by architect Julius H. Huber, adding two floors to the top and a dramatic steel-framed interior atrium.

The Delaware Building was listed on the National Register in 1974 and designated a Chicago Landmark in 1983, offering protection against demolition. That hasn't prevented underutilization and decay, however.

Plans to convert upper office floors to residential or perhaps sell the building have been stymied by the ongoing McDonald's lease for the first two floors, Miller said. He is hoping the Chicago-based fast-food giant will step up in a spirit of civic responsibility and give up its former space.

“We'd like to see McDonald's open to the idea of turning over their lease, realizing this is a landmark building in downtown Chicago,” Miller said.

The other Chicago landmarks that made the group's most endangered list this year:

2. Clarence Darrow Memorial Bridge: Designed by famed Chicago architectural firm Burn-

Turn to Endangered, Page 2

Facility

from Page 1

CHA and the Fire is expected to generate about \$40 million in revenue for CHA over the next 40 years, with that money going toward existing CHA housing efforts, such as those at Brooks Homes, Loomis Courts and Williams Jones Apartments. The Fire will provide an additional \$8 million, with half going toward the rehabilitation of Brooks Homes and the other half earmarked for a community center for local CHA residents and a parking lot for William Jones Apartments, the Chicago Fire and CHA told the Tribune in a statement. Construction for the community center and the parking lot are expected to begin this spring, a Chicago Fire spokesperson said.

Joe Mansueto, owner and chairman of the Fire, called the training facility an “important civic project to Chicago.”

“We are going to be a good neighbor,” Mansueto said at the event. “That’s super important to us.”

Although the Fire and CHA say the soccer club has provided job opportunities to Near West Side and CHA residents, community members and worker and housing advocates say those opportunities have been few and far between.

The Tribune recently met with area residents, including two former ABLA Homes residents, leaders of the Bethel Mennonite Community Church, which is around the corner from the Fire’s training facility, and worker and housing advocates to discuss the facility’s opening. The church is decorated with posters that have messages such as: “We need affordable housing for ABLA land” and “Come out and support ABLA.”



Fire players practice on a training field at the Endeavor Health Performance Center, the Chicago Fire Football Club’s new practice facility, on Monday. **EILEENT.T. MESLAR/TRIBUNE PHOTOS**

Both pastors at the church have been in their roles for decades and said they used to be part of the conversation with CHA about rebuilding their community. They said they were involved during and after CHA’s launch of its “Plan for Transformation,” its 2000 pledge to tear down and rebuild tens of thousands of units of public housing for Chicagoans.

Zenobia Sowell, co-pastor of Bethel Mennonite and a dentist, said she met with CHA across different administrations for about 15 years before they closed the deal with the Fire “behind our back.” She felt “betrayed” and “angry,” she said.

While the church has yet to meet with the Fire, “We did let them know we were opposed to what was planned” through protests, Sowell said.

Mario Godfrey, who grew up in and until recently lived in CHA housing at the ABLA site, is a part-time construction worker and runs an organization focused on youth mentoring. After



Chicago Fire staff prepare for practice outside the Endeavor Health Performance Center building at Chicago Fire Football Club’s new practice facility on the Near West Side on Monday.

repeatedly going up to workers at the Fire site inquiring about job opportunities for himself and other local residents, Godfrey said he got part-time employment with CHA’s Brooks Homes \$85 million renovation project and a handful of other jobs for local workers.

While he is grateful for the work provided, Godfrey said the Fire and CHA have not done enough hiring from the community. Organizers from Working Family Solidarity, a community organization focused on job creation and

worker rights, have been coming to the Near West Side regularly to speak with and advise workers and shared similar sentiments to Godfrey about the lack of work.

“To me, it’s sad ... It really comes to show you that racism is really still going on,” Godfrey said, who was also escorted out of the Chicago Fire event.

CHA spokesperson Matthew Aguilar said the Fire “met and exceeded” most of the goals it created to meet HUD requirements

related to resident employment on HUD-funded projects. These requirements ensure that CHA and lower-income area residents and business owners receive a certain number of labor hours on projects and employment opportunities. The Fire said it is 4% short of those required goals.

A spokesperson for the Chicago Fire said the organization has provided 12 work opportunities throughout construction to area residents, ranging from landscaping and concrete work to natural grass field installation. The Fire could not provide a number for total workers employed over the course of construction by the Tribune’s deadline.

The Fire also hired a Black-owned general contractor to work with another construction company, and they have a history of hiring from the Near West Side, the spokesperson said. The Fire committed \$5.3 million for day-to-day operations and development work to CHA Section 3 Businesses, the spokesperson said, which HUD defines as ones that are majority owned by CHA residents, housing voucher holders or low-income people or a business that has low-income workers who make up at least 75% of the labor hours.

Cadwell, the Fire’s senior vice president of community programs, told the Tribune that most jobs for residents will be on the back end of the project — such as for the community center — because the training facility construction project was a union site. The Fire just got their building permit on Feb. 24, Cadwell said, and now will be able to focus on hiring for jobs to maintain the facility.

“My team’s job was to make sure that we listen to the residents,” Cadwell said. “Even if there are some frus-

trations day one, it’s up to us to then get out and meet with the people and say, ‘Hey, we are your neighbors for the next at least 40 years’ ... and I think none of us know what opportunities fully are going to be there for everyone until we actually move into the building and start living in the space.”

On top of these commitments, the Fire said it will have an annual internship program for area CHA residents that will start this summer or fall per an agreement it made with the ABLA Local Advisory Council, a group composed of CHA residents. The interns will work in positions in the business, sporting and community areas of the football club.

Job opportunities or not, Near West Side community members and local advocates remain opposed to the use of the public housing land for a soccer facility.

Donna Thadison, a long-time member of Bethel Mennonite and former ABLA resident in the 1960s and ’70s, works in CHA’s William Jones building for older adults, which is on the same block as the training facility, as a home care aid for one of the residents. She said what CHA has done with the land is “not right.”

“They promised people they were going to build houses, but they decided they weren’t going to do that,” Thadison said. “We lost members (of the church) because of this. It tore my community apart. It just hurts.”

McCray, one of the CHA residents who was escorted out of the event, said she used to live in public housing where the soccer facility stands and said it is unfair that they now “can’t even walk on the property.”

“They act like we are from outer space.”

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Endangered

from Page 1

ham and Root, the bridge, originally known as the Columbia Drive Bridge, has spanned Jackson Park’s lagoon since 1880, offering picturesque views and passage to the lakefront.

It predates the nearby Griffin Museum of Science and Industry, whose building was part of the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition. In 1957, the structure was renamed for famed Chicago attorney Clarence Darrow, a Hyde Park resident who frequented the bucolic bridge while contemplating cases.

Jackson Park was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1972 and the bridge also falls within the boundary of the 1994 Chicago Landmark designation for the Museum of Science and Industry. But the stone bridge has fallen into disrepair, with the Chicago Department of Transportation cordonning it off to pedestrian traffic in 2013.

Renovating and reopening the bridge while preserving its historical elements has proved elusive to date, especially for CDOT, Miller said. He is hoping a new Jackson Park neighbor, the Obama Presidential Center, which is set to open next year, will take up the cause.

“It’d be wonderful if an entity like the Obama Presidential Center, which is building very close by, would participate in helping to fund this in a very sensitive way,” Miller said. “It needs to be sensitively addressed

and very carefully restored.”

3. J.J. Walser House: Built in 1903, the Frank Lloyd Wright-designed single family home in the Austin neighborhood, is at an unusual location — the only one of its kind on Chicago’s West Side — and an exemplary representation of the architect’s Prairie style. But it has fallen on hard times.

Tucked within a narrow urban lot, the modest home has been lauded for its simplicity, free-flowing efficiency and organic naturalism. The home, which has been sold a dozen times, has been remodeled by various occupants over the years, but was essentially preserved with only minor changes under its last owner for more than 50 years.

Since the passing of that owner, Anne Teague, in 2019, the house has been unoccupied and deteriorating. The property is in foreclosure and burdened by a reverse mortgage, which has hampered efforts to find a new owner to restore and preserve the house, Miller said.

Designated a Chicago Landmark in 1984, the property was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2013 for its significant design by Wright. The vacant house is protected from demolition, but not from harsh Midwestern winters and occasional vandalism, Miller said.

Preservation Chicago is looking to get the house out of foreclosure and sell it to an owner that would commit to its restoration. The complicated financial situation may take a year or more to navi-

gate, Miller said.

“It’s really sad to see a Frank Lloyd Wright structure like this in such disrepair,” Miller said.

4. Olivet Baptist Church: Located in the Bronzeville/Douglas neighborhood, Olivet Baptist Church houses one of the oldest African American congregations in Chicago. Built in 1876, the Gothic Revival church has long been a cultural landmark, but the building itself at 3101 S. King Drive never achieved that formal status. Clad in rough ashlar veneer, trimmed in Joliet limestone and topped with a 160-foot steepled tower, it nonetheless remains a prominent architectural feature with a storied history.

But as the congregation has dwindled during the new millennium, the building has begun to deteriorate. Preservation Chicago is recommending the church pursue designation as a Chicago Landmark as a first step towards restoring the building to its historic glory.

5. Central Manufacturing District Clock Tower: For more than a century, an 11-story, red brick and terra cotta tower has stood watch over the brawny Central Manufacturing District, the nation’s first planned industrial development along Pershing Road in McKinley Park on the city’s Southwest Side.

Financier and railroad magnate Frederick Henry Prince created the Central Manufacturing District by his Chicago Junction Railway switching yard and the

South Branch of the Chicago River. It began to take shape in 1902 with the construction of the U.S. Leather Co. building and expanded west along Pershing Road, ultimately covering more than 350 acres.

At its height, more than 250 companies, from Wrigley to Westinghouse, operated out of the buildings. Activity dwindled as tenants fled to suburban industrial parks that sprung up along interstate highways, turning the manufacturing district into a memory and the buildings into targets for redevelopment and preservationists.

Like many buildings in the development, the Clock Tower is vacant and deteriorating. The Central Manufacturing District and its buildings have been on the most endangered list several times over the last decade. Recent effort to sell the buildings have proved unsuccessful. And last year, the 104-year-old Continental Can Building fell to the wrecking ball.

Preservation Chicago is recommending Chicago Landmark status for the Clock Tower to incentivize its preservation and restoration.

6. Western Boulevard Industrial Buildings: Eight historic buildings along Western Boulevard in the Back of the Yards neighborhood form a century-old industrial corridor designed by some noted architects. Original occupants included Inland Steel, Whitney & Ford, Grinnell and O-Cedar. Some of the buildings are in use by new tenants, while

others are unoccupied.

Mostly two- to four-story red brick buildings, some feature ornamental stone and terra cotta elements, original signage and rooftop water towers, once a standard requirement in the wake of the Great Chicago Fire.

While all of the industrial buildings are part of the National Register-listed Chicago Park Boulevard System Historic District, many are showing their age. In addition to keeping the buildings in operation and addressing needed repairs to restore the historic elements, Preservation Chicago is recommending a Chicago Landmark designation to prevent demolition or changes that would destroy their character.

7. St. Martin’s Church: The former St. Martin de Tours Church at 5848 S. Princeton Ave. in the Englewood neighborhood is returning to the list and still in danger. Originally built for the German Catholic community, the church closed in 1989, reopened as an Evangelical Black congregation in 1998 and shuttered in 2017. The century-old Gothic church building is deteriorating after years of deferred maintenance.

Distinctive features include a 228-foot stone steeple, limestone exterior and original stained glass windows, although much of the church’s interior wood-carved details have been lost.

Preservation Chicago is hoping a new congregation might move in and restore the church, or the building could be repurposed as a

community center, among other potential adaptive reuses. As with other endangered structures, Preservation Chicago is recommending it be designated a local landmark to prevent demolition and encourage restoration.

Missing from this year’s list after three years at the top are the Century and Consumers buildings, a pair of century-old Loop skyscrapers that were threatened with demolition by the federal government, which acquired them in 2007 as a buffer and potential office expansion for the adjacent federal courthouse.

The vacant buildings in the 200 block of South State Street, among the last vestiges of the Chicago School of Architecture, were earmarked for demolition in 2022 after a proposal for a \$141 million mixed-use redevelopment was shot down over security concerns raised by neighboring federal judges.

But after years of efforts by preservationists, the General Services Administration, which manages the government-owned buildings, determined they should be saved from the wrecking ball and repurposed, with development teams submitting proposals for adaptive reuse in January.

“We at Preservation Chicago are grateful for this determination, and we look forward to working with the GSA towards any type of revisioning, reuse of these buildings with whatever team they pick,” Miller said.

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Union

from Page 1

property inspections, incorrect reporting on leases, high outstanding balances for tenants behind on rent and a failure to submit financial reports on time.

HACC is the second largest of the 99 authorities statewide, behind the Chicago Housing Authority. It manages over 1,800 units and serves more than 30,000 people in suburban Cook County. Some of these residents who receive housing assistance through HACC may be running into issues getting in touch with agency employees because of workers’ high caseloads and staff turnover.

HACC’s union work-

ers are split into two units represented by the Service Employees International Union Local 73.

There are 23 members in the maintenance unit — workers who help maintain HACC properties — and there are 77 members in the administrative/clerical unit, which primarily includes housing specialists and office assistants. Housing specialists help low-income county residents obtain and maintain their subsidized housing.

For the first year of the contract, both units will not see annual cost of living increases and instead will receive retroactive salary floor raises in what the union called a “fix-it year” to remedy issues surrounding pay and years of service.

Prior to this contract, the units did not have a wage scale; some workers did receive raises upon reaching certain anniversaries in the workplace on top of the 2% to 3% annual cost of living increases received in the prior four-year contract.

Now, workers will be placed on a wage scale based on their years of service upon contract ratification and will move laterally on the wage scale over the life of the four-year contracts. SEIU called the wage scale a “big win.”

For the admin unit, the average raise for workers is 7% for fiscal year 2024, with some employees receiving higher and lower increases. These employees also will go from a 35-hour workweek to a 37.5-hour workweek, a

change that puts their schedules more in line with workers in similar roles at other public housing authorities, according to HACC management.

For the maintenance unit, the average raise for workers is 4% for fiscal year 2024. cq comment=“cq”

Housing specialists at the bottom of the wage scale will see their salaries raised from \$39,000 to nearly \$45,000 annually in the first year of the contract. Workers with 25 years of service or more, the highest end of the wage scale, will earn nearly \$71,000 annually by the end of the contract.

First-year office assistants will see their starting pay increase from \$35,000 to nearly \$37,500, lower than the union’s bargaining goal

of an annual salary starting at \$40,000. Those workers will all earn over \$40,000 annually by the third year of the contract.

Admin unit employees will then receive a 4% cost of living increase in the second year of the contract, followed by two 3% increases.

HACC’s maintenance unit will receive 3% raises for the remaining three years of its contract. The unit also won annual anniversary increases after 15 years of service; the workers previously received these raises in five-year increments, according to SEIU.

“These members were really low paid and they stood up for themselves ... even though the employer tried to intimidate them,” said SEIU Local 73 President

Dian Palmer. “They did what they needed to do for their families and their lives.”

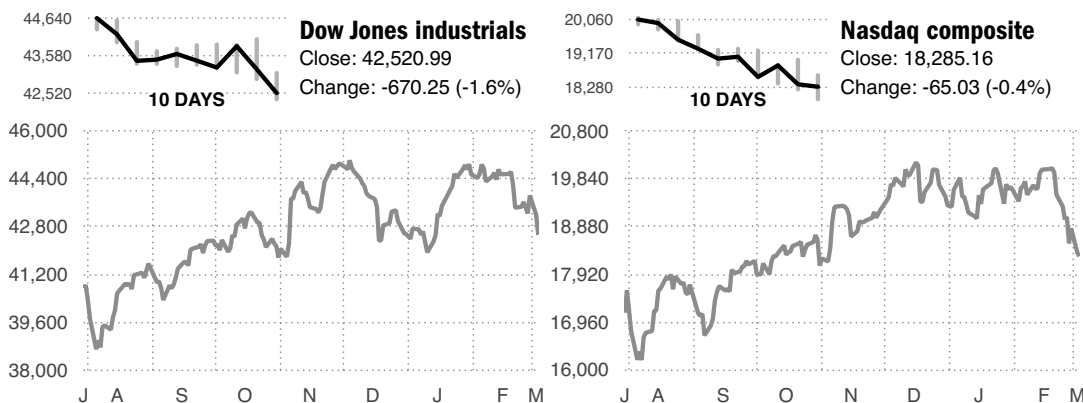
For Williams, who is in her 24th year at the housing specialist authority as a housing specialist, the raises mean she won’t have to worry as much about her bills, she said. Williams filed for bankruptcy last year because she could not afford her home’s maintenance costs. She told the Tribune she had to ask her mother, who is on a fixed income, to help her and sometimes asked her daughter to buy her food.

“I will have some extra money, and I don’t have to borrow from others or ask for assistance,” Williams said. “Some of the anxiety is going to leave.”

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MARKET ROUNDUP

DOW 42520.99	NASDAQ 18285.163	S&P 500 5778.15	EURO 1.06254	CRUDE OIL 68.04	GOLD 2913.6	6-MO T-BILLS 4.24
▼ -670.25	▼ -65.028	▼ -71.57	▲ 0.0001	▼ -0.33	▲ 23.4	▼ -0.04



StocksRecap

	NYSE	NASD
Vol. (in mil.)	5849	3985
Pvs. Volume	5434	4297
Advanced	601	1342
Declined	2060	2075
New Highs	36	73
New Lows	66	394

NAME	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	YTD CHG	LO	HI	DIV
ANI Pharmaceuticals Inc.	58.13	+67	+1.1%	+3.18	52.50	70.46	...
AbbVie Inc.	207.76	-372	-1.8%	+33.78	153.58	215.66	6.56
Abbott Laboratories	137.58	-264	-1.9%	+27.11	99.71	141.23	2.36
Acco Brands Corp.	4.41	-0.08	-1.8%	-0.76	4.29	6.43	0.30
Addus HomeCare Corp.	93.99	-1.00	-1.1%	-30.36	87.88	136.72	...
Adtalem Global Education	98.29	-1.56	-1.6%	+9.00	45.18	112.44	0.18
Allstate Corp., The	199.03	-3.03	-1.5%	+9.27	154.76	209.88	4.00
AptarGroup Inc.	145.94	-0.65	-0.4%	-10.51	135.96	178.03	1.80
Archer Daniels Midland Cc	45.82	-0.76	-1.6%	-3.94	44.92	66.08	2.04
BankFinancial Corp.	12.63	-0.49	-3.7%	+4.2	9.60	13.97	0.40
Baxter International Inc.	34.79	-0.07	-0.2%	+5.70	28.34	44.01	0.68
Broadwind Inc.	1.50	-0.00	0.0%	-0.38	1.46	4.65	...
Brunswick Corp.	55.44	-3.57	-6.0%	-5.67	55.40	96.65	1.72
CCC Intelligent Solutions I	9.66	-0.38	-3.8%	-1.69	9.65	12.88	...
CDW Corp.	171.32	-1.18	-0.7%	-1.54	168.43	263.37	2.50
CF Industries Holdings Inc	75.28	-2.69	-3.5%	-7.35	69.13	98.25	2.00
CMF Group Inc.	251.98	-4.90	-1.9%	+24.65	190.70	258.78	5.00
CNA Financial Corp.	48.37	-1.48	-3.0%	+1.48	42.33	52.36	1.84
Cboe Global Markets Inc.	211.32	-3.72	-1.7%	+19.56	166.13	221.66	2.52
Century Aluminum Co.	18.26	+24	+1.3%	-0.20	10.06	25.39	...
Chicago Rivet & Machine C	13.75	-0.39	-2.7%	-1.70	13.47	22.27	0.12
Coeur Mining Inc.	5.17	+0.3	+0.6%	-0.58	2.89	7.72	...
ConAgra Brands Inc.	25.47	-0.58	-2.2%	-1.70	23.06	33.24	1.40
Deere & Co.	458.38	-7.45	-1.6%	+42.13	340.20	515.05	6.48
Discover Financial Service	178.83	-11.44	-6.0%	+17.04	118.74	205.76	2.80
Distribution Solutions Grp	28.09	-0.36	-1.3%	-5.95	27.80	41.47	0.48
Dover Corp.	184.06	-9.23	-4.8%	+5.69	166.20	214.57	2.06
Enova International Inc.	95.32	-4.73	-4.7%	+4.17	57.46	117.56	...
Equity Commonwealth	1.60	.00	0.0%	-0.17	1.40	21.00	1.00
Equity Lifestyle Propert. In	68.06	-1.00	-1.4%	+2.46	59.82	76.60	2.06
Equity Residential	73.44	-1.58	-2.1%	+3.26	59.48	78.83	2.70
Exelon Corp.	43.68	-0.87	-2.0%	+6.91	34.01	45.20	1.60
Federal Signal Corp.	80.06	-0.05	-0.1%	-12.28	76.85	102.18	0.56
First Bussey Corp.	22.85	-1.19	-5.0%	+4.7	21.59	28.97	1.00
First Indust.Realty Trust In	56.64	-0.38	-0.7%	+6.89	45.10	57.56	1.78
First Mid Bancshares Inc.	37.04	-1.04	-2.7%	+1.26	28.86	43.86	0.96
Fortune Brands Innovatio	61.19	-1.92	-3.0%	-5.22	60.81	90.53	1.00
FreightCar America Inc.	7.44	-0.21	-2.7%	-1.31	2.91	16.10	0.36
Fuel Technologies Inc.	97	-0.00	0.0%	-0.08	.91	1.34	...
GATX Corp.	159.50	-4.50	-2.7%	+9.04	122.00	168.89	2.44
Gallagher & Co., Arthur J.	337.27	-4.53	-1.3%	+57.95	230.08	345.43	2.60
Gogo Inc.	6.95	-0.07	-1.1%	-1.06	6.17	11.00	...
Grainger Inc., W.W.	988.78	-10.72	-1.1%	-54.55	874.98	1227.66	8.20
Great Lakes Dre.&Dock Cc	7.85	-0.11	-1.4%	-3.33	6.55	12.89	0.08
Groupon Inc.	10.26	-0.17	-1.6%	-1.72	7.75	19.56	...
Heidrick & Struggles Intl Ir	44.48	+4.87	+12.3%	+4.70	29.03	49.02	0.60
Horace Mann Educators C	41.48	-1.20	-2.8%	+3.45	31.95	43.53	1.36
Hub Group Inc.	38.97	-0.89	-2.2%	-4.70	38.07	53.21	0.50
Huron Consulting Group Ir	147.63	-0.79	-0.5%	+24.16	84.26	153.85	...
Hyatt Hotels Corp.	137.25	-2.63	-1.9%	-17.10	128.91	168.20	0.60
IDEX Corp.	185.88	-2.65	-1.4%	-20.76	183.24	246.36	2.76
IF Bancorp. Inc.	23.81	-0.20	-0.8%	+7.70	14.85	25.00	0.40
Illinois Tool Works Inc.	255.32	-6.91	-2.6%	+8.67	232.77	279.13	6.00
Ingredd Inc.	129.09	-1.46	-1.1%	-7.01	109.53	155.27	3.20
John B. Sanfilippo & Son I	71.21	-0.01	-0.0%	-15.89	68.56	108.96	0.85
John Bean Technologies C	131.88	+2.63	+2.0%	+2.15	82.64	139.05	0.40
Jones Lang Lasalle Inc.	262.41	-4.61	-1.7%	+13.88	171.45	288.50	0.43
Kemper Corp.	65.88	-2.39	-3.5%	+1.83	54.11	73.01	1.28
Knowles Corp.	15.83	-0.11	-0.7%	-3.99	15.00	20.86	...
Kraft Heinz Co., The	30.98	-0.34	-1.1%	+6.1	27.25	38.96	1.60
LKQ Corp.	42.08	+0.8	+0.2%	+5.25	35.56	53.68	1.20
Lifeway Foods Inc.	21.02	+17	+0.8%	-3.95	10.06	28.61	0.08
Littelfuse Inc.	215.62	-7.45	-3.3%	-12.58	213.44	275.58	2.80
MYR Group Inc. (Del.)	120.71	-0.48	-0.4%	-27.58	86.60	181.02	...
McDonald's Corp.	305.77	+1.48	+0.5%	+14.40	243.53	317.90	7.08
Methode Electronics Inc.	9.59	-0.42	-4.2%	-1.78	8.54	21.05	0.56
Middleby Corp., The	159.04	-2.54	-1.6%	+26.13	118.41	182.73	...
Mondelez International Inc	65.29	-0.49	-0.7%	+6.05	53.95	76.06	1.88
Morningstar Inc.	299.06	-7.94	-2.6%	-29.76	281.37	365.00	1.82
Motorola Solutions Inc.	423.06	-4.29	-1.0%	-34.88	329.66	507.82	4.36
NISOURCE Inc.	39.77	-0.46	-1.1%	+5.47	26.04	41.45	1.12
Northern Trust Corp.	104.37	-5.03	-4.6%	+6.90	79.30	114.67	3.00
Oil-Dri Corp. of America	44.62	-0.31	-0.7%	+1.11	29.47	46.50	0.62
Old Republic Intl Corp.	37.41	-1.28	-3.3%	+2.50	28.59	39.27	1.16
Old Second Bancorp Inc.	17.65	-0.62	-3.4%	+4.9	13.00	19.46	0.24
OneSpan Inc.	16.54	+12	+0.7%	-2.12	9.22	20.36	0.48
Paylocity Holding Corp.	199.04	-5.91	-2.9%	+5.48	129.94	223.80	...
Potbelly Corp.	11.89	+29	+2.5%	+2.18	6.28	14.00	...
QCR Holdings Inc.	72.46	-2.58	-3.4%	-5.60	54.37	96.08	0.24
RLI Corp.	75.44	-1.38	-1.8%	-5.59	67.53	91.14	0.60
Richardson Electronics Lt	13.10	.00	0.0%	-0.93	8.08	15.51	0.24
Ryan Specialty Holdings Inc	69.98	+51	+0.7%	+5.31	48.48	75.97	0.48
Signatrom International In	1.29	-0.05	-3.7%	-0.44	1.28	6.47	...
Stapan Co.	56.69	-1.31	-2.3%	-6.70	56.65	94.77	1.54
Suncoke Energy Inc.	9.01	+0.06	+0.7%	-1.75	7.47	12.82	0.48
Telephone & Data Systems	34.44	-0.82	-2.3%	+1.15	14.04	41.21	0.16
Titan International Inc.	7.56	-0.27	-3.4%	+1.04	6.33	13.16	0.02
Tootsie Roll Industries Inc.	32.03	+25	+0.8%	-0.55	27.58	34.00	0.36
TransUnion	88.09	-1.74	-1.9%	-2.88	66.07	113.17	0.46
TreeHouse Foods Inc.	30.76	-0.40	-1.3%	-3.97	28.04	43.84	...
US Foods Holding Corp.	68.26	-1.85	-2.6%	+2.65	49.65	73.19	...
Ultra Beauty Inc.	343.45	-5.41	-1.5%	-86.08	318.17	574.76	...
United Airlines Holdings Ir	86.21	-5.46	-6.0%	-5.43	37.02	116.00	...
United States Cellular Cor	63.51	-2.10	-3.2%	+2.89	33.38	69.20	...
Ventas Inc.	69.81	-0.55	-0.8%	+11.47	41.45	71.04	1.92
Walgreens Boots Alliance	10.84	+57	+5.6%	+9.3	8.08	22.05	1.00
Wintrust Financial Corp.	115.76	-6.07	-5.0%	-2.88	91.38	142.04	2.00
Yunhong Green CTI Ltd.	.61	+0.0	+0.0%	+0.6	.43	1.85	0.05

Commodities

Natural Gas rose 4.682% to \$4.315, leading gains. Coffee increased 3.646% to \$3.8665. Wheat fell 2.491% to \$5.19, marking the largest decline.

FUELS	CLOSE	PVS.	%CHG	%YTD
Crude Oil (bbl)	68.02	68.37	-0.51	-3.5
Ethanol (gal)	1.64	1.64	-2.23	-4.1
Heating Oil (gal)	2.27	2.26	+0.28	-0.0
Natural Gas (mm btu)	4.32	4.12	+4.68	+34.3
Unleaded Gas (gal)	2.18	2.19	-0.52	-1.8

METALS	CLOSE	PVS.	%CHG	%YTD
Aluminum (ton)	2,567.75	2,567.75	+0.24	+0.8
Copper (lb)	4.55	4.58	-0.50	+13.7
Gold (oz)	2,913.60	2,890.20	+0.81	+8.9
Platinum (oz)	966.60	966.60	+3.68	+6.2
Silver (oz)	32.27	32.03	+0.73	+9.5

AGRICULTURE	CLOSE	PVS.	%CHG	%YTD
Cattle (lb)	1.95	1.92	+1.29	-1.0
Coffee (lb)	3.87	3.87	+3.65	+22.8
Corn (bu)	4.37	4.40	-0.74	-4.0
Cotton (lb)	0.66	0.66	+0.40	-5.7
Lumber (1,000 bd ft)	662.50	662.50	+0.84	+14.1
Orange Juice (lb)	3.05	3.05	+2.46	-37.9
Soybeans (bu)	9.86	9.98	-1.25	-1.2
Wheat (bu)	5.19	5.32	-2.49	-3.5

MAJORS	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	6MO AGO	1YR AGO
USD per British Pound	1.2795	+0.0002	+0.01%	1.3146	1.2691
Canadian Dollar	1.4385	-0.0006	-0.04%	1.3506	1.3573
USD per Euro	1.0622	-0.0002	-0.02%	1.1080	1.0855
Japanese Yen	149.808	-0.0040	-0.00%	143.64	150.52
Mexican Peso	20.5791	+0.0030	+0.01%	19.916	16.949

EUROPE/AFRICA/MIDDLE EAST	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	6MO AGO	1YR AGO
Israeli Shekel	3.6418	+0.0462	+1.29%	3.6855	3.5758
Norwegian Krone	11.0793	-0.0102	-0.09%	10.568	10.571
South African Rand	18.4770	+0.0064	+0.04%	17.837	19.025
Swedish Krona	10.4212	+0.0045	+0.04%	9.5068	10.369
Swiss Franc	.8894	+0.0001	+0.01%	.8465	.8849

ASIA/PACIFIC	CLOSE	CHG	%CHG	6MO AGO	1YR AGO
Australian Dollar	.6264	-0.0008	-0.13%	.6721	.6509
Chinese Yuan	7.2651	-0.0192	-0.26%	7.1119	7.1985
Hong Kong Dollar	7.7714	+0.0000	+0.00%	7.7954	7.8246
Indian Rupee	87.1791	-0.1121	-0.13%	83.979	82.910
Singapore Dollar	1.3377	-0.0001	-0.01%	1.3034	1.3432
South Korean Won	1452.34	-5.600	-0.38%	1334.1	1331.7
Taiwan Dollar	32.7759	+0.0085	+0.03%	32.084	31.564

TREASURIES	LAST	PVS	NET CHG	WK	MO	QTR	1YR AGO
3-month T-bill	4.30	4.31	-0.01	▲	-	▼	5.07
6-month T-bill	4.24	4.28	-0.04	▼	▼	▼	4.76
1-year T-note	4.04	4.06	-0.02	▼	▼	▼	4.21
2-year T-note	3.98	3.96	+0.01	▼	▼	▼	3.75
5-year T-note	4.01	3.97	+0.04	▼	▼	▼	3.54
10-year T-note	4.24	4.16	+0.08	▼	▼	▲	3.73
30-year T-note	4.54	4.46	+0.09	▼	▼	▲	4.02

CONSUMER RATES	NAT'L AVG	WK AGO	6MO AGO	1YR AGO
48 month new car loan	7.45	—	7.45	7.30
Money Market Account	0.41	—	0.41	0.39
1 year CD	1.95	▼	2.73	1.95
\$30K Home equity loan	7.39	▼	7.47	7.85
30 year fixed mortgage	6.80	▼	6.93	0.00
15 year fixed mortgage	6.15	▼	6.20	0.00

Wall Street's losing streak grows with Trump tariffs

Stocks fall after sell-off, start of trade war with key nations

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Stocks on Tuesday racked up more losses on Wall Street as a trade war between the U.S. and its key trading partners escalated, wiping out all the gains since Election Day for the S&P 500.

The Trump administration imposed tariffs on imports from Canada and Mexico starting Tuesday and doubled tariffs on imports from China. All three countries announced retaliatory actions, sparking worries about a global economic slowdown.

The S&P 500 fell 1.2%, with more than 80% of the stocks in the benchmark index closing lower. The Dow Jones Industrial Average slid 1.6%.

The Nasdaq composite slipped 0.4%. The tech-heavy index briefly reached a 10% decline

NATION & WORLD

Trade war brings swift retaliation

Mexico, Canada, China aim tariffs at US export goods

By Josh Boak, Paul Wiseman and Rob Gillies Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Donald Trump launched a trade war Tuesday against America's three biggest trading partners, drawing immediate retaliation from Mexico, Canada and China and sending financial markets into a tailspin as the U.S. faced the threat of rekindled inflation and paralyzing uncertainty for business.

Just after midnight, Trump imposed 25% taxes, or tariffs, on Mexican and Canadian imports, though he limited the levy to 10% on Canadian energy. Trump also doubled the tariff he slapped last month on Chinese products to 20%.

Beijing retaliated with tariffs of up to 15% on a wide array of U.S. farm exports. It also expanded the number of U.S. companies subject to export controls and other restrictions by about two dozen.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said his country would plaster tariffs on more than \$100 billion of American goods over the course of 21 days.

"Today the United States launched a trade war against Canada, their closest partner and ally, their closest friend. At the same time, they are talking about working positively with Russia, appeasing Vladimir Putin, a lying, murderous dictator. Make that make sense," Trudeau said.

Later in the day, Commerce Secretary Howard Lutnick said the



A truck crosses a bridge into Mexico from the United States on Tuesday at Pharr, Texas. ERIC GAY/AP

U.S. would likely meet Canada and Mexico "in the middle," with an announcement coming as soon as Wednesday.

Lutnick told Fox Business News that the tariffs would not be paused, but that Trump would reach a compromise.

"I think he's going to figure out, you do more, and I'll meet you in the middle in some way," Lutnick said.

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum said Mexico will respond to the new taxes with its own retaliatory tariffs. Sheinbaum said she will announce the products on Sunday. The delay might indicate that Mexico still hopes to de-escalate Trump's trade war.

The president is abandon-

ing the free trade policies the United States pursued for decades after World War II. He argues that open trade has cost America millions of factory jobs and that tariffs are the path to national prosperity.

He rejects the views of mainstream economists who contend that such protectionism is costly and inefficient.

Import taxes are "a very powerful weapon that politicians haven't used because they were either dishonest, stupid or paid off in some other form," Trump said Monday. "And now we're using them."

Dartmouth College economist Douglas Irwin, author of a 2017 history of U.S. tariff policy, has calcu-

lated that Tuesday's hikes will lift America's average tariff from 2.4% to 10.5%, the highest level since the 1940s. "We're in a new era for sure."

As the trade disputes escalated, stocks racked up more losses Tuesday on Wall Street, wiping out all the gains since Election Day for the S&P 500. Markets in Europe also fell sharply.

The Yale University Budget Lab estimates that Trump's tariffs amount to a tax hike of \$1.4 trillion to \$1.5 trillion over 10 years and would disproportionately hit the poor.

Trump has said tariffs are intended to address drug trafficking and illegal immigration. But he's also said the tariffs will come down only if the U.S. trade deficit

narrows.

The American president has injected a disorienting volatility in to the world economy, leaving it off balance as people wonder what he will do next.

During his first term, Trump imposed tariffs only after lengthy investigations — into the national security implications of relying on foreign steel, for example, said Michael House, co-chair of the international trade practice at the Perkins Coie law firm.

But by declaring a national emergency last month involving the flow of immigrants and illicit drugs across U.S. borders, "he can modify these tariffs with a stroke of the pen," House said. "It's chaotic."

Democratic lawmakers were quick to criticize the tariffs.

"Donald Trump is not a king," said Rep. Gregory Meeks, the top Democrat on the House Foreign Affairs Committee. "Presidents don't get to invent emergencies to justify bad policies. Abusing emergency powers to wage an economic war on our closest allies isn't leadership — it's dangerous."

Even some Republican senators raised alarms. "Maine and Canada's economy are integrated," said Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, explaining that much of the state's lobsters and blueberries are processed in Canada and then sent back to the United States.

Alan Russell, head of Tecma, which helps factories set up in places like Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, is skeptical that Trump's tariffs will bring a large amount of manufacturing back to the United States.

"Nobody is going to move their factory until they have certainty," Russell said. Just last week, he said, Tecma helped a North Carolina manufacturer that moved to Mexico because it couldn't find enough workers in the United States.

U.S. businesses near the Canadian border scrambled to deal with the impact.

Gutherie Lumber in suburban Detroit reached out Tuesday to Canadian suppliers about the cost of 8-foot wood studs. About 15% of the lumber at the Gutherie yard in Livonia, Michigan, comes from Canada.

Sales manager Mike Mahoney said Canadian suppliers are already raising prices: "They're putting that 25% on studs." Builders will strain to stay within their budgets.

Ukraine leader calls spat with Trump 'regrettable'

Zelenskyy says he's ready to work with US at ending war

By Samya Kullab and Hanna Arhirova Associated Press

KYIV, Ukraine — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said Tuesday that the Oval Office blowup with President Donald Trump last week was "regrettable," adding that he stands ready to work under Trump's "strong leadership" to get a lasting peace.

Zelenskyy's remarks — an apparent attempt to placate Trump — came in a social media post on X, hours after the White House announced a pause in military aid to Ukraine that is critical to fighting Russia's invasion.

But later during his nightly address, Zelenskyy indicated that Ukraine didn't receive direct notification from the U.S. that aid had been cut, and was seeking confirmation.

"I have instructed Ukraine's Minister of Defense, the heads of our intelligence agencies, and our diplomats to contact their counterparts in the United States and obtain

official information. People should not have to guess," he said.

"Ukraine and America deserve a respectful dialogue and a clear position from one another. Especially when it comes to protecting lives during a full-scale war," he added, saying that military aid had been cut once before in January for a brief period.

Zelenskyy also said Ukraine is ready to sign a lucrative deal on rare earth minerals and security with Washington.

Trump was weighing whether to agree to the signing Tuesday, when he is scheduled to address a joint session of Congress, after Zelenskyy's sign of contrition, according to a U.S. official familiar with the matter.

In an apparent reference to Trump's criticism following the contentious White House meeting Friday that Zelenskyy does not want a peace deal, the Ukrainian leader said: "None of us want an endless war."

"Ukraine is ready to come to the negotiating table as soon as possible to bring lasting peace closer. Nobody wants peace more than the Ukrainians. My team and I stand ready to work under President Trump's strong

leadership to get a peace that lasts," he said.

Asked by reporters in Moscow about Zelenskyy voicing readiness for the resumption of talks, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said, "It's good, it's positive."

In his post, Zelenskyy said the Oval Office meeting "did not go the way it was supposed to be."

"It is regrettable that it happened this way. It is time to make things right," he added.

The pause of U.S. military aid catapulted Ukraine into alarm and apprehension.

Zelenskyy's statement came before Trump's speech Tuesday night.

French President Emmanuel Macron spoke by phone successively with Trump and Zelenskyy, Macron's office said, and "welcomes" the Ukrainian's "willingness to re-engage in dialogue with the U.S." It released no details about the discussion with Trump.

Zelenskyy's post came as officials in Kyiv said they were grateful for vital U.S. help in the war and want to keep working with Washington. Ukraine's prime minister, though, said the country still wants security guarantees to be part of any peace deal and won't recog-



A Ukrainian serviceman prepares to launch long-range drones Friday from an undisclosed position. Russian units rolled across the Ukraine border Feb. 24, 2022. EVGENIY MALOLETKA/AP

nize Russian occupation of any Ukrainian land. Those are potential stumbling blocks for Washington and Moscow, respectively.

Ukraine and its allies are concerned Trump is pushing for a quick ceasefire that will favor Russia, which Kyiv says cannot be trusted to honor truces.

A White House official said the U.S. was "pausing and reviewing" its aid to "ensure that it is contributing to a solution." The order will remain in effect until Trump determines that Ukraine has demonstrated a commitment to peace negotiations, said the official,

who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The pause in U.S. aid isn't expected to have an immediate impact on the battlefield. Ukrainian forces have slowed Russian advances along the 600-mile front line, especially in the contested Donetsk region in the east.

Meanwhile, Vice President JD Vance struck a nerve with allies in the U.K. and France after arguing that a U.S.-Ukraine minerals deal is a more practical deterrent against Russian forces than a peacekeeping force for postwar Ukraine that includes "some random

country that hasn't fought a war in 30 or 40 years."

Vance made the remarks in an interview with Fox News Channel's Sean Hannity that aired Monday evening.

The Republican vice president did not mention any particular country in his skeptical comments about a potential peacekeeping mission. But the "random country" comment was seen by some lawmakers and government officials in the U.K. and France as a slight that discounted both countries' partnership with the U.S. military in conflict zones over the past 25 years.

Speaker tells GOP lawmakers to skip town halls with upset constituents

By Lisa Mascaro Associated Press

WASHINGTON — House Speaker Mike Johnson is encouraging Republican lawmakers to skip town halls that have been filled with protesters decrying the Trump administration's slashing of federal government, echoing the president's claims that the demonstrations are fueled by professional protesters.

The speaker's advice Tuesday comes as GOP

lawmakers often find themselves at a loss to explain the cuts, led by billionaire Elon Musk and the Department of Government Efficiency, that are leaving tens of thousands of federal workers suddenly out of jobs in communities from coast to coast. Democrats are jumping in to shine a bright light on what is happening.

"We've seen this movie before," Johnson said at a



Johnson

news conference.

"They're professional protesters," Johnson added. "So why would we give them a forum to do that right now?"

Johnson was repeating President Donald Trump's claim posted on social media on Monday that "Paid 'troublemakers'" are filling the GOP town halls to which the House Democratic Leader Hakeem Jeffries responded: "We don't need paid protest-

ers. The American people are with us."

The Republicans are finding themselves in an unusual spot — defending the deep budget cuts they have long demanded, but have rarely been able to accomplish because the reductions cut into federal programs and services Americans in their districts rely on.

The scenes at the town halls are reminiscent of past moments — from the Obama-era health care battles, when tea party

Republicans fought against the Affordable Care Act, and also the George W. Bush era, when Democrats and others protested his proposed changes to Social Security.

But more immediately the town hall outbursts resemble the Trump-era protests of 2017 and 2018 when Republicans tried and failed to repeal Obamacare, and then approved sweeping GOP tax cuts — and Democrats campaign against them, sweeping the midterm elections and

reclaiming control of the U.S. House.

The speaker, protecting his thin-as-ever majority, advised his lawmakers to choose other forums — smaller community gatherings or telephone town halls — to discuss the issues with voters.

"They're running away from the people because they know how badly people have been hurt by what they're doing," said Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer.

Mexican city suffers cartel violence

Residents pin hopes on Trump anti-drug trafficking pressure

By **María Verza**
Associated Press

CULIACAN, Mexico — Before dawn, an elementary school principal in the capital of Mexico’s Sinaloa state checks various chats on his phone for word of shootouts or other incidents. If there’s danger, he sends a message to his students’ parents suspending classes.

It isn’t the only new routine in Culiacan, a city of 1 million residents that for the past six months has been the battlefield for the two main factions of the Sinaloa drug cartel.

The violence has limited the hours to bury the dead. Bands that played big parties now play for money at intersections. Any loud noise sends children scurrying for cover. And those who live on the shifting front lines fear for their lives daily.

This is the first extended period of violence that has touched Culiacan’s residents because there was safety in the cartel’s total domination. Now, many residents are grateful for the pressure applied by President Donald Trump to get Mexico to go after the cartels, and some are optimistic this difficult period could change the view that the cartel has been their protector.

It started in September, more than a month after Ismael “El Mayo” Zambada — the Sinaloa cartel’s oldest and most astute leader — says he was kidnapped by one of the sons of former leader Joaquín “El Chapo” Guzmán and taken to the U.S. where they were both arrested.

It unleashed a power struggle between both cartel factions, and the unwritten agreement to not attack residents uninvolved in the drug trade was broken.

There were carjackings, kidnappings, innocents



A student takes part in an active shooter drill Thursday at Socrates Elementary school in Culiacan, Mexico. **FERNANDO LLANO/AP**

caught in crossfire and cartel roadblocks where gunmen would scan people’s cell-phones looking for any trace of contact with the other side. According to government data, there have been more than 900 killings since September.

A resident of Costa Rica, a small town south of the capital, traced the front line on the horizon: on one side the “Chapos,” on the other the “Mayos.” He, like most others, requested anonymity because of the danger.

An old man there said he saw gunmen dump two bodies in the street.

And sometimes people just disappear. Julio Héctor Carrillo, 34, never arrived home from visiting a relative in late January. According to his brother-in-law, Mario Beltrán, his only transgression was not respecting the locals’ self-imposed curfew.

His family didn’t dare to put up signs for their search, instead sticking to social platforms. A search collective looking for the disap-

peared found a body that is undergoing DNA testing.

“At no other time in the last 30 to 40 years that we have crime stats, have we had so many families with disappeared (relatives),” said Miguel Calderón of the State Public Security Council, a citizen organization. Some are simply picked up, interrogated and released, but others end up on the wall of faces at Culiacan’s cathedral.

“Truly, we’re very tired, very tired of being among the bullets,” said a 38-year-old small business owner who has imposed his own family security protocol: no cycling for their 18-year-old son, who they take everywhere, including to visit his girlfriend, and track in real time through his cellphone.

Their 7-year-old daughter asks in the morning: “Dad, am I going to be able to go to school today? Did you already check (Facebook)?” “There are things you can’t hide from children,” he said.

How Mexican authorities are addressing the violence has changed notably in the past month and locals believe Trump is the reason.

When it started, Mexico was led by President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who minimized cartel violence and expressed no interest in going after cartel leaders. His close ally, Sinaloa Gov. Rubén Rocha did the same. Rocha’s spokesman, Feliciano Castro, maintains that the U.S. set off the violence by arresting Zambada.

Things changed when Trump won the election. Shutting down illegal immigration and going after drug traffickers were among his campaign promises, including a threat to impose 25% tariffs that are set to start Tuesday. Mexico’s new President Claudia Sheinbaum had already shown herself willing to take a more aggressive hand with the cartels, especially Sinaloa, whose business is fentanyl.

The number of security operations and arrests in

Sinaloa have multiplied, and now there is direct federal supervision of all security action.

“We have never seen such an overwhelming and daily operation against the cartels,” said Ismael Bojórquez, a veteran Sinaloa journalist covering organized crime, who was critical of López Obrador’s hands-off approach.

In December, authorities seized more than a ton of fentanyl in Sinaloa compared to just 286 pounds in all of Mexico in the first six months of 2024.

In the last 10 days of February, authorities dismantled 113 synthetic drug labs, according to state data. Authorities have not clarified if they produced fentanyl or methamphetamine.

In Culiacan, authorities took down more than 400 cartel surveillance cameras, double what authorities had.

The recent actions have weakened both cartel factions, but the govern-

ment can’t let up if it really wants to decimate them, Bojórquez said.

“I never thought (Trump) would have so much power to do that ... but I’m grateful,” said the owner of a beer store stopped at a police checkpoint.

A 55-year-old woman sitting on a bench watching a forensics team load a murder victim’s body into a truck agreed. The day before, she had attended a Mass for her son-in-law who was killed five months earlier by a stray bullet while he was walking with his daughter a few blocks away.

In the halls of Socrates Elementary school in downtown Culiacan, signs explain what to do in case of a shootout and children drill suddenly dropping to the ground when the alarm sounds.

Principal Victor Manuel Aispuro says he can’t remember what it was like to have all of his nearly 400 students in school. Some 80 families fled the city, and there were days when no more than 10 kids attended. He decides each day if there will be in-person classes.

The last time he closed was late last month when intense firefights and low-flying helicopters panicked residents. Two key cartel members were arrested.

At a workshop, a nongovernmental organization of ex-police led students through an exercise writing down what scares them. One listed spiders, gunshots and white trucks (the preferred cartel transportation). Another said he’s afraid of being extorted or killed.

“The people are full of a sense of collective anguish, anxiety, social anger — and that’s different from other crises,” said Calderón, the coordinator of the citizen security group.

He said he hopes it could dissolve the complicity of citizens, who for years saw the cartel as protectors or heroes to emulate.



Bourbon Street is seen from a balcony of the Royal Sonesta Hotel on Mardi Gras on Tuesday in New Orleans. A Jan. 1 car attack killed 14 people on the historic street. **GERALD HERBERT/AP**

Good times roll at Mardi Gras as security rises, storms loom

By **Jack Brook**
Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — The good times and parades still rolled in New Orleans for Mardi Gras Day celebrations early Tuesday, ahead of expected severe winds, thunderstorms and tornado warnings in the afternoon.

Carnival Season’s final parades in Louisiana’s most populous city, which is world-famous for its Mardi Gras bash, were moved to earlier time slots — with masked riders on elaborate floats and costumed revelers determined to beat the bad weather and partake in the conclusion of the pre-Lenten jollification.

As the sun rose on Fat Tuesday, people donning skeleton masks and antlers on their heads gathered in New Orleans’ historic Tremé neighborhood. Members of the Northside Skull and Bones Gang woke up the city with drums and chants, spreading a message of peace.

“Mardi Gras is all about having these moments. This city is like nowhere else in the country right now,” said Kendall Calyen, 41, marveling at the 200-year-old tradition unfolding before

his eyes.

At the start of the year, some seemed skeptical whether Carnival celebrations would take place as normal, following the devastating Jan. 1 truck attack that killed 14 people on Bourbon Street in New Orleans.

The Department of Homeland Security upgraded Mardi Gras to its highest risk rating, leading to an influx of law enforcement agents.

A zigzagging layout of barriers paralleled the main parade route to guard against fast-moving vehicles and armored trucks; SWAT teams and helicopters were present.

Amid the weather threat and security measures, Mardi Gras celebrations persevered.

The city’s two biggest parades — hosted by the social clubs Krewe of Zulu and Krewe of Rex — started earlier, shortened their routes and went without marching bands, New Orleans Police Superintendent Anne Kirkpatrick said. The parades wrapped up by the afternoon to avoid worsening weather.

The National Weather Service forecasted

thunderstorms and winds up to 60 mph and had issued tornado watches for the area.

At the start of the Krewe of Zulu parade, family and friends gathered wearing Mardi Gras purple, gold and green. Many reclined in chairs, ready to enjoy the long haul. Impromptu barbecues wafted smoke from street corners and hip-hop blared.

Jeremy Speed, a 40-year-old Krewe of Zulu member who grew up watching the parade, rode a float and tossed his hand-painted coconut “throws” to onlookers.

He was disappointed that the route had been shortened due to weather but was grateful that the parades weren’t canceled altogether.

“At least they let us roll, they figured it out. They gave us a little something,” Speed said.

Two other parades were postponed to Sunday, Kirkpatrick said.

The weeks of Carnival culminate with feasting on Fat Tuesday, which precedes Ash Wednesday, the start of Lent. This year’s Mardi Gras Day fell unusually late in the year.

Arab leaders back alternative to Trump’s postwar Gaza plan

By **Samy Magdy and Mohammad Jahjouch**
Associated Press

CAIRO — Arab leaders Tuesday endorsed Egypt’s postwar plan for the Gaza Strip that would allow its roughly 2 million Palestinians to remain, in a counterproposal to President Donald Trump’s plan to depopulate the territory and redevelop it as a beach destination.

The \$53 billion plan’s endorsement by Arab leaders at a summit in Cairo amounted to a rejection of Trump’s proposal. The summit conclusions were welcomed by Hamas, rejected by Israel and given a lukewarm response by the Trump administration.

Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi expressed his appreciation for “the consensus among the Arab countries to support the reconstruction plan for the Gaza Strip, which allows the Palestinian People to stay on their land without displacement.”

In a social media post after the summit, el-Sissi said he looked forward to working with Trump, other Arab nations and the international community “to adopt a plan that aims for a comprehensive and just settlement of the Palestinian Issue, ends the root causes of the Israeli Palestinian conflict, guarantees the security and stability of the peoples of the region and establishes the Palestinian State.”

The White House welcomed input from Arab nations, but insisted Hamas could not remain in power.

“President Trump has been clear that Hamas cannot continue to govern Gaza,” White House National Security Council spokesman Brian Hughes said. “While the president stands by his bold vision for a postwar Gaza, he welcomes input from our Arab partners in the region. It’s clear his proposals have



Journalists view a screen Tuesday of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah el-Sissi, center, with Arab leaders in Cairo who backed Egypt’s postwar plan for Gaza. **AMR NABIL/AP**

driven the region to come to the table rather than allow this issue to devolve into further crisis.”

A spokesperson for Israel’s foreign ministry, Oren Marmorstein, posted on X that the Egyptian plan “fails to address the realities of the situation” and said the summit’s joint communiqué does not mention Hamas’ Oct. 7, 2023 attack that sparked the war or condemn the militant group. The plan, he said, remains “rooted in outdated perspectives.”

Marmorstein reiterated Israel’s support for Trump’s plan to resettle Gaza’s population elsewhere, describing it as “an opportunity for the Gazans to have free choice based on their free will.”

Egypt’s Foreign Minister Badr Abdelatty blasted Israel’s rejection as “unacceptable,” describing its position as “stubborn and extremist.”

“There will be no peace neither to Israel or to the region” without establishing an independent Palestinian state in accordance with United Nations resolutions, he said. He said “Israel violates all international law rules ... the international law must be imposed.”

“No single state should be allowed to impose its will on the international community,” Abdelatty said.

Hamas welcomed the summit’s outcome, saying it marked a new phase of Arab and Islamic alignment with the Palestinian cause and that it valued Arab leaders’ rejection of attempts to transfer Palestinians from their territories in Gaza and the occupied West Bank.

Israel has embraced what it says is an alternative U.S. proposal for the ceasefire itself and the release of hostages taken in Hamas’ attack on southern Israel on Oct. 7, 2023, which triggered the war.

In recent days, Israel blocked the entry of food, fuel, medicine and other aid to Gaza to try to get Hamas to accept the new plan and warned of added consequences, raising fears of more fighting.

The suspension of aid drew widespread criticism, with human rights groups saying that it violated Israel’s obligations as an occupying power under international law.

The new plan would require Hamas to release half its remaining hostages — the militant group’s main bargaining chip — in exchange for a ceasefire extension and a promise to negotiate a lasting truce. Israel made no mention of releasing more Palestinian prisoners — a key component of the first phase.

Syria comedians have no limits now

But freedom may prove temporary as new regime forms

By Raja Abdulrahim
The New York Times

DAMASCUS, Syria — Sharief al-Homsi shivered, clutched his arms and pretended to go through Syrian regime withdrawal. Standing before an audience in Damascus, he was telling a joke that would have been unthinkable until just a few weeks before, when President Bashar Assad was suddenly ousted after more than five decades of his family’s oppressive rule. “We need rehab centers. You can’t just take this guy away from our life like that — it has to be gradual,” the 33-year-old comedian and screenwriter said, describing the omnipresent posters and magazine spreads depicting the Assad dynasty, to laughter from the crowd. He continued to shake. “They’ll ask us what drug were you addicted to; we’ll say, ‘Bashar al-Assad.’” It was a night of stand-up in late December at the Zawaya Art Gallery in the heart of the Syrian capital. Half of the comedians performing that night have been living abroad after fleeing the country during the 13-year civil war that ended with Assad’s ouster. Their routines included standard comedy fare — religion, sex and the pressure to get married — but the biggest punchline of the night was Assad. The comedians were relishing the chance to say things that for decades Syrians would be too scared to utter even in private company. Fear of the notorious mukhabarat, the secret intelligence service, was ingrained so deeply that Syrians lived with the cautionary warning that “the walls have ears.” But as they embraced the liberty to make new jokes, the comedians, like many



Sharief al-Homsi, performs Dec. 28 in Damascus. Comics had tried to foster stand-up in Syria before the regime fell. LAURA BOUSHNAK/THE NEW YORK TIMES

Syrians, were worried that this new freedom could be fleeting. Ahmad al-Sharaa, the country’s interim president who leads Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, the Islamist rebel group that ousted Assad, has promised unity that reflects Syria’s diverse population, but there are deep concerns about how democratic and inclusive the government will be. Under the Assad government, Roula Sulaiman, owner of the Zawaya gallery, said she faced restrictions and accusations of organizing political opposition events when she tried to hold comedy and cultural events. Now, she is still concerned. “We haven’t tested the new regime yet,” Sulaiman said. “Based on what we are seeing, I think we are moving

toward more restrictions.” Officials with the new government had come by her gallery and told her that nudity in art would no longer be allowed, she added. Asked for comment, the government’s information ministry said it was not familiar with the episode but did not have any rules to that effect. So as the comedians wait to see what the new red lines may be, they are taking advantage of the opportunity for as long as it lasts. “We’re in an interim phase where we can talk about the past and present freely, but we all face an unknown future,” said Mary Obaid, one of the founding members, along with al-Homsi, of Styria — a portmanteau of Syria and hysteria — that bills itself as the first stand-up comedy plat-

form in the country. Styria formed two years ago with the goal of spreading stand-up comedy in Syria and establishing the first comedy club in the country, a goal it has yet to achieve. “We’re all afraid, but we’re hopeful that the freedom of expression will remain,” said Obaid, 23, a dentist. Even under the Assad government’s repression and through a destructive civil war, Syrians relied on humor — usually dark — as a coping mechanism. Early in the war, ordinary Syrians began forming rebel groups to fight the government but often struggled to acquire arms. One small band of men recorded a satirical video echoing others announcing new groups; but rather than holding Kalashnikov rifles, each

held a piece of fruit to poke fun at their group’s struggle to get weapons. In Aleppo, as government forces began to encircle opposition-held areas of the city in 2014, rebels shared their dinner with stray cats. The rebels joked that they were trying to fatten the cats in case they needed to eat them. Given their tradition of gallows humor, Syrians might be uniquely equipped to mine laughs from both the current moment and the decades living under the Assad dynasty. Thirty minutes before the show at Zawaya, al-Homsi sat in what was serving as a green room, trying out lines on his fellow comedians that could become new material. Paintings covered the walls around him as techno played

loudly in the main hall. He joked about a recent visit from Hayat Tahrir al-Sham security officers and how he tried to hide the tattoos covering his arms, given most conservative Muslims’ disapproval of body art. Before the regime’s fall, al-Homsi would inevitably come up with jokes involving Assad, his wife or the government. He would write them down and file them away in a document that he labeled, “for Lebanon.” At this point, he is workshopping the Assad withdrawal symptoms joke, aiming to expand it into a proposed 12-step program to wean Syrians off an addiction to the regime. “These were jokes that I couldn’t tell here,” he said. “Now I can.”

Musk’s mother in high demand overseas

Model has traveled for years to speak, promote her book

By Mara Hvistendahl
and Joy Dong
The New York Times

In the past six months, Maye Musk, the mother of Elon Musk, has been to China, Kazakhstan and the United Arab Emirates, visits that come as foreign leaders are jockeying for influence over the Trump administration. Musk, 76, has for years traveled the world to model, speak and promote her memoir. But lately she seems to be even more in demand, especially outside the United States. And her celebrity has taken on greater significance now that her son has considerable influence over how billions of dollars in military spending and foreign aid will get paid out. In late 2024, she visited China at least four times to endorse or model for seven brands there, including makeup products, down jackets and health massagers. Her visits were promoted by state media outlets, which in the past have quoted her calling for improved ties between the United States and China. In October, three weeks before the U.S. presidential election, she headlined a forum on women in Kazakhstan, where she spoke about her son’s success, according to Kazinform, a state news agency there. In January, before Donald Trump’s second inauguration, she was in Dubai, speaking at a government conference on influencers with former Fox News personality Tucker Carlson. Her talk was titled, “How I Raised Three Amazing Children, Including the Richest Man in the World,” according to the state-run Emirates News Agency. All of these trips were taken after Elon Musk became a staunch supporter



Elon Musk, his son X AE A-Xii Musk and his mother, Maye Musk, arrive Sunday at the White House in Washington. Maye Musk has developed a large following in China, where some of her success is tied to being Elon Musk’s mom. ERIC LEE/THE NEW YORK TIMES

of Trump’s campaign, and on several of them, she waded into U.S. politics. Several of the countries where she recently appeared have concerns to press in Washington. Beijing opposes new U.S. tariffs on its goods, and leaders there appear to see Musk, who himself has extensive business interests in China, as a potential ally. Kazakhstan is hoping that the Trump administration will end restrictions on trade. And the UAE buys weapons from Washington and has spent hundreds of millions on lobbyists and donations to think tanks. Maye Musk has long traveled extensively for work, both within the United States and overseas. But her activities in China have intensified in recent months, a review of her social media posts over the past four years by The New York Times found. She endorsed five Chinese brands last year, while the

year before, she traveled to China mostly to promote her book and for modeling work. The Times could not confirm how much Musk has earned overseas in recent months. Although in her endorsements and speeches she often emphasizes her connection to Elon Musk, there is no evidence that she has sought to influence U.S. government policy. Nor is there evidence that she has taken work linked to China’s government. Maye Musk’s agency, the Los Angeles-based Creative Artists Agency; her manager, Anna Sherman; and a lawyer who has recently worked for Musk, Doreen Small, did not respond to questions about her international engagements, including how much she has earned for speaking and endorsing products. The five Chinese brands she endorsed last year did not reply to questions about how much she was paid. Her activities raise the possibility that foreign

governments could see her as a conduit to Elon Musk, said Scott Amey, the general counsel for the Project on Government Oversight, a watchdog group. “The fear is,” he said, “would people be using her to get one degree of separation from her son and two degrees of separation from the Oval Office?” Musk is already dogged by ethical concerns stemming from his businesses such as SpaceX, which has billions of dollars in Pentagon contracts. “We don’t need other potential conflicts of interest that involve his family to be added to his long list that already exists,” Amey said. The FBI normally scrutinizes the foreign contacts of presidential advisers and their family members before granting security clearances. Contacts from countries seen as potential U.S. adversaries, like China, typically receive more scrutiny. It is unclear if Maye Musk

or her contacts have been vetted. The White House has said her son is a “special government employee,” a short-term adviser who is subject to federal ethics law, but has not disclosed his security clearance status. Before joining the U.S. government, he had skirted reporting requirements as a federal contractor. Elon Musk and his lawyer, Alex Spiro, did not respond to questions about his clearance status or his mother’s work overseas. Elon Musk said Feb. 14 on the social platform X that he has had a “top secret clearance for many years.” It is notable that both Musk and his mother have interests in China, said Norman Eisen, a former White House ethics counsel in the Obama administration and a founder of the State Democracy Defenders Fund, which is suing Musk and his team on behalf of current and recently laid-off federal workers. Musk’s

company, Tesla, makes half its cars in China, for instance. But Maye Musk’s business trips to China and other countries independently deserve attention, Eisen said. “Given the exceptionally powerful role of Mr. Musk, who may be the single most influential person in the executive branch, even beyond Trump himself, these foreign entanglements are a cause for concern,” he said. Elon Musk often appears in public with his mother and, before becoming a government adviser, brought her to business meetings at X, the social media company he owns, according to the book “Character Limit,” by Kate Conger and Ryan Mac, both reporters for the Times. Since the election, she has accompanied him to social events at Trump’s Mar-a-Lago estate in Florida and defended her son on Fox News. Maye Musk, born in Canada but raised Elon Musk and his two younger siblings in South Africa, has modeled for decades. In recent years, however, her career took off in parallel with that of her son. Recently she has developed a large following in China, where some of her success is tied to being the mother of Elon Musk, who has star status there. Fans and businesspeople closely track developments in his tech empire and pore over biographies of him, hoping to gain insights. Maye Musk has visited more than a dozen Chinese cities, graced billboards and magazine covers, and is often invited to speak (in English) at events geared toward women there. Her image “carries an element of successful parenting, attracting a significant number of mothers among her followers,” said Yang Hu, an expert on China’s beauty industry with Euromonitor International, a market research firm.

NEWS BRIEFING

Pope stable day after suffering respiratory crises, Vatican reports

From news services

ROME — Pope Francis was in stable condition Tuesday and breathing with just the help of supplemental oxygen after respiratory crises a day earlier, but will resume using a ventilation mask at night, the Vatican said.

The Vatican said Francis had no further respiratory episodes during a day spent praying, resting and undergoing respiratory physiotherapy to try to help him fight double pneumonia.

The 88-year-old pope, who has chronic lung disease and had part of one lung removed as a young man, had two respiratory crises Monday in a setback to his recovery.

Doctors extracted “copious” amounts of mucus from his lungs.

They put him on a noninvasive mechanical ventilation mask to help him breathe and he slept with it through the night, but was stable enough Tuesday morning to use just high flows of supplemental oxygen delivered by a nasal tube.

Doctors planned to resume using the mask while he sleeps Tuesday night, so that oxygen is pumped into his lungs via a mask that covers his nose and mouth.

Doctors said his clinical condition was stable and that his prognosis remained guarded, meaning he is not out of danger.

Francis’ medical team has not provided an in-person update on his condition since Feb. 21, a sign of the up-and-down nature of his hospitalization, which began Feb. 14 and is the longest of his 12-year papacy.

Francis’ treatment comes as the Vatican prepares for Lent, the solemn period leading up to Easter on April 20.

Idaho abortion case: The Trump administration signaled Tuesday that it will let Idaho enforce its strict abortion ban in the treatment of pregnant women suffering medical emergencies, a reversal from the previous administration in a closely watched lawsuit.

The Justice Department said it would move to dismiss the case originally filed by the Biden administration, according to court papers filed by the state’s largest hospital network.

Idaho has one of the nation’s most restrictive abortion laws. St. Luke’s Health System has previously said the laws forced them to fly women out of state for emergency care.

Dropping the case would be among the new administration’s first major moves on abortion. In his first term, Republican President Donald Trump appointed many of the Supreme Court justices who voted to overturn the nationwide right to abortion in 2022. He has since said the issue should be left to the states.

Complaints that pregnant women were turned away from U.S. emergency rooms spiked after the overturning of Roe v. Wade amid questions about what care they could legally provide, federal records showed.

Ousted LA fire chief: The former Los Angeles fire chief who was ousted by Mayor Karen Bass after the most destructive wildfire in the city’s history failed to win back her job Tuesday, falling short with her argument that her dismissal was based on false accusations about her conduct and decision-making.

Former Chief Kristen Crowley appealed to the City Council to reverse Bass’ decision, which followed finger-pointing between Crowley and City Hall over



Flipping for Pancake Day: Contestants with frying pans in hand celebrate Shrove Tuesday, or Pancake Day, in London. It was one of many races across the U.K. to mark the day before the start of Lent. Celebrated as Mardi Gras in other parts of the world, Shrove Tuesday derives from the English word meaning to seek forgiveness or be granted absolution. **FRANK AUGSTEIN/AP**

the wildfire devastation and the fire department’s funding.

The council voted 13-2 to shelve the proposal in what amounted to a show of support for Bass, a first-term Democrat who has been criticized for being in Africa as part of a presidential delegation on the day the fires started, even though weather reports had warned of dangerous wind and wildfire conditions in the days before she left.

Bass fired Crowley on Feb. 21, six weeks after the fire started. She praised Crowley in the firefighting effort’s early going, but she said she later learned that an additional 1,000 firefighters could have been deployed on the day the blaze ignited. Furthermore, she said Crowley rebuffed a request to prepare a report on the fires that is a critical part of investigations into what happened and why.

Justices on Mexico guns: The U.S. Supreme Court seemed likely Tuesday to

block a \$10 billion lawsuit Mexico filed against top firearm manufacturers in the U.S. alleging they have fueled cartel gun violence.

Both liberal and conservative justices appeared skeptical that the claims could clear hurdles in U.S. law that largely shield gun makers from lawsuits when their products are used in a crime.

Big-name manufacturers like Smith & Wesson appealed to the justices after a lower court let the suit go forward under an exception for situations where gun companies are accused of violating the law.

An attorney for Mexico argued the case over economic harm linked to gun violence is still in its early stages and should be allowed to go forward.

The case began four years ago, when the Mexican government filed its blockbuster suit against some of the biggest gun companies, including Smith & Wesson, Beretta, Colt and Glock Inc.

Mexico has strict gun laws, but thousands of guns

are smuggled in by the country’s drug cartels every year.

The Mexican government says at least 70% of those weapons come from the United States. The lawsuit claims that companies knew weapons were being sold to traffickers who smuggled them into Mexico and decided to cash in on that market.

White House media ban: The Associated Press is asking a federal judge for a second time to immediately restore its access to presidential events, arguing that the Trump White House has doubled down on retaliating against the news outlet for its refusal to follow the president’s executive order that renamed the Gulf of Mexico.

U.S. District Court Judge Trevor N. McFadden last week declined AP’s request for an injunction to lift the ban against many of its reporters and photographers. But McFadden noted that case law weighed against the White House, and urged the

administration to reconsider before a scheduled second hearing March 20.

Trump has dismissed the AP as an organization of “radical left lunatics” and said: “We’re going to keep them out until such time as they agree that it’s the Gulf of America.”

Base attack in Pakistan: Two suicide bombings breached a wall at a military base in northwestern Pakistan before other attackers stormed the compound and were repelled in violence that killed at least 12 people and wounded 30 others, according to officials and a local hospital.

A group affiliated with the Pakistani Taliban claimed responsibility for the attack in Bannu, in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province, and said that dozens of members of the Pakistani security forces were killed.

The attack happened after sunset, when people would have been breaking their fast during the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

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ARTS & LIVING



Regina Spektor performs Sunday at Thalia Hall in Chicago. ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

REVIEW REGINA SPEKTOR AT THALIA HALL

Spektor revisits ‘Songs’

By Bob Gendron | For the Chicago Tribune

Regina Spektor thinks about words differently than most of us. That much was clear Sunday at the first of a sold-out three-night stand at Thalia Hall, where the singer-songwriter literally and figuratively explored the consequence of sounds, syllables and silences at a bare-bones show bursting with accessible eclecticism and quirky perspective. Though flawed, the solo outing possessed the courage to fail and put a refreshing spin on the tired “album-play” concept.

Looking back at her younger self while combing through songs she made before she landed a record deal, Spektor offered fans a candid view into her origins for the first hour of the 105-minute concert. The decision proved rare and unguarded. Most contemporaries either reserve proto-fare for polished, late-career archival projects or leave it locked away in a vault.

Shy only in the matter of blowing her nose due to a minor cold, the 45-year-old Russian native greeted the challenge with gregarious charm, honesty and huge smiles. She appeared shocked that the audience embraced material she described as “super weird” and never thought would be heard in her adopted hometown of New York, let alone Chicago. Spektor asked for forgiveness in advance, knowing she’d probably lose the thread at least once on tunes that stem back to her days as a teenager.

Indeed, amid an age where countless musicians capitalize on nostalgia by replicating widely known albums in their entirety onstage, Spektor’s deep dive felt brave and unique. On a tour that visited just three cities, she begins by playing her “Songs” record in an order that doesn’t usually mirror the original sequence. Granted access to a friend’s

recording studio on Christmas Day 2001, Spektor completed the album in one take. Technically released in 2002 and sold only at her shows, the self-issued effort soon faded away to become a kind of aural curio. Renowned engineer Bob Ludwig came out of retirement to master it for proper release and its streaming debut last November.

Long removed from the days of hawking \$10 CDs of “Songs” out of a backpack, Spektor spent the past 20 or so years charting a course that positions her as one of the most “indie” artists remaining on a major-label roster. Prevented from greater fame mainly because of the eccentricities that fuel her ingenuity, she exists as a throwback to when big labels would still weigh the importance of craftsmanship and originality against the desire for massive sales.

Having throttled back her professional schedule over the last decade, Spektor now seems more of an outlier than ever. Her consistently strong output — including two self-released efforts, six studio records, a live outing and several contributions to high-profile soundtracks — and slowed pace suggest the approach of a musician who does things on her own terms. Wearing a shiny dress and vibrant red lipstick, and

primarily seated at a grand piano, Spektor followed her own muse at the Pilsen venue. Even, at times, reluctantly, as with certain “Songs” tracks, she regretted writing too many words and devising an abundance of chords. Off-the-cuff and borderline giddy, her self-reflections provided comedic relief and contextual background. At one point, while wrestling with her youthful compositions, Spektor acknowledged their erratic nature and joked she shouldn’t have to face her past self.

Witnessing the singer-pianist examine her roots without the aid of edits, accompaniment or technology was fascinating and insightful. Spektor’s agile vocals and clever lyrics supplied plenty of reasons to grant her latitude. Even when she navigated songs that resembled half-finished sketches (“Lullibly”). Or recited the ingredients of a fruit jar (“Reading Time with Pickle”), made false starts (“Aching to Pupate”) and furiously hunted for the right piano notes after flubbing a transition and bringing everything to a full stop (“Lacrimosa”).

Could Spektor benefit from better preparation? Sure, though refinement and stuffed-shirt professionalism would’ve smoothed the rough edges of offbeat songs that thrived on spontaneity, uncertainty

SETLIST

- “Prisoners”
- “Reading Time with Pickle”
- “Oedipus”
- “Bon Idée”
- “Aching to Pupate”
- “Lounge”
- “Daniel Cowman”
- “Lacrimosa”
- “Consequence of Sounds”
- “Lullibly”
- “Samson”
- “Ne Me Quitte Pas”
- “Loveology”
- “Baby Jesus”
- “Two Birds”
- “Aquarius”
- “Better”
- “Bobbing for Apples”
- “That Time”
- Encore
- “Poor Little Rich Boy”
- “Fidelity”

and whimsy. Working from memory, and dealing with the awkward consequences when it failed, the singer equated her vulnerable interpretations of the zig-zagging pieces to riding a roller coaster without a safety harness.

Aptly, Spektor’s elastic voice and tempo command supplied an endless path of twists, loops, dips, rolls, stalls, spirals and drops. She expanded traditional pop parameters with architecture that frequently changed direction without notice and, once the detours were mapped, reverted to the initial patterns just as quickly. Her malleable piano arrangements reconceptualized lullabies, ballads, shuffles and torch songs.

Demonstrated on the casual “Bobbing for Apples” and rubbery “That Time” — examples of her flair for observation and ability to express signifi-

cant themes couched in narratives that otherwise appear to address routine matters — Spektor’s crude guitar strumming served as a weak substitute for her keyboard prowess. She handled basic percussion, such as whacking a drum stick against a wooden chair on the scolding “Poor Little Rich Boy” or tapping her hand on the piano lid during a surprisingly solemn “Better,” with more authority.

Nothing outshined what Spektor accomplished with her voice. Especially evident on five songs stripped of their wider-scale pop-rock instrumentation, her varied deliveries transformed vowels, consonants, pitches and accents into a novel language. She played games of hop-scotch with pronunciation devices, stretched short phrases into lengthy passages, dangled notes akin to the way a puppeteer controls strings from above.

Limited only by possibility, Spektor used her dynamic voice to mimic the tooting of car horns; soft shimmering of hi-hat cymbals; frustrations of muttered curses; rhythms of a hip-hop beat; airiness of pursed lips; the retching of sudden nausea. Whether adhering to gentle tones, firing off sentences as rapid-fire streams, inventing mashed-up terms, rapping cadences or employing subtle shifts in volume to alter meaning, she created colorful universes stitched together by zany imagination, escapist fantasy and grown-up romanticism.

May her innocent sense of child-like wonder never dim.

Bob Gendron is a freelance critic.



“Buddha Sheltered by the Serpent King Muchalinda” is a 12th-century Nepali sculpture. THE ART INSTITUTE OF CHICAGO

AIC will return Buddha sculpture to Nepal

By Doug George
Chicago Tribune

The Art Institute of Chicago announced Monday it would return a 12th century Nepali sculpture of the Buddha to Nepal.

The museum is collaborating with the government of Nepal for the return of the piece, titled “Buddha Sheltered by the Serpent King Muchalinda,” which had been part of its collection.

“This return reflects the importance of provenance research, as well as

the Art Institute’s proactive outreach and collaboration with countries and communities,” said the Art Institute’s Jacques Schuhmacher in a statement. “We are grateful to work in partnership with our colleagues from Nepal to return this object to its place of origin, and to collaborate and learn from each other into the future.”

The museum describes the sculpture as depicting a story of divine intervention: During a storm, “the serpent king Muchalinda rose to form a protective cave around the Buddha,

permitting him to remain in deep meditation.” The sculpture had been on regular display since 1997.

The museum said Monday that it had “discovered new details about the sculpture’s history and shared this information with the Embassy of Nepal in Washington, D.C. Working together, the Art Institute and the Government of Nepal agreed the sculpture had been stolen from Guita Bahi in the Kathmandu Valley and collectively decided on its return to Nepal.”

Schuhmacher was appointed last summer as executive director of Provenance Research, a team created at the museum in 2020 to work with curators, researchers and museum leaders to look into the ownership history of its artwork. Provenance research has become an increasingly important topic for museums to determine the backgrounds of items in their collections and how they were acquired.

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Anthony Hopkins' memoir will be published in November. DAVID LIVINGSTON/GETTY 2022

CELEBRITIES

Star to tell story in ‘We Did OK, Kid’

From news services

Sir Anthony Hopkins will have a memoir out this fall, its title inspired by a childhood picture. “We Did OK, Kid” will be published Nov. 4 by Summit Books, a Simon & Schuster imprint. “There is a photograph I keep on my phone of my father and me on the beach when I was a child. I often tell that boy: ‘We did OK, kid,’” the Oscar-winning actor said in a statement released Tuesday. “I wonder how a boy from Wales, the son of a baker, got here. My entire life is a great mystery. This book is my story.” Hopkins, 87, is known for such films as “The Silence of the Lambs,” “The Father,” “The Remains of the Day” and “The Lion in Winter.” According to Summit, he will also write about his childhood in Wales, his stage career and his personal struggles, including how his drinking destroyed his first marriage and how he has remained sober for nearly half a century. “He constantly battles against the desire to move through life alone and avoid connection for fear of getting hurt — much like the men in his family

— and as the years go by, he deals with questions of mortality, getting ready to discover what his father called The Big Secret,” the publisher’s announcement reads in part. “Featuring a special collection of personal photographs throughout, ‘We Did OK, Kid’ is a raw and passionate memoir from a complex, iconic figure who has inspired audiences with remarkable performances for over 60 years.” **Lee essays, stories to publish in fall:** Essays and early short stories by “To Kill a Mockingbird” author Harper Lee will be published this fall. “The Land of Sweet Forever” compiles short fiction Lee wrote in the years before the 1960 release of her classic novel and includes essays completed between 1961 and 2006. Harper, an imprint of HarperCollins Publishers, will release the book Oct. 21. “The Land of Sweet Forever” will include an introduction by Lee’s authorized biographer, Casey Cep. Lee, who died in 2016 at age 89, published no new, full-length books after “To Kill a Mockingbird.” In 2015, she approved the

release of “Go Set a Watchman,” an early draft of “Mockingbird.” **Parton’s husband dies:** Carl Dean, Dolly Parton’s husband of nearly 60 years who avoided the spotlight and inspired her timeless hit “Jolene,” died Monday. He was 82. According to a statement from Parton’s publicist, Dean died in Nashville, Tennessee. He will be laid to rest in a private ceremony. “Carl and I spent many wonderful years together. Words can’t do justice to the love we shared for over 60 years. Thank you for your prayers and sympathy,” Parton, who married Dean in 1966, wrote in a statement. The family has asked for respect and privacy. No cause of death was announced. **March 5 birthdays:** Actor Paul Sand is 93. Actor Fred Williamson is 87. Actor Samantha Eggar is 86. Singer Eddy Grant is 77. Comedian Marsha Warfield is 71. Magician Penn Jillette is 70. Musicians Charlie and Craig Reid are 63. Actor Eva Mendes is 51. Model Niki Taylor is 50. Actor Kimberly McCullough is 47.

Longtime patient would like to know dentist on personal level



Dear Eric: I have had the same dentist for the past 15 years. Within the last year, I have found myself wanting to know him on a personal level. I know he is not involved in a relationship, and he seems interested as well. How should I proceed? — *Makes Me Smile*

Dear Smile: First, find a new dentist. The American Dental Association’s Code of Ethics states, “Dentists should avoid interpersonal relationships that could impair their professional judgment or risk the possibility of exploiting the confidence placed in them by a patient.” So, if he were to date you while you were under his care, he risks compromising himself. All relationships between patients and medical professionals are built on trust. Patients are in vulnerable positions and divulge personal information, so medical professionals have a duty to treat that vulnerability with care so as to avoid harm, intentional or unintentional. He also puts himself at risk. For instance, if a relationship with a patient went sour, he opens himself up to accusations of malpractice. So, before making any moves, stop seeing him professionally and start seeing someone else. At that point, you could — could, not should — reach out through nonprofessional means (so, not his office number) to gauge his comfort with a personal connection. But you really ought to be careful, almost to a fault. It’s not appro-

priate for him to express interest in a relationship with a patient, especially one he’s been seeing for 15 years. Honestly, it’s better to direct your well-cared-for smile elsewhere. **Dear Eric:** My mom is almost 92 and is recovering from a stroke. She no longer drives; her poor motor skills don’t allow her to cook or handle hot items on a stove, nor shower or bathe herself. My siblings and I agree that Mom needs to be in assisted living with nursing care, but one sibling insisted on looking after Mom herself. But she now realizes that it has become burdensome, and she can’t have her own life. Because I am retired, Sister thinks she can just snap her fingers, and I arrive to relieve her for a month or more at a time. I have no problem visiting mom, but her level of care is something I am not comfortable with. Every time the topic of assisted living comes up, Sister has a different reason why she is against it. First, it was because assisted living facilities are “not nice places and hire sub-par people.” Then it was that assisted living is OK, but she doesn’t want to do it against mom’s will. (Mom has told her she wants to go.) Then Sister said she wants a place with graduated care. The list goes on. While the rest of us siblings are thankful Sister has stepped in to look after mom, we knew it would eventually come to this. We are all married with families and homes of our own, we live in other states, but Sister is single and thinks it’s no longer her turn. Yes, she should be able to go on a vacation, go check on her house and have her life back. She could do all of that if she would just concede to

mom going into assisted living. Mom has the funds to provide for her care. But Sister just thinks she can just do it better. Thoughts on how to settle this? — *Care Conflict* **Dear Care:** I have sympathy for your sister — it’s clear she’s having trouble accepting what’s best for your mother right now. That struggle is preventing her from navigating this clearly. She may think that she (or you) can provide better care than an assisted-living facility with trained professionals, but that goes against your mother’s stated wishes for herself. And, with regard to some forms of care, that’s not true. Medical professionals are going to be better suited to support your mother and help her rehab from her stroke. Your sister has some work to do internally, but the first priority is making sure that your mother’s desires are heard and honored. You, your siblings, and your mother should have a meeting where your mother is able to, again, confirm that she wants to move to an assisted-living facility. Reinforce to your siblings that the goal is to honor your mother’s wishes, not to debate. This is a planning meeting and discussion can come later, if at all. One of the siblings — perhaps you, but not the sister who is currently caregiving — should take the lead on finding a facility that meets your mother’s wants and needs, then getting her set up and acclimated. Your sister can have input, but she doesn’t get the final say. *Send questions to eric@askingeric.com.* Copyright 2025. Distributed by Tribune Content Agency

Kaling, Hudson take the court in new series

NBA team president thought of premise for ‘Running Point’

By Alicia Rancilio
Associated Press

In Mindy Kaling’s new Netflix series, “Running Point,” Kate Hudson stars as Isla Gordon, the new president of the Los Angeles Waves, a professional basketball team that has been run by her family for years. Hudson’s character has to prove herself as a woman in a man’s world not only to her passed-over brothers, but also to players whose egos need checking and other executives who don’t take her seriously. If Isla’s story rings a bell, take a look at the list of executive producers on the 10-episode season out now: Among them is Jeanie Buss, the president of the Los Angeles Lakers, who was embroiled in similar turmoil over control of the storied NBA franchise after the death of her father, Jerry Buss. Jeanie Buss not only has given the show her blessing, it was her idea, Kaling said. Buss was a big fan of “The Office,” which Kaling helped write, and approached Kaling with the premise about five years ago. Kaling ended up as the co-creator, writer and executive producer alongside Ike Barinholtz and David Stassen. “She’s in a very serious, stressful job but she loves comedy. She does not take herself seriously,” Kaling says of Buss. “That’s really rare when someone has that much power and that much to lose.” **Buss’s blessing** In fact, Kaling said, Buss wanted the show to be funny and had “no ego” about using her real life as inspiration. “She’s had some extremely interesting things happen to her as the president of the Lakers. Some of it is she liter-



Mindy Kaling, left, co-created and Kate Hudson — both seen Feb. 12 — stars in “Running Point.” REBECCA CABAGE/INVISION

ally dated the coach for many years and she’s like, ‘Do whatever you want,’” Kaling says, referring to Buss’ former relationship with Phil Jackson. “To get that kind of carte blanche, I’d never heard that from someone who is so famous and, you know, pretty private.” Shortly after the news of her promotion goes public, Isla is advised by her brothers — who vow they have her back — to stay off Reddit. The commentary is “about how you’re a nepo baby and you don’t know what you’re doing, but you’re old so you’re kind of — it’s like you’re like a nepo crone,” says older brother

Ness (Scott MacArthur). Those same brothers then undermine Isla’s authority by declaring her first order of business is to trade a problematic player, Travis Bugg, played by Chet Hanks. How’s that for a first day of a new job? “Some of the situations seem outlandish but nothing surprises me that happens in the world of professional basketball,” Buss told The Associated Press at a recent premiere event for the show. “We’ve seen everything.” **Hudson’s chops** For Hudson, playing the only girl with brothers was easy because she was raised

with three brothers. She also liked getting to flex her comedic chops, which she’s known for in films like “How to Lose a Guy in 10 Days” and “Glass Onion: A Knives Out Mystery.” “This idea of a woman being thrust into this position of something that she really loves and then constantly feeling like she has to prove herself and using that as sort of a comedic launching pad was a blast,” Hudson says. One of Kaling’s favorite things about Hudson is how she consistently has defied expectations — she’s no nepo baby, Kaling says. “She is the daughter of a very, very famous, beloved,

iconic actress,” Kaling says, referencing Hudson’s mother, Goldie Hawn. “And then in her first major role, got an Oscar nomination (for ‘Almost Famous’). When we have these conversations about children of famous people, her name is never mentioned.” “Running Point” also co-stars Brenda Song, Max Greenfield, Drew Tarver and Jay Ellis. **Kaling’s superpower** As a successful executive in Hollywood, Kaling says she’s actually viewed being members of minority groups — both as a woman and as an Indian American

— as her superpower. “Different personalities react to different situations, right? Because I’m Indian and because I’m a woman, my personality has always been like, ‘Ooh, I must be special,’” the recent Hollywood Walk of Fame honoree says. “It’s exciting to me to prove myself.” Kaling has always known her value but, as a boss, says she has had to learn that not everyone has confidence and sometimes talent needs to be nurtured. She wants to help others find that within themselves. One of the staff writers on “Running Point,” Akshara Sekar, used to be Kaling’s personal assistant. “I didn’t come into this knowing how to be a role model,” Kaling says. “That’s been kind of a fun part of this, helping young women who are pretty different than the way that I was at 24, 25.” **A Celtics-Lakers trade** The world of basketball is one that Kaling has long been a fan of. Growing up in Boston, she would watch Celtics games with her dad: “My dad and my mom are both immigrants and one of the ways that my dad decided he was going to be an American citizen was by embracing the sports here.” Kaling visited the Lakers’ facility, where she saw players like LeBron James and Austin Reaves, along with “their enormous lockers.” “That mystique will never be broken for me,” she says. “We know now a little bit more about how the sausage is made, but it’s still just as exciting.” Kaling hopes to pass on the family’s favorite sport to her three children: daughters Katherine and Anne and son Spencer. “LA culture and the Lakers is so different than any other city,” said Kaling. “I became a Lakers fan and I want my kids to be able to root for the team that they grew up around.”

Hudson carries on her mother’s story in song

Vivid details of actor Hawn’s life fill lyrics of ‘Right on Time’

By Mikael Wood
Los Angeles Times

Kate Hudson is sitting on a folding chair in a crowded storage closet when suddenly her voice comes booming through the wall. The singer and actor, 45, is in a Los Angeles studio on a recent morning to shoot a music video for “Right on Time,” a recently released bonus track from a new deluxe edition of her 2024 debut album, “Glorious.” (The closet offers some quiet for a chat as the video crew sets up.)

A stately ballad that showcases her soaring vocals, “Right on Time” is about Hudson’s movie-star mother, Goldie Hawn, and right now it’s bringing a tear to the eye of the woman who wrote it. “This song makes me emotional,” Hudson says, tilting her head toward the sound. “It’s my mommy, you know?”

Raised between Los Angeles and Colorado by Hawn and Hawn’s long-time partner, actor Kurt Russell, Hudson broke out in Hollywood with her role as a wise if idealistic groupie named Penny Lane in 2000’s rock-obsessed “Almost Famous.”

Since then she has appeared in rom-coms and action films and whodunits, hawked vodka and active-wear and hosted a podcast with her brother (and fellow actor) Oliver; she has also had high-profile relationships with Chris Robinson of the Black Crowes and Muse frontman Matt Bellamy.

Yet the guitar-heavy “Glorious” provides the first look at a natural musician who dabbled in private for years before finally getting up the courage to cut a record. Hudson — whose biological father, Bill Hudson, scored a string of pop hits in a trio with



Kate Hudson, seen Feb. 7, recently released her debut album. **FRAZER HARRISON/GETTY**

his brothers in the 1970s — wrote and recorded the LP with the veteran producer Linda Perry and with Hudson’s fiancé, Danny Fujikawa, with whom Hudson shares a 6-year-old daughter. (She also has two older sons.) This interview with Hudson has been edited for clarity and length.

Q: Is the lyric, “She drove a hundred miles to Baltimore/ In a busted Caddy with holes in the floor,” true?

A: Oh, for sure. She used to wrap her feet because she had all these holes in the bottom of the Cadillac — it was her dad’s car — and so she wrapped her feet while she drove to dance class. When she’d get there, she’d have to thaw them out in warm water because they were frozen.

Q: Why’d you want to write about your mother?
A: It just sort of happened. Linda had to take a phone call, and so she went out, and I was working on this

thing on the piano. She came back and she’s like, “That’s really good — what are you doing?” I said, “I don’t know, I just started writing it. It feels like my mom.”

Q: People don’t write enough songs about parents.
A: As a daughter, I think we’re supposed to carry on the stories of our parents. And her story is amazing — how wild her stardom was for this little girl who came from a duplex house

in Takoma Park, Maryland. Sometimes I think part of what’s happening in our culture is we’re losing sight of the three-generational household. My grandma — my mom’s mom — she lived with us when I grew up, and there’s something about going in your grandma’s room and hearing her stories and understanding your history. I live seven blocks from my mom now, and she comes over every day.

Q: You get a lot of vivid detail into “Right on Time.”
A: “Truck stop baby, won’t you dance for me?/ These 18-wheelers ain’t nothin’ to see.”

Q: Good lyric.
A: My mom used to dance at truck stops in Jersey. She would go-go dance in cages. Well, she did a couple. Then she was like, “I don’t think I want to do this — I’m going to New York.”

Q: The song builds to a big climax, but for a while it’s just you and a string arrangement.
A: When I listen to it, I get lost more in the story than in the production.

Q: That’s the goal for a songwriter, right?
A: I mean, I get obsessed with production. I went deep into (Jack) Antonoff over Christmas. The way he plays with sound and how it moves back to front — it’s actually incredibly emotional to me. You know what song I didn’t know he did? The Taylor (Swift) and Zayn song (“I Don’t Wanna Live Forever”). There’s something about the production of that song — the way he plays with pulling it back. I listen to music like a dancer, so it’s how my body responds to it.

Q: After the original edition of “Glorious” came out, you released a cover of “Voices Carry” by Aimee Mann’s band ‘Til Tuesday. Why?
A: First of all, I love Aimee

Mann. But that’s one of those songs where I’ll sit in my house and do karaoke just to warm my voice up, and “Voices Carry” is always one of the songs. ... I discovered that song when I was around 10. I had the Fisher-Price turntable with the 45s, and I was listening to all kinds of music. I also had nannies that were young and into music. I had a nanny named Kathy who’d take us to school and never let us listen to the music we wanted to. She was like, “I drive, my music.” So it was all ’70s and ’80s — no ’90s music. But thank God for Kathy. If it wasn’t for her, I wouldn’t know Bob Dylan, I wouldn’t know Neil Young, I wouldn’t know Led Zeppelin. Actually, no, I’d know Led Zeppelin — Kurt loved Led Zeppelin. But my parents weren’t big music heads. It wasn’t like they had a huge vinyl collection.

Q: Your biological dad is a musician.
A: But he wasn’t around. And I didn’t realize that my deep connection to music was actually in my blood. My grandfather on my mom’s side was a professional violinist (in Washington, D.C.) — he’d play the (White House) correspondents’ dinners and then he’d go play bluegrass in these speakeasies. Really fascinating life. But I didn’t really know that until I was older. So as a kid I’d sit in my room and get weird with music. It was kind of lonely.

Q: You wrote songs on your own long before you hooked up with Linda Perry. What did she draw out of you?
A: So much. Linda has a great ability — mainly because of her musician-ship but also because of how she moves energy — she allows you to kind of open a channel. We wrote 26 songs in two weeks. Eventually, she was like, “I think we need to stop — like, we’re good.”

PBS film shines light on forgotten trailblazer

Musician, activist among most well-known entertainment figures during 1930s, ’40s

By Jevon Phillips
Los Angeles Times

The name Hazel Scott probably be as well known as Billie Holiday or Lena Horne. A jazz virtuoso and classical pianist, the one-time child prodigy became one of the most well-known entertainment figures of the 1930s and ’40s, playing in some of New York City’s most iconic venues, including Café Society, the Cotton Club and Carnegie Hall. She also appeared in numerous films and was the first Black performer to have their own television show, “The Hazel Scott Show,” which ran in summer 1950. (Ethel Waters hosted a self-titled one-night special on NBC in 1939, but Scott was the first to have a series.)

Scott’s name and her legacy was seemingly forgotten in musical and civil rights circles for generations until Alicia Keys praised her at the 2019 Grammy Awards. “American Masters — The Disappearance of Miss Scott,” a documentary from PBS, aims to rectify that by examining her life and career and uncovering why this singular talent and important historical figure is not very well-known. The film features excerpts of Scott’s unpublished autobiography, voiced by Sheryl Lee Ralph, and interviews with country star Mickey Guyton, actors Amanda Seales and Tracie Thoms, jazz musicians Camille Thurman and Janelle Moran, and journalist and former media executive Adam Clayton Powell III, Scott’s only son.

Nicole London, who directed and produced the documentary, has previously helped shape projects about Miles Davis, Sammy Davis Jr. and Marvin Gaye.

London recognized Scott’s importance but really only knew a few details about her life: She had been married to Adam Clayton Powell Jr., a New York politician and pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church, and that she had famously “played the two pianos” in the 1943 film “The Heat’s On.”

“I didn’t know so much about her. But in diving into this film, she’s just as towering a figure as any of those,” London says. “That’s what I want people to come away with. This is a talent. This is a woman who had a depth and breadth of a career that’s just as memorable and worthy of canonizing as a Marvin Gaye, as a Sammy Davis Jr. or Miles Davis.”

In addition to her performing talent, Scott was also a civil rights advocate in the decades prior to the wave of protests in the ’60s. She would not play before crowds that were not integrated, a stipulation in her contract when performing at music venues. She advocated for herself and other Black artists as her onscreen career began to heat up, but a studio clash was said to have derailed her movie career.

Scott nonetheless flourished while she continued to demand equity and dignity. She was eventually approached to host a network television show, becoming the first Black American to do so with “The Hazel Scott Show,” which launched on the DuMont network. Within weeks, the network expanded the show to a national program airing three times a week.

It was only the tip of the iceberg when it came to her sense of justice and how people should be treated equally. Everything seemed



Jazz singer and pianist Hazel Scott arrives at Paddington Station in London. The documentary “The Disappearance of Miss Scott” examines her life and career. **HULTON ARCHIVE/1951**

to be going well — then the government came into play. The documentary explains how Scott was caught up in the Red Scare, with her name appearing in “Red Channels: A Report on Communist Influence in Radio and Television,” an anti-Communist document published in June 1950, that accused her of being a communist. Powell recalled how his mother was intent on testifying before Congress to clear her name and shine a light on the bullying tactics that the government was employing. “I remember when my mother decided to

go to testify at the House Un-American Activities Committee. The three of us were having dinner — my mother, my father and me,” Powell recalls. “My father said, ‘Why are you doing this? You can’t win with these people. These people are going to get you.’ She said, ‘No, they’re harming a lot of people, not just me. I’ve got to go or tell them they are the un-Americans.’ My father was shaking his head. He said, ‘You can’t win.’” After testifying, Scott’s television show was canceled and her employment opportunities in the U.S. suddenly dried up. It

was a fall that seemed to happen extremely fast. She ended up moving to Paris, where she continued to enjoy a successful career. While there, she was surrounded by friends and visiting contemporaries — Powell recalls playing chess with a young Quincy Jones. Though she was off the continent, she kept in contact. “That’s one thing that we regretted that we didn’t have the time to really fit into the film. Nina Simone had written her a beautiful letter to encourage her to come back. ‘Things are happening now, especially in the ’60s. Things

are happening now. We really see that there’s hope for change. How can they not know your name in this fight?” London says. “Martin Luther King had also encouraged her to come back and join the fight because there had been a momentum shift.” Scott returned to the U.S. to a changed and charged atmosphere, with the big band and jazz era passing, and a much more vocal opposition to racist attitudes and laws. “My mother, years later in Paris, she said, ‘Remember your father said I couldn’t win? Well, that’s true. It ended the TV show. But what happened to Joseph McCarthy after that? He left in disgrace,’” Powell says. Scott continued to be active on the civil rights circuit, but “thought that things were on the right track, that there was a bit of progress made,” Powell says. Scott wanted to be home, fawning over grandchildren. She got her “dream engagement” when she was offered a stint at Kippy’s Pier 44 in New York for as many weeks as she wanted to perform. Shortly after, she began complaining of stomach pain and was later diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. In telling her tale, London hopes for “people to be able to come to her story, learn about Hazel, learn about what she did, learn about her virtuosity. Learn about her strength and her courage. Here was someone that set a model for her time, but you could take some lessons from her story. The way to advocate for yourself, advocate for your own talent, a way to advocate for your own freedom.” “There’s a reason that the title is ‘The Disappearance of Miss Scott.’ I really see this documentary as the re-appearance of Ms. Scott,” Powell says.

Horoscopes



Today's birthday (March 5): Grow through connection with home and family this year. Prioritize personal growth and development. Strengthen and renew partnership bonds this spring. Adapt around unexpected summer expenses, before personal discovery lights up the autumn. Collaborate to resolve a winter challenge.

Aries (March 21-April 19): Today is an 8. A fascinating subject engages you. Research and document your discoveries. Creativity flowers, developing a dreamy possibility. Imagine, describe and sketch illustrations and visuals.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): 9. Profitable creative ideas abound. You can find the funding. Disciplined action and a powerful invitation are a winning combo. Go ahead and ask.

Gemini (May 21-June 20): 8. Check your course, and then full speed ahead. Advance a personal project through communication and coordination. Connect with powerful influencers who share your goals.

Cancer (June 21-July 22): 8. Creativity and discipline produce results behind closed doors. Shut away chaos or distractions. Craft plans, visions and dreams. Focus on organizing and cleaning.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): 8. Disciplined action and conversation benefits shared goals. Participate with meetings, on committees and teams. Organize and coordinate group efforts.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): 9. Get support to address a professional challenge. Envision goals as already accomplished. Take the actions that experienced colleagues suggest.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): 8. You're learning voraciously. Do the homework. Dig deeper into your subject. Discuss with experts and students. Consider new ideas and offer your own.

Scorpio (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): 9. Financial conversations can get productive. Make determinations, choices and set priorities with your partner. Share resources and talents.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): 9. Choreograph your moves with your partner. Communication keeps your efforts tightly coordinated. Practice for effortless and fun performances.

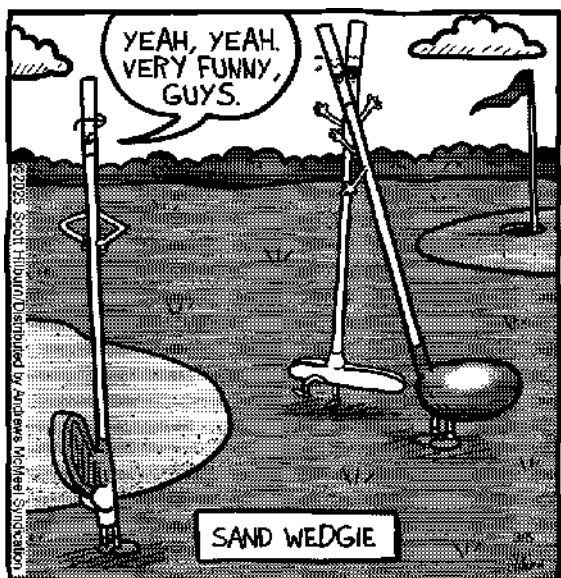
Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): 8. Practice physical moves. Get coaching to improve performance. Pick up the pace and kick up your feet. Get your heart pumping and toes tapping.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): 7. Discipline plus communication fill out a romantic relationship recipe. Discuss long-term dreams and focus on shared passions. Encourage each other to follow them.

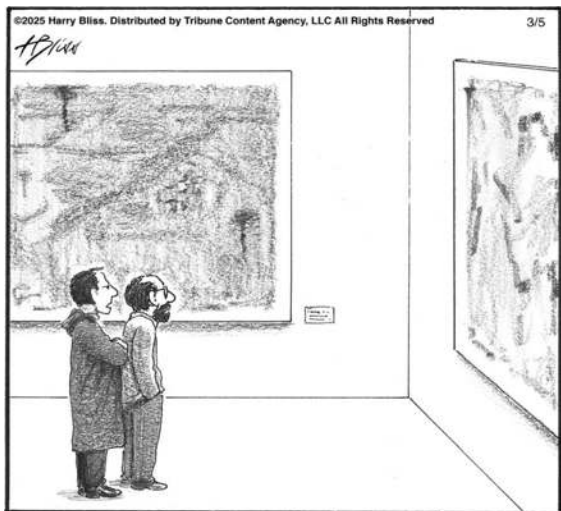
Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): 8. Home and family comforts draw you in. Imagine a renovation project and research potential solutions. Take practical steps to fulfill a long-term vision.

— Nancy Black, Tribune Content Agency

The Argyle Sweater



Bliss By Harry Bliss



Bridge

East-West vulnerable, South deals

West		North	East
♠ Void	♠ AK 8 4 2	♠ AK 8 4 2	♠ J 7 3
♥ Q 7 6 4 3	♥ K J 10 5 2	♥ K J 10 5 2	♥ 9 8
♦ 7 6	♦ A 5	♦ A 5	♦ Q J 10 9 8 3
♣ K Q J 10 8 4	♣ 7	♣ 7	♣ 3 2
South			
♠ Q 10 9 6 5	♠ Q 10 9 6 5		
♥ A	♥ A		
♦ K 4 2	♦ K 4 2		
♣ A 9 6 5	♣ A 9 6 5		

Today's deal recently won the award for the best-played deal of 2023. South was Australian expert Justin Mill. The excellent auction led to an excellent grand slam that would make easily on a cross ruff if the trumps split 2-1.

The bidding:

South	West	North	East
1♠	4♣	4NT	Pass
5♣*	Pass	5NT	Pass
6♦	Pass	6♥**	Pass
7♠	All pass		

***2 key cards, among the 4 aces and the king of spades, plus the queen of spades**

****One last grand slam try**

Opening lead: King of ♣

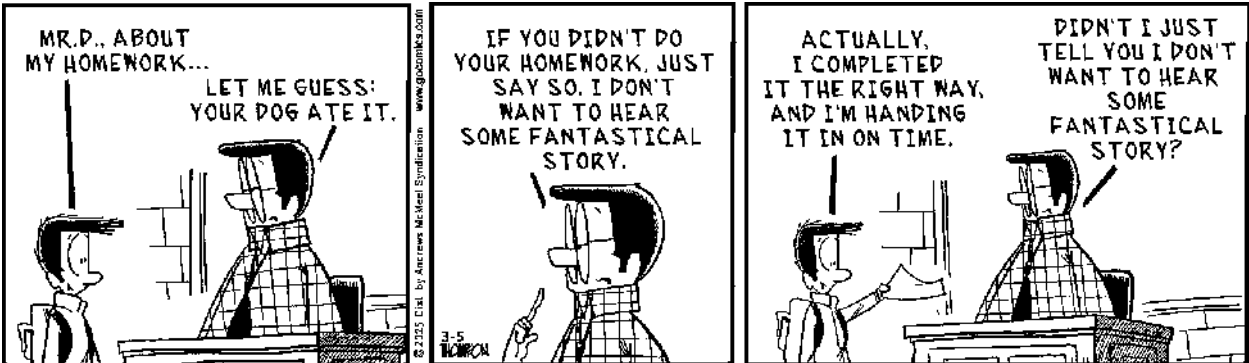
the king of hearts and led another heart, surprised to see a club discard from East. The hearts could not be established, but the opponents' distribution was now known. Mill cashed the king of diamonds and ruffed a diamond low in dummy. He led a spade to his 10, leaving this position:

West		North	East
♠ Void	♠ K 8	♠ K 8	♠ J
♥ Q 7	♥ J 10	♥ J 10	♥ Void
♦ Void	♦ Void	♦ Void	♦ Q J 10
♣ Q J	♣ Void	♣ Void	♣ Void
South			
♠ Q 9	♠ Q 9		
♥ Void	♥ Void		
♦ Void	♦ Void		
♣ 9 6	♣ 9 6		

Mill led the queen of spades and West was helpless. A club discard and Mill would play a low spade from dummy and ruff a club to set up the nine. A heart discard, instead, and Mill would overtake the queen of spades with the king and ruff a heart, setting up the jack. A beauty!

— Bob Jones, Tribune Content Agency

Grand Avenue



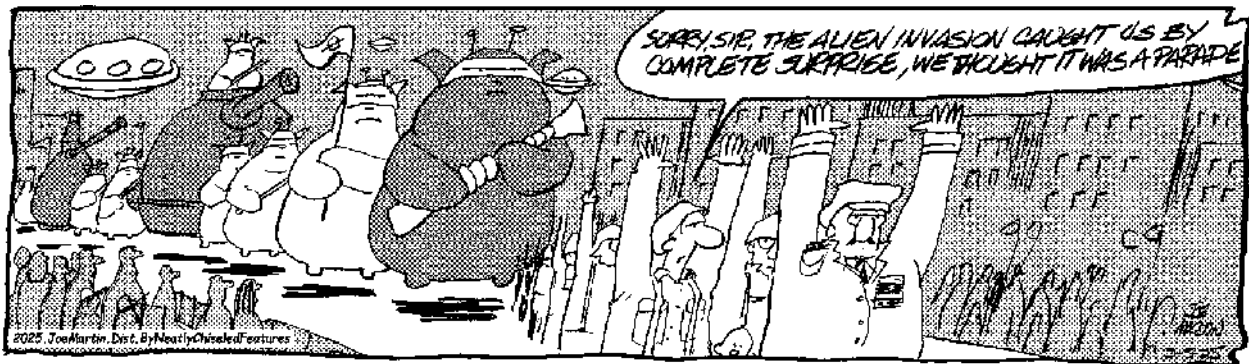
Baby Blues



Zits



Mr. Boffo



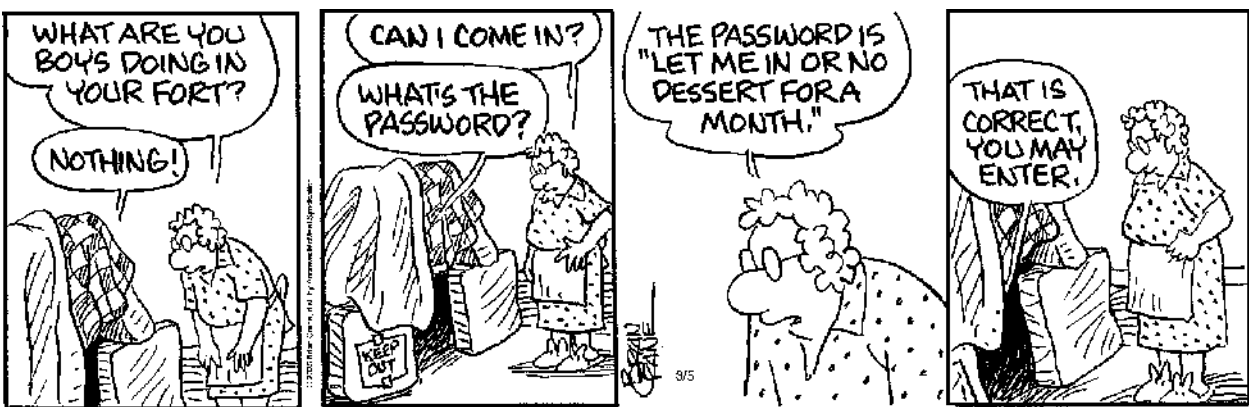
Frazz



Classic Peanuts



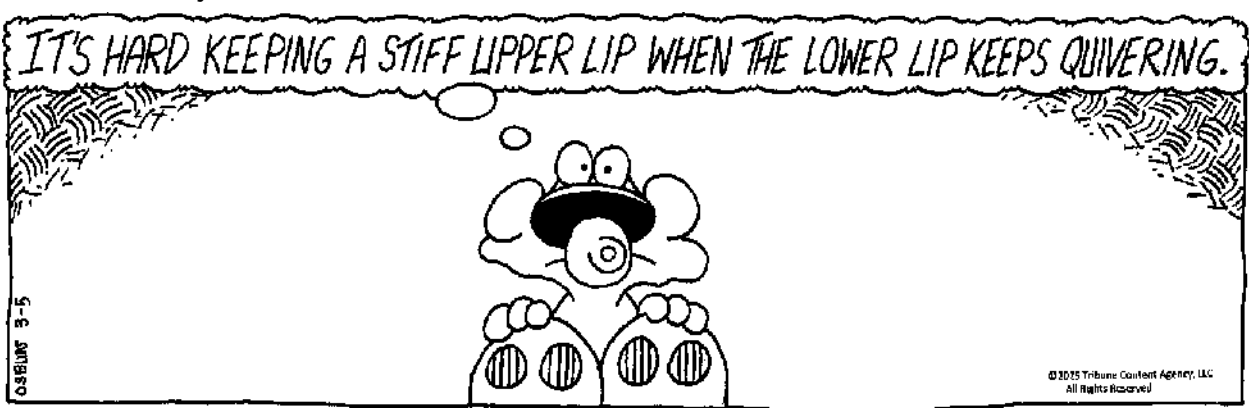
Pickles



Dick Tracy



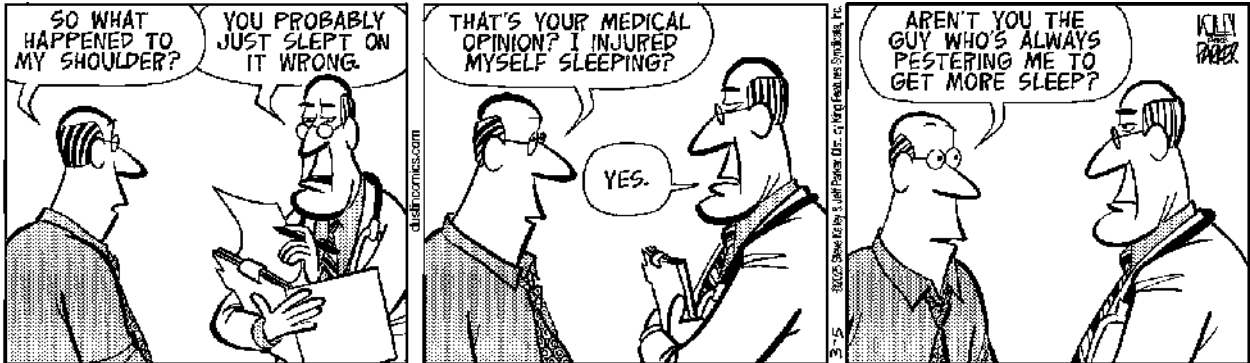
Animal Crackers



Prickly City



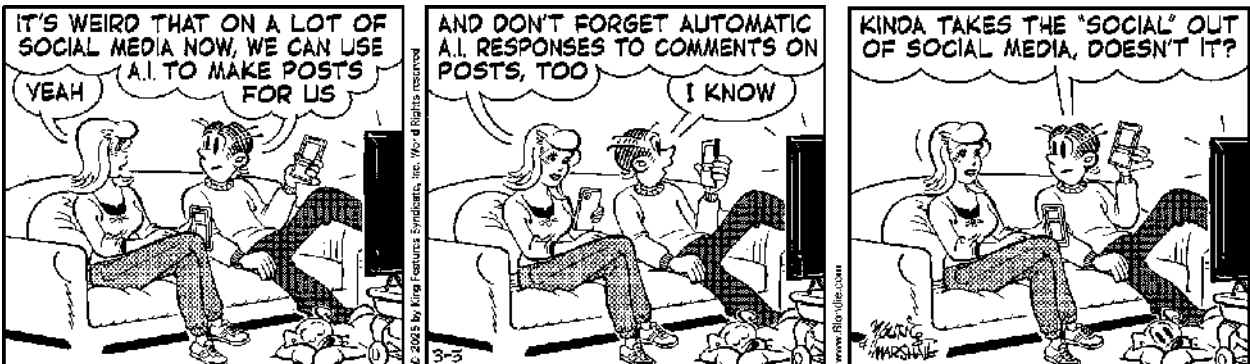
Dustin By Steve Kelley and Jeff Parker



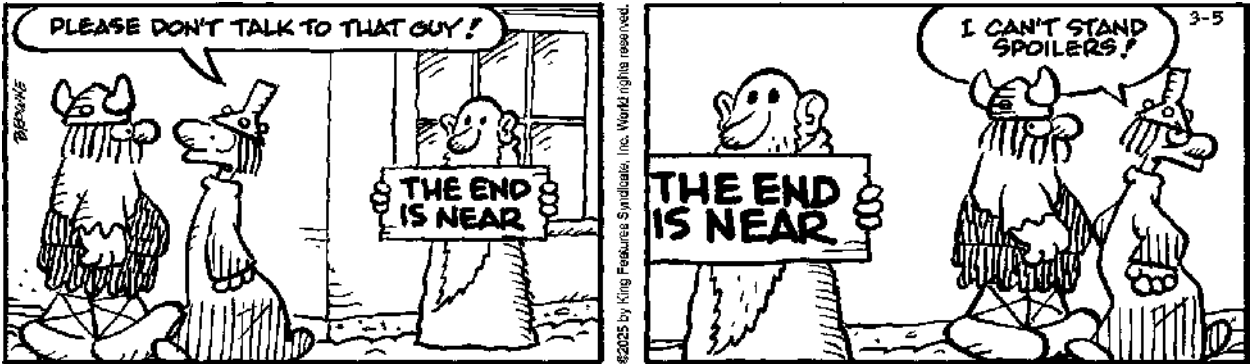
For Better or for Worse By Lynn Johnston



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

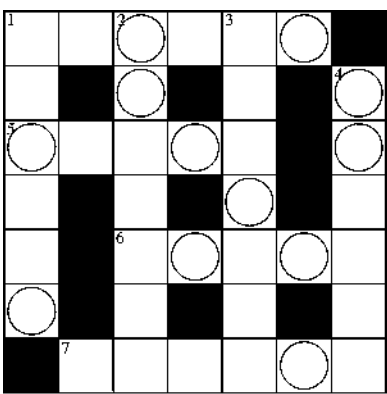
Which is the largest country in Africa by population?

- A) Egypt
B) Ethiopia
C) Nigeria
D) South Africa

Tuesday's answer: The Beatles' "All You Need Is Love" opens with a passage from "La Marseillaise," the national anthem of France.

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Jumble Crossword



3-5-25

CLUE: The first _____ ceremony took place on May 4, 1959.

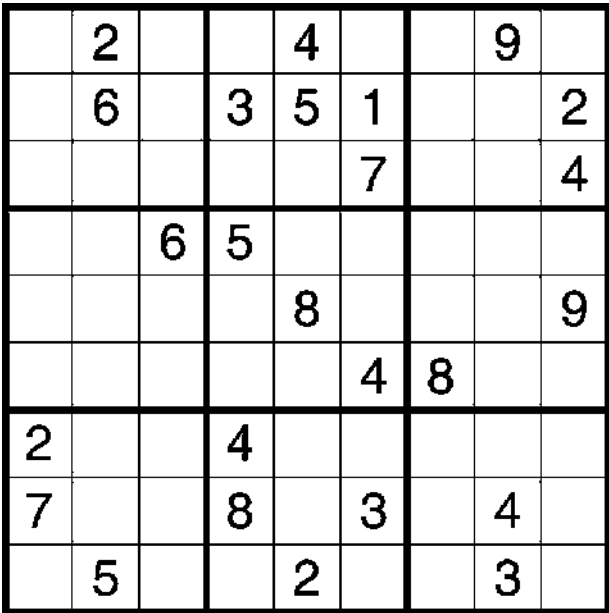
BONUS

- CLUE ACROSS ANSWER
1. Powerful HTGYIM
2. Sketched DNARW
3. _____ legend BRUAN
4. First born LTEDSE
- CLUE DOWN ANSWER
1. In-between size UIMEDM
2. Slow and steady LGURDAA
3. Justifiable ETLAENB
4. _____ school NTAEMG

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.

Sudoku 1 2 3 4

3/5



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

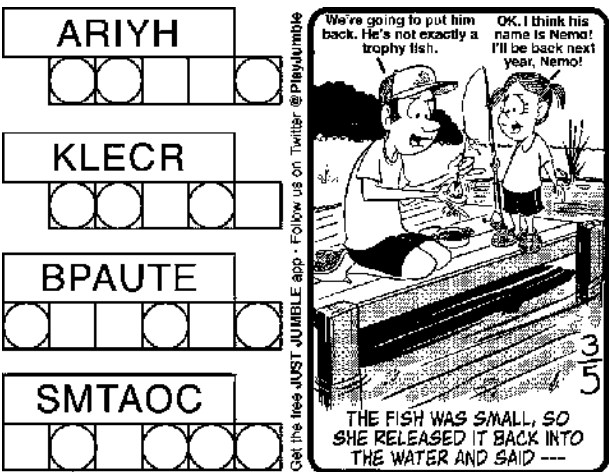
Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 box in bold borders contains every digit 1 to 9.

Tuesday'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



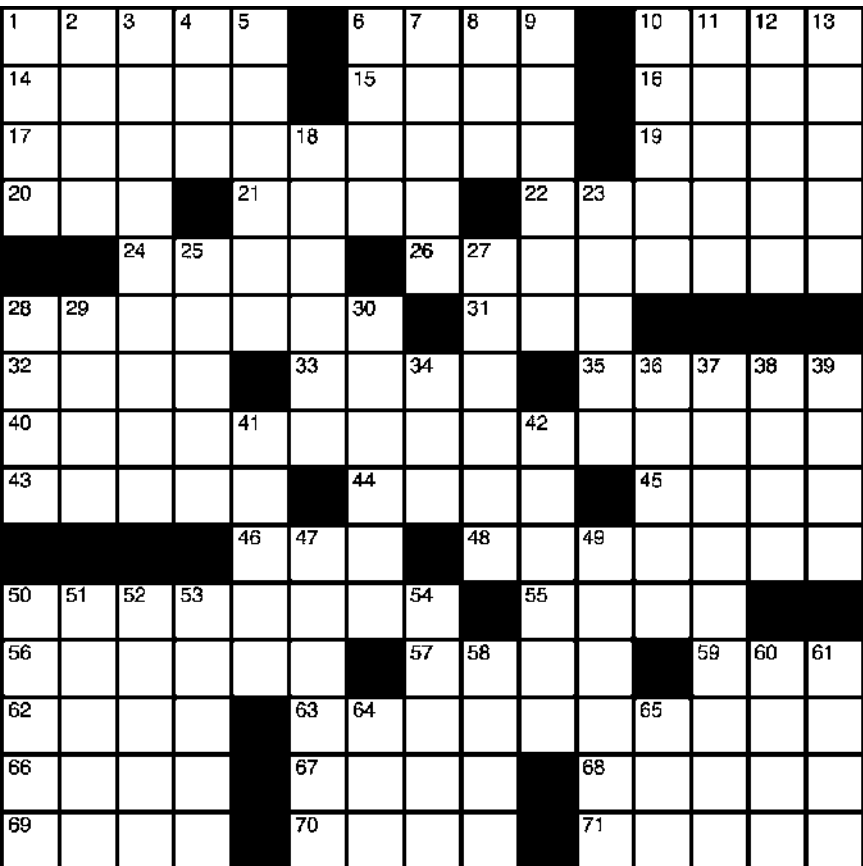
Tuesday's answers

Jumbles: LASSO PANDA GUILTY HERMIT
Answer: The carpenter was willing to pay a little more for a hammer that would be — TOUGH AS NAILS

By David L. Hoyt and Jeff Knurek. © 2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC. All rights reserved. PlayJumble.com

Crossword

3/5



Across

- 1 Update a historic home, say
6 Quick look
10 "Dream on"
14 Enlighten
15 Crooner Paul
16 Novela introduction?
17 Fleetwood Mac hit with the lyric "I'll settle for one day to believe in you"
19 Jai —
20 Pro vote
21 Ingrid's "Casablanca" role
22 Strenuous
24 Prefix with tech
26 Taylor Swift hit that features a sweater metaphor
28 Milwaukee team
31 "The Daily" podcast producer, briefly
32 Special glow

- 33 Paul of "The Batman"
35 Venomous snake
40 Elvis Presley hit about someone who only looks like an angel
43 Be of —: help
44 — Point, California
45 Summer getaway
46 Govt. intel org.
48 Gets to giggle
50 Rihanna hit about friends who stick together rain or shine
55 For fear that
56 See 50-Down
57 Quite bright
59 Alley—
62 Actor Alda
63 Musical remakes, and what 17-, 26-, 40-, and 50-Across all are, in a way
66 Rare rocks
67 Sinister
68 Verdi work
69 "Gotcha"
70 "The Voice" host Carson
71 Elevates

- 9 Danish, e.g.
10 Pong platform
11 Former baseball commissioner Bud
12 Glazer of "Broad City"
13 Pretend
18 "Euphoria" actor Jacob
23 Pet collar attachment
25 Stand by for
27 Designate as a successor
28 Grammy winner Erykah
29 Feels remorse
30 Flip-flop, e.g.
34 Confidentiality contract, for short
36 Dodges
37 Landline sounds
38 "Twilight" vampire Cullen
39 Gym count
41 Not a people person, say
42 Mariner
47 Prepared to serve, as pie
49 Black out
50 With 56-Across, grilled eel dish
51 Odometer units
52 Not one's best effort
53 Flush
54 Blacksmith's block
58 Wriggly
60 Fantasy monster
61 Unpaid ads
64 Egg cells
65 Maker of Lincoln Park After Dark nail polish

Tuesday's solution



By Sala Wanetick & Emily Biegas.
Edited by Patti Varol. © 2025 Tribune Content Agency, LLC.

BONUS PUZZLE PAGE

An extra array of word games, search and Jumble. Want more? Play online at [PlayJumble.com](https://www.playjumble.com)



SUDOKU

9x9 grid with some numbers filled in:

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

3x3 grid with numbers:

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

6/2/21

WORD SEARCH

Wordsearch: Side dishes

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.

15x15 grid of letters for word search:

N A C S A Y S B F R E R X M S P D I
T V Q T V E T D W K Q C O T L A L H
P F S A L C A R R O T S U M L O T S
I A R D G K B N X E T F H A C Q P L
P G O C A B B A G E F E S C S I S X
I O V W Q E S G N I R N O I N O E V
N N D B A R S U N Z N R B A C O I M
H S I Z I L E G G K B V C H S T R C
C A I H G S S B C A S H L S N A F R
E E N B C N C E M N R L V A A T T A
G P O P S C I U L U R A T U E O M N
G I R M I M U S I O C O P Q B P Y B
P K A T I U G Z S T C U C S K P Y E
L Y C O L F B B S E S H C W A C S R
A E A V O F V R F N R E T R C I O R
N O M C G I W P E L Z D J R I I T Y
T Z C V C N F F Q A X O D U B C V M
P F D F R S Z R P G D V I T G M E P

- ASPARAGUS
BEANS
BISCUITS
BREAD
BROCCOLI
CABBAGE
CARROTS
COLESLAW
CORN
CRANBERRY
- CUCUMBER
DRESSING
EGGPLANT
FRIES
GRAVY
MACARONI
MUFFINS
NOODLES
ONION RINGS
PASTA
- PEAS
POTATO
RICE
SALAD
SAUCE
SPINACH
SQUASH
STUFFING
YAMS
ZUCCHINI

BOGGLE

Boggle BrainBusters logo and grid:

H	G	O	A
E	P	D	L
B	R	P	A
L	I	M	B

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 = 6 points
9 letters = 7 points
10 letters = 8 points
11 letters = 9 points
12 letters = 10 points
13 letters = 11 points
14 letters = 12 points
15 letters = 13 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 FOUR SIX-LETTER ANIMALS in the grid of letters.

WordWheel

WordWheel diagram with letters: C, E, S, E, I, D, I, ?

Insert the missing letter to complete an eight-letter word reading clockwise or counterclockwise.

TV CROSSWORD

by Jacqueline E. Mathews

11x11 crossword grid with numbers 1-53.

Created by Jacqueline E. Mathews 10/2/16

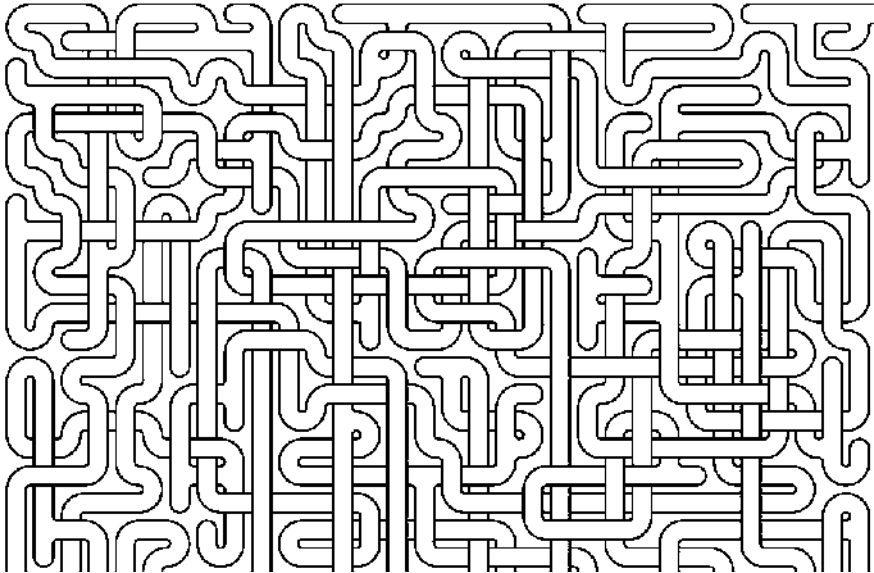
- ACROSS
1 Roker and Molinaro
4 "Dancing with the ____"
9 Robert's profession on "Everybody Loves Raymond"
12 Daniel ____ Kim
13 ____ Peace Prize
14 Unrefined mineral
15 Tavern order
16 "The Man from ____"; series for David McCallum
17 ____ to Billie Joe
18 ____ La Mancha
20 Actress ____ Laurie
22 "The Situation Room with ____"
26 McDermott of "The Practice"
27 Trauma centers, for short
28 Commercials
29 "One Day ____ Time"
32 "X Men: First ____"; James McAvoy superhero film
35 Actress on "Mom"
39 "The ____ the Iron Mask"; movie for Leonardo DiCaprio
40 "The ____"; series for Mr. T
42 Pen contents
- 43 Keep ____ of; follow closely
47 ____ Ventura: Pet Detective
48 AB followers
49 The ____; seat of government of the Netherlands
50 Org. for Ducks and Penguins
51 Hearing organ
52 Pitchers
53 Wall and Easy: abbr.

- DOWN
- 1 Actor Sandler
2 Legal series for Jimmy Smits
3 ____ Evil, Hear No Evil
4 "Barney Google and ____ Smith"; long-running comic strip
5 2000-pound weight
6 ____ World News Tonight with David Muir
7 Cath. or Episc.
8 Slumbered
9 "Hangin' with Mr. ____"
10 Commands
11 Look closely and carefully
19 "The New Adventures of ____ Christine"
21 Suffix for custom or capital
23 "Orange Is the New ____"
24 Soup server's utensil
25 "I Left My Heart ____ Francisco"
29 Actress Peet
30 ____ Bell; Disney fairy
31 "What Kind of Fool ____?"
33 ____ on a Plane"; movie for Samuel L. Jackson
34 "Ready, ____ go!"
36 "Malcolm ____ Middle"
37 Martin and Cain
38 Luxury sailboat
39 Mickey and Mighty
41 Diner on "Alice"
44 ____ Deal"; Schwarzenegger film
45 "Avengers: ____ of Ultron"
46 Mutt

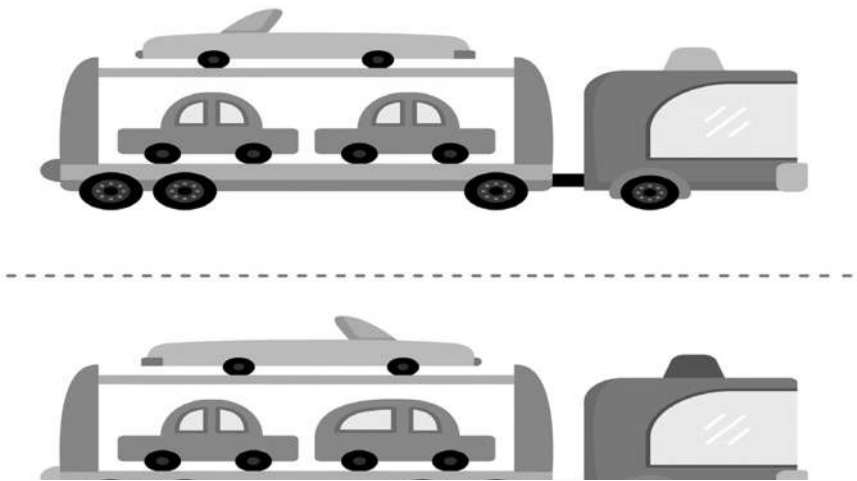
Small crossword grid with numbers 1-16.

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KIDNEWS FUN & GAMES



Spot 5 differences



Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO SPORTS

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



Illinois forward Kendall Bostic is announced before a game against Penn State on Feb. 13 at the State Farm Center in Champaign. **JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

ILLINOIS WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

Glass half full for Bostic

Record-setting rebounder took a more confident mindset to help Illini's turnaround

By Colleen Kane
Chicago Tribune

When Purdue guard Sophie Swanson's 3-point attempt bounced around the rim, up to the backboard and out, Illinois forward Kendall Bostic grabbed the basketball and held it for just a few beats longer than usual. Bostic had been building toward the moment at the State Farm Center for four years. With that third-quarter rebound in a Jan. 27

win over the Boilermakers, Bostic became Illinois' all-time leading rebounder with 1,218. The buzz she felt from the crowd didn't disappoint. "You've got the Orange Krush behind me, and they've got signs and whiteboards," Bostic said. "Sue, one of our Courtsiders, has number cards that she's throwing around, and then to have that whole arena chanting — they chanted my name for like a minute — that gave me goosebumps.

BIG TEN TOURNAMENT
Wednesday-Sunday
Gainbridge Fieldhouse, Indianapolis
(7) Illinois vs. (10) Nebraska or (15) Rutgers
5:30 p.m. Thursday, BTN
■ Full schedule, **Page 3**

"That's how you know you left a program better than you found it." When the Illini open Big Ten Tournament play Thursday in Indianapolis against the winner of Wednesday's Nebraska-Rutgers game, Bostic will enter the final stretch of a career that coach Shauna Green believes is worthy

of putting her No. 44 jersey in the State Farm Center rafters. The 6-foot-2 forward has become not only Illinois' leader but one of the most prolific rebounders of all time in the Big Ten. In the weeks since she set the school record, Bostic has climbed to 1,321 boards in her four years in Champaign and 1,385 overall during her college career, which includes one season at Michigan State. That ranks third all time in the conference. Bostic, who was named to the All-Big Ten first team Tuesday, also has made an increasing impact on offense for the Illini. And as one of five seniors, she's a key component

to a revived program that should receive its second NCAA Tournament berth in three seasons under Green on Selection Sunday. "You get a college offer and you commit somewhere to go to college, and you just never think you'll have the impact that you do," Bostic said. "I didn't go to college and think I was going to break all these records. I'm an undersized post player. I didn't have that high of goals. I wanted to be a starter, play on a decent team, help change this program around. Those were my goals."

Turn to Bostic, Page 3

BEARS

O-line revamp starts with Jackson

By Dan Wiederer
Chicago Tribune

Less than a week before the NFL's free-agent negotiating window opens, the Chicago Bears got out ahead of the game with a trade they hope can bolster their offensive line. The Bears will acquire sixth-year interior lineman Jonah Jackson from the Los Angeles Rams in exchange for a sixth-round pick in this year's draft, a league source confirmed to the Tribune on Tuesday. Jackson, 28, signed a three-year, \$51 million deal with the Rams in free agency last spring but made only four starts during the 2024 regular season while dealing with injury issues for much of his time in L.A. He was recovering from offseason knee surgery when he joined the Rams, then suffered a shoulder injury during training camp, an issue that eventually sent him to injured reserve for seven weeks from mid-September until



The Bears agreed to acquire former Lions center Jonah Jackson in a trade with the Rams. **DAVID DERMER/AP**

November. Upon returning from IR, Jackson started at center and played all 70 snaps in the Rams' 23-15 loss to the Miami Dolphins in Week 10. But he didn't see the field again until the regular-season finale. He started that game at right guard as the Rams rested their starters in advance of the playoffs. Jackson, a third-round pick in 2020, began his career in Detroit, where new Bears coach Ben Johnson was on the offensive staff, first as tight ends coach and then as passing game coordinator

(2022) and offensive coordinator (2023). Johnson's familiarity likely factored into the pursuit of Jackson, who went to the Pro Bowl after the 2021 season as an injury replacement and built a reputation as a sturdy run blocker with the athleticism to do damage when he gets into space. He made 57 starts at guard during his four seasons with the Lions and earned a reputation as a strong locker-room presence.

Turn to Bears, Page 4






Outside of Flo Rida, what else can Sox do?



An urgent email notification from the White Sox appeared on my phone, immediately brightening up a rainy Tuesday morning. Multiplatinum recording artist Flo Rida was coming to The Rate on June 27 to deliver a postgame concert following the White Sox-San Francisco Giants game. Packages include a ticket to the game and an on-field pass. After passing on Vanilla Ice's postgame concert that was canceled due to a couple stray bullets landing in the bleachers in 2023, who could say no? For Sox fans unaware of Mr. Rida, the hip-hop artist recorded the popular party anthem, "My House," which was once featured in a ubiquitous Comcast Xfinity commercial urging customers to stay home and watch cable TV. The song's catchy chorus — "Welcome to my house, we don't have to go out ..." — made it the perfect tune for Xfinity, which coincidentally is also the cable provider that's been unable to

strike a deal to carry the Chicago Sports Network, potentially depriving thousands of White Sox fans from watching the games in their own home. That, in a nutshell, is the circle of Sox life. I'm not sure if the lure of Flo Rida's hits will be enough to convince fans to come out to the corner of 35th Street and Shields Avenue on a warm Friday night in June and wait through a baseball game to watch him, but you can't blame the Sox for trying. Coming off a modern-day record 121-loss season, any and all ideas to generate fan interest are welcome. Well, almost any. Free beer kiosks and opening a dispensary in center field are not valid options. So what can the Sox do? Are they doomed to a season of empty seats at most games not involving the Cubs, giveaways or Mark Buehrle's statue ceremony? Or is there hope for a comeback, at least in the stands? Opening day is just over three weeks away, and the Sox are already playing down to expectations in Cactus League play. Nevertheless, general manager Chris Getz recently told me the reaction he and players received

Turn to Sullivan, Page 2

Team	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
 BULLS		@ORL 6 p.m. CHSN		@MIA 7 p.m. CHSN+	
 BLACKHAWKS	OTT 6:30 p.m. CHSN		UTA 7:30 p.m. CHSN	@NAS 7 p.m. CHSN	
 CUBS		KC (exh.) 7:05 p.m. Marquee	@SOX (exh.) 2:05 p.m.	SEA (exh.) 2:05 p.m. Marquee	SF (exh.) 3:05 p.m. Marquee
 SOX	MIL (exh.) 2:05 p.m. @MIL (exh.) 2:10 p.m.	@SF (exh.) 2:05 p.m.	CUBS (exh.) 2:05 p.m. CHSN	LAD (exh.) 2:05 p.m.	@CLE (exh.) 3:05 p.m.
 FIRE				@DAL 7:30 p.m. Apple TV	

CUBS

Crow-Armstrong makes his return to lineup following hamstring issue

By Meghan Montemurro
Chicago Tribune

MESA, Ariz. — If Monday had been a regular-season game and not a spring exhibition, Cubs center fielder Pete Crow-Armstrong would have been in the lineup.

The Cubs took the precautionary route, though, and scratched Crow-Armstrong because of right hamstring tightness before Monday’s Cactus League game. Crow-Armstrong felt the tightness during his outfield drill work in the morning but wasn’t worried about any lingering issues. He started Tuesday in center field at Sloan Park.

“It was nothing out of the ordinary,” Crow-Armstrong said Tuesday. “I tend to operate off of some natural tightness. I think that’s why I’m quick off the ground and everything so it wasn’t concerning. Just thought it was something to be aware of, and I have really good athletic trainers here that noticed, and they got me to make the mature decision.”

Manager Craig Counsell made the call to keep him out of Monday’s game, explaining to Crow-Armstrong that he wanted to see the player run in a controlled environment Tuesday morning to test his hamstring before putting him in a game. During the season Crow-Armstrong would’ve been in Monday’s lineup.

“Players, they want to be out there and the medical staff is there to provide information and protect them and help them and not to keep them off the field,” Counsell said. “It’s important to use the medical staff as a coach almost to your advantage, and it’s a lesson that young players go through and not just Pete, everybody goes through.”

The hamstring tightness didn’t impact Crow-Armstrong a day later, as he quickly caused chaos on the base paths. He turned a second-inning RBI single into a Little League home run, drawing a throw to second as he advanced on a throw home. San Diego Padres catcher Luis Campusano’s off-target throw ended up in center field to allow Crow-Armstrong to score from second without a throw.

“(The Tokyo Series) wasn’t the focal point of the conversation,” Crow-Armstrong said of his conversation with Counsell. “But the goal is the 160 (games) that’s after Japan. It’s important for me to be on the field for Japan, but it’s more important to be on the field in September, October hopefully. So anything we can do to set myself up for that, I think was the plan.”



The Cubs’ Pete Crow-Armstrong tosses his helmet during the first inning of a Cactus League game against the Los Angeles Dodgers on Friday in Mesa, Ariz. **ASHLEY LANDIS/AP**

Tyson Miller looking to get on track: Right-hander Tyson Miller became an unexpected stabilizing force in the bullpen last May as the Cubs tried to navigate losing multiple key relievers to injuries.

Miller, who is out of minor-league options, hasn’t gotten off to a great start this spring as he looks to repeat last year’s success. In three Cactus League appearances, Miller has allowed seven runs, eight hits, three walks and struck out three in 2 ½ innings. Counsell thought Miller’s stuff looked better in Monday’s outing despite his pitching line (four runs and five hits in ⅔ innings).

“I know the results didn’t look good, and he went through a tough pocket of hitters as well, but I thought just from pitch shapes and things like that and the velocity, it was a good day,” Counsell said. “He ran into some trouble, there’s no question. And a couple guys hit the ball hard, and then he responded really well.

“It’s the third outing of the year, and we have to remember that too,” Counsell added. “When we’re talking about the good, we have to remember that for that, that’s a pretty small sample. So hopefully we’re moving in the right direction in terms of stuff because that’s important.”

The Cubs took a flier on Miller, 29, last year when they claimed him off waivers from Seattle, bringing him back to the organization that drafted him in the fourth round in 2016. He became a dominant arm

in the backend of the Cubs’ bullpen, posting a 2.15 ERA in 50 ⅓ innings, walking 10 and striking out 42. That performance will play a role in how the Cubs determined Miller’s fit amid his spring performance.

“Last year matters for Tyson, absolutely,” Counsell said. “Things are different, we have to acknowledge that and evaluate that, certainly what he accomplished last year also does.”

Shota Imanaga moves one start closer to Tokyo Series: Last spring was all about adjustments for left-hander Shota Imanaga.

During his first camp entering his rookie season, Imanaga worked with the Cubs to simplify his arsenal and get a read on how his stuff played against big-league hitters. Heading into Year 2, Imanaga has been able to focus more on preparing for the season and less on trying to handle the acclimation process.

Imanaga tossed four shutout innings while allowing just two hits, no walks and striking out three Tuesday against the Padres in his penultimate spring start before getting the ball for the Cubs’ season opener March 18 against the Los Angeles Dodgers at the Tokyo Dome.

“For the last start, I feel like it’s more about the results of, did I pitch well, if I didn’t do well,” Imanaga said through interpreter Edwin Stanberry. “So I feel like the better I do, the more stable I feel, mentally, emotionally going into Japan so for the last start, that’s kind of my goal.”

MEN’S BASKETBALL UCLA 73, NORTHWESTERN 69 (LATE MONDAY) Loss a bump on the path to league tourney

By Colleen Kane | Chicago Tribune

Northwestern junior forward Nick Martinelli had the basketball in his hands, down two points to UCLA with about 20 seconds to play Monday night at Welsh-Ryan Arena.

With a Wildcats winning streak in the balance and a Big Ten Tournament berth still not set, Martinelli drove into the lane but didn’t get a shot off. He stepped between UCLA defenders William Kyle III and Eric Dailey Jr. but lost the ball in the process.

Seconds later, Wildcats freshman guard K.J. Windham was called for a flagrant foul on a fast break at the other end against Dailey, who made both free throws to help UCLA pull off a 73-69 victory on Northwestern’s senior night.

It was a sour ending to what could have been a magical comeback. The Wildcats trailed by 14 points with 3 minutes, 7 seconds to play before going on a 13-0 run to pull within 68-67.

“It just was desperation,” coach Chris Collins said of the comeback. “We have a lot of pride, and our guys are fighters. They’re going to play to the very last second of the game.

“We haven’t been able to win a lot of the close games, but we’re also showing up every night. We’re competing, which to me is a real positive, especially being undermanned.”

The loss broke a three-game winning streak and spoiled the festivities honoring five seniors, including injured players Brooks Barnhizer and Jalen Leach.

With a win, Northwestern (16-14, 7-12) could have solidified its spot in the Big Ten Tournament, which now is limited to the top 15 of the conference’s 18 teams. The Wildcats entered the night in a four-way tie for 11th with Nebraska, Minnesota and Rutgers. They also would have continued to state a long-shot case for the NCAA Tournament.

Senior Ty Berry led the Wildcats with 22 points, seven rebounds and three steals. He had nine points during the late rally, including a steal and layup to spark the run, a 3-pointer with 33 seconds to play to rev up the crowd and a layup to push Northwestern within one. He said the Wildcats’ mindset was to try to “claw our way back.”

After UCLA’s Skyy Clark made 1 of 2 free throws, Collins called the play for Martinelli, who hit two game-winners within a span of a few weeks in January and February. Martinelli finished with 20 points, six rebounds and three assists.

“We wanted to open the floor and let Nick operate,” Collins said. “Nick has been a pretty good late-game player for us. He won the Maryland game. He won the USC game. At that point in time, they’re going to be switching a lot of screens, so we wanted to open the floor and let Nick create.

“I thought he did a good job. He got in the middle of the floor. He got to his spot. I thought he got fouled, but that’s the way it goes. You’ve got to go to the next play.”

Collins said his players “kind of froze” when Martinelli lost the ball to Kyle. He lamented that they didn’t immediately foul and let Dailey get behind them. Center Matthew Nicholson didn’t want to speculate on whether Martinelli was fouled.

“Calls don’t go our way, and calls do go our way ... We’ve just got to keep playing,” Nicholson said. “We should have fouled after it. Their worst free-throw shooter had the ball. We should have fouled him.

“We would have had a chance. We were only down two at that point. But we didn’t. Things just didn’t go our way at the end.”

That included the call on Windham, which Collins said he needed to review further.

“To me it’s got to be pretty darn egregious to call a flagrant at that time,” Collins said. “But maybe it was. I’m not saying it wasn’t. These were really good officials. It looked from my vantage point like K.J. tried to make a play on the ball behind, but that wasn’t what the referee saw. And that was game.”

The Wildcats led 35-34 at halftime after Nicholson’s big dunk on an assist from Martinelli in the final seconds.

But the Bruins (21-9, 12-7) found the edge for much of the second half behind 7-foot-3 center Aday Mara and 6-9 forward Tyler Bilodeau. Mara scored nine of his 11 points in the second half, and Bilodeau scored 12 of his 19. Mara also had 10 rebounds and three blocks

Monday’s game was the season finale at Welsh-Ryan Arena. The Wildcats have one more regular-season game Saturday at No. 13 Maryland.

“It’s March. You never know what can happen,” Berry said. “If we get into the Big Ten Tournament and make something shake, you never know.

“I know from our end we’re going to keep fighting to the end and we’re never going to quit.”

Sullivan

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at SoxFest in January at the Ramova Theatre was greatly appreciated.

“They’re passionate, no question about that,” he said. “And we appreciate that. But at the end of the day, I know they’re waiting to see a better baseball club. We’re trying to put together the best baseball club we can.”

Getz could’ve added an asterisk to that last sentence: **-allowing for payroll limitations from ownership.*

If winning games is going to be a challenge, at least the manager can make fans feel like there’s light at the end of the tunnel. I asked new skipper Will Venable whether he felt any personal responsibility to help sell the Sox to their fans in 2025.

“That’s about how we play, for me,” he said. “Certainly part of this is going out and doing all the things we need to do to compete and play hard. We talk about those things every day in camp.”

I took that as a “no,” but that’s OK. He’s new here.

Venable is obviously no Joe Maddon or Terry Francona when it comes to marketing skills. The Cubs brought in Maddon in 2014 knowing he had the charisma, media savvy and ability to convince Cubs fans that the rebuild was actually turning a corner. The excitement of the 2014-15 offseason built up and led to a playoff season that restored faith in the plan. The Cincinnati Reds are trying to do likewise this season with Francona, who provided instant credibility to their rebuild.

Venable, in his first year in Chicago, remains a complete unknown to most Sox fans. He’s as low-key as former Sox managers Robin Ventura, Rick Renteria and Grady Sizemore, the interim guy who remains on Venable’s coaching staff. But after four years of a polarizing Tony La Russa and an obstinate Pedro Grifol, Sox fans might welcome a likable guy to the manager’s chair.

So what has Venable learned about Sox fans during his first few months on the job?



White Sox manager Will Venable talks with outfielder and first baseman Joey Gallo at Camelback Ranch on Feb. 18. **ARMANDO L. SANCHEZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

“They’re extremely passionate, extremely proud of their team, and I think that’s something that we all can get behind and are excited about,” he said. “Hope to give them something to be proud of out on the field.”

Sox fans are definitely passionate and proud, as Getz and Venable pointed out, but they’re also discriminating when it comes to attending games. It’s going to take more than Venable’s leadership skills and Flo Rida’s hits to bring fans back to Sox Park.

There is still the Reinsdorf Factor to contend with, and the lack of stars to promote.

The Sox currently have two stars, Luis Robert Jr. and Andrew Benintendi. Robert is likely to be traded, and Benintendi broke his right hand last week and will be out for 4-5 weeks. The young pitching prospects being touted for future stardom, Hagen Smith and Noah Schultz, are likely to start the season in Triple A.

Spring training is usually a good time to generate optimism, but the Sox are 2-8 in Cactus League play heading into

Wednesday, hitting an anemic .204 and posting a 6.25 ERA. Spring numbers are meaningless, of course, but with so many roster spots open, it’s concerning that only Robert, Brandon Drury and Lenyn Sosa are off to decent starts at the plate.

The Sox finished last in the majors in home runs last year and figure to save on fireworks again. With Benintendi out, the only home run threat outside of Robert and Andrew Vaughn is veteran Joey Gallo, a one-time slugger on a minor-league invite.

Gallo should make the roster with so little competition in camp, but his strikeout totals are quite alarming. He has twice as many career strikeouts (1,292) as hits (557), while his 213 strikeouts in 2021 are on par with Nellie Fox’s 216 strikeouts over his entire 19-year career. So far Gallo is 1-for-12 with five strikeouts in Cactus League play, so maybe the Sox should hold off on the Joey Gallo billboards for now.

Better to market the 2025 Sox around the Campfire Milkshake, the slump-proof concoction that Sox fans were truly passionate about in 2024.

WOMEN’S BASKETBALL



USC’s JuJu Watkins points toward the crowd after a victory over UCLA to win the Big Ten regular-season title Saturday at Pauley Pavilion. KEITH BIRMINGHAM/PASADENA STAR-NEWS

USC’s Watkins stands high above the crowd

LOS ANGELES — She began the game by nailing a 3-pointer in less than a minute, calmly dribbling into the teeth of a swarming UCLA defense and throwing it down with a shrug.

She ended the game by blocking a Gabriel Jaquez shot so fiercely, the ball bounced back off Jaquez’s head and out of bounds.

Moments later, USC’s JuJu Watkins added a final stroke to another masterpiece after being joyfully removed from an eventual 80-67 blowout.

She danced to the bench, hugged everyone in sight, then marched purposely in front of a UCLA student cheering section that had been serenading her with “airball” chants for most of the second half.

Facing her tormentors, she stuck out both arms, screamed and curled her hands sarcastically, asking for more noise. Then she walked away shaking her fist and pointing to her team as if to tell everyone to shut up and listen.

Don’t you know that Watkins is the best women’s college basketball player on the planet?

Can’t you see that USC is headed for its first national championship in 41 years?

Yes and yes, and hang on for what could be a JuJumping March.

“The work speaks for itself,” Watkins said.

It certainly did on a Saturday night amid a filled and deafening Pauley Pavilion setting that the Trojans handled like an afternoon at Venice Beach.

“We’re not done,” Trojans coach Lindsay Gottlieb said after her team clinched the program’s first conference championship in 31 years. “There’s a lot more.”

That “more” should include a No. 1 seed in the NCAA Tournament for the second-ranked Trojans, who have beaten UCLA twice by a combined 151-127 score.

The Trojans beat the Bruins so soundly that during the postgame news conference, Jaquez had tears in her eyes and coach Cori Close had anger in her voice.

“Just really pissed off we didn’t show up and do our jobs,” said Close, who crumpled up the stat sheet and left it in a mangled ball in front of her.

Even though the Bruins have lost just twice, it feels like they’re seriously trending downward, their coach questioning their commitment and their best player, Lauren Betts, once again barely showing up in a big game.

On the other hand, it feels like USC is going in the opposite direction, heralded transfer Kiki Iriafen finally feeling comfortable as Watkins’ sidekick, Rayah Marshall and Clarice Akunwafo dominating inside and Talia von Oelhoffen running the show.

The Trojans’ only losses are to Notre Dame in November — does any college basketball game count in November? — and at Iowa during the Caitlin Clark celebration game.

On a neutral floor, this team probably won’t lose again, not with the NBA-style adjustments of former pro Gottlieb and enough depth that nine women made big contributions Saturday night.

And, of course, the Trojans have JuJu. She scored 30 on Saturday, scored 38 in the teams’ first meeting this season and, according to ESPN Stats & Info, is only the second player in 25 years to score 30 or more in at least four straight games against an opponent.

The other player? Caitlin Clark, of course.

But Watkins is bigger than Clark, she handles contact better than Clark and she uses more of the court than Clark.

This isn’t saying Watkins has had a bigger impact than arguably the biggest star in women’s basketball history. But



Bill Plaschke

she’s certainly this season’s Clark and absolutely worthy of being named player of the year ahead of leading candidate Hannah Hidalgo of Notre Dame.

If nothing else, Watkins is the coolest player in America. In her second season under the national spotlight, emerging from cult hero status to mainstream downtown murals, she has matured into a thoughtful and engaging force of nature. Her confidence is outdone only by her humor. Her intensity softened only by her smile.

After Saturday’s game, she was asked why she wasn’t wearing a Big Ten championship baseball cap like her coach.

“I don’t really wear hats,” she said, pointing to the trademark hairstyle on the top of her head. “Because I’ve got the, uh, bun.”

She was asked about playing better in big games, and she gave a disarmingly honest answer.

“I’d be remiss to say that playing UCLA doesn’t motivate me extra,” she said. “That’s an aspect.”

When is the last time you’ve heard a college kid use the word “remiss”?

I asked if the fans tagging her with the “airball” chants fired her up. She began laughing before I even finished the question.

“That definitely did fire me up,” she said. “When I airballed, I couldn’t help but smile. I love the atmosphere here, even though they’re not on our side.”

Just don’t ask her to explain her greatness. Like all the great ones, she won’t or can’t.

“You learn to do your best. You don’t want to let anybody down. I didn’t want to let Coach down,” she said. “So whatever I can do to do that and just go out there and have fun. I’m just out there playing, really.”

Just out there playing. Right. Whenever things felt tense Saturday, she took over. Whenever the crowd was at its loudest — louder than any UCLA men’s game has been in several years — she was the 6-foot-2 finger to the lips.

She flows like Kobe. She forces like LeBron. She’ll think nothing of taking the ball the length of the court between five defenders for a layup. She’s unafraid to dribble into traffic and jack up a 3-point attempt just seconds into the shot clock.

And when she shoots an airball like the third-quarter miss that inspired the crowd to taunt her? She shrugged and smiled in disbelief as she hustled back down the court to play defense.

She breaks all the rules. She makes all the rules. And in what should scare any other team with title aspirations, this season she has serious help.

When the Trojans lost to UConn in the Elite Eight last season, Watkins scored 29 and the other four starters were 13-for-44 from the field.

On Saturday night, Watkins scored 30 and the other four starters shot 17-for-31.

Her supporting cast makes a difference. In particular, the roaming, rangy Iriafen.

“These two are unguardable,” Gottlieb said. “They’re both playing their best basketball now, which is scary. We just know there’s no matchups for them.”

There’s at least one team out there that cannot match up, and that would be UCLA.

After spending most of the season as the top-ranked team in the country, the Bruins aren’t even the best in their own city.

USC women’s basketball once again owns Los Angeles and is led by a star who could soon own the basketball universe.

Like the Trojans coach said, they’re not done. There’s a lot more.

A lot more.

Bostic

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‘Part of who I am’

The rebounds used to add up at Northwestern High School in Kokomo, Ind., simply because Bostic was tall. A lot of her 1,040 rebounds during her all-state career were the “easy ones,” she said.

Bostic’s arrival in college as a 6-2 post player, however, meant the skill had to be approached differently.

When she first got to Illinois after transferring from Michigan State in 2021, the former Illini coaching staff tracked offensive rebounds in practice, offering a prize to whoever emerged the winner at the end of a week.

Bostic, whose mother played basketball at Indiana and whose father played at Division III Manchester (Ind.), became determined to win every week, and that started to carry over into games.

It became, she said, “part of who I am.” “It’s just part of my game,” she said. “And there’s not a lot of people that do it as hard and work for it as much as I do. I wasn’t as big of a scorer early in my career, so that was a way I felt I could stay on the court and get my minutes but also have an impact on the team.”

She has been near her best this season, averaging a Big Ten-high 11.3 rebounds. That ranks eighth in the country.

Bostic said it starts with knowing her shooters and adjusting her positioning accordingly. An Adalia McKenzie pull-up jumper probably will be short if it doesn’t go in. Makira Cook’s misses probably will be long. Genesis Bryant’s misses tend to be short.

“A lot of people are just like, ‘Oh, you’re a center, you’re going to get boards,’” Bostic said. “But again, I’m not the tallest, so I have to know my shooters. I know who shoots long, who shoots short.

“And then also just finding the open spot on the floor and always moving. I always hate when I have to box someone out and they don’t stop moving because it’s so hard to box them out. My goal each time I crash is to move and try and find the open space.”

Green said the Illini staff can’t take credit for Bostic’s rebounding prowess. She believes Bostic simply has a knack for it. She displays the proper mindset and passion for the art. And she has the ability to read shots and angles.

“It’s like Dennis Rodman,” Green said. “He wasn’t the biggest, tallest. It’s just what he does, and that’s kind of like KB. It’s just what she does. She’s mastered it.

“I’m on her a lot of times about boxing out more from a technique perspective because I think she could even get a few more rebounds if she boxed out more. But she’s 6-1 on a good day and she’s the leading rebounder in the Big Ten and has a million double-doubles. It’s just absolutely amazing what she’s done with her size.”

Double-double expectation

Green jokes that after two failures to recruit Bostic, she finally just followed Bostic to Illinois.

Green was the coach at Dayton when she first tried to bring Bostic to her program, knowing it was probably a long shot that Bostic would go to a mid-major. Green tried again to make Bostic a Flyer when she entered the transfer portal after one year at Michigan State, but Bostic went to Illinois under former coach Nancy Fahey.

When Green took the Illini helm in March 2022, she finally got to coach the player who had intrigued her.

In her first few meetings with Bostic, she relayed her vision that Bostic should be a “double-double kid,” that she should be scoring far more than the 6.7 points she averaged in her first year at Illinois.

“Just kind of changing her mindset and pouring into her to be confident as a scorer,” Green said. “She was a great rebounder already, but being able to capitalize on those rebounds for put-backs and being able to score with her back to the basket.

“And then obviously her game has expanded each and every year with her range. Now she shoots a 15- to 17-foot jump shot like it’s a layup, and she’s also hitting 3s.”

Bostic said she worked a lot with assistant coach DeAntoine “Cat” Beasley to gain that confidence in her outside game, including shooting on the move or with a defender in her face.

Her scoring average has climbed from 10.2 in 2022-23 to 12.1 to a team-leading 15.8 this season. She has 19 double-dou-

BIG TEN TOURNAMENT

Gainbridge Fieldhouse, Indianapolis

Wednesday’s games

■ (12) Washington vs. (13) Minnesota, 2:30 p.m., Peacock
■ (10) Nebraska vs. (15) Rutgers, 5 p.m., Peacock

■ (11) Iowa vs. (14) Wisconsin, 7:30 p.m., Peacock

Thursday’s games

■ (8) Oregon vs. (9) Indiana, 11 a.m., BTN
■ (5) Michigan vs. Washington/Minnesota, 1:30 p.m., BTN
■ (7) Illinois vs. Nebraska/Rutgers, 5:30 p.m., BTN

■ (6) Michigan State vs. Iowa/Wisconsin, 8 p.m. BTN

Friday’s quarterfinals

■ (1) USC vs. Oregon/Indiana, 11 a.m., BTN
■ (4) Maryland vs. Michigan/Washington/Minnesota, 1:30 p.m., BTN

■ (2) UCLA vs. Illinois/Nebraska/Rutgers, 5:30 p.m., BTN
■ (3) Ohio State vs. Michigan State/Iowa/Wisconsin, 8 p.m., BTN

Saturday’s semifinals

■ 2 and 4:30 p.m., BTN

Sunday’s final

■ 3:30 p.m., CBS-2

bles this season and 53 for her career at Illinois, tying the Illini record set in 2010 by Jenna Smith, who also previously owned the career rebounding record.

Bostic is doing it in a Big Ten-high 35 minutes per game. She credits her strength and conditioning — including long-distance running in the offseason — for allowing her to put in so much time. She also understands how to balance her pace and when to grab a breather within the course of a game.

Bostic’s continued growth — along with the play of fellow seniors such as Bryant, a guard and a second-team All-Big Ten selection — has helped Illinois turn around its program under Green after nine straight losing seasons before the coach’s arrival.

The Illini appeared in the NCAA Tournament’s First Four in 2023, won the inaugural WBIT championship in 2024 and are currently projected by ESPN as a No. 8 seed in this year’s NCAA Tournament. The veteran Illini finished the regular season with a 21-8 record (11-7 in the conference) and are seeded seventh in the Big Ten Tournament, overcoming season-ending illness and injury to Cook and Gretchen Dolan.

“We’ve completely turned it around,” Bostic said. “We’ve made Illinois a place that recruits want to go, and it’s not a place just anybody can go anymore. Our staff is very particular with their recruits.

“And they’re a great staff. They have a good culture. They’re building something really cool here. And I feel like we’ve been able to, the last couple years, lay a foundation for the future.”

Home stretch

Bostic is not in cruise mode for the final stretch of her academic studies at Illinois.

As she pursues a master’s degree in special education, she student teaches from 7:15 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. and then heads to practice, film work and treatment from 3 to 6:30. The school of education records her classes, which run at the same time as practice, so she can virtually attend them later at night.

Green is impressed with how Bostic is able to flip right away into basketball mode after she arrives from teaching. She knows Bostic must be tired and want to crawl into bed at times, but she has stayed locked in.

“I don’t know how many kids could really handle her schedule,” Green said. “And sometimes it pulls her in a lot of directions. She may not be able to get in her normal recovery time before, treatment before, no extra shots before. So she might stay after. She might get up early to do it. But she always gets it in.”

Bostic could see herself playing overseas for a couple of years, should the opportunity present itself, when her time at Illinois is up. But her long-term plan is to work as a teacher or behavior consultant with elementary school children. Her dad tells her she will be a good coach one day, too, a path she can see herself exploring.

But for now, she’s focused on extending her record-setting Illinois career for as long as she can.

“Just super loyal and committed, and it’s just been absolutely amazing what she’s done for this program,” Green said. “She’s one of the best players to ever play in Illinois women’s basketball.

“And no doubt in the near future, I believe that she’ll have her jersey hanging in the rafters. And that’s a pretty bold statement, but that’s the impact she’s made.”



Illinois forward Kendall Bostic, right, drives the ball under pressure from USC center Rayah Marshall during the first half of a game Feb. 23 in Los Angeles. WILLIAM LIANG/AP

SPORTS



LSU's Aneesah Morrow (24) reaches for the ball with Kharyssa Richardson of Ole Miss on Sunday in Baton Rouge, La. TYLER KAUFMAN/GETTY

CHICAGO BASKETBALL REPORT

Simeon alum Morrow makes NCAA history

By Julia Poe
Chicago Tribune

Aneesah Morrow cemented her place in the NCAA history books this week.

The Chicago native and Simeon alumna became the second Division I women's basketball player to record 100 career double-doubles when she tallied 28 points and 12 rebounds in LSU's loss to Ole Miss on Sunday.

New Chicago Sky assistant coach Courtney Paris was the first player to cross the threshold, recording a record 128 double-doubles for Oklahoma from 2005-09 — including 112 consecutive.

Sunday's performance was Morrow's 26th double-double in 30 games this season, and she's averaging 18.2 points and 14 rebounds — leading the nation in the latter category.

Morrow has averaged double-digit scoring and rebounding in all four years of her college career. The 6-foot-1 forward spent her first two seasons at DePaul, where she started every game and averaged 23.8 points and 13 rebounds.

After transferring to LSU in 2023, Morrow has become integral to the Tigers' push to solidify their NCAA Tournament seeding — especially with star guard Flau'jae Johnson out for the SEC Tournament with shin inflammation. ESPN currently projects LSU as a No. 2 seed.

USA Today voters named Morrow the SEC Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year in addition to a unanimous first-team all-conference selection. But Texas center Madison Booker edged out Morrow for the conference's official Player of the Year award.

Angel Reese, Ariel Atkins gain Unrivaled playoff berth: After a slow start to the Unrivaled season, Sky forward Angel Reese has powered Rose BC to the three-on-three league's inaugural postseason with seven wins in their last eight games. Reese is averaging 13 points and 12.3 rebounds, and her productivity increased significantly in the last three weeks, including consecutive 20-point double doubles.

New Sky acquisition Ariel Atkins joined Rose for the end of the season as an injury replacement. Atkins connected with Reese for her first assist to her new teammate in Monday's win over the Laces.

Number of the week: 14
Ranking in difficulty of the Bulls' remaining schedule entering Tuesday night's game against



Rose's Angel Reese, left, fights for the ball against Vinyl's Arike Ogunbowale on Feb. 18 in Medley, Fla. MIKE STOCKER/SOUTH FLORIDA SUN SENTINEL



Bulls guards Lonzo Ball (2) and Coby White (0) celebrate in overtime against the Raptors on Feb. 28 at the United Center. CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE

the Cleveland Cavaliers at the United Center.

The slate includes games against both conference leaders — the Cavs and Oklahoma City Thunder — plus a six-game trip March 15-24 during which the Bulls will face the Houston Rockets, Los Angeles Lakers and Denver Nuggets.

With a 2½-game lead entering Tuesday over the Brooklyn Nets and Philadelphia 76ers, the Bulls are well-positioned to hold on to 10th place in the East and the last spot in the play-in tournament.

Week ahead: Bulls
■ **Thursday:** at Magic, 6 p.m. (CHSN)
■ **Saturday:** at Heat, 7 p.m.

(CHSN+)
■ **Monday:** vs. Pacers, 7 p.m. (CHSN)

Week ahead: Unrivaled
■ **Friday:** Rose (Angel Reese, Ariel Atkins) vs. Lunar Owls, 7:15 p.m. (TNT)
■ **Saturday:** Mist (Courtney Vandersloot) vs. Laces, 5 p.m. (truTV)
■ **Monday:** Mist vs. Lunar Owls, 6:30 p.m. (TNT); Rose vs. Vinyl, 7:30 p.m. (TNT)

Quotable
“He texted me this morning: ‘This is your time. You gotta go.’” — *the Bulls’ Dalen Terry on stepping into the shoes of Ayo Dosunmu, who is out for the season with a shoulder injury*

ASK THE REPORTER BRAD BIGGS

What is a best-case scenario for the Bears in free agency?
— *Lucas H., Crystal Lake*

The negotiating window opens Monday and the Bears are seventh in the NFL with \$61.4 million in salary-cap room, according to spotrac.com, after agreeing Tuesday to trade with the Los Angeles Rams for guard Jonah Jackson. The have a host of needs, primarily on the offensive and defensive lines, and the first order of business will be aligning the coaches' vision with potential fits in free agency.

As you are well aware, the Bears have mostly been relatively active to very active in free agency over the last decade and have little to show in the win column for their “victories” in March. The best signing in that period was defensive tackle Akiem Hicks, whom they signed to a two-year, \$10 million contract in 2016. It wasn't a banner signing at the time, but he turned into a dominant player for the Bears. So my first point is often the best signings in free agency aren't the ones collecting the largest paydays.

Let's start with some key points:

1. A lot of teams have a lot of cap space to burn. Eleven teams — more than one-third of the league — have more than \$50 million in room. That includes two division rivals: the Minnesota Vikings (\$63.7 million, sixth in the league) and Detroit Lions (\$52.7 million, 11th). The Green Bay Packers, who rank 13th with \$48.8 million, often are conservative in free agency but made two home-run moves a year ago by adding running back Josh Jacobs and safety Xavier McKinney. Nineteen teams have more than \$34 million in cap space, so more than half of the league has plenty of operating room.

2. It's not a great year when you scan the list of available free agents. There are some good players, but elite performers rarely reach the open market in the prime years of their career. As I wrote last week coming out of the scouting combine, the Bears have signed only three unrestricted free agents since the advent of free agency in 1993 who were named to multiple Pro Bowls with the team.

3. After the move to acquire Jackson, the Bears need more help on the interior of the offensive line — another guard and a center — a starting defensive end opposite Montez Sweat and more depth on the interior of the defensive line.

4. Not all of that help has to come via free agency.

I believe the free-agency plan probably starts with Atlanta Falcons center Drew Dalman. It's a position the Bears have had difficulty filling, and the center crop in the draft is pretty thin. Dalman is smart — he played at Stanford — and has good tape. It's unlikely he would be a free agent if the Falcons weren't one of the few teams pressed against the salary cap.

Dalman won't be cheap. He'll have suitors, and supply and demand probably puts a contract for him somewhere between the league's two highest-paid centers — Creed Humphrey of the Kansas City Chiefs (\$18 million) and Frank Ragnow of the Lions (\$13.5 million) — in terms of annual average.

If the Bears can add Dalman with Jackson in the fold (the trade won't be official until the new league year starts), they would have all sorts of flexibility for the other guard position. They could add a more modestly priced veteran, wait until the draft or do both.

After Dalman, you need to focus the defensive line. The Bears don't have a starter opposite Sweat. They hope Austin Booker can take a step forward in his second season as a rotational player, but they need talent and depth on the line.

There aren't a ton of options, and unless they land an end such as Dayo Odeyingbo of the India-

napolis Colts or Josh Sweat of the Philadelphia Eagles, you could be looking at a bridge signing whom they're comfortable with for maybe two seasons. Khalil Mack, Malcolm Koonce, Azeez Ojulari, Joseph Assai and Patrick Jones fit that category.

If the Bears are shopping for an interior defensive lineman to pair with Gervon Dexter and Andrew Billings, you're probably looking at Milton Williams (really expensive), B.J. Hill, Javon Hargrave, Javon Kinlaw or maybe Levi Onwuzurike, whom coach Ben Johnson knows from the Lions.

If general manager Ryan Poles can add a center in free agency and a defensive end who can play 650 snaps or more, the Bears would have filled two big needs and have more flexibility looking ahead to the draft. In a best-case scenario, the Bears have Dalman and a solid end a week from today, and then they can look to fill other areas with more modestly priced additions. I still believe if they're going to rebuild the offensive line the right way, the plan has to include a high draft pick.

The Bears will pay Jonah Jackson \$17.5 million a year. That seems like a ton to pay a guy who did not even start on his own team last year. What do you think of this trade? — *Mike F., Chicago*

The first thing to understand is this is a move that Ben Johnson, without question, gave his stamp of approval. There's no way the Bears would have traded a sixth-round draft pick for Jackson unless Johnson endorsed the move. Jackson, a Pro Bowl selection in 2021, spent his first four seasons in Detroit, so Johnson knows what kind of player he is on the field and what kind of teammate he is in the locker room.

Something went very awry last season for Jackson with the Rams. There's no getting around that. He suffered a shoulder injury in training camp, aggravated it during the season, spent time on injured reserve and then was benched. He played in only four games (two starts at center, one at left guard and one at right guard) after the Rams signed him to a three-year, \$51 million contract in free agency a year ago, and generally when a team bails on a high-priced free agent after only one season, something has gone badly.

Some will view this as a red flag. Others will see a yellow flag, and the Bears, with Johnson's knowledge, are going to trust their coach.

Here's what I know: Two teams I reached Tuesday really liked Jackson a year ago when he entered free agency.

“Weird deal in Los Angeles,” one player personnel director texted. “I don't have any idea what happened there. He's a good player. I've always liked him. They didn't have to give up much and with only two years remaining on the deal, it's not like they're tied down with him.”

“High grade on him a year ago,” a pro personnel director texted. “Really good run blocker. Much better at guard than center.”

Jackson, 28, is due a \$9 million base salary this season and an \$8.5 million roster bonus on March 14, the third day of the league year. His 2026 base salary is also \$9 million with an \$8 million roster bonus due on the third day of the league year. So you're looking at \$34.5 million for two seasons, or the Bears could move on from Jackson after this season at \$17.5 million and have nothing on the books in 2026.

The trade tells me the Bears are more comfortable with Jackson at \$17.25 million a year than they are investing in the guard market in free agency. There aren't a lot of top targets — Aaron Banks and Will Fries are at the top of the list — and many teams have both need and cap flexibility. So the Bears flipped a pick for a player their coach has confidence in.

Bears
from Page 1

But Jackson has been bitten by the injury bug in each of the last three seasons, missing 15 games, something the Bears will have to consider as they continue to fortify their offensive line over the next two months.

The trade for Jackson comes a year to the day after general manager Ryan Poles dealt a fifth-round pick to the Buffalo Bills for veteran guard Ryan Bates.

Bates arrived in Chicago with a nagging shoulder injury and spent 10 weeks on injured reserve. He started only two games and played just 105 snaps. He remains under contract for 2025 and could compete for a starting or backup role.

Jackson's contract includes a \$9 million base salary for each of the next two seasons and, according to a source, will carry a \$14.7 million

salary-cap hit for 2025. It's a notable investment of both draft capital and cap space as the Bears replenish the roster.

The offensive line remains a priority with three starters who played at least 700 snaps last season — Teven Jenkins, Coleman Shelton and Matt Pryor — set to hit free agency next week. The Bears started 10 players on the line in 2024 and never had the same starting five available for more than five consecutive games.

Johnson was asked at the NFL scouting combine last week whether it's realistic to fully overhaul the interior of the line in one offseason.

“Yeah,” he said, “it has been done before, right?”

Once the trade is finalized, the Bears will be left with seven picks in the April 24-26 draft. They own the No. 10 selection plus three others in the top 75. Their remaining selections are a fifth-rounder and two seventh-rounders.

SCOREBOARD

NBA

EASTERN CONFERENCE				
ATLANTIC	W	L	PCT	GB
Boston	43	18	.705	—
New York	40	21	.656	3
Brooklyn	21	39	.350	21½
Philadelphia	21	39	.350	21½
Toronto	20	42	.323	23½
SOUTHEAST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Miami	29	31	.483	—
Orlando	29	34	.460	1½
Atlanta	28	34	.452	2
Charlotte	14	46	.233	15
Washington	11	49	.183	18
CENTRAL				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Cleveland	50	10	.833	—
Milwaukee	35	25	.583	15
Indiana	35	25	.583	15
Detroit	35	27	.565	16
Chicago	24	37	.393	26½

WESTERN CONFERENCE				
SOUTHWEST	W	L	PCT	GB
Memphis	38	23	.623	—
Houston	37	25	.597	1½
Dallas	32	30	.516	6½
San Antonio	25	34	.429	12
New Orleans	17	44	.279	21
NORTHWEST				
W	L	PCT	GB	
Oklahoma City	50	11	.820	—
Denver	39	22	.639	11
Minnesota	33	29	.532	17½
Portland	28	34	.452	22½
Utah	15	46	.246	35
PACIFIC				
W	L	PCT	GB	
L.A. Lakers	38	21	.644	—
Golden State	34	28	.548	5½
L.A. Clippers	32	28	.533	6½
Sacramento	32	28	.533	6½
Phoenix	28	33	.459	11

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Indiana 115, Houston 102
Milwaukee 127, Atlanta 121
Toronto 114, Orlando 113
Golden State 114, New York 102
Cleveland at Chicago, late
Philadelphia at Minnesota, late
Brooklyn at San Antonio, late
L.A. Clippers at Phoenix, late
New Orleans at L.A. Lakers, late

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Miami at Cleveland, 6p.m.
Minnesota at Charlotte, 6p.m.
Portland at Boston, 6p.m.
Utah at Washington, 6p.m.
Dallas at Milwaukee, 7p.m.
Sacramento at Denver, 8p.m.
Oklahoma City at Memphis, 8:30p.m.
Detroit at L.A. Clippers, 9:30p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Chicago at Orlando, 6p.m.
Golden State at Brooklyn, 6:30p.m.
Indiana at Atlanta, 6:30p.m.
Philadelphia at Boston, 6:30p.m.
Houston at New Orleans, 7p.m.
New York at L.A. Lakers, 9p.m.

FRIDAY'S GAMES
Cleveland at Charlotte, 6p.m.
Memphis at Dallas, 6:30p.m.
Utah at Toronto, 6:30p.m.
Minnesota at Miami, 7p.m.
Portland at Oklahoma City, 7p.m.
Phoenix at Denver, 9p.m.
San Antonio at Sacramento, 9p.m.
New York at L.A. Clippers, 9:30p.m.

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Portland 119, Philadelphia 102
Golden State 119, Charlotte 101
Miami 106, Washington 90
Oklahoma City 137, Houston 128
Atlanta 132, Memphis 130
Sacramento 122, Dallas 98
Detroit 134, Utah 106

NFL

2025 FRANCHISE TAG RECIPIENTS
After Tuesday's deadline
Cincinnati: Tee Higgins, WR
Kansas City: Trey Smith OG

RECENT TAG RECIPIENT HISTORY
2024: 8r (1Tr) 2023: 6Fr 2022: 8Fr
2021: 10Fr 2020: 14Fr (1Tr) 2019: 6Fr
2018: 5Fr (1Tr) 2017: 6Fr
2016: 9Fr (1Tr) 2015: 5Fr (1Tr) 2014: 3Fr
2013: 8Fr 2012: 21Fr
2011: 14Fr (1Tr) 2010: 6Fr

Pos	Franchise	Transition
WR	\$23.96 million	\$21.44 million
QB	\$23.40 million	\$21.27 million
QB	\$40.24 million	\$35.37 million
LB	\$25.45 million	\$20.86 million
DT	\$25.12 million	\$20.85 million
DE	\$22.06 million	\$19.87 million
CB	\$20.19 million	\$17.59 million
S	\$18.60 million	\$15.03 million
TE	\$13.83 million	\$11.71 million
RB	\$13.64 million	\$11.07 million
ST	\$6.31 million	\$5.73 million

MLB SPRING TRAINING

EXHIBITION RESULTS, SCHEDULE				
AMERICAN LEAGUE	W	L	PCT.	
Athletics	7	3	.700	
Toronto	6	3	.667	
Kansas City	6	4	.600	
N.Y. Yankees	6	4	.600	
Boston	5	4	.556	
Houston	5	5	.500	
Baltimore	4	4	.500	
L.A. Angels	5	6	.455	
Tampa Bay	4	5	.444	
Minnesota	3	4	.429	
Seattle	5	7	.417	
Detroit	4	6	.400	
Texas	4	7	.364	
Cleveland	3	7	.300	
Chi. White Sox	2	8	.200	
NATIONAL LEAGUE	W	L	PCT.	
Chi Cubs	9	2	.818	
Colorado	9	3	.750	
Atlanta	6	3	.667	
San Francisco	5	3	.625	
Cincinnati	6	4	.600	
Pittsburgh	6	5	.545	
L.A. Dodgers	6	6	.500	
Arizona	5	5	.500	
Washington	5	5	.500	
St. Louis	5	6	.455	
Philadelphia	4	5	.444	
Milwaukee	6	6	.400	
N.Y. Mets	4	6	.400	
Miami	3	5	.375	
San Diego	3	8	.273	

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Tampa Bay 4, Detroit 1
Boston 12, Pittsburgh 4
N.Y. Yankees 12, Philadelphia 3
Minnesota 0, Atlanta 0
St. Louis (ss) 6, Washington 4
St. Louis (ss) 6, N.Y. Mets 1
Cleveland 8, L.A. Angels 1
Athletics 6, Texas 3
Chi. Cubs 16, San Diego (ss) 1
Colorado 9, Cincinnati (ss) 5
San Francisco 1, San Diego (ss) 1
L.A. Dodgers vs Cincinnati (ss), late

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Boston vs Tampa Bay, 12:05p.m.
Detroit vs Philadelphia, 12:05p.m.
Houston vs St. Louis, 12:05p.m.
Minnesota vs Baltimore, 12:05p.m.
Pittsburgh vs Toronto, 12:05p.m.
Miami vs Washington, 12:10p.m.
G1: Chi. White Sox (ss) vs Milw. (ss), 2:05p.m.
Cincinnati vs Texas, 2:05p.m.
L.A. Angels vs L.A. Dodgers, 2:10p.m.
G2: Milw. (ss) vs Chi. White Sox (ss), 2:10p.m.
Arizona vs San Francisco, 2:10p.m.
San Diego vs Colorado, 2:10p.m.
Kansas City vs Seattle, 7:05p.m.

MONDAY'S RESULTS
Tampa Bay 5, Atlanta 4
Toronto 13, Detroit 3
Boston 6, Baltimore 6
Houston 5, Miami (ss) 3
Kansas City 6, Texas 3
Athletics 5, Chi. White Sox 4
Seattle 7, Cleveland 2
Colorado 8, L.A. Angels 4
Arizona 10, Chi. Cubs 2
Miami (ss) 1, N.Y. Mets 1
N.Y. Yankees 12, Pittsburgh 3
Cincinnati 5, Milwaukee 4

NHL

EASTERN CONFERENCE										
ATLANTIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
Toronto	61	38	20	3	79	196	175			
Florida	62	38	21	3	79	206	172			
Tampa Bay	61	36	21	4	76	218	160			
Detroit	61	30	25	6	66	177	193			
Ottawa	60	30	25	5	65	170	173			
Boston	63	28	27	8	64	170	201			
Montreal	61	30	26	5	65	184	204			
Buffalo	60	24	30	6	54	191	208			
METRO.	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
Washington	61	39	14	8	86	220	161			
Carolina	62	36	22	4	76	197	171			
New Jersey	62	33	23	6	72	186	154			
Columbus	61	30	23	8	68	207	202			
N.Y. Rangers	61	31	26	4	66	187	183			
Philadelphia	62	27	27	8	62	183	208			
N.Y. Islanders	60	27	26	7	61	165	180			
Pittsburgh	63	24	29	10	58	183	233			
WESTERN CONFERENCE										
CENTRAL	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
Winnipeg	61	42	15	4	88	214	143			
Dallas	60	39	19	2	80	206	155			
Minnesota	61	35	22	4	74	173	176			
Colorado	61	35	24	2	72	198	182			
St. Louis	62	29	27	6	64	179	187			
Utah	61	27	25	9	63	172	181			
Nashville	61	22	32	7	51	159	204			
Chicago	61	19	35	7	45	169	214			
PACIFIC	GP	W	L	OT	PTS	GF	GA			
Vegas	60	36	18	6	78	199	166			
Edmonton	60	35	21	4	74	195	174			
Los Angeles	59	31	20	8	70	167	159			
Calgary	61	29	23	9	67	161	179			
Vancouver	60	27	22	11	65	165	184			
Anaheim	59	26	26	7	59	154	183			
Seattle	61	26	31	4	56	180	198			
San Jose	63	17	37	9	43	166	234			

NOTE: Two points for a win, one point for overtime loss. Top three teams in each division and two wild cards per conference advance to playoffs.

TUESDAY'S RESULTS
Carolina 2, Detroit 1
Nashville 6, Boston 3
San Jose 6, Buffalo 2
Calgary 6, Philadelphia 3
Tampa Bay 6, Columbus 2
Winnipeg at N.Y. Islanders, late
New Jersey at Dallas, late
Anaheim at Edmonton, late
Pittsburgh at Colorado, late
Minnesota at Seattle, late

WEDNESDAY'S GAMES
Ottawa at Chicago, 6:30p.m.
Washington at N.Y. Rangers, 6:30p.m.
Toronto at Vegas, 9p.m.
Anaheim at Vancouver, 9:30p.m.
St. Louis at Los Angeles, 9:30p.m.

THURSDAY'S GAMES
Boston at Carolina, 6p.m.
Buffalo at Tampa Bay, 6p.m.
Columbus at Florida, 6p.m.
Utah at Detroit, 6p.m.
Winnipeg at Philadelphia, 6p.m.
Calgary at Dallas, 7p.m.
Seattle at Nashville, 7p.m.
Montreal at Edmonton, 8p.m.
San Jose at Colorado, 8:30p.m.

MONDAY'S RESULTS
N.Y. Rangers 4, N.Y. Islanders 0
Washington 5, Ottawa 4 (SO)
Florida 2, Tampa Bay 1
Montreal 4, Buffalo 3 (OT)
San Jose 3, Toronto 2 (SO)
Chicago 5, Los Angeles 1

SOCCER

MLS	EASTERN						
	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA	
Philadelphia	2	0	0	6	8	3	
Columbus	2	0	0	6	5	2	
Inter Miami CF	1	0	1	4	6	3	
Charlotte FC	1	0	1	4	4	2	
N.Y. Red Bulls	1	1	0	3	2	1	
Orlando City	1	1	0	3	6	6	
Atlanta	1	1	0	3	3	4	
Cincinnati	1	1	0	3	2	4	
D.C. United	0	0	2	2	4	4	
New York City FC	0	0	1	1	2	3	
New England	0	0	1	1	0	1	
Chicago	0	0	1	1	1	4	
Toronto FC	0	0	1	1	1	4	
Nashville	0	0	1	1	0	2	
CF Montréal	0	2	0	0	2	4	
WESTERN	W	L	T	PT	GF	GA	
San Jose	2	0	0	6	6	1	
Vancouver	2	0	0	6	6	2	
Los Angeles FC	2	0	0	6	2	0	
San Diego FC	1	0	1	4	2	0	
FC Dallas	1	0	1	4	5	4	
Austin FC	1	1	0	3	1	1	
Minnesota United	1	1	0	3	1	1	
Portland	1	1	0	3	2	4	
Real Salt Lake	1	1	0	3	2	4	
Colorado	0	0	2	2	3	3	
St Louis City	0	0	2	2	0	0	
Seattle	0	0	1	1	2	4	
Sporting KC	0	2	0	0	1	3	
LA Galaxy	0	2	0	0	1	4	
Houston	0	2	0	0	2	6	

Three points for win, one point for tie.

Three points for win, one point for tie.

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Houston at Columbus, 1:30p.m.
Los Angeles FC at Seattle, 3:45p.m.
N.Y. Red Bulls at Atlanta, 6:30p.m.
Toronto FC at Cincinnati, 6:30p.m.
Sporting KC at D.C. United, 6:30p.m.
Philadelphia at New England, 6:30p.m.
Orlando City at New York City FC, 6:30p.m.
Colorado at Austin FC, 7:30p.m.
Chicago at FC Dallas, 7:30p.m.
Portland at Nashville, 7:30p.m.
San Diego FC at Real Salt Lake, 8:30p.m.
CF Montréal at Vancouver, 8:30p.m.
Minnesota at San Jose, 9:30p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES
Charlotte FC at Miami, 3p.m.
St. Louis City at LA Galaxy, 6p.m.

ENGLISH PREMIER LEAGUE								
CLUB	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	PT	
Liverpool	28	20	7	1	66	26	67	
Arsenal	27	15	9	3	51	23	54	
Notting. Forest	27	14	6	7	44	33	48	
Man City	27	14	5	8	53	37	47	
Chelsea	27	13	7	7	52	36	46	
Newcastle	27	13	5	9	46	38	44	
Bournemouth	27	12	7	8	45	32	43	
Brighton	27	11	10	6	44	39	43	
Fulham	27	11	9	7	40	36	42	
Aston Villa	28	11	9	8	40	45	42	
Brentford	27	11	5	11	48	43	38	
Crystal Palace	27	9	9	9	35	33	36	
Tottenham	27	10	3	14	53	39	33	
Man United	27	9	6	12	33	39	33	
West Ham	27	9	6	12	32	47	33	
Everton	27	7	11	9	30	34	32	
Wolverhampton	27	6	4	17	37	56	22	
Ipswich	27	3	8	16	26	57	17	
Leicester	27	4	5	18	25	61	17	
Southampton	27	2	3	22	19	65	9	

SATURDAY'S MATCHES
Notting. Forest vs. Man City, 6:30a.m.
Brighton vs. Fulham, 9a.m.
Crystal Palace vs. Ipswich, 9a.m.
Liverpool vs. Southampton, 9a.m.
Brentford vs. Aston Villa, 11:30a.m.
Wolverhampton vs. Everton, 2p.m.

SUNDAY'S MATCHES
Chelsea vs. Leicester, 9a.m.
Tottenham vs. Bournemouth, 9a.m.
Man United vs. Arsenal, 11:30a.m.

MONDAY, MARCH 10
West Ham vs. Newcastle, 3p.m.

UEFA CHAMPIONS LEAGUE
TUESDAY FIRST LEG
Aston Villa 3, Club Brugge 1
Lille 1, Dortmund Borussia 1
Arsenal 7, PSV Eindhoven 1
Real Madrid 2, Atlético Madrid 1
WEDNESDAY FIRST LEG
Liverpool vs. Southampton, 9a.m.
Brentford vs. Aston Villa, 11:30a.m.
Wolverhampton vs. Everton, 2p.m.
SUNDAY'S MATCHES
Chelsea vs. Leicester, 9a.m.
Tottenham vs. Bournemouth, 9a.m.
Man United vs. Arsenal, 11:30a.m.

TUESDAY, MARCH 11, SECOND LEG
Benfica vs. FC Barcelona, 11:45a.m.
Fey

NATIONAL SPORTS REPORT

SHORTS

SGA hits 50 for 4th time in 19 games



Shai Gilgeous-Alexander’s putback basket in the fourth quarter put him over 50 points and sent the the Thunder crowd into a frenzy. The All-Star guard responded by jogging downcourt expressionless, as if it were no big deal. That’s because it has become almost routine for him. His final touch on a 51-point night clinched his fourth 50-point performance in his last 19 games. “It becomes — you can say it’s not as exciting as the first one, but it’s more like getting lost in the process of just competing and playing the game you love,” Gilgeous-Alexander said. “And then wherever that takes you, it takes you.” Besides, he was most concerned with the final result — a 137-128 win over the Rockets on Monday. Gilgeous-Alexander became the 12th player in NBA history with at least four 50-point games in a season. His scoring binges have helped the Thunder roll to a Western Conference-leading 50-11 record. The Thunder are 3-1 when he scores at least 50 points. “Whether it’s 50, whether it’s 27, whether it’s 17 — as long as we win, I have fun with it,” he said. “It’s a fun night.”

Eagles give Barkley record new deal



Saquon Barkley will become the highest-paid running back in NFL history after his record-setting season helped the Eagles win the Super Bowl. The Eagles are giving the 28-year-old All-Pro a two-year contract extension worth \$41.2 million with \$36 million guaranteed, according to reports Tuesday. The new deal includes \$15 million in incentives. Entering last offseason, the top-paid back in the league, Christian McCaffrey of the 49ers, was making \$16 million a year on average. Barkley ran for 2,504 yards in the regular season and playoffs, breaking Terrell Davis’ record for most yards rushing combined in one season. He had 2,005 yards in the regular season before sitting out the final game with a chance to break Eric Dickerson’s single-season mark. The Eagles signed Barkley to a three-year, \$37.75 million deal in free agency last year after the Giants allowed the 2018 No. 2 overall draft pick to walk away. Barkley has rushed for 7,216 yards over seven seasons with 48 TDs. He has been named to three Pro Bowls and was the offensive player of the year this past season.

Bad Bunny agency adds Padres’ Tatis



Rimas Sports, the agency co-owned by Puerto Rican musical artist Bad Bunny whose leaders have been suspended by the baseball players’ union, announced a management deal Tuesday with Padres star Fernando Tatis Jr. Rimas said it will oversee marketing, brand relations and other services, working to “expand his portfolio as an athlete, businessman and philanthropist.” Tatis and the Padres agreed in 2021 to a 14-year, \$340 million contract negotiated by MVP Sports, an agency headed by Dan Lozano. Rimas Sports says it is a partnership among Bad Bunny, above, and executives Noah Assad and Jonathan Miranda. The players’ union revoked the agent certification of Rimas’ William Arroyo last April and denied certification to Assad and Miranda, citing a \$200,000 interest-free loan and a \$19,500 gift. The union issued a \$400,000 fine for misconduct. U.S. District Judge Jennifer H. Rearden in Manhattan set a Feb. 18 deadline for Assad, Miranda and Arroyo to file a response to the union’s motion to confirm the decision, but no response has been filed. —Associated Press



Ahead of Tuesday night’s game against the Pelicans, the Lakers were 16-3 since trading for Luka Doncic. MARK J. TERRILL/AP

AROUND THE NBA

A ‘great’ deal, so far

LeBron & Co. feeling good about big trade for Doncic

By Tim Reynolds
Associated Press

The game hasn’t gotten easy for the Lakers since the trade deadline. It just looks that way. Consider this moment from Sunday night’s win over the Clippers: Jaxson Hayes got a defensive rebound, handed the ball to Luka Doncic, who took one step forward and fired a 75-foot two-hand chest pass downcourt to LeBron James — who caught it in stride and capped the play with an easy layup. Touchdown, Lakers. And Doncic and James have had a play like that in just about every game lately. A month or so has passed since The Trade — Doncic leaving the Mavericks in exchange for Anthony Davis — and the Lakers suddenly look like title contenders. They were a league-best 16-3 since Jan. 20 (through Monday). Ahead of Tuesday’s game against the Pelicans, they were in the No. 2 spot in the Western Conference, a place that until now they hadn’t been since about the first week of the season. “It’s been great,” Doncic said. “The atmosphere has been unbelievable, and we just want to give the people what they want, and that’s winning the games. That’s what we’re doing.” Sunday’s win was the 1,000th in which James has appeared in his regular season career, making him the fourth player to appear in that many victories after Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (1,074), Robert Parish (1,013) and Tim

Duncan (1,001). And now, another milestone: the 40-year-old James was one point away from 50,000 for his career when combining regular-season and postseason games, and that bridge almost certainly was crossed Tuesday night. Only two other players — Abdul-Jabbar and Karl Malone — have scored at least 40,000 points when adding in playoffs. “He’s one of the greatest competitors. ... He’s amazing to coach,” Lakers coach JJ Redick said. “He brings it every day. He sets the standard for how you’re supposed to approach this craft and that’s the most incredible thing.” There were other trades before the deadline that teams are seeing dividends from, including the Warriors and Cavaliers. The jury’s still out in Dallas because Davis was injured when he got there — then got hurt again in his sensational debut game with the Mavs. And the injury woes for the team continued Monday night when Kyrie Irving suffered a torn ACL. Time, and more accurately playoff results, will be the real gauge on all these moves. But for James and the Lakers, everything is looking as good as can be. The team hosted Southern California first responders and affected community members Tuesday as part of the continued response to the wildfires that devastated parts of Los Angeles earlier this winter. The wins are piling up. The milestones keep coming. They keep rising in the standings. “I think we could be really good going down the stretch,” James said at the All-Star Game. He’s been proved right again.

Warriors rolling

After the acquisition of Jimmy Butler from the Heat, the Warriors are still hovering around the play-in line in an absolutely jammed race for spots 6 through 10 in the West. Butler’s mere presence, however seems to have given the Warriors a boost. He demands defenses to respect him, which is excellent news for Stephen Curry — who had a 56-point game last week against the Magic on a night when Butler wasn’t much of an offensive factor. “There’s still unique skill sets in this league at the superstar level,” Curry said of Butler. “And he’s a guy that has clearly defined a style that impacts winning at both ends of the floor. You see how much he’s helped us so far. ... He’s succeeded at the highest level. He’s gone to two Finals and he’s motivated ... to try to get back there.”

Cavs even better

The Cavaliers made a very savvy move before the trade window closed, adding De’Andre Hunter from the Hawks. The Cavs were good before the trade. They’re even better after. Entering Tuesday’s game against the Bulls, the Cavs were 8-0 with Hunter in the lineup — winning those eight games by an average of nearly 19 points. One of the few close ones was Sunday, when they had to dig deep to rally past the Trail Blazers with Hunter leading the way. “I didn’t think we were going to win the game. De’Andre really took us from the abyss,” Cavaliers coach Kenny Atkinson said.

IN THE PITS

New leadership at Andretti settles in

By Jenna Fryer | Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — The Cassidy Marie was docked first in line outside Turn 10 with an unobstructed view of IndyCar’s season-opening race in downtown St. Petersburg. It was 8:30 a.m. on Sunday and Jill Gregory, the new president of Andretti Global, was weaving her way through pedestrian traffic to get to the yacht owned by her new boss, Dan Towriss. He and his wife were hosting a representative from Chili’s, an existing partner of Towriss-owned Spire Motorsports in NASCAR, on a day the team was making its IndyCar Series debut. The Associated Press was allowed exclusive access with Andretti Global ahead of Towriss’ first race as controlling owner of Michael Andretti’s former team and Gregory’s first as the only female team president in IndyCar. Things got off to a great start as Andretti drivers went 1-2 in the lower-tier Indy NXT race, prompting Towriss to skip the pre-race strategy meeting in favor of a trip to victory lane. Gregory is a former NASCAR vice president and marketing officer who left to run Sonoma Raceway before she was hired as chief operating officer of TWG Motorsports — Towriss’ motorsports division — and president of the IndyCar team. Gregory went to the meeting, though she knows she has no business discussing race strategy. “Alright, I’m off to decide the gear ratios and tire strategy. I think it’s going to be a three-stopper,” Gregory cracked. “I’m dialed in.”

Commitment to women

Gregory’s skill set is not in the competition department. That didn’t discourage Towriss, who routinely hires women for top leadership roles: He currently has 10 females in executive positions across the TWG Motorsports brands, and another five women at the top of Group 1001, a U.S. financial services firm with more than \$66 billion under management. “With the changes at the team, it was really important to step in and make sure that there weren’t any leadership vacuums,” Towriss explained, noting that Rob Edwards handles all on-track aspects of Andretti Global while Gregory is consumer-facing and handling back-of-the-house elements of the company. “She’s been consulting with me for probably the last year-and-a-half, maybe even two years,” Towriss said. “So while a lot of her motorsports background was focused in NASCAR, I found her experience, her judgment, her skill set to be very broad. I think most people would describe Jill as a ‘baller’ or ‘a badass in motorsports.’ She just gets it.”

Fitting in

Towriss noted Gregory’s experience in marketing, culture and brand and team building is perfect for a growing team — and a busy one. On Monday alone, Wayne Taylor Racing’s sports car program, majority owned by TWG, received an invitation to compete in the 24 Hours of Le Mans. The organization also announced Andretti Global will convert the former IndyStar Pulliam Production Center in Indianapolis into team headquarters for its IndyCar, Indy NXT and Formula E teams. That building is expected to become operational by summer 2025, not long after the team is scheduled to reveal its branding and other logistics of its Formula One team, which will be run from another shop being built in the Indianapolis-area. The Cadillac powertrains were approved last month to be assembled in Concord, North Carolina, on Hendrick Motorsports property. “Jill is just a talented executive — she sees things develop before maybe a lot of other people see it,” Towriss said. “She’s big on building teams and culture. We want to have the right strategy, people, resources and culture, and Jill’s a big part of that, of bringing the right people and building the right culture so that these teams function together.” Aside from the F1 and IndyCar teams, TWG Motorsports is also the majority owner of Spire, the NASCAR team, Taylor’s two-car IMSA sports car GTP program and Walkinshaw Andretti United, and has a stake in the Bathurst 1000-winning race team competing in Australia’s Supercars Championship.

Gregory’s role

As she settles into her new role, Gregory is looking at consolidation and best practices. She’s sponsor savvy and can help leverage current partners across the TWG brands while also seeking new support. Her longtime role in NASCAR created a strong relationship with new IndyCar television partner Fox Sports and CEO Eric Shanks. Fox Sports has been a NASCAR partner since 2001. Gregory found the decision to take the job for Towriss to be an exciting challenge in a series she is learning from scratch. Her first race was a success — Andretti drivers finished fifth, sixth and 16th — and there was a small champagne toast after to mark Gregory’s debut. “I think this is an amazing time right now for IndyCar — it’s the fastest form of motorsports,” Gregory said. “The challenge is: How do you get more people to understand what’s happening out here? I think the Fox partnership will be a big part of that, but we also have to build on that.”

Chicago Tribune

FOOD & HEALTH



Nycole Archibald decorates sweets at Toni Patisserie & Café in Hinsdale. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Britta Van Westrienen, left, and Buffy Van Huis at Rock Island Public House. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Pop-up chef Billy Zureikat poses for a portrait at J.T.'s Genuine Sandwich Shop. **JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Co-owner Audrey Borden delivers a coffee flight for customers at Coffee Shop of the Year October Cafe in Chicago. **AUDREY RICHARDSON/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Mario Moreno, left, Maria Moreno and Alondra Moreno at The Italian Village. **AUDREY RICHARDSON/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Pithivier at Petite Vie. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Brisket at Beach Ave BBQ in Brookfield. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



People exit Cafe Ba-Ba-Reeba in Chicago. **TERRENCE ANTONIO JAMES/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Sukhu and Ajit Kalra at their downtown Highland Park restaurant, Indus. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Olivia Rough and Danny McNutt use the photo booth inside The Owl. **ADDISON ANNIS/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE**

2024 READERS' CHOICE FOOD AWARDS WINNERS

YOUR FAVORITE THINGS

10 restaurants, bars, bakeries — and more — that impressed Chicago

Like in years past, the 13th edition of our Readers' Choice Food Awards was full of delightful surprises.

More than 200 readers nominated their favorite coffee shops, bakeries, restaurants and more over a week in January. We loved poring over the submissions and reading the excited comments supporting your favorite places. We selected five finalists in each of the



10 categories to move onto the final round, which saw more than 2,500 readers cast more than 7,600 votes.

Here we have profiles of our 10 winning restaurants, bars and more. Tune in later this month for the Critic's Choice segment of the Tribune Food Awards.

Congratulations to everyone who captured the support of our readers with their hard work and excellence over the past year in the food, drink and hospitality spaces.

— Kayla Samoy, food editor

Find the profiles of our winners on pages 4-5

South Side icon Lem's Bar-B-Q honored

The James Beard Foundation last Wednesday named the recipients of its America's Classics Awards, meant to recognize "locally and independently owned restaurants with timeless appeal." Among the six honorees from across the country is the oldest Black-owned barbecue restaurant in Chicago, Lem's Bar-B-Q. **Page 2**

20 restaurant specials for Lent

Chicago's large Catholic population means there are plenty of restaurants helping to make the period from Ash Wednesday to Easter a little less painful by offering seafood-focused specials. These fish fries, pepper and egg sandwiches and seafood dinners are so good you might want to stop in even if you're not forgoing beef. **Page 3**



By Clare de Boer
The New York Times

The first time I had brown bread from Ballymaloe Cookery School in Cork, Ireland, was at a welcome lunch for students. The menu was simple: Loaves of the bread accompanied poached Poole prawns from Ballycotton Bay, a 15-minute walk from the farm where the school sits. Darina Allen, the school’s co-founder, buzzed around the room, encouraging us to spread thick slices of the bread with mayonnaise or butter, and pile on the tiny prawns. The quiet luxury of all of it was heady, but it was the plain brown loaf — nutty, barely sweet and still warm — that felt most special. “This recipe takes the time and mystery out of yeast bread-making,” Allen said. “It’s a gift for life.” She mixed yeast with warm water and some treacle syrup, let it foam, then stirred the mixture into whole-wheat flour, gave it a quick rise and baked. An adaptation of the Grant loaf, which Doris Grant, a nutritionist, created during World War II to make easy use of rations, the

loaf was less fluffy than sandwich bread and less cakey than soda bread, with none of the chew of sourdough. Though it looked similar enough to Danish rugbrød, it was neither dense nor sour. In time, Grant’s recipe made its way to Ireland and into the hands of Myrtle Allen, Darina’s mother-in-law and the chef of Ballymaloe House, an inn and restaurant. Myrtle Allen died in 2018, but the Ballymaloe kitchens continue to turn out 20 loaves of this bread each day, as it has for 40 years. “Unlike an Irish soda bread, which is all about the handling, this one has no tricks or secrets,” said JR Ryall, a pastry chef at Ballymaloe for two decades. “It’s a simple process that makes something wonderful to eat.” The version here makes a perfect loaf of bread in less than two hours. With its singularly low skill-to-outcome ratio, it has, for decades, broken through the baker-or-nonbaker divide. Ballymaloe makes this loaf with wheat grown on the farm, and Allen accompanies it with home-made butter and Camembert. “I don’t need a Prada handbag,” she said. “For me, this is real luxury.”

BROWN BREAD

This simple whole-wheat loaf requires no kneading, shaping or baking experience to get it right. You can begin the recipe when you wake up and enjoy a warm loaf for breakfast a few hours later. Make sure that your yeast foams in the molasses-water before you stir it into the flour. If it does nothing, the yeast is probably dead — discard it and save this recipe for another day. If you like seedy bread, include some (sunflower, poppy, sesame or a combination) in the dough, and sprinkle some on top of the loaf before letting it rise. No adjustments are needed if you decide to include them. While most bread recipes advise you to wait until the loaf cools completely before slicing, this one is best still warm, with butter — Irish, preferably!

Makes: 1 loaf
Total time: 1 hour 40 minutes
4 cups whole-wheat flour, preferably stone-ground
1 teaspoon kosher salt (such as Diamond Crystal) or ½ teaspoon coarse kosher salt
1 tablespoon molasses or treacle
2 ½ teaspoons active dry yeast

1 teaspoon canola or other flavorless oil, for greasing
1 tablespoon sesame or poppy seeds or a combination (optional)
1. In a large bowl, mix the flour with the salt.
2. In a liquid measuring jug or small bowl, mix the molasses with 5 fluid ounces of lukewarm water. Stir in the yeast and leave the jug somewhere warm for 5 minutes, or until the liquid develops a creamy froth.
3. Meanwhile, grease a 5-by-8-inch loaf pan with the oil and line the bottom and long sides with parchment paper to create a sling for the bread.
4. Pour the activated yeast mixture into the flour. Measure 10 fluid ounces of tepid water into the jug, scraping and stirring any residual yeast into the water. Pour this into the flour.
5. Using your hand or a spoon, mix the flour and the liquid together to make a dough. It’ll be too wet to knead. Scrape the dough into the prepared loaf pan. If you’d like, sprinkle the top with sesame or poppy seeds or both.
6. Place the pan in a warm place (close to the stove is ideal). Pull a dish cloth tight over the top of the pan without letting it touch the

dough, and leave the dough to rise until it reaches the top of the pan, 15 to 25 minutes. While the dough rises, heat the oven with a rack in the center to 450 degrees.
7. When the dough has nearly reached the top of the pan, remove the dish cloth and put the loaf on the center rack in the oven.
8. Bake for 20 minutes, then reduce the oven temperature to 400 degrees. Continue to bake for another 30 minutes or until the top looks nicely browned.
9. Remove the pan from the oven, then tip the loaf out of the pan, running a knife around the outside of the bread to release it if needed and holding the hot loaf with oven mitts or a clean dish towel. Discard the parchment paper, shake off loose seeds and return the loaf — upside down — to the oven, setting it directly on the center rack. Bake for another 10 minutes, or until the loaf sounds hollow when you tap its bottom.
10. Cool the loaf on a rack for 10 minutes before slicing to enjoy warm. The loaf will keep well-wrapped at room temperature for up to 3 days.
— Recipe from Darina Allen, Ballymaloe House and Ireland; adapted by Clare de Boer

JAMES BEARD AMERICA’S CLASSICS AWARDS

South Side icon Lem’s Bar-B-Q honored

By Zareen Syed
Chicago Tribune

The James Beard Foundation last Wednesday named the recipients of its America’s Classics Awards, meant to recognize “locally and independently owned restaurants with timeless appeal.” Among the six honorees from across the country is the oldest Black-owned barbecue restaurant in Chicago, Lem’s Bar-B-Q. The South Side family-owned staple opened in 1954 when brothers Bruce and Myles Lemons opened shop on 59th and State streets. In 1968, they added the now-iconic location in the Chatham neighborhood, which was run by their younger brother, James Lemons. His daughter, Carmen Lemons, is now the owner of Lem’s Bar-B-Q and has continued the tradition with help from longtime friends and her nephews. “Lem’s Bar-B-Q is truly honored and grateful,” Carmen said in an Instagram post, celebrating the restaurant’s win in the Great Lakes category for the America’s Classics award. For the award, the James Beard Foundation looks for restaurants that are beloved in their region for “food that reflects the character and cultural traditions of its community.” Lem’s Bar-B-Q is the fifth Chicago restaurant to win the award. Previous winners were Sun Wah in 2018, Calu-



Rib tips at Lem’s Bar-B-Q, 311 E. 75th St., Chicago. E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE 2021

met Fisheries in 2010, Tufano’s Vernon Park Tap in 2008 and The Berghoff in 1999. Lem’s Bar-B-Q, in its 71st year, still serves countless rib tips and hot links to customers crossing generations, who have stayed loyal to the Lemons’ family tradi-

tion of imbuing generous cuts of meat with the flavors of hickory wood, charcoal and fire. The rib tips are the ultimate draw, but the no-frills menu has fried chicken, fried shrimp and classic American sides such as potato salad, coleslaw and fries. And the slice

of white bread served with each order is the quintessential vehicle for scooping every last bit of the house-made barbecue sauce. This year’s America’s Classics winners join the ranks of over 100 restaurants across the country that have received the

award since the category was introduced in 1998. They’ll be celebrated at the James Beard Restaurant and Chef Awards ceremony on June 16 at the Lyric Opera of Chicago. In a statement, Clare Reichenbach, CEO of the James Beard Foundation, said independent restaurants play a crucial role in the local economy. “Through the America’s Classics Award, we get to celebrate the remarkable establishments that have served as cherished pillars of culture, community and good food for decades,” Reichenbach said. “It is an honor to recognize this year’s winners, who reflect the rich depth and breadth of American food culture, and who will surely continue to have a positive impact for years to come.”

The James Beard Foundation notes: Each year, the Restaurant and Chef Awards voting body and the public are invited to recommend restaurants for the America’s Classics Award during the open call for recommendations from October through November. The subcommittee considers all recommendations and selects the America’s Classics winners. Six of the 12 Restaurant and Chef regions are included within each awards cycle, and rotated the following cycle, meaning each region is represented every other year. To be eligible for this award, establishments must have been in existence for at least 10 years.

The 2025 James Beard Award America’s Classics winners

AMERICA’S CLASSICS:
GREAT LAKES
**LEM’S BAR-B-Q
IN CHICAGO**
Current owner:
Carmen Lemons

AMERICA’S CLASSICS:
MOUNTAIN
**THE PIONEER
SALOON IN
KETCHUM, IDAHO**
Current owners: Sheila
Witmer and Duffy Witmer

AMERICA’S CLASSICS:
NORTHEAST
**SULLIVAN’S CASTLE
ISLAND IN BOSTON**
Current owner:
Brendan Sullivan

AMERICA’S CLASSICS:
NORTHWEST AND
PACIFIC
**LUCKY WISHBONE
IN ANCHORAGE,
ALASKA**
Current owners: Patricia
Brown-Heller, Heidi
Heinrich-Lervaag and
Carolina Stacey

AMERICA’S CLASSICS:
SOUTH
**DOOKY CHASE
IN NEW ORLEANS**
Current owner:
The Chase Family

AMERICA’S CLASSICS:
TEXAS
**GAIDO’S IN
GALVESTON, TEXAS**
Current owner: Nick Gaido



Pepper and egg sandwich at Buona. **BUONA**



Mac's Wood Grilled fish and chips. **TERRI MOONEY/MAC'S WOOD GRILLED**



Angler's Catch from Bonefish Grill. **BONEFISH GRILL**

Restaurant specials for Lent

20 places for fish fries, pepper and egg sandwiches and seafood dinners in Chicago

By **Samantha Nelson** | For the Chicago Tribune

You can give up anything from cursing to candy for Lent, but one of the most traditional sacrifices is to abstain from red meat. Chicago's large Catholic population means there are plenty of restaurants helping to make the period from Ash Wednesday to Easter a little less painful by offering seafood-focused specials. These fish fries, pepper and egg sandwiches and seafood dinners are so good, you might want to stop in even if you're not forgoing beef.

Samantha Nelson is a freelance writer.

SOUTH SIDE & NEAR SOUTH SIDE

Dolce Arte: The Bridgeport restaurant offers Lenten specials including fish and chips (\$19) and pepper and egg (\$10) for lunch and seafood risotto (\$33) and mahi mahi in white wine butter sauce (\$30) for dinner. 3622 S. Morgan St., 312-380-0089, dolceartechi.com

Fabulous Freddie's Italian Eatery: Get a pepper and egg sandwich (\$8.76) throughout Lent along with other specials including a tuna melt (\$11), eggplant parmesan sandwich (\$9.22) and fried shrimp from Lawrence's Fish Market (\$12). 701 W. 31st St., 312-808-0147, freddieson31st.com

Pleasant House Pub: Visit Fridays for \$17 beer battered fish served with triple-fried chips and house-made tartar sauce. 2119 S. Halsted St., 773-523-7437, pleasanthousepub.com

THE LOOP & NEAR NORTH SIDE

River Roast: Visit on Fridays for mussels in garlic white wine sauce served with grilled crostini (\$21) or beer-battered cod accompanied by french fries, dill tartar sauce and house-made pickles (\$38). 315 N. LaSalle St., 312-822-0100, riverroastchicago.com

Shaw's Crab House: A three-course lunch menu offered from 11:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. March 5 through April 17 features fried shrimp with french fries, shrimp fettuccine and pan-seared Alaskan cod. 27 E. Hubbard St., 312-527-2722, shawscrabhouse.com

NORTH SIDE & NORTHWEST SIDE

Fat Cat: Come early, because the bar often sells out of its \$16 Friday fish fries, which feature beer-battered cod served with Champagne slaw and house-made herb tartar sauce or on a Kaiser roll with avocado and lemon aioli. Both come with a side of fries. 4840 N. Broadway, 773-506-3100, fatcatbar.com

Irish American Heritage Center: Irish dance schools perform weekly at the fish fries running 6-9 p.m. Fridays March 7 through April 18, which include fried cod, french fries, coleslaw and a vegetable for \$20 or \$15 for kids under 12. 4626 N. Knox Ave., 773-282-7035, irish-american.org

Lark: Feast on an all-you-can-eat fish fry Fridays from March 7 to April 18 that

includes fish and chips with coleslaw, french fries and tartar sauce for \$19. Add on a \$35 Nutri bucket. 3441 N. Halsted St., 773-799-8968, larkchicago.com

Uvae Kitchen and Wine Bar: A Lenten seafood happy hour offered from 5-6:30 p.m. Fridays March 7 through April 11 includes \$4 smoked fish dip, \$2 oysters, \$2 shrimp cocktails and \$5 draft bubbly. Stay for dinner with weekly specials including lobster ravioli and squid ink fettuccine with lump crab meat. 5553 N. Clark St., 773-654-1432, uvaechicago.com

WEST SIDE & NEAR WEST SIDE

Heritage Restaurant & Caviar Bar: A Lenten menu offered from noon to 10 p.m. Fridays from March 7 to April 18 features a pepper and egg sandwich served with salt and vinegar fries (\$18), a butter-poached lobster roll with Old Bay fries (\$24), and a filet-o-fish accompanied by a quarter tin of caviar (\$32). 2700 W. Chicago Ave., 773-661-9577, heritage-chicago.com

Mac's Wood Grilled: Fish and chips (\$18) and fried fish sandwiches (\$15) are served daily from Ash Wednesday through Good Friday. 1801 W. Division St., 773-782-4400, macswoodgrilled.com

Tuman's Tap & Grill: Monks in the Middle Ages would brew strong beer to get them through the Lenten fast and you can get a taste of the tradition with a \$7 Aecht Schlenkerla Fastenbier. The bar also offers \$19 beer-battered cod with hand-cut fries on Ash Wednesday and Fridays through April 18. 2159 W. Chicago Ave., 773-782-1400, tumanstapandgrill.com

SUBURBAN & MULTIPLE LOCATIONS

Aboyer: The American French restaurant serves whole roasted Dover sole with toasted almonds, brown butter, fried parsley and grilled lemon over wild rice pilaf with a side of grilled broccolini (\$39) on Fridays March 7 through April 18. 64 Green Bay Road,

Winnetka, 847-441-3100, georgetroisgroup.com

Bonefish Grill: The Angler's Catch, a plate of tempura-style cod, battered shrimp, fries, coleslaw, and cocktail and tartar sauce, is available for \$20 March 5 and Fridays

through April 18. *Multiple locations, bonefishgrill.com*

The Budlong Southern Chicken: The chain serves a fish fry sandwich throughout March and April, offering a buy one, get one free deal on Ash Wednesday and

Fridays during Lent. *Multiple locations, thebudlong.com*

Buona: The Italian beef chain serves pepper and egg sandwiches laced with cheese (\$7.49-\$9.49) on Ash Wednesday and Fridays through Easter. *Multiple locations, buona.com*

Lowcountry: In addition to their regular seafood boils, Lowcountry offers a Friday fish fry featuring two 4-ounce pieces of beer-battered cod served with fries and coleslaw (\$18) March 7 through April 18. *Multiple locations, lowcountryrestaurant.com*

Pomeroy: Indulge with wild Dover sole (\$73) served Fridays during Lent or try some of the restaurant's regular seafood dishes including trout amandine (\$34) and Mediterranean sea bass (\$38). 844 Spruce St., Winnetka, 847-999-3090, pomeroywinnetka.com

Portillo's: Get a pepper and egg sandwich served on French bread or a croissant on Ash Wednesday and every Friday through Easter. Other meat-free options include the breaded whitefish sandwich or plant-based garden dog, which are offered year-round. *Multiple locations, portillos.com*

Twin Peaks: Pair fish and chips with either Coca-Cola or tea for \$10 or a 22-ounce Miller Lite or Coors Light for \$12 Fridays March 7 through April 18. 17W744 W. 22nd St., Oakbrook Terrace, 331-307-7940 and 28252 Diehl Road, Warrenville, 630-393-9747, twinpeaksrestaurant.com



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Straight
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\$27⁹⁹
750ml

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Silver
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750ml

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Penelope 4 Grain Bourbon.....	750ml	\$1.99
Jameson Original & Orange.....	750ml	\$1.99
Seagram's Gin.....	1.75L	\$1.99
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Saint Brendan's Irish Cream.....	750ml	\$8.99

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750ml

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750ml

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12 PK

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Smithwick's
& Guinness 0
\$12⁹⁹
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Chicago Tribune

2024

Food

awards

readers' choice

COFFEE SHOP OF THE YEAR

October Cafe

Michelle Gonzalez and Audrey Borden had their first date on Oct. 23, 2019. Four years later, they got married on Oct. 23.

So it's fall all year long at October Cafe — the Norwood Park spot Gonzalez and Borden opened in August 2023 — and love is the reason for the season.

"We just really love fall: the colors and the vibes," Gonzalez said. "Our first date was pumpkin painting!"

The colors are orange, pink and brown. The vibes are whimsy, autumnal joy and an open heart.

"During these times, we just want to show people love," Gonzalez said. "We say 'Hello, pumpkin' to every single person."

The romantic and business partners serve their "pumpkins" face-to-face daily in the shop. They feature small businesses in much of their products, from vegan bakery items to Dark Matter coffee to fall-themed apparel. This has made them a hit in the neighborhood, on social media and with fall lovers at large.

From her family, Gonzalez brings an entrepreneurial small-business sense to the cafe, while Borden's focus is on coffee and she is seen frequently making drinks. But at this point, they share much of the duties.

Their menu leans vegan. Pumpkin toasts are served alongside cafe classics such as avocado toast and bagels. The We Fell In Love in October flight offers all of their fall specialty drinks in 4-ounce samplers — the flavors include classics such as pumpkin spice, maple, chai and chocolatey hazelnut.

The fall-themed items never leave the menu, of course, but the pair frequently rotate in specialties that represent other parts of them, too. Gonzalez is Puerto Rican and a big fan of spicy snacks; one seasonal drink called the *Fuego* is sweet-and-salty, a latte of simple syrup, takis and tajin.

As a proudly LGBTQ+ and Latina-owned cafe, they work to make it a safe space for customers who might not feel comfortable at other places. They say they've had customers thank them for making a space where they can openly kiss or hug their partner, no matter their orientation.

"We want you to feel loved and you're important," Gonzalez said. "Everybody matters no matter what."

6046 N. Avondale Ave., 773-397-9986, octobercafe.com

— Ahmed Ali Akbar

» **Runner-up:** Evanston Pour

BAKERY OF THE YEAR

Toni Patisserie & Café

Hinsdale's Toni Patisserie has been around since winter 1994, when pastry chef Toni Cox and her husband, Paul Pell, decided to open a bakery inspired by the quiche lorraine and petit fours they experienced while living in France for a few years. The bakery isn't a secret — their quiches are deep, the macarons are delicate and those who know, *know* the white chocolate mousse cake must be eaten with the house-made raspberry coulis. Toni Patisserie & Café has been a premier dessert destination in the suburbs for decades, which is why the Readers' Choice nod was a pleasant surprise, Pell said.

"I would say word of mouth has been really good, and we have a lot of long-term customers and customers from far away. Some of them have been coming since they were kids, and now their kids are coming in," he said.

Beyond the pastry case, Cox has curated an extensive cafe menu of Parisian-style baguette sandwiches, savory galettes, soups such as French onion and a croque madame with ham, gruyere béchamel and a poached egg.

"We try to mix it up a little bit, but as long as we've been in business, it's difficult to eliminate things that people really want," Cox said.

Holidays are generally where the bakery plays with trends and new items. For Fat Tuesday, otherwise known as Paczki Day in the Chicago area, Cox does a "very Toni paczki" filled with decadent Bavarian cream instead of the usual jelly. Toni Patisserie also has a varied lineup of hot chocolate, coffee and lattes to pair with its pastries, which often can be the difference between a good bakery and the best.

Toni Patisserie & Café, 51 S. Washington St., Hinsdale, 630-789-2020, tonipatisserie.com

— Zareen Syed

» **Runner-up:** Publican Quality Bread

FAMILY-RUN RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

The Italian Village

Over the past five years, the Italian Village restaurants, with almost 100 years of history in the Loop, have transitioned to their fourth generation of owners. Alfredo Capitanini, an immigrant from Italy, founded Italian Village in 1927. Now, his great-grandchildren, Jonathan and Giovanna Capitanini, have taken over, adding new technology, refreshing concepts and modernizing the business. After a "rough couple of decades," things are looking up.

"We are having a bit of a rebirth with my sister and I coming into the business," Jonathan Capitanini said.

In many respects, the changes the siblings brought in were modernizations. Jonathan works closely with the staff and culinary elements; Giovanna brings marketing and branding skills.

"We made the brand stand out a little more," said Giovanna Capitanini. "We made it easier for guests to understand who we are, what we do and what they can find at Italian Village restaurants."

The oldest restaurant, The Village, is shared with two other concepts: Bar Sotto and private dining room Vivere. Those are places where experimentation can happen, such as a Bar Sotto dish of black garlic and truffle mushroom paperdelle, made with shoyu.

But the classics endure too. The lasagna at The Village is a standout. Everything is handmade, from the pasta to the bolognese. The children were sent to school with that same lasagna and have fond memories of digging into platters from the fridge.

The family, including extended members, often eat lunch at the restaurant together still, sampling dishes that they call an *abbondanza* (abundance) — not quite a smorgasbord, but the same idea. They want to make sure the menu is of a consistent quality, so they order different things every day.

The Capitaninis also credit much of their success to the family-run business' nearly 100 employees, who are essential to creating the sense of hospitality and culture they hope to provide.

"It is cliché, I think, but our employees are really an extension of our family," Jonathan Capitanini said.

71 W. Monroe St., 312-332-7005, italianvillage-chicago.com

— A. A. A.

» **Runner-up:** Birrieria Zaragoza



Owners Audrey Borden, left, and Michelle Gonzalez make coffees for customers at October Cafe. **AUDREY RICHARDSON/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Sweets in a display case at Toni Patisserie & Café. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Co-owners Chris Chin, left, and Juan Silva with brisket at Beach Ave BBQ in Brookfield. **ANTONIO PEREZ/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Pinball league players Jessica Zaniolo, Allison Earman and John Mason at Rock Island Public House. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Co-owners of The Italian Village siblings. **AUDREY RICHARDSON/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Pop-up chef Billy Zureikat at J.T.'s Genuine Sandwich Shop, where he's done previous collaborations. **JOHN J. KIM/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Jay Lazzarini and Michelle Mitchell sit inside. **ADDISON ANNIS/FOR THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Diners eat inside Indus in downtown Highland Park. **CHRIS SWEDA/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



Petite Vie chef and owner Paul Virant. **E. JASON WAMBSGANS/CHICAGO TRIBUNE**



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Giovanna and Jonathan
HARDSON/CHICAGO TRIBUNE



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RENCE ANTONIO JAMES/
CAGO TRIBUNE

POP-UP SERIES OF THE YEAR

Tripping Billy

Pop-up chef and muscular dystrophy advocate Billy Zureikat has perhaps become best known for his Tripping Billy pizza. It starts with a shishito pepper cream sauce, topped with corn, pickled jalapeños, mozzarella and cheddar cheeses, finally finished with scallions and roasted shishitos. The original was Detroit-style, the rectangular pan pizza with a thick yet crisp and chewy crust, at Paulie Gee's Logan Square in 2021.

Since then Zureikat has raised \$67,000 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association, in part by taking those flavors on what he calls the Tripping Billy Tour.

He's made his signature pizza at 19 pizzerias so far across Chicago in every style, from tavern to deep dish to a caramelized crust pan. Plus he's transformed his pizza flavors into a grilled-cheese sandwich, a taco and a hot dog.

Beyond the Tripping Billy pizza, the pop-up chef has created dozens of other items, including an Italian beef-inspired sandwich with barba-coa and a Tripping Billy giardiniera salsa, available by the jar in hot and mild.

So what does it mean to the chef and advocate for Tripping Billy to win the award for Pop-up Series of the Year?

"It means the world to me," Zureikat said. "I've worked very hard for the last 3½ years to take my life-changing diagnosis and turn it into a positive for myself and the community."

But he also wanted to prove that he belonged when it came to his food.

"And it wasn't just my story, it wasn't just the charity aspect," Zureikat said. "I also make fun, unique, creative and thoughtful food that people want to eat."

The award is a testament to the hard work, he added, but also to Chicago, a city that rallies around people who work hard.

"I've done probably over 80 collaborations and pop-ups," said Zureikat, who also has a full-time day job in logistics and transportation. "People ask me all the time, 'Where do you get this energy from?' I'm like, I'm just trying to take advantage of the moment right now. I don't know how long I have. It's a progressive disease. So this is really a beautiful thing."

trippingbillyz.com

— Louisa Kung Liu Chu

» **Runner-up:** Tita Tootsies

NEIGHBORHOOD BAR OF THE YEAR

Rock Island Public House

Under the glow of light from gleaming pinball machines, husband-and-wife team Dave and Jen Brown sling pints of beer with cheer at Rock Island Public House — the kind of place where everybody knows your name.

The win for Neighborhood Bar of the Year puts into focus their decade-plus of work serving drinks and cementing relationships in the Blue Island community.

When they opened in 2013, craft beer hadn't taken off in the south suburbs just yet.

"At that time for us living in Blue Island, the closest bars that were serving craft beer and cocktails were Maria's in Bridgeport (and) driving to 3 Floyds in Indiana," Jen Brown said. "Anywhere around the south suburbs, you were really traveling to get craft beer."

Since then, their menu has evolved from cans and drafts to adding more cocktails — Manhattans are trending right now — seltzers and nonalcoholic options, including a spirit-free "NO-groni" made with Ritual zero-proof gin.

But what does it mean to run a bar, with intention, in a diverse working-class community like Blue Island?

Each month they toast the customers who keep returning, shouting them out and thanking them on social media. The Browns also work to provide that home-away-from-home feeling for their customers. There are lots of opportunities to socialize, from pinball leagues, bingo and trivia nights to Dungeons & Dragons gaming and pinewood derbies, and a spacious patio for the warmer months.

"Some of our customers have been with us since the beginning and they're almost like family at this point," Jen Brown said.

Plus, the kitchen is in the hands of rotating local food concepts, taking the load off the Browns' shoulders to feed their hungry, drinking customers. Two pop-ups are in residence now, Bizarro & Son, which serves Mexican street food and brunch bites, and Red's the People's Pie, dishing Detroit- and tavern-style pizzas. One former concept, BUB Café, eventually opened a bricks-and-mortar location right across the street.

For Dave Brown, a career bartender, their commitment to connecting with customers is what sets them apart.

"You can open beers for a living, or you can actually tend bar," he said. "That's the pride I take in our team, is that we can open beers, we can make drinks, have a listen and have a laugh."

13328 Olde Western Ave., Blue Island; 708-388-5513; rockislandpublichouse.com

— Lauryn Azu

» **Runner-up:** Maria's Packaged Goods and Community Bar

INSPIRING STORY OF THE YEAR

Beach Avenue BBQ owner facing cancer

Pitmaster Juan Silva began Beach Ave BBQ with his neighbor and backyard barbecue friend Christopher Chin in 2016. First at the Brookfield farmers market, where they sold out weekly. Then their bricks-and-mortar restaurant, which the business partners opened in June 2020 during the dark early days of the pandemic.

Throughout it all, brisket became the fan favorite. Dry-rubbed and smoked over oak logs for 12 to 14 hours, they slice it thick into tender slabs, with your choice of their house-made barbecue sauce on the side.

The menu also features specials reflecting Silva's Mexican heritage. His favorite is the smoked pork pozole. The hominy stew reminds him of his mother, Rosa Silva, who died at 67 in May 2022.

Beach Ave BBQ is the pitmaster's dream, said Chin, who initially spoke on his barbecue partner's behalf, because Silva has cancer (stage 4 non-Hodgkin lymphoma) and just had surgery.

He's reluctantly shared a link for a GoFundMe set up by his brother that's raised nearly \$40,000 to date in donations to cover expenses not covered by insurance.

When the pitmaster was able to speak, we asked what it meant to him for Beach Ave BBQ to receive the award for Inspiring Story of the Year.

"It's truly humbling," Silva said. "And as a barbecue guy battling lymphoma, I learned that life and barbecue have a lot in common. Both require patience, faith and a little heat to bring out the best flavor."

He laughed quietly, bracing against any possible pain from the recent surgery in which they had to break five ribs, he said.

"This journey hasn't been easy, but with God's grace, the love of my family and the incredible support of my customers, I have kept the fire going," said Silva, his voice breaking. "In our culture, we say *échale ganas*, which means give it your all. And that's exactly what I've done." This phrase isn't just his, he added.

"It belongs to every person who's prayed for me, supported my restaurant and believed that faith and good food can get us through anything."

3453 Grand Blvd., Brookfield; 708-255-5025; beachavebbq.com

— L. K. L. C.

» **Runner-up:** Chicago Chefs Cook raising money for various causes, including the LA fires

FAMILY-FRIENDLY RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

Cafe Ba-Ba-Reeba

Forty years in, Cafe Ba-Ba-Reeba knows a thing or two about hosting families. They always have high chairs, they've got puzzles, and there's a vegetable paella on the kids' menu.

"We have had multiple generations of people who have celebrated big moments with us. It's like 'Oh, my parents got married here, my first date was here,'" said Mark Sotelino, partner at the Lincoln Park restaurant. "We used to be a young, hot place for people to go in like the '80s and '90s, and now those people have had kids and bring them in."

Sotelino, whose family is from Spain, said he was 8 years old when his father opened the restaurant, serving Spanish tapas such as house-marinated olives, patatas brava, and spinach and manchego-stuffed mushrooms, alongside empanadas and larger shared dishes such as seafood paella with shrimp, squid, bay scallops and roasted fennel. Cafe Ba-Ba-Reeba has a lived-in feel, Sotelino noted, in part because the restaurant itself is an extension of family.

"We're at the point where we have around six different sets of family members that work there now," he said.

That feeling of family trickles down to the rest of the staff and the overall customer experience, Sotelino added.

Cafe Ba-Ba-Reeba! 2024 N. Halsted St., 773-935-5000, cafebabareeba.com

— Z. S.

» **Runner-up:** Huck Finn Restaurant

LATE-NIGHT SPOT OF THE YEAR

The Owl

If you're bar-hopping Chicago, slinking into The Owl could mark the last stop to make memories after a long night of drinking, dancing and other revelry.

Punching in over a decade in Chicago's 4 a.m. bar scene, the Logan Square bar offers something for everyone no matter the hour, according to co-owner David Halpern. He's part of the team that launched Four Entertainment Group over two decades ago, with Chicago venues including Estelle's, Central Park Bar and Easy Bar under their belt, and a growing profile across Ohio and Kentucky.

Today, The Owl is just one of about 120 establishments with late-hour licenses in a city forever marked by a global pandemic that whittled down opportunities to open the doors to customers in the wee hours of the morning.

"Late-night bars often sort of have a stigma of standoffish or grumpy service," Halpern said. "We've always strived to make guests feel welcome no matter what time of night it is."

They kick things off with a half-price happy hour from 5 to 8 p.m. on weekdays. On weekends, you can usually expect either a DJ or live music, with an old-school jukebox to boot. A monthly burlesque show, a vending machine stocked with free Plan B from Good Things Vending and a kitschy waterfall behind the bar keep things interesting for the youthful, eclectic crowd.

And that photo booth? Well, readers know. Sometimes all you have to remember a night is a snapshot.

2521 N. Milwaukee Ave., 773-235-5300, owlbarchicago.com

— L. A.

» **Runner-up:** Dearly Beloved

SUBURBAN RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

Indus

The daily menu at Indus in north suburban Highland Park has all the classic hits, such as chicken tikka masala and biryani. It also has a Sunday brunch menu of saffron-infused overnight oats and a spicy crab eggs Benedict.

"The menu was created by us in our home kitchen," said Sukhu Kalra, who co-owns Indus with her husband, Ajit Kalra. "Some of the foods are foods that bring back nostalgia. Some are foods we love as a family. It's truly an extension of our home kitchen in that sense."

Though cozy, the dishes are elevated in the way they're prepared, said Ajit Kalra, with complex flavors and time-honored techniques. The husband and wife duo have also owned Bhoomi Modern Indian Grill, an ingredient-driven quick service spot inside Washington Hall in the Loop, since 2021. The success of Bhoomi gave them the confidence to open up Indus in 2024 with the same artisanal, small-batch mindset at a larger scale. Originally, Ajit and Sukhu Kalra were considering a city location for Indus, but the Fourth of July mass shooting in Highland Park made them want to stick close to their roots.

"We live in Highland Park, this is home — that Fourth of July parade, we actually were going to walk with our kids. We were all completely shattered after that event," Sukhu Kalra said. "We just wanted to bring some joy, some vibrancy back in the community"

Ajit and Sukhu Kalra brought in an executive chef from Tamil Nadu, a state in the south of India known for dishes such as dosas (Indian-style crepes), which are served at Indus alongside a coconut chutney and a deep-flavored broth called *sambhar*.

"We have the classic curries like palak paneer or samosas that are a more familiar food for guests to order in the U.S., but at the same time, they're unabashedly Indian," Ajit Kalra said.

"Nobody expects Indian food to become the destination restaurant in Highland Park, but it's been very interesting to see that it has," Ajit Kalra said with a laugh.

Indus Progressive Indian, 617 Central Ave., Highland Park, 312-282-8064, eatindus.com

— Z. S.

» **Runner-up:** Vistro Prime

NEW RESTAURANT OF THE YEAR

Petite Vie

Chef and owner Paul Virant opened Petite Vie Brasserie last May. You'll find his most recent restaurant in the heart of Western Springs, around the corner from his former flagship Vie. But there's nothing small about the new brasserie that's French by way of the great Midwest.

And we're not just talking about big beautiful plates of their best-selling steak frites, served with a side of seasonal compound butter; or the glorious *pithivier*, a puff pastry crown piled high with silky ribbons of market vegetables; or even a quivering quiche, worth more than its weight in golden eggs.

That serious culinary skill, by chef de cuisine Vinny Gerace and pastry chef Angelyne Canicosa, along with their cooks, is matched with huge heartland hospitality from general manager Paul Solomon and bar manager Patrick Swanson, alongside their dining room staff.

What does it mean to the chef for Petite Vie to receive the Readers' Choice Award for New Restaurant of the Year?

"It's an incredible honor," he said. "This restaurant is a reflection of my passion for French cuisine, where I began my cooking career, and my commitment to creating a warm, welcoming space for our guests."

The chef once cooked at Ambria and Everest restaurants in Chicago, long before opening his own establishments in the city and suburbs.

"Seeing the community embrace Petite Vie in such a meaningful way is truly rewarding," Virant said. "And I'm grateful to our team, our guests and everyone who has supported us on this journey."

909 Burlington Ave., Western Springs; 708-260-7017; petite-vie.com

— L. K. L. C.

» **Runner-up:** Maxwells Trading

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A creamy strawberry smoothie is served with swirls of coconut yogurt.
ALEX LEPE/TNS

Strawberry cloud smoothie will make mornings a dream

By **Patty Catalano**
TheKitchn.com

A cool and creamy smoothie is one of the most refreshing ways to start the day. The flavor combinations are endless, ranging from classic strawberry banana smoothies to zippy raspberry ginger smoothies, and even green smoothies made with spinach, pear and ginger.

Busy mornings mean I prefer to make a smoothie that's ready in just five minutes — like this simple strawberry cloud smoothie.

It's a combination of fruit, yogurt and milk, but the cloudlike look and the creamy texture make me feel like I'm starting the day in style.

WHY YOU'LL LOVE IT

Just three ingredients: Some smoothies have a mile-long ingredient list. This smoothie is super creamy, fruity and refreshing with just three ingredients.

It's almost too pretty to drink: Coconut-flavored yogurt does double duty, adding flavor to the smoothie and giving the glass a gorgeous, wispy cloud look.

KEY INGREDIENTS

Strawberries: Start with frozen strawberries so that the smoothie is chilled without adding ice. Use good-quality frozen strawberries for the best flavor, and if the strawberries are large, cut them in half before adding to the blender.

Coconut-flavored yogurt: Coconut-flavored yogurt adds extra creaminess and a subtle tropical flavor to the smoothie. Swirl a few tablespoons of the yogurt against the side of the glasses to give this cloudlike smoothie its signature look.

Milk: Use any type of dairy or nondairy milk that you like in this recipe, preferably unsweetened to let the fruit flavors stand out.

STRAWBERRY CLOUD SMOOTHIE

Makes: 2 servings

1 ¾ cups unsweetened dairy or nondairy milk

½ cup coconut-flavored yogurt, divided

2 cups frozen strawberries (about 10 ounces)

1. Place 1 ¾ cups unsweetened milk, ¼ cup of the coconut-flavored yogurt and 2 cups frozen strawberries in a blender. Blend on high speed until smooth and creamy, about 1 minute.

2. Spoon the remaining ¼ cup coconut-flavored yogurt down the sides of two tall glasses (2 tablespoons per glass). Divide the smoothie evenly between the glasses. Serve with straws.

Note: This smoothie is best served immediately. Refrigerate any leftovers for up to 1 hour.

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HEALTH



RESIST TEMPTATION

Your senses can reduce allure of snacks like chips, energy bars or other ultraprocessed foods

ANDREW B. MYERS/THE NEW YORK TIMES

By Jancee Dunn
The New York Times

I am a Gen Xer, so ultraprocessed foods have been a mainstay of my diet since I was a kid. I was raised on bowls of sugary cereal, mac and cheese, and instant ramen. I still crave them.

And that’s by design, said Ashley Gearhardt, a professor of psychology at the University of Michigan. Her research suggests that some ultraprocessed foods ingredients, like added fats and sugars, can activate the brain’s reward centers in ways similar to those of addictive substances like alcohol and nicotine. “The more you have, the more you want,” Gearhardt said. So it’s logical that we might prefer them to some less-processed foods. But when you think about how different some seem from their whole-food counterparts, the craving eases. But many of us don’t pay close attention when eating ultraprocessed foods. “Most UPFs aren’t designed to be eaten mindfully,” said Arielle Johnson, a flavor scientist and the author of “Flavorama: A Guide to Unlocking the Art and Science of Flavor.”

A small 2019 study monitored people on both whole-food diets and ultraprocessed food diets. When they were on the ultraprocessed foods diet, subjects consumed more — an average of 500 extra calories a day — and ate the food quicker. If you are like me and find ultraprocessed foods irresistible, this challenge may help reduce their allure. Head to your kitchen in search of an ultraprocessed food and a less-processed counterpart. If you have cheese puffs or cheese-flavored chips, pair them with a block of real cheese; place a peanut butter energy bar beside a handful of peanuts; put a cup of honey oat breakfast cereal next to some cooked oatmeal and honey. **Examine your UPF closely:** Once you have both items, inspect your product. What does it look like? Can you tell what it’s made of? Does its color match something in nature? Does it have its own unique texture? Paying attention to these details helped me spot the less-appetizing qualities of a few beloved ultraprocessed foods. Some ultraprocessed foods are developed to be very soft, making them easier to chew and swallow in larger quantities, as one study suggested. Others are dry so that

they can stay on shelves longer and microbes won’t grow in them, said Chris van Tulleken, an associate professor of infection and immunity at University College London and the author of “Ultra-Processed People.” Now, take a bite and pay attention to how it sounds. Sometimes a noticeable texture distracts from what’s lacking in flavor, van Tulleken said. Other times, he added, an ultraprocessed food can have an initial crackle or crunch but turn quickly to powder. **Take a whiff:** Can you identify an aroma? Name what you are smelling. Free-associate. The biggest contributor to a food’s flavor is its smell, Johnson said. Your product’s smell might be faint, she said, because industrially processing ingredients can alter the chemical complexity that produces a more distinct aroma. **Compare your UPF to your whole food:** Taste your UPF again, noting whatever smells and flavors you detect. Do the same with its less-processed counterpart. Johnson and I did this with Dannon Light + Fit raspberry yogurt, an ultraprocessed food, and plain yogurt with raspberry jam drizzled

on top. Johnson opened the Light + Fit and sniffed: “It smells like raspberry candy,” she said. She ate a spoonful of the Dannon yogurt and said it tasted sweet and the fruit flavor was faint. Then she smelled the plain yogurt, identifying hints of butter, cream, cheese and a “mildly fruity, slightly green flavor, like underripe green apple.” For the raspberry jam, Johnson noted a “deep cooked-fruit smell.” When she ate some, she mused like a sommelier: “It’s just really pleasantly round and rich,” she said. Johnson took another bite of the Light + Fit and said it tasted even more like candy this time. Eating something less-processed can make the ultraprocessed food taste more artificial, she said, because ultraprocessed food flavor “tends to be a simplified version of whole foods.” We spent an hour comparing a dozen more ultraprocessed foods to less-processed foods. Each one made me more aware of the vast difference between them and prompted me to pause and consider alternatives before I reach for ultraprocessed foods. At the end of the hour, our odd picnic completed, I packed up my makeshift ultraprocessed foods charcuterie board and headed home to take an antacid.

Study links muscle-building supplements to body image issues in young adults

HealthDay News

Protein shakes and pre-workout mixes are popular among gym-goers, but they might signal a deeper issue for some young adults. A study recently published in the journal PLOS Mental Health linked use of multiple muscle-building supplements to muscle dysmorphia, a body image disorder focused on obsessing over muscle size and leanness.

“The use of 6 different dietary supplements intended for muscle building was associated with greater symptoms of muscle dysmorphia,” lead author Kyle Ganson, assistant professor in the Factor-Inwentash Faculty of Social Work at the University of Toronto, told CNN via email. His team analyzed data from 2,731 people between 16 and 30 years old. Eight in 10 had used at least one muscle-building supplement in the past year.

Protein bars were the most common supplement used (63.4%), followed by whey protein shakes or powders (63.1%), and creatine monohydrate (25.5%), the study found. Researchers found that as the number of supplements used rose, so did signs of muscle dysmorphia, such as excessive exercise, strict dieting and emotional distress about body image. “People who experi-

ence muscle dysmorphia often have significant challenges in their social lives, and can experience severe emotional distress,” Ganson told CNN. “Not to mention, these individuals may go to extreme lengths to achieve their body ideal, such as using anabolic steroids.” In a 2022 study, 36% of young males reported using protein powders and shakes, while 10% said they used other muscle-building substances such as creatine

and growth hormones. In addition, 2.2% of young adult males reported using steroids. Treating muscle dysmorphia often involves cognitive behavioral therapy to reframe negative thoughts about body image. Medication such as antidepressants or anxiety treatments can also be helpful. Support from family, coaches and health care providers is also key to spot early warning signs, researchers agreed.



DREAMSTIME

PEOPLE'S PHARMACY PRESCRIPTIONS AND HOME REMEDIES

Coffee could cause harm if you take certain medications

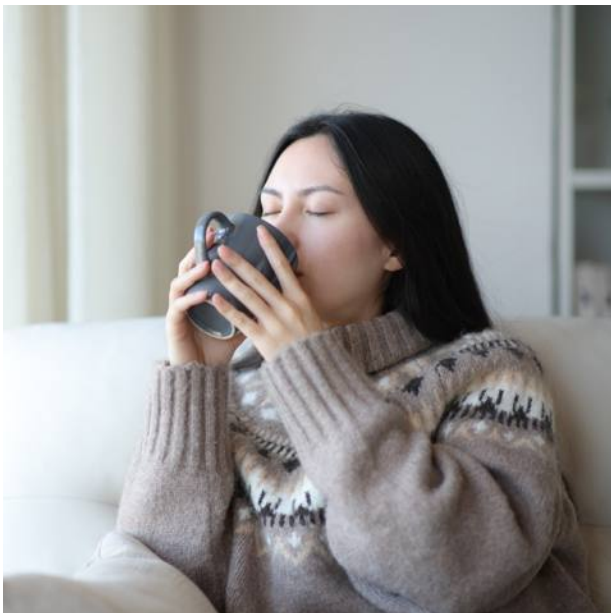
By Joe Graedon, M.S. and Teresa Graedon, Ph.D.
King Features Syndicate

Q: I seldom drink coffee, preferring to stick with herbal tea in the morning. However, I do wonder if coffee interacts with medications. Watching my neighbor take a handful of pills at breakfast inspired this question.
A: Coffee, or more specifically, caffeine, does interact with a number of medications. Some worrisome combinations include the heart drug amiodarone, antibiotics such as ciprofloxacin and the heartburn medicine cimetidine.

Coffee contains so many other active ingredients besides caffeine that it may interfere with the absorption of medications like levothyroxine (Synthroid) pills to treat hypothyroidism. Coffee can also reduce the absorption of iron supplements.

Because there are so many potential interactions with common medicines, we would encourage coffee lovers to check with their pharmacist to find out if there are any problematic combinations.

Q: In 2009, Allergan was running a long-term study on silicone breast implants. I had always wanted a more feminine body like the girls in the magazines, so I joined and got implants. They never followed up with me, other than to send me annual surveys to fill out.
Within a year, I ended up with mystery illnesses, including full-body itchy rashes and sores that didn't heal, memory loss, major weight loss, constant diarrhea, abdominal pain and blurry vision. None of the many doctors I saw could tell me what was causing this.
The implants were



People who drink coffee regularly ought to check with their pharmacist about possible interactions. DREAMSTIME

removed in 2020. My symptoms have improved, but I am still not completely healthy. It makes me angry that doctors I trusted did not inform me about the risks.
A: The safety of breast implants has been controversial for decades. On Feb. 6, 2025, the Food and Drug Administration issued an update on "breast implant illness." Although the diagnosis is not official, the agency notes that many women experience fatigue, brain fog, hair loss, joint or muscle pain, rash, weight changes, anxiety and depression associated with implants.

About 40% of the reports note that the implant was removed, with many patients experiencing some improvement of symptoms after that. Some, however, "noted either no improvement or worsening of symptoms."

Q: Milnacipran (Savella) is used to treat fibromyalgia. It is a serotonin-norepinephrine reuptake inhibitor (SNRI). When I took it for two years, my gut motility eventually shut

down to almost zero. Four gastroenterologists told me that my symptoms could not be caused by the drug.
A: After they proposed surgery to remove my intestines, I decided to stop the drug. My motility returned in two days. That kind of surgery could have ruined my life.
A: Researchers don't understand exactly how milnacipran eases the pain of fibromyalgia. Like some antidepressants that have also been approved for this kind of pain, Savella affects the neurotransmitters you mention.

Gastroenterologists may not be as well informed about the side effects of a drug that they may not prescribe very often. The official prescribing information makes it clear that milnacipran could cause nausea or constipation. We are glad you realized this before undergoing unnecessary surgery.

In their column, Joe and Teresa Graedon answer letters from readers. Send questions to them via www.peoplespharmacy.com.

Q&A

Are sugar substitutes healthy?

Mayo Clinic

Q: A friend has a family history of diabetes and obesity. She is diligent about eating healthfully. Recently, she mentioned a sugar substitute called erythritol. I'm not familiar with this product. Can you explain what it is and if it is healthy?

A: Sugar is one of those ingredients that always seems to be in the news. Eating and drinking too much sugar can negatively affect one's health. Sugar found naturally in food, such as whole fruits, is not associated with increased health issues. But added sugar has been shown to contribute to dental cavities and is associated with multiple chronic diseases such as heart disease, obesity, fatty liver disease and Type 2 diabetes. Sugar has many forms. Most people are familiar with sucrose, the white granulated sugar found most often in kitchens, and raw sugar, also called turbinado sugar, which is crystallized and light brown. Other examples of sugar include high-fructose corn syrup and other sweeteners, which are often added to drinks and baked goods. Because of the known health risks associated with added sugars, the food industry has produced numerous sugar substitutes to help minimize the negative consequences of sugar. Saccharin was the first commercially produced sugar substitute. Over the years, saccharin has fallen out of favor as it was found to negatively affect the good bacteria in our small intestines and gut, putting people at increased risk for Type 2 diabetes and obesity. But dozens of other sugar substitutes have been developed. One class of sugar substitutes that seemed promising is a group called "sugar alcohols," of which erythritol is a member. Sugar alcohols are sweet



It's best to avoid sugar substitutes. DREAMSTIME

but are neither sugar nor alcohol. Sugar alcohols are derived from sugar, usually created by hydrogenating sugar or by fermenting it. Examples of sugar alcohols include sorbitol and mannitol. Often, we find these in processed foods, such as gum or candy. Erythritol occurs naturally with the fermentation of fructose (fruit sugar) and is found in low levels in various fruits such as melon, pears, grapes and in fermented foods, including dairy cheese and soy sauce. Our red blood cells also naturally make low levels of erythritol.

While your friend may hope to lessen her risk for chronic illness by avoiding added sugar, sugar substitutes are not without risk. In recent decades, some concerning research has been published about possible adverse health effects of erythritol. An American study from 2001 found that people who used erythritol as a sweetener had a three-year increased risk of major adverse cardiac events — defined as non-fatal heart attack or stroke. While this was an incidental finding — meaning that the erythritol did not necessarily cause or contribute to their cardiac issues — it highlighted the need for more research.

A 2021 study examined people who consumed erythritol or a similar sugar alcohol, xylitol. The results found that ingesting erythritol as a sugar

substitute caused a spike in blood levels and increased the stickiness of the volunteers' platelets. Platelets help the blood to clot if we cut ourselves, but if they are sticky, the risk of blood clots in the body increases, raising the risk of heart attack or stroke. While the findings still do not definitely prove that erythritol directly increases the risk for cardiovascular issues, the results indicate it may be best to avoid it until we have more evidence to suggest that it is safe. Rather than chasing the perfect sugar substitute, it is best to minimize added sugars in our diet and reprogram a sweet tooth through other means. If you are craving a sweet treat, try a piece of fruit. Fruit is a healthier investment than foods sweetened with added sugar or sugar substitutes. The American Heart Association recommends that adults limit their daily sugar intake to 24 grams (six teaspoons) for women and 36 grams (nine teaspoons) for men. — Jennifer Drost, P.A., and Dawn Mussallem, D.O., Integrative Medicine and Health, Lifestyle Medicine, Mayo Clinic, Phoenix, Arizona, and Jacksonville, Florida

Mayo Clinic Q&A is an educational resource and doesn't replace medical care. Email a question to MayoClinicQ&A@mayo.edu.

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